BACK TO SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Eau Claire Area School District | Visit us on the Web at *www.ecasd.us* | August 2017

Superintendent's Welcome

Superintendent
Mary Ann Hardebeck

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! All of us in the Eau Claire Area School District (ECASD) are very much looking forward to working with you in the coming year. Please feel free to contact me or any of the school principals if you have questions, concerns, or an idea to share. You can reach us via email, by phone, or through the *Our Voice* link at the bottom of the District's web page.

We are always looking for suggestions about how to keep families better informed. Feel free to share your ideas with your principals. They will pass those ideas along to our District Communication Team. We are here to help you!

As you prepare for the school year, we are sending important information with this newsletter. The Parent/Student Handbook is included in this mailing. You may find it helpful to keep it as a reference. You will also receive additional news from your child's principal as the school year begins.

On behalf of the 1,400 employees who work in the ECASD, I send you our very best wishes for a successful school year filled with the joy of learning!

Mary Ann Hardebeck, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Update on Referendum Spending

The ECASD community generously passed a 15-year non-recurring referendum for $87.9 million in November 2016. Since then, the District has begun working on deferred building and grounds maintenance projects. Currently 19 projects are underway at Sam Davey, Lakeshore, Meadowview, Memorial, North, Northstar, Robbins, the Administration Building, and the Service Center. During the next two summers, 51 other deferred maintenance projects will be completed.

In the coming years, the referendum funds will be used to support ECASD's class size policy at all levels, maintain a technology infrastructure to strengthen the network and secure employee/student data, and sustain a compensation plan that helps attract/retain high quality instructional and support staff.

Prior to the referendum, ECASD spent $418 per pupil less than the state average. With the passage of the referendum, the District is now spending $30 less per pupil than the state average, which is $10,439 per pupil. In 2016 the District ranked 286 out of 424 school districts in spending, After the referendum, the District now ranks 222 out of 422 school districts in spending per pupil.

Information Included:

- Assessment
- 2017-2018 Calendar
- Emergency Weather
- Skylert Messaging
- School Meal Information
- Directory Information
- Sleep Recommendations
- Annual Notices
- School Board Meetings
- Student Use of Learning Management System

Assessment

The Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) is a comprehensive statewide program designed to provide information about what students know in core academic areas and whether they can apply what they know. Students in the state of Wisconsin take the following assessments:

- Wisconsin Forward Exam at grades 3-8 in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, at grades 4 and 8 in Science, and at grades 4, 8, and 10 in Social Studies
- Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) at grades 3-11 in ELA and Mathematics, at grades 4 and 8-11 in Science, and at grades 4, 8, and 10 in Social Studies,
- ACT Aspire at grades 9 & 10
- ACT Plus Writing at grade 11 for Reading, English, Mathematics, Science, and Writing
- ACT WorkKeys at grade 11

The Eau Claire Area School District uses the data from these assessments to provide a snapshot to evaluate and report on student learning. It helps the District to illuminate areas of strength and gaps in curriculum and instruction. This data is used, along with other data points, to provide key information for conversations around student learning. The assessment dates for the Eau Claire Area School District are listed below:

Assessment	Assessment Window
ACT	February 27, 2018
ACT WorkKeys	February 28, 2018
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)	April 2 – April 27, 2018
Middle School – Forward Exam	April 2 – April 6, 2018
High School - Forward Exam	April 3 & 4, 2018
Elementary - Forward Exam	April 16 – 27, 2018
ACT Aspire	May 2 & 3, 2018

Early Learning

The mission of the ECASD Early Learning Program is to support development and ensure learning that will positively impact children, families, and our community

now and in the future. The Early Learning Program features a balanced approach to preschool, which includes social/ emotional development and academic learning through intentional play activities. Our program is located at Prairie Ridge Early Learning School and 20 Eau Claire 4 Tomorrow (EC4T) community partner sites. The ECASD Early Learning Program provides curriculum through child interest studies, Building Blocks (math curriculum), Handwriting without Tears, and Second Step (social emotional curriculum). To register for our program, please call 715-852-3600 or go to the ECASD website, click on enrollment, and look for the green circle to apply online. Early Learning classes begin on September 11th!

