

Last day of school will be June 20

The Arlington Public Schools Board of Directors on March 25 approved an amended calendar to include snow make-up days for when school was closed in February. School was canceled for five days (Feb. 4, Feb. 5, Feb. 11, Feb. 12, Feb. 13) due to the snow storms.

Potential snow make-up days are published annually in the board-approved student calendar. This year, these days are May 3 and June 17-21. In October, the board approved a change to the 2018-19 calendar to include an additional in-service day for certificated staff on May 3. The board approved making the days up on May 3 (formerly slated as an in-service day for staff), June 17, 18, 19 and 20. Thursday, June 20 will be an early release day. The staff in-service day will be held on June 21.

“State law requires that school districts provide a minimum of 180 school days and a district-wide average of 1,027 instructional hours per school year,” said Dr. Chrys Sweeting, Arlington Public Schools Superintendent. “While the state did provide an option to waive certain days, protecting student instructional time is a priority. The board felt it was important not to use the waivers since snow make-up days are already published in our student calendar.”

The Arlington High School graduation will still be held on June 13. The Weston High School graduation will be held on June 12.



Eagle Creek Elementary students figure out different ways to solve math problems.

Learning by Listening

By Dr. Chrys Sweeting, Superintendent

I am learning by listening to our staff and students, finding ways to make the learning and education in Arlington better than ever. As a leader of learning, I believe listening and considering diverse opinions and perspectives will result in better decisions and actions to benefit students.

Last year, I initiated “Student Voices Lunches” at every school to hear directly from students about what is helping their learning, what is hindering their learning and, what they would do if they were superintendent. Students have welcomed this opportunity and their feedback has been great! Samples of feedback from students include:

Things that Help my Learning:

- Allowing me to keep trying when I don’t learn it right away
- Positive relationship with the teacher
- Learning together with other students because having more brains involved is better
- Hands-on learning

Things that Hinder my Learning:

- Other students talking in class (every group shared this comment)
- Students who don’t take learning seriously and don’t do their homework
- Loud heat pump fans and thin walls at Post

Things I would do if I was the Superintendent:

- Provide equal time for reading, writing and math instruction
- Increase hands-on learning opportunities
- Make the school taller
- Better food

This year, I also initiated “Staff Voices Mornings” at each school and other district sites. This too has been very valuable. Staff provide the daily connections and instruction to students, and their perspectives are vital to evaluate the effectiveness of our procedures, resources,

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Weston High School students determine the length of each side of a triangle.



Nearly 30 Stillaguamish Valley Learning Center middle schoolers visited Arlington High School on Jan. 15 to work with calculus students to improve their math skills.



*Members of the District Leadership Team engage in a math activity during the District Leadership Academy. This year, the team has been studying the book *Mathematical Mindsets*.*

Developing a Math Mindset!

Nearly 30 Stillaguamish Valley Learning Center (SVLC) middle schoolers visited Arlington High School (AHS) earlier this year to work with calculus students to improve their math skills. The skills the middle schoolers needed to work on were identified through their assessment scores.

“One of our 2018-19 School Improvement Plan goals for the Stillaguamish Valley Learning Center is for all students to show grade-level proficiency in math skills by this June,” said SVLC Assistant Principal, Andrea Dixon.

“This is the first time we’ve done anything like this,” said SVLC Assistant Principal Intern, Karrie Marsh. “We were brainstorming ideas to access math skills in different ways.”

The middle schoolers worked one-on-one or in small groups with students from Frank Stallons’ calculus class. The students were excited to work with someone who was near their own age.

“Learning these skills can be tough at first until you get it,” said AHS Senior, Jonathan Schroeder. “It’s fun to help people since we’ve all struggled at some point in our lives.”

The middle schoolers received handwritten notes from the calculus students after they met. The high schoolers encouraged the middle schoolers to keep up the good work.

“This is a creative, targeted intervention for our students,” said SVLC Math Teacher, Margaret Jones. “The goal is to really help them shore up their math skills and this seems to be an effective way to help with that.”

We value your feedback!

Please complete the 2019 Family and Community Survey

Arlington Public Schools values your opinion and we are asking you to provide us with feedback about your impressions of the district and our schools. Below you will see a link to our 2019 Family and Community Survey. The survey will only take a few minutes to complete. If you have more than one child in our district, please complete a survey for each child.

https://www.asd.wednet.edu/communications/surveys/2019_family_and_community_survey

The results will be used by schools in developing School Improvement Plans and will help schools and the district improve communication with parents and community members.

Arlington's Advisory Council for Education digs deep into school schedules, equity

Arlington Public Schools' Advisory Council for Education (ACE) has been researching topics under consideration by the board of directors for more than a dozen years and this committee provides a valuable resource to the board and the district.

