

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



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Office Hours 7:00am–3:30pm
zemmer.lapeerschools.org

October 2020

Principal's Message

We're off and running again! As you know, students returned this week on Wednesday and Thursday to face-to-face instruction. As of Monday, Oct. 5th, we will now be back with all students here at Zemmer. As was shared in the return to school plan, the school is taking every possible safety precaution to ensure we are safe and healthy. Some measures included in this are:

- Extensive cleaning and disinfecting of every desk in between classes.
- Over 50 additional hand sanitizing stations throughout the school including in every classroom.
- Students are required to wear masks appropriately throughout the day except for when they are eating lunch.
- Maximizing social distancing in hallways and classrooms.
- An elaborate system for tracking and reporting student illnesses appropriately.
- Allowing student backpack use throughout the day to limit time spent at lockers.
- Allowing students to utilize the outdoors between classes to get from one side of the building to the other.
- Limiting students at tables in the café during lunch and spreading out tables to include the stage area as well as the hallway right outside the café.

We hope that these steps will not only keep students and staff healthy and safe, but also will help prevent positive cases of Covid-19. With that being said, there are additional measures parents can take at home to help. This includes:

- Properly screening children at home before they come to school. Please go to the following link for more details on how to properly screen students.
http://www.lapeerschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_3097392/File/COVID-19%20Parent%20Screening%20Tool.pdf
- Erring on the side of caution and safety when it comes to sending students to school.
- Reporting absences and potential Covid-19 exposures to the school in a timely and efficient manner

If the last 6 months have taught us anything, it is that the absolute best education students can get is with face-to-face instruction here in school with their teachers. The more careful we are with all these safety measures the more likely we will be able to continue in this manner.

District Procedures for Sick Students

As mentioned, the district has instituted a rigorous process for when students come to the office feeling ill. The first part of this process is to ask the student what their symptoms are. **If a student reports that they have ANY (just one) of the symptoms associated with Covid-19 (sore throat, headache, stomach ache, coughing, difficulty breathing, etc.) they will be REQUIRED to go home. No students will be allowed to utilize any district transportation if they are displaying any symptoms.**

What this means is if your child comes to the office feeling ill, and displays just one Covid-19 symptom, they will need to be picked up from school as soon as possible. We understand this can be extremely problematic for working parents, but is an absolute necessity to ensure we are limiting the number of Covid-19 cases in the schools. It is important you have all your emergency contacts updated so that in the event you can't be reached, we have other contacts to communicate with.

For that reason, as mentioned above, please err on the side of caution when sending students to school. If they are displaying any symptoms, they should be kept home. Not only will this help reduce the spread of the virus, it will eliminate the possibility that a parent or caregiver will need to leave work to drive to the school to pick up their child.

Virtual Aspects of Instruction

Continuation of Google Classroom

Even with all the safety measures that are being taken at school and home, there is a high likelihood that students will need to quarantine at home from time to time. What this means is students may have to continue their participation in their classes from home for an extended period of time. For that reason, the vast majority of teachers are going to be continuing to update their Google Classroom websites on a daily basis. This will allow sick or quarantined students to easily access assignments, resources, and instruction from home if necessary. While the content that is posted on Google Classroom may not be as elaborate as when we were full virtual, it will be sufficient to allow a student to continue to participate, meet learning targets, and make up any assignments while they cannot attend.

Bring Your Own Device

We are encouraging students to bring their own device (Chromebook, Laptop, etc.) to school. We currently have around 300 Chromebooks checked out to students who were in need of one for the virtual instruction. Our goal is to eventually be able to provide 1-to-1 technology for EVERY student, but that is currently not a possibility.

The more students who bring their own device, the more Chromebooks we can supply to students who lack devices. **This of course is up to the parent's discretion.** I completely understand hesitancy of parents to send expensive devices to school where they risk being broken. Students who were loaned LCS technology during virtual instruction should bring their Chromebook with them daily and make sure it is charged up and ready to go.





Mark Your Calendar!

October 5

- All Students Return to Face-to-Face Instruction

October 7

- Count Day

October 14

- PAC Meeting (Zoom), 9am

October 15

- 9th Grade PSAT in AM
- 8th grade ½ day (report at 11:00am)

October 21 & 27

- Parent Teacher Conferences

October 30

- No School for All Students

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, or are waiting for athletic practices to start.

9th Grade PSAT Testing

For all Zemmer 9th grade students PSAT testing will take place on October 15th. Because 8th grade students DO NOT TAKE THE PSAT in the fall, they will have a ½ Day of School (do not report until 11:00am) on Thursday, October 15th. This allows us to maximize our resources to test ALL 9th grade students in one morning without having to do some crazy schedule. All 8th grade students will be provided with transportation to school on Oct. 15th, the buses will just be arriving approximately 3 hours later than their normal pick-up time. Students can be dropped of any time after 11am on this date.

Below are some tips to help your child prepare.

How can you prepare now?

- Please make sure not to schedule student appointments on **October 15th**.
- Begin talking to your student about the PSAT
- Visit <https://parents.collegeboard.org/college-board-programs/psat-89> for general information
- Review the practice test at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/psat-8-9-practice-test-1.pdf> This can help students become familiar with the format of the test

Count Day

Wednesday October 7th is Count Day! The count days and school funding are mandated through the State School Aid Act. Count Day is when all public schools in Michigan tally the number of students attending their schools. Count information is critical to districts, because each student translates into state funding. LEA and ISD state aid is based on the number of students legally enrolled on or before count day. Barring any Covid-19 symptoms or illness, it is very important students attend school on October 7th.

