



Northstar Calendar

March

- 2 No School, PL/IP Day for Staff
- 3 FTC Meeting, 6:30pm, Northstar Commons
- 27 - End of Quarter 3
- March 30 - April 3, Spring Break - No School

April

- 7 Start of Q4 Athletics
- 7 FTC Meeting, 6:30pm, Northstar Commons
- 7-9 Forward Testing for All Grades
- 14-15 Forward Testing for 8th Graders
- 17 Polar Party, 2:51-4:15pm
- 27 No School, PL/IP Day for Staff



HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

[STUDENT SERVICES](#)

[FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK](#)

[ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

[VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES](#)

[POLAR HIGHLIGHTS](#)

[IMPORTANT LINKS](#)

Find us on 

Lus Hmoob

Yog tias koj xav tau tsab ntawv no txhais
hu rau Annie Moua, Northstar Hmong
Educational Assistant, tus xov tooj yog
715-852-6577.

En Espanol

Si necesita ayuda para leer esta
información, por favor contacte a Irene
Salazar, profesora de español de
Northstar a isalazar@ecasd.us o llame a
715-852-4943.

Student Services



**Updates
from
Student
Services !**

Contact Information

Ms. Amanda Kikilas
Financial Secretary/Registrar
715-852-5103
akikilas1@ecasd.us

Ms. Lisa Sproul
School Counselor (Last Names K-Z)
715-852-5118
lsproul@ecasd.us



Ms. Jenni Berg
School Counselor (Last Names A-J)
715-852-5119
jberg@ecasd.us

Ms. Kassie Dunbar
School Social Worker
715-852-5114
kdunbar1@ecasd.us

Ms. Katarina House
School Psychologist
715-852-5165
khousel@ecasd.us

7th Grade Field Trip - Save the Date

On Thursday, May 7th, all 7th grade students will participate in a career field trip at the L.E. Phillips YMCA Sports Center in the morning. Career Venture is a field trip which highlights career and training opportunities within the West Central WI area. Exhibitors provide hands-on and interactive activities for youth to help educate them on career opportunities within the Chippewa Valley. There is no cost to families for this field trip, but a permission form is needed. Please look for a link via Parent Square and in the 7th grade weekly communication. Reach out to Jenni Berg at 715.852.5119 or jberg@ecasd.us with questions or concerns.

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Polar Families,

Spring is finally upon us- at least for now! As we welcome the season, it's the perfect time to soak up some sunshine and fresh air, both of which are vital for our well-being. This March editorial is inspired by two observations: the challenges that February brings, and my son, who, as a high school student, is currently taking a few courses at CVTC. February can be a difficult month for both students and adults. With the holidays behind us and the weather still cold (and dark), many of us start to feel the effects of "spring fever."

Recently, while my son was preparing for a major exam in his Anatomy and Physiology class, I noticed a PowerPoint slide highlighting key brain chemicals: dopamine, serotonin, and cortisol. It struck me how significant sunshine and outdoor time are in boosting the good chemicals—dopamine and serotonin—while reducing cortisol, the stress hormone. This connection is especially relevant as we emerge from the challenges of winter.

Natural light, movement, and fresh air help students and adults alike feel calmer, more alert, and better able to learn and self-regulate. Simply put, spending time outdoors helps reset our brains, making it easier to concentrate, manage our emotions, and engage positively both in and out of school.

It's important not only to encourage students to spend more time outdoors but as adults to model this behavior. There's solid science behind the benefits: outdoor time regulates key brain chemicals, supporting mood, motivation, and focus, while reducing stress. Let's take advantage of the wonderful weather March and the rest of spring have in store for us here in Wisconsin. Here's to feeling better with more sunlight!

Adam Keeton
Principal

Announcements



**ROYAL
CREDIT
UNION.**

Royal Credit Union at Northstar!

MIDDLE SCHOOL

HOURS:

RCU at Northstar is open every Friday, before school, outside the cafeteria. Stop by the RCU teller stand to make a deposit of at least \$0.50 to earn a prize!



