

The Schoolhouse

MMXVIII

2018-2019

DISTRICT #3 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS



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WELCOME TO THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR!



Dr. Travis R. Roundcount,
Superintendent of Schools

All faculty, staff, and administrators of the Mt. Zion School District will start the new school year with a teacher's in-service on August 15th. Each school principal has scheduled department/grade level meetings, building meetings and other organizational meetings for the staff throughout the day. Students will return to the classroom on Thursday, August 16th with an early dismissal for the ½ day in-service. Regular bus transportation will be available on August 16th, the

first ½ day of classes. Families new to the Mt. Zion community are encouraged to visit the school(s) their child(ren) will be attending. Parents with questions regarding any aspect of the educational programs or activities for the 2018-2019 school year are encouraged to contact the building principals or central office administration.

In regards to safety, the School Board and Administration views school security as a top priority. We are making changes to our crisis prevention, preparedness, and response. We will provide additional opportunities for all stakeholders to provide input during this process. If interested, watch for those opportunities coming via email.

Communication at all levels is of utmost importance. Please remember to keep your child's school updated with current

emergency contacts and correct residency information. All of these efforts contribute to keeping our children safe. Please contact the police immediately at 864-4012 to report any emergency safety situations. To report any other issues such as: school doors left

<u>School Start Times</u>	
Grades 7-12.....	7:45 a.m.
Grades K-6.....	8:30 a.m.
<u>School Dismissal Times</u>	
Thursday, August 16th & half day In-Service days thereafter	
Grades 7-12.....	11:05 a.m.
Grades K-3.....	11:35 a.m.
Grades 4-6.....	11:40 a.m.
Friday, August 17th & each regular school day thereafter	
Grades 7-12.....	2:30 p.m.
Grades K-3.....	3:00 p.m.
Grades 4-6.....	3:05 p.m.

MISSION STATEMENT

*MT. ZION COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT: "A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN"
... WORKING WITH FAMILIES TO FULLY DEVELOP EVERY CHILD'S ABILITY
TO BE A LIFE-LONG LEARNER AND CONTRIBUTING MEMBER OF SOCIETY.*

open, student conflicts, etc., please contact your school principal. Additional ways to report security and safety issues will be provided to students and families after everyone returns to school this Fall.

We are fortunate to have the Mt. Zion Foundation to assist our schools with financial needs outside the school budget. The Mt. Zion Foundation for Quality Education is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees whose members are parent volunteers, business leaders, and professional people from the community with a commitment to education. The Foundation operates as an independent entity, established to enrich lifelong programs throughout the Mt. Zion Schools.

We will have excitement this year as a result of the Foundation's contribution towards the cost of purchasing various items in all grade levels including: Chromebooks, document cameras, classroom speakers, science materials, robot kits, books, as well as materials needed for the freshman orientation. For the 2018-2019 school year, ADM has also graciously provided additional funds to purchase STEM programming materials, including a classroom set of Google Expedition virtual goggles that come with educational software. These devices take the student on a virtual trip to anywhere in the world.

During the past 25 years, the Mt. Zion Foundation for Quality Education has provided over 1.6 million dollars for projects including the purchase of items such as:

Chromebooks

- Ipods

- video equipment
- band instruments
- LCD Projectors
- microscopes
- Kindles and E-books
- pottery kilns
- science equipment
- Television/Broadcast system
- reading software and books
- wood drafting tables
- SMART Boards/Mimios
- portable sound systems
- Long Distance Learning Lab
- Mobi and Airliner wireless tablets
- portable laptop computer labs
- vocal and music microphones
- IPADs
- document cameras

Mt. Zion is fortunate to have the following individuals as Foundation for Quality Education Trustees for the 2018-2019 school year: Kelli McInerney-Chairman, Tami Romano-Vice Chairman, Steve Grohne-Treasurer, Michelle Shumaker-Secretary, Katy Doolin, Lisa Flora, Kevin Fritzsche, Kelly McCourt-Springman, Heather Mason, Shane Mendenhall, Kristi Niles, Dr. Travis Roundcount, Betsy Tanner, and Audra Trump.

