



Northstar Calendar

December

- 1 Season of Giving and Holiday Scrip Card orders due today
- 5 PTSA DQ Fundraiser, 4-9pm at Pinehurst DQ
- 6 Grade 8 Field Trip to Guthrie, all day
- 8 Polar Party, 2:51-4:15pm
- 12 Holiday Scrip Card Pick Up, 6:45-7:45am, door 1
- 12 Drop-Off, Donate and Donut, 7:00-7:25am
- 14 PTSA Panera Fundraiser, 4-8pm (flyer pg 10)
- 14 Band 7 Concert, 6:30 pm and Band 8 Concert, 7:30pm at Northstar
- 18 Orchestra 7/8 Concert, 7pm at North High
- 19 Choir 7/8 Concert, 6pm at Northstar

December 25-January 2 **No School**, Winter Break

Find us on 

HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

2-8: ANNOUNCEMENTS

9: PTSA UPDATES

10: PANERA FUNDRAISER

11: VOLUNTEERING

12-13: NEW STAFF BIOS

14-15: POLAR HIGHLIGHTS

16: IMPORTANT LINKS

Lus Hmoob

Yog tias koj xav tau tsab ntawv no txhais hu rau Annie Moua, Northstar Hmong Educational Assistant, tus xov tooj yog 715-852-6577.

En Espanol

Si necesita ayuda para leer esta información, por favor contacte a Irene Salazar, profesora de español de Northstar a isalazar@ecasd.us o llame a 715-852-4943.

Announcements

From the Principal's Desk:

- Attendance is a critical measure and predictor of student success, and is deeply connected to how students feel about school, their ability to learn school material, and an overall sense of community within their school. At Northstar, our goal is to have some of the best attendance rates in our area (95% or higher.) We strongly believe that when students are here each day they are communicating to us that they like school, find value in the school experience, and recognize that they are a key component to our positive school community. As a staff, we continue to look closely at our attendance data to ensure that we take the appropriate steps when students begin to miss school. In some cases, (trips, emergencies, etc.) make missing school inevitable. We understand that these unique circumstances occur and appreciate your communication to us whenever possible. Additionally, we also monitor and track when students and families show us a pattern (missing school on Mondays for example.) We also look at school wide attendance in the aggregate and over the entire school year. All of these data points lead to our overall daily attendance here at Northstar and help our school respond and provide supports to families where attendance is a struggle. Below is a breakdown of how we are doing as a school community, as we all play an important role in student attendance and hitting our goal.
- Attendance data for the entire 2023-2024 school year from Sept 1 through Nov 27th:
 - 6th- 94.1%
 - 7th- 93.1%
 - 8th - 92.1%
 - School- 93.0%
- As you can see by our current data, we are not at our goal of 95%. As we continue to work together, student attendance will improve over time, and we will see the benefits of being at school every day. Your partnership in this goal is critical to our student achievement, student sense of belonging and so much more. Please reach out to any of those listed below if you have questions or want to learn more about why daily attendance matters!

[Mr. Keeton- Principal](#)

[Mrs. Schilmoeller- School Social Worker](#)

[Mrs. Sproul- School Counselor \(K-Z\)](#)

[Mr. Jablonske- Assistant Principal](#)

[Mrs. Berg- School Counselor \(A-J\)](#)

Announcements

Mid Quarter Ends December 8

- Potential failure notices for students receiving a non-passing grade will be mailed home the week of December 11th. Be sure to contact your child's teacher to get back on track should you receive a notice. Teacher gradebooks are updated often to give you accurate information regarding missing assignments and current grades. Don't forget to check Skyward! Quarter 2 ends Friday, January 19.

8th Grade Trip to The Guthrie

- This annual trip will take place on Wednesday, December 6, and is one of the highlights of the 8th-grade year. It aligns with the ELA 8 curriculum and is an amazing opportunity for all. Please remember to pack a lunch for your student if you did not order a school sack lunch. No sweatpants or pajama pants are allowed. Please encourage your student to dress nicely for this event. If you have any questions, please contact your student's resource teacher.



RCU Tomorrow Morning!

- Northstar Students: Don't forget to stop by Northstar's RCU tomorrow morning before school, **7-7:30am!** Thank you to RCU and Northstar's student workers for providing this opportunity every Friday morning!

 ROYAL CREDIT UNION
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Don't forget to save!
Friday December 1
Before school
at the Royal Credit Union stand
You could earn this treat!


 ROYAL CREDIT UNION

Announcements

Season of Giving Deadline Friday, December 1

- **Last call** to purchase **Season of Giving** and **PTSA Holiday Scrip Cards**! All orders must be returned to the main office by tomorrow, **December 1**.
 - **Holiday Scrip Order Form**
 - **Season of Giving Order Form**
- Holiday Scrip Card pick up is on **Tuesday, December 12, 6:45-7:45am** at Door 1.
- Cash donations are due **December 12**.
- Thanks for your support of ECASD families, the Northstar PTSA, and local businesses, through your donations and purchases of Scrip Cards!



