

# Zemmer 8/9 Campus News

Principal, Dr. Jeff Stanton  
Associate Principal, Mr. Zach Hamilton  
Dean of Students, Mr. Jack Chittle  
Head Secretary, Mrs. Ann Vierk  
Athletic/Attendance Secretary, Mrs. Ann Tiffany  
Auxiliary Secretary, Mrs. Lisa Huff



1920 W Oregon Road, Lapeer, MI 48446  
Ph (810) 667-2413  
Office Hours 7:00am–3:30pm  
[zemmer.lapeerschools.org](http://zemmer.lapeerschools.org)

August 2020

## Office Hours

Regular office hours at Zemmer 8/9 Building are 7am - 3:30pm. To facilitate a prompt response to telephone calls, direct lines are provided. The telephone numbers are as follows:

**Main Office** 667-2413  
**Attendance Office** x3402  
**Counseling Office**  
**Mrs. Spisz** x3410  
Counselor (A-K)  
**Mrs. Vanooteghem** x3409  
Counselor (L-Z)  
**Dean of Students** x3405  
Jack Chittle  
(Discipline Related Issues)  
**Associate Principal** x3404  
Zach Hamilton  
(Athletics/Discipline)  
**Principal** x3403  
Dr. Jeff Stanton

The building opens at 7am. After school, students should leave the building by 2:30pm unless involved in a supervised activity or class. The Media Center and the cafeteria are open until 3:25pm for students who need space to work.

## First Day of School

The first day of the new school year is **Monday, August 31st**. The school day will begin promptly at **7:40 a.m.** and will be a full day, with students dismissed at **2:25 p.m.** They will be given important introductory materials during class. Students will typically attend six classes, a thirty-minute I-Connect class, and have a thirty-minute lunch period each day.

## Principal's Message

Welcome back to the start of another school year here at the Zemmer 8/9 Campus! Hopefully this newsletter finds your family safe and healthy. Unfortunately, the start of the 2020-2021 academic year will be unlike any other. We all are currently dealing with the many limitations the Coronavirus pandemic presents, and K-12 schools are no different. The safety of our students has always been, and will continue to be of utmost importance and our instructional plan for this school year will reflect this. **Please understand that what is presented in this newsletter is subject to change at any time based on guidance from our Governor, the Michigan Department of Education, and the Lapeer County Health Department.** With that being said, I will try to be as clear and transparent as possible, and provide families with our current plans to help you prepare for the start of the school year. **Any changes to the instructional plan or registration will be communicated to families as soon as possible.**

## Lapeer Community Schools District "Return to School" Plan

Please go the following link to read the LCS return to school plan that was communicated to all families last week. <https://lcsblog.com/2020/07/29/the-comeback-re-opening-update-for-july-29/>

### Instructional Plan Basics

Guidance from the "MI Safe Schools Return to School Roadmap" provides "required" and "strongly recommended" safety protocols to keep school communities safe based on the status of the coronavirus. If you have not had a chance to review this document, you can find it at:

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/whitmer/MI\\_Safe\\_Schools\\_Roadmap\\_FINAL\\_695392\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/whitmer/MI_Safe_Schools_Roadmap_FINAL_695392_7.pdf)

This document lays out the guidelines for schools reopening based on the current phase of reopening the State is in. The most likely scenarios are that we will be in Phase 4 (the phase we are currently in) or Phase 3. The difference between the two phases is a big one though. Phase 4 allows for in-person instruction while Phase 3 allows for only online instruction. Because these are the most likely scenarios, this newsletter will focus only on the instructional plan for these two phases.

