



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

September 2020

Thank you for all of your support as we embark on a school year unlike any other! You have tremendous children and we are very excited to work with them again this year!

As we began our first couple of weeks, everything seemed brand new. I asked students and staff to learn new routines, technologies, classroom layouts, curricular materials, and assessment tools. It felt like everything was taking longer than it should because each and every detail needed to be sorted out. We spent time discussing which stairwells would be used, when exit doors could be cleaned, the square footage of each classroom, a touchless method of meal distribution, and the imaging and distribution of 550 technology devices. These were challenges unlike any that have been faced before. It didn't matter if you had worked in schools for one year or thirty years — this year we were all rookies. A constant that kept us moving forward was our students. Without exception, our students came into our school, followed our instructions, showed grace when we needed to make adjustments or correct mistakes, and put their best foot forward whenever they had a chance.

There will be challenges ahead, but we are moving forward together. From a health perspective, our students completed orientation on school routines, wearing masks, and remaining socially distanced. From a student support perspective, we are taking time to discuss and develop social/ emotional skills. Students are completing weekly lessons regarding communication, organization, responsibility, etc. More than ever, these skills will help unlock success in all of their classes, both at home and in school. And from an academic perspective, all classes are focusing on course content. We are transitioning into the academics of our school year. The majority of students are using new curriculum in the areas of Math and English Language Arts (ELA) this year. Your student will likely be using new Math 180 or CPM math tools throughout the year. They will also be working with our new ELA curriculum entitled 'Study Sync.' Our health, social/emotional, and academic learning programs are all moving forward!

Northstar is committed to the success of all students. Should your student need additional help, please know that we are available. Northstar staff members have two hours of time set aside on Wednesday afternoons to answer student questions and provide additional support. Teachers also have other times throughout the week. If you need help, please visit your teachers' Canvas pages to find out their contact information and available times. I look forward to working with you and your student(s) to ensure a successful school year at Northstar Middle School.

Tim Skutley
Principal

NEW STAFF AT NORTHSTAR

A special welcome to our new Northstar staff members! We are looking forward to a great year with the addition of these talented individuals.

- ❖ Ms. Courtney Bell
 - ❖ Ms. Jenni Berg
 - ❖ Ms. Oceana David-Weber
 - ❖ Mr. Scott De Rusha
 - ❖ Ms. Barb Goings
 - ❖ Ms. Meg Jenny
 - ❖ Ms. Jenn Junker
 - ❖ Ms. Tessa Larson
 - ❖ Mr. Mike Schwengler
 - ❖ Ms. Danni Trullinger
- Exploring Music 7
 - Counselor
 - School Psychologist
 - Teacher on Special Assignment
 - English 7 & 8
 - Family & Consumer Sciences
 - Partnership Coordinator
 - Math 6/7—Virtual
 - Phy Ed
 - Building Secretary



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

Welcome- We welcome students and parents/guardians to the 2020-2021 school year. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact their student's counselor with any questions they may have. We look forward to working with you and your student. To learn more about Northstar Student Services and numerous other community resources please check out the Northstar Student Services webpage at : [https://www.ecasd.us/Northstar-Middle-School/Student-Services-\(1\)](https://www.ecasd.us/Northstar-Middle-School/Student-Services-(1))

Student Information- 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 or financial concerns, welcoming a new sibling, parent re-marrying, new step-siblings, etc. If your student or family is experiencing such an occurrence, please consider sharing this information with your student's school counselor so we can best meet their needs.

Student Conferencing- In the coming weeks, we will begin meeting with all 6th grade students to get to know each student individually so we can better support the students during their three years at Northstar. We will cover personal/social/academic/career information during these meetings. The meetings will be scheduled to minimally disrupt the student's classes.

Academic and Career Planning (ACP)- Throughout the school year, your student will engage in several academic and career planning activities. What is ACP and why is this important? Academic and career planning allows students to become more self-aware, learn more about post-secondary options and resources, and practice lifelong skills that will allow them to be successful productive citizens. The goal is to have all ECASD students graduate community-, college-, and career-ready!



Lifetouch Picture Retake Day



Lifetouch will return to Northstar for retakes on:
Tuesday, November 3 (Cohort A & C)
Friday, November 6 (Cohort B)

All students need to have their picture taken whether or not an order is placed. If you missed picture day and plan to place an order, please have your student bring the picture form and payment or place your order online at mylifetouch.com with the ID **EVT3SPZTX**.

If you want retakes, your students must bring their first package of photos to return to Lifetouch.

COMMUNITY FOOD AND OTHER RESOURCES

Need help with food? Clothing? School Supplies? Housing? Be sure to visit ECASD District Website for up to date community food and other resources. https://www.ecasd.us/ECASD/media/District-Site/PDFs/Community-Food-Other-Resources-09-14-20_4.pdf

Weekend Kids' Meals

To receive a Weekend Kids' Meal Bag, go <https://www.ecasd.us/Northstar-Middle-School/News/Weekend-Kids-Meals> and return form to main office. Each bag includes breakfast and lunch for two days.





