SOUTH

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

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South Middle School | 2115 Mitscher Ave. | Eau Claire, WI | 54701 | 715-852-5200

NEWS FROM THE NEST

South Families,

I am excited and honored to welcome you to the 2026-27 school year as the new principal of South Middle School. While this is my first year serving as principal, South is already home to me. Over the past three years, I have had the privilege of serving as an assistant principal alongside our students, staff, and families. Through that experience, I have come to deeply appreciate the strong relationships, culture, and sense of community that make South such a special place to learn and grow.

As we begin a new school year together, **our commitment remains the same**: providing each student with a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment where they can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Thank you for partnering with us and for being a valued part of our Falcon Family.

Our teaching staff and administration have exciting work planned for this year and beyond. We are committed to being transparent about our goals and communicating regularly with families throughout the year. **One of our primary areas of focus this year will be the implementation of Standards-Based Grading and Infinite Campus**. This work is designed to provide **clearer communication** about student learning, **increase consistency** in grading practices, and **ensure families have meaningful information** about their child's progress toward learning standards. As we move through this transition, we will provide updates, resources, and opportunities for families to learn more about these changes.

In addition to this work, our staff will continue focusing on effective teaching practices in every classroom. We will do this by providing clear learning targets, engaging students in meaningful learning experiences, asking in-depth questions, increasing student participation, encouraging reflection on learning, and using assessment practices that guide instruction. Professional learning throughout the year will support our staff in refining these practices to ensure all students experience high-quality instruction every day.

As the year progresses, please know that we are here to support your family. We want every student to feel valued, connected, and empowered to achieve their goals. **We believe that strong relationships, consistent expectations, and a shared commitment to learning create the foundation for student success.**

If you ever have questions, concerns, or ideas, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, a member of our administrative team, a teacher, or a counselor. We are excited to partner with you throughout the year.

The following information is intended to help you prepare for the upcoming school year and highlight some important dates ahead. We hope you have a wonderful remainder of your summer and thank you for being part of the South Falcon Family.

CHRISTY BROWER
SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL
Principal
cbrower@ecasd.us
Office: 715.852.5210
Cell: 715.492.2575

Si usted quiere ayuda en interpretar esta carta, por favor póngase en contacto con el asistente de educación bilingüe al 715-852-5284 y deje un mensaje con su nombre y número de teléfono.

Yog koj xav tau kev pab kom koj nkag siab tsab ntawv nov zoo, hais ua lus Hmoob. Thov hu xov tooj rau koj tus menyuam lub tsev kawm ntawv yog 715-852-6852. Hais lus tseg,hais koj lub npe thiab muab koj tus xov tooj tseg. Peb ib tug neeg txhais lus mam li hu qhia rau koj kom koj nkag siab zoo tshaj qhov nov ntxiv.

SAVE THE DATE





New to the Nest Tours - August 20, 2026 3:00PM - Cafeteria

Welcome to SMS! There will be an informational meeting for all 7th and 8th graders **NEW** to SMS. Any new students and families are welcome to attend. Students will receive information about:

- ★ School Schedule
- ★ Given a tour of SMS
- ★ Open lockers

If you have any questions, please email counselor Ms. Roberta Kostka, at rprokopkostka@ecasd.us



Open House - Grade 7 & 8 - August 26, 2026 1:00PM - 3:00PM - Gym

Schedule pick-up day for 7th & 8th grade students will be on August 26th. Parents are encouraged to bring their student sometime between 1:00-3:00 PM. Students will report to the gym to pick up their schedule. All 7th and 8th grade students will receive their locker on the first day of school.



Athletic Meeting - August 26, 2026 3:00PM OR 4:30PM - Gym

Students interested in participating in a SMS sport are strongly suggested to attend this meeting with a parent/guardian. Fall sports include football, soccer (6,7, & 8 grade), girls' tennis, volleyball, and cross country (6, 7, & 8 grade)



Open House - Grade 6 - August 26, 2026 5:00PM - 7:00PM - Gym

Welcome, 6th Graders and Families! We are thrilled to welcome our newest students to SMS! Transitioning to middle school is a big step, and we're here to make it a smooth and exciting experience for everyone. Our dedicated 6th grade team has planned an engaging evening to help students and families feel confident and prepared for the school year ahead.

