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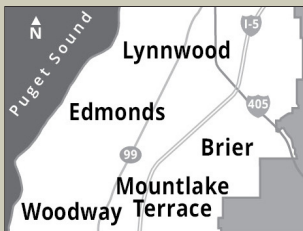
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Subscribe to the district's biweekly e-newsletter to discover what's happening in our schools and community. Visit bit.ly/edmondsnews for subscription instructions.

Serving...



and portions of Snohomish County

COVID-19 closed our schools, but the learning and dedication to students persevered

The spring of 2020 will go down in history for how schools across the state, country and entire world, had to change the longstanding way we educate stu-

dents. Because of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Edmonds School District closed its school building doors on Monday, March 16. Exactly two weeks later,

the district launched a distance continuous learning plan to provide educational opportunities for all students.

Read more on page 3.

Edmonds School District Report Card

School buildings closed March 16 - June 19, 2020

Food and Nutrition Services

More than **400,000 FREE meals** served to ALL children (no matter their family's financial status) ages 1 to 18.



This is one of our many heroes packing meal kits in an effort to feed all kids.

Educational Resources and Support

19,000+ Chromebooks in the hands of our students.

300 hotspots (devices that provide free wifi) deployed to families.



Tech teams stack Chromebooks in preparation for a social distancing pick up for K-6th grade families.

Childcare

More than **60 days of FREE childcare** for children of first responders and healthcare workers.



School nurses conduct a health check on each child before entering the childcare program.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY

LEVY PASSES

The district's Technology/Capital Levy passed with more than 58 percent as part of the February 2020 Special Election. We are grateful for the support from voters to continue with our advanced technology program. When COVID-19 struck our community, we were much more prepared than many other districts in our state to abruptly move to a distance learning model.

BOND GETS 56 PERCENT APPROVAL - Needed 60 percent to pass

While more than half of voters approved the 2020 Capital Construction Bond, due to the state's requirement that we need a 60 percent approval rate to pass the bond, we are not able to move forward with the construction projects planned at this time. The district will work with the School Board and come back out to the community at a later date to discuss the capital needs. The proposed \$600 million bond would not have raised the school tax rate, rather kept it the same, and would have replaced three schools, finished construction on one school, built two additional school buildings and funded other improvements around the district.

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A message from outgoing Superintendent Dr. Kristine McDuffy

Dear Edmonds School District Community,

It is with intense mixed emotions that I wrap-up my time here in the district serving as your superintendent, as well as wrap-up my 37-year career in public education – the world's most important work! I have immersed myself in my work and been driven to make a difference for the thousands and thousands of students whose lives I have been honored to touch. My first official job was as a business teacher at Kellogg Middle School, Shoreline School District. The first



Outgoing Superintendent Dr. Kristine McDuffy

week on the job I was given a purple rose with the saying attached, "Proud to Teach." I still have that rose and have been and will always be first and foremost – a teacher. I have been humbled by the many leadership opportunities I have had and am passionate about promoting kind, courageous, equity-driven leaders. It has been a gift to be able to combine my passion for teaching with my passion for leadership development teaching at several universities. I look forward to continuing to contribute. My husband and I

also look forward to more time for family and travel.

This is a special community full of rich culture and diversity, caring and committed citizens, and great potential for the future ahead. I have been honored to serve. The staff of this school district is second to none. Their passion for their work and their commitment to helping each and every student succeed is remarkable. The past several months have tested us all. Our hearts ache and our heads hurt, but we roll up our sleeves and find strength in our team and resolve to do the very best job we can! I am so proud to serve alongside these amazing professionals. The district is in good hands!

Speaking of "in good hands", it is a distinct pleasure to pass the torch to Dr. Gustavo Balderas who begins as your new Superintendent on July 1. Dr. Balderas brings such incredible background and experience and will undoubtedly lead the district to great new heights. His kindness and openness are already shining through. I wish Dr. Balderas and the entire Edmonds School District Community the very best!