SPRING BREAK GIVEAWAY:

On Friday March 27, stop by the RCU teller stand to share a smart savings tip! You'll receive a Jolly Rancher for participating. Take a look at the wall behind the RCU stand for other smart savings tips!



5 BUDGETING TIPS FOR YOUR FAMILY FOR SPRING BREAK:

Royal Credit Union is proud to partner with Enrich, an interactive financial wellness platform that offers engaging, effective, unbiased online financial education. Learn five ways your family can save to make the most of your Spring Break vacation this year by following this link: <https://bit.ly/springbreaktips> [Click Here!](#)



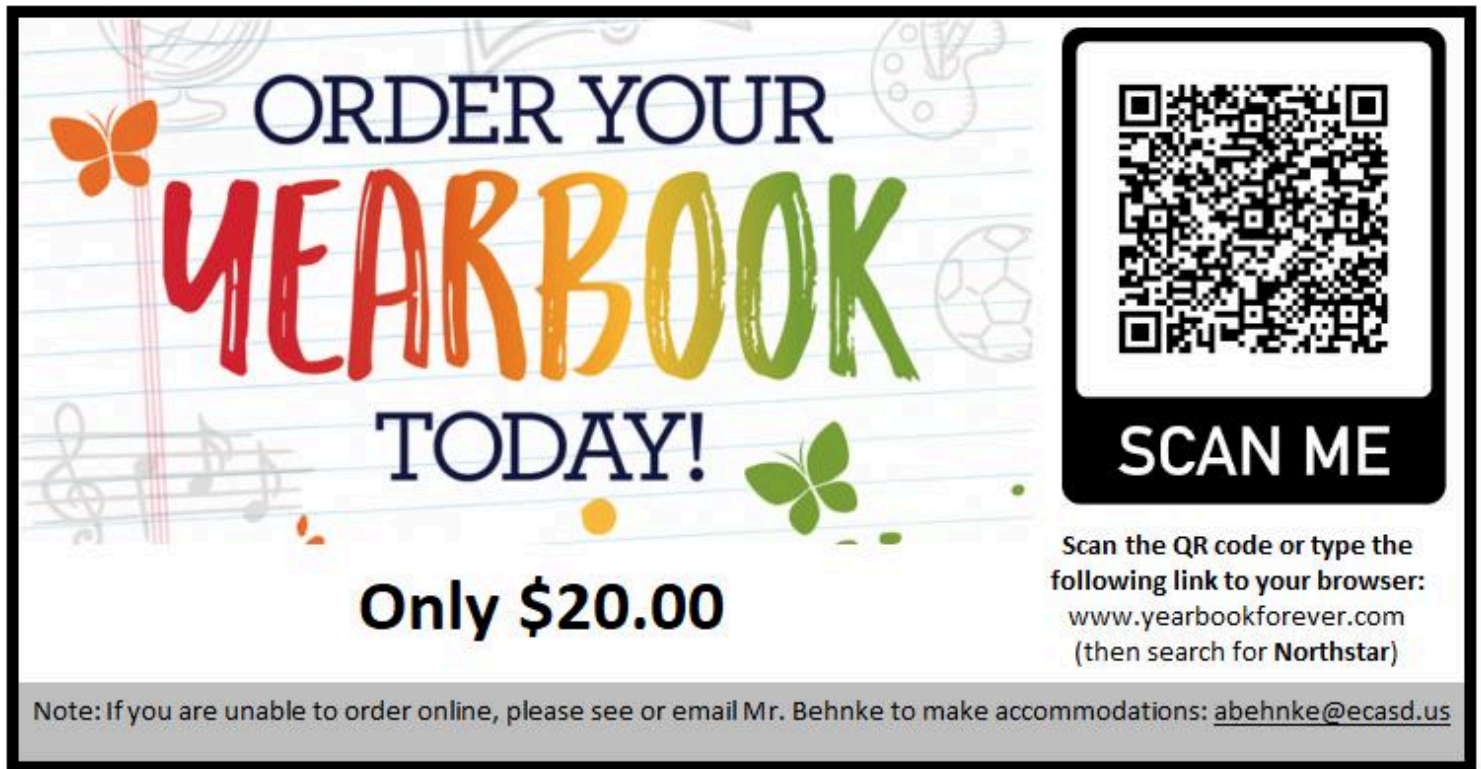
If your student would like to sign up for our program, follow this link to open an account www.rcu.org/schoolaccounts. We welcome your questions about Royal Credit Union and how you can get your student started saving at school.