### Phase 4 Instructional Plan (In-person Instruction)

Under the Phase 4 instructional plan, students will attend school at the Zemmer 8/9 Campus with the following changes and safety precautions in place, that adhere to the requirements and recommendations laid out in the MI Safe Schools Return to School Roadmap. In an effort to be succinct in this newsletter, only the main precautions will be listed. Please refer to the FAQ posted on the LCS website for more detailed information. You can find that here: [Lapeer Community Schools Return to School Roadmap FAQ](#)

- All students and staff are required to wear facial coverings (required by MI Safe Schools Return to School Roadmap).
- Additional cleaning protocols will be in place
- Additional hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes will be available
- Adjustments to lunch schedules will be made to promote social distancing and adhere to requirements
- Adjustments to all seating and procedures to ensure social distancing is accomplished as much as possible

### Phase 3 Instructional Plan (Online Instruction)

The online instructional plan that was implemented in April of last school year was created in a very short amount of time with limited training for students, staff, and parents. While I strongly feel we put together a high quality instructional program in limited time under difficult circumstances, there was certainly room for improvement. Because we have had more time prepare, **our online instructional plan for the 2020-2021 school year (if needed) will be much more rigorous and robust.** The basics of this plan can be found [here](#). In the event the State is moved into Phase 3, the particulars of the online instructional plan will be communicated to families at that time.



## Mark Your Calendar!

### August 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Beginning of Athletic Clearance Process (See Athletics), 7am to 3:30pm

### August 10<sup>th</sup>

- HS Athletics begin

### August 24<sup>th</sup>

- Registration, 8am to 4pm

### August 25<sup>th</sup>

- Registration, 12:30pm to 8pm

### August 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>

- School Pictures, During Registration Times

### August 31<sup>st</sup>

- MS Athletics Begin (See Athletics for schedule)

### August 31<sup>st</sup>

- First Day of School, 7:40am (School opens at 7am)

### September 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>

- No School, Labor Day Weekend

### September 25<sup>th</sup>

- Picture Retakes During the school day

## School Pictures/ID's

School pictures will be taken during student registration/schedule pickup on **August 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>**, and all students are expected to have pictures taken. Beyond yearbook purposes, the picture will be used for issuing student identification cards.

Purchase of a picture package is optional. Information regarding pictures will be mailed home the first week of August within the packet.

Please make sure students dress appropriately for pictures.

Students who do not attend registration, or choose options #1 or #2 (don't enter the building) will have pictures taken on **Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> while school is in session.**

Yearbooks will be on sale during orientation and the first week of school during all lunch hours. Please order your yearbook online at [Jostensyearbooks.com](http://Jostensyearbooks.com).

## Registration Process

Regardless of what Phase of reopening we are in, student registration is an absolute must. Our goal for the registration process is to be as safe as possible while remaining efficient. There have been adjustments to the hours of registration from the tentative dates that were communicated in June. This is to accommodate safety measures and allow a longer period of time for families to attend. Registration dates at the Zemmer 8/9 Campus are as follows:

August 24 <sup>th</sup>	8:30AM to 12:00PM	Last Name A-K (both grades 8/9)
August 24 <sup>th</sup>	12:00PM to 4:00PM	Last Name L-Z (both grades 8/9)
August 25 <sup>th</sup>	12:30PM to 4:30PM	Last Name A-K (both grades 8/9)
August 25 <sup>th</sup>	4:30PM to 8:00PM	Last Name L-Z (both grades 8/9)

We will have three options available to register students. ***If the State is moved back to Phase 3 of reopening only Option #1 and Option #2 will be available.*** Registration options are as follows:

### Option #1 – NO ENTRY TO SCHOOL REQUIRED. Fill out forms before registration dates.

All families will be mailed registration forms the week of August 10th. Parents can fill out forms at home ahead of time and bring them to registration. This will save you a lot of time, provided you have all forms filled out correctly. Parents can pull up into the north parking lot (events entrance) where a staff member will take the documents into the building where another staff member will process them. **This option will allow you to complete the registration process without entering the school.** Upon completion, the student's schedule and any other necessary paperwork will be returned to parents in the parking lot. This will allow you to register your student without ever having to leave your vehicle and enter the school.