With highest regard and respect,

~Kris

Dr. Kristine McDuffy
Outgoing Superintendent

A message from incoming Superintendent Dr. Gustavo Balderas

Over my 30 year career, I have been incredibly fortunate to have worked side-by-side with so many outstanding educators and community partners that care so much



Incoming Superintendent Dr. Gustavo Balderas

about our public schools and the students that we educate. I come from humble beginnings, being an English language learner and coming from a family of migrant farm workers, to having been fortunate to have led outstanding school districts in both Oregon, California, and now in Washington. I feel that I am living the American Dream coming from humble beginnings to having success due to the public school education that I received. Public

education is truly the great equalizer for our students in the United States. We have to continue to work to engage every student at every level. My core values in

how I view education are framed around equity, which I consider the intentional inclusion, access, and opportunity for all of our students.

I am excited about coming to Edmonds School District and to build on the great work that has been done and the work that is in process. This spring was a heavy lift for all school districts as we had to pivot in a very quick manner from the traditional brick and mortar schools to distance learning.

Distance learning did not work for all students, we acknowledge that. The inequities of connectivity and access for support is a real issue that we will continue to work to address. Our outstanding staff in the district will continue to rise to the challenge as we roll out a new model for educating our kids this fall while providing options for families that feel distance learning is a better model for their students. It will be a busy summer and I appreciate the staff for their giving of time for the work ahead.

My hope for our district is one that continues to focus on engaging all of our students to define their own success and for our district to help students do just that. This year will be focused on the mental health of students and staff as we roll out our plan

to reopen school buildings in the fall. These past few months have been very difficult for all students and all staff, we need to support the well being of all during the re-opening process this fall. Longer term, we will work to complete the strategic plan that Dr. McDuffy and the community began. This plan will be a living document that will help guide our work for the next three to five years and will be adopted by our School Board.

I look forward to meeting you, to getting back into classrooms to visit students and staff, and being a part of the Edmonds School District Community.

My best – Gustavo

Dr. Gustavo Balderas
Incoming Superintendent



BLACK LIVES MATTER

Our Race and Equity Policy serves as a foundation for all our decisions and highlights our commitment to all students, families and staff. We encourage you to read more about our work on becoming an anti-racist institution and what we are doing to support equity across the district: <https://bit.ly/ESDBLMEQUITY>

Reopening Edmonds 2020

Planning for the reopening of school buildings in the fall

As we plan for reopening our school buildings in the fall, we want you to know that the health and safety of our students, families, staff, and community members surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic comes first.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) released state guidelines on June 11, 2020, with the expectation that schools will provide face-to-face instruction for students with an understanding that there will be requirements in place from state and local health departments, which will also dictate how we reopen. You can read the entire document on the OSPI website.

Our commitment

We are committed to doing whatever it takes to protect our community's health and provide educational opportunities for all students. We will work with our students, staff, families and community partners to provide equitable support for every student to succeed.

Preparing for different scenarios

- Schools operating on a hybrid model with in-person learning and some online/distance instruction
- Full online/distance learning
- A full return to in-person classes

School will look different

No matter how we reopen in the fall, we all need to prepare for things to look and operate differently than they did before the pandemic. Families and staff should prepare for the following measures:

- Adjustments to classrooms and schedules to accommodate social distancing requirements
- Face covering requirements
- The expectation that students stay home at the first sign of any symptoms of COVID-19, which may include cough, fever, or shortness of breath

Keeping our community updated

We expect that our reopening schools planning efforts will be ongoing throughout the summer and that our plans and strategies may need to be adjusted and refined as we approach the start of the new school year. Clear and transparent decision-making is a priority for us, and we will provide regular updates to make sure our community has the latest information. Please visit our district website and social media sites for updates.

How decisions will be made

Superintendent Dr. Balderas and Cabinet (executive leadership) have established and will oversee the following working groups for creating and implementing reopening plans:

LOGISTICS:

The COVID-19 Emergency Response team will lead the logistics part of reopening schools. Examples include health screening protocols, social distancing plans and cleaning requirements. The team will focus on the following operational considerations: Transportation, Food Service, Health Services, Custodial/Grounds/Maintenance, Extra-curricular Activities, Technology, Business Services, Safety/Security, Human Resources, Childcare and Communications.