UPCOMING WEEKLY PRIZES:



Please contact Rachel Orlovsky at rachel.orlovsky@rcu.org with any questions.

Announcements



ORDER YOUR
YEARBOOK
TODAY!

Only \$20.00

SCAN ME

Scan the QR code or type the following link to your browser:
www.yearbookforever.com
(then search for Northstar)

Note: If you are unable to order online, please see or email Mr. Behnke to make accommodations: abehnke@ecasd.us

ECASD Emergency School Closure Family Communication



There is a familiar chill in the air which leads us to think about colder weather and the inclement weather that may come with it. Here is the [Eau Claire Area School District Emergency School Closure Family Communication](#) for the 2025-2026 school year.

Please look for announcements about emergency school closings in several ways through Skyward and ParentSquare messages, on the ECASD website, on the ECASD Facebook feed, and through local media outlets.

Don't hesitate to call your school office if you have questions.

Announcements

Taking a Vacation?

Extended absence slips must be completed in advance. Taking a vacation while school is in session? Make sure to send a note to the main office IN ADVANCE of the trip, excusing your student. The office will give your student the extended absence slip to have all teachers sign prior to leaving. This helps our teachers in planning lessons and organizing the necessary make up work. Thank you.

Thank you, Festival Foods!

Northstar Middle School Kitchen Cupboard would like to do a THANK YOU shout-out to Festival Foods on Birch Street for donating 250 brown paper Festival Foods grocery bags for use in our school's food pantry! Thank you, Festival Foods, for supporting our school!



Stock the Kitchen Cupboard Food and Goods Drive

**STOCK THE KITCHEN CUPBOARD
FOOD & GOODS DRIVE**



**SATURDAY,
MARCH 7
FROM 9 AM TO
12 NOON**

NORTHSTAR
MIDDLE SCHOOL

IN LOVING MEMORY OF JERRY CARTER

Join us on Saturday, March 7 for a Food and Goods Drive at Northstar! This is the 5th year that Mr. Brown's family charity, W.I.N.G.S. has held an event to benefit Northstar's own food pantry, the Kitchen Cupboard. This event is in memory of his "Uncle Jerry" who would host a food drive each year to help those in need. We would love to see you there!

Announcements

School-Issued Device Reminders

Please remember to take good care of your school-issued computer. These devices are important learning tools and need to last for many years to come. Remind your student to keep their Chromebook in a place safe from damage and to charge it in the evening at home so it is ready for school. Thank you for your help in ensuring your student is prepared and ready to learn.

Mark Your Calendars for Forward Testing

The Forward Exam is Wisconsin's annual assessment of knowledge and skills. All students in grades 6–8 will be assessed in Math and English Language Arts, and 8th graders will complete additional exams in Science and Social Studies. Students will prepare for testing throughout the months of February and March, with the actual exams taking place on **April 7-9** (all grades) and **April 14-15** (additional 8th grade exams.) Makeups will be completed as needed through April 24.

Summer Programs 2026

Summer Program Registration begins online Saturday, March 7, at 8 am and will end on March 27. Athletics registration will be open throughout the summer. The family hotline for questions will be available from 8 am–12 pm on March 7 only at 715-852-3141. Letters should have arrived in mailboxes with student IDs and instructions on how to register. The guide is also online at www.ecasd.us/summer. Families can pick up extra guides at their school and at the Administration Building.



Announcements

Student Council

Our last Polar Party of the year is on Friday, April 17th from 2:51-4:15 pm. Tickets will be sold for \$2 during all three lunches the week of the party. Join us for an evening of games, treats, and music!

Upcoming Spirit Days!

