



Northstar Weekly Home of the *Polars*

Main Office: 715.852.5100
Student Services: 715.852.5103
Partnership Coordinator: 715.852.5107

April 22, 2021

Northstar Middle School Calendar

April

26 Cohort A & B begin 4 days a week (middle schools)

May

3-7 Staff Appreciation Week
4 PTSA Dairy Queen Fundraiser, 4-9 pm
18 PTSA Burrachos Benefit Night, 4-8 pm
31 No School, Memorial Day

June

3 8th Grade Celebration and PTSA sponsored lunch
3 Last Day of School

Important Links

[Northstar Middle School Website](#)

[ECASD Latest COVID-19 Information](#)

[Eau Claire Community Food and Other Resources](#)

[ECASD Community Events and Resources](#)

[At-School Breakfast and Lunch Menus and Pickup Breakfast and Lunch Menus](#)

[Updated 2020-21 ECASD School Calendar](#)

[Tech Support and Resources](#)

Technical Support for all ECASD families is available from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM Monday through Friday by calling 715-852-3411

Lus Hmoob

Yog koj xav tau tus neeg Hmoob txhais daim ntawv no ua lus Hmoob rau koj los yog koj muaj lus nug txog daim ntawv no, hu rau Annie (715-852-6577).

En Espanol

Spanish: Si desea que alguien le traduzca esta carta o si tiene preguntas, llame a Irene Salazar al (715) 852-4943.



Instructional Model Update

School and district administration determined that it will increase in-person learning from two days a week to four days a week for all middle school and high school students in Cohorts A and B. This change will take effect on:

Monday, April 26 for Middle School
Monday, May 3 for High School

Below you will find important information:

[Letter to Families](#) (in English, Spanish, Hmong)
[FAQ's – Instructional Model Shift](#)



Find us on Facebook [HERE](#)

Polar News and Announcements

From the Desk of Mr. Skutley, Principal



Next Monday begins our 4-day weekly schedule together! We look forward to welcoming our students back into the building. Whether you are a student, teacher, or principal, it will likely be a Monday morning that includes a few butterflies and several questions. It might feel like the first day of school. We recognize this feeling and plan to welcome students back in a way that is supportive and successful for everyone. Students should enter the building and go to their Block I class just like any other day so far this year. We will begin building a class community in all our rooms regardless of the grade level or subject. We look forward to welcoming everyone next Monday!

Day 1 Mondays and Thursdays
Day 2 Tuesday and Fridays

NORTHSTAR BELL SCHEDULE – SPRING 2021

Homeroom 7:30-7:45
(Pledge & Announcements 7:30-7:32)

Period 1 7:45-8:49

Period 2 8:49-9:53

Period 3 9:53-10:57

Lunch A Team H/AZ 6-7 81 students	Lunch B Team G 67 students	Lunch C Team K/AZ 8 104 students	Lunch D Team J 95 students	Lunch E Team X 93 students
Lunch 10:57-11:27	Period 4 10:57-11:29	Period 4 10:57-12:01	Period 4 10:57-12:01	Period 4 10:57-12:01
Period 4 11:27-12:31	Lunch 11:29-11:59	Lunch 12:01-12:31	Period 5 12:01-12:33	Period 5 12:01-1:05
Period 5 12:31-1:35	Period 4 11:59-12:31	Period 5 12:31-1:35	Lunch 12:33-1:03	Lunch 1:05-1:35
	Period 5 12:31-1:35		Period 5 1:03-1:35	

Period 6 1:35-2:39

Exit & Wrap-Up 2:39-2:51

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Public school open enrollment application period for the 2021-22 school year is now open through April 30, 2021. If you live outside of the Eau Claire Area School District but wish for your child to attend an ECASD School for the 2021-22 school year, please learn more here: <https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment>.

UPDATE ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASS

Beginning April 26, we will return to in person PE and a lot of fun physical activity! We will not have access to locker rooms; therefore, please be sure your student comes to school on PE days dressed in clothing appropriate for PE activity.

YEARBOOKS STILL FOR SALE

There are 60 Northstar Yearbooks **LEFT to purchase!** Hurry and get your order in TODAY! Yearbooks are \$20 and can be purchased at www.yearbookforever.com

COHORT C MATERIAL PICK UP NEXT WEEK

Next pick-up day is **Thursday, April 29, 7:00 am – 4:30 pm!** If unable to pick up on Thursday, you are welcome to stop by Friday. Upcoming dates: May 13, May 27. If you have questions about materials, please reach out to your teachers. Multiple items will be bagged and clearly marked with the student's name in the door 1 of lobby. Cohort C families may drop off library books and textbooks on material pick up days. There is also a dedicated webpage for our Cohort C families. Check it out [here](#).

