

Hello Red Hawk Families,

We hope you and your loved ones are doing well.

Following are updates and important information for the week of September 21 – 25:

- **Non-student Day on Friday:** Students do not have school on Friday, September 25. Although students do not have classes, this is an opportunity for them to catch up, reinforce, or get ahead on their learning.
- **Bell Schedule:** Students in traditional/remote and virtual schools will follow the regular bell schedule.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Period Progress Reports:** ECMS electronic progress reports will be completed during 5<sup>th</sup> period this week. Students are responsible for entering their grades and sharing the information with their parents. The goal is for each teacher and all 5<sup>th</sup> period students to monitor grades and to provide consistent communication with parents about the progress of their children. Please ask your child about the 5<sup>th</sup> period progress reports. If your child has not been given access to the progress report document by Friday, please contact your child's 5<sup>th</sup> period teacher.
- **Device Distribution Update:** Good news: small-scale Chromebook deliveries have resumed nationwide. As our IT Department continues to receive these limited quantities of devices week to week, they will continue contacting households with specific pickup dates and times.
- **ECMS PTSA Board Positions:** El Cerrito PTSA has board positions open and is looking for parents interested in getting involved. No volunteering is necessary. Just a willingness to help and be a part of something great! Please contact Camille for more details or questions. [carmichael43@gmail.com](mailto:carmichael43@gmail.com)
- **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>.

- **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.](#)
- **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>.
- **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 be 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 children are in live sessions at the same time, please remind them to keep themselves muted unless they are speaking.
  - If your child 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](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