The ACE Committee is comprised of nearly 30 parents, students, staff, community members, and business and higher education representatives. The committee meets once a month during the school year. Two years ago, the committee played a large role in recommending revisions to the district's Strategic Plan. Throughout the year, the committee hears presentations on topics like district funding, safety and security, college and career readiness, discipline, and graduation requirements. These presentations provide valuable information to the committee members and prepare them to research other topics of interest to the board.

The board is interested in learning more about school schedules and their impact on students. The committee has spent this year looking at the schedules of other districts in the county, state and region to see what's working and what isn't. They've researched four areas: year-round schooling; secondary schools starting later; early dismissal or late arrival for teacher professional development; and adding additional periods to the class structure. The ACE Committee will continue to research these topics and provide a report to the board at a meeting in June.

Over the past two years, there has been a district focus on equity, and the ACE Committee has been engaged in learning more. In September, presenter Gary Howard talked with committee members about building community across our differences. The purpose was to be more culturally competent

and aware and also prepare our students for the world beyond Arlington. The ACE Equity Team, a subgroup of the ACE Committee, has been meeting to design learning activities related to equity. They have observed restorative justice circles. These provide an opportunity for parties to come together to address harmful behavior in a process that explores harms and needs, obligations, and necessary engagement.

The students who serve on the ACE Committee are pivotal to this equity work. They provide a unique perspective to the committee. Because of this equity work, several members of the ACE Committee have been asked to speak at the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) Equity Conference on May 22 in SeaTac. Their topic will be "In Pursuit of Equity."

The board formed the ACE Committee to provide systemic representative public involvement in educational decisions under considering by the board of directors. Through their diligent research, the ACE Committee members have served as an invaluable resource to the board in providing critical information and perspective when the board needs to make decisions that impact students.

(Left to right): ACE Student Advisors Pearl McNally, Faith Holden and Kirahy Meyers talk with ACE Member Jen Fuller during a restorative justice circle activity. The ACE Committee is learning more about equitable practices in the district this year.



Have you signed up for text messaging?

The district uses SchoolMessenger to send phone, email and SMS (text message) broadcasts to families and staff. Text messaging is used to quickly communicate emergency information or other information that may impact families or staff.

If you would like to opt in to receive text messages, you can text "Y" or "Yes" to 67587. You will receive a reply back indicating that you registered to receive text messages from SchoolMessenger. If you don't receive a reply back, please make sure the school has your most current cell number on file.

For emergencies that may impact the community, broadcasts can also be sent to community members by signing up at this link: <https://asp.schoolmessenger.com/arlingtonsd16/subscriber/>



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Learning by Listening *Continued from front*

professional development, and more. Samples of staff feedback include:

Working Well:

- Reduced class sizes at K-3 are great!
- Building administrators are amazing
- PTA support
- Love the new buses
- Communication is great across the district

Needs Improvement

- Traffic at some schools during arrival and dismissal is very difficult
- Need more substitute teachers
- Overcrowding
- Need more buses

Questions/Suggestions

- More professional development opportunities for staff
- Look for a better way to engage staff in SafeSchool training
- Consider one early dismissal or late arrival every week for staff professional development.

In addition to the student and staff voices, next year I will launch two new "Voices" opportunities: "Leadership Voices" to hear feedback from district and school leaders; and "Community Voices" to hear feedback from YOU about what is working in our schools and district, what is not working, and suggestions you have for us. The first "Community Voices" will take place on Oct. 17. Three to four parents from each school and members from across the community will be invited to a lunch to share their feedback. I look forward to these events. If you are interested in participating in one of these events, please contact Gary Sabol, Director of Communications, at 360.618.6217 or a

school/building administrator.

Learning by listening to the "Voices" in Arlington is essential to meeting our mission to educate, prepare and inspire each Arlington student. We cannot do this in isolation. Listening to learn from students, staff, families and community members is vital to evaluate and make better decisions to provide the best education for our students.



Dr. Chrys Sweeting,
Superintendent

I invite you to be engaged, involved, and share your "Voice" often. Check school and district websites for information about ways you can volunteer, participate and partner with us. Thank you!

Enjoy spring and remember, we can cultivate better growth in learning for each student if we do it TOGETHER.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chrys Sweeting". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Chrys Sweeting, Superintendent

Arlington Public Schools provides equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without discrimination based on race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, 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. The District will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. District programs will be free from sexual harassment. Auxiliary aids and services will be provided upon request to individuals with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

TITLE IX OFFICER AND COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR
Mr. Eric DeJong
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SECTION 504 COORDINATOR
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