



Northstar Notes

Home of the *Polars*

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

September 7, 2023

WELCOME TO NORTHSTAR!



Important Links

[Northstar Middle School Website](#)

[ECASD 2023-24 School Year Calendar](#)

[ECASD Community Events and Resources](#)

[September Lunch Menu](#)

[Tech Support and Resources](#)

[\(click above link\)](#)

Technical Support for all ECASD families is available from 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM Monday through Friday by calling 715-852-3411



Find us on Facebook [HERE](#)

Welcome to the 2023-24 School Year!

Happy You're Here!



We are ready for a great year at Northstar Middle School! We couldn't be more excited to begin this school year with activities in full swing! For those who are returning to Northstar, welcome back! For those who are new to Northstar, please know you are joining an amazing school community. We look forward to a year filled with creativity and collaboration!

Northstar Notes newsletter will be sent electronically **every other Thursday** to assist you in staying connected and informed at Northstar. Information for the newsletter is submitted by teachers, coaches, administrators, and ECASD. If you have Northstar news to share, please contact Partnership Coordinator, Leah Waldie at lwaldie1@ecasd.us.

Northstar Middle School Calendar

September

- 4 No School, Labor Day
- 5 PTSA Dairy Queen Fundraiser, 4-9 pm
- 12 PTSA General Meeting, 6:30pm
- 18 Kitchen Cupboard food pantry opens
- 19 PTSA Panda Express Fundraiser, 10:30am – 9pm

October

- 3 PTSA Dairy Queen Fundraiser, 4-9pm
- 9 Picture Retake Day
- 10 Mile Run, PE
- 10 PTSA Executive Board Meeting, 6:30pm
- 11 Mile Run, PE
- 12 Family Teacher Conferences, No School
- 13 No School
- 16 No School, Staff Development
- 23 Orchestra 7/8 Concert @ North High School
- 26 Last Day of Q1 Athletics
- 27 Fall Polar Party, 2:51-4:15pm



Need a little help stretching your grocery budget? Having a hard time keeping food on the shelf through month's end? We are here to help!

**Northstar's Kitchen Cupboard
Opens September 18!**

Scroll down to page 6 for more details!



News and Announcements

QUARTER 1 ATHLETIC REGISTRATION DEADLINE TOMORROW

Is your child planning on participating in 1st quarter athletics? If so, required athletic forms and physical need to be turned in by Friday, September 8. To register, go to <https://ecasd.us/Northstar-Middle-School/Athletics/Intro>. Quarter 1 Sports are: Cross Country (all grades), Boys Soccer (all grades), Girls Tennis (grade 7/8), Girls Volleyball (grade 7/8), Flag Football (grade 7), Tackle Football (grade 8).

CELL PHONES, EAR BUDS, AND SMART WATCHES

As a reminder, cell phones should be off and in students' lockers during the school day. This helps teachers ensure they have a distraction-free learning environment and allows students to focus on their academics at school. If you need to contact your student during the school day, please call the main office and we can connect you. Wireless earbuds, AirPods, and smartwatches should also remain in students' lockers. Thank you for your help in creating a successful learning environment!

2023-24 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the [2023-24 School Calendar](#) and mark down those important dates!

TECHNOLOGY DIFFICULTIES

We know that technology can be frustrating. Please check in with your child to find out if they are struggling with any sort of technology issues with school devices. If so, encourage your child to ask for help from an adult at school. We are here to help and want our students to have a smooth start to school.

MORNING ROUTINE

Reminder! School doors open at 7:15am. Plan to have your student arrive by 7:25am so that they can make it to class on time. New this year, students who arrive prior to 7:25am will remain in the Commons area until 7:25am before they are released to their classrooms. Students who arrive after the bell rings at 7:30am should stop in the main office to get a pass to class.



Northstar Apparel Order

Order your Northstar gear here!

