



Warrior Way

PROMOTING EQUALITY, EXCELLENCE AND EMPOWERMENT ACROSS EVERETT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

National Blue Ribbon Honors!

The 2021-2022 school year is off to a strong start with news that Everett Area High School (EAHS) has been named a United States Department of Education (US DoE) **Blue Ribbon School!** Our high school is one of only 325 schools in the nation to earn this prestigious honor. It joins 12 other elementary or high schools in Pennsylvania as a 2021 award winner.

The US DoE named EAHS an **Exemplary High-Performing School**, making it one of Pennsylvania’s highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.



The Blue Ribbon Award recognized our 1:1 technology initiative, our new and collaborative Media Center space, and our new Computer Science program which complements our Engineering Technologies program.

“This award reflects years of hard work and commitment by our Board of Directors, faculty, administrators, students and the entire Everett Area School District community,” said **Danny Webb**, Superintendent. “We couldn’t be prouder of what we’ve accomplished. Working together, we’ve created strong and positive educational experiences for all of our students.”

“Since 2013, we’ve been working very hard to

make sure our students have the same opportunities as students from larger districts,” Webb continued. “Our long-term strategic plan was grounded in our 1:1 technology initiative to provide every student with access to a computer or other device. This was a visionary investment that really paid off. It has expanded learning opportunities for our students in and out of the classroom, and leveled the playing field for them.”

Webb credited the Board of Directors for supporting the plan through every phase. “Our board, administrative team, faculty and staff have had the best interest of our students at heart,” he said. “Our national Blue Ribbon recognition is a culmination of our efforts, and has set the stage for continued growth and progress for years to come.”

Webb also acknowledged the hard work of students, especially those from each graduating class since 2013.

“Our young people not only embraced the challenges of higher expectations, they thrived in that environment and made it easy for me to prepare



graduation speeches,” he said. “Each class continued to raise the bar in all aspects of our school, including academics, which resulted in our school being nominated as a Blue Ribbon High School.”

In recognizing the award winners, U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona noted that EAHS and the other 2021 honorees ‘demonstrate what is possible when committed educators and school leaders create vibrant, welcoming, and affirming school cultures where rich teaching and learning can flourish.’

Visit www.nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov/ for more information on Blue Ribbon Schools.

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Message from the Superintendent



A few weeks ago, Everett Area High School was named a U.S. Blue Ribbon School, a prestigious and coveted national recognition shared by only 325 schools across the United States. Such an amazing honor for an amazing school community!

We first committed to earning national Blue Ribbon honors in 2013. Ever since then, our Board of Directors, administrative team, teachers and students have worked together to turn this dream to reality.

Based on feedback from Blue Ribbon Schools criteria in 2013, our team, with support from the EASD Board of Directors, developed an aggressive and long-term strategic plan that would position the District and our students for success. This plan focused on five strategic priorities, including:

- **Safe and supportive schools**
- **Professional development for our teachers and staff**
- **Curriculum and instruction**
- **Special Education**
- **Technology**

When we started, our budget surplus was dangerously low and our financial obligations were many. Through the years, smart fiscal decisions by our Board and administrative team have helped us navigate these challenges, and enabled us to invest in student-centered technology, facility improvements and infrastructure, and curriculum improvements while maintaining a healthy and balanced budget.

Expenditures were framed around specific strategic priorities to make sure every dollar was spent wisely and effectively. The investments paid off, generating an abundant array of new learning experiences for our students and earning the District a major national honor.

Working together with a united vision, the EASD community achieved its objectives. And we did it without increasing taxes. **In fact, this year marks the fifth year in a row without a property tax increase.**

In 2013, EASD was at a crossroads. One path led to financial instability and an academic status quo. The

other path led to opportunity and solid economic ground. Our Board, administrative team, faculty, students and families chose opportunity, paving the road through teamwork and a dedication to our goals and priorities.

As you may know, I'll be leaving EASD in March. It has been an honor to serve your children as Superintendent for the past nine years, and a privilege to work with our faculty, staff and community to create a safe and strong learning environment for our students. Please accept my many thanks for helping us achieve our objectives through the years, including national recognition as a Blue Ribbon School. Working together, we have provided our students with a firm foundation from which to grow. I look forward to the continued success of Everett Area School District, this year and in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Danny Webb
Superintendent

A Commitment to Meet District Goals

As part of our strategic planning process, our teams developed seven goals that guide our five strategic priorities. With the start of the 2021-22 school year, we have renewed our commitment to these goals so that every student can meet his or her potential. Our goals are posted in our school buildings, on our website (www.everettasd.org) and throughout the District. They include:

1. 90% – 100% of our students will go on to their first choice of schools after high school.
2. The total number of students missing 10 or more days of school will be reduced by 2% annually with a target goal of 5% or less of the student population missing 10 or more days of school.
3. 85% - 100% of our student population will be connected to an extracurricular or after hours school function.
4. 100% of our teachers will have professional learning plans to improve their craft.
5. 100% of our teachers will be involved in extracurricular or after school activities involving students.
6. 100% of our teachers will understand and use data to influence instruction and enhance student achievement.
7. 100% of our teachers will use various teaching strategies and best practices to entice student learning.