NORTHSTAR'S SEASON OF GIVING

DROP-OFF, DONATE & DONUT 2023

*The 4th Annual Drop-Off, Donate &
Donut Event to benefit the ECASD
Homeless Program*

DECEMBER 12, 2023
7:00 - 7:25 AM

NORTHSTAR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Drop off your student at school in the morning, bring some cash or loose change to make a donation in a bucket outside door 1 or door 5 if you would like, and enjoy a donut. All proceeds go to the ECASD Homeless Program. Thanks to Festival Foods, Kwik Trip, and Hy-Vee for providing donuts for this event!

Announcements

Polar Party: December 8, 2:51-4:15pm

- Students have the opportunity to go swimming, use the gym, sing & dance in the commons, and enjoy food and board games.
- Party is chaperoned by parents and Northstar staff.
- Admission is \$2 and will be donated to the Season of Giving.



Ugly Sweater/Winter Sweater Day: December 8

- Wear your best ugly sweater to school on December 8, and you just might be featured in the next edition of Northstar Notes!



Family Engagement Survey

- Hello Polar Families! Please take a moment to take the family engagement survey [here](#). We are planning on sending this out quarterly to our families to gain feedback on how we can best communicate and involve our families at Northstar. Thank you for your time.



Announcements

Attention 8th Grade Families!

- **PREPARING FOR HIGH SCHOOL**

8th Grade families, please watch for a Skyward email the week of Dec 4th that will include important information for registering for high school. The email will include details about an Academic Career Planning Seminar, which is an important step in preparing for your student's successful transition to high school. Our goal is to provide you and your student with the necessary information to link your student's academics to their future education and career goals. Parents/Guardians and students are encouraged to view the seminar together. Topics to be covered include: things to consider when planning for your future, Xello (free electronic career/education tool), and preview of high school course selection/registration process.

- **Upward Bound**

Upward Bound helps students prepare for educational and career training opportunities after high school and provides access to post-secondary opportunities free of charge to students. All 8th grade students were shown a video during Resource on Tue, Oct 17th about Upward Bound. Students then signed up to attend an informational session on Tue, Oct 24th during resource with Upward Bound staff. If your student was unable to attend but is still interested in learning more about Upward Bound, please reach out to Jenni Berg at 715.852.5119 or jberg@ecasd.us. You can also preview info about the program at their [website](#).

Academic & Career Planning for All Grades

- **Registration**

Looking ahead....January 2024 will mark the start of next year's registration process. More details to come in December.

- **Xello**

Xello is an online career-planning tool which is FREE and accessible to all ECASD students anywhere they have internet. The program includes career assessments, in-depth career information from the 16 career clusters, details regarding post-secondary colleges, as well as military and workforce opportunities.

Announcements

Academic & Career Planning for All Grades cont.

- **WEOP**

Wisconsin Educational Opportunity Program (WEOP) is a free pre-college program through the WI Dept of Public Instruction starting in 6th grade. Services provided include success workshops, cultural and social events, college campus field trips, 1:1 tutoring and mentoring, summer programming, financial aid help and much more! Click [here](#) to learn more.



Kitchen Cupboard Food Pantry:

- For any Northstar family! Hygiene and household products also available.
- [Kitchen Cupboard Order Form](#). Paper copies available by request.
- Orders must be submitted by Monday, 8 am.
- Pick up orders Tuesday – Friday (7:00 am – 3:30 pm) in Northstar's main office.
- Upcoming Orders Due: Monday, December 4 & 11.

Yearbook Order:

- Order Your 2023-24 Yearbook [Here](#) for \$18 or scan QR code listed below.
- If you are unable to order online, please see or email Mr. Behnke to make accommodations: abehnke@ecasd.us

Scan to order yearbook!



Announcements

Winter and Holiday Help:

- Do you need some help over the holidays or during the winter months? Check out this community [Winter & Holiday Help](#) resource guide. This guide includes information about meals for holidays as well as assistance for gifts. If your family is in need of assistance now or anytime during the school year, please contact your student's counselor:
 - Jenni Berg, School Counselor (last names A-J), jberg@ecasd.us
 - Lisa Sproul, School Counselor (last names K-Z), lsproul@ecasd.us

MHS Orchestra Cookie Walk & Carnival


**December 9, 2023
Noon to 2:30**

Memorial High School Cafeteria

- **FREE ADMISSION—Everyone welcome**
- **Homemade Cookies—sold by the pound \$9.00**
- **Holiday Music—Performed by MHS Orchestra and friends**
- **Kid's Crafts, Games, Instrument Petting Zoo**

PTSA Updates

PTSA Updates:

- Our next Executive Board Meeting will be held on **January 9, 2024** at 6:30pm in the staff lounge.
- Interested in **becoming a member** of the PTSA?
Click [here](#) to download the membership form to complete and return to the main office. Forms are also available in the main office. Cost is \$5.25 per membership.
- **Upcoming Restaurant Fundraisers:**
 - Tuesday, December 5, 4-9pm, **DQ Pinehurst**
 - December 14, 4-8pm, **Panera** (see next page)
- **RaiseRight Gift Card Fundraising**
 - Download app on your phone [here](#) (use enrollment code F7B748A837791) or by scanning QR code. 
 - Purchase gift cards at face value on the app. These gift cards are ready for use immediately as eGiftcards.
 - Northstar PTSA receives a percentage of each gift card purchased.
- **Questions?**
 - Contact our PTSA president:
 - Ashley Sinette at ashley.sinette@hotmail.com



RaiseRight App

Northstar's FAC Representatives for 2023-2024:

- Brook Berg: towers_b@yahoo.com
- Jessica Schinke: schinke4552@outlook.com
- Kari Zarecki: kczarecki@gmail.com
- The next FAC meeting is December 5. Please email Northstar's FAC Representatives with any district-wide comments or concerns.

