

NORTHSTAR NOTES

Northstar Calendar

October

6 Family Teacher Council Meeting, 6:00pm
8-9 Mile Run in Phy Ed Classes
15 Family Teacher Conferences, 7:45am-8:15pm
16 No School
19 No School, PL/IP Day for Staff
22 Lifetouch Photo Retake Day
30 Halloween Dress Up Day

November

2 Start of Q2 Athletics
6 End of Quarter 1
10 Family Teacher Council Meeting, 6:00pm
13 Polar Party, 2:51-4:15pm
23-27 No School

[2026-27 School Year Calendar]

[2026-27 Calendario del Año Escolar]

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



MEET OUR STUDENT SERVICES STAFF!

Welcome

We welcome students and parents/guardians to the 2026-2027 school year. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact their student's counselor with any questions they may have. We look forward to working with you and your student. To learn more about Northstar Student Services and numerous other community resources, please check out the Northstar Student Servies webpage **here**.

Contact Information

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

Ms. Katarina House
School Psychologist
715-852-5165
khouse1@ecasd.us

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

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

Ms. Emily Bleick
School Counselor (Last Names N-Z)
715-852-5118
ebleick1@ecasd.us



Student Services

Student Information

We want to help your child be as successful as possible here at Northstar. We are aware that changes/events outside of school can have a substantial impact on a student's ability to focus and learn in school. Some of these impactful changes/events include: parents separating or divorcing, death of a family member or friend, significant change in socio-economic status or financial concerns, welcoming a new sibling, parent re-marrying, new step-siblings, etc. If your student or family is experiencing such an occurrence, please consider sharing this information with your student's school counselor so we can best meet their needs.

Student Conferencing for 6th Graders

In the coming weeks, we will begin meeting with all 6th grade students. We do this to get to know each student individually so we can better support all students during their three years at Northstar. We will cover personal/social/academic/career information during these meetings. These meetings will be scheduled to minimally disrupt the student's classes.

Academic and Career Planning (ACP)

Throughout the school year, your student will engage in several academic and career planning activities. What is ACP and why is it important? Academic and career planning allows students to become more self-aware, learn more about post-secondary options and resources, and practice lifelong skills that will allow them to be successful, productive citizens. The goal is to have all ECASD students graduate community, college, and career-ready!

Student Services

8th Grade Save-the-Date

- **November 18th**–JA in a Day Career Event at Northstar in the morning.
- **November 19th**–JA in a Day Community Field Trips in the afternoon.
- Please contact Jenni Berg at 715.852.5119 or jberg@ecasd.us with questions regarding this event.

School Supply Resources



In need of backpacks or miscellaneous school supplies? We are here to help! Please contact your student's School Counselor, Ms. Berg (last name A-M) at jberg@ecasd.us/715-852-5119 or Ms. Bleick (last name N-Z) at ebleick1@ecasd.us/715-852-5118 or School Social Worker, Ms. Dunbar at kdunbar1@ecasd.us/715-852-5114, and we will help get you what you need.

Kitchen Cupboard Food Pantry

- For Northstar families who could use assistance keeping cupboards stocked and stretching their grocery budget. Hygiene and household products also available.
- **Kitchen Cupboard Order Form**. Paper copies available by request.
- Pick up orders Tuesday - Friday (7:00 am - 3:30 pm) in Northstar's main office.
- If you are interested in donating to the Kitchen Cupboard, please contact akikilas1@ecasd.us or kdunbar1@ecasd.us.

Student Services

Mental Health Resources

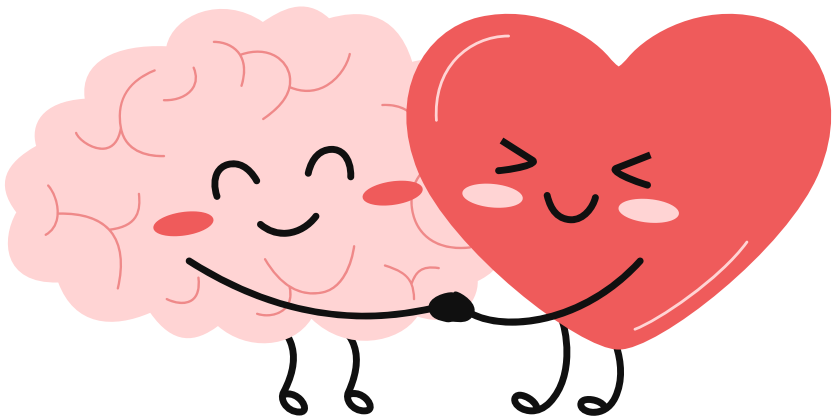
September we recognized National Suicide Awareness Month. This is a time to focus on getting people to speak more openly about mental health struggles and learn how to recognize the signs that someone might be thinking about suicide. Below are some resources for suicide prevention and mental health resources and supports.