March 13 - College Wear Day

March 27 - Silly Sock/Flip Flop Day

April 17 - Dress Your Best Day



Family Teacher Council Dairy Queen Fundraisers

On the first Tuesday of each month through May 2026, stop by the Pinehurst Dairy Queen between 4:00-9:00pm and Northstar Family Teacher Council (FTC) will receive 10% of the proceeds! FTC helps fund activities like Northstar field trips, mini grants, and much more! Thank you for your support!

Upcoming Fundraiser Nights

Tuesday, March 3

Tuesday, April 1



Third Quarter Ends March 28

Progress reports will be mailed home next week. Potential failure notices for students receiving a non-passing grade will be mailed home on March 25. All late work must be submitted by April 8. Be sure to contact your child's teacher to get back on track should you receive a notice. Teacher gradebooks are updated often to give you accurate information regarding missing assignments and current grades. Don't forget to check Skyward!

Announcements



Save the Date!

Save the Date for Northstar's 8th Grade Celebration on June 3, 2026!

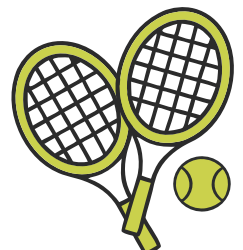
Families are invited to attend our afternoon program.

Quarter 4 Athletics Registration is Open!

Quarter 4 athletics start on Tuesday, April 7! Athletics offered include girls soccer (all grades), boys tennis (grades 7 and 8), girls softball (all grades), and track and field (grades 7 and 8.) To sign up, please complete the following steps:

- (1) Online Registration [Here](#)
- (2) Upload a current [sports physical](#) to the online registration or turn it in to Northstar's office. Physicals are valid for two years from the date of the exam and must be signed by the physician.
- (3) Pay the athletic fee using [myschoolbucks](#) or by [cash/check](#).

Go Polars!



Announcements

Community Events & Resources

Please visit this [link](#) for a list of upcoming and ongoing events and resources available in our community.

[Eau Claire Food and Resource Pantries](#)

[Despensas de Alimentos y Recursos de Eau Claire](#)

[ECASD Community Events/Resource Flyers](#)

Free Dental Program

Northlakes Community Clinic is excited to offer a school-based preventative dental program to all children enrolled in our school! A Registered Dental Hygienist will come on-site to provide dental services at NO COST, meaning families will never receive a bill for services. This program is designed to complement your child's regular dental care and can be used alongside services provided by your family dentist. If your family does not have a regular dentist, Northlakes would be happy to assist you in finding one. To sign up, pick up a permission form from Northstar's front office, or sign up online here - sealasmile.wisconsin.gov/Consent/Home/About

Kitchen Cupboard Food Pantry



Northstar's Kitchen Cupboard is a supplemental benefit in addition to local resources that is open to any Northstar family to assist in keeping the kitchen cupboards stocked and stretching grocery budgets!

- Orders can be requested any day of the school week – please allow time to have the order filled if picking up on the same day.
- Pick up your order Tuesday-Friday, 7:00am – 3:30pm, inside door 1 of the Attendance Office.
- Should you have questions or want a physical order form, please contact Northstar at 715-852-5114 or kdunbar1@ecasd.us
- [Link to Order](#)

Announcements

Open Enrollment Begins February 2

What is Public School Open Enrollment?

Wisconsin's inter-district public school open enrollment program allows students and families who don't live in our district to open enroll into the Eau Claire Area School District.

Who May Participate?

Wisconsin residents in grades K-12 may apply to participate in open enrollment. Students in pre-kindergarten may participate in limited circumstances; parents should call the Enrollment Office at 715-852-3063 to find out if their preschool-aged children qualify.

How and When May Parents Apply?

The regular open enrollment application window is February 2, 2026, through April 30, 2026, at 4:00 pm for the 2026-2027 school year. Parents may submit online applications beginning February 2, 2026, at the Wisconsin Department of Instruction website at <https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment>. Please call 715-852-3063 or email districtadministration@ecasd.us for more information.

Have you moved out of the district during the 2025-2026 school year?

If so, you must apply for a Tuition Waiver to continue attending the Eau Claire Area School District for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year. Contact the Enrollment Office at 715-852-3063 or email districtadministration@ecasd.us for an application.