Continuing Our Commitment in a **WONKY** Year!

We understand this year is unlike any other. Our day to day protocols, schedules, activities, and well—everything—look a bit wonky. However, what remains the same is our commitment to building strong connections with our students and families. We are excited to meet the challenges ahead with creativity, collaboration, and much needed humor! You are not in this alone. The Polar community is at its best when we come alongside each other, and that is just what we intend to do!



WE STILL NEED YOU!

Due to COVID-19, we are unable to host the same types of activities this fall. At a time when we would normally be asking for volunteers to assist with the many awesome Polar activities, we are instead asking our families to help in other ways. If each Northstar family chose just ONE way to help from the list below, the impact on our Northstar community would be significant!

Our volunteers are the heart of our Polar Family, and we will miss seeing you in person. Please remain patient, flexible, and ready to assist when the time comes to resume in-school activities. We will need you more than ever! We can't wait for the green light and will be in touch right when that happens! Until then...

OTHER GREAT WAYS TO HELP NORTHSTAR AND STAY CONNECTED

Support Dairy Queen Fundraiser

- First Tuesday of every month
- Pinehurst Dairy Queen
- 5-10 pm
- 10% of all evening sales donated to Northstar!

Mark your calendars now!
Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1

Buy a Discount Card

Help us reach our goal: **\$3,500 in card sales= \$3,500 for Northstar students!**

- \$10 per card
- Can be used over and over for bigger savings
- Good until August 31, 2021
- <https://www.ecasd.us/Northstar-Middle-School/News/PTSA-Discount-Card-Fundraiser> to download an order form.

Get Involved with Northstar PTSA

- Become a member
 - \$5.25 per membership
 - Fill out form return to main office www.ecasd.us/Northstar-Middle-School/Home
- Attend Monthly PTSA Meeting
- Fill out Volunteer Agreement Form found on Northstar Homepage.

Get to Know Our Family Advisory Council Reps!

At a time when things are changing and there are so many questions, our FAC reps are even more important! The FAC presents parent concerns and perspectives to the superintendent and school administrators at monthly meetings. Contact our FAC reps with any district-wide concerns or comments.

Stephanie Bautsch: stephaniebautsch@icloud.com
Rob Geske: rgeske@me.com
Melissa Sterling: mgargulak1@gmail.com

STAY CONNECTED

- Keep in touch with teachers, ask questions, send notes of encouragement.
- Create a **Canvas Observer Account** and stay connected with your student's learning. Go to <https://www.ecasd.us/District/Departments/Technology/Canvas>
- Read The Northstar Weekly e-newsletter Check out Northstar Webpage and Facebook.

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!

In a year where nothing looks normal, we are looking for unique ways to keep Northstar students, families and staff connected.

Contact Jenn Junker, Partnership Coordinator, with ideas on how to best come alongside ALL our Northstar students and staff.
jjunker@ecasd.us/715.852.5107



October 5	ECASD School Board Meeting	7:00 PM
October 6	PTSA Dairy Queen Fundraiser	5:00-10:00 PM
October 19	ECASD School Board Meeting	7:00 PM
October 26	ECASD School Board Budget Hearing and Special Meeting	7:00 PM
October 27	PTSA Executive Board Meeting	6:30 PM
October 30	End of Quarter 1	

COMING UP

Lifetouch School Picture Retakes—**Tuesday, November 3** (Cohort A & C)
Friday, November 6 (Cohort B)

Northstar Bell Schedule - Fall 2020

Blended Schedule

Block 1 7:30 – 9:00
 (90 min - Pledge and Announcements 7:30-7:33)
Block 2 9:00 – 10:30
 (90 min)
Block 3 10:30 – 1:20
 (170 min)

Lunch A	10:30-10:55	Mini A	10:30-10:55
Grade 6/	10:55-11:25	Lunch	10:55-11:25
ARCTIC	11:25-11:50	Mini C	11:25-11:50
Class	11:50-1:20	Class	11:50-1:20
Lunch B	10:30-12:00	Class	10:30-12:00
Grade 7	12:00-12:30	Lunch	12:00-12:30
Mini D	12:30-12:55	Mini D	12:30-12:55
Mini E	12:55-1:20	Mini E	12:55-1:20
Lunch C	10:30-10:55	Mini A	10:30-10:55
Grade 8	10:55-11:20	Mini B	10:55-11:20
Class	11:20-12:50	Class	11:20-12:50
Lunch	12:50-1:20	Lunch	12:50-1:20

Block 4 1:20 – 2:51
 (90 min)

100% Virtual Schedule

Period 11	8:00-8:45
Period 12	8:45-9:30
Period 13	9:30-10:15
Period 13 a	10:15-11:00
Lunch/Work Time	11:00-12:40
Period 13 b	12:40-1:25
Period 14	1:25-2:10
Period 15	2:10-2:55

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. Postage Paid
 Permit No. 1557
 Eau Claire, WI 54701

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