School Picture Retakes

Picture retakes have been scheduled for **Friday, October 23rd**. This would be for both students who did not get their pictures taken during registration and students who are not happy with their pictures that were taken at registration. For students who do not like their pictures and want retakes, they are to bring in their package of pictures and they can get their retakes for free. Picture order forms are available in the office for students who have not yet taken their pictures. We want all students to get pictures taken whether they want pictures or not because we want to include their picture in the yearbook and they will also need a student ID card.

Rolland-Warner Yearbooks for 8th Grade Students

Any 8th grade student who did NOT purchase a Rolland-Warner yearbook last year can still get one. We have some back stock that will be sold for \$40. Please contact Mr. Lothrop at Rolland Warner Middle School if interested.

plothrop@lapeerschools.org

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for Oct. 21st and Oct. 27th from 4:30pm to 8:00pm. There will be adjustments to how these will run this year to accommodate for social distancing. **A full plan including how to sign-up for conferences will be communicated as soon as possible.** Please stay tuned.



PAC (Parent Advisory Council) Meetings

Each month we hold a PAC meeting at Zemmer. The PAC is different than a PTC in that we focus on academics and other matters that are directly related to the school day, rather than fundraisers or other events. Any parent is welcome to attend. For October, we will be having our PAC meeting via Zoom on **Oct. 14th at 9am**. Please use the link below to attend.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89273050066>



Athletics

Zach Hamilton, Associate
Principal/Athletic Director
Zemmer 8/9 Campus
810-667-2413,
zhilton@lapeerschools.org

For information regarding 8th grade
athletics, contact Associate Principal &
Athletic Director, Zach Hamilton:
zhilton@lapeerschools.org
810-667-2413

For information regarding Freshman
and JV athletics, contact District Athletic
Director, Shad Spilski:
sspilski@lapeerschools.org
810-667-2423

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

Fall Sports Updates:

Our Fall Sports Season is under way! All our regular Fall Sports are running smoothly and following all safety guidelines set forth by the State of Michigan and MHSAA. We are hoping that the transition to Winter Sports is smooth as well.

Spectator Covid-19 Safety Information:

- Spectators at events must all wear masks and practice social distancing during events.
- Concessions will not be served at indoor events and will be limited at outdoor events.
- As of this moment, we are limited to 2 spectators per participant. For middle school events, vouchers will be given to parents and they must redeem them at the ticket booth and pay the \$3 entry. High School tickets are pre-purchased using a voucher system as well.

Athlete Covid-19 Safety Information:

- Athletes for all Middle School Winter Sports must wear masks at all times during competition and while on the sidelines. Please bring a mask to all practices and games.
- Water will not be provided so bring water to all practices and games.
- Athletes will be screened for Covid-19 symptoms and have a temperature check before every practice and every game.

Winter Sports Season:

Our Winter I season is approaching quickly. Girls Volleyball and Wrestling are middle school sports offered during the Winter I season. Tentatively, 8th Grade Girls Volleyball will start the week of Oct. 26th, and 6th-8th Grade Wrestling will start Wednesday, Oct. 21st. Boys Basketball and Competitive Cheer are part of our Winter II season which starts Tentatively on Monday, Jan. 4th. The high school Winter Athletic Season will start in November.

In order to keep everyone as safe as possible, we will not conduct our Middle School (6th-8th grade) Winter 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 the week of October 12th. In addition, the Meet the Coach portion of the meeting will be conducted by the coach of the individual sport at a later date. This meeting is for both the Winter I and Winter II seasons for middle school sports.

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 is open for athletic clearances daily from 7:00am to 3:30pm. 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

8th grade students can sign up for Girls Volleyball and Wrestling at the Zemmer office the week of Oct. 12th. Athletes participating in 8th grade Boys Basketball and Middle School Competitive Cheer will sign up in the Zemmer Office the last week of school before Winter Break.

9th grade athletics will start the 2nd week of November. More information regarding sign-ups for these sports will come as the season gets closer. Check in regularly at lapeerlightning.com for up to date information regarding high school athletics.



8th Grade Fall Athletic Clearance Process:

Middle School Mandatory Winter Sports Parents Meeting/Meet the Coach Night will be a recorded informational presentation which will be posted the week of Oct. 12th.

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 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:**

- Time and Location of Impact testing TBD – 6th grade wrestlers do not need to complete impact testing

8th Grade Tentative

Winter Sports Practice Schedules:

Sport	Tentative Fall Practice Times/Dates (times may be subject to change)
8 th Girls Volleyball	Tryouts: Tentatively 10/26-10/28 @ Zemmer Gym – Time TBD
MS Wrestling	Practice: Starts Oct. 21 st @ CFI – Time TBD
8 th Boys Basketball	Tryouts: 1/4 – 1/6 @ Zemmer Gym – 3:30-5:30
MS Competitive Cheer	Tryouts: 1/4 - 1/6 - Time and Location TBD

9th grade athletics schedules will be released closer to the start date of the season.

9th Grade Fall Athletics Information:

Shad Spilski

Director of Innovation/District Athletic Director

810-538-2367, sspilski@lapeerschools.org

High School Winter Sports Season start dates, times, and locations will be available as the season gets closer. Our athletic clearance will take place at the LHS athletic office the first work of November. Go to Lapeerlightning.com for updated information as the season gets closer. 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 athlete 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.