2017-2018 School Calendar

School begins for grades **K-9** on **September 5, 2017,** and ends on **June 7, 2018**. All elementary schools will have a **"Back to School Day"** for parents and students on September 5; principals will be providing specific information on opening day activities. Students in **grades 10-12** begin classes on **September 6, 2017,** and end on **June 7, 2018**. Students in the **Early Learning Program** begin on **September 11, 2017.**

All schools are closed on the following dates:

October 13, October 27, November 20-24, December 22-January 1, January 22, February 23-26, March 19-23, March 30, April 20, and May 28.

Schools are also closed by level on the following dates:

In addition to the dates above, students in grades K-8 will not have school on October 26, February 22, and May 18. Students in grades 9-12 will not have school on January 23. Parent/Teacher Conferences have also been scheduled and can be found on the school calendar by level.

To view the entire 2017-2018 school calendar, please click on the link on the front page of the District's website (*www.ecasd.us*) or in the inside cover of the Parent/Student Handbook.

Inclement weather days are built into the calendar:

The District has adjusted school building start and ends times so that ample inclement weather days are built in, thus alleviating the need to make up these days at the end of the year in case of many weather-related events. In the event those built-in days are exceeded, a possible inclement weather make-up day has been added to the calendar on April 20.

Por favor consultar con uno de los BEA's (ayudantes bilingües) de su escuela para ayuda en leer este folleto.

Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov ntawv no los yog tsis totaub thiab xav paub ntau tshaj no, koj hu rau peb cov txhais lus nyob tom koj tus menyuam lub tsev kawm ntawv lawv mam pab txhais rau koj.

Student Health Information

In order to update the school's Critical Health List, parents/guardians are asked to provide current health information regarding their child. The health forms listed here may be obtained from your child's school. Applicable forms must be completed and returned to your child's school.

Student Information Form

List life threatening health problems or serious medical conditions.

Child/Student Specialized Health Care Procedure Management

List medical conditions which require special health care procedures by or under the direction of a health care professional.

Child/Student Medication Management

To be completed if your child takes prescription or over-the-counter medications at school.

Physician Order for Diet Modification

To be completed if your child requires a modified diet prescribed by his/her physician.

Notify Student Transit

If your child has critical health needs and will be riding the school bus, you need to inform Student Transit of the health needs by calling 715-839-5116.

Wonder if school is closed due to inclement weather?

Check out the options below so you can stay informed!

Emergency Weather Information

The Superintendent or Designee of the ECASD, in consultation with Student Transit, makes decisions about whether to close school due to inclement weather or to use a two-hour delay in school start times when inclement weather requires additional time to promote safer travel to school. These decisions are typically made by 6:30 a.m. As we know, weather conditions can change rapidly. In the event that a two-hour delay must be reconsidered, the decision to close schools for the full day will be made no later than 8 a.m. The same process will be used if bad weather or a peak energy alert develops after school has started for the day. **If the schools are closed because of bad weather, all athletic, after-school, and evening events are also canceled**.

Announcements of these decisions are made by local television and radio stations, on the District's website, via the District's Facebook and Twitter accounts, via Skylert messaging, and by email for those parents/guardians who have provided email addresses.

When a TWO-HOUR DELAY is announced, the following changes will be made to the school day:

- Busses will run two hours after their normal schedule.
- Buildings will begin classes two hours after the normal start time.
- Cold breakfast will be served at all schools and school lunch will be at or around the normal time.
- Prairie Ridge Early Learning School and EC4T community sites will be closed for the day.

Safety of our children is always our utmost priority, and we will cancel or postpone school when deemed necessary. However, **if you feel it is unsafe for your child to attend school because of the weather, you may decide to keep your child home for the day**. The School District respects your decision in this matter. Please send an absence excuse when your child returns.

