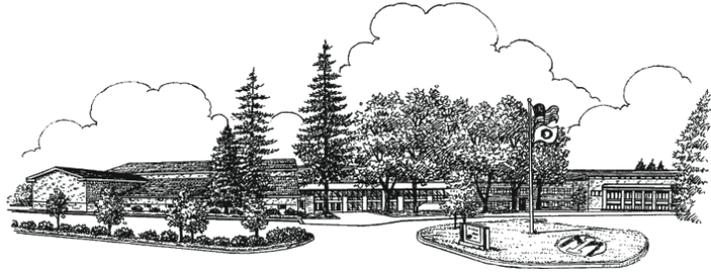


# Mercer Island High School

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Greetings Islanders!

As we are working toward a successful completion of an unprecedented year, I wanted to share a few updates on current happenings in our school community.

## Islander Hour Lesson

Earlier this week we sent a notice to parents regarding the nature and content of Friday's Islander Hour lesson regarding LGBTQ+ allyship with the option of opting-out. This opt-out was designed to follow OSPI's guidance on Health curriculum, and it was used in this sense for Islander Hour.

While this has already occurred, we will change practice in the future. Because inclusion and support of LGBTQ+ issues are of equal importance to inclusion of any other traditionally underrepresented group and because issues surrounding sexuality and gender are of no less importance, we will not discern our notification along these lines any differently than we will notify parents of any future IH lessons concerning issues that some find sensitive.

When we approach lessons that are socially complex and are sensitive to some families, we will let our families know of the upcoming lesson, share relevant content, and invite them to contact their associate principal with any questions or concerns.

While somewhat nuanced, we hope that changing our messaging to families from opting-out to discussing the topics increases transparency, trust, and empowers parents as partners in the education of our students.

I apologize for the nature of the communication and the wording within it. I want to express my appreciation and support of our students and teachers that have partnered to develop better understanding and allyship for LGBTQ+ members of our school community.

## Outside-of-School Senior Game

It has come to my attention that many Mercer Island High School Senior students have organized and are playing a game they call "assassin". This has occurred for the past several years and involves them using Nerf guns to tag each other. Please know that this is not a sanctioned school activity and may not be conducted on school grounds. Students doing so on campus may be subject to disciplinary action.

Students and parents have shared that this game is considered by some to be a rite of passage and not intended to be violent in any way: however, it has caused concern in our community and we have communicated our community concerns with our school resource officer.

### Homework and Tests

Following last week's reminder that Wednesday is an asynchronous school day designed to provide students with supported learning time to complete assignments, we received some concerns regarding the timeline for assignment due dates over weekends and assessments to be completed on Wednesday.

Our faculty has discussed the issue, and we will provide the following assurances to our students:

1. The timeline for all homework assignments will include at least one class meeting. For example, teachers will assign the homework no later than the last class meeting of the week for anything due by Monday morning. Teachers will not assign and provide a due date and time for anything without an opportunity for the student to address concerns about the work or seek assistance during a regularly scheduled class.
2. Teachers will work with students and help students resolve and scheduling conflicts for testing on Wednesday.

We realize that this does not address every concern addressed, and we hope that these measures help our students best manage their workload and time.

Respectfully,



Walter Kelly