What to Expect at the Open House:

- Pick up your **school schedule**
- Learn how to use your **school planner**
- Practice **opening lockers**
- Review **lunch procedures**
- Take care of **fee payments**
- Meet and connect with **SMS staff**

Plus, we'll share details about the **special transition activities** planned for the first two days of school, designed just for 6th graders. We encourage families to attend together. We can't wait to meet you and kick off a fantastic school year!



Picture Day - SEPTEMBER 2, 2026 - During the school day.

All students should get an ID picture taken during the school day, September 2. Students do not need to purchase pictures but will be given an ID card for library and textbook checkout. Parents wishing to order pictures from Lifetouch can order online with this link mylifetouch.com **PICTURE DAY ID: EVT9JQCXW** or see the flyer in this mailing.

* Picture retake day will be on October 13, 2026



FAMILY/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Family/Teacher conferences will be held at SMS in the fall and spring.

FALL: Thursday, October 15, 2026 (7:45 AM - 8:15 PM) NO SCHOOL
SPRING: Thursday, February 5, 2027 (After school 3:30 PM - 7:30 PM)
Friday, February 6, 2027 (7:30 AM - 4:00 PM) NO SCHOOL

* The entire 2026 - 2027 School Year Calendar can be found under District Calendar on the ECASD website.

STANDARDS BASE GRADING

Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, standards-based grading (SBG) will be implemented at all of the secondary schools in the Eau Claire Area School District.

Standards-based grading measures and communicates how students are performing on Essential Standards and Learning Targets that are based on Wisconsin Academic Standards. The purpose of SBG is to identify what a student knows or is able to do in relation to pre-established learning targets, as opposed to simply averaging points over the course of a grading period, which can mask what a student has actually learned in a specific course. SBG shifts the focus from sorting students to supporting them and from grading tasks to evaluating proficiency.

Students will also receive standard grades for Life Ready Dispositions, multiple times per year from each of their teachers. Teachers will report on the following behaviors: perseverance, collaboration, responsibility, and self-management.



Linked here is the ECASD site about Standards Based Grading: Standards-Based Grading - Eau Claire Area School District. This site is a central hub for families, staff, and community members to access key information, resources, timelines, and updates related to the district's transition to SBG.

INFINITE CAMPUS

This is a reminder that the Eau Claire Area School District transitioned from Skyward to Infinite Campus, a new Student Information System, this summer.

In July, you should have received the following information:

- Your Infinite Campus login credentials
- Instructions for accessing the Family Portal
- A brief, helpful information course to guide you through the system

Families were also asked to complete an annual registration application through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

As we transition from Skyward to Infinite Campus this summer, online registration and payment for after-school sports and activities for the 26-27 school year will not be available until mid-August. We appreciate your understanding and patience during this process.

Please contact us at
askdataservices@ecasd.us
with Infinite Campus questions.



PARENT SQUARE

South Middle School will be using **ParentSquare** as our primary platform for all parent communication. We encourage all families to download the ParentSquare app or access it online to stay informed about school news, events, and important updates. More information on our website can be found under the Families & Student tab.

Thank you for staying connected!

SMS WEBSITE

The SMS web page is a valuable source of information for happenings at SMS. If you want to know specific dates for performances, athletic events, conferences, and school closings check the web page at http://www.ecasd.us/South-Middle-School/Home.
It is important to check often as event additions, deletions and corrections are made throughout the school year.
You can also check out parent Square for events on our calendar.

Helpful Reminders

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance and academic performance are closely related. To benefit fully from the instructional program, all students are expected to attend school and to be on time for all classes. State law indicates that parents are responsible for reporting their child's absences to the school.

Attendance Procedures - Please call the school before 9:00 am stating the reason for the absence.

Calls can be made day or night; press "1" for "Attendance" and leave a message. If no call is made, the absence will be recorded as unexcused until a note or call is received.

- ★ Please arrange any foreseen absence. Students must check out of and into the attendance office when leaving or arriving back to school. SMS's phone number is 715-852-5200;
- ★ Students who arrive after 7:30 am must check into the Attendance Office before reporting to class. You may earn a detention after three unexcused tardies;
- ★ If you are absent on the day of an extracurricular activity, you will not be allowed to participate in that activity.

Ways parents can help:

- ★ Encourage good attendance from day one;
- ★ Plan to attend every day;
- ★ Encourage routines that allow for homework, hobbies, and interests, but which also encourage a healthy sleep pattern;
- ★ Be on time;
- ★ Do not excuse unnecessary absences.