To continue our success, our schools are staffed with dedicated men and women who are committed to providing our children with an excellent education in a safe and secure environment. Parental involvement also contributes immeasurably to the success of our schools. We encourage our parents to join us and be involved in the many active parent organizations in the District. This combined effort makes Mt. Zion Schools "a great place to learn."



**Mr. Brian Rhoades,
Associate Superintendent**

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! For those of you that are new to the district, welcome to Mt. Zion. We look forward to meeting you and helping your child be successful in our schools. For those that are returning, we are glad to have you back. Together, let's make 2018-2019 the best school year yet.

Much continues to be said in Springfield about education and funding. Like many other districts throughout the area and state, the state's economic woes continue to be a burden on our local education budget. While maintaining fiscal responsibility in these economic times, our goal is to continue to provide an exceptional learning experience for your child and continue to offer many opportunities for them to be successful. You can be sure that our decisions are based on providing what is best and necessary for our students to become productive and successful citizens.

I want to let you know that I am always open to suggestions, questions, or comments about our school, and my office and phone are always available to anyone. We will look to build on all of the successes of the past and continue to look for ways to improve all of our schools. I look forward to working with all of you and together we all can make Mt. Zion schools continue to be a "great place to learn".

E-Funds and Electronic Payments

E-funds will once again be available for parents to make many school payments. This system makes payments for school expenses in real time. You must create an account with e-funds using the link provided in the family access food service page or the link on the school web page. Once you create an account with e-funds, you can select your child's name and make the appropriate payment by checking account transfer or credit card. This payment will go directly into the proper account. A convenience fee of \$1 per transaction for checking or \$2.45 per \$100 transaction for credit card will be charged by e-funds.

The District will also accept electronic payments for student food service accounts, registration fees, and other payments made to the school district. This system usually takes up to a week to process so it is not intended for lunch

balances below \$10.00 or other payments that need to be made immediately. Credit will not be applied to your child's account until the District has actually received the check from the bank. To utilize this free electronic payment system:

1. Go to your local bank's on-line bill pay system. Enter a school building's name and address from the list below, as the company you wish to pay. For children in different buildings, please make separate entries and the bank will send separate checks. If you are making a payment for Registration and Food Service to the same building we would again ask that you make separate entries and the bank will send separate checks. This will allow the District to better track the payments being made by the bank on your behalf.
2. On your bank's on-line bill pay system, enter the amount of the payment you wish to make.

3. On your bank's on-line bill pay system, enter in the memo line/description line the reason for the payment. Please be specific and provide as much information as possible (student's name, student's ID#, reason for payment-food service, registration fee, etc.).

Student Accident Insurance

All students enrolled at Mt. Zion CUSD #3 are covered under the District's Supplemental Student Accident Insurance. The Student Accident Policy provides coverage for eligible medical expenses as a result of an accident while attending school or participating in school sponsored co-curricular activities. This policy is secondary coverage and will pay a portion of eligible expenses when no other health insurance is available and/or fill gaps in current health insurance coverage. If the student and/or parents have any questions regarding this insurance coverage, they may contact the Central Office at 864-2366.

Residency Requirements

In accordance with the Illinois School Code, permanent records must indicate that the parent/legal guardian resides within the boundaries of this school district. Families who are new to the District or families who are enrolling new students in the District must observe the residency requirements [found here](#). The residency documents must be provided to school personnel in the building in which the student will attend classes.



MT. ZION SCHOOLS AND STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES



Mr. Mark Hogan,

Transportation Director

Theresa Lane – Operations Manager

Greetings from your transportation office. With the start of a new school year, we would like all parents to know that your children are in good hands each time they ride the bus. The safety of the children we transport is at the forefront of all we do. Our buses are packed with state-of-the-art safety features to protect our riders. Each bus has a Child Check-Mate System, an electronic reminder system that reminds drivers to check for sleeping children before leaving the bus. Each bus is also fitted with a digital camera. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that riding a bus is the safest way for children to get to and from school. Our drivers must meet extensive safety and training requirements and we are fortunate enough to have some of the best drivers in the business.

