

Zemmer 8/9 Campus News

Principal, Dr. Jeff Stanton
Associate Principal, Mr. Kevin Wenzel
Dean of Students, Mr. Jack Chittle
Head Secretary, Mrs. Ann Vierk
Athletic/Attendance Secretary, Mrs. Ann Tiffany
Auxiliary Secretary, Mrs. Michelle Sierakowski



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

February 2023



Mark Your Calendar!

February 8

- PAC Meeting

February 10

- ALICE Lockdown Drill

February 16

- Choir Musical at LHS Auditorium
7pm

February 17

- Choir Musical at LHS Auditorium
7pm

February 20

- Mid-Winter Break – No School

February 22

- Pre-Festival Choir Concert at
LHS 7pm

February 24

- Open Enrollment/Scheduling
Support for 23-24 School Year
5:30–7:30pm

March 6

- Spring Parent Teacher
Conferences 5-7pm

March 10

- No School for Students (Staff
Inservice)

March 22/23

- Choral Festival @ Swartz Creek

March 27-31

- Spring Break

Principal's Message

Congratulations to Our January Lightning Leaders!

We have started a new initiative at Zemmer called Lightning Leaders. Lightning leaders are selected by staff monthly. A lightning leader consistently excels on a daily basis displaying positive character traits and skills that promote an all-around great school environment. All staff members are invited to nominate a student to be a Lightning Leader each month. Of all the nominations, 4 students are chosen. Selections are based on our PBIS behavior matrix (BOLTS) that identifies behaviors such as organization, displaying leadership, being trustworthy, and taking actions which leads them to becoming successful in their endeavors.

We are very proud to announce our Lightning Leaders for January

8th Grade – Alejandra Bernate & Kaylee Vanaman

9th Grade – Kanadie Christman & Brooklyn Kennedy

Great job students!

Scheduling for 2023-2024 School Year

FOR 8th Grade (next year 9th graders)

Counselors have begun working on the schedule for the 2023-2024 school year for next year's 8th and 9th grade students. We start early because this is such a complex process.

Counselors will be visiting 8th grade classrooms during the **week of February 13th** to review class options and how to sign up for them. The counselors will also be going to Rolland-Warner on February 8th and 9th to meet with 7th grade students as well.

All scheduling forms are **due by Feb. 27**. Students can either enter their own scheduling choices in Powerschool using their form or give them to counselors so they can enter them before this date.

Should you have any questions or concerns about the scheduling process, we have an **Open Enrollment night scheduled for February 23rd from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** You can drop in at any time during this time frame. Counselors will meet with parents as they are available in our Media Center to support and answer any questions you may have.

To see the entire course catalog please visit the district website, under the "For Parents" tab, and click on 2023-24 Course Catalog. You can also find it by clicking on this [LINK](#).

FOR 9th Grade (next year's 10th graders)

The LHS counselors visited our 9th grade students here at Zemmer this week in their World History classes. Students received forms that **will be due on Monday, February 6th** to their World History teachers. Should you have any questions or concerns about this process, please contact LHS counselors at 667-2422 or the Mrs. Isa and Mrs. Spisz here at Zemmer at 667-2413.



Promoting Positive Behavior at Zemmer

We work hard at Zemmer to always promote positive behavior. In addition to having clear and consistent rules and expectations, we work closely with parents to ensure there is excellent communication between the school and home. Other programs that promote positive behavior at Zemmer include:

- **The Positivity Project** – Teacher lead lessons that take place every week to promote character strengths within and beyond the school walls.
- **The Lightning Leaders** – A new program where staff recognizes students that excel on a daily basis with excellent behavior and an overall positive influence for all students.
- **Positive Behavior Support System (PBIS)** – Bolt bucks given to students who are caught displaying outstanding behavior.
- **LINKS Program** – A peer support program where we match students up with positive peers who support them throughout the day.

With all that being said, we are still a middle school filled with 13 through 15-year-old students and there are times the choices they make are less than perfect. The administrative staff at Zemmer spends a great deal of time documenting different behaviors that we are seeing and analyzing it for patterns as far as the time of the day, areas of the school it is happening, types of behaviors, and what is causing them. We use a program called SWIS that helps warehouse this information. While we call transgressions “office referrals”, we essentially log any time that an administrator needs to speak to a student. This can be for something as simple as running in the hallway, or as serious as being in possession of a vaping device on campus.

