From the Principal

Dear View Ridge Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and healthy. These are difficult and historic times. I miss our students, families, and staff terribly and think of all of you every day! Governor Inslee’s decision to close schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year hit me hard. Not because it isn’t the necessary call in order to ensure the safety and health of our community, but because it means that we will not finish the important work we started and celebrate the close of this school year as we typically do—together and in-person. While we will not have anything close to a typical school year, we will still work together. Together we are View Ridge STRONG—and we are still one big Viking Family!

We are fortunate that during this time of change and uncertainty, we have phenomenal individuals in our community creating systems, structures, and supports that bring a sense of confidence and care:

- **Our parents/guardians:** You are now tasked to be caregivers, mothers, fathers, and “homeschool teachers” guiding your children through their learning and daily life, all while balancing the responsibilities of your own personal and professional lives. You’re all doing an amazing job. Please continue to do your best to work with your children and support their learning during this time. This is a critically challenging time and we need to remember to prioritize caring for each other’s needs, feelings, and stress levels first.

- **Our students:** They are the reason we do all the hard things. Our students will get through this, and I believe they will be stronger yet. They will need to develop their skills more independently than we have asked any of our students to do before. They will develop creativity, self-motivation, resilience, and perseverance. We can count on them to continue to be curious, silly, unique, and loving! And they will continue to give us joy, even if for educators that means through Zoom videoconferences, online on Google Classroom/Drive, Seesaw, or other online platforms; over the phone, or through the mail.

- **Our educators:** Our talented and innovative teachers, specialists, education support professionals have blown me away with their hard work and effort to support students! Big shout outs to our custodial staff for keeping our school maintained, our food service and transportation staff for supporting meal distribution, and especially to our teachers for continuing the cycle of teaching and learning in uncharted ways! They will continue to focus on maintaining two-way communication, ongoing design of engagement and instructional supports, and ongoing monitoring and feedback for students’ continuous learning.
More About Continuous Learning:
Remote learning, distance learning, and online learning may be terms you have heard in reference to our “new normal” in regard to schooling. We began the closure working provide student engagements and learning supports for our students, and we are now shifting into teaching from a distance. Our goal is to provide continuous learning—which means keeping students at the center as we plan and deliver learning content in multiple ways, so that all students can access learning.

Each of our classroom teachers, specialists, and additional teachers like our counselor and special education staff have prepared multiple resources through their webpage, including links to their Google Classroom, Seesaw accounts, etc. These tools will support teachers in their work to continue our students’ learning following the Common Core standards and our learning progressions. I want to encourage you to have your children engage in these learning opportunities: practice independent reading and iReady daily, attend Zoom class meetings, login and participate in Google Classroom activities, respond via Flipgrid and Seesaw, etc. Everett School District has provided more structure and predictability through the new suggested schedule which outlines specific “learning zones,” daily iReady and independent reading times, and breaks. Please reach out and collaborate with your teachers (via phone or email) so you can continue to support your children’s participation and growth.

View Ridge Website Updates:
We are continuing to update and improve our school website to be more accessible. If you haven’t seen our new organizational structure for accessing teacher pages, please visit our website and click on Students. Each grade level has a new landing page, with links to each of our specialists’ sites as well.

We have also reorganized our Parents tab. Check out the One Stop Resources page for your needs as parents/guardians! Check it out! https://www.everettsd.org/viewridgees

The Impact of Coronavirus—FAQs:
*State Testing:* All state-wide testing has been cancelled, so students will not take the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) this school year.

*Chromebooks/Hotspots:* Students will have the greatest access with their ability to engage in teachers’ online platforms such as their View Ridge website, Google Drive/Classroom, Seesaw, Flipgrid, etc. While paper and pencil options are still viable options and also important pieces, we would like to support as many families as we are able to through the borrowing of technology. Please reach out to your child’s teacher or me for access to technology needed.

The Everett Public Schools Communication Department will continue to send out updates regarding Covid-19 and how the district will proceed moving forward: https://www.everettsd.org/Page/31233 -- You can also find district packets for students here!