Skylert *Stay Informed/Stay Connected*

The ECASD uses the Skylert system to communicate with families about emergency situations and weather-related delays/cancellations. Skylert allows us to quickly send mass notifications to parents and students by phone call, email, and/or text message. To sign up for Skylert, follow these steps:

1. Log into your Skyward account and click on the Skylert option listed on the left hand side. (You can find a Skyward Quick Link under the banner pictures on the front page of the website.)
2. Click on the notification options you would like to receive. Add any additional phone numbers and email addresses.
3. To receive text messages, add the phone numbers in the Text Message Numbers section. Please check with your wireless carrier for possible charges if you choose to receive these messages.
4. If phone numbers are added to receive text messages, you must also 'opt-in' to receive the service for each number. Text one of the following words to the number 68453: subscribe, optin, yes. Repeat the opt-in process for any phone numbers that will receive text messages.

2017-2018 SCHOOL MEAL PRICES

	Breakfast	Lunch
ELEMENTARY Including Kindergarten and Preschool	$1.00	$2.65
MIDDLE SCHOOL	$1.25	$2.75
HIGH SCHOOL	$1.25	$2.85
REDUCED PRICE MEALS All schools	$0.30	$0.40
ADULT	$1.65	$3.50

School Meals

The National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs are available at all schools in the District. Meals served under these programs must meet the guidelines set forth under the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 to receive federal reimbursement.

Free and Reduced Price School Meals
Family Application Enclosed

If your family income falls below the Federal Eligibility Income Chart, the ECASD strongly encourages you to complete the free/reduced price school meal family application. In addition to the benefit for your family, the District receives money for many programs based on the number of students eligible for free or reduced price meals.

If you have received a Direct Certification Notification Letter stating that your child(ren) is eligible for free meals for this school year, you do not need to complete an application for this child(ren). **However, check to be sure that you have received this letter for the 2017-2018 school year for each child in your household**. If you did not receive a Direct Certification Notification Letter for **every student** in your household, you must complete an application for your entire household. Call the Food and Nutrition Office at 715-852-3022 if you have questions.

Your child's free/reduced status from last year carries over to the new school year until October 16, 2017, or until a current school year application is completed, whichever comes first. After that, if no application has been filed, you will pay full price for all meals served to your child(ren) until a completed application is approved.

Enrollment Office

If you are new to the area or are moving within the District, you need to start the enrollment process online at *www.ecasd.us/Enrollment*. Grades PreK-12 student enrollment is then completed at the Enrollment Office located in the ECASD Administration Building at 500 Main Street.

When you come to complete the enrollment process, please bring these documents:

- Student's birth certificate
- Immunization records
- Recent proof of family's address/ residency (Examples: lease, mortgage documentation, or utility bill)
- If necessary, legal documentation regarding custody, placement, or educational decision making
- History of services (Examples: IEP Plans, 504 Plans, ACCESS scoring, or Gifted and Talented services)

Family Access

Family Access is a real-time, secure Internet based website that will allow you to view your student's information. Go to *www.ecasd.us* where you can find a Skyward Quick Link under the banner pictures.

Family Access will help you stay informed about your student's progress. Your building and the District will also use Family Access as a communication tool to create a stronger relationship between parents and our school community.

To obtain your username and password, you can click on the Skyward link noted above and choose the "Forgot login/password." If your account has an email associated with it, you will receive an email with your login information. If you do not have an email address associated with your account, you will need to contact your school. You can also contact the Enrollment Office for assistance at 715-852-3063.

Opting Out of the Release of Directory Data

If parents/guardians do not want all or part of any directory data for their child to be released without their prior consent, they can log into **Family Access** and update preferences or complete an **Opt-Out Form.** Forms are available in the main office at each building or can be found on the District's website under the "Forms" tab.

You can withhold the release of directory data in the following areas:

Higher Education

Excludes student information from being sent to institutions of higher education.

