

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

April 2021



Mark Your Calendar!

April 13

- PSAT Testing

April 15

- Start of Middle School Spring Athletics Season
- PAC Meeting Zoom 9am

April 22

- M-STEP Testing for 8th Grade (9th graders do not report until 11am)

May 23-28

- 8th Grade Washington D.C Trip

May 24-28

- 9th Grade Health Education Classes

May 31

- Memorial Day – No School

June 9-11

- Final Exams (Early Release on the 10th and 11th)

June 11

- Last Day of School for Students

Principal's Message

We are getting close to the point where we can say we have made it through an odd year. These final two months are busy ones. In addition to all the State testing that will be taking place in April (see below), we have new athletic seasons starting up, scheduling classes for next year, and the normal end of the year “stuff” to look forward to. Stay tuned for May and June newsletters for important dates and information. You can also follow along with The Bolt, our district blog, by going to <https://lcsblog.com/>.

PSAT Testing April 13th

You should have received a letter in the mail introducing the PSAT schedule for 8th and 9th grade students. **For all Zemmer students (both 8th and 9th grade) testing will take place on Tuesday, April 13th.** 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 of standardized testing. 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 any appointments for students on **April 13th**.
- 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



8th Grade M-STEP Testing – April 22nd – (Late Start for 9th Grade)

Our 8th grade students will also participate in the M-STEP for Social Studies and Science. The testing date for this will be **Thursday, April 22nd**. The day of the week was incorrectly labeled as Wednesday in the mailing that was sent home recently so please make sure to update your calendars. 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 11am) on Thursday, April 22nd. 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 Thursday, April 22nd, the buses will just be coming **approximately 4 hours later** than their normal pick-up time. Students will be served lunch when they arrive during their normal lunch schedule.

Washington DC Update

The Washington D.C. trip current 8th graders will be May 23rd to May 28th. More information is available at <http://www.lapeerschools.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=3097475&pageId=48659143>



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 April, our PAC meeting will be held on Thursday, April 15th at 9am via Zoom. Please go to the following link to participate at that time.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81544043435>



Student Handbook Notes

Dress Code p. 21

http://www.lapeerschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_3097392/Image/Secondary%20Student%20Handbook%202020_21.pdf

The dress code in the student handbook and accompanying School Board Policy promotes an environment where “students are expected to dress and groom appropriately and in a way that reflects personal and school pride”. There are not specific rules listed in the handbook, and the ultimate determination is up to administration. Some general guidelines are as follows.

- No clothing promoting alcohol, drugs, or tobacco.
- Clothing should not be too revealing. Shorts and shirts should be an appropriate length and underwear should not be showing at any time.
- Hats and hoods are prohibited.

If students are violating the dress code, they may be asked to change clothes or put other clothing over the top of existing clothes. Repeated violations will result in parent contact and potentially discipline.

Office Hours & Phone Number:

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	667-2413 x3402	
Counseling Office		
Mrs. Spisz (Counselor (A-K))	667-2413 x3410	
Mrs. Vanooteghem (Counselor (L-Z))	667-2413 x3409	
Dean of Students, Jack Chittle	667-2413 x3405	(Discipline Related Issues)
Associate Principal – Zach Hamilton	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 2:30pm 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.



Athletics

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

For information regarding Freshman, JV, and Varsity 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>

Spring Sports Season

Following current MDHHS Orders and MHSAA regulations, Middle School spring sports are scheduled to start tryouts on Thursday, April 15th with competitions beginning the week of April 26th. High School Spring Sports are already underway having started March 22nd.

COVID 19 Guidelines for middle school athletic events:

The following COVID 19-related accommodations are in place for all Middle School Spring Sports competitions:

- There will be no concessions available per MHSAA guidelines, however, spectators are permitted to bring their own capped (water, Gatorade, pop, etc.) beverages.
- Coaches and spectators must wear a mask at all times. Spectators must also practice social distancing to the extent possible.
- Baseball, Softball, and Track athletes, when in active participation, do not need to wear masks. They will however be required to wear masks when in the dugouts, bleachers, waiting for events to start, before and after games, etc.
- All players must provide their own water.
- We will be charging \$3 at the gate for track meets. Baseball and Softball will not be charging at the gate.
- All spectators for all events must sign in upon arrival for the purpose of contact tracing.
- We will be monitoring the number of spectators at our events to make sure we are staying below the 20% capacity limit, however, we do expect to be able to accommodate everybody that wants to come and watch our Middle School Baseball, Softball, and Track events.
- All Spring athletes will be tested for COVID once per week throughout the season. Tentatively, we will be testing all 8th grade athletes on Wednesday of each week, right after school in the Zemmer Cafeteria.
- Athletes will be getting COVID testing release forms on the first day of practice/tryouts and those must be turned in to the Zemmer office by Monday, April 19th.
- Athletes will also have their temperatures checked and will be screened for COVID symptoms before every practice and competition.