APRIL ECASD SPECIAL EDUCATION FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Check out the [April 2021 Newsletter](#) from our ECASD Special Education Department.

EAU CLAIRE VIRTUAL SCHOOL NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Click [HERE](#) for more information if you are interested in enrolling your student with ECVS.

DON'T FORGET TO REPORT ABSENCES Please remember to call the attendance line to let us know if your student is going to be absent or late. Call 715-852-5100 to report all absences. Thanks so much for your help!

News and Announcements



Don't miss these great spring and summer opportunities!

Last Chance to Sign Up for Spring Afterschool Coding Program!

Northstar and Blugold Beginnings are partnering to offer fun and educational afterschool programs for our students. Programs are led by college mentors and are held **virtually**. Click the following link to see program flyer and link to sign up. Questions? Contact Lexi Ehlenbeck at Ehlenbal2358@uwec.edu.



Coding Program: April 26-30, 4:30 – 5:30 pm, Grades 6 & 7,
link: [Coding Sign Up Form](#).

Youth Leadership Precollege Camp

June 19 – July 3 for students entering grades 8 – 11

This camp is offered and funded by UWEC through a partnership with the Eau Claire Area School District. A two-week camp where scholars are challenged to be in a setting that is college-like. The goal is to cultivate and enhance academic skills and knowledge to help meet college eligibility requirements. It is also to help prepare young people to become responsible and ethical citizens. Scholars will learn about post-secondary education, different career paths, Hmong culture and language, and effective leadership skills.



Follow the link for more information on [YOUTH LEADERSHIP PRECOLLEGE CAMP](#)

Free Summer Hmong Language Class

July 19 to August 6, 2021 (Monday-Friday) from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

We are excited to announce again that this year 2021, we have partnered with ECASD to offer FREE Summer Hmong language class to middle and high school students. The goal of the Hmong Language Class is to foster positive bi-cultural identities by building student's conversational language skills while also learning Hmong history and culture. The students will immerse themselves in learning and using the Hmong language with each other and with native Hmong speakers. Alongside with language, the students will also learn about the Hmong culture and history. For information go to [Summer Hmong Language Registration](#).



To all who supported Northstar
PTSA's

Burrachos Benefit Night!

Last week we raised

\$438.97

A special thank you to the crew at Burrachos for helping to support Northstar student programs and scholarships.

News and Announcements

Vaccination Clinic at Zorn Arena at the UW-Eau Claire Campus in Eau Claire

A new regional COVID-19 mass vaccination clinic has opened up at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire's Zorn Arena. The vaccine clinic at Zorn Arena will provide at least 3,500 and up to 7,000 vaccine doses each week with a maximum daily capacity of 1,400 people. Everyone age 16+ who lives, works, or studies in Wisconsin is eligible for the vaccine. The Pfizer vaccine will be offered for free at this clinic and proof of insurance or citizenship are not required. Zorn Arena is located at 121 Garfield Avenue. Hours of operation will be Tuesday-Saturday, from 3 pm-7 pm and will expand to 11 am-7 pm in late April.



- Sign up for an appointment at <https://vaccinate.wi.gov/en-US>
- Residents without internet access or who need help signing up should contact the call center at 844-684-1064 for help
- **Walk-ins are not accepted at this clinic**

SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH UPDATES FROM ECASD

ECASD Mental Health Website: Go to our updated website by clicking [here](#). Students and families will find new helpful mental health resources, 24-hour crisis hotlines, and local fun-filled healthy activities for all. And check out the [NEW ECASD Virtual Wellness Room](#). You can learn much more about the ECASD School Based Mental Health program by reaching out to ECASD Mental Health Coordinator Lisa Steig at lsteig@ecasd.us.

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

Mental health is relative to our physical and daily wellbeing, in COVID times and otherwise. Please check out the following link to the ECASD Nursing Department webpage which is updated monthly with information and resources on how to improve and maintain healthy thought processes, attitudes, practices, and relationships - for both adults and children. Link: [ECASD | School Nurse](#)



Check out April Newsletter Article: [Concussion Awareness](#)



We're celebrating Hmong Heritage and Arab-American Heritage Month in April! It's an opportunity for us to learn about and highlight two cultures of which many of our students belong.