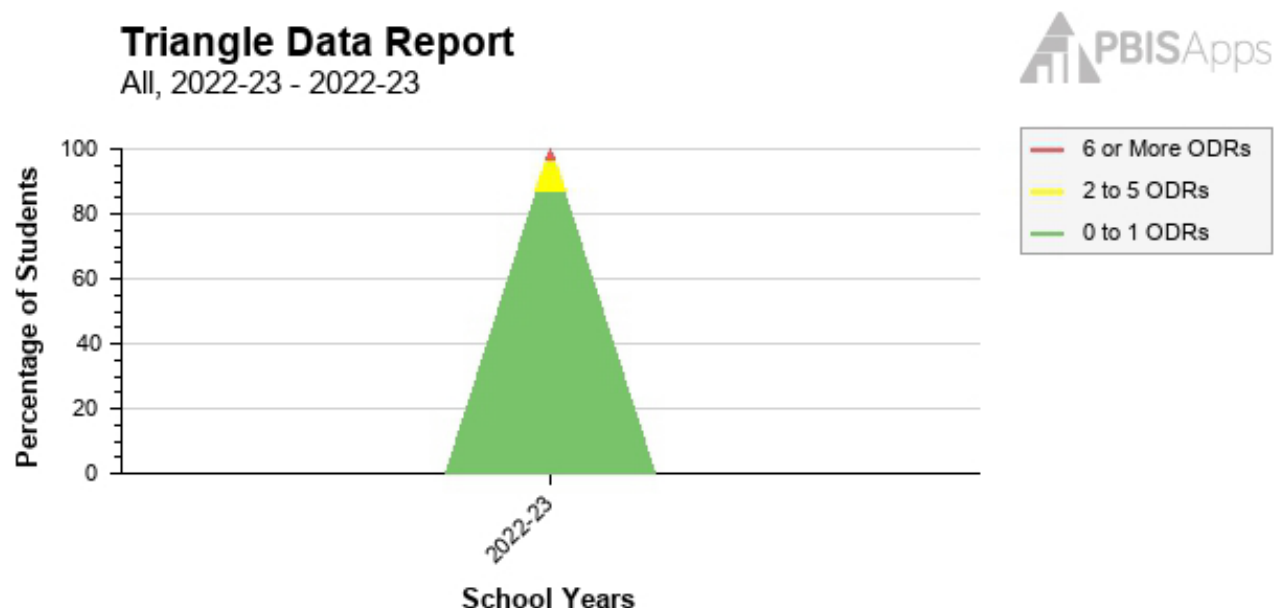
Below you will see the current student discipline data for the 2022-2023 school year up to this point. Since we have been doing this for several years, I can tell you that the data looks remarkably similar every year. Once a year I like to share this data with parents. There are several reasons this is beneficial, but two of the main reasons we share are.

1. An extremely large percentage of our students (87%) display positive behavior and are making excellent choices throughout the school day (0-1 office referrals)
2. To give parents a frame of reference for what is an average amount of discipline issues. On average, we have 4-5 “referrals” a day. Remember, a referral can be something as simple as having a hood on, horsing around, or swearing in the hallway.

Zemmer 8/9 Campus – Office Referral Data Through 1/31/2023								
Total Zemmer Student Enrollment	0 Office Referrals (# of students)	1 Office Referral (# of students)	2-5 Office Referrals (#of students)	6-8 Office Referrals (# of students)	More than 9 Office Referrals (# of students)	% of Students with 0-1 Office Referrals	% of Students with 2-5 Office Referrals	% of Students with 6+ Office Referrals
694	516	88	73	9	8	87%	10.5%	2.5%

Triangle Data Report

All, 2022-23 - 2022-23



Student Handbook Notes

Lost or Stolen Cell Phones

Page 20: The student who brings a cellular phone and/or ECD on school property shall assume responsibility for its care. At no time shall Lapeer Community Schools be responsible for preventing theft, loss or damage to cellular phones and/or ECDs brought onto its property.

Every year we have students who end up misplacing their cell phones. While most of the lost cell phones manage to turn up within a day or so, there are unfortunately times when students will lose a cell phone and it does not turn up. We strongly urge students to make sure they keep property such as cell phones locked away in lockers during the class period, and on their person during unstructured times. On the rare occasion a cellphone is "stolen", it is because the student left it unattended on a table or common area where other students had access to it. In the event a phone is lost, the school is not responsible for replacing the item.