Orders can be placed through 9/21/23 and will be ready late October/early November. Show your Northstar spirit this year!

<https://cvsports.chippily.com/nstar23fall/store.aspx>



Order Your 2023-24
Yearbook Online TODAY!
Only \$18

Click [HERE](#) to purchase yearbook online, or copy and paste the following link to your browser:

https://yearbookforever.com/schools/northstar_middle_school_334452/FO0ZInIQ84Efd8pKPj8ehMn6

Note: If you are unable to order online, please see or email Mr. Behnke to make accommodations: abehnke@ecasd.us

News and Announcements

Keep up to date on your child's learning through CANVAS.

What is canvas? Canvas is the learning management system through which your student is receiving all online learning resources: syllabus, assignments, learning materials, teacher feedback, teacher office hours, etc. Become a Parent/Guardian Observer and see what your student is working on in class!

Stay connected with your student's learning through Skyward and Canvas

Is your Skyward contact information current?

- Click on the link for instructions to update information in Skyward
[Skyward Family Access--Updating Instructions](#)

Do you have a Parent/Guardian Observer account in Canvas that is linked to your student(s) account? If not, please refer to the following link for instructions:

- [Canvas Parent Observer Guides \(go.ecasd.us/canvasparentguides\)](http://go.ecasd.us/canvasparentguides)

For additional help with Canvas, please contact Tech Support at 715-852-3411.

Reminder – Students MUST use their district issued email. Expect all communication between student and staff through classroom CANVAS learning pages and school email.

CONNECT WITH YOUR STUDENT'S CLASS



Download the Canvas Parent/Guardian App on iOS or Android. Then, log in with your Skyward credentials.

Parent / Guardian

iOS



Android



THANK YOU

Festival Foods

Thank you for surprising Northstar staff with donuts on the first day of school! What a great way to start the school year. Thank you for making our staff feel so appreciated!



News and Announcements

Student Technology Updates

Per the [ECASD Family Student Handbook](#), the district is now charging for laptop and iPad loss and damage. Please encourage your student to handle theirs with care to prevent charges. The most common damages occur when students:

- Don't keep their laptops in a padded backpack (If your student needs one, we have some available in the office.)
- Carry their laptops by the top of the screen
- Download unapproved browsers or apps
- Leave laptops on the edge of a table or desk
- Close their laptop case with earbuds, pencils, or pens inside
- Drop their backpacks from their shoulders to the ground
- Set their laptops on the floor
- Lend their charger or leave their charger where pets can chew on it.
- Stack heavy things on top of their laptops or backpacks
- Leave a device unattended

If your student's laptop needs repairs, please have them stop by the library. Fees will be assessed and emailed out to families via our library system. Payment (cash or check) can be taken at the library. A full list of potential fees can be found here: go.ecasd.us/TechFees.

School Supply Resources

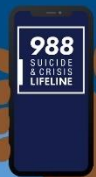
Northstar PTSA Backpack & School Supply Program

In need of backpacks or miscellaneous school supplies? We are here to help! Many supplies are available! Contact our Student Services department or Leah Waldie at 715.852.5107 for more information.



**SAVE THE NUMBER
SAVE A LIFE
CALL OR TEXT 988**

Add this number to your phone now.
It could save a life later.



nimh.nih.gov/suicideprevention

Suicide Prevention Month

September is Suicide Prevention Month—a time to raise awareness and spread hope and vital information to people affected by suicide. Please visit https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/suicide-prevention?utm_campaign=shareNIMH&utm_medium=Portal&utm_source=NIMHwebsite to learn more.



Back to School Emotional Wellness

Returning to school can be stressful! It's normal for children to feel anxious during this time. Here are a couple tips on how to ease their worries:

1. **Communicate:** Check in with your child(ren) often. Acknowledge your child's fears and let them know you understand and that it's normal to feel anxious.
2. **Encourage In-Person Social Interactions:** Spending time with friends outside of school can make the transition smoother and more enjoyable.
3. **Create and Continue Routines:** Establishing bedtimes, eating healthy meals, and setting aside time for homework and relaxation can help your child adjust to the school year.