Announcements

Open Enrollment Begins February 2 Cont.

Students Currently Attending the ECASD Through a Tuition Waiver

Students who have moved outside of the district during the 2025-2026 school year and are currently attending school under a Tuition Waiver must apply for open enrollment during the regular application window, February 2, 2026, through April 30, 2026, to continue attending during the 2026-2027 school year.

Current Open Enrollment Students

Students currently attending the Eau Claire Area School District under the open enrollment law do not need to reapply.

Other Information

Students who move into the district after January 2026 and anticipate moving out of the district before the 2026-2027 school year will not be eligible for a Tuition Waiver. Students must apply for open enrollment during either the regular open enrollment or alternative open enrollment period to be eligible to attend the Eau Claire Area School District during the 2026-2027 school year.

School Placement

By completing an open enrollment application, you are applying to attend the Eau Claire Area School District. You can indicate which school your child would prefer to attend; however, the district will determine placement based on space availability.

Questions?

If you have any questions about open enrollment or the application process, please contact the Enrollment Office at 715-852-3063 or email districtadministration@ecasd.us.

Announcements

DONATE

While You

DINE

Help us support the Northstar Middle School Library and Polar Kitchen Cupboard, from 3-6pm Monday, March 16th! 10% of our sales go directly to them!



2620 E. CLAIREMONT AVE
EAU CLAIRE, WI

MILWAUKEE
BURGER
— COMPANY —

Announcements



Eau Claire Transit

**FREE
FARE**
**FOR K-12
STUDENTS**



GET A RIDE TO SCHOOL

All middle schools and both high schools are stops on ECT routes.

ALL STUDENTS. ALL ROUTES.

Starting January 2026, all kids and youth 18 and under (or young adults enrolled in high school) will qualify for free fare rides on all ECT routes.

Kids under kindergarten age ride free w/ paying adult.

High School students will need to show a student ID.

Contact transit@eauclairewi.gov to connect with a transit ambassador if you'd like more information.

FIND YOUR ROUTE AT

ecbus.org

Announcements



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE GREATER CHIPPEWA VALLEY



human-i-t



YOU COULD QUALIFY FOR A FREE LAPTOP

WHAT: THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE GREATER CHIPPEWA VALLEY- LEE & MARY MARKQUART CENTER HAS PARTNERED WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY THROUGH THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT, THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, AND HUMAN IT TO BRING FORWARD A NEW PROGRAM TO ASSIST IN CONNECTING LOW INCOME AND UNDER CONNECTED FAMILIES WITH REFURBISHED LAPTOPS TO BRIDGE THE GAP FOR TECHNOLOGICAL LITERACY AND ACCESS IN JACKSON COUNTY, DUNN COUNTY, AND EAU CLAIRE COUNTY.

WHO: QUALIFICATION FOR A LAPTOP IS INCOME DRIVEN AND CAN BE FOUND ON THE TABLE TO THE RIGHT.

HOW: IF YOU MEET THE REQUIREMENT PLEASE SCAN THE INCLUDED QR CODE AND FILL OUT ALL THE QUESTIONS. ONCE A LAPTOP IS AVAILABLE YOU WILL BE EMAILED BY THE CLOSEST BOYS & GIRL CLUBS OF THE GREATER CHIPPEWA VALLEY TO SCHEDULE A TIME FOR PICK UP.

WHAT WILL BE ASKED OF YOU: THERE WILL BE TWO SUVERYS; ONE AT 3 MONTHS VIA EMAIL, AND ONE AT 6 MONTHS VIA PHONE CALL.

**Household/
Family Size**

200%

1	30,120.00
2	40,880.00
3	51,640.00
4	62,400.00
5	73,160.00
6	83,920.00
7	94,680.00
8	105,440.00
9	116,200.00
10	126,960.00
11	137,720.00
12	148,480.00
13	159,240.00
14	170,000.00

Contact Paige
pstuckey@cvclubs.org
for questions or concerns

Eau Claire Boys & Girls Club
1005 Oxford Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54703



Scan for Application

Announcements



2025-26 Webinar Series

For Parents, Caregivers & School Staff



If you think your child or student could benefit from skill building and/or mental health support, Cartwheel is here to help.