Zemmer's School Resource Officer

Lapeer Community Schools is very fortunate to have a School Resource Officers (SRO) at every secondary building. At Zemmer, our SRO is Deputy Hunter Salisbury who works as a resource to the school from the Lapeer County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Salisbury will be on maternity leave soon for the remainder of the school year. Stepping into her place will be Deputy Curt June.

What does an SRO do? Primarily she/he provides the school an added layer of safety that we would not have without SRO's. However, they provide the school with much more than that. Other duties of an SRO include...

- Being a positive resource for students. Sometimes Deputy Salisbury and Deputy June will serve a role like a counselor and just chat with students who may be having a difficult day.
- Providing valuable resources to staff for things like crisis intervention and prevention, tornado/fire plans, school security protocol, and other similar roles.
- Providing training to staff and students about such things like the dangers of drugs and tobacco products.
- General support in the hallways and café. We can never have enough positive role models helping wherever needed.

One thing an SRO does NOT do is take part in the daily rule enforcement and discipline procedures. Unless the behavior falls under "criminal behavior", the Sheriff's Deputies do not take part in dealing with any discipline related issues. Students should go the main office to see the Dean of Students for anything discipline related.

ALICE Lockdown DRILL

We will be having an ALICE Lockdown DRILL the morning of February 10th.

This drill will be held during a passing time. Part of the ALICE Lockdown strategy is for students to evacuate the building if they can safely do so. All district school resource officers will be on hand and safety spots (labeled with cones) are placed around the building near all the exits.

We will review all procedures with students and staff before the drill takes place.



PAC Meetings

(Parent Advisory Council)

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. Meetings are held at 7:30am on the second Wednesday of every month.

Our next meeting will be February 8th at 7:30am in our Media Center or Conference Room.

Office Hours & Phone Numbers

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

Telephone numbers follow:

Main Office

667-2413

Attendance Office

667-2413 x3402

Counseling Office - Mrs. Isa

667-2413 x3409

Counseling Office - Mrs. Spisz

667-2413 x3410

Dean of Students, Jack Chittle

667-2413 x3405 (Discipline Related Issues)

Associate Principal – Kevin Wenzel

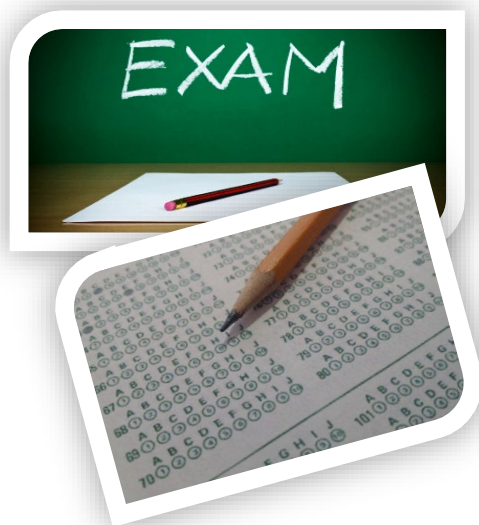
667-2413 x3404 (Athletics/Discipline)

Principal – Dr. Jeff Stanton

667-2413 x3403



The building opens at 7am. After school, students should leave the building by 2:15pm 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.



PSAT Testing April 12th

You will be receiving a letter soon in the mail that will introduce the PSAT schedule for 8th and 9th grade students. **For all Zemmer students (both 8th and 9th grade) testing will take place on April 12th.** You will begin to see more information coming out about the PSAT in the coming weeks. With each grade level the students advance to, the standardized testing becomes that much more important. The PSAT testing influences many different areas including:

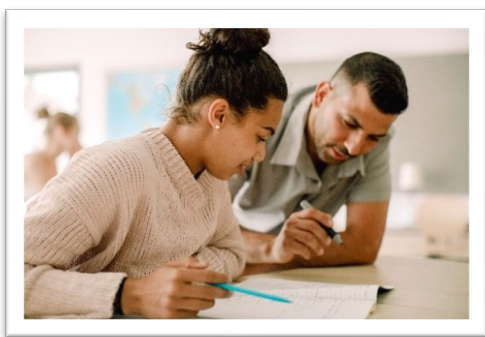
- student scheduling
- placement in advanced courses
- early college credits earned (better scores mean more advanced classes leading to more opportunities for dual enrollment)
- preparation for the SAT for college entrance

For our 8th grade students, the PSAT is their first experience with a completely different format. Some differences include:

- It is taken with paper and pencil and NOT on the computer (unlike M-STEP)
- The test is **TIMED** so students have to be efficient
- The rules and regulations are much more secure. No cell phones will be allowed in the school on testing day

How can you prepare now?