This information is provided by the Eau Claire Health Alliance - Substance Misuse Action Team, which works to prevent alcohol, tobacco, and other drug misuse. Learn more at: www.getinvolvedasap.org

YOU CAN
SUPPORT NORTHSTAR
YEAR-ROUND
BY PURCHASING SCRIP
THROUGH RAISE RIGHT!



 RaiseRight.
Formerly ShareWell.org

 NORTHSTAR
MIDDLE SCHOOL



Scan QR code to join Northstar's
Scrip program!

News and Announcements

Northstar's very own food pantry opens on September 18 for the 2023-24 school year!!

Northstar and Feed My People Food Bank are partnering to provide our families food assistance throughout the month. Families can order food as needed each week by filling out an order form online (found on Northstar's homepage under Kitchen Cupboard) and picking up food at Northstar on designated days. See below for details.



NORTHSTAR'S FOOD PANTRY

For use by ANY Northstar Family!

Step 1:

Go to Northstar's Homepage.
Look under WELCOME TO
NORTHSTAR for the Kitchen
Cupboard link.

Orders are due by 8 AM Monday
of the week you would like food.

Step 2:

Pick up food Tuesday – Friday of
that week!*

*Food that is not picked up by Friday @
3:30pm will be returned to the food pantry.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Leah Waldie, Partnership
Coordinator
715-852-5107 or lwaldie1@ecasd.us

Kitchen Cupboard Order Form

Will be available by Sept 8 at:
[https://www.ecasd.us/Northstar-
Middle-School/Home](https://www.ecasd.us/Northstar-Middle-School/Home)

First order form due by:
Monday, Sept 18, 8 am

First opportunity to pick up food:
Tuesday, Sept 19
Wednesday, Sept 20
Thursday, Sept 21
Friday, Sept 22



News and Announcements

WE NEED YOU!

Our volunteers are the heart of our Polar community. They assist with our many awesome Polar activities and provide a depth to our school of which we are so proud!

Some ways to stay involved:

- Fill out and return [Volunteer Agreement](#) form
- Join Northstar PTSA
- Participate in the PTSA SCRIP Program. Proceeds go to Northstar!
- Attend Restaurant Fundraisers
- Keep in touch with teachers
- Stay Connected!
 - Read the Northstar Notes Newsletter
 - Check out [Northstar Webpage](#) and [Northstar Facebook](#)
- Questions? Contact Leah Waldie, Partnership Coordinator, @ 715.852.5107 or lwaldie1@ecasd.us



UPCOMING FALL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

To volunteer for any of the events listed below, please contact Leah Waldie, Partnership Coordinator, (852-5107/lwaldie1@ecasd.us). Thank you for making a difference at Northstar!

Fall Polar Party: Friday, October 27, 2:40-4:15pm
Help staff chaperone after school event.

Fall Mile Run: October 10 & 11, 7:15-11:05am and 12:50-3:00pm
Hand out Gatorade and apples to all PE students running the mile.

Concessions Sales: after school, 2:45 – 5:00pm
Sell concessions at Northstar athletic events.

Staff Meal Family/Teacher Conferences: Thursday, October 12
Families are asked to provide food items for staff meal during conferences. Details of type of food, quantity and drop off are provided after signing up. Help serving meal is also needed.

Book Fair: Thursday, October 12
If conferences are virtual, assist teacher with virtual book fair. If conferences are in person, help check out books.

Kitchen Cupboard Volunteer: as needed
Help in Northstar's food pantry. Stock shelves, pack food bags, deliver food from community partners. Volunteer as your schedule allows!

December Polar Party: Friday, December 8, 2:40-4:15pm
Help chaperone after school event.