8th Grade Baseball:

8th Grade Baseball Tryouts will be held on Thursday April 15th, Friday April 16th, and Monday April 19th from 3:30-5:00 at CFI on the JV field (weather permitting). If it is raining, or the field is not playable, tryouts will be held at Zemmer in the gym from 2:45-4:15.

Baseball players can stay after school in the Zemmer cafeteria and catch a transfer bus to CFI around 3:15.

8th Grade Baseball Schedule:

<https://lapeerlightning.com/teams/2883743/boys/baseball/8th%20grade/schedule>

Baseball COVID 19-related accommodations:

MHSAA Baseball Return to Play Guidelines

<https://www.mhsaa.com/portals/0/Documents/AD%20Forms/PACKET%20BA.pdf>

8th Grade Softball:

8th Grade Softball Tryouts will be held on Thursday April 15th, at Zemmer from 3:30-5:00. Friday April 16th, and Monday April 19th will be from 3:30-5:00 at LHS on the Varsity field (weather permitting). If it is raining, or the field is not playable, tryouts will be held at Zemmer in the gym from 3:45-5:15.

Softball players can stay after school in the Zemmer cafeteria and catch a transfer bus to LHS around 3:15.

8th Grade Softball Schedule:

<https://lapeerlightning.com/teams/2883745/girls/softball/8th%20grade/schedule>

Softball COVID 19-related accommodations:

MHSAA Softball Return to Play Guidelines

<https://www.mhsaa.com/portals/0/Documents/AD%20Forms/PACKET%20SB.pdf>

Middle School Track:

Middle School Track will begin on Thursday April 15th, at CFI from 4:30-6:00. Friday April 16th, Monday April 19th, and Wednesday April 21st will all be at CFI as well. Tuesday April 20th, Thursday April 22nd, and Friday April 16th will be at LHS. 8th Grade Track Athletes should go home in between school and Track practice. If they are unable to get a ride back to practice and need to make alternate arrangements please have them contact Mr. Hamilton at Zemmer.

Middle School Track Schedule: <https://lapeerlightning.com/teams/2942949/boys/track/middle%20school/schedule>

COVID 19-related accommodations:

MHSAA Track Return to Play Guidelines:

<https://www.mhsaa.com/portals/0/Documents/AD%20Forms/PACKET%20TRACK.pdf>



Clearance Process and General Information for Middle School and High School Spring Sports

Athletic Boosters

As most of you already know, the Lapeer Athletic Boosters is now supporting Middle School Athletics. We would love to have more involvement from Middle School parents. Please visit our website located at lapeerathleticboosters.org. There you will see upcoming events, meeting dates, and more information about how you can get involved. Contact us via email at lapeerboosters@gmail.com with any questions you may have about the Lapeer Athletic Boosters!

High School Spring Sports:

Please visit the website LapeerLightning.com for updated information regarding Spring Sports at the high school level.

Middle School Mandatory Spring Sports Parents Meeting/Meet the Coach Night:

- In order to keep everyone as safe as possible, we will not be conducting our Middle School (6th-8th grade) Spring Sports Parents' Meeting/Meet the Coach Night in person as we have done in the past. Instead, we will be recording an informational presentation and post it on YouTube and to our social media pages, VNN, and www.lapeerlightning.com. This should be available by the end of this week.
- The Meet the Coach portion of the meeting will be conducted by the coach after teams are formed.
- All students need to be cleared to tryout or even practice, even if they have played a previous sport this year (see clearance process below). They need a bracelet to try out.

Clearance Process:

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). 8th grade athletes should turn in their paperwork to Mrs. Tiffany in the Zemmer Office. 9th grade athletes should turn in their paperwork to Denise Loper in the LHS athletic office.

The following items are available in the Zemmer or LHS 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