

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



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Ph (810) 667-2413
Office Hours 7:00am–3:30pm
zemmer.lapeerschools.org

March 2023



Mark Your Calendar!

March 2

- Choir Concert
@ LHS, 7pm

March 6

- Spring Parent Teacher Conferences 5-7pm
- Powerschool Training during conferences

March 10

- No School for Students (Staff Inservice)

March 22/23

- Choral Festival
@ Swartz Creek

March 27-31

- Spring Break

April 7

- No School – Good Friday

April 14

- Student Council Spring and Shout Dance

Get Your Yearbooks Before They Run Out!

There are a limited number of Zemmer yearbooks to purchase and after March 24, there will be no guarantee that a yearbook will be available. Please go to jostensyearbooks.com to order one today!

Principal's Message

March 6th Parent Teacher Conferences

Spring parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for March 6th from 5pm to 7pm. These conferences are drop-in, meaning that you can stop in any time in that window to see your child's teachers. All families are invited, but each teacher has contacted five families to request their attendance at the spring conferences. Please keep an eye out for these invites which may be via phone or through email. Conferences are held in the teacher's classrooms, so there may be a short wait. We will have maps and signs available to help you navigate your way around that night as well.

Powerschool Training on March 6th

One tool this is extremely important for parents to have access to is Powerschool. This allows you a window into everything academic for your child. While most parents already have access set up and use Powerschool frequently to check grades and missing assignments, we know there are still some families that do not have access or do not understand how to use Powerschool's features.

During spring conferences, we will have staff available to train any parent who on Powerschool. This includes signing up for it as well as navigating the interface. If you would like help with Powerschool, please stop by the station during

Charged Chromebooks - Extremely Important!



As we all know, education has changed tremendously in the last 10 years. This change was accelerated during the pandemic. Currently, Google Classroom is the backbone of pretty much everything we do for all classes. Even our math curriculum relies on digital textbooks.

While there are some great advantages to digitizing education, there is a drawback...it is expensive. Ten years ago if you had a student forget their book, their pencil, their worksheet etc. you could easily and inexpensively have extra of everything on hand in the classroom to supply them with.

With 13-15 year old students like Zemmer has, a 75% rate of students being totally prepared is pretty good. That means if 25% are not prepared without a charged Chromebook, there are 8 or 9 students in each class who won't be able to take part in the lessons, reading, and activities. We do have a few extra Chromebooks in each class, but not enough to meet the demand of the amount of students who are not bringing their Chromebooks daily.

Please work with your child to develop the extremely important habit of charging their Chromebooks every night and bringing them to school daily. If they do not, they risk putting themselves behind in their academics. As a district, we will continue to work to provide the necessary equipment to be successful, but responsible students who are learning the skill of preparedness will really help us achieve success in these tough economic times that schools are not immune from.

Congratulations to Our 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.

February's Lightning Leaders

8th Grade – Chloe Brazelton, Cameron Carson

9th Grade – Cienna Hall, Nevaeh McMasters

Great job students!

Student Council Update

Student Council is currently running a lollipop fundraiser. The lollipops are \$1 and will be sold on Tuesday's and Friday's.

Zemmer's "Spring and Shout" dance is scheduled for Friday April 14th. Tickets will be \$10 and will go sale after Spring Break.

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.



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 March 8th at 7:30am in our Media Center or Conference Room.**

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

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.

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.





March 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

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

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

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***

On the Horizon: Spring Sports

Track, Softball, and Baseball will be offered in the Spring for 8th Grade athletes.

Tryouts for 8th grade baseball and 8th grade softball will begin on March 20th, 2023.

Middle School Track practices will also begin on March 20th, 2023.

High School sport tryouts begin on March 13. You must have your sports clearance to try out and participate in any Middle School or High School Athletics.

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:

We will host a Spring Sports Meeting on Wednesday March 15th at 6pm in the Rolland Warner Cafeteria.

Any student trying out for a spring sport, and their parents(s) are strongly encouraged to attend. This would be a great opportunity to pay your Pay to Play fee, meet the coaches, and hear a brief presentation from your Athletic Directors.

Spring Coaches Contact Information

MS Track & Field – Ken Baginski - kenneth.baginski@lapeerschools.org

TBA--

8th Grade Baseball – Jim Lane – james.lane@lapeerschools.org

8th Grade Softball—Lauren Weidman — lauren.weidman@lapeerschools.org

Practice Times & Locations

MS Track & Field – 4:30-6pm @ CFI Track (Varies due to track availability, coaches will communicate)

8th Grade Baseball – 3:30-5:15pm @ CFI JV Field

8th Grade Softball – 3:30-5:30pm @ Zemmer Softball Field

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.

Winter II Information- Concludes March 8th

Coaches Contact Information

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

8th Boys Basketball – A Team - Luke Knickerbocker - luke.knickerbocker@lapeerschools.org

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

Practice Times & Locations

MS Competitive Cheer – 3:30-5:30pm @ RW Cafeteria

8th Boys Basketball – A Team 3:30-5:30pm @ Zemmer Gym.

– B Team - 5:30-7:30pm @ Zemmer Gym.