https://www.cartwheel.org/asset/suicide-awareness-month-toolkit

https://www.ecasd.us/departments/student-services-special-education/school-based-mental-health-services

If your student metions wanting to harm themselves, ALWAYS take it seriously! This includes comments about dying, self-harm, being “gone”, no longer around, or an attempt to end their life. Act right away on your student’s comments. Call your doctor and/or your healthcare provider. If there is an immediate emergency, call 911.

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to Student Services staff.



Student Services



Chronic absenteeism is a critical issue affecting students' academic success and overall well-being. It refers to students missing 10% or more of school days for any reason, including excused and unexcused absences. This persistant absence can lead to significant gaps in learning, lower grades, and increased dropout rates. Addressing chronic absenteeism is essential for ensuring that all students have the opportunity to succeed academically and thrive personally. Our school district is committed to identifying the causes of absenteeism and implementing effective strategies to support regular attendance and foster a postive school environment.

Student Services may contact you to help develop a plan to improve attendance once students begin to miss past the parent excused absences limit (10 excused).

We want your student here at Northstar and are available to help discuss barriers that may be impacting your child's attendance.
Every Student - Every Day!

Attendance - Eau Claire Area School District
Chronic Absenteeism - Eau Claire Area School District

From the Principal's Desk

Supporting Student Learning through Infinite Campus and Standards-Based Grading

Dear Polar Families,

Welcome to another school year of positive experiences and new learning at Northstar!

As part of our distict's committment to provide clear and meaningful information about student learning, all ECASD Middle and High Schools are implementing both the Infinite Campus Student Information System and a Standards-Based Grading and Reporting System this year. The goal of this transition is to help students, families, and staff better understand what students are expected to learn and student progress in each of their classes. Standards-based reporting focuses on a student's proficiency (basic, approaching, meeting, or exceeding) within specific standards rather than accumulating points. When done well, this system creates greater clarity around strengths, areas for growth, and helps identifiy next steps for learning.

Standards-based grading also distinguishes what students learn academically from how they engage in and take responsibility for their learning at Northstar. Our newly identified "Life Ready Dispositions" - Self-Management, Perseverance, Collaboration, and Responsibility - will help students and staff better understand and measure the skills needed for success at Northstar and beyond. We look forward to discussing these dispositions with you at our upcoming Student-Centered Conferences in October!

We recognize that both Infinite Campus and Standards-Based Grading are significant changes, and we are committed to supporting students and families in this transition. Our goal is to ensure that every family feels informed, supported, and confident in understanding their child's growth and achievement.

I am excited for another great year at Northstar! Go Polars!

Adam Keeton, Principal

Announcements

Lifetouch

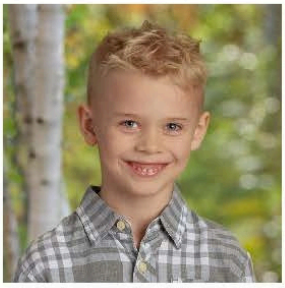
Picture Retake Day is Coming!

¡Ya llega el Día de las nuevas tomas fotográficas!

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Northstar Middle School Retake Day!

Scan to order now!
¡Echa un vistazo para encargar ahora!





How it Works:

Students are photographed on Picture Retake Day. Bring original package if available!

You can still order on mylifetouch.com. Create an account or login with your Picture Day ID: **EVTP77M6K**

Orders will be sent home with your student after Picture Retake Day.

Cómo funciona: Los estudiantes son fotografiados el Día de las Nuevas Tomas Fotográficas. Trae paquete original ¡si está disponible!
Aún puedes encargar en mylifetouch.com. Crea una cuenta o inicia sesión con tu identificación del Día de la Foto.
Los pedidos serán enviados a tu casa con tu estudiante después del Día de las Nuevas Tomas Fotográficas.

Questions? Contact our Help Center at lifetouch.com/support-us. Select K-12 School Photography for assistance.
¿Preguntas? Comunícate con nuestro Centro de Ayuda en lifetouch.com/support-us. Selecciona Fotografía Escolar K-12 para recibir asistencia.

