**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/](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](https://zemmer.lapeerschools.org)

- 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](https://zemmer.lapeerschools.org). 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.
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 24th</td>
<td>8:30AM to 12:00PM</td>
<td>A-K (both grades 8/9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 24th</td>
<td>12:00PM to 4:00PM</td>
<td>L-Z (both grades 8/9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 25th</td>
<td>12:30PM to 4:30PM</td>
<td>A-K (both grades 8/9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 25th</td>
<td>4:30PM to 8:00PM</td>
<td>L-Z (both grades 8/9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 25th.

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 26th) or students can get schedules the first day of school.

* Students will need to have school pictures taken on Friday, September 25th.

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.

Mark Your Calendar!

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

August 10th
- HS Athletics begin

August 24th
- Registration, 8am to 4pm

August 25th
- Registration, 12:30pm to 8pm

August 24th/25th
- School Pictures, During Registration Times

August 31st
- MS Athletics Begin (See Athletics for schedule)

August 31st
- First Day of School, 7:40am (School opens at 7am)

September 4th-7th
- No School, Labor Day Weekend

September 25th
- Picture Retakes During the school day

School Pictures/ID’s

School pictures will be taken during student registration/schedule pickup on August 24th and 25th, 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 25th 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.
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 9th grade students (last year’s 8th grade students), yearbooks will be available for pickup at Zemmer registration. For 10th grade students (last year’s 9th grade students) yearbooks will be available for pickup at Lapeer High School during their registration.

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. Example: (Jane Smith) jsmith@lapeerschools.org
Information is available on the Lapeer Community Schools website at www.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 (6th-8th 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. 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. 8th 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 3rd 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). 9th 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.

**8th 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](https://forms.gle/1e62qF9k23SEJahS8)

8th Grade Girls Basketball: [https://forms.gle/VU7WxRdCPVJGDfbqZ](https://forms.gle/VU7WxRdCPVJGDfbqZ)

8th Grade Football: [https://forms.gle/HuqSo8mf3bgfBQ7b6](https://forms.gle/HuqSo8mf3bgfBQ7b6)

8th Grade Sideline Cheer: [https://forms.gle/9NpKpu8jTh9L7v79](https://forms.gle/9NpKpu8jTh9L7v79)

All information regarding individual sports will be updated on the district athletics’ website - [http://lapeerlightning.com](http://lapeerlightning.com)

9th grade athletics will start the week of August 10th. Check in regularly at lapeerlightning.com for up-to-date information regarding high school athletics.
8th 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 3rd) 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 8th Grade Eligibility requirements (grades) needed last year and current.

*Impact Testing is required for all 9th graders, as well as 8th Graders participating in athletics that did not complete it last year as 7th grade student athletes:
  - Thursday, Sept. 3rd @ 2:30-3:30 p.m. @ Zemmer

8th Grade Tentative Fall Sports Practice Schedules:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Tentative Fall Practice Times/Dates (times may be subject to change)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8th Girls' Basketball</td>
<td>Practice/Tryouts: August 31 – September 4, 2020 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. @ Zemmer Gym</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Football</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Sideline Cheer</td>
<td>Practice: August 31 – September 4, 2020 3:45 – 5:30 p.m. @ CFI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country*</td>
<td>Practice: August 31 – September 4, 2020 4:15-5:30 p.m. @ RW Campus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 6th grade boys and girls who sign up for Cross Country will not need impact test.

9th Grade Fall Athletics Information:

Shad Spilski
Director of Innovation/District Athletic Director
810-538-2367
sspilski@lapeerschools.org

We are preparing for a great athletic year! We are currently planning for a 9th-12th 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 10th and all other fall sports, boys/girls cross country, girls golf, girls swimming, volleyball, boys soccer, boys tennis, and sideline cheer, begin on August 12th. Our athletic clearance will take place at the LHS athletic office on August 4th 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.