

Hello Red Hawk Families,

This week is the sixth week of school. By the end of the week, we will have accomplished the activities typical to the beginning of school, including Back to School Nigh and progress reports. Progress reports are a good reminder of the work of El Cerrito Middle School and schools across the district—student achievement. The achievement of our students requires the collective effort of students, families, and the school. This collective effort is even more important in the remote and virtual learning environments, where some students are getting used to the transition to middle school and all students are learning how to be successful with online instruction and learning. While students ultimately must take ownership for their learning, they need the help of adults, both at school and at home. The staff at ECMS is working hard to adjust our practices in support of the students. We look forward to continuing our partnership with families to maintain high expectations for students, while providing the support they need to be successful.

Following are updates and important information for the week of September 14 – 18:

- **Virtual School Back to School Night:** Back to school night for families in virtual school is this Thursday, September 17, 2020. Teachers will create presentations with information about their classes, and share access information with families by Thursday. These are not live presentations. Families can view them at their convenience. Teachers will not have live sessions. If you have questions regarding information in the presentations, please contact the individual teacher(s). Admin will be available from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. via Zoom on September 17. The Zoom invitation will be shared in the afternoon, prior to the meeting.
- **Traditional/Remote Bell Schedule:** This week, students in traditional/remote school return to using the regular bell schedule.

BLOCK DAYS – M T W T H			FRIDAY	
Time	Mon/Wed	Tues/Thurs	Time	Period
7:45 – 8:53	Period 1	Period 2	7:45 – 8:20	1
8:58 – 10:06	Period 3	Period 4	8:25 – 9:00	2
10:11 – 11:19	Period 7	Period 6	9:05 – 9:40	3
11:24 – 12:00	Period 5	Period 5	9:45 – 10:20	4
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	Lunch	10:25 – 11:00	5
1:00 – 2:10	Remote Support	Remote Support	11:05 – 11:40	6
			11:45 – 12:20	7
			12:20 – 1:20	Lunch
			1:20 – 2:10	Remote Support

Virtual school will follow the regular bell schedule.

- **In Danger of Failure (IDF) Notices: Publishing of IDF notices on Parent Connect and Student Connect was delayed from September 11 to September 14. As a reminder, IDF notices will not be mailed as they have been in the past.** Please check Parent Connect beginning Monday, and if your student received an IDF notice, you may contact the specific teacher(s) with questions. The IDF progress reports are in addition to our 5th period progress reports which are completed approximately every three weeks as a way to regularly communicate with parents about grades.
- **Child Nutrition Services Meal Program:** Starting Monday, September 14, 2020, CNUSD Grab & Go meals will once again be 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.](#)
- **CNUSD Community Newsletter:** Please view the latest issue of the [CNUSD Connection](#) for updates on the following:
 - school re-opening
 - the superintendent's search
 - device distribution
 - child nutrition services meal program
 - weekly tip for student success
 - booster workshop virtual training
 - Edgenuity parent training.
- **Suicide Prevention Awareness Month:** The Board of Education **approved Resolution 50** proclaiming September as [Suicide Prevention Awareness Month](#). The social-emotional health of our students is vital. CNUSD students have access to a free anonymous crisis text line. Text CNUSD to 741-741 for free, 24/7, confidential crisis support by text. Mental Health resources can be found here: <http://cnusd.k12.ca.us/mentalhealth>.
- **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 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.

- **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.

- **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.
- **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