Check out <https://www.cvmuseum.com/.../hmong-in-eau-claire-web.../> to learn more about the Hmong in Eau Claire. And see <https://www.pbs.org/.../april-is-arab-american-heritage.../> for more information about what it means to be Arab American. [#ECASDinspires](#)

CAFETERIA NEWS . . .

Curbside Meal Distribution Changes



Starting April 26, 2021

- Northstar 8:30-9:15
- DeLong 8:30-9:00
- South 8:30-9:00
- Memorial: 4:30-6:00 (no AM curbside pickup)
- North (no curbside pickup)



Meals on Yellow Wheels bus routes will be changing too. Look for an updated schedule soon.

Upcoming Pizza Hut Days: May 3 and May 17

Interested in other menu items? Check out our menu [here](#).

Lower your grocery bill and help ECASD!

The breakfasts and lunches we serve help fund our schools. This free USDA meal program is for every child in the district 18 or younger -- no matter what!

Allowing your student to eat with us is a win/win; families pay less for groceries and have quick, healthy, and accessible meals for each child.

- ✓ Consider **curbside pick-up** of meals at all middle schools and both high schools.
- ✓ Have your student eat breakfast and lunch with us **inside the school**
- ✓ Curbside Pick-up @ Northstar is outside door 5, 8:30-9:15 am Mon – Fri. For other pick-up locations, click [HERE](#).

We would like to share important information from our Food and Nutrition Department with an update on school meal pick-ups and Meals on Yellow Wheels deliveries. Because of our students are coming back to in-person instruction four days a week, demand for these services has gone down. Below is the new breakfast and lunch meal pick-up schedule beginning Monday, April 26. Thank you for your understanding!

BEGINNING APRIL 26

Daytime Meal Pick-Up:

DeLong = M-F – 8:30-9:00 am

South= M-F – 8:30-9:00 am

Northstar= M-F – 8:30-9:15 am

Evening Meal Pick-Up:

Memorial= M-F - 4:30 pm-6:00 pm



Meals on Yellow Wheels Deliveries:

Monday – Friday (Bus 1)

Prairie Park sub development 11 – 11:15 am

Peace Lutheran Church 11:30 – 11:45 am

Pablo Center (Wednesdays only) 12 pm – 12:15 pm

Monday – Friday (Bus 2)

Mary Place @ Renee Dr 11 – 11:15 am

Pine Edge Trailer Park 11:30 – 11:45 am

Indoor Sports Center (Wednesdays only) 11:55 am – 12:10 pm

Congratulations Goes To . . .



Sarah Redford

Congratulations, Sarah, on receiving
Chippewa Valley Growers “Who Deserves a Garden” Award.

Sarah’s commitment to serving students and her passion for gardening are widely recognized both here at Northstar and in the community as she is one of only two winners out of a pool of hundreds!

Sarah is a special education assistant and avid gardener. She pours her heart into her students each day and hopes to share her love of gardening with students as she works to begin a garden right here at Northstar for students to share!

Kay Zych, Northstar coworker, nominated Sarah and put it best when she said, “Sarah comes to work armed with a smile, a cup of coffee, and a readiness to help kids . . . She is passionate about her job and lives to help kids. She’s always willing to go the extra mile for Northstar students.” Click [HERE](#) to learn more about this awesome award and more about Sarah!



April is National Autism Awareness Month. You can learn much more here: [Autism Awareness Month](#). We have spent the month participating in Autism awareness and the spread of kindness. See photo to the right: Northstar staff proudly show off their Autism spirit wear.



NORTHSTAR BIG READ FINALE

Congratulations to Big Read FINALE contest winners!

Students showed their creativity and keen insights about the book and won some fantastic prizes! Thank you to all students who participated and to our judges Ms. Fromm, Ms. Semmens, and Mr. Steffens. The winners are . . . (drum roll)