Family and Emergency Information:

It is essential that SMS has up-to-date contact and emergency information in Infinite Campus for students. Infinite Campus Family Access gives parents/guardians the ability to make online changes to information such as phone numbers, emails, and emergency contacts. If you prefer, or do not have computer access, call SMS at 715-852-5200. If you need to change your address, DPI and ECASD policy requires you to email proof of residency (such as a lease, mortgage statement, utility bill, or other documentation showing guardian name and address) to enrollment@ecasd.us. If the address changes to where your child will attend school, you may need to complete additional documentation. Please contact the ECASD Enrollment Office at (715) 852-3063 for more information.

Visitor access to the building:

Our facility will be secured during the school day. Before school, Doors 1, 2, 5 and 6 are open for entrance into the building. After the start of the school day, all visitors entering the building will do so through Door 2. Those wishing to enter the school will ring the bell, be admitted and report directly to the attendance office to sign in. Our staff will be happy to assist you at that time. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and secure facility by following these procedures.

Parent Reminder: Messages to Your Student :

We strive to keep classroom interruptions to a minimum to support focused learning. However, we understand that special circumstances may arise. If you need to get an **urgent or emergency message** to your child during the school day, please contact our **attendance office**—we're here to help!

To help us limit disruptions: **Remind your child of any special plans** (appointments, early pickups, etc.) before the school day begins. **Encourage students to finalize after-school rides and activities** with friends ahead of time.

Thank you for partnering with us to keep our school day running smoothly!

Student Lockers:

Each student is assigned a locker to use during the school day to store school materials and personal belongings. To help keep items safe, it's important that lockers are securely closed and combinations are kept private. While we work hard to maintain a safe environment, theft can occur—particularly in PE locker rooms and hallway lockers—when items are left unsecured. We strongly discourage students from bringing phones, electronic games, or other valuables to school; if these items must be brought, they should be turned off and stored safely in a backpack or locker throughout the day.

Dropping Off/Picking Up Students

SMS Pick Up / Drop Off Procedure:

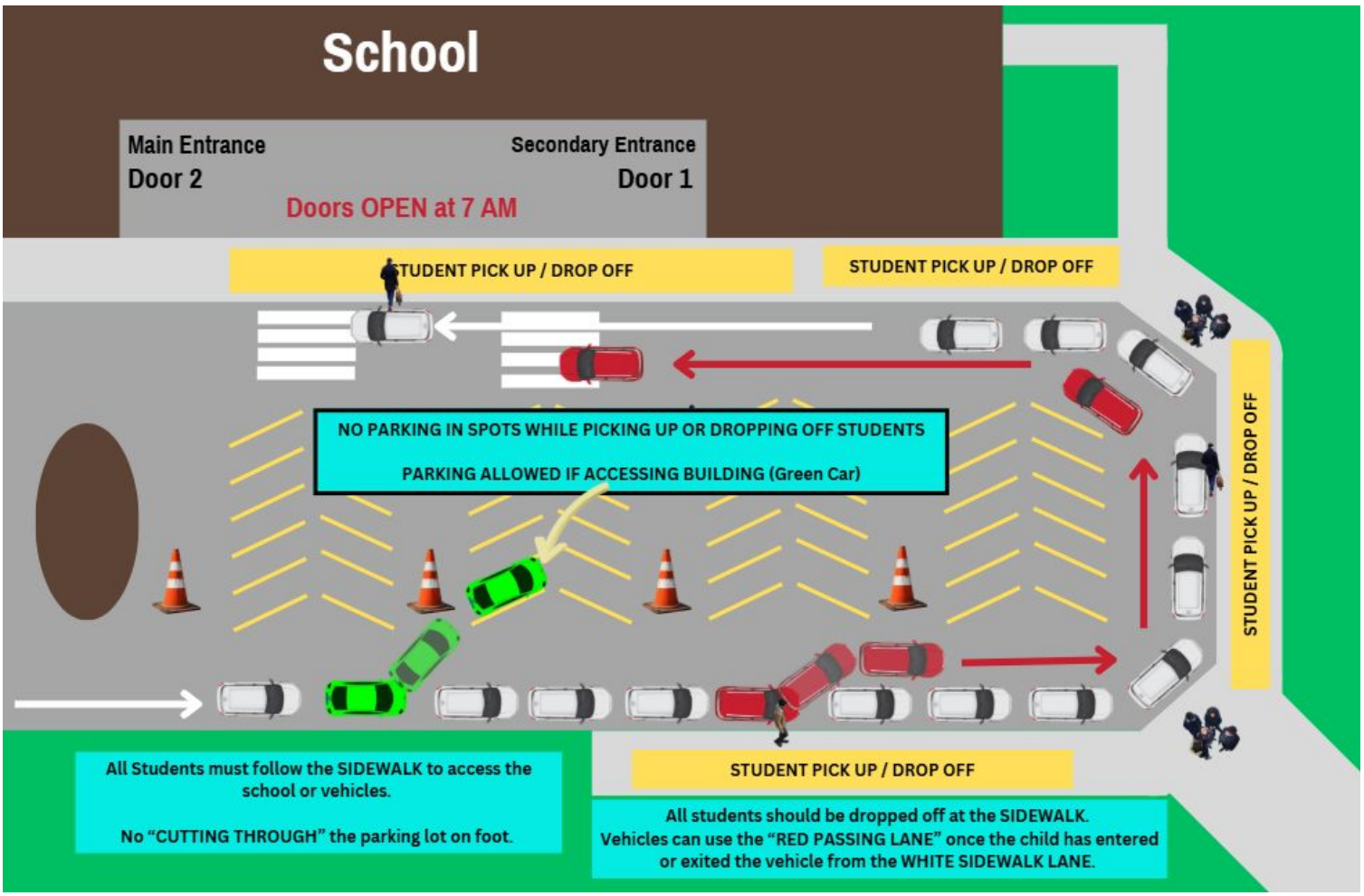
The following procedures will ensure a **SAFER** and more **EFFICIENT** Pick-Up/Drop Off. The diagram below will help with understanding these procedures.

