



Principal Update

Good afternoon!

This week several schools across the country investigated potential threats to their schools and students. In Snohomish County there were two schools who spent time working with law enforcement to investigate threats posted on social media. In the end there was no connection to either school. Having children in one of these schools, I watched as social media blew up on Wednesday evening. If this happens on a weekend or evening in our district, please rest assured that we will contact families as soon as we know anything. It takes time for law enforcement to get to the source. If they can't determine it's safe to attend school, they will let us know.

Regarding social media and safety – teachers at ICS will never require a student to use any communication platform other than Teams. Students may choose to connect with one another using a product such as Discord, but they aren't being asked to do this. I've seen school group-work conversations become negative and personal. As a parent I believe in randomly asking my girls to show me what they're doing on social media. We give our kids the power to connect to the world in a tiny device. They still need us to help them learn how to navigate such awesome power.

A huge thank you to our PTSA for the ongoing staff appreciation. Lunch on October 20th and loads of goodies all month. We know we can't do our jobs without you, and we appreciate the support and recognition.

Enjoy the spooky weekend!

Margaret

SBA Testing

SBA testing will be held on November 3 and 4, 2021. These will be shorter tests to make up for tests not administered last spring. All tests will be given during the regular school day.

Math SBA: Grades 6, 7, 8,9, and 11.

ELS SBA: Grades 6, 7, 8, 9, and 11.

Science: Grades 6, 9, and 12.

Bell Schedule for Nov 1-5

Due to the upcoming testing dates next week, the bell schedule has been updated. Please access the [ICS Testing Schedule](#).

Black Gems

[Black Gems](#) is a free after-school program for K-12 students in the Lake Washington School District who identify as Black, African, African American, and/or from the African Diaspora. Start date: October 13, 2021; end date: June 16, 2022.

Black Gems History will provide students with:

- An opportunity to increase their knowledge of Black history.
- A safe and supported space for sharing lived experiences and building rapport with other students within the district who are of Black/African descent.
- An opportunity to celebrate their culture, learn about the richness of Black history and how Black people have impacted the world.
- An opportunity to see themselves reflected in the curriculum.
- An opportunity to form mentorship relationships with instructors.
- An opportunity to unpack the nuances of Blackness.

COVID Safety

Thank you for keeping your student home if they have any COVID-like symptoms. We know it's difficult given the common cold and flu have

similar symptoms. It seems our processes are constantly changing as we respond to evolving guidance. If you've been involved in a quarantine process you also know things can move slowly. Please trust that we're doing everything we can to minimize any disruption to learning while also trying to keep everyone safe and healthy.

The district's [website](#) is the best place to find current information. If you don't find what you are looking for there, feel free to email [Mr. O'Donnell](#) with any questions.

Parents bringing items

There is a shelf inside the school entry for dropping off any items, such as lunches, books, or homework for your student. Please make sure that the item is labeled with your students name and that you have informed them. Laptops must be brought into the office.

Attendance

The Attendance Hotline phone number is **425 936 2381**.

If your student will be absent, arriving late or leaving early please contact our Attendance secretary, Ms. D. Ruiz via email at druiz@lwsd.org.

Please report current day absences prior to 9:00 am. Please provide the date of absence, your student's full name, grade, and reason for the absence.

For **Late Arrivals** – Students will need to sign in at the office for a late pass.

For **Early Dismissals** – Parents should come into the office to sign out.

For **Extended Absences** – Complete a [Pre-Arranged Excused Absence Form](#).

School Traffic Map

Please view the [Traffic Map](#) for student drop off and pick up.