

Zemmer 8/9 Campus News

Principal, Dr. Jeff Stanton
Associate Principal, Mr. Rich Cross
Deans of Students, Jack Chittle, Tanya Blaine
Head Secretary, Mrs. Samantha Fredericks
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 2024



Mark Your Calendar!

February 8

- Schedule forms due for current 9th graders

February 14

- PAC Meeting 7:50 a.m.

February 16 & 19

- No School for Students

February 28

- Open Enrollment Night from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

February 29

- Schedule Form Due for current 8th graders

March

March 25-29

- Spring Break

After School Tutoring

Is every Monday and Wednesday from 2:35 p.m. to 3:35 p.m. Students must be provided with their own transportation, but can stay on either day (or both) if they choose.

Congratulations to Our December and January 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 December!

8th Grade – Weston Wright & Alexandra Cooper

9th Grade – Grace Krause & Olivia Viers

We are very proud to announce our Lightning Leaders for January!

8th Grade – Logan Hinds & Jada Rodabaugh

9th Grade – Maverick Yanuska & Olivia Hayes



Scheduling for 2024-2025 School Year for 8th Grade (next year 9th graders)

Counselors have begun working on the schedule for the 2024-2025 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 Science classrooms on **Feb. 12 and Feb. 14** to review class options and how to sign up for them. The counselors will also be going to Rolland-Warner on February 5th and 7th to meet with 7th grade students as well.

All scheduling forms are due by Friday, Feb. 29. 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 28th 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. Dr. Stanton will also do a 30 minute presentation starting at 6 p.m. specifically for new Zemmer families (for example families coming from Chatfield). This information will not be new information for existing families, but anyone can attend.

To see the entire course catalog please visit the district website, under the "For Parents" tab, and click on 2024-25 Course Catalog. You can also find it by clicking on this [LINK](#).

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. Our next PAC meeting will be here at Zemmer on **Wednesday, February 14 at 7:50 a.m.** Please just check in at our main office.

Yearbooks

Zemmer Yearbooks are currently available. Order now for the lowest price of the year. The weblink for purchasing is <http://jostensyearbooks.com?ref=A01050650>.

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 typically the teacher's first name, a period, their last name @lapeerschools.org.

Example: (Jane Smith)
jane.smith@lapeerschools.org

Please go to the following link for a staff email list.

https://zemmer.lapeerschools.org/staff_directory

Bond Update

Every week there is tremendous progress being made on all the district improvements that the school bond will bring. To follow the progress please keep checking for updates at

<https://lapeerbond.com/>

Scheduling for 2024-2025 School Year for 9th Grade (next year 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 **Thursday, February 8th** to their World History teachers. Should you have any questions or concerns about this process, please contact LHS counselors at 667-2422 or Mrs. Lareau and Mrs. Spisz here at Zemmer at 667-2413.



PSAT Testing April 17th PSAT

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 17th**. 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:

- 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 17th.
- 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>

Office Hours & Phone Numbers

Regular office hours at Zemmer 8/9 Building are 7am - 3:30pm.

Telephone numbers follow:

Main Office	667-2413
Attendance Office	667-2413 x223402
Counseling Office - Mrs. Lareau	667-2413
Counseling Office - Mrs. Spisz	667-2413 x223410
Dean of Students, Jack Chittle	667-2413 x223405 (Discipline Related Issues)
Dean of Students, Tanya Blaine	667-2413 x223403 (Discipline Related Issues)
Associate Principal – Rich Cross	667-2413 x222348 (Athletics/Discipline)
Principal – Dr. Jeff Stanton	667-2413 x222380



The building opens at 7:15am for all students. After school, students should leave the building by 2:35pm unless involved in a supervised activity or class. The Media Center is open until 3:30pm for students who need space to work. The cafeteria is open until 3:30pm daily for athletes who are waiting for practices or games to start.

Half Day for 9th Grade Students on May 1st 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 May 1st. 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 11:05 a.m.) on Wednesday May 1st. 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 May 1st, the buses will just be coming approximately 4 hours

Promoting Positive Behavior at Zemmer



We work hard at Zemmer to promote positive behavior at all times. 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** – Staff recognizes students who 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.
- **No Tardy Parties** – Students who accumulate less than 2 tardies in a given period of time get to miss an hour and attend a party in the café with donuts, snacks, and refreshments.
- **Upcoming Spring Dance** – There will be more on this in the March newsletter.

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 last two school years 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 EVERY DAY, ALL YEAR and are making excellent choices. (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

Zemmer 8/9 Campus – Office Referral Data Through 1/31/2024								
<i>*22-23 data is for last year through 1/31/23</i>								
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 (22-23)	516	88	73	9	8	87%	10.5%	2.5%
636 (23-24)	456	95	68	7	10	87%	10.7%	2.6%



Athletic Update

Middle School Winter Sports 2023-2024

Rich Cross

Associate Principal - Zemmer 8/9 Campus
Middle School Athletic Director
richard.cross@lapeerschools.org
810-667-2413 (ext. 222348)

Ann Tiffany

Attendance/Athletics Secretary
Zemmer 8/9 Campus
ann.tiffany@lapeerschools.org
810-667-2413 (ext. 223402)

Amanda Turner

Attendance/Athletics Secretary
Rolland-Warner 6/7 Campus
amanda.turner@lapeerschools.org
810.538.2334 (ext. 223302)

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

WINTER 1 SPORTS CONTACTS

8th Basketball

Cadeyn Merrell

cadeyn.merrell@lapeerschools.org

Jack Davis

jack.davis@lapeerschools.org

MS Competitive Cheer

Deanna Michalik

deanna.michalik@lapeerschools.org

Winter Sports Athletic Clearance

To participate in athletics, all student athletes need a physical (dated on or after April 15th, 2023) completed on a MHSAA Physical Form, a signed Athletic Code of Conduct acknowledgement, and a completed emergency medical form. All of these forms are available in the RW/Zemmer Main Offices and online at www.lapeerlightning.com

Winter 2 MS Sports Tryouts

8th Boys Basketball

- Monday, January 8th through Wednesday, January 10th 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. in the Zemmer 8/9 Gym

Winter 2 Sports Practice Schedule is TBD after tryouts are completed.

Winter 2 Sports Schedules

Stay tuned to www.lapeerlightning.com for updated sports schedules.

Sportsmanship

Some general sportsmanship reminders for spectators:

- Remember that you are at a contest to support and yell for your team and to enjoy the skill and competition; not to intimidate or ridicule the other team, its fans, or the referees.
- Remember that school athletics are learning experiences for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
- Remember that a ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious.
- Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups. Treat them as you would treat a guest in your own home.
- Refrain from taunting or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Use only those cheers that support the teams involved.
- Be a positive behavior role model through your own actions and by censuring those around you at events whose behavior is unbecoming.