

North Star News

NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December 2019

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4



From the Principal

Welcome to December!

North Middle School has been so fortunate to be involved in multiple community engagements for the last two months. This is the perfect time of year to show our gratitude, and say "Thank you!" to everyone in our surrounding areas. Your support for the start of our school year, and your excitement around the opening of our new building, have been felt throughout the year.

Our school is moving into the winter with a lot of momentum. Students are working hard on their instruction across the curriculum and preparing some very exciting projects for their classes. Our Robotics, Art, Yearbook, and Chess clubs are very active, and student numbers stay consistently high. Winter Season One sports have also begun their schedules, with Boys Basketball and Girls Volleyball playing exciting games. Student involvement in has been a priority this year, and we continue to work hard to provide students with opportunities to feel connected.

We hope that everyone in our community has a wonderful start to the holiday season! Our staff and students have been working so hard this year, and they will continue to represent this community the best they can. Thank you for your support!

Mitch Entler
Principal
North Middle School
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425-385-4890

PTA Corner

December 2019 PTA Corner:

Hello North Middle School Families!

What an exciting time of the school year, we are in right now! The finish touches on our school remodel are happening which include the music rooms, auxiliary gym, west athletic field, the parking lot and the *NMS PTA Star Store* space. The Star Store was an initiative the PTA began last spring which mirrors Sammy's Closet at Everett High School. Students can come "shop" for items such as toiletries, dental care, feminine hygiene products, socks and more, free of charge. We are excited to see our efforts put to action for all the students at NMS. Please be on the lookout for more information coming home in January, regarding this fantastic program. Thank you to all who have donated to the Start Store including Borne Orthodontics and North Everett Family Dental. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated!

The NMS PTA has been a busy team this month! Our Grant Committee issued out our first set of Staff Grants for the 2019-20 school year. Some of the \$3800 awarded goes to support student enrichment activities, student community events, equipment so teachers can better facilitate learning, and an equipment locker for students who ride their skateboards to school. The PTA is excited to offer staff grant opportunities twice a year. We look forward to supporting our amazing teachers and staff, in this way again in the Spring.

Our PTA Reflections Committee have been working to get student art submitted for this National PTA Arts Program. Developed in 1969, the PTA Reflections Contest encourages students to explore their talents and express themselves through all sorts of art forms including film production, dance choreography, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts. This year's theme is "Look Within". Everett School District will be holding a Reflections Celebration Open house on January 8, 2020, at the Community Resource Center (CRC) from 6 PM - 8 PM.

SAVE THE DATE!! Our NMS Auction will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2020 at the Everett Elks! This is our biggest PTA Fundraiser of the year and planning is going on now. Always a fun event, we'd love to see you there!

We send our best wishes to all the students, families and staff at North Middle School for the holiday season and the New Year!

Jennifer Kuehn, President
Andrea Wells-Edwards, Vice President
Jennifer Goodhart, Treasurer
Mariko Thompson, Secretary

PTA[®]
everychild.one voice.[®]

Mitch Entler
Principal

Krista Bjorge
Assistant Principal

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December 5

PTA Meeting @ 7:00pm
(Off-site)

December 9

Choir Concert @ 7:00pm

December 19th

Orchestra-Intermediate
Concert
@ 7:00pm

Dec 23– Jan 3

No School

1:35 Release

December 6

December 13

December 20

January 10

January 17

January 24

January 31

The gift of attendance

Absences spike in the weeks before and after the winter holiday as families squeeze in a few more vacation days. Just a few missed days here and there, even excused absences, can add up to too much lost learning time and put your child behind in school. This is as true in kindergarten as it is in high school. Put simply, too many absences at any age can affect a student's chances for academic success and eventually for graduation. This holiday season give your children the gift of an education and the habit of attendance.



Graduation rates jump to 95.9%

Our graduation rate jumped even higher for the 12th year in a row. Now 95.9 percent of our students graduate on time, the highest rate on record. The increase in graduation rates can be attributed to the strategically aligned work

Bond 2020

The Everett School District's board of directors on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, approved placing a \$317.4 million capital bond on the April 28, 2020 ballot to fund STEM career-connected learning pathways for students, ensure equitable access and opportunities for all students, increase safety and security and ensure students have enough room to learn by adding [21st century learning](#) classroom space.