STUDENT LEARNING:

The Continuous Learning Task Force, made up of educators and administrators, will focus on creating instructional plans for different reopening scenarios.

ADVISORY TEAM:

This team will include students, families and community members who will provide input and direction for our reopening work. Ultimately, our Board of Directors will approve the Reopening Edmonds 2020 plan before it is submitted to the state.

Edmonds School District Board of Directors



Carin Chase
District 1
Legislative Representative



Ann McMurray
District 2



Gary Noble
District 3
Vice President



Deborah Kilgore
District 4
President



Nancy Katims
District 5



Superintendent
Dr. Gustavo Balderas

Comprising five director districts, the Board of Directors conducts the business of the Edmonds School District. The board meets alternate Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Educational Services Center, 20420 68th Ave. W., Lynnwood, 98036. Study sessions, at which the board does not vote on matters, are held as needed on alternate Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

Class of 2020 – Charting a new path forward!

Students in the Class of 2020 were forced to abruptly change course in the middle of their senior year; give up sports, clubs, activities and many rites of passage

that surround high school graduation. But instead of complaining, our students taught us many lessons in resilience, leadership, creativity, compassion and grit.

As each and every one of us has made changes in our lives to adjust to new realities that come with the COVID-19 pandemic, one thing is certain, Edmonds School District

graduates are ready for life! CONGRATULATIONS to our graduates who charted new paths to graduation, unlike any of us have ever seen.

Graduation ceremonies turn virtual

With schools closed, mask-wearing requirements and social distancing enforced, graduation ceremonies were a bit different this year. Each school provided unique and safe opportunities to celebrate

our amazing students! We worked with video production company, Life n Light, to produce graduation videos for each of our high schools. Schools hosted graduation parades where graduates

were invited to drive through school parking lots with families. Graduates hopped out wearing caps and gowns and were recorded walking across outdoor stages and receiving diplomas.

WATCH ONLINE!

You may watch high school graduation ceremonies online on the Edmonds School District YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/EdmondsSD



Edmonds eLearning Academy
Edmonds Heights K-12
Edmonds-Woodway High

Life Skills Program
Lynnwood High
Meadowdale High

Mountlake Terrace High
Scriber Lake High
VOICE Program

Photos published with permission by Life N Light.

New to Edmonds School District?

Registration is ongoing for incoming kindergarten through 12th grade students. Please visit our website for details: <https://bit.ly/ESDRegistration>.

Edmonds School District News provides school and education information to all the residents of Edmonds School District. For more information about the District, please call the Administration Office at (425) 431-7000 or visit www.edmonds.wednet.edu. To request this newsletter in a different format for people with disabilities please call (425) 431-7045. Board of Directors: Carin Chase, District 1 Legislative Representative; Ann McMurray, District 2; Gary Noble, District 3; Deborah Kilgore, District 4 Vice President; Nancy Katims, District 5; Superintendent: Dr. Gustavo Balderas; Writing, Editing: Communication & Public Relations staff; Photography: District and School staff, and various individuals as noted. ♻️ Printed with soy ink on paper that is recyclable and renewable.

Edmonds School District does not discriminate in any program or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed religion, color, national origin, age veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Title IX Coordinator: Debby Carter, Executive Director of Human Resources, 20420 68th Avenue W., Lynnwood, WA 98036, 425-431-7020, carterd@edmonds.wednet.edu; Section 504 Coordinator: Dana Geaslen, Executive Director of Student Services, 20420 68th Avenue W., Lynnwood, WA 98036, 425-431-7047, geaslend338@edmonds.wednet.edu; Civil Rights Compliance and ADA Coordinator: Debby Carter, Executive Director of Human Resources, 20420 68th Avenue W., Lynnwood, WA 98036, 425-431-7023, carterd@edmonds.wednet.edu.

Why am I getting this newsletter? This newsletter is intended to reach all residents in our district including the nearly 70 percent of households without school-age children. We use bulk mailing rather than individually addressing each newsletter because it is the least expensive way to distribute this newsletter.