1st place: Macy H. (a poem about Nowhere) - Air pods

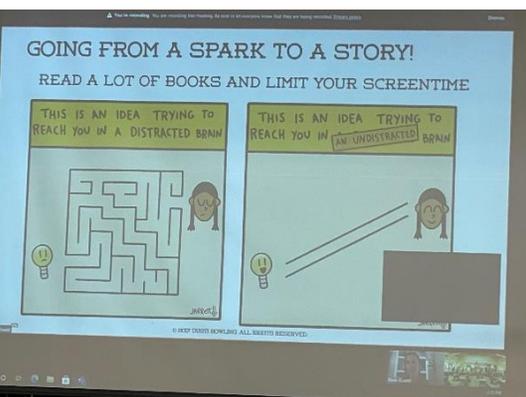
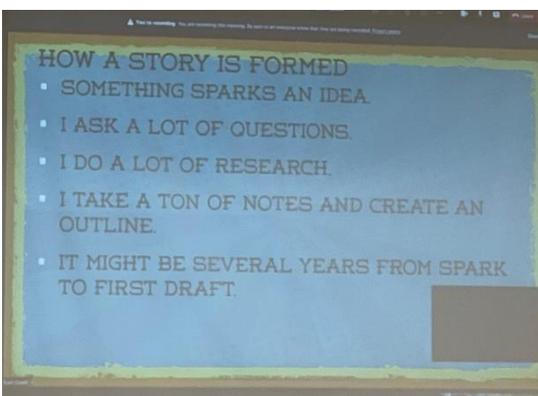
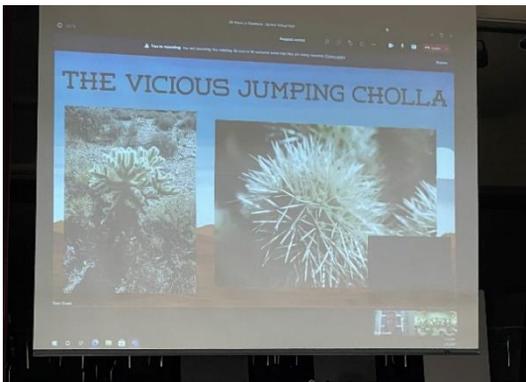
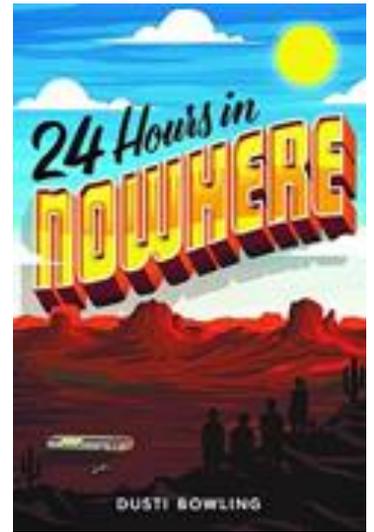
2nd place: Annika B. (letters to Rossi, Gus and Matthew) – YMCA summer family pass

3rd place: Lorelei M. (card game using Gus’s vocabulary words - \$75 Scheel’s gift card)

4th place: Tyler S. (map of the town of Nowhere) – Action City pass for 2

5th place: Hannah S. (letter to Rossi) – YMCA summer family pass

Special thank you to local businesses **Action City, Scheel’s and YMCA** for donating



Virtual Author Visit

with Dusti Bowling!
Students were able to participate in this interactive virtual visit right before leaving for spring break. Ms. Bowling shared with Polar students how she began her career in writing, as well as how her story came to “be”. She also shared tips and tricks she has learned when writing a book! This interactive session ended with Polar students asking Ms. Bowling questions. This session was recorded so that teachers could share with ALL students in their minis.

Polar News and Announcements



KITCHEN CUPBOARD

Northstar's KITCHEN CUPBOARD is open now through end of school year!

To place an order, go to link:

[Kitchen Cupboard Order Form.](#)

(Order forms can also be found on the Northstar homepage.)

Orders must be submitted by Monday, 8 am

Pick up food on Tuesday or Thursday (7:30 am – 3:00 pm) in Northstar's main office. Food will be labeled with your student's ID number.

Northstar students give back by helping to pack bags of food for families and stocking the Kitchen Cupboard with a new delivery of food.



NEW FOOD ITEMS NEEDED

The Kitchen Cupboard is accepting donations! Help us fill our shelves with a wide variety of food options for our Northstar families. Please remember that the best items for our shelves are easy-to-assemble, do not need extra ingredients to make (milk, butter, etc.) and do not need can openers. Some suggested items are:

- ❖ Pop Tarts
- ❖ Fruit Snacks
- ❖ Oatmeal (instant/variety)
- ❖ Cheese crackers
- ❖ Ramen noodles
- ❖ Hamburger Helper
- ❖ Pasta
- Peanut Butter Crackers
- Cereal
- Juice – orange, apple, grape
- Hand Sanitizer
- Animal Crackers
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Soup



Polar Highlights

ANOTHER YEAR OF FORWARD TESTING IS IN THE BOOKS!