Student Drop Off and Pick-Up Reminders:

- ★ Doors 1 and 2 are open starting at 7:00 AM. Hallway and locker access begins at 7:10AM.
- ★ Please DO NOT drive beyond the orange cones to pull into parking spots or cut through the parking lot UNLESS you are accessing the building. (Green Car)
- ★ Follow the pick-up /drop off route along the sidewalk. (White Car)
- ★ Students MUST use the sidewalk to exit/enter vehicles. (White Car)
- ★ Exit into the "passing lane" once you have secured or dropped off your student from the sidewalk. (Red Car)
- ★ Students SHOULD NOT be cutting through the parking lot to access your vehicle.

Additional Notes:

- ★ To keep traffic moving, please safely and timely exit the pick-up/drop off line.
- ★ Please avoid taking a LEFT turn onto Hester Street out of the parking lot. This slows the flow of traffic.
- ★ Try to avoid dropping off on Hester Street.
- ★ Do NOT drop off your student in the upper lot. That lot is for Bus Pick-Up/Drop Off.
- ★ Cars waiting in line should not wait past 7AM to drop off their student (unless you are still in line and not yet at a drop off location).



Helpful Resources

Student Services – Counselor Assignments:

GRADE 6 - Mike Polzer, mpolzer@ecasd.us
GRADE 7- Roberta Kostka, rprokopkostka@ecasd.us
GRADE 8 - Maggie Kison, mkison@ecasd.us

Please call with questions and/or to set up an appointment with a counselor to assist with scheduling issues, 715-852-5200. Check out the Student Services webpage for more information.

Weekend Meal Program:

The Eau Claire Area School District offers Weekend Kid's Meals to all students. The program's purpose is to provide food for your child for the weekend when school meals are unavailable, and it is offered through Feed My People Food Bank. The food is at no cost to you or your child and there are no income guidelines or requirements. Any student can participate and withdraw from the program at any time. ***Please be aware that meals are not screened for students with food allergies***. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact SMS's Social Worker, Austin Kruger at 715-852-3417.

Click here to sign up or check the SMS website under Students & Families > Falcon Food Pantry

After School Study Help:

SMS holds an After School Study Club on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 3:00-4:00. Students can work on homework or quietly in groups. Staff will be available to assist students. Study Club usually begins the 3rd week of September. Study Club will be held in the library.

2026 - 2027 SMS Teams:

Each grade level is divided into two teams. All SMS students are assigned to a team. Team assignments will be provided during the students' back-to-school event.

School Supply List for 2026 – 2027:

The supply list can be found on the SMS website. Click on Students & Families then click Back-to-School Information tab—School Supply List.