Military

Excludes student information from being sent to military recruiters.

Sales/Marketing

Excludes student information from being sent outside the District to entities such as photographers, driving schools, financial/credit card institutions, insurance providers, private schools, etc.

Media

Excludes student information and photos from being sent to print and visual media including newspapers, TV stations, radio stations, District websites, newsletters and social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.) (The ECASD does NOT publish names of students under age 13 in District print and visual media.)

District

Excludes student information and photos from being sent within the District for things like yearbooks, shared class lists, sports information such as rosters and programs, or articles where student directory information is identified.

Family Directory

Excludes student information from being included in the school's family directory.

Directory Information

The School District may release student directory information unless the adult student, parent, legal guardian, or guardian ad litem issues a written exception. Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. **Parents/guardians have until September 19th to inform the school that all or part of any directory data may not be released without their prior consent.** If you wish to prohibit the release of your child's directory data, you must log into Family Access and update your preferences or complete an Opt-Out Form.

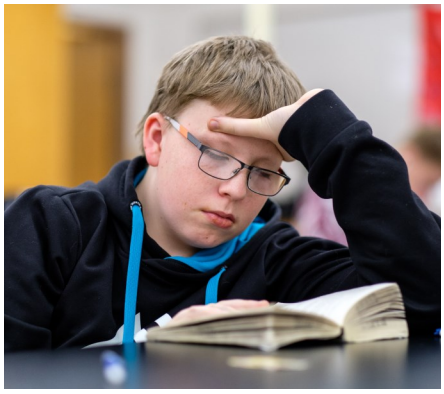
Directory data means those records that include student's name; recorded images of the student that are not being maintained by the District for a separate purpose as a behavioral record; school/grade level; degrees and awards received; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; name of the school most recently/previously attended; and dates of attendance (not including daily attendance records).

In addition, federal law requires that educational agencies provide military recruiters or institutions of higher education with names, addresses, and telephone numbers of students unless parents opt out of the nonconsensual **disclosure of directory information.** If you do not want the ECASD to disclose directory information from your child's education records to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, you must complete the Opt-Out Form or log into Family Access and change preferences. Opt-Out Forms are available at each school building or on the District's website under the "Forms" tab at the top of the website. The Opt-Out Form should be returned to the main office of each District building by September 19th if you so desire.

Please note that this form will be in effect on the date it is signed and will be valid indefinitely unless you notify the school that you withdraw all opt-out elections currently on file either by changing your preferences in Family Access or by filling out a new form.

New this year, the **District's Opt-Out Form has changed**. There are new categories, which may be reviewed on this page's sidebar. Because of the change in categories, all families who wish to prohibit the release of their child's directory data must log into Family Access and update preferences **or** complete a new Opt-Out Form this year.

Previously submitted Opt-Out Forms will no longer be valid. You can change your preferences in Family Access, you may pick up an Opt-Out Form in the main office of each District building, or you can find the form on the District's website under the "Forms" tab at the top of the website. The form is valid through grade eight and then a new form needs to be completed for a student's high school years.



Research-Based Sleep Recommendations for Families

The topic of sleep and the effect on student's academic achievement has been discussed a great deal lately. However, sleep impacts much more than cognitive development; indeed, sleep is essential to the development of the whole child. Hanover Research was commissioned by the ECASD to study how sleep affects students physically, socially/emotionally, and cognitively.

Hanover Research reviewed key research studies on the effects of sleep on children in Pre-K through Grade 12. Their research highlights the impacts of adequate sleep on the whole child.