**\* Students will need to have school pictures taken on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>.**

### Option #2 – Drop Box – NO ENTRY TO SCHOOL REQUIRED

This option is the same as Option #1 except instead of waiting for a schedule you just drop the necessary paperwork off in a drop box that has been set in the parking lot. The drop box will be emptied periodically by staff and paperwork will be processed. **If choosing this option, you will not have access to a student schedule until they become available on Powerschool (sometime after August 26<sup>th</sup>) or students can get schedules the first day of school.**

**\* Students will need to have school pictures taken on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>.**

### Option #3 – Traditional registration and pictures. PHASE 4 ONLY. Not allowed under Phase 3 Guidelines.

This option is essentially what has always been done for registration. Parents and students will park in the north lot (events entrance) and enter the school. **Everyone entering the school must have a facial covering.** At that time, stations will be set up in the school for parents to fill out the necessary paperwork and receive student schedules. You can also fill out the forms that were mailed home and bring them to save time. After receiving schedules, students can walk the school to find their locker, see their classrooms, and just get acquainted with the school in general. If you are choosing Option #3, students will also have their picture taken, so they should be dressed appropriately. **Please understand that additional social distancing and safety requirements will be in place.** While this is much safer, it does potentially mean the process could take longer than you are accustomed to as we have to limit the number of families allowed in the building at one time.



PowerSchool's user-friendly and easy-to-navigate interface provides a convenient way to check your student's grades, attendance, school bulletins, notes from teachers, and any missing assignments. We highly recommend enabling the e-mail notifications in Power School to automatically receive daily, weekly, every other week, or monthly updates via e-mail. This eliminates the need to log into PowerSchool to check your student's progress and attendance.

If you currently do not have Internet access at home, we encourage you to access PowerSchool via computers at a public library or via a mobile device with the "PowerSchool for Parents" App. The website for PowerSchool is: [powerschool.lapeerschools.org](http://powerschool.lapeerschools.org). Please do not add "www" to the beginning of the website.

If you have previously accessed your student's information via PowerSchool, your Access ID and Password are the same. If you have never used PowerSchool, you will need your Access ID and Password from Zemmer. You may stop in the school office or call to get this information.

## Yearbook Pick-up

We understand that many students were not able to pick up their yearbook they purchased in June. Yearbooks will be available for pickup at registration. For 9<sup>th</sup> grade students (last year's 8<sup>th</sup> grade students), yearbooks will be available for pickup at Zemmer registration. For 10<sup>th</sup> grade students (last year's 9<sup>th</sup> grade students) yearbooks will be available for pickup **at Lapeer High School during their registration.**

## School Arrival and Departure

**Students who do not utilize busing are to be dropped off/picked up behind the Zemmer building in the North Parking lot. For students who have a late arrival or and early pick up they will be picked up in the front of the building and students must sign in/out at the front office.**

Students who are driven to school should not be dropped off earlier than 7:00 a.m. as that is when the building opens.

## Semester Periods

Lapeer Community Schools uses a semester grading system. Each semester is approximately 85 school days. At the mid-point of the semester, parent teacher conferences will be held. Report cards are emailed to parents two weeks after the conclusion of each semester.

## Student Meals

Student meals will be served beginning the first day of school. Breakfast is free to all students. Students qualifying for free or reduced lunch currently receive free lunch until October, but will need to fill out new forms to continue to receive them. Students not qualifying for free and reduced lunch will be charged \$3.00 per lunch.

Free and reduced lunch forms will be available at registration. These forms must be filled out each year. This form is also available on-line at the [www.lapeerschools.org](http://www.lapeerschools.org) website.

## Washington DC Trip

In these times of unknowns, the Washington DC committee would like everyone to know we are planning for the many variables that face us and at this time with face-to-face instruction being planned, we will continue to move forward and group students by hotel room and bus when we return in September. The final payment was due on Aug 1, however, due to these challenging times Brightspark is currently taking late payments. You will continue to be updated in newsletters or via School Messenger.



## Zemmer Virtual Book Fair

Due to the Covid19 situation, we will be holding our book fair virtually this year. The online event is on now through September 4. Please visit this site and buy your books. If you purchase \$25 in books, you will receive free shipping. It allows the opportunity to explore thousands of best-selling books, collections, new releases, educational toys, games, and more.

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/hbzemmermiddleschool1>

## Attendance Procedures

If a student is absent, a parent should do the following:

Call the Attendance Office, for students in grades 8-9, by dialing **direct (667-2413, ext. 3402)** to excuse the absence. Also, provide a note from the parent/guardian for the Attendance office on the first day back from an absence (the note should explain the reason for the absence.)

The attendance and truancy policy will be explained and provided to students during the first week of school. Please take the time to review this policy with your student. You can find these policies in the student handbook.