F26REEFUS © 2026 Shutterfly Lifetouch, LLC

Picture Retakes: Thursday, October 22

- Families can order pictures at **mylifetouch.com** with the ID: EVTP77M6K
- Families that would like picture retakes should return their original photo package on picture retake day.
- All students should have a photo taken for their student ID.

Announcements

Royal Credit Union Returns to Northstar!

ROYAL CREDIT UNION
MIDDLE SCHOOL

COMING UP...

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

OPENING DAY IS OCTOBER 23!

If your student would like to sign up for our program, follow this link to open an account www.rcu.org/schoolaccounts.

LINK HERE

We welcome your questions about Royal Credit Union and how you can get your student started saving at school.

QUESTIONS??

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



MONEY PERSONALITIES

Have you ever wondered why some people love to save money while others enjoy spending it right away? Everyone has different attitudes and habits when it comes to money.

Take this quick, fun personality quiz to discover how your attitudes and habits influence the way you handle money. Learn whether you're a Saver, Spender, Giver, Safe Seeker, Risk Taker, or Flyer, and gain insights that can help you make smart financial decisions in the future. https://rcu.enrich.org/personality

LINK HERE



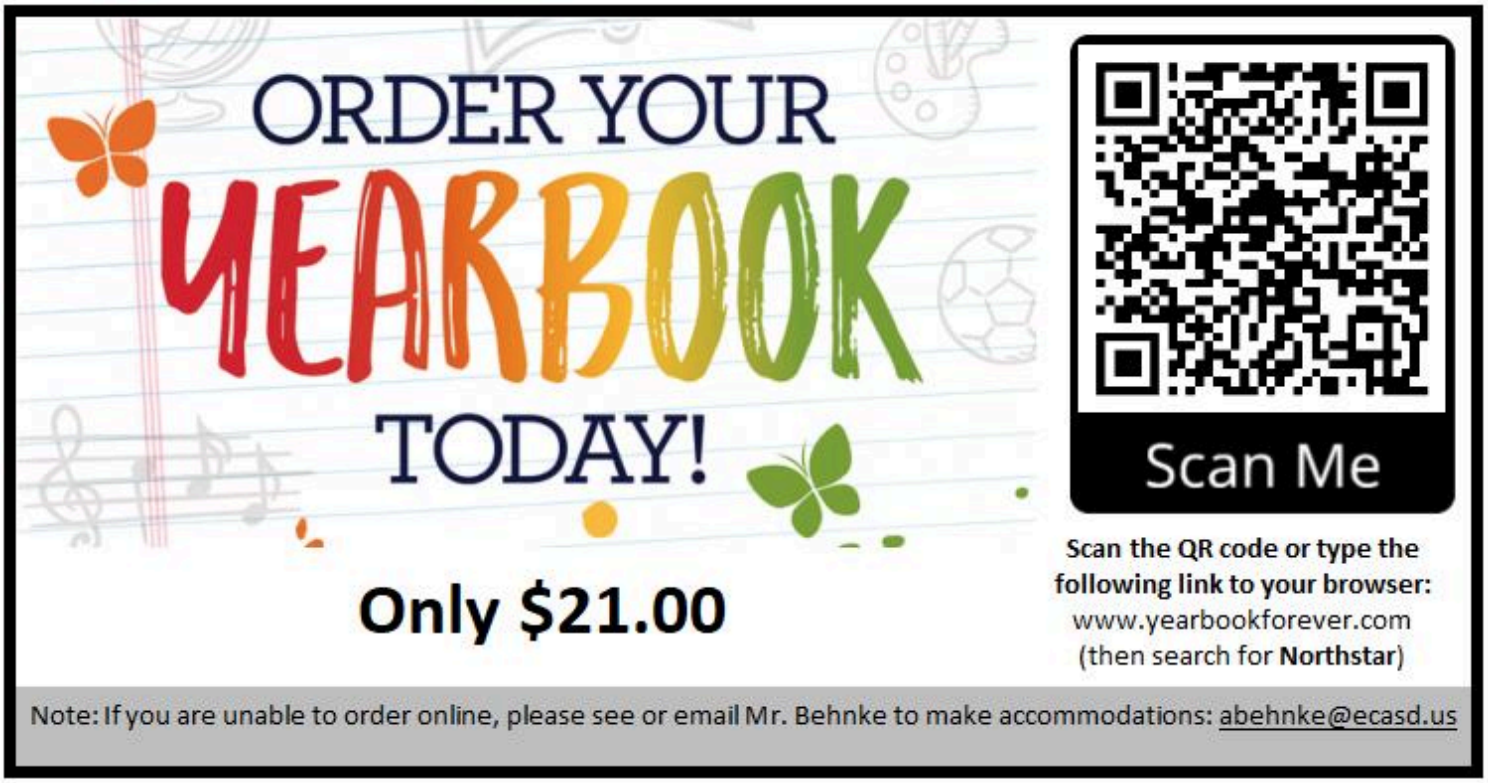
Announcements

MATHCOUNTS is Back

Northstar Middle School is excited to kick off another season of MATHCOUNTS starting in early November! This fun and challenging mathematical competition is perfect for students who love problem-solving and want to push their skills to the next level. The last two years, Northstar students proudly advanced all the way to the state level, and we're aiming even higher this year. Whether you're a seasoned math enthusiast or just curious to try something new, MATHCOUNTS promises a rewarding experience for all participants! Any questions? Reach out to Northstar Math Teacher and MATHCOUNTS advisor Mr. Burg at jburg@ecasd.us or 715-852-3466.

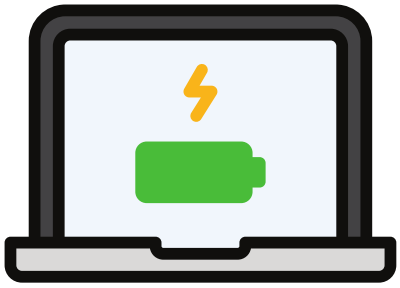
Northstar Apparel Order

An online store with Northstar apparel and merchandise is open now through October 4, 2026! All orders will be delivered to Northstar Middle School and distributed to your Northstar student(s). Shop Here - Products - Northstar Middle School Family Sept 2026 - Close Up Apparel



Announcements

Technology Tips



- Northstar families, please remind your students to:
  - Be careful with the devices.
  - Close the chromebook with the keyboard/screen on the inside when transporting.
  - Report any damage promptly - the glass screens can shatter into small, sharp fragments.
  - Plug in their computers each night.
