

NORTHSTAR NOTES

Northstar Calendar

April

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

May

5 FTC Meeting, 6:30pm, Northstar Commons
7 Career Venture Field Trip for 7th graders
7 Choir 7/8 Concert, 6:30pm
12 Family Night, 5:00-7:00pm
14 Band 6 Concert, 6:30pm
21 Choir 6 Concert, 6:30pm
25 No School, Memorial Day
28 Orchestra 6/7/8 Concert, 7pm, North High

2025-26 School Year Calendar

HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

STUDENT SERVICES
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
khouse1@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.

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

Finding Healthy Alternatives

Taking risks is a normal part of growing up. When kids take healthy risks, they build confidence and learn more about themselves. But without these challenges, young people may find the excitement they're looking for in dangerous activities like underage drinking. Here your child find healthy ways to put themselves out there, like:



Joining a sports team or club



Learning to cook



Trying out for a school play



Volunteering in the community

This information is provided by the Eau Claire Health Alliance. Learn more at: echealthalliance.org

Announcements



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 addition 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.

Announcements

Summer Program Registration Reminder

Don't forget to register students for ECASD Summer Programs. A reminder that if your student is enrolled in school year band, they will be automatically enrolled in summer school band.

Please register your elementary student at the location they attend during the school year, even if programming will take place at an alternate location this summer. For example, if your student attends Roosevelt Elementary, programming will take place at Sherman Elementary, but please still register for Roosevelt's programming.

If you qualify for busing during the school year, you qualify for busing during the summer. Not all summer courses are busing eligible. All elementary, middle, and high school students who need busing will need to register for busing through Skyward Family Access using the busing form. There will also be free breakfast and lunch at many schools.

Protect our environment and community by properly disposing of medicines!

Visit one of the National Prescription Drug Take-Back events on Saturday, April 25, to safely dispose of prescription medications, over-the-counter products, ointments, patches, creams, non-aerosol sprays, vials, pet medications, and sharps. Convenient curbside drop-off locations are available at all locations, and it's free!

Check out the flyer to see what times each location is accepting drop offs.

This information is provided by the Eau Claire Health Alliance. Learn more at: echealthalliance.org



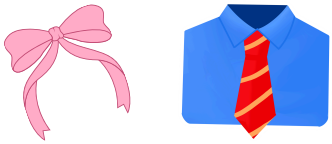
Announcements

Student Council

Our next student council meeting is on April 10th from 7:00-7:25 in the library. All are welcome to attend! Our final Polar Party of the year is after school on Friday, April 17th from 2:51-4:15 pm. Tickets will be sold for $2 during all three lunch shifts the week of the party.

Upcoming Spirit Days!
April 17 - Dress Your Best Day
May 8 - 6-7 Dress Up Day
May 22 - Silly Hair 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!

<u>Upcoming Fundraiser Nights</u>
Tuesday, April 7
Tuesday, May 5

End of Quarter 3

Quarter 3 ended on March 27, and all late work is due today, April 8. Report cards will be mailed the week of April 13. Teacher gradebooks are updated often to give you accurate information regarding missing assignments and current grades. Don't forget to check Skyward!

