

Hello Red Hawk Families,

Thank you to all who participated in our Back to School Night last week. The admin team popped into a few live sessions hosted by teachers, and we hosted our own live session. We enjoyed connecting with parents during this virtual event. As with so much else this school year, the event was different and we had to make adjustments. Happily, we found that some of the adjustments were beneficial. For example, a number of you appreciated the teacher presentations being posted online so you could view them at your convenience. If you were not able to view the presentations on Back to School Night, they still are available under the Teacher Pages tab on our school website: <https://elcerrito.cnusd.k12.ca.us/>.

Our Red Hawk community has had to make many adjustments this year, and we know more will come. However, as one parent shared this week, what we are experiencing is a great life lesson because change can and will happen, and how we react to change is important. At El Cerrito Middle School, we see some of the challenges resulting from our current circumstances as opportunities for improvement and transformation, all on behalf of our students. We know we won't be perfect, but we will continue to do our best to learn and grow, and to help our students do the same.

Following are updates and important information for the week of August 31 – September 4:

- **5th Period Progress Reports: El Cerrito Middle School has a long-standing tradition of providing progress reports through 5th period** approximately every three weeks. The goal is for each teacher and all 5th period students to monitor grades and progress on an ongoing basis and to provide consistent communication with parents about the progress of their children. In the past, progress reports were sent home with students. This year, we have switched to electronic progress reports, which students will complete during 5th period. Students are responsible for entering their grades and sharing the information with their parents. The first round of progress reports is this week. Please ask your child about the 5th period progress reports. If your child has not been given access to the progress report document by Friday, please contact your child's 5th period teacher.
- **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>.
- **Back to School Night Teacher Presentations:** If you would like to view/review the presentations from Back to School Night, they are available under the Teacher Pages tab on our school website: <https://elcerrito.cnusd.k12.ca.us/>.

- **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 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 of 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.

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