- Please make sure not to schedule student appointments on **April 12th**.
- 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



After School Tutoring

If your son or daughter is struggling in any classes, would like help from a certified teacher, or would just like a quiet place to work on missing assignments they should attend our after school tutoring program **every Monday and Wednesday from 2:15pm to 3:30pm**. Students must be provided with their own transportation, but can stay on either day (or both) they choose without signing up. They will just go to the media center after school is over and then be assigned to a teacher based on the content area they want support with. Please see the attached flyer (end of newsletter) for information on student transportation.

Half Day for 9th Grade Students on April 26th for M-STEP Testing

Our 8th grade students will also participate in the M-STEP for Social Studies and Science. The testing date for this will be April 26th. Each test takes about an hour and is taken on the computer. Students should be very familiar with the format of this test as they have been taking M-STEP for the past several years.

Because 9th grade students DO NOT TAKE THE M-STEP, they will have a ½ Day of School (do not report until 10:45am) on Wednesday April 26th. This allows us to maximize our computers and resources to test ALL 8th grade students in one morning without having to do a crazy schedule. All 9th grade students will be provided with transportation to school on April 26th the buses will just be coming **approximately 4 hours later** than their normal pick-up time.

We will be sending home more detailed information about this ½ day on April 26th for 9th grade students over the course of the next two months. For now, 9th grade parents should just make sure to mark this date on their calendar as a reminder that students will NOT have school that morning and will report for just the afternoon.



Athletic Update

Winter 2 Sports 2022-2023

Kevin Wenzel, Associate Principal/Athletic Director
kevin.wenzel@lapeerschools.org
810.667.2413

Ann Tiffany, Attendance/Athletics Secretary
ann.tiffany@lapeerschools.org
810.667.2413

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

On the Horizon: Spring Sports

Track, Softball, and Baseball will be offered in the Spring for athletes.

Tryouts for baseball and softball will be at the end of March, stay tuned for dates, times and locations.

A friendly reminder, the following items to complete the athletic clearance are available in the Zemmer or LHS office or online at <http://lapeerlightning.com> and MUST be turned in prior to first practice/tryout:

Athletic Clearance

The following items are available in the office or online at <http://lapeerlightning.com> and MUST be turned into the Zemmer Main Office prior to first practice/tryout:

- All athletes must have a completed **2022-2023 MHSAA Physical** (dated April 15, 2022 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)

*All athletes must have passed at least 5/6 classes during the previous academic semester. *

*Please see the Athletic Code of Conduct for information on Eligibility requirements (grades) needed last year and current. *

*Pay to Participate must be paid in full before any athlete may participate in a game/contest/meet. *

Coaches Contact Information

MS Competitive Cheer – Deanna Michalik - deanna.michalik@lapeerschools.org

7th Boys Basketball – A Team - Luke Knickerbocker - luke.knickerbocker@lapeerschools.org

– B Team - Steve Brandt - stephen.brandt@lapeerschools.org

Practice Times & Locations

MS Competitive Cheer– 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. @ RW Cafeteria

7th Boys Basketball – A Team 3:30-5:30pm @ Zemmer Gym

– B Team - 5:30-7:30pm @ Zemmer Gym

Schedules

Competitive Cheer

<https://lapeerlightning.com/teams/3346023/girls/competitive-cheer/middle%20school/schedule>

Boys Basketball A Team- "Lapeer"

<https://lapeerlightning.com/teams/3412209/boys/basketball/8th%20grade/schedule>

Boys Basketball B Team - "Lightning"

<https://lapeerlightning.com/teams/3412210/boys/basketball/8th%20grade/schedule>

Please be reminded that all schedules are subject to updates and changes prior to the start of the season