  - Bring their device to school each day. Loaners are only checked out for STAR or Forward testing.

Thanks for helping our students arrive at school ready for the day!

Sign Up for Quarter 2 Sports

- Quarter 2 Sports will begin on Tuesday, November 3 and run through Thursday, January 14.
- Sports offered include boys basketball (grades 7 and 8), girls swimming (all grades), and dance (all grades).
- To sign up:
  1) Complete online registration **here**.
  2) Make sure your student has a valid sports physical on file. Physicals are valid for two years from the date of examination and must be signed by the physician.
  3) Pay the athletics fee at **myschoolbucks.com**. Free and reduced lunch also qualify for free and reduced athletic fees.



Announcements

Fall Family Conferences

- **Thursday, October 15** from **7:45am - 8:15pm**
- Families may choose in-person, video conferencing via Microsoft Teams, by phone, or a hybrid combination of one adult in-person and another via teams.
- Details on how to schedule a conference, including the Microsoft Bookings links necessary to sign up for individual conferences with your student(s) teachers, will be emailed early October. Make sure to check your email for the links to sign up!
- We are excited for this opportunity to connect with you! If you are unable to schedule a conference, please reach out to the teacher via email to connect regarding your child's progress, questions you may have, and more.

Community Events & Resources

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



Is your student leaving school for an appointment?

- If your student is leaving school for an appointment, the preferred method is to send a note with them the morning of the appointment. They should stop in the office upon arrival at school to get a pass. This ensures that they can present the pass to the teacher at the time they are going to be picked up. If you have made a parent requested absence in Infinite Campus, they should stop in the office upon arrival to school to pick up their pass. This process ensures that teaching time is not interrupted.

Announcements

Student Council

The next Student Council meeting will be Tuesday, October 6th at 7:00am in the library. At this meeting, students will reflect on the first Polar Party, write Thank You notes, and begin planning for the next Polar Party. Students interested in being a part of Student Council should contact Ms. Dunbar.

Polar Party on November 13!

- Polar Parties are a staff and volunteer supervised activity for all Northstar students and happen quarterly.
- Polar Parties are planned by Student Council.
- Activities included at a Polar Party could include: open gym, open pool, music in the Commons, Karaoke, board games, concessions, and more!