[Learn More](#)

Cartwheel's free webinar series provides caregivers and school staff with practical tools to support student and family wellness and mental health. **Can't attend live? [Register](#) to get the replay.**

Sept 17 at 12pm ET

You Are Not Alone: Strategies for Parents & Caregivers to Support Their Children's Mental Health

Christine M. Crawford, M.D., M.P.H.

► [Register Here](#)

Oct 8 at 12pm ET

From Conflict to Connection: How Families and Schools Can Work Together to Break the Cycle of Bullying

Fabian Ramirez

► [Register Here](#)

Nov 12 at 12pm ET

Student Assessments & Evaluations: When To Seek Them, What To Know, And How To Make Sense Of Them

Ellen Braaten, Ph.D.

► [Register Here](#)

Dec 10 at 12pm ET

Talking to Children About Grief and Loss in Developmentally Friendly Ways

Mekel Harris, Ph.D.

Jan 14 at 7pm ET

Building Resilience and Emotional Exposure in Kids

Alex Hirshberg, Psy.D.

► [Register Here](#)

Feb 11 at 12pm ET

Promoting Healthy Relationships with Food and Body in Schools

Dana Sedlak, LCSW, CEDS-C

► [Register Here](#)

Mar 11 at 12pm ET

Navigating the Tough Talks: Strategies for Talking to Teens about Substance Use

Amy McCarthy Baluch, LICSW

► [Register Here](#)

Apr 15 at 12pm ET

5 Keys to Parenting a Child with ADHD

Erin Schoenfelder Gonzalez, Ph.D.

► [Register Here](#)

May 12 at 7pm ET

Learning How to Recognize and Treat Youth with OCD and Related Disorders

Erica Greenberg, M.D.

► [Register Here](#)

June 4 at 12pm ET

Supporting Boys: Mental Health Strategies for Young Men

Chris Smith

► [Register Here](#)



Cartwheel partners with schools to provide a evidence-based telehealth services for students, families, and school staff through 1:1 teletherapy, psychiatry, family therapy, parent guidance, and staff therapy. Learn more at:

www.cartwheel.org/families

View the full webinar calendar [here](#).

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities

- Thank you, Volunteers! You help make our school a great place and make events like Polar Parties possible! We are so thankful for you and your commitment to Northstar.
- Our last **Polar Party of the 2025-26 school year is Friday, April 17!** At Polar Parties, students can socialize with peers and enjoy a variety of activities. We are looking for 10 volunteers to aid staff in student supervision from 2:45-4:15pm. If you'd like to volunteer, please sign up using this [link](#).
- All volunteers must fill out the ECASD Volunteer Agreement yearly and complete a background check with ECASD once every three years. We will follow up with you after signing up to let you know what you need!

Thank you, Volunteers!

FAC Representatives

- Northstar is seeking two people to **serve as a representative on the ECASD Family Advisory Council (FAC)** this school year. School FAC representatives should be able and willing to attend monthly meetings, be in contact with our PTSA and our school community, and represent the general voice of our parents. You can learn more about FAC [here](#).
- If you are interested in becoming a FAC representative, please contact Adam Keeton at akeeton@ecasd.us or 715-852-5110.

Thank you, FTC and Northstar Families!

A huge thank you from Northstar staff to our Family Teacher Council and Northstar families for providing a delicious lunch during Family Conferences on February 27! Everything was delicious and so appreciated!

Polar Highlights

Congratulations to the Quarter 2 E² Award recipients! The E² Award recognizes students who exemplify exceptional effort and excellence. Each student awarded was chosen by a staff member to be recognized. Congratulations, Polars! Keep up the great work!