## Administering Prescription Medication at School

It is sometimes necessary for a student to be given medication while at school. To ensure the safety of the student, the State of Michigan requires the school to have a **School Medication Permission and Instruction Form** on file in the office. The form must indicate the amount of medication to be given and the time it is to be given. **The form must be signed by a doctor** and turned in to the office prior to any prescription medication being administered at school.



## Over the Counter Medication

Students are allowed to carry their own over the counter medications, or students may keep their medication in the main office. To do this **student must have an "Authorization for Self-Administration/Self-Possession of Over-the-Counter Medications" form on file in the office** in order to access their medication.



## Teacher Contact

Teachers may be contacted by using their email address at Zemmer 8/9 Campus. This is a quick and easy way to keep in touch with your child's individual instructors as well as all staff members. Email addresses are the first initial and last name of the [teacher@lapeerschools.org](mailto:teacher@lapeerschools.org).

Example: (Jane Smith) [jsmith@lapeerschools.org](mailto:jsmith@lapeerschools.org)

Information is available on the Lapeer Community Schools website at [www.lapeerschools.org](http://www.lapeerschools.org).

## Student Schedules

Schedules will be available at registration/schedule pickup. **Students need to bring schedules on the first day of class.** We also recommend students snap a picture of their schedule on their phone so they have a digital copy as well. Counselors will be stationed at the schedule table during registration. If there is a legitimate educational reason to reconsider a student schedule, please call the counseling department at 667-2413, (Mrs. Spisz: A-K: ext. 3410, Mrs. Van: L-Z: ext. 3409).



## Athletics

Zach Hamilton  
Associate Principal/Athletic Director  
Zemmer 8/9 Campus  
810-667-2413  
[zhamilton@lapeerschools.org](mailto:zhamilton@lapeerschools.org)

## Student Dress

Student dress and grooming is an important factor in establishing an appropriate atmosphere for learning. **Some popular styles may not meet the dress expectations of school.** Please be certain to review your handbook on this issue. **It is expected that all attire will meet the dress code expectations at all times.**

For the 2020-2021 school year, cleanliness is particularly important. Please make sure students are wearing clothing that is clean and has been properly washed. Students should also make sure that gym clothing is taken home as needed to be washed. Please encourage students to bring home clothes rather than store them in lockers. One thing we noticed when cleaning out lockers in the Spring is that a large number of lockers had sweatshirts, shorts, t-shirts, and other clothing items stored in them.

## Fall Sports Update

At this time, we plan to begin practices/play sports this fall as scheduled, provided that we remain in Phase 4-7 of the MI Safe Start Plan. Please understand that this is a rapidly changing, fluid situation. We will keep our parents and student athletes as informed as we possibly can as we move toward the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

In order to keep everyone as safe as possible, we will not conduct our Middle School (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) Fall Sports Parents' Meeting/Meet the Coach Night in person as we have done in the past. Instead, it will be a recorded informational presentation that will be posted to YouTube. The link will then be posted to our social media pages, VNN, and [www.lapeerlightning.com](http://www.lapeerlightning.com). In order to make sure that we have any potential updates and information as up to date as possible, the video will not be posted until mid to late August. In addition, the Meet the Coach portion of the meeting will be conducted by the coach of the individual sport at a later date.

The Athletic Clearance Process remains the same as it has been the last two years. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Athletes should turn in all paperwork to Mrs. Tiffany in the Zemmer main office prior to the start of the first practices. The Zemmer main office will be open for athletic clearance starting on Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7:00am to 3:30pm. The clearance process can be completed any week day until the first day of school. Both student and parent will need to be present for the clearance process in order to be able to fill out all paperwork (unless paperwork is pre-filled out). 9<sup>th</sup> grade students should complete the clearance process at LHS if possible, however, we can take care of it at Zemmer if it is more convenient. When athletes complete the clearance process, they will receive a bracelet that they need to wear to practices in order to participate.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Athletics Sign up

Signups for each individual sport are posted at the links below. If you have not yet signed up your student athlete for the sport they are interested in playing this fall, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Cross Country: <https://forms.gle/1e62qF9k23SEJahS8>