The second Polar Party of the school year will be on Friday, November 13th after-school until 4:15pm. Please arrange for a ride home promptly at 4:15pm if your student is attending.



Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming! SAVE THE DATE for October 12-15th and get your reader psyched to pick out their own books! Start exploring together: **Book Fair Flipbook**
Sales will be during the school day October 12-14th and during Family Conferences on October 15th.

Announcements

Medication Safety is for Everyone!

Protect the people and pets in your house, our environment, and the community by properly disposing of any expired or unwanted medicine. There are 12 drop boxes in Eau Claire County where you may dispose of any prescription, over the counter, or pet medicine year-round for free - no questions asked! Learn more at https://www.echealthalliance.org/news/medication-drop-box-locations

ALTOONA

Altoona Emergency Services
1904 Spooner Ave.

AUGUSTA

Augusta City Hall
145 W. Lincoln St.

FAIRCHILD

Fairchild Village Hall
331 Oak St.

FALL CREEK

Fall Creek Village Hall
122 E. Lincoln Ave.

EAU CLAIRE

CVS Pharmacy
2200 Brackett Ave.

Eau Claire County Government Center
(Law Enforcement Center)
721 Oxford Ave.

Eau Claire County Jail Lobby
710 2nd Ave.

Hy-Vee
2424 E. Clairemont Ave.

Marshfield Medical Center Medical Offices
2116 Craig Rd.

Mayo Clinic Health System
1400 Bellinger St.

Mayo Clinic Health System
733 W. Clairemont Ave.

UW - Eau Claire
Police Department
Crest Wellness Center
630 Hilltop Circle

This information is provided by the Eau Claire City-County Health Department (https://www.eauclairecounty.gov/departments/health/)





Announcements

Multilingual Family Night focused on Infinite Campus

Multilingual families are invited to join us for a Multilingual Family Night focused on Infinite Campus. This session will provide a basic introduction to Infinite Campus, including its purpose and how families can use it to:

- View grades and student information
- Report absences
- Check student schedules
- View transportation and busing information
- Update important family information

After the introduction, families will split into two groups:

Families with an Infinite Campus account: Families will work in small groups to review and update information such as addresses, phone numbers, emergency contacts, language needs, interpreter needs, and other important information.
Families without an Infinite Campus account: Families will recieve support with downloading the app, setting up an account, resetting passwords, and accessing their account. They will then have an opportunity to review and update the information listed above.

This event is designed to support **multilingual families throughout the district.** Interpretation will be available in **Spanish, Hmong, Vietnamese, Arabic, Chuukese, and Pohnpeian.**

Event Details:
Thursday, October 1
5:30-7:00pm
North High School - Husky Forum

Click here for flyers! (Spanish, Hmong, Vietnamese, Arabic, Chuukese, and Pohnpeian)

Announcements



Does something look familiar? Please have your student check our Lost & Found tables and rack outside the main office if you are missing anything. We will be moving and donating items after Family Conferences on October 15th.





Announcements

Vaccine Clinics

Stay healthy, stay in school!

Needed for school!

WEDNESDAY SEP 30 2026

3:30–6:30 pm
Northstar Middle School
2711 Abbe Hill Drive
Eau Claire, WI

WEDNESDAY OCT 7 2026

3:30–6:30 pm
South Middle School
2115 Mitscher Avenue
Eau Claire, WI



$ COST

If you have insurance, your insurance company will be billed. Please bring your insurance card. If you do not have insurance, there will be no cost to you.

NO REGISTRATION

You do not need to pre-register. Come to either location between 3:30 and 6:30 pm. School staff may contact you if your child needs vaccines.

VACCINES

We have the following school required vaccines: DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis), Hepatitis B, MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella), Polio, Varicella, and limited quantities of Tdap and Meningococcal.

EAU CLAIRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
NorthLakes COMMUNITY CLINIC

Announcements

Clínicas de Vacunación

Mantente sano. Sigue en la escuela.

Necesaria para la escuela!

MIÉRCOLES 30 DE SEP 2026

3:30–6:30 pm
Northstar Middle School
2711 Abbe Hill Drive
Eau Claire, WI

MIÉRCOLES 7 DE OCT 2026

3:30–6:30 pm
South Middle School
2115 Mitscher Avenue
Eau Claire, WI



$ COSTO

Si tiene seguro, se facturará a su compañía de seguros. Por favor traiga su tarjeta de seguro. Si no tiene seguro, no habrá ningún costo para usted.

