

Hello Red Hawk Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. **Our first day of school is Tuesday, August 11.** The staff of El Cerrito Middle School has been preparing for the start of school for several weeks, despite the unknowns we faced. Not being able to share specific information with families was frustrating for us, and we know it was just as frustrating for you. We truly appreciate how understanding you have been. Now that school is beginning, we are determined to provide as excellent an experience as possible for our students and families. Moving forward, we know we will face obstacles – some within our control, and some over which we have no control. We ask for your continued patience and grace, particularly during the first few weeks of school. Although we face challenges, we also face opportunities to make ourselves better people and our schools and communities better places.

Following is important information for the opening of school:

- **Bell Schedules:** Please note that the **remote learning** bell schedule we shared on Friday has been adjusted. Adjustments were needed to maintain equal instructional minutes across block periods during weeks with a holiday or non-student day. **An important change for students in remote learning is that on the first day of school, August 11, students will attend their odd block classes—periods 1, 3, 5, and 7.** We apologize for this last minute change. Bell schedules for remote and virtual schools are attached. Please make sure you view the correct schedule.
- **Student Schedules:** Schedules will be viewable on Q Parent Connect this evening at 6:00 p.m. If you need help accessing Parent Connect, you can find information [here](#). Although district and site personnel are working hard to ensure students are scheduled into the classes they need, adjustments to some schedules will be necessary. If you feel an adjustment to your child’s schedule is needed, please use this [Change Request Form](#). Schedule change requests will only be accepted by completing this form. Email schedule change requests will not be processed.
- **Online Classroom Access:** By the end of the day on Monday, students should have heard from all of their teachers. Students should access the student portal to check for emails from their teachers. Students can access the portal by clicking on the myCNUSD logo at the top of our [webpage](#). This portal is important, not only for accessing email, but also for accessing Google Classroom, Canvas, Edgenuity, and other resources. If your child is unable to login, please contact [ECMSAdmin@cnusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:ECMSAdmin@cnusd.k12.ca.us) for assistance. If your child hasn’t heard from specific teachers through email or other means, check your clutter or junk mail. Please also reach out to those teachers individually.
- **Device Distribution Update:** If you requested a device through Q Parent Connection, your request has been received and a laptop(s) will be reserved for your student(s). Unfortunately, due to supply chain delays, devices are not available for students at this time. As soon as laptops are available for students, families will be sent emails with detailed instructions on a pickup date and time. In the meantime, we will work with families to support the continued learning of all students. If you need a device and have not requested one, you may do so by visiting the [Parent Portal](#) webpage. Also, please visit the [Device and Internet Deployment](#) webpage for answers to frequently asked questions and for how-to information on requesting a device.

- **Textbook Distribution:** The textbook distribution schedule is attached. Please note: The textbook distribution schedule is for students in remote learning. Students in virtual learning will use the Edgenuity learning platform, which has its own curriculum. [Learn more about Edgenuity here.](#)
- **Online Orientation:** Please access the online orientation video [here.](#)
- **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.
- **Parent Trainings:** Please see the attached flyers for information about trainings on Google Chrome, Google Classroom, and MyCNUSD.
- **School Office Hours:** The office is open from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for phone calls only. We are not yet open to the public. If you need to speak with someone at the school, please call (951)736-3216 during school office hours.
- **School Photos and Student IDs:** Due to safety concerns related to COVID-19, student photos will be delayed until conditions are deemed safe. Students have access to their digital ID card on their smart phones using the Q Student Connection Mobile Application. Directions for accessing the digital ID card are attached.
- **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.
- **Free and Reduced Price Meals Application:** You now can complete your Free and Reduced Price Meals Application for the upcoming 2020-21 School Year. When you apply for free or reduced meals, you may qualify for income-eligible services, such as reduced Advanced Placement (AP) test fees, low-cost WIFI, and more! To apply, [click here.](#)
- **Grab & Go Meals:** Beginning Tuesday, August 11th, CNUSD Grab & Go feeding will take place curbside at all CNUSD school sites, on the first day of each week. Students will receive breakfast and lunch for each school day. ***Meals are no longer free for all students,*** and students will be charged the free or paid price depending on their eligibility for the school meal program. Students need not be present, but parents and/or students are required 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. Parents and/or students can pick up meals at any CNUSD school site, and are not tied to their school of attendance. You will find a list of school sites and their mail distribution times [here.](#) Meal distribution time at El Cerrito Middle school is 11:30 to 1:30 on the first day of each week.
- **General Suggestions:** 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).

Once again, welcome! We look forward to connecting with you all soon.

Sincerely,

The El Cerrito Middle School Admin Team

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