

Hello Red Hawk Families,

As we approach the end of 2020, our hope is that your positive experiences have outweighed the challenges the year brought and that you have many more reasons to smile in 2021. On behalf of El Cerrito Middle School, have a happy, healthy, and safe Winter Break.

Following are updates and important information for the week of December 14- 18:

- **Winter Break:** As a reminder, Winter Break begins on December 21. Following is the schedule for the week of December 14 – 18 (Please note that there is no school on December 18):

BLOCK DAYS – M T W T H		
Time	Mon/Wed	Tues/Thurs
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

- **Current 8th Graders:** John F. Kennedy Middle College High School (JFK) is accepting 9th grade students for the 2021-2022 school year. JFK, a California Gold Ribbon School, is a middle college in the Corona Norco Unified School District where students earn FREE college credits while completing high school graduation requirements. JFK, a school of choice, boasts a 94% A-G rate and a 100% graduation rate. If you are interested, please see the attached information or visit this site: <https://www.smore.com/k5z12>. Deadline is Monday, December 14.
- **Traditional School Reopening:** Elementary schools will reopen after winter break as follows:
 - Year-Round Elementary Schools: January 5, 2021
 - Traditional Elementary Schools: January 12, 2021.Please note the change in the opening date. Students will participate remotely (from home) on Monday, prior to their return to in-person instruction, where they will be provided information and updates on what to expect for the following day as they return to school sites. **Please also note these opening dates apply to elementary schools only.** Secondary schools do not have a reopening date yet. We know you are anxious for information about a return date. As soon as we have information we will notify you. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out.
- **School Safety:** As we get closer to the reopening, you can expect to hear about safety from CNUSD and ECMS. 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](#). Information about the ECMS safety plan will be shared prior to reopening.

- **Hey Future Redhawks:** The El Cerrito 6th Grade Accelerated Program is alive and well! More information to come in 2021. Stay Tuned!
- **El Cerrito School Picture Make Up Day:** El Cerrito has scheduled an opportunity for Make Up Pictures on **Thursday, January 14th, from 3pm – 6pm.** **EVTXGGXHZ** is online order code to me used at mylifetouch.com Please see the attached documents for more information.
- **Virtual Book Fair:** ECMS Virtual Book Fair ends Sunday, December 13. Please see the attached flyer for more information!
- **Virtual Spelling Bee:** Information Zoom meeting on Tuesday, December 15 at 2:00 p.m. with Mr. McHugh.
Topic: ECMS 2021 Spelling Bee Info Meeting
Time: Dec 15, 2020 02:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://cnusd-k12-ca-us.zoom.us/j/8934672904?pwd=K2FCa1BLMk9CTlg3T2xHZlhLNkNzUT09>
Meeting ID: 893 467 2904
Passcode: 9SLj4u
- **Counseling Corner:** Check out our [CNUSD Counseling Connections Newsletter](#) for the month of December! Our December topic is "Giving and Receiving, which is shown wonderfully in Shel Silverstein's The Giving Tree! Also, please come and join our CNUSD students showcasing their talent at our first virtual [Talent Show!! CNUSD's Got Talent Intermediate School Edition](#) - Premiering at **6:00PM on Friday, December 11** via [CNUSD's YouTube Channel](#)
As a reminder, your counselors are here to support your student academically and social-emotionally. To schedule an appointment with Mrs. Mruz (Student's with Last Name A-O) → [Click Here](#). To schedule an appointment with Mr. Fraise (Student's with Last Name P-Z) → [Click Here](#).
- **GoToTutors Offers Free Tutoring To Students By Students:** GoToTutors was established by three Santiago High School students. The free online service provides peer-to-peer tutoring in a wide range of subjects for students in grades K-12. You can find more information in the [CNUSD Connection](#) community newsletter or by visiting the GoToTutors website: www.gototutors.org
- **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>.

- **Child Nutrition Services Meal Program:** CNUSD Grab & Go meals are FREE for all students through December 31, 2020. Meals will continue to be distributed curbside at most CNUSD school sites on the first day of each week. Students will receive breakfast and lunch for each school day. Students need not be present, but parents and/or students are asked to provide valid CNUSD pin numbers for all meals, just as we do during the typical school year. A student may receive only one bag of food per week. [Click here for times and locations.](#)
- **ECMS Office Soft Opening:** We will continue our soft opening until further notice. As a reminder, 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.

- **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.
- **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