Student Planners:

Student planners will be issued to students during the first week of school. This is a powerful tool for students and for communication between school and home. We also include the Parent/Student Handbook in the front section of the student planner and on the SMS website.

South Falcon Advisory Council (SFAC):

The Falcon Advisory Council is a parent volunteer group that works alongside our school to support students, teachers, and the entire Falcon community. Thanks to the generosity of our families and community, we've been able to fund field trips, classroom supplies, teacher appreciation events, student activities, pizza lunches, transportation, a staff refrigerator, and many other extras that help make South a great place to learn.

Our meetings are a great way to stay connected. Parents receive updates from our principal about what's happening at school, learn about upcoming events, and have the opportunity to connect with other Falcon families.

WE NEED YOU! As we look ahead to the coming school year, we're at an important crossroads. Several of our longtime volunteers are stepping away, and we're looking for parents who are willing to help keep the Falcon Advisory Council going. Whether you're interested in serving in a leadership role or simply lending a hand, your involvement makes a difference. Without new volunteers, this organization may not be able to continue.

If you've ever wondered how you can support our school in a meaningful way, this is a wonderful opportunity. We hope you'll consider joining us and helping ensure the Falcon Advisory Council continues to enrich the experiences of our students and staff for years to come.

Join us for our first meeting October 12th at 6:00pm.



2026-2027 Meeting Dates:
October 12
January 14
April 5
All meetings are held at South Middle School in the Media Center (Room C203) at 6:00 PM.

Helpful Resources

2026-2027 Bell Schedule:

SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Connect • Discover • Succeed

2026-2027 Bell Schedule

Period 1	7:30-8:21*	51 Minutes
Period 2	8:25-9:13	48 Minutes
Period 3	9:17-10:05	48 Minutes
Period 4	10:09-10:57	48 Minutes
Period 5	11:01-12:31	60 Minutes
Lunch A	Lunch B	Lunch C
10:59-11:29 Lunch	11:01-11:31 Class	11:01-12:01 Class
11:31-12:31 Class	11:31-12:01 Lunch	
	12:01-12:31 Class	12:01-12:31 Lunch
Period 6	12:35-1:24	49 Minutes
Period 7	1:28-2:17	49 Minutes
Falcon Time	2:21-2:51	30 Minutes

*Pledge and Announcements

Fees and Athletics

Student Fees:

ALL students wear a SMS PE T-shirt during physical education classes. Sports participants will wear their PE T-shirts for sports competitions as well. As a 6th grader you will receive one free SMS Athletics T-shirt. Additional shirts can be purchased for $8.00.

Band, Orchestra and Choir students will receive one free T-shirt worn for performances. Fees are charged for instrument rental. Please contact your teacher for further information on prices.

Athletics participation requires that the student have a physical and emergency transportation card on file and up-to-date fees paid before they can practice. To learn more about Athletics, go to the SMS website and click Athletics.
Fees may be paid online at myschoolbucks.com or may be turned into the Board Office at 500 Main Street. All other forms go directly to the school or are submitted through RSchoolToday registration program.

Extra-curricular activities such as Forensics and Science Olympiad also require the emergency transportation form to be completed and fees paid before they compete in any competition. To learn more about these and other student activities, click Activities on the SMS website or contact Tom Rudolph (Athletic and Activities Director) at trudolph@ecasd.us.

Athletics:

SMS offers a variety of team and individual sports throughout the year. All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students are welcome to participate in our middle school athletic program. 6th grade students can participate in the programs marked with an asterisk (*).

Sports Seasons

FALL (9/1 - 10/29): Boys Soccer*, Cross Country*, Football, Girls Tennis, Volleyball
WINTER 1 (11/2 - 1/14): Boys Basketball, Dance*, Girls Swimming*
WINTER 2 (1/19- 3/18): Boys Swimming*, Girls Basketball, Wrestling*
SPRING (3/29 - 5/27): Boys Tennis, Girls Soccer*, Girls Softball*, Track and Field

For information and directions on registering for a sport, please click on the following link Intro to Middle School Athletics and Registration or go to the SMS website under the Athletics tab.

Essential information for all Sports! If your child is planning to participate in a SMS sport in the 2026-27 school year, please see the list below

- Visit the "Athletics and Registration" page on your school's website to register and pay for your athlete.
- Save the date for the athletics meetings for your school in August (listed below). If your child plans to participate in an athletic offering, please plan to attend this meeting.

