

Hello Red Hawk Families,

This week we recognize two important dates. Tomorrow, we have the day off for Labor Day, which pays tribute to all workers in the United States. For many, Labor Day also signals the end of summer. On Friday, we remember those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. While Labor Day generally is commemorated with celebratory gatherings (parades, barbecues, and picnics), events commemorating Patriot Day generally are more solemn. At ECMS, our National Junior Honor Society students would have decorated the campus for Patriot Day. This year, all events are curtailed due to COVID-19 restrictions. But, the limitations may result in time to reflect on the meaning and importance of Labor Day and Patriot Day. Regardless of how your family observes these days, take care and be safe.

Following are updates and important information for the week of September 7 – 11:

- **NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY IN HONOR OF LABOR DAY.**
- **Traditional/Remote School 4-Day Week Bell Schedule:** As a reminder, this week's block schedule is different due to the Labor Day holiday. Following is this week's schedule:

<b>(for Traditional/Remote School only)</b>		
<b>BLOCK DAYS – T W TH F</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Tues/Thurs</b>	<b>Wed/Fri</b>
7:45 – 8:53	Period 1	Period 2
8:58 – 10:06	Period 3	Period 4
10:11 – 11:19	Period 7	Period 6
11:24 – 12:00	Period 5	Period 5
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 – 2:10	Remote Support	Remote Support

Virtual school will follow the regular bell schedule.

- **In Danger of Failure (IDF) Notices:** IDF notices will be viewable on Parent Connect and Student Connect beginning September 11. They will not be mailed as they have been in the past. Please check Parent Connect beginning Friday, and if your student receives an IDF notice, you may contact the specific teacher(s) with questions. The IDF progress reports are in addition to our 5<sup>th</sup> period progress reports which are completed approximately every three weeks as a way to regularly communicate with parents about grades.
- **PTSA Reflections:** It's time for Reflections! We invite all students to use the arts to share their personal reflections on this year's theme, *I matter because*. . . . Students can show their creativity in one or more of the following

categories: dance, choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts. This year, VIRTUAL entries are accepted. Please see the attached information for more details. [ECMS Reflections 2020-2021.docx](#)

- **ECMS PTSA Membership:** Please join the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) and help support our students as they navigate this ever-changing learning environment. The PTSA provides resources to administrators, teachers, and students so they can focus on what they need to do to succeed. This year's membership drive is entirely online. Please follow the link and sign yourself and your student(s) up today (**list your child's fifth period teacher when asked**)! Each membership is \$7 (plus a small processing fee that we don't control). Thank you for your continued support! <https://jointotem.com/ca/corona/el-cerrito-middle-school-ptsa>.
- **ECMS Office Soft Opening:** Our front office is open to the public by appointment only and restricted to those that cannot do business virtually. Appointments are available from 9 am-11am and 1pm-3pm.

#### **Guidelines:**

- Limit 2 visitors per family
- Limit 4 visitors in the lobby at a time
- Mandatory Temperature screening
- Mandatory Facemasks
- Mandatory Sign In
- Please call 951.736.3216 to make an appointment

Again, we ask that you only come to campus if you cannot do business virtually, and that you have an appointment before coming to campus. You can reach us by phone during our regular office hours – 7 am to 3:30 pm.

- **ECMS Counselors' Google Classroom:** ECMS counselors have created a Google Classroom to connect parents with resources, information, and support. You should have received an invite to your email that is associated with Q. You may reach out to Mrs. Mruz at [susanna.mruz@cnusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:susanna.mruz@cnusd.k12.ca.us) if you need to update your Q email or if you have any questions.
- **ECMS YouTube Channel:** Please visit [ECMS Official](#) for information on
  - Accessing Zoom through MyCNUSD
  - Directions for resetting student passwords
  - Student Connect App and virtual IDs
  - Signing in to MyCNUSD and email
- **Zoom Meeting Student Expectations:** Parents, we encourage you to review the following Zoom Meeting Student Expectation tips with your student(s):
  - Join the meeting at the correct start time and stay the entire time.
  - Use the chat feature when you have a question.

- Mute yourself when you are not speaking.
- Do not share the meeting code with anyone.
- Do not send inappropriate messages or photos.
- Join the meeting using your name.
- Only attend meetings you have been invited too.
- Follow any expectations your teacher sets.

For more online safety resources, [please click here](#).

- **Zoom Meeting Parent Expectations:** During live class sessions on Zoom or other platforms, we want to provide as few distractions as possible for all students. We realize that normal household activity is taking place while school is happening at home, and multiple students may engaged in different Zoom sessions at the same time. In addition, parents/guardians may be tempted to comment during a live session. To maintain an effective learning environment for all students, we ask that parents/guardians adhere to the following expectations:
  - If multiple students are in live sessions at the same time, please remind them to keep themselves muted unless they are speaking.
  - If your student is in a live session in a room where other household activity is occurring, please make sure his/her microphone is on mute.
  - Please resist the temptation to interrupt a live session with comments and questions. Teachers and students are becoming acquainted with different learning platforms and technologies. While your intention may be to provide assistance or support your child, interruptions actually may be a distraction. If you have a question or concern, please contact the teacher during non-class time.
  
- **Textbooks:** If you still need textbooks, please email [ECMS Admin](#). Please note: Textbook are for students in remote learning. Students in virtual learning use the Edgenuity learning platform, which has its own curriculum
  
- **Digital Library:** ECMS subscribes to Overdrive/Sora, which gives our students access to ebooks and audiobooks through the [CNUSD Digital Library](#). Students can access the digital library through MyCNUSD or by using the [direct link](#). Students also can download the Sora app and sign in to El Cerrito Middle School.
  
- **School Safety:** For information about how safety will be addressed across CNUSD when we physically return to school, please access the [2020-2021 School Opening and Safety Plan](#). You can expect additional information on how the plan will be implemented at El Cerrito Middle School in the near future.
  
- **CNUSD Community Newsletter:** Please view the latest issue of the [Community Update Newsletter](#) for information and on the state's Blueprint for a Safer Economy, Board meeting livestreams, athletics updates, free and reduced price meals, parent center workshops, and more.

- **General Reminders:** To make sure you have the latest information from CNUSD regarding the current school year, please visit [2020-2021 School Year](#). Also visit the [El Cerrito Middle School website](#). To stay up to date, visit both sites regularly. If you are not receiving notifications from CNUSD or El Cerrito Middle School, you can visit our [website](#), and click on the Parent tab for directions on getting started. You also can use the [SchoolMessenger](#) app or website to receive texts and emails with the latest district updates. For specific classroom or learning questions, email your child's teachers. You can access teacher emails on our website. For general questions not answered through any of the suggested resources, please contact [ECMSAdmin@cnusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:ECMSAdmin@cnusd.k12.ca.us).

Have a great week.

Sincerely,

The El Cerrito Middle School Admin Team

- Dr. Shelly Yarbrough, Principal
- Mr. Scott Brenneman, Assistant Principal
- Ms. Shawna Philips, Dean