



Polar Express

The Northstar Newsletter

Facebook: Northstar Middle School #nmstpolaris

Main Office:
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www.ecasd.us

January 2024

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 2024-25 school year!

First, a warm THANK YOU to all of our families who supported the 'Season of Giving' program this year. Because of your generosity, \$1,753.93 was distributed to Eau Claire Area School District families in need. In addition to all donors, we would also like to thank Ms. Leah Waldie, our Partnership Coordinator, and our Student Services staff for their coordination of this program.

Second, with the change of our calendar to 2024, we also prepare for the end of the semester. While we may not be hosting final exams, students and staff are preparing for final grades for the first half of learning here at Northstar. Please continue to partner with us by asking and sending any questions you have about your child's grades to their teachers. Our staff work very hard to make sure grades are updated and accurate in Skyward as we move closer to the end of the first semester (Jan 19). The start of semester two (third quarter) is Wednesday, January 24.

Next, Northstar will be administering Wisconsin's Forward Exam to all students beginning on April 8 through April 19. The Forward Exam is the state of Wisconsin's standardized test given to all public-school students. While we are still finalizing the schedule, the exam is a school, district, and state-wide endeavor. The Forward Exam assesses student learning in the areas of math and reading with our grade 8 students completing additional exams covering social studies and science standards. Thank you in advance for making sure your child is well-rested and in school during these important days.

Finally, even though today we're in the middle of winter, summer programming is not that far away. Stay tuned for more information regarding discovery classes, open to all incoming grade 6-8 Northstar students, and summer music lessons for band and orchestra. Our district summer school catalog will be available online at www.ecasd.us/summer in the coming weeks. Thank you for continuing to support your child's education! It is a pleasure to be part of this vibrant school community! Please mark your calendar for our Spring Family-Teacher Conferences on February 29. I hope your family enjoys a positive and productive start to 2024!

Adam Keeton
Principal

Public School Open Enrollment: February 5 – April 30, 2024

Wisconsin's inter-district public school open enrollment program allows students and families who don't live in our district to open enroll into the Eau Claire Area School District (ECASD). Wisconsin residents in grades 4K-12 may apply to participate in open enrollment. Students in pre-kindergarten may participate in limited circumstances; parents should call the Executive Director of Business Services at 715-852-3010 to find out if their preschool-aged children qualify. Students who are currently attending ECASD under the open enrollment law DO NOT need to reapply.

The regular open enrollment application window will be February 5, 2024 through April 30, 2024, for the 2024-2025 school year. Parents may submit online applications beginning February 5, 2024 at the Wisconsin Department of Instruction website at <http://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment>. Please call 715-852-3127 or email districtadministration@ecasd.us for more information.

Have you moved outside of the ECASD during the 2023-2024 school year? If so, you must apply for a Tuition Waiver to continue attending the ECASD for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. Contact the Enrollment Office at 715-852-3127 or email districtadministration@ecasd.us for an application. Students who have moved outside of the district during the 2023-2024 school year and are currently attending school under a Tuition Waiver must apply for open enrollment during the regular application window, February 5, 2024 through April 30, 2024, to continue attending during the 2024-2025 school year. Students who move into the district after January 2024 and anticipate moving out of the district before the 2024-2025 school year will not be eligible for a Tuition Waiver. Students must apply for open enrollment during either the regular open enrollment or alternative open enrollment to be to be eligible to attend the ECASD during the 2024-2025 school year.

By completing an open enrollment application, you are applying to attend the Eau Claire Area School District. You can indicate which school your child would prefer to attend; however, the district will determine placement based on space availability. If you have any questions about open enrollment or the application process, please contact the Enrollment Office at 715-852-3127 or email districtadministration@ecasd.us



...for your support of
our Fall 2023 restaurant fundraisers!

Together, we raised
over \$650 just by
eating!

All funds support
student programs
and learning—
outstanding!

STUDENT SERVICES



Ms. Jennifer Schilling
Student Services Secretary

715-852-5103
jschilling@ecasd.us

Ms. Jenni Berg
School Counselor (Last Names A-J)

715-852-5119
jberg@ecasd.us

Ms. Lisa Sproul
School Counselor (Last Names K-Z)

715-852-5118
lsproul@ecasd.us

Ms. Jana Schilmoeller
School Social Worker

715-852-5194
jschilmoeller@ecasd.us

Ms. Kristen Cowell
School Psychologist

715-852-3588
kcowell@ecasd.us

Student Registration

The registration process for next school year has begun! **Throughout the month of January**, we will complete the 2024-2025 registration for all 5th-8th grade students. **We value parent/guardian input, so we ask that you sign your student's registration card after reviewing the information with them.** Additionally, if you have questions about registration, please contact us at 715-852-5103. Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to honor schedule change requests after March 1, 2024.