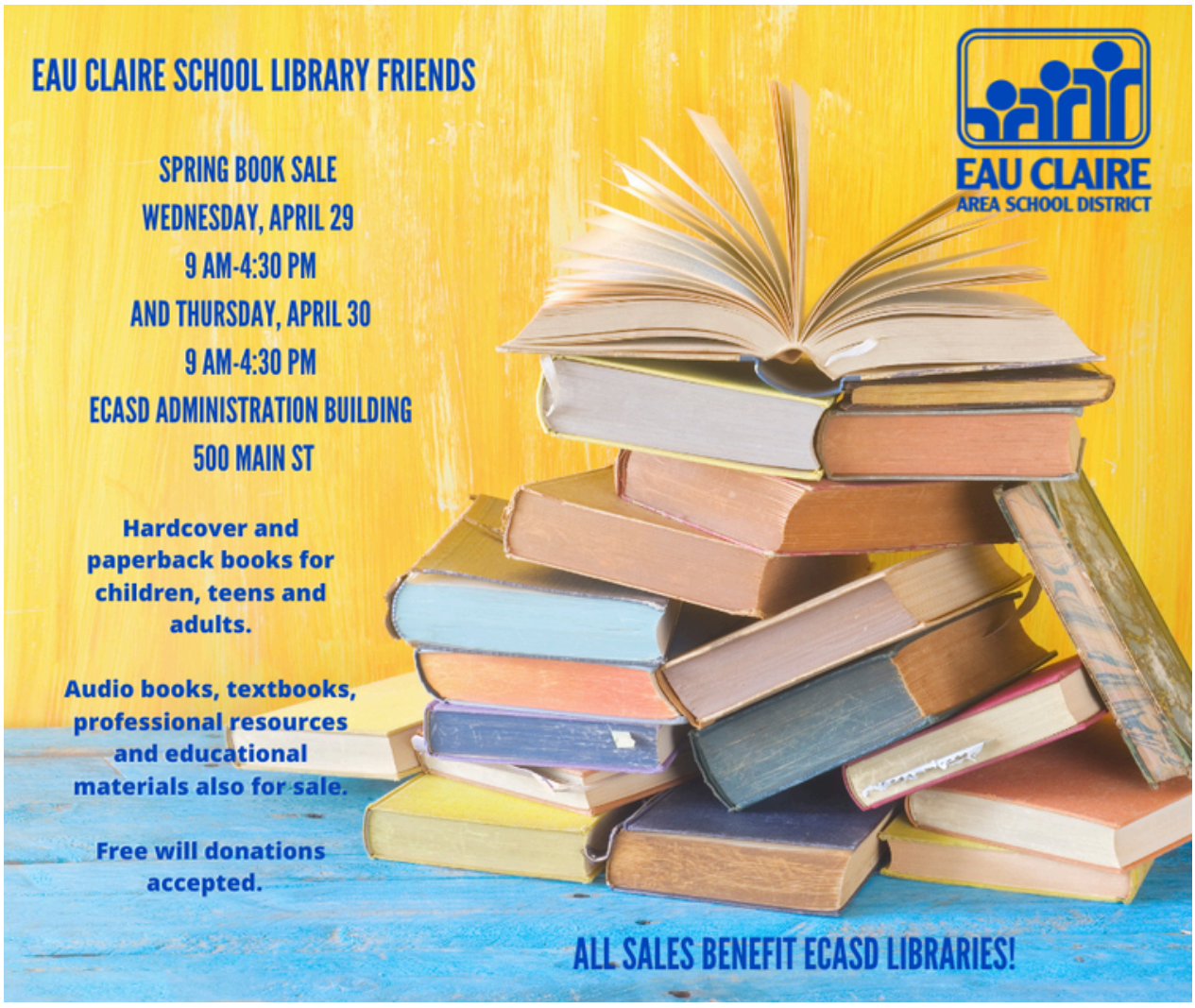
Announcements



Save the Date!

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

Families are invited to attend our afternoon program.



Announcements

ROYAL CREDIT UNION.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Royal Credit Union at Northstar!

HOURS:

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

CREDIT UNION YOUTH MONTH:

April is Credit Union Youth Month, a month-long initiative that helps teach and encourage students to develop good financial habits. With a youth savings account at Royal Credit Union, young Members can make weekly deposits and watch their savings grow with compound interest! Learning this good habit at a young age will start them on the path to financial well-being.

FINANCIAL TRIVIA:

Throughout the month of April, Royal Credit Union at Northstar will host financial trivia each day of the week. Students who answer the trivia questions correctly will be entered into a drawing for a $25 Amazon gift card. The drawing will take place on Friday May 1.

amazon

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

JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY

The Eau Claire Police Department is now accepting applications for this year's Junior Police Academy!

There will be one session for middle school students that run from 8am to 12pm Monday - Friday

JUNE 15-19, 2026

The program is designed to motivate the children in our community to be upstanding citizens through law enforcement education. The Junior Police Academy introduces children to the variety of roles within the police department and gives them a chance to see police officers as an informal mentor, neighbor, role model, and friend. This encourages youth to be partners in creating safer schools and communities.

If you feel your student may love this experience or need it, please encourage them to stop by Officer Xiong's office (located in the main office) to pick up an application.







Announcements

JOIN US FOR NORTHSTAR FAMILY NIGHT!

TUESDAY, MAY 12
5:00-7:00PM
NORTHSTAR MIDDLE SCHOOL

JOIN US FOR A FREE HOT DOG DINNER, GAMES, PRIZES, INFO FROM COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND...

A CELEBRATION OF NORTHSTAR'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY!

NORTHSTAR COLLECTS!



8th grader Daniel F.'s Bionicles Collection

Have a collection?
Want to show us?
Just grab an application from the library!

8th grader Daniel F.'s collection of Bionicles has been on display in the library throughout March! Bionicles are a series of retired Legos. It's not too late to apply to display your collection this school year!