Let’s make it a great month!! Please continue to do your best for your family and in partnering with the school. Teachers want you to reach out to them by phone/email/Zoom. Continue to stay positive and safe. Please remember to take ‘brain breaks’ and spend time as a family “off-line” as a way to balance this new reality. I know this time is tough! We are here for you! Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

-Tina Farias, Principal kfarias@everettsd.org (425) 385-5490
From the Assistant Principal (by Mr. Arnold):

**Summer School at View Ridge:**
Due to the school closure order summer school is currently on hold. This includes summer classes as well as the summer library program. Once more information is available, we will let our View Ridge families know.

**Attendance at View Ridge (from an Online Learning perspective?):**
Attendance, like everything looks different in our changing model of school. We can all attest to the fact that student attendance is 100% at home every day now. So, what does attendance look like during the school closure?
Attendance isn’t just about being at a building in a classroom. Attendance is now about engaging with the class and teachers. We are at a time when students and families have flexibility in their engagement with school, but this flexibility requires engagement. It is vital to stay engaged in learning. It is important to attempt the different activities and work assigned by teachers. This is a time for pure learning without fear of grades, but joy of growth and discovery. There is no better time than now to attend and be present in the new digital school. We look forward to seeing you engaged in our new class (and can’t wait to see you back at View Ridge).

**Digital citizenship:**
Our Viking Values are what they are because they go beyond the classroom. Now that we are learning online and digitally these five values of Respect, Responsibility, Kindness, Perseverance, and Integrity are just as important as if we were still in class at View Ridge. Digital citizenship is important and below are some tips on what our Viking values look like online:

- **Treat others with courtesy and respect. Don’t be cruel.** – Bullying is bullying regardless of whether it is physically on the playground, written on a note, blog, social networking site, or during a videoconference.
- **Collaborate and Share Your Expertise** – If you have an answer, step up and share. Learn from each other. It’s what the Internet is all about.
- **Be Forgiving** – everyone’s a newbie at some time in their life. Everyone misspeaks occasionally or offends someone by accident because they haven’t perfected their online voice yet. Let the small things pass.
- **Don’t Distract Others** – If a student is working collaboratively with another student via video conferencing, don’t be a distraction in the background or chat box.
- **Stay on topic and share the discussion.** It is a privilege to use the technology, don’t abuse your collaboration time.

**From the Viking Staff:**

**From our Admin./Behavior Para, Kalie Graham**
We encourage you to go “Like” the View Ridge PTA page! We want to keep our Viking Community connected! We have started some awesome things on this Facebook page and wish more parents would join the fun - spirit weeks, sharing fun remote learning ideas, seeing your View Ridge friends virtually that you haven’t seen in a long time, sharing what your family has been doing lately, and much more to come! Go “Like” View Ridge PTA on Facebook!

I would also LOVE to have ALL View Ridge students added to my Google Classroom! This is aimed towards brain breaks and fun communication between students and teachers! I add a “Daily Deal” each day. This might include fun facts, get up and move videos, brain teaser questions, etc. This is optional, but a fun option! Please email kgraham@everettsd.org for a code to join!
Counselor’s Corner (by Mrs. Atregenio)

Hello View Ridge Families! I wanted to share this great resource as a simple way you can engage in social emotional learning with your kids while at home chillin together.

Thinking about, talking about and asking questions around what you are watching is a wonderful way to build perspective taking and to help your children better understand their own and others’ emotions.

Please reach out to me if you think I can support you and your family.

My phone number is 425-385-5410, or you can email me at ratregenio@everettsd.org. My website is https://www.everettsd.org/domain/2043

We are one big View Ridge family 😊.

Library News (by Kristie Post, Teacher/Librarian):

You can return your library books on the following Mondays; April 20, 27 and May 4, 11, from 11:30-12:30. Just place your returned books on the library cart outside the View Ridge office.

Sno-Isle Libraries (check out and read thousands of eBooks using Overdrive or Kindle!)

