

RENTON

SCHOOL DISTRICT



300 SW 7th Street • Renton, WA 98055 • 425.204.2345 • www.renton.wednet.edu

Start of School 2006/07

Education happens in schools, homes and community

School improvement is the single most important business of each staff member at every school. Constantly reviewing and improving the process of teaching helps to ensure that all students are achieving at high levels.

As superintendent, I am committed to helping every child in the Renton School District realize his/her potential through powerful teaching, powerful learning, effective leadership and a dedication to equity and excellence. I believe every student deserves our time, energy and effort.

There is much to celebrate about education—schools are providing more opportunity to millions of students than in previous generations, including to those with special needs and those whose first language is not English; students are taking more demanding courses; more students are graduating with substantive diplomas; and more are attending college.

American high schools are expected to graduate *all* students with the rigorous academic knowledge and skills necessary to prepare them for college or a career. This is an achievable goal and a moral imperative.

In my previous position, I had the honor of working with excellent educators and researchers to publish a



SUPERINTENDENT
DR. MARY ALICE HEUSCHEL

new report from our state's education office. The recent report provides a comprehensive look at high school reform based on research and review of professional literature and specific strategies intended to help Washington high schools improve. We will review and focus on many of these strategies and best practices to help all our secondary students meet the high expectations of a global marketplace.

There are also high expectations of educators from students, parents and communities, both locally and globally. They are counting on the education community to rise to the challenge of

preparing students for their future: performing as effective citizens in a democracy, filling needed roles in the economy thus promoting economic growth, successfully entering the adult world, and contributing to their community and to society.

We are up for that challenge, but we need your help. Education cannot start and stop at the schoolhouse doors. Quality education results when collaborative efforts among students, parents, families, administrators, teachers, staff and community focus on personalized educational experiences for every student. We must all value education and model those values in order to instill in children and youth the importance of succeeding in school.

Read to children at a young age; help with homework; offer consistent messages about doing your best, asking questions of teachers and working with school staff to understand and master course subjects.

We can ready our children for a better, brighter future. Let's do it now, together.

For more information on Renton Schools, visit:

www.renton.wednet.edu

2006-07 School Calendar Dates

September 5	First Day of School	February 19-23	President's Day/Mid-Winter Break
September 27	Half-day for Elem/Middle schools	March 9	Half-day for Elem only
October 13	No School — Teacher Training Day	March 21	Half-day for Elem/Middle schools
October 25	Half-day for Elem/Middle schools	April 6	Half day-Middle schools only
November 9	No School — Teacher Training Day	April 9-13	No School — Spring Break
November 10	No School — Veteran's Day	May 7	No School — Teacher Training Day
November 23-24	No School — Thanksgiving Break	May 25	Snow Make-up Day (if needed)
Dec. 20-Jan. 1	No School — Winter Break	May 28	No School — Memorial Day
January 15	No School — MLK Jr. Day	June 6	Half-day for Elem/Middle schools
January 29	No School — Teacher Training Day	June 22	Last day/Half-day All grades

Continuing to keep schools safe: Weapons prohibited on school property

Under state law RCW 9.41.280, it is a gross misdemeanor for any person to carry or possess a dangerous weapon or firearm on public school premises. Firearms/weapons are not allowed in school; at school-sponsored activities; on school grounds or facilities; or on school-provided transportation. If a student brings a firearm/weapon to school, it will result in an immediate expulsion for no less than one calendar year, and

notification of law enforcement.

Students who violate the statute are, following regular due process, to be expelled from the district in which they committed the violation and are considered expelled from all public schools in the state.

Renton School District policy also prohibits laser pens and objects that look like weapons, such as toy guns and toy knives. A student who brings such an object to school, on a school

bus, or to a school activity can expect serious consequences, up to and including expulsion. In addition, state law criminalizes the discharge of a laser at a bus driver.

Students or staff who are aware of weapons on campus and do not report the information to school authorities are subject to discipline.

The confidential Renton School District weapons hotline number is (425)204-2468.

Law requires giving student information to military recruiters

Parents can opt out with letter to school

Federal Law 107-110, Section 9528 of the ESEA, "No Child Left Behind Act," requires school districts to release student names, addresses and telephone numbers to military recruiters upon their request.

Additionally, the law allows students and parents an opportunity to opt out of having this information released.

As a student, or parent/guardian of a student, you have the right to request that your child's personal information not be released to military recruiters and others.

If you do not want personal information released to military recruiters, please send a letter to your child's school, clearly indicating your child's full name and address, asking that directory information not be released to military recruiters.

Meningococcal disease: Keeping students safe from infection

Meningococcal disease is a serious infection of the brain (meningitis) and blood caused by bacteria. This life-threatening infection is rare and found mostly in adolescents and young adults, especially those living in group settings such as college dormitories.

To help keep your child from contracting meningococcal disease, talk to him/her about good hygiene (regular hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, etc.) and not sharing items that may spread the disease and other bacteria and viruses: eating utensils, glasses, cups, water bottles, drinks, lip gloss or toothbrushes.

A meningococcal vaccine is available that can prevent up to 65 percent of the disease among adolescents and young adults.

Currently the supply of this vaccine is limited and college freshmen who will be living in dorms have the highest priority for the limited vaccine supply. Talk with your child's doctor about the need for meningococcal vaccine. Even if the meningococcal vaccine is recommended, it is not required for school or college attendance.

To learn more about meningococcal disease and how to prevent it, visit the following web sites:

Washington State Department of Health Immunization Program

Meningococcal information:
www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/meningococcal.htm

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Meningococcal vaccine information: www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/vis/vis-mening.pdf

Disease Information:
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/meningococcal_g.htm

Fact sheets: www.cdc.gov/nip/vaccine/mening/mening_fs.pdf

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Vaccine Education Center

Meningococcal Questions & Answers: www.chop.edu/vaccine/images/vec_mening_tear.pdf

National Meningitis Association

Parent & Teacher Awareness Program: www.nmaus.org/programs/pta/index.htm