Teachers across EASD use various teaching strategies, including hands-on learning, to help students achieve.



Congratulations to the Class of 2021!

On May 27, 2021, 92 Warriors graduated from Everett Area High School, sharing laughter, achievements, hugs and memories with teachers, friends and family members. The celebration brought 13 years of learning and growing to a close but opened an array of new opportunities that will guide these young adults on their journey to become the region's next generation of leaders.

The EASD community congratulates the Class of 2021, many of whom are continuing their education at two- and four-year colleges and universities, including Shippensburg University, Allegany College of Maryland, Boston University, YTI Career Institute and Culinary Institute of America. Others are serving our country as members of the United States military or have entered the workforce in a variety of industries including automotive technology construction, health care and agriscience. Many of these job skills were developed through our partnership with Bedford County Technical Center.

We extend our best wishes for your continued success. Congratulations!

Students Return to Campus Improvements

As students returned to school in the fall, they may have noticed a few changes and upgrades to our buildings and athletic facilities.

For example, over the summer, our teams worked hard to improve the safety and security of our Middle and High schools, installing new cameras and a pass-through window near the office to reduce pedestrian traffic in the building. In addition, crews installed new and much-needed air conditioning and an air sanitizer system in the gym. The new cooling system makes games and practices more comfortable for our student-athletes and fans. It also allows us to

use the gym for larger group settings and convert it to classroom space if needed – an important feature in our ongoing efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Secure vestibules have also been installed at both Elementary schools, and an upgraded water system at Everett Elementary brings our antiquated water system to “state of the art.”

Warrior fans are also enjoying upgrades at our athletic sites, most notably the addition of new, permanent bathrooms at our football field. Home and visitor bleachers have or will soon be replaced, and



Our new stadium bleachers got quite a workout at a recent pep rally!

handicapped and accessible parking has been improved.

The facility upgrades have been funded through donations, grants and Capital fund expenditures. Many thanks to our maintenance and facilities crew for their efforts!

Summer Programs Prepare Students for New School Year

Nearly 150 students from kindergarten through Grade 12 joined us throughout the summer for an array of learning programs. Everett Area School District teachers helped staff the programs, which offered a full day of hands-on and interactive learning, as well as transportation, breakfast and lunch, and snacks.

At the Elementary level, 55 K-3 students from EAES and Breezewood Elementary attended full-day learning programs twice a week at EAES. An additional 35 students participated in our 21st Century After School Program throughout the month of June.

Similarly, approximately 35 Middle School students delved into teacher-led science, art and wellness programs that featured fishing expeditions, DNA testing lessons with a biomedical researcher, aviation lessons, stained glass workshops, a how-to on slime creation and much more.

High School students used the summer programs to sharpen their skills through tutoring and online coursework. In addition, students enrolled in our Life Skills programs took advantage of summer learning to hone their academic abilities and strengthen everyday skills by planning shopping trips, visiting restaurants and exploring the community.

“The unpredictability of COVID-19 had a huge impact on our students last year,” said **Jim Hollis**, Assistant Superintendent. “These programs gave students and families additional educational opportunities. Just as importantly, they were able to connect with each other and begin to get back to normal. Summer programs were a huge success and were well attended.”

The District plans to offer additional summer programming in 2022.



Faith Wood and Ethan Dodson show off their catch during a fishing trip offered through our Middle School summer program.



*Our Middle School summer program gave students like **Ande Schleinkofer** the opportunity to test DNA samples and learn more about biotechnology.*



Elementary students sharpened their math skills during summer learning programs.

2020-21 Athletic Achievements Set the Stage for 2021-22

Last year, in the midst of COVID-19, our student-athletes demonstrated tremendous resiliency and flexibility. In addition to balancing athletics with academic, work and family responsibilities, these young leaders learned to adapt to situations outside of their control. We welcome many of them back to our teams this year and congratulate them for their efforts in 2020-21. Here's a quick glimpse of their achievements last year:



- **Boys Varsity Soccer:** Advanced to District 5 (D5) playoffs, ending the season in the semi-finals



- **Girls Varsity Volleyball:** ICC South Champions and D5 playoff qualifier
- **Boys Varsity Basketball:** Advanced to D5 playoffs, ending season in the semi-finals



- **Girls Varsity Basketball:** D5/8 Champions, advanced to the PIAA state playoff series
- **Varsity Rifle:** Allegheny Mountain Rifle Conference Champions, Air Rifle State Champions
- **Varsity Wrestling:** One D5 3rd place winner: **Elijah Mills**
- **Varsity Track and Field:**
 - 21 D5 medal winners
 - 6 PIAA state qualifiers: **Violet Johnson, Holden Cessna, Brandon Mills, Samantha Yokum, Ashley Yokum and Anastasia Hauze**
 - 4 school records set: Girls Pole Vault, Girls 4x100 Relay, Girls 100 Hurdles, Girls 300 Hurdles
 - 1 state place winner: **Violet Johnson**, Pole Vault, 7th place



- **Boys Varsity Baseball:** Winning record of 13-3, top seed in D5 playoffs, ICC South Champions, D5 runner-up
- **Girls Varsity Softball:** Winning record of 16-1, top seed in D5 playoffs, D5 runner-up, Co-ICC South Champions



Our Many Thanks to the Community

The kindness and generosity of the Everett and Breezewood communities continues to be on display through their support of our Backpack program at our Elementary Schools and the We Care program at the Middle School. Community members, businesses, churches and other organizations continue to donate items to both programs to make sure students in need have access to food, clothing and basic necessities.