SIN REGISTRO

No es necesario que se registre previamente. Venga a cualquiera de los dos lugares entre las 4 y las 6 pm. El personal de la escuela puede comunicarse con usted si su hijo o hija necesita vacunas.

VACUNAS

Tenemos las siguientes vacunas requeridas por la escuela: DTaP (Difteria, Tétanos, Tos Ferina), Hepatitis B, MMR (sarampión, paperas, rubéola), Poliomielitis, Varicela y cantidades limitadas de Tdap y Meningococo.

EAU CLAIRE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
NorthLakes COMMUNITY CLINIC

Announcements

ECASD Black / Biracial PTA®

Scan to Become a Member for only $15 a Year

https://blackandbiracial.givebacks.com/shop/items/eec6bb7ec19947

2026-2027 School Year Meeting Dates

ALL MEETINGS HELD AT BANBURY PLACE BUILDING #2 at 6-7PM

Banbury Place Building #2
800 Wisconsin St.
Eau Claire, WI 54703

- September 9, 2026 - Gillette Conference Room, 4th Floor
- October 7, 2026 - Eau Claire Conference Room, 3rd Floor
- November 11, 2026 - Eau Claire Conference Room, 3rd Floor
- December 9, 2026 - Gillette Conference Room, 4th Floor
- January 6, 2027 - Gillette Conference Room, 4th Floor
- March 10, 2027 - Gillette Conference Room, 4th Floor
- April 14, 2027 - Gillette Conference Room, 4th Floor
- May 12, 2027 - Gillette Conference Room, 4th Floor

ALL ARE WELCOME
who support our mission

Meeting RSVP & Agenda
https://forms.gle/egZAapodKojbfhpf6

Questions? Ask: ecasdblackandbiracialpta@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities

Wow! Thank you for the amazing response to the Mile Run and Polar Party volunteer opportunities this fall! We are still looking for a few volunteers to help with the Polar Mile Run on October 8. Volunteers will help refuel our students with fresh fruit and Gatorade after they finish the mile. If you'd like to volunteer, you can sign up here!

The Eau Claire Area School District's volunteer approval process was updated August 2026. Starting with the 2026-27 school year, all volunteers must complete a training, submit the volunteer agreement, and pass a background check annually. If you sign up to volunteer, we will reach out with more information on how to complete these steps.

The next volunteer opportunity will be at the Polar Party on Friday, November 13. Polar Parties are held after school from 2:51-4:15pm.

Thank you again for volunteering! You help shape Northstar into the great community that it is.





Polar Highlights



Northstar students had a great time at the first Polar Party of the year!

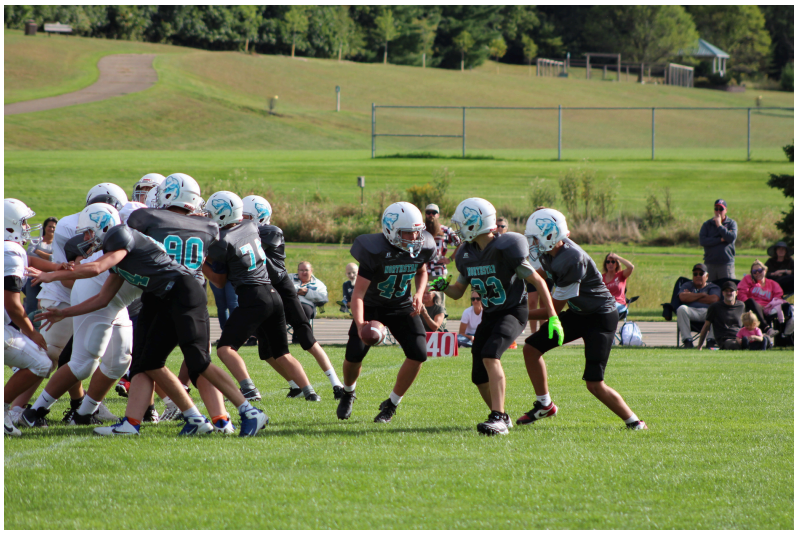






Polar Highlights

Quarter 1 sports are in full swing! Competition schedules can be viewed **here**.













Polar Highlights











Important Links

Northstar Middle School Website	ECASD 2026-27 School Year Calendar Calendario del Año Escolar 2026-27
October Lunch Menu October Lunch Menu (Spanish)	ECASD Community Events and Resources
Infinite Campus Family Portal • 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 Family Teacher Council 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