Announcements

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

SPRING SEASON

Cornhole & Track
Start on April 9th

EAU CLAIRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

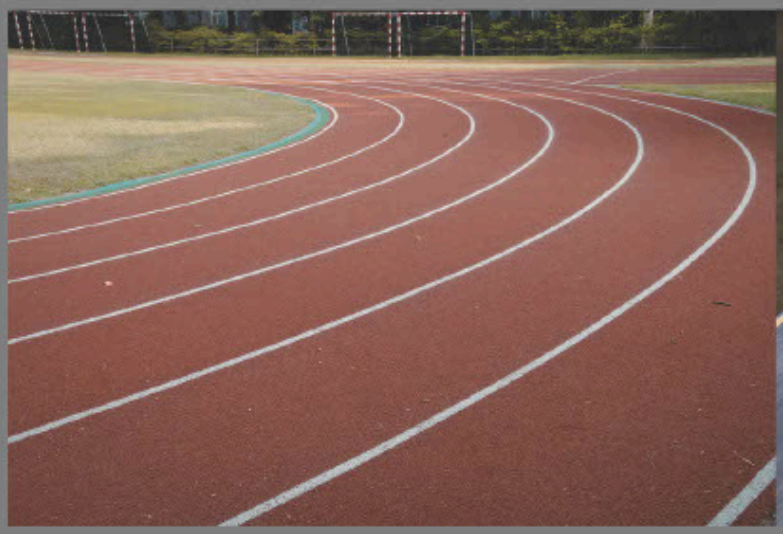
Practice Locations

Elementary-Putnam Heights ES
Middle School-Delong MS
High School Track-North HS
High School Cornhole-Locust Lane

CONTACT

Justin Jablonske
jjablonske@ecasd.us

For more information use the QR code below!





Announcements

Community Events & Resources

Please visit this link for a list of upcoming and ongoing events and resources available in our community.

Eau Claire County Food Pantries and Meal Sites
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

Eau Claire Transit

FREE FARE FOR K-12 STUDENTS



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.

GET A RIDE TO SCHOOL

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

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

Cartwheel

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!

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 FTC 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, Volunteers!

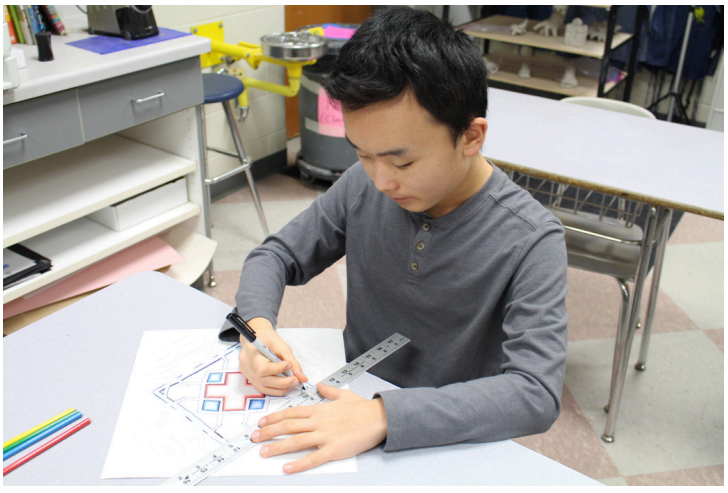
Polar Highlights



March was Youth Art Month! We are grateful for our amazing art educators, Ms. Hall and Ms. Steffen, and the opportunities they provide for students.









Polar Highlights





Polars recently had the opportunity to take a Friday afternoon trip to the Eau Claire Curling Club!