Parents have a key role in supporting their children's sleep through setting and enforcing household rules. Although families should adapt guidelines to personal circumstances, families can encourage good sleep practices through the following strategies:

- **Plan for an adequate, full night's sleep according to your child's age and needs:** Families should encourage children to participate in a limited number of after-school or extra-curricular activities to allow enough time for homework and relaxation after school each day. **Recommended sleep times by age are listed in the table at the bottom of the page.**
- **Practice a consistent, early bedtime:** A consistent sleep schedule, without "catch-up" sleep on weekends or wildly varying bedtimes, improves sleep quality and duration.
- **Eliminate media and technology use in the hour before bedtime:** The use of electronic media at night is associated with poor sleep quality and other outcomes such as depressive symptoms.
- **Address mental and physical health issues:** Certain mental and physical health issues can interfere with getting a good night's sleep, including anxiety, depression, restless leg syndrome, sleep apnea, and more.
- **Practice mindfulness and self-care:** Mindfulness and self-care contribute to an individual's ability to address underlying problems and manage external pressures that may interfere with getting a good night's sleep. Students can benefit from direct instruction in sleep hygiene as a means of building self-care strategies.
- **Exercise moderately each day:** Moderate physical activity, along with other healthy practices, can be associated with an increase in sleep duration and sleep quality, and a decrease in sleep latency (i.e., time to fall asleep). To contrast, poor sleep quality is associated with poorer physical health including muscular endurance, flexibility, and cardiovascular fitness.

Recommended Sleep Duration (Hours) by Age Group

Age Group	Recommended
Pre-School (3-5 years)	10-13 hours
School Age (6-13 years)	9-11 hours
Teen (14-17 years)	8-10 hours
Young Adult (18-25 years)	7-9 hours

Annual Notices

By state law, school districts are required to publish a School Accountability Report for parents and guardians each year. Eau Claire's SPR data is published on our website at *www.ecasd.us/Notices.* To request a paper copy, parents/guardians should contact Patti Iverson in the Superintendent's Office at 715-852-3002.

In addition, all districts must notify parents each year of educational options available to students, state mandated pupil assessments, the academic standards adopted by the School Board, and the special needs scholarship program for students with disabilities. Those notices can also be found on the website at *www.ecasd.us/Notices.*

Notice of Non-Discrimination

The District encourages informal resolution of complaints concerning alleged discrimination. If any person believes that the Eau Claire Area School District or any part of the school organization has failed to follow the law and rules of §118.13, Wis. Stats., the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title IX, Title VI, or Section 504 or in some way discriminates against students on the basis of sex; race; religion; color; national origin; ancestry; creed; pregnancy; marital or parental status; sexual orientation; gender expression or gender identity; or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability, he/she can bring or send a complaint to Kaying Xiong, Director of Student Services, 500 Main Street, Eau Claire, WI 54701. Dr. Xiong can be contacted at 715-852-3036.

Additional Parent Information

Office 365 for Home Use Program

With the District's email conversion to Office 365, Eau Claire Area School District students and families may download up to five copies of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook, etc.) for FREE! Students and families are reminded that they are responsible for Tech Support for personal devices.

Families can use the plan as long as the student is enrolled in the ECASD. Eligibility may be reverified at any time. When your license expires, you will be able to view documents previously created, but will not be able to edit or create new documents. This license applies to any and all Office products, including Office 365.

Sharing Community Events with Parents

The School District does not send home community event flyers with your child. A listing of community events is located on our website at *www.ecasd.us/flyers.* A link will also be included in Partnership Coordinator communications.

Student Accident Insurance

The ECASD **does not** provide any type of health or accident insurance for injuries incurred by your child at school. Parents/guardians are encouraged to review your present health and accident insurance program to determine if your coverage is adequate. If you are interested in purchasing accident coverage, visit *www.1stagency.com/wischools.php?num=634* for more information and to purchase coverage.

Weekend Kids Meals Program

This year Feed My People will once again be offering meal bags for your child every Friday with food for the weekend when school meals are not available. There are no income guidelines or requirements. The food is at NO COST to you or your child. Sign up forms will be available with back-to-school information at your school or from your school's Partnership Coordinator.

WIC Program

The Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) provides nutritious food and information to pregnant women, breastfeeding women, infants, and children under five years of age. You may qualify if you:

- are a resident of Wisconsin
- are pregnant, breastfeeding or a new mother
- have an child under five years old
- have a household income that meets WIC Guidelines.