If you do not already have a Sno-Isle account, sign up online and you will have immediate access to Overdrive and other digital media available through Sno-Isle libraries. This is one of my favorites...you can find most of what you are looking for available as an eBook...you can check out up to 30 digital materials at a time! Sign up at https://www.sno-isle.org/getacard

Did you know that once you have your Sno-Isle card, you can also check out and read lots of graphic novels? You can use Overdrive or Hoopla to read thousands of graphic novels for kids, from Dog Man to Amulet! Go to the online library and look at all the great things you can read!

View Ridge Scholastic Book Fair coming May 3rd-16th. ALL ORDERS shipped home, FREE Shipping on book-only orders over $25. OPEN LINK HERE

Online shopping starts May 3rd.

Grades 3-5 Don’t forget to play Genre B-I-N-G-O! Download your card from the library website at https://epscloud-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/07681_apps_everettsd_org/ERMLxK-bUj1Nk4nP0z3La0Bz7V1KLJtRm-rkigmNh7mwA?e=FH5CBA

Aquasox's Webbly's High Five Reading Program For ages 4-17, Earn a ticket to a Summer Ball Game: Rules, Guidelines and log for the High - Five Reading Program

Community:

**Everett Public Schools and View Ridge Elementary are on Twitter:** We are excited to join Everett Public Schools in the use of Twitter to share photos and updates of the amazing work being done here and to promote the learning and community events at View Ridge. Please follow us at https://twitter.com/EPS_VRE

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**Classroom Planning for 2020-21 School Year**

Please fill out the attached survey if you are a parent of a current K-4th grader to help us with our staffing and classroom placement plans for next year. You may submit your response via the online survey link or email your response to kfarias@everettsd.org.

**Student name(s) and current grade(s): ____________**

Are you returning to View Ridge for the 2020-21 school year?

- [ ] Yes, we are!
- [ ] No, we are moving.
- [ ] We are not sure yet.

Please share any comments or notes that could be helpful in our planning for next year:

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**Kindergarten registration**

During the current school closure, you can register for kindergarten online. Please visit the registration page on the district’s website. If you have questions, please email the Early Learning Department at EarlyLearning@everettsd.org. Thank you!
School closure resources & Frequently Asked Questions

Did you know we have an FAQ page on our district website? We actively add content as we develop answers that apply to our students, staff and community. If you do not see your question answered, there is also an 'Ask a Question' form where you may submit your question. Hoping this is a helpful resource for all!

Watch for all Coronavirus updates at www.everettsd.org/COVID-19.

3-D printers loaned to help support local health care

Everett Public Schools is grateful to be able to loan ten 3-D printers, through an agreement with Ignition Partners, to support manufacturing N95 masks, visors and other critical medical and safety equipment for our local health care systems. Click for full article.

Social & Emotional Health during school closure

The outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) may be stressful for people and communities. Fear and anxiety about a disease can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in adults and children. Everyone reacts differently to stressful situations. The emotional impact of an emergency on a person can depend on the person’s characteristics and experiences, the social and economic circumstances of the person and their community, and the availability of local resources. People can become more distressed if they see repeated images or hear repeated reports about the outbreak in the media.

Children react, in part, on what they see from the adults around them. When parents and caregivers deal with the COVID-19 calmly and confidently, they can provide the best support for their children. Parents can be more reassuring to others around them, especially children, if they are better prepared.

Please visit the district’s website for links and resources for social & emotional health.

Emergency meal schedule update


How families can help:

- Please take advantage of curbside pickup and stay in your car
- Avoid socializing with other families
- Leave the school property immediately after receiving your meals
- If you do walk-up, stand six feet behind the family in front of you, only stand in line with people you live with
- Pick up your meals at a later time in the meal service
- Pick the meal option for your child
- Follow directions provided by Everett Public Schools staff

Due to physical distancing standards, and for the safety of our staff, meals will no longer be delivered directly to homes. Thank you for your understanding as we make these necessary changes to keep everyone safe.