6th Grade

Ariel A. – Ms. Fromm
Allie B. – Ms. Gust
Sophia B. – Mr. Nicholson
Samantha D. – Mr. Holle
Jamysyn F. – Ms. Krenzelo
Eleanor J. – Ms. Schwamberger
Ryan K. – Ms. Moldenhauer
Naiya L. – Ms. Peplinski
Tevon M. – Ms. Steffen
Baylee P. – Ms. Benedict
Willow P. – Ms. Sproul
Johnathan S. – Officer Xiong
Victoria S. – Ms. Irwin
Autumn S. – Mr. Rynes
Ava S. – Ms. Beilke-Puccio
Richard T. – Ms. Fagan Resendez
Nelson V. – Ms. Fagan Resendez
Amelia W. – Mr. Schaefer
Abby X. – Ms. Nadeau

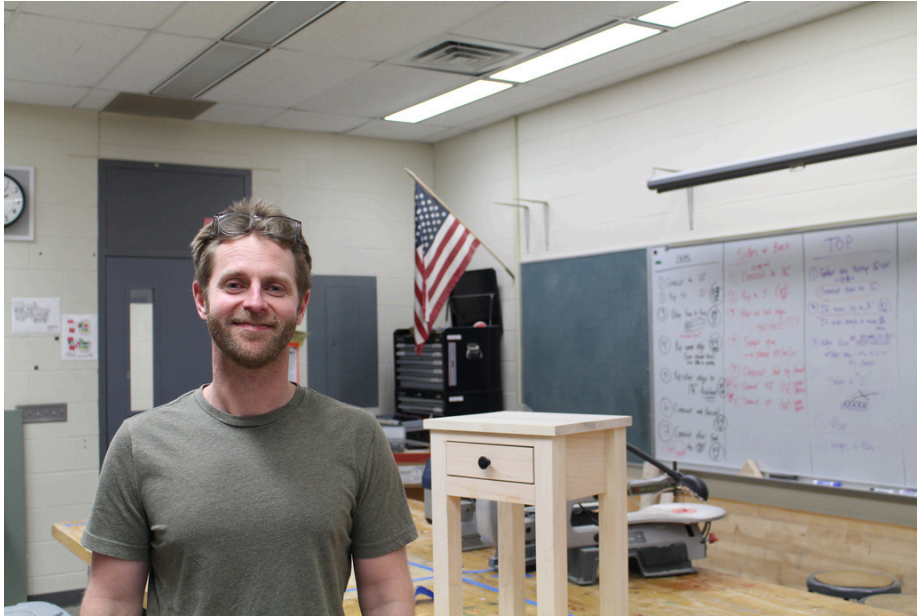
7th Grade

Owen A. – Ms. Metry
Brooklynn A. – Mr. Klay
Arieanna B. – Mr. Brown
Bryan B. – Ms. Hall
Arabella D. – Mr. Burg
Janella D. – Ms. Rettke
Conan D. – Mr. Damico
Nora J. – Ms. Sworski
Cirenay J. – Ms. Salazar
Belinda M. – Ms. Xiong
Dravin M. – Ms. Szymanski
Arkhip O. – Ms. Olson
Keagan S. – Mr. Hardy
Kong Cheng V. – Mr. Tuvey

8th Grade

Elayna B. – Ms. Hilden
Briony B. – Mr. Tichey
Leighton D. – Mr. Jablonske
Hunter E. – Ms. Schwamberger
Nicole F. – Ms. Schemenauer
Jim L. – Ms. Witkus-James
Avery L. – Ms. Salazar
Cooper M. – Ms. Mickelson
Lucy S. – Mr. Steffens
Alex T. – Ms. Ganong
Livia W. – Ms. Marcoe
Kaleb W. – Mr. Tichey

Polar Highlights



February was Career and Technical Education Month!

