



Polar Express

The Northstar Newsletter

Facebook: Northstar Middle School Twitter: @Northstarmiddle #nmmpolars

Main Office:
715-852-5100
School Fax
715-852-5104
www.ecasd.us

January 2021

Happy New Year from Northstar Middle School! As the unofficial mid-point of the school year, the new year finds us preparing for second semester. It also begins our planning for the 2021-22 school year. Below are a few items that I would like to share with our Northstar community.

First, a gigantic THANK YOU to all of our families who supported the 'Season of Giving' program this year. Because of your generosity, \$1715.59 was distributed to Northstar families in need. In addition to all donors, we would also like to thank Ms. Jenn Junker, our Partnership Coordinator, and our Student Services staff for their coordination of this program

Second, Northstar will be administering Wisconsin's Forward Exam to all students beginning on April 6. The Forward Exam is the state of Wisconsin's standardized test given to all public-school students. While we are still finalizing the exact schedule, the exam will be given to all Northstar Cohort A & B students between April 6 - 23. Cohort C students will be completing the exam as well, but exact testing dates and locations are not known at this time. The Forward Exam assesses all students in the areas of math and reading. Our grade 8 students will also complete tests covering social studies and science. Thank you in advance for making sure your child is well-rested and in school during these important days.

Finally, even though today's high temperature is a balmy 22 degrees, summer school is not that far away. Our school district is tentatively planning to have in-person summer school classes. Discovery classes, open to all incoming grade 6-8 Northstar students, will be held between June 14 - July 1. In addition, summer music lessons for band and orchestra will take place between June 14 - July 22. Our district summer school catalog will be mailed to your home in the coming weeks.

Thank you for continuing to support your child's education! This is particularly appreciated given our current school year challenges associated with Covid-19. It is a pleasure to be part of this vibrant school community! Please mark your calendar for our Spring Virtual Family-Teacher Conferences on February 23 (evening) and March 2 (all-day). I hope your family enjoys a positive and productive start to 2021!

Tim Skutley
Principal



Public School Open Enrollment: February 1 – April 30, 2021

Wisconsin residents in grades 4K-12 may apply to attend school in a school district other than the one in which they live. For example: a child that lives in the Altoona School District could apply to attend the Eau Claire Area School District (ECASD). Students in pre-kindergarten may participate in limited circumstances; parents should call ECASD Administration Department at 852-3003 to find out if their preschool-aged child(ren) qualify.

Students who are currently attending ECASD through open enrollment DO NOT need to reapply.

The open enrollment application for the 2021-22 school year is February 1 – April 30, 2021. An online application will be available to the public beginning Monday, February 1, and closing at 4:00 p.m. on April 30, 2021. For more information about open enrollment, please go to: <http://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment>.

Have you moved outside of the Eau Claire School District this year? If so, you need to complete a Tuition Waiver form. Contact ECASD Administration Department for more information at 852-3003.



...for your *tremendous support* of our **fall 2020 restaurant fundraisers!**

Together, we raised almost **\$800** just by eating! Let's keep up the momentum and as we enter 2021. . .



STUDENT SERVICES



Ms. Jennifer Schilling
Student Services Secretary

715-852-5103
jschilling@ecasd.us

Ms. Jenni Berg
School Counselor A-J

715-852-5119
jberg@ecasd.us

Ms. Lisa Sproul
School Counselor K-Z

715-852-5118
lsproul@ecasd.us

Ms. Oceana David-Weber
School Psychologist

715-852-4672
odavidweber@ecasd.us

Student Registration

The registration process for next school year has begun! **Throughout the month of January**, we will complete the 2021-2022 registration for all 5th-8th grade students. Detailed registration information will be sent via email to all cohorts. Additionally, Cohorts A & B will receive hard copies of the registration materials during science class, and Cohort C will receive hard copies of the registration materials via US mail. If you have questions about registration, please contact us at 715-852-5103.

Study Club

The purpose of Study Club is to provide students with support as they navigate the technology platforms associated with their online classes. Our teachers will help students check for assignments, make sure class meetings are scheduled, and provide other tips and tricks for staying organized. The teachers will help with Canvas, Skyward, Teams, and ECASD email. If students do not need technology help, they are welcome to quietly study and complete assignments. The study club is staffed by two Northstar teachers and is open to ALL Northstar students. Study Club will be held on Mondays (for Cohort A) and Thursdays (for Cohort B) in rooms 560 & 565 from 3:00 until 4:00. A small snack will be offered to all students who join Study club. A parent/guardian permission slip is needed before the student can attend Study Club. Please reach out to our Study Club supervisors with additional questions: Ms. Meg Jenny mjenny@ecasd.us (715-852-5122) or Mr. Rob Beese rbeese@ecasd.us (715-852-5156).