Become a Member of Northstar's PTSA

WHY? Northstar PTSA supports student and teacher programs and activities.

WHAT? Financial and volunteer support for:

- Field trips for all grade levels
- After school Polar Parties
- Mini grants to teachers for special classroom activities
- Nature trail and school beautification projects
- Backpack/School Supplies
- 8th Grade Celebration
- End of Year School Picnic
- AND MORE

COST?

- \$5.25/per membership

HOW TO JOIN?

- Click [HERE](#) to download membership form and return to main office. Forms are also available in main office or in summer newsletter.

Northstar PTSA Fall General Meeting You're Invited!

Please join us to learn more about what's happening at Northstar! Visit Northstar's webpage to view agenda.

When: Tuesday, September 12

Time: 6:30 pm

Where: Northstar Commons



Ice Cream You Scream, There's No Cooking Tuesday Night!

The **first Tuesday of each month** Pinehurst Dairy Queen will donate 10% of ALL sales to Northstar. PTSA. Grab your family, tell your friends! Support our school and give yourself a break from the kitchen!

When: 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Mark your calendars now!

Where: Dairy Queen (3057 N Hastings Way)

Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5

PANDA EXPRESS FUNDRAISER: SEPTEMBER 19, 2023



Fundraiser for

Northstar Middle School - PTSA

20% of event sales will be donated

The PTSA pays for and organizes school programs & events for our Northstar Middle school.



When

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

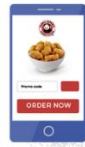
Time: 10:30 AM to 9:30 PM

Where

Panda Express located at:

**2403 London Rd Eau Claire WI 54701
(608) 292 - 9391**

How to Order



Online

**PandaExpress.com or the App.
Enter 357309 in the fundraiser code box**

or



In-Person

**Bring paper flyer or show it on
your smartphone**

Order ahead or on the event day Tuesday, September 19, 2023



Health and Safety

Committed to your health and safety. Panda Express is recognized as **America's safest restaurant brand.**

Participating fundraiser guests are required to present a valid fundraiser flyer (paper copy or digital image) with each order to receive credit towards the fundraiser. Flyers may not be distributed inside or within the vicinity of the restaurant including, without limitation to, the restaurant parking lot before or during the fundraiser. Panda Restaurant Group reserves the right cancel any and all fundraiser events, if the Panda Restaurant Group Fundraiser Guidelines are not followed. Panda Restaurant Group will donate 20% of all purchases made, pre-tax and before fees, at the designated date, time, and your Panda Express location when purchased with your unique code at check-out or when a copy of this flyer is presented. Purchase(s) of gift cards do not count towards the fundraiser, but purchases made with gift cards will count. No portion of purchase is tax deductible.