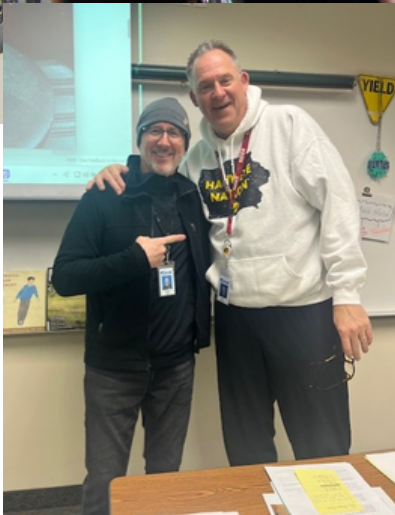
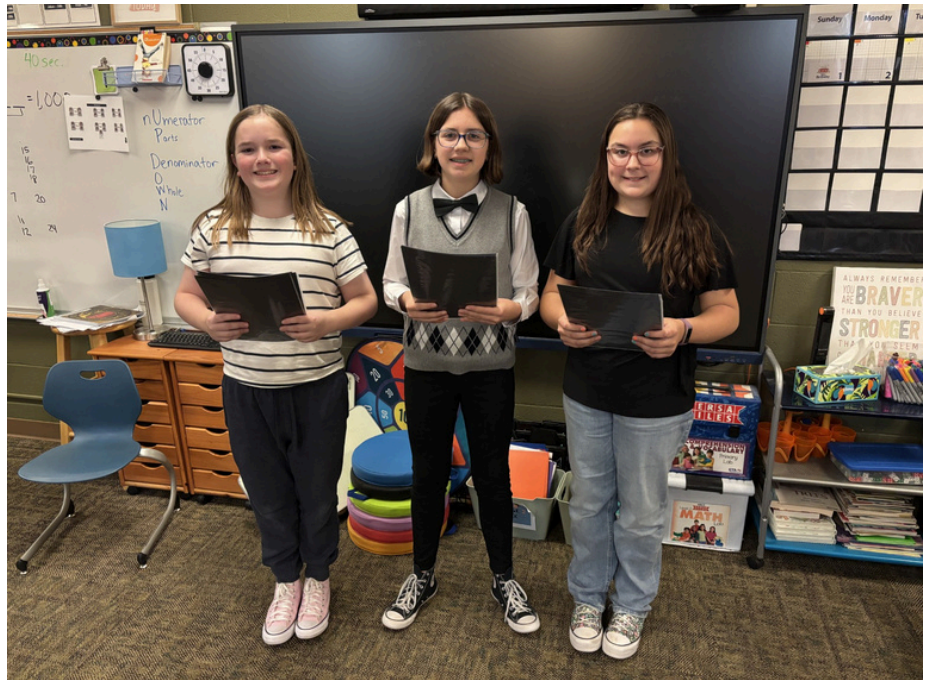
Mr. Tichey's Engineering and Design classes recently made CO2 cars and raced them against each other.

You can learn more about Career and Technical Education Month [here](#).



Polar Highlights

Northstar forensics are in the middle of their season! Pictured right is the Readers Theater group that is performing "A Christmas Carol" this year - Calvin H., Alex P., and Corin P. Their last meet of the year is this week. Good luck, Polars!



Superintendent Johnson got to spend the day with Mr. Holle's 6th grade classes this month as part of the "Super Switch." He taught ELA and Social Studies, and even played a 6th grade favorite - silent ball!

Polar Highlights

Northstar Battle of the Books recently hosted DeLong Middle School for a City-Wide Battle. Well done, Readers!



Polar Highlights



MathCounts had a great season and recently celebrated all their work with a pizza party. (see above)



Phy Ed classes have been swimming and learning to rock climb! Thank you, Northstar Family Teacher Council for the mini grant to purchase new swim caps! (see above and left)

Polar Highlights

We had a great time at the Quarter 3 Polar Party!



Polar Highlights

More quarter 3 Polar Party photos! Thank you to our student photographers!



Important Links

<u>Northstar Middle School Website</u>	<u>ECASD 2025-26 School Year Calendar</u>
<u>March Lunch Menu</u>	<u>ECASD Community Events and Resources</u>
<u>Skyward Family Access</u> • Check Grades • Report an Absence • Update Contact Information • And More!	<u>Tech Support & Resources</u> • Student Device Support • How to set-up a parent observer account in Canva
<u>Northstar Kitchen Cupboard Order Form</u> • Pick up from Main Office Tuesday-Friday, 7am-3:30pm	<u>Northstar PTSA Information</u>
<u>My School Bucks</u> • Check balance and deposit money into your child's lunch account	<u>Who Should I Contact at Northstar with Questions?</u>