To learn more about the local WIC program visit *http://bit.ly/EauClaireCoWIC* or call 715-839-5051.

Join SEPTA!

The ECASD Special Education PTA (SEPTA) invites you to join them. The group consists of families working together to support children with a variety of educational, health, and social needs. They work to advocate for all students. You do not need to have a child receiving special education services to be a member of SEPTA. For more information and for meeting dates, contact SEPTA at *septaec@gmail.com*.

Family Resource Guide Now Available

This resource guide was developed to give support for students with disabilities in our District by providing families with education resources, technical assistance, and community connections. Contact Lauri Malnory at 715-852-3075 for a free copy.

School Board Meetings

Regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Education are held the **first and third Monday** of the month at **7:00 p.m**. These meetings are held in the Board Room of the Administration Building at 500 Main Street. All meetings are open to the public except the closed session portion of the meeting. The public is always notified of these meetings through the local media.

There is a ***Public Forum*** held during each Board meeting. The Board will provide a 30-minute time period in which citizens may address the Board. Each citizen must sign up before the meeting, and they will be allowed up to four minutes to address the Board and share viewpoints on District or school-wide concerns.

The Board utilizes BoardDocs — a paperless meeting technology. This allows the ECASD to maximize the effectiveness of its Board Meetings with increased transparency, providing a basis for better and more open communication with the public, while dramatically increasing productivity. All meeting documentation can be found on the District's BoardDocs site under the "Board of Education" tab. You can also view video clips of each meeting via BoardDocs. From the BoardDocs agenda, click on each agenda item, find the TV icon, and view each segment of the meeting.

School Board meetings are streamed live via the District's website. You can catch a rebroadcast of the meetings on CVCTV's Government Channel 994 on Charter. They are streamed via CVCTV's website at *www.cvctv.org* and simulcast on the radio on 101.9 FM each week at the same time on Wednesdays at 7 a.m., 1 p.m., and 7 p.m., also on Fridays at 7 p.m. Meetings are also available on demand via CVCTV's website at *www.cvctv.org.*

Visit our website at *www.ecasd.us*

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter

Learning Management System

Eau Claire Area School District is transitioning from Schoology to a new Learning Management System (LMS) called Canvas. A LMS allows students and staff the capability to share documents and to collaborate in an online system. (For more information about this system see *www.canvaslms.com*.) This online system is open only to members of a class. This system is used for educational purposes and provides a paperless means for the exchange of assignments between teachers and their students to meet the District's learning goals.

Protecting students in school and in online environments is a primary concern of the District. Therefore, no student information will be shared outside of the supervision of District personnel. This is the same as the protection of student information on current District network systems. To learn more about Canvas's Terms of Use, please go to *www.canvaslms.com/policies/privacy.*

This mailing folded and collated by our friends at REACH, Inc.

Contact Us

Secondary Schools

Memorial 715-852-6300
North 715-852-6600
McKinley Charter 715-852-6900
DeLong 715-852-4900
Northstar 715-852-5100
South.....715-852-5200

Early Learning School

Prairie Ridge 715-852-3600

Elementary Schools

Davey 715-852-3200
Flynn 715-852-3300
Lakeshore 715-852-3400
Locust Lane 715-852-3700
Longfellow 715-852-3800
Manz 715-852-3900
Meadowview 715-852-4000
Montessori Charter ...715-852-6950
Northwoods 715-852-4100
Putnam Heights 715-852-4200
Robbins 715-852-4600
Roosevelt.....715-852-4700
Sherman 715-852-4800

Administration Building

Information Office.....715-852-3000

Superintendent.....715-852-3002

School Board Members

Lori Bica.....715-559-1005
Kathryn Duax 715-835-0905
Chris Hambuch-Boyle.....715-456-7960
Aaron Harder 715-952-4881
Joe Luginbill.....715-225-0819
Eric Torres 715-514-1888
Charles Vue 715-514-4014