A big thank you to students, families and staff for helping to make Forward testing run so smoothly. We are thankful for everyone's flexibility with changes in daily schedules and for your positive approach to testing during this unprecedented school year. Northstar students continue to impress! Special thanks to Student Council for the encouraging signs they made that lined the hallways.

Tie Blanket Project

Applied Math Students in Ms. West and Mrs. Redford's (affectionally known as Westford) class buckled down and focused to complete the Forward Exam. Once they finished the math portion of the test, the students worked on their blankets. These sixth and seventh graders chose their own fleece fabric, measured, cut, and tied the fringes of their fleece to create a cuddly masterpiece. What a fun project at the end of a long testing period!

EVERY accomplishment STARTS with the DECISION TO TRY

JUST DO YOUR BEST!!! YOU GOT THIS!!!! Believe in Yourself!

Do Not Stress, take Your Time and do your best!





everychild.one voice.®

Next PTSA Executive /General Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 4
6:30 pm (virtual)

To receive a meeting link, email jjunker@ecasd.us

Visit Northstar webpage to view April meeting minutes [here](#).



Are you looking for a way to become more involved in your Polar's school? Would you like to connect with other parents of Northstar Middle School? Getting involved in the PTSA is a great way to do both!

PTSA Current needs for 2021-22:

- Committee Members
- Committee Chairs

Contact Jenn Junker (jjunker@ecasd.us) or Brenda Xiong (bxiong@ecasd.us) if you'd like to learn more about leadership opportunities and committee involvement. Our volunteers help make Northstar such a special place.

Upcoming Elections for 2021-22 School Year

The following are nominations for open officer positions of the Northstar PTSA for the 2021-2022 school year:

1. For Co-President: Cindy Swing
2. For Secretary: Heidi Frank
3. For Treasurer: Malissa Dahlstrom

Elections will take place at General/Executive Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 4 (virtual). For a link to join, email jjunker@ecasd.us

Staff Appreciation Week May 3-7

Help us say thanks by filling our Staff Shout-Out Board with lots of notes of encouragement and thanks! Between now and May 3rd, let's fill every empty space with handwritten or emailed notes of thanks. Send notes via mail to Northstar: Attention Jenn Junker or email note to jjunker@ecasd.us.



Family Advisory Council

The FAC represents parent concerns, opinions, and perspectives to the superintendent and school administrators at monthly meetings.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments you feel should be discussed throughout the year please reach out to one of our FAC representatives so they can request them as future discussions.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 4.

Stephanie Bautsch:

stephaniebautsch@icloud.com

Rob Geske: rgeske@me.com

LAST DAIRY QUEEN FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR!



Tuesday, May 4

Pinehurst Dairy Queen
4-9PM



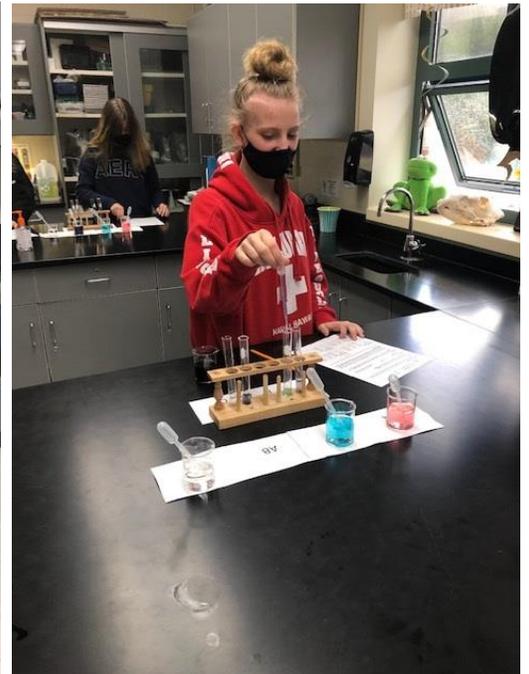
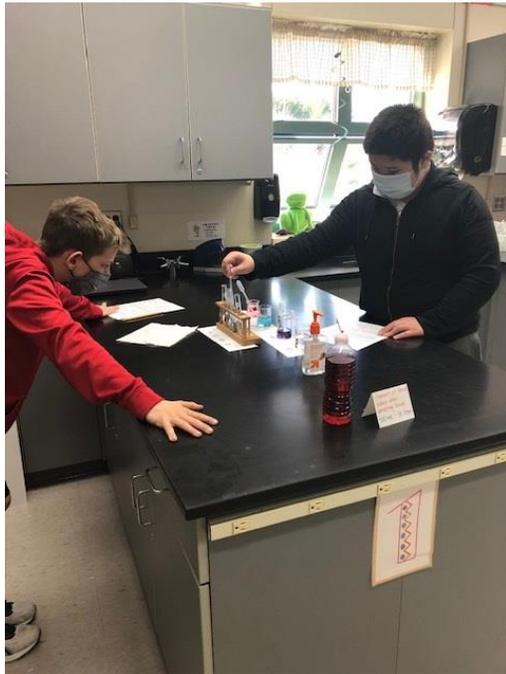
10% of all proceeds go to support Northstar students and programs.