SMS Athletics Information Meeting- Wednesday, August 26th at 3:00PM OR 4:30PM

First quarter sports practice:

- First practice for grades 7 & 8, Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 3:00 pm.
- First practice for grade 6, Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 3:00 pm.
- Practices run from 3:00 – 4:30 pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday.
- Some sports (volleyball and basketball) may require early/late practice due to the number of athletes and our facilities. These practices will run from 3:00-4:30 pm (early) and 4:30 – 6:00 pm (late).

Philosophy

All students have the right to participate in athletics regardless of their experience and ability level. SMS athletics is a "no cut" program and our coaches are expected to play everyone as equally as possible. Playing time could be adjusted if there are issues regarding attendance, attitude, effort, and cooperation.

Academic Eligibility

Each sport takes place during one academic quarter. Students involved in middle school athletics will be expected to follow the Middle School Athletic Code on our website. Students must maintain good behavior in school and must have passing grades in the academic quarter preceding participation (for example, a failing grade in 1st quarter will impact eligibility for 2nd quarter sport).
Questions regarding sports contact Tom Rudolph, trudolph@ecasd.us

More from SMS

Food Drive During Open House – August 26

During our Open House on August 26, we will be collecting donations for our school food drive. Items can be dropped off near **Door 2**—just look for the signs! Some of the most appreciated items at South include **individually packed snacks, instant oatmeal, granola bars, soups, crackers, pasta, mac & cheese, syrup, Pop-Tarts, protein bars, peanut butter, pancake mix, rice, and jelly**. Please ensure all items are **non-expired**. Thank you for your generosity in helping ensure that no student goes hungry!

6th Grade Beaver Creek Reserve

Attention 6th Grade Parents:

We're excited to announce our upcoming Beaver Creek Reserve Field Trip this fall! All 6th graders will go to Beaver Creek on **September 22 and 24**. Team J will attend on a Tuesday, September 22 and Team K will go on a Thursday, September 24. This hands-on outdoor experience is a fantastic opportunity for students to **connect** with nature, **discover** new interests, and **succeed** through teamwork and exploration. More information—including your child's team assignment—will be shared at the **6th Grade Open House on August 26, 2026**. We look forward to a great start to the school year!

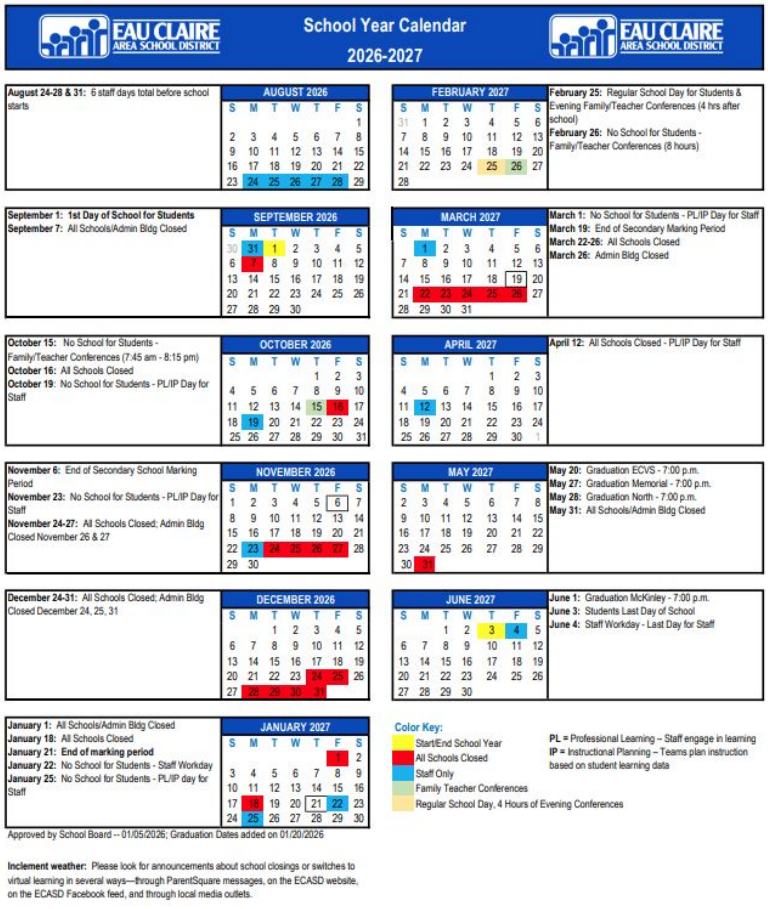
SMS Apparel Sale

SMS apparel will be available again. Watch for a Parent Square and/or Skyward message with a link to order merchandise.