Polar Club (Study Club)

The purpose of Polar Club (Study Club) is to provide students with an opportunity to study after school in a structured area with staff who can assist with their study skills and homework. Polar Club is held on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays right after school until 4:15 pm in Room #855– 8th grade computer lab. A snack will be provided. A permission slip to attend can be picked up in Student Services. Please feel free to email Miranda Stowell– mstowell@ecasd.us for further information.

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.

Check out our website and social media!

Northstar Middle School Website: www.ecasd.us



#nmsspolar



Updates from ECASD and our school can be found here as well as reminders for upcoming events!
Stay connected!

❧ Polar Partnership Update ❧

Season of Giving Check Presentation to ECASD Homeless Program



Northstar students presented a \$1,753.93 check to Dani Graham, ECASD Homeless Program Coordinator, to help local families in need. Special thanks to all who supported the Season of Giving Program by participating in our Drop-Off, Donate, and Donut Drive, Student Council sponsored Polar Party, and PTSA Season of Giving Scrip Program. Your generous hearts are a gift to many.

Northstar PTSA Needs You!

Northstar's PTSA is a vibrant and active group of parents, grandparents and caring adults who come alongside to support Northstar students and staff. A non-profit organization, Northstar's PTSA pays for and organizes school programs and events as well as assists with purchasing items for our school. We encourage you to get involved at Northstar. Joining our dynamic PTSA is a great place to start!



Interested? Reach out to Ashley Sinette, parent and Northstar PTSA co-president for more information at northstarptsa@gmail.com

PTSA's Executive Board has the following openings:

- Vice President—Remainder of 2023-24 and 2024-25 school year
- President—2024-25 and 2025-26 school years
- Treasurer—2024-25 and 2025-26 school years

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. Thank you to all who have attended PTSA and FACS meetings; sold concessions; served on committees; donated items for staff appreciation and to Northstar at large; provided snacks for our after-school clubs; sent in notes of encouragement; attended family conferences; contributed to Season of Giving and families in need; attended school restaurant fundraisers; helped with the Mile Run and Back to School night; and donated time and talents in so many other ways. Your efforts help make Northstar such a special school.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities: Contact Leah Waldie at 715-852-5107 or lwaldie1@ecasd.us if you're interested!

- February 1—Wrestling Tournament Concessions
- February 16—Polar Party Chaperone
- February 22—Forensics Invitational (provide food or help during event)
- February 29—Staff Meal for Conferences (provide food or help set up/clean up)



PTSA DQ FUNDRAISER

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

Tuesday, February 6* *Tuesday, March 5
Pinehurst Dairy Queen 4-9 p.m.

Upcoming PTSA Restaurant Fundraisers!

Panera: February 20, 4-8pm

4601 Keystone Crossing, use code FUND4U if ordering online!



Burrachos: March 19, 4-8pm



5314 Prill Road, across from Kohl's
Order online at www.burrachos.com and write *Northstar* in the comment section before *checkout* OR order in person and mention *Northstar* before paying cashier.

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!

Chip In! 🌮

Our third annual **Stock the Kitchen Cupboard Food Drive** will be on Saturday, February 24 from 9am—12pm here at Northstar! With your help, we'd like to fully stock our pantry with food, hygiene, and household products for families who are in need. See Northstar's website for more information.



Need help filling your cupboard? We are here to help! To place an order, go to the [Kitchen Cupboard Order Form](#) on

the Northstar website. Paper copies available by request.

QUARTER 3 DATES TO REMEMBER



Jan 19	End of Quarter 2
Jan 22-23	No School—Staff Workday and PL/IP Day
Jan 25	6:30 pm Band 6 Concert
Jan 26	After-School Ski Trip
Jan 29	6:00 pm Choir 6 Concert
Feb 6	4:00-9:00 pm PTSA Dairy Queen Fundraiser (Pinehurst)
Feb 9	After-School Ski Trip
Feb 13	6:30 pm PTSA Executive Board Meeting
Feb 16	2:51-4:15 pm Polar Party
Feb 20	4:00-8:00 pm PTSA Panera Fundraiser
Feb 24	9:00am—12:00pm Stock the Kitchen Cupboard Food Drive
Feb 29	No School— Family Conferences 7:45am-8:15pm
Mar 1	No School
Mar 4	No School— Staff PL/IP Day
Mar 5	4:00-9:00 p.m. Dairy Queen Fundraiser (Pinehurst)
Mar 15	After-School Ski Trip
Mar 19	4:00-8:00 pm PTSA Burrachos Fundraiser
Mar 21	End of Quarter 3 Athletics
Mar 22	End of Quarter 3
Mar 25-29	No School— Spring Break

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Eau Claire, WI 54701

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