Thank you, Pinehurst Dairy Queen, for partnering with our PTSA to support Northstar students!

Polar Highlights

7th GRADE SCIENCE LEARNS ABOUT THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM

Students conduct a lab activity to determine blood transfusion compatibility. Using microscopes, students look at blood flowing through the tails of minnows and observe different structures of the heart using deer hearts that were donated last fall.



SPRING FUN

Students in Mrs. Brown's Life Skills class enjoyed the sunshine during an outdoor egg hunt!



Polar Highlights

Afterschool Clubs

There is no shortage of fun when it comes to after school activities at Northstar! From Baking & Pastry Club to 3D Model Design & Printing, to Gardening, students have many options to get involved! Check out Baking & Pastry Club's first week challenge: Cake Mix Cookies



Students made cookies out of cake mix. They talked about cooking safety, learned about various kitchen utensils/tools and of course had to "taste test" their creations.

CAKE MIX COOKIE INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (15 oz cake mix)
- 1/4 cup All Purpose Flour
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup add in's (chocolate chips, M&M's, Nuts, Etc)

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.
2. In a large bowl mix together cake mix, eggs, and oil until smooth. Alternately you can do this step in the bowl of your stand mixer with the paddle attachment, mixing ingredients on low until combined.
3. Mix in desired add-ins until evenly incorporated.
4. Using a medium (2- tablespoon) cookie scoop portion the dough onto the prepared cookie sheet 2- inches apart. Bake for 9-10 minutes, or until lightly golden at the edges.
5. Allow the cookies to cool on the baking sheet for 3-4 minutes before transferring to a wire rack.

Acres for Joy

It is springtime at Acres for Joy and that means baby animals, climbing trees, and yearly check-ups. The students today got an awesome science lesson from Marv Smith, a large animal vet with 46 years' experience. Baby chicks were also a highlight!



Acres for Joy

This week students spent time in the leather shop, learning how to imprint leather and designed their very own wrist bands. A visit to the leather shop wouldn't be complete without loving on barn cats and feeding horses.



Polar News and Announcements

IMPORTANT RESOURCES FOR ECASD FAMILIES

Eau Claire Area Community Food and Other Resources

Be sure to check out the updated ECASD Community Food and Resources page on the ECASD website.

(Click [HERE](#) for information in English, Spanish and Hmong.)

SOME of the information you will find include:

- ECASD School Meals – FREE breakfast and lunch for students through end of the school year!
- Student Meals On Yellow Wheels Program – busses will bring FREE breakfast and lunch to designated locations.
- Weekend Kids' Meals
- Eau Claire Area Pop-Up Food Pantries
- School Supplies and Clothing Resources
- Free Covid Testing
- Rental Assistance
- AND MORE!



Feed My People
FOOD BANK

WIC can help you enjoy extra fruits & veggies this summer!

- This summer, WIC participants will receive \$35/month to buy fruits and vegetables at the grocery store. (A family of two WIC participants will receive \$70/month!)
- Participants will also receive a one-time benefit of \$30 to buy fruits and vegetables from local farmers' markets.

For more information or to apply, call us or visit wic.ehealthdepartment.org



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Feed My People Weekend Meals

Feed My People is partnering with the Eau Claire School District to provide extra food for our families on the weekends. If you would like to receive the weekend meal pack, please complete the weekend meals permission slip [HERE](#). There is no financial information required to sign up for this program. Call Jenn Junker at 715.852.5107 or email jjunker@ecasd.us with questions or to request a paper copy of the permission slip to be sent home with your child.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Looking for activities to engage your school-aged children? Check out the [ECASD Community Events and Resources](#)

([https://www.ecasd.us/District/About/Community-Events/Community-Event-Flyers-\(1\)](https://www.ecasd.us/District/About/Community-Events/Community-Event-Flyers-(1))) page at the District website for information regarding upcoming community events and continuing resources for school-age students and their families.