Panera Fundraiser

Panera
FUNDRAISING



Help support us!

NORTHSTAR MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA

25%
OF SALES
WILL BE
DONATED

December 14, 2023
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm CST
4601 Keystone Crossing, Eau Claire, WI

Use code FUND4U at online checkout, in the Panera App,
or at the kiosk in-café.*

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the café or enter the
promo code FUND4U at checkout on Panerabread.com or the Panera App to ensure your
organization gets a portion of the proceeds.**

Learn more at fundraising.panerabread.com

©2023 Panera Bread. All Rights Reserved.

*Gift card and catering order placed on Panerabread.com, and delivery orders placed through third-party sites are excluded and will not count towards the event. Other restrictions apply. For complete details, visit: <http://fundraising.panerabread.com/terms-conditions/>. **Services vary by café.

Volunteering



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

WINTER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT NORTHSTAR

Concession Sales: Various dates November–January, 2:45–5:15pm

December Polar Party Chaperones: Friday, December 8, 2:40–4:15pm

February Polar Party Chaperones: Friday, February 16, 2:40–4:15pm

Food & Volunteers for Family Conference Meal: Thursday, February 29

Forensics Meet–Cookie/Bar Donations and Concession Sales:
Thursday, February 22

Wrestling Meet–Concession Sales: Thursday, February 1

Contact Northstar's Partnership
Coordinator, Leah Waldie, at
lwaldie1@ecasd.us or 715-852-5107 if
you are interested in volunteering



New Staff Bios

MEET JAZMIN NIELSEN

Special Education Teacher



Fun Facts:

1. I teach 7th and 8th graders at Northstar.
2. I love to build Lego sets!
3. I have a mini golden doodle puppy named Jasper.

Hi! My name is Jazmin Nielsen. I am a Special Education Teacher and teach 7th and 8th grade. In my free time I love to build Lego sets and spend time with my significant other and my puppy Jasper (she's a mini golden doodle!)

New Staff Bios



ADAM KEETON

Principal

Fun Facts:

1. This is my 23rd year working in education in the ECASD. I previously taught at North High and served as the principal at Flynn Elementary and Manz Elementary.
2. I am a lifelong resident of Eau Claire, and attended Sam Davey, Delong, and North High, as well as UWEC for undergraduate work.
3. During my free time, I enjoy watching my children play the sports they love and being one of their biggest fans.



Principal Adam Keeton is entering his 23rd year in education, all within the Eau Claire Area School District. Principal Keeton is also a lifelong resident of Eau Claire and attended Sam Davey, Delong, and North High, as well as UWEC for undergraduate work. He is the father of two boys who both attend public schools here in Eau Claire and his wife is also an educator within the ECASD. During his free time, he enjoys watching his children play the sports they love and being one of their biggest fans. Mr. Keeton enjoys being active with hobbies that include running, biking, curling, golf and more. Prior to joining the Northstar community, he spent time teaching at North High School and as principal at both Flynn Elementary and Manz Elementary. While his experience working with staff and students has been limited to the first quarter of the year, Adam is grateful for the positive relationship that exists between students and staff that makes learning possible! He is excited to continue his professional journey alongside the Northstar community!

Polar Highlights



Thanks to the Eau Claire North High School Symphony Orchestra for performing for Northstar's 6-8th grade orchestra students as part of their tour to local schools.

Polar Highlights



Northstar's Battle of the Books (BoB) teams are hard at work reading and preparing questions for their cross-town rival, Altoona. For the first time Northstar is hosting an intercity battle with Altoona Middle School in February. A fun way to practice, prepare for the state battle, and meet other BoBers!

Important Links

<u>Northstar Middle School Website</u>	<u>ECASD 2023-24 School Year Calendar</u>
<u>December Lunch Menu</u>	<u>ECASD Community Events and Resources</u>
<u>Skyward Family Access</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check Grades • Report an Absence • Update Contact Information • And More! 	<u>Tech Support & Resources</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Device Support • How to set-up a parent observer account in Canva
<u>Northstar Kitchen Cupboard Order Form</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit by Monday 8am • Pick up from Main Office Tuesday-Friday, 7am-3:30pm 	<u>Northstar PTSA Information</u>
<u>My School Bucks</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check balance and deposit money into your child's lunch account 	<u>Who Should I Contact at Northstar with Questions?</u>