Financial contributions and donations of single-serving, non-perishable food items enabled our Elementary team to provide weekend meals to 70 children during our summer learning program. The program is also available to Elementary students during the school year. This year, the school administrators expect to distribute dozens of weekend backpacks to students every week.

Similarly, cash donations or donations of new or gently used clothing and shoes, as well as hygiene items, non-perishable food and other items help keep our We Care program stocked at the middle school. The We Care room is available to any student or family who needs a helping hand.

“We couldn’t offer these services without the support of our communities,” said **Laurie Criswell**, Principal, Everett Area Middle School. “Their contributions make these programs possible and lessen the burden that many of our school families are facing right now. We are so grateful for their support.”

Gently used or new clothes and other essentials are available at no cost to any student who needs them through the We Care room at the Middle School.

How You Can Help

WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

Please contact Everett Area Elementary at 814-652-9114 to arrange for a convenient time to drop off single-serving, non-perishable food items. Financial contributions can be sent to the attention of Weekend Backpack Program, EAES, 165 East First Avenue, Everett, PA, 15537.

WE CARE

Please contact Everett Area Middle School at 814-652-9114, ext. 1048, to arrange for a convenient time to drop off items. Financial contributions can be sent to the school to the attention of We Care, Attn: Laurie Criswell, EAMS, 1 Renaissance Circle, Everett, PA, 15537.

Welcome to EASD!

We are happy to welcome several new faculty members to the EASD community. These individuals bring extensive experience to their positions and to our students. We are happy to have you on board!



Mr. Dylan Albright - Middle School/High School Band Director

Dylan Albright joins us from Bishop McCort where he was Director of Bands. He studied at Penn State University, and actively performs with the Altoona Brass Collective group as well as Central Pennsylvania's brass band.



Ms. Samantha Conner - 3rd Grade, Everett Area Elementary School

Ms. Conner brings more 12 years of experience to her position as 3rd grade teacher at Everett Elementary, including several years as a Title I math teacher and 2nd grade teacher at Forbes Road Elementary in Fulton County. She looks forward to the school's 'amazing group of teachers and helping the students at the 3rd grade level grow to be their best!



Mrs. Destiny Gardner - Art Teacher, Grades K-6

Ms. Gardner brings an array of creative experiences to her position as our art instructor for students in Grades K-6 at Everett Elementary, Breezewood Elementary and Everett Area Middle School. She most recently taught early education art in several Nevada schools and is very excited about sharing her creativity with our older students. She looks forward to getting to know all of her students at all three schools and making amazing art with them!



Mr. Cole Over - 7th Grade, Earth and Space, Everett Area Middle School

Mr. Over is beginning his educational career at EAMS and returning to EASD after completing his student teaching here last year. He's excited to create his teaching style and find out what works best for his students. He's also looking forward to getting to know the students and other teachers throughout the school.

Mark Your Calendars

With 2021 quickly coming to an end and 2022 fast approaching, here are a few dates to keep in mind:

11/23: Early dismissal

11/24: Teacher in-service; no school

11/25-11/29: Thanksgiving holiday

11/30: School resumes

12/23/21-1/3/22: Christmas holiday

1/4: School resumes

1/12: 2nd marking period ends

1/17: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; no school

2/18-2/21: President's Day; no school (possible snow make-up days)

4/14-4/19: Easter holiday

5/27: Last day of school

News from our Board

Our Board of Directors meets every month. Visit www.everettasd.org for a schedule of upcoming Board meetings and summaries of Board meeting minutes.



Our Mission

Empowerment
Equality,
Excellence in Education

Our Vision:

The Everett Area School District is dedicated to excellence in education by empowering students through individualized learning, equality of opportunity and fostering a lifetime of success in a global society.

Everett Area School District
427 East South Street
Everett, PA 1537
814-652-9114
www.everettasd.org

Around the District

Here's a glimpse into everyday activities across our schools!

Future engineers **Grace Poteat** and **Elanee Silvestre** work at the Middle School. >



▲ Our 2021 Homecoming Queen **Ella Hinish** is joined by court members **Lainie Treece**, **Brooklyn Beegle**, and **Ashlyn Hicks**. Other members included **Emily Guelich** and **Natalie Beckner**.

Everett Elementary 5th graders **Mason Leach** and **Marcus Crawley** test out their STEM skills. ▼



▲ HS/MS Secretaries **Terri Klahre**, **Jamie Hess** and **Jenny Clark** are 'all in' for our 'Red Out.'



▲ Breezewood Elementary teachers hosted a Carnival Open House to welcome students back to school.



< Our band has been sounding great!