Yearbooks!

2026-27 yearbooks may be purchased online at Jostens. The Back-to-School purchase price is $23.00, and it will increase as the school year progresses. Buy early to save money! https://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A09284600

ECASD Calendar



EAU CLAIRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Year Calendar 2026-2027

August 24-28 & 31: 6 staff days total before school starts

September 1: 1st Day of School for Students
September 7: All Schools/Admin Bldg Closed

October 15: No School for Students - Family/Teacher Conferences (7:45 am - 8:15 pm)
October 16: All Schools Closed
October 19: No School for Students - PL/IP Day for Staff

November 6: End of Secondary School Marking Period
November 23: No School for Students - PL/IP Day for Staff
November 24-27: All Schools Closed; Admin Bldg Closed November 26 & 27

December 24-31: All Schools Closed; Admin Bldg Closed December 24, 25, 31

January 1: All Schools/Admin Bldg Closed
January 18: All Schools Closed
January 21: End of marking period
January 22: No School for Students - Staff Workday
January 25: No School for Students - PL/IP day for Staff

February 25: Regular School Day for Students & Evening Family/Teacher Conferences (4 hrs after school)
February 26: No School for Students - Family/Teacher Conferences (8 hours)

March 1: No School for Students - PL/IP Day for Staff
March 19: End of Secondary Marking Period
March 22-26: All Schools Closed
March 26: Admin Bldg Closed

April 12: All Schools Closed - PL/IP Day for Staff

May 20: Graduation ECVS - 7:00 p.m.
May 27: Graduation Memorial - 7:00 p.m.
May 28: Graduation North - 7:00 p.m.
May 31: All Schools/Admin Bldg Closed

June 1: Graduation McKinley - 7:00 p.m.
June 3: Students Last Day of School
June 4: Staff Workday - Last Day for Staff

Color Key:
Start/End School Year
All Schools Closed
Staff Only
Family Teacher Conferences
Regular School Day, 4 Hours of Evening Conferences

PL = Professional Learning – Staff engage in learning
IP = Instructional Planning – Teams plan instruction based on student learning data

Approved by School Board -- 01/05/2026; Graduation Dates added on 01/20/2026

Inclement weather: Please look for announcements about school closings or switches to virtual learning in several ways—through ParentSquare messages, on the ECASD website, on the ECASD Facebook feed, and through local media outlets.



Make Your Mark on South

Annual school fundraisers. By making a financial contribution to South in place of sales or projects-based fundraiser, you get the opportunity to provide funds to our South Falcon Family to make a positive impact on our community. Please see the form in this packet for more information.

DISTRICT INFORMATION

2026-2027 Meal Information

Information about menus, free & reduced breakfast and lunch, meal pricing, etc. will be available in the Food and Nutrition section of the District mailing or checking the ECASD Food and Nutrition page as it becomes available.

The Eau Claire Area School District Food and Nutrition Program uses a prepayment system. For convenience, ease, and speed through the meal service line, we encourage parents to pre-pay for meals by:

- Using www.myschoolbucks.com and paying by credit or with debit card
- Sending a check to school with your student
- Sending cash to school with your student (no change will be given to students-any excess funds will be put on their account)

If you send cash or a check, please place it in an envelope and include your student's name, grade, and PIN number on the envelope. We are not able to accept credit or debit card payments over the phone or at the point-of-service. Students may also pay cash at the point-of-service.

All money remaining in student accounts at the end of the school year will remain in that account over the summer unless a parent requests a transfer of the money to another student (sibling) within the ECASD or a refund of the money. Parents requesting transfers or refunds may contact: 715-852-3061 or email pcampbell1@ecasd.us

Breakfast is served from 7:10 – 7:25 each morning. One of the best tools to help students succeed is to make sure they eat a healthy breakfast. We encourage all students to eat a nutritious breakfast whether at school or at home.
Lunch options: Students can choose to bring lunch from home, eat from our school lunch program and/or purchase items from our ala carte line.