Student Information Update

We want to help your child be as successful as possible here at Northstar. We are aware that changes/events outside of school can have a substantial impact on a student's ability to focus and learn in school. Some of these impactful changes/events include parents separating or divorcing, death of a family member or friend, significant change in socio-economic status, welcoming a new sibling, parent re-marrying, including new stepsiblings, etc. If your child is experiencing such an occurrence, please consider sharing this information with our school counselors, so we can best meet your child's needs.



935 people follow Northstar Middle School on Facebook.

Can we make it to **1,000?!?** Join us!

Daily and weekly updates from Northstar and ECASD can be found on our page, as well as pictures and videos of student activities and reminders for upcoming events.





Season of Giving Check Presentation to ECASD Homeless Program

Northstar students presented a check to Dani Claesges, ECASD Homeless Program Coordinator, to help local families in need. Special thanks to Northstar Student Council for contributing \$500 towards these efforts. Their generous hearts are a gift to many!

ATTENTION: Cohort C Families

WE MISS YOU and are counting the days until we are all back together. Northstar isn't the same without you!
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Send in a photo of yourself: (choose one)

- ~ at your at-home learning space/desk
- ~learning with your favorite pet
- ~in your favorite place to study

Share with us your:

- ~Most challenging part of virtual learning
- ~Favorite part of virtual learning

We'd **LOVE** to feature you in an upcoming Northstar Weekly Newsletter!

Send to jjunker@ecasd.us.

For current virtual learning information, go to:

<https://www.ecasd.us/District/Cohort-C-Virtual-Learning-Information> on the district webpage.



Northstar PTSA Appreciates our Volunteers!

Family and community volunteers' talents and time are highly valued at Northstar, and we put them to good use for our school and children. Though we haven't been able to host volunteers "in person" this year as we have in years past, our Northstar volunteers have found other ways to give of their time. Thank you to all who have attended PTSA and FACS meetings; served on committees; donated items for staff appreciation and to Northstar at large; provided masks for our students; sent in notes of encouragement; attended virtual conferences; supported our Cans for Kids program; contributed to Season of Giving and families in need; attended school restaurant fundraisers, and donated time and talents in so many other ways. Your efforts help make Northstar such a special school.

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PTSA DQ FUNDRAISER
First Tuesday of the Month
10% of all sales support our students.
Mark your calendars!

Tuesday, February 2 ***Tuesday, March 2***
Pinehurst Dairy Queen **4-9 PM**

PTSA's Burrachos Benefit Night!



Burrachos Fresh Mexican Grill

5314 Prill Road, across from Kohl's

Order online at www.burrachos.com and write Northstar in comment section BEFORE checkout
OR
 Order in person and mention Northstar BEFORE paying cashier

Place your order the day before or day of event

25% of ALL sales will be donated to support student programs and scholarships. Support a local restaurant while supporting Northstar! It's a win-win!

Tuesday, January 19 4:00 – 8:00

Cohorts A, B, and C Continue to Impress!



Whether you are a student in Cohort A, Cohort B, or Cohort C, we know this year has been challenging. You've had to adapt to new ways of learning, new daily schedules, and have been separated into learning pods that aren't necessarily filled with your closest friends. Activities have been cancelled; Polar Parties put on hold; middle school life as we know it has been drastically altered. Thank you Northstar students and families for continuing to "show up" and engage in your school experience.

QUARTER 3 DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan 18	7:00 ECASD Board Meeting (virtual)
Jan 19	4:00-8:00 PTSA Burrachos Fundraiser
Jan 20	End of 2nd Quarter
Jan 28	7:30 AM-4:30 PM Cohort C Material Pick Up
Feb 1	7:00 ECASD Board Meeting (virtual)
Feb 2	4:00-9:00 pm Dairy Queen Fundraiser (Pinehurst)
Feb 11	7:30 AM-4:30 PM Cohort C Material Pick Up
Feb 15	7:00 ECASD Board Meeting (virtual)
Feb 16	6:30 PTSA Executive Meeting (virtual)
Feb 23	Virtual Conferences 3:15-7:15
Feb 25	7:30 AM-4:30 PM Cohort C Material Pick Up
Mar 1	7:00 ECASD Board Meeting (virtual)
Mar 2	Virtual Conferences— no school for students
	4:00-9:00 pm Dairy Queen Fundraiser (Pinehurst)
Mar 11	7:30 AM-4:30 PM Cohort C Material Pick Up
Mar 15	7:00 ECASD Board Meeting (virtual)
Mar 19	End of 3rd Quarter



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Northstar Middle School
2711 Abbe Hill Drive
Eau Claire, WI 54703