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Polar Highlights

Schedule Pick Up/Picture Day

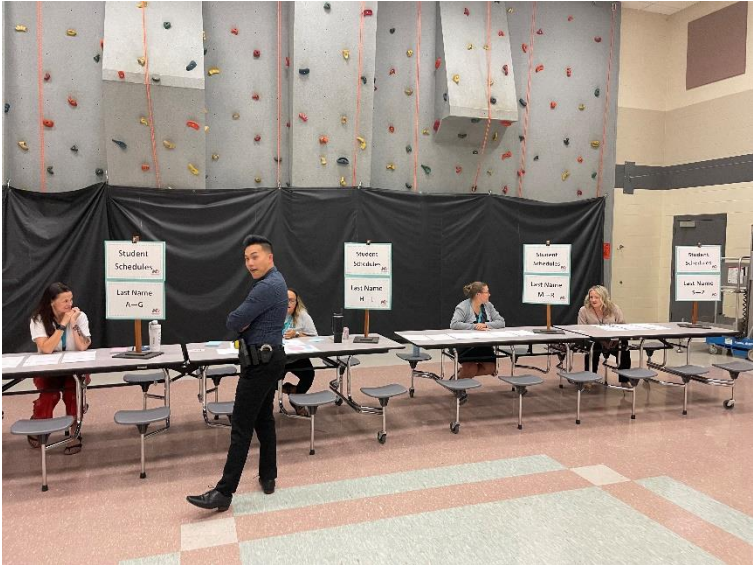
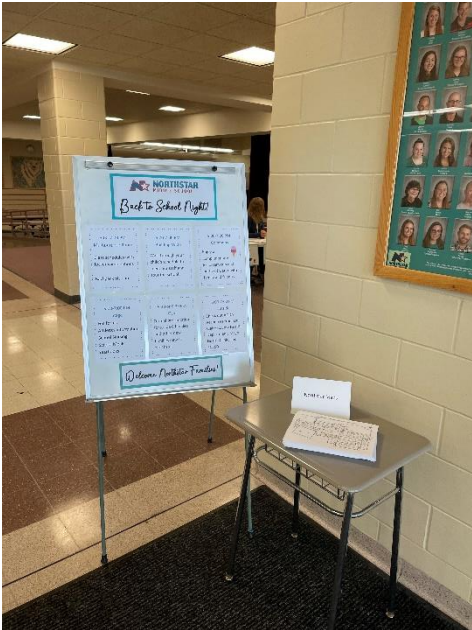


We loved seeing our Polar students and families back in our building.

Thank you to all our volunteers who helped to make Back to School Night and Schedule Pick Up Day a success!

Polar Highlights

Back to School Night



Polar Highlights



**First
Day
of
School**



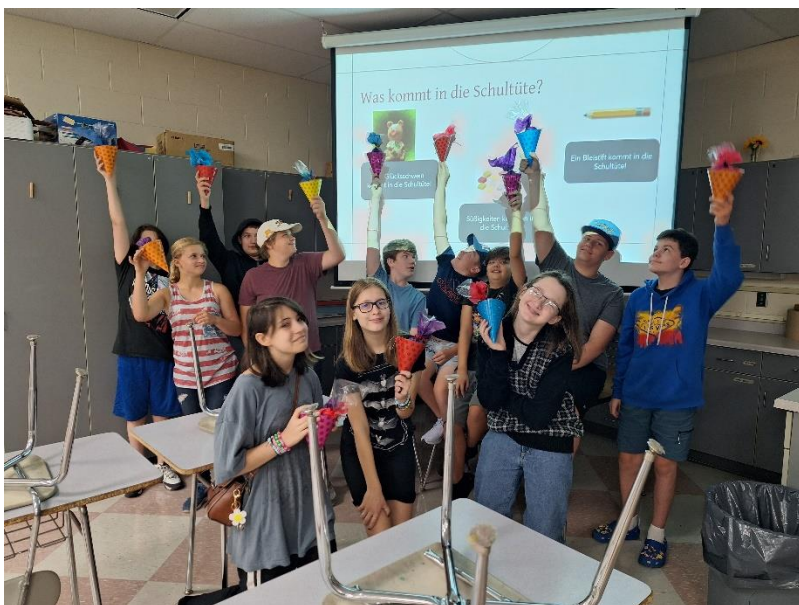
Students started the day by gathering in the gym for an all-school assembly, where our school mascot, Polaris (aka Northstar Principal, Adam Keeton), helped us get pumped up for a new school year.



Polar Highlights



After the assembly, students had the opportunity to participate in Minute to Win It games in the gym, play a variety of yard games on the Northstar campus, and work in teams to build a marshmallow tower.



Eighth grade German students in Frau Weiss' class celebrated the beginning of the school year with a cultural product known as a 'Schultüte' (pronounced 'SHOOLtootah'). Children in Germany typically receive Schultüten, a decorated paper cone filled with treats and school supplies, from their parents to commemorate the beginning of their schooling. Northstar Students received German candy, a pencil, and a squeaky 'Glücksschwein', or 'good luck pig' in their Schultüten!