We Care Eau Claire

This year's We Care Eau Claire event is scheduled for Monday, August 17, from 4:00-7:00 pm, at Phoenix Park.
This event is for ECASD families needing assistance with back-to-school supplies. Learn more about We Care Eau Claire by visiting their website at www.wecareeauclaire.com or find the event on Facebook.

Dress Code (Board Policy 443.1)

The District recognizes that each student's mode of dress is an expression of personal style and individual preference. Therefore, responsibility for making student dress decisions will generally rest with the students themselves and their families, except when their choices cause a health or safety concern or interfere with the educational program or school operations.

To assure a healthy and safe school environment for students, the following student dress code guidelines will be enforced:

- No student shall be permitted to wear any clothing or jewelry that contains pictures and/or writing referring to alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, sexual references, profanity, promotion of gambling, illegal drugs and/or gangs. Clothing items that cause intimidation or disrupt the learning of others are prohibited. Students will not wear clothing that defames, insults, threatens, harasses, or injures any racial or cultural groups or individuals.
- Specific requirements may be necessary to assure safety in certain areas such as PE, art, band, science labs, kitchens, and technology education work areas, i.e., safety glasses, hair nets, etc.

This policy applies during the school day, in school vehicles, and at school sponsored activities. The building principal will inform staff, students, and families of this policy annually and provide for the fair and consistent enforcement of the policy.

If there is a disagreement between staff and students and/or their families regarding the appropriateness of a student's attire, the principal has the authority to make this decision and determine the actions that will be taken to deal with the matter.

DISTRICT INFORMATION

Health Information

ECASD nurses welcome you and your child to middle school! The nurse's office is near Student Services. Hours vary and students can check with the Student Services secretary for availability. School nurse information can be found on the SMS Website under Students & Families under School Nurse. The SMS school nurse can be reached at (715)852-5270 or contact SMS.

State Law requires that all immunizations be up to date within 30 days of entering the school system. New students will be asked to complete the immunization card at registration; all others are requested to notify the school when your child receives additional immunizations. Please take the opportunity to take care of this prior to the start of school.

Immunization Requirements for incoming 6th graders - Tdap & Varicella, dose 2
Waivers for personal, religious, or health reasons remain an option for parents. If you have any questions, please contact your school nurse or family physician.

Medications - Allergies, Asthma, ADHD, Cardiac Conditions, Diabetes, and Seizure Conditions.

All medical forms and health plans must be updated at the start of each school year as they do not carry over from year to year. Diet modifications are good for the duration of the student's enrollment in the ECASD.

ECASD Medication Procedures:
When medications are needed during the school day, ECASD policy and guidelines must be followed. These guidelines are in place for the protection of all students.
For ANY medication (prescription or over the counter, such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen) to be allowed in school, a completed Medication Management form with authorization by physician/licensed prescriber and parent/guardian must be on file with the school nurse.
There are two options of medications at school:

1. Parents can request that the medication be administered by a school staff member. The completed form must be returned to the school nurse before administering the medication.
2. Students can carry their own medication. This is not the encouraged practice, but it is allowed if these guidelines are followed:
    a. ECASD Medication management form-written authorization by a physician/licensed prescriber and parent/guardian must be on file with the school nurse. The physician must indicate on the form that the student can carry and self-administer the medication. The completed form must be returned to the school nurse before the student carries the medication.
    b. Each prescribed medication must be in its own pharmacy labeled package which includes the student's name, current date, the correct dosage, time to be taken, and physician/licensed prescriber's name. Nonprescription medications are to be supplied in the original manufacturer's container that lists the ingredients and recommended dose.

Student Discrimination Complaints

If any person believes that the Eau Claire Area School District or any part of the school organization has failed to follow the law and rules of §118.13, Wis. Stats., the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title IX, Title VI, or Section 504 or in some way discriminates against students on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability he/she can bring or send a complaint to Michelle Golden, Executive Director of Human Resources, 500 Main Street, Eau Claire, WI 54701. Ms. Golden can be contacted at 715-852-3008.

Complaints relating to the identification, evaluation, placement, or provision of a free appropriate education of a child with a disability shall be resolved by procedures authorized in state and federal law. Also, complaints under federal law commonly referred to as EDGAR complaints (i.e., that the state or a subgrantee is violating a federal statute or regulation that applies to a program) shall be referred directly to the State Superintendent of Schools.

To access any of the links in this publication, a copy of this newsletter is posted on the SMS website.
http://www.ecasd.us/South-Middle-School/Home