

Hello Red Hawk Families,

I hope this email finds you healthy and doing well.

As we enter the third week of school, I am noticing a familiar pattern, despite this school year being so different from any I have experienced in the past. The first two weeks of school generally are hectic and emotion-filled, with students (and adults) getting used to being back at school. By the third week, students and staff begin to settle into the routines of school. I sense the pattern happening this year, however, it is happening remotely. Teachers, students, and parents are getting comfortable with Canvas, Google Classroom, and Edgenuity, as well as other programs and technology that now are part of the regular school day. Even when the school year seems so unfamiliar and unpredictable, recognizing the things that haven't changed, particularly the desire for students to be successful, can bring some comfort. We still face unpredictability, but our students are resilient, and if students need support ECMS staff is here for them.

Following are updates and important information for the coming week:

- **Back to School Night:** Our Back to School Night is this Tuesday, August 25, from 6 pm to 9 pm. Beginning Tuesday morning, we will begin posting links to teacher presentations on our website: <https://elcerrito.cnusd.k12.ca.us/>. In the presentations, teachers will provide information about their classes. These are not live presentations. Families can view them at their convenience. During Back to School Night, each teacher will be available live to answer questions/provide clarification about his/her class. We will share access information with you on Tuesday afternoon. These live sessions are not formal. Instead, parents can pop in as needed and do not have to stay for the entire session. If possible, please view the recorded presentations prior to attending live sessions.
- **ECMS Office Soft Opening:** Our front office will be 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. We will be sending an invite to your email that is associated with Q. This is just another way the counselors want parents to feel connected to ECMS while their student's SOAR as Red

Hawks. 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. Also please see the attached flyer for additional information.

- **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 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 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. 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:** Textbook distribution ended last week. If you still are in need of textbooks, please email ECMSAdmin@cnusd.k12.ca.us. Please note: Textbook are for students in remote learning. Students in virtual learning use the Edgenuity learning platform, which has its own curriculum. [Learn more about Edgenuity here](#).
- **SOAR:** This week, students continued with SOAR (Safety, Ownership, Achievement, Respect) lessons. SOAR is the Hawk Way! Click [here](#) to learn more about SOAR.

- **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 on the following:
 - School Reopening Waiver Update
 - Athletics Update
 - Zoom Safety
 - Virtual School
 - TK – 5 Edgenuity
 - Digital Learning Parent Support
 - Free and Reduced Price Meals Application and Grad & Go Meals
 - 2020 Census
- **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. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday at Back to School Night.

Sincerely,

The El Cerrito Middle School Admin Team

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