The 2020 capital projects bond prepares our students for the future by:

- **Giving our students facilities and tools necessary for STEM career pathways**
The bond funds modernization and upgrades to high school classrooms to support the Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) career pathway programs and new science standards.
- **Increasing safety and security for students and schools** Secure locks and keying systems will be added districtwide. Access control systems at two high schools Upgrades to fire alarm systems, security systems and fencing
- **Ensuring students have enough room to learn by adding 21st century classroom space, modernizing and repairing building systems** Adds new elementary school classrooms throughout the district to reduce overcrowding, keep class sizes low and keep more kids at their neighborhood schools Repairs aging school systems in our schools like HVAC, roofing and flooring replacements, that extends the longevity of schools.
- **Providing equitable access and opportunities for students** by funding capital projects at all schools throughout our district, while reducing the overall school district tax rate More information is available on the [Capital Bond 2020](#) district webpage.

2020 Census

The 2020 Census is closer than you think! Here is a quick refresher of what it is and why it is essential that everyone is counted.

Everyone counts. The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.

It's about fair representation. Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.

It's in the constitution. The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

It's about \$675 billion. The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on census data. That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.

It's about redistricting. After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.

Taking part is your civic duty. Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say, "I COUNT!"

Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail or by phone. Nearly every household will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census from either a postal worker or a census worker.

Look for your invitation to respond starting in mid-March.

United States
Census
2020

Snow routes are online

School drop off and pick up locations may change in an emergency situation. If your child rides a bus to school, please become familiar with the snow route information on the district [transportation department's webpage](#).

New Transitional Kindergarten Program

Everett Public Schools is offering a **Transitional Kindergarten** program this winter for children scheduled to enter kindergarten in the upcoming fall. The program will focus on basic academic, social and self-help skills to jumpstart qualifying students toward success in school. Students will be screened in early January and may qualify based on ability and/or need. This program is located at several of the elementary schools in our district; sites will be determined based on enrollment. The anticipated start date is January 28, 2020. **Transitional Kindergarten** will run through the last day of school, which is currently June 15, 2020.

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To qualify for screening, children must:

- be 5 years old by August 31, 2020
- live within the boundaries of Everett Public Schools
- not be currently enrolled in an early learning program
- demonstrate academic and/or social-emotional needs

If you are interested and believe your child qualifies for this program, please visit our website at <https://www.everettsd.org/earlylearning> and submit the **Transitional Kindergarten** form by December 6, 2019. For assistance, contact Helen Cooley at 425-385-4088 or Early Learning at 425-385-4024.



Family resources

Could you or a family you know use some help? Find information and links to helpful resources on the district's [Parent Tools webpage](#):

- Washington State Library – local and regional information about services and agencies offering help to families in a variety of ways including food, shelter, clothing, childcare, legal services, employment opportunities, and counseling
- Everett Public Schools [Kids In Transition \(KIT\) program](#) – supports homeless children and youth to continue their education.
- Snohomish Health District for Snohomish County community dental resources for children and adults
- United Way of Snohomish County – 2-1-1 is a free telephone number that is your best "first call" to quickly find the right source of help. The information line is staffed by trained operators from Volunteers of America Western Washington who can connect you to a wide range of community services.

Delayed start or closed schools

If we must cancel school or delay the start of school, we will use our parent communication system to call in the morning, typically around 5:30 a.m., with a brief message about the reason for closure or delay. We will also use local media and post the message on our website. **If there is no announcement about Everett Public Schools, school is on the regular schedule.** More information and resources for school closures or delays is on the district website under the *Parents* tab.

In cases of inclement weather or other emergencies, please:

- check your email or phone for district messages
- listen for media announcements

view the district's website at <https://www.everettsd.org/>

watch district [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) accounts

Accepting Highly Capable nominations until Dec. 18

Find forms, information and evening events on the [Highly Capable website](#). Referrals are for students currently in grades one through four for winter testing, which will take place on February 1, 2020.



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Everett Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Designated to handle inquiries about nondiscrimination policies are:

- Affirmative Action Officer – Randi Seaberg, rseaberg@everettsd.org, 425-385-4104
- Title IX Officer – Mary O'Brien, MO'Brien@everettsd.org, 425-385-4106
- 504 Coordinator – Becky Ballbach, rballbach@everettsd.org, 425-385-4063
- ADA Coordinator – Becky Clifford, rclifford@everettsd.org, 425-385-5250