8th Grade Girls Basketball: <https://forms.gle/VU7WxRdCPVJGDFbq7>

8th Grade Football: <https://forms.gle/HuqSoo8mf3bgBQTb6>

8th Grade Sideline Cheer: <https://forms.gle/9NpKpuBjTh9Lx7v79>

All information regarding individual sports will be updated on the district athletics' website - <http://lapeerlightning.com>

9<sup>th</sup> grade athletics will start the week of August 10<sup>th</sup>. Check in regularly at [lapeerlightning.com](http://lapeerlightning.com) for up-to-date information regarding high school athletics.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Fall Athletic Clearance Process:

**Middle School Mandatory Fall Sports Parents Meeting/Meet the Coach Night** will be a recorded informational presentation which will be posted at a date TBD in mid to late August.

Both student and parent should be present at the clearance process in order to be able to fill out all necessary paperwork (unless the paperwork is pre-filled out).

The following items are available in the Zemmer office (which opens Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>) or online at <http://lapeerlightning.com> and MUST be turned in prior to first practice/tryout:

- All athletes must have a completed **2020-2021 MHSAA Physical** (dated April 15, 2020 or after – must be new form or sign waiver when turning in.) or a complete **MHSAA Health Questionnaire** (<https://www.mhsaa.com/portals/0/Documents/health%20safety/healthquestionnaire.pdf>) along with a valid **2019-2020 MHSAA Physical** (dated April 15, 2019 or after)
- All athletes must have a completed **Emergency Card**
- All athletes must have a signed **Athletic Code of Conduct Card** (parent & student signatures required)

**\*Pay to Participate must be paid in full before any athlete may participate in a game/contest/meet. Information will be forthcoming regarding when parents may begin paying pay-to-participate fees.**

**\*Please see the Athletic Code of Conduct for information on 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Eligibility requirements (grades) needed last year and current.**

**\*Impact Testing is required for all 9<sup>th</sup> graders, as well as 8<sup>th</sup> Graders participating in athletics that did not complete it last year as 7<sup>th</sup> grade student athletes:**

- Thursday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 2:30-3:30 p.m. @ Zemmer

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Tentative Fall Sports Practice Schedules:

Sport	Tentative Fall Practice Times/Dates (times may be subject to change)
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Girls' Basketball</b>	Practice/Tryouts: August 31 – September 4, 2020 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. @ Zemmer Gym
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Football</b>	Practice: August 31 – September 4, 2020 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. @ Zemmer Practice Field Conditioning: Tentatively set to start the week of Monday 8-24, more info to follow.
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Sideline Cheer</b>	Practice: August 31 – September 4, 2020 3:45 – 5:30 p.m. @ CFI
<b>Cross Country*</b>	Practice: August 31 – September 4, 2020 4:15-5:30 p.m. @ RW Campus

\* 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls who sign up for Cross Country will not need impact test.



## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Fall Athletics Information:

Shad Spilski  
Director of Innovation/District Athletic Director  
810-538-2367  
[sspilski@lapeerschools.org](mailto:sspilski@lapeerschools.org)

We are preparing for a great athletic year! We are currently planning for a 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade fall athletic season and will continue to provide updates when we receive them from the MHSAA related to COVID-19 and how it impacts educational athletics. Currently football begins on August 10<sup>th</sup> and all other fall sports, boys/girls cross country, girls golf, girls swimming, volleyball, boys soccer, boys tennis, and side-line cheer, begin on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Our athletic clearance will take place at the LHS athletic office on August 4<sup>th</sup> from 8am-3pm and will continue every day after that throughout the rest of the year. For student-athletes to be able to participate in Lapeer High School athletics this year, they need to complete the following list of items below.

- Code of Conduct
- Emergency Medical Form
- 2020/21 MHSAA Health Questionnaire (Used for athletes that have a 2019/20 physical on file)
- Current physical after April 15, 2020 (Used for athletes that DID NOT have a physical during the 2019-20 school year)

Once an athlete has all the proper paperwork turned into the athletic office, the athlete will meet with an administrator and receive their participation bracelet. The bracelet indicates that the athletes has met all of the clearance requirements and can participate in practice/tryouts. Athletes must have their bracelet to participate in practice/tryouts.

Please contact the LHS athletic office if you have any questions regarding high school athletics.