Polar Highlights

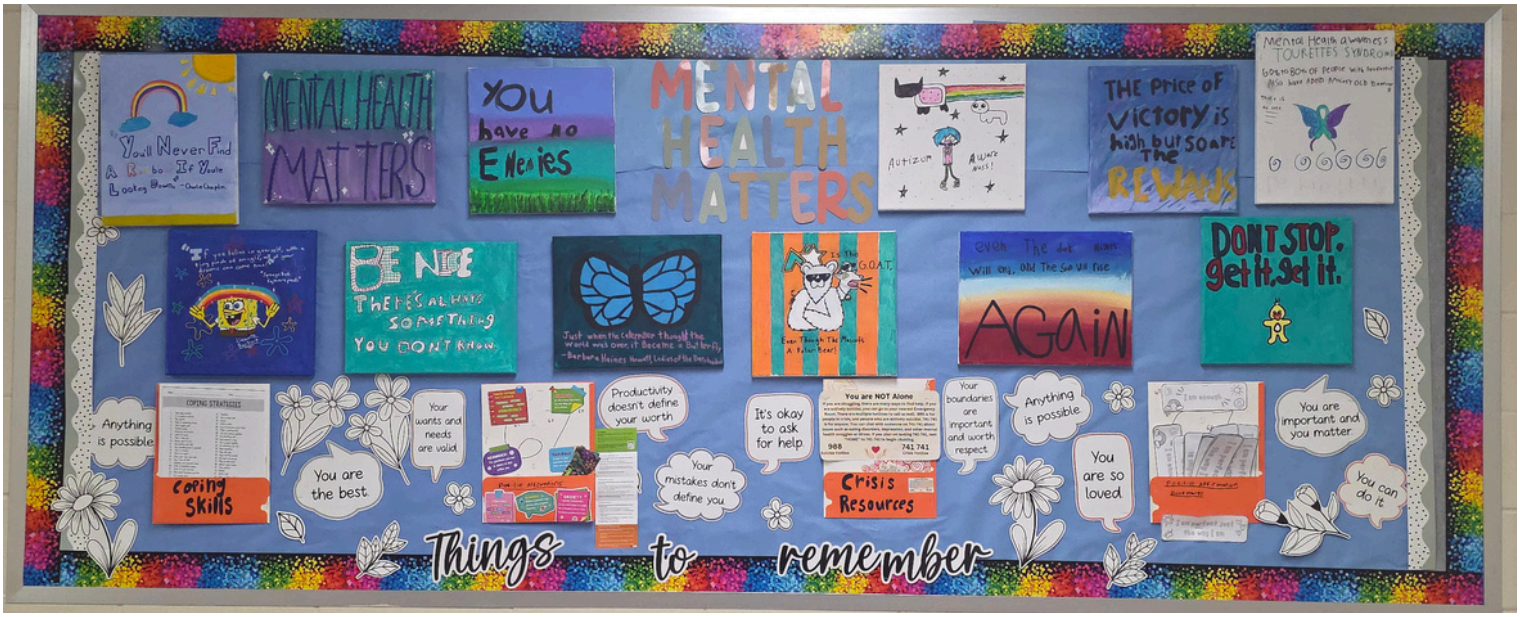






The ARCTIC Zone recently visited UW-Stout and worked with their Film Production department as part of their annual Short Film Fest. Students worked on camera shots & angles, sound, lighting, storyboards, and screenplays. It was a great day learning from experts in the field.

Polar Highlights



Equity Club + SAFE have been doing great things around Northstar! Most recently, they helped create a bulletin board for Women's History Month, and a mental health resource board for students and staff with hand-painted canvases, positive affirmation bookmarks and stickers, coping skills sheets, and crisis resources.









Polar Highlights





Students in the 8th Grade Coding Class got to show off their sprite games during the Sprite Game Showcase! Students code a game that plays on the micro:bit platform and then design and create a handheld console for their game. During the showcase students in all grades get to play the games during their lunch hour.

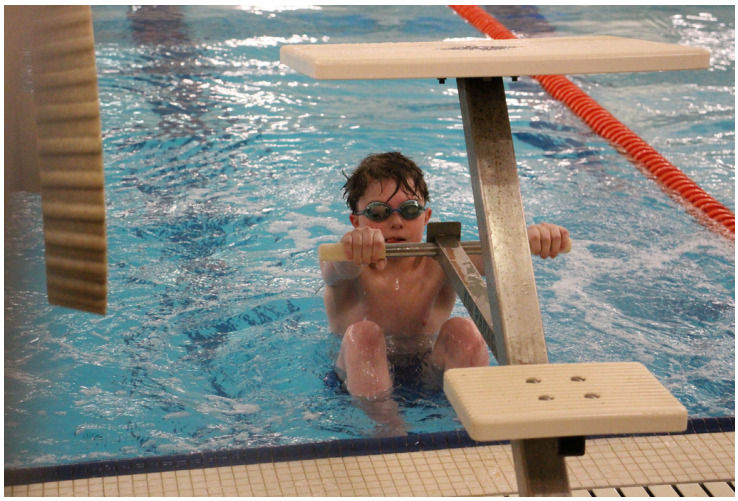
GAME OVER

Polar Highlights

Check out a few photos of Q3 sports! Go Polars!













Important Links

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

NORTHSTAR MIDDLE SCHOOL
2711 ABBE HILL DR.
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54703

MAIN OFFICE: 715-852-5100
STUDENT SERVICES: 715-852-5103