As we gear up for a new year, there are always some changes that take place on each route. Some routes may be changed this school year as we continue to balance the routes and save on fuel consumption. We will continue using a software program for the purpose of routing. This will afford us some efficiencies and there is a possibility that pick up points could be consolidated. This system also aids us in being aware of the number of students on each bus as well as the travel time each student will have on the bus. Please call in, for any route changes your student may have, ten days prior to the start of school. This includes a different pick-up or drop-off address for babysitters. The best way to assure a safe and consistent ride home is to have one pick-up address and one drop-off address. Multiple addresses

confuses the students, the staff, the drivers, and especially the sub drivers. One pick-up and one drop-off address please. If you have changes, please contact the transportation office at 217-864-5233.

Parents, please call in before placing your student on a different bus. We will have several full buses. Parents must also contact the bus garage and send a note before their child is allowed to ride a different bus.

Remember to be out at the pick-up point at least five minutes prior to pick-up time; please do not wait inside your home as the driver cannot see you. Times will vary at the beginning of the school year due to last minute changes that occur. Remember that every minute we wait on your child, another child's stop will be late. Traffic, trains, and weather may also cause buses to run late. **one drop-off address.**

Kindergarten Students

Kindergarten students will be given name tags that should be worn daily to help the teachers, principals, and the drivers assure their efficient transportation. All-day Kindergarten students will ride the regular bus route schedule. Also, all Kindergarten students must sit in the front seats of the bus. A guardian must be present to receive a Kindergarten student from the bus. If no one is present to receive the student, the student will be taken back to school.

All Students

Parents, we need your help to re-enforce the District's bus rules. The most important rule, for their safety, is that students need to stay seated and forward in their assigned seat. The bus is an extension of the classroom and those rules apply to the bus. Please go over the following rules with your students prior to school starting.

1. **Lighten Up** | Dressing your child in light-colored clothing will help drivers see your child on dark

mornings. Consider purchasing reflectors or Day-Glo strips for your child's backpack.

2. **Stand Back** | Students should stand at least 10 feet away from the street and wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before proceeding to the bus.
3. **Walk** | Don't run to the bus. Accidents are more likely to happen if your child is running, particularly on uneven pavement.
4. **Leave It** | Don't bend down to pick up something in the road. Drivers are much more likely to not see you if you are bent over.
5. **Tour of Duty** | Take turns with a spouse or neighbor supervising the pick-up and drop-off of children at the bus stop.
6. **Know the Rules** | Be sure to go over the rules of the bus with your child. Most rules are in place for the safety and security of your child.
7. **Reporting** | Parents should never confront a bus driver or student directly. Please report any concerns to the transportation office.
8. **Go Against Traffic** | Your child should always use the sidewalk. If you can't walk on a sidewalk, use the shoulder or the grass and walk against the traffic.
9. **Drivers Beware** | Motorists approaching a school bus from either direction are required to stop at least 10 feet back from buses displaying red flashing lights and an extended stop arm.
10. **Be on Time** / Have students at the bus stop 5-10 minutes before their pick-up time. A student running for the bus creates an opportunity for bad things to happen.

MCGAUGHEY ELEMENTARY



**Mrs. Brandi Kelly, McGaughey
Elementary Principal**

Greetings from the entire faculty and staff at McGaughey! We want to welcome all new and returning parents and children to the 2018-2019 school year. We look forward to partnering together in educational and social efforts in order to assist the McGaughey Busy Bees to “Be the best you can be!” As your child begins their educational career at McGaughey, please feel free to ask questions, assist in activities, and become part of our extended family.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Educating students is a team process involving students, parents and the entire staff. Communication between students, home and school creates the atmosphere we need for successful learning. The use of Family Access to look up attendance, lunch accounts and grades is a helpful communication tool as well as the Parent Resources included on McGaughey’s website. At any time throughout the school year, please contact teachers by note, voice mail, or e-mail. We also invite you to share your time and talent with us through volunteering at school or through the Community Club.

The Community Club welcomes participation of all parents in its activities during the school year. The Community Club is a parent volunteer organization that supports McGaughey, Mt. Zion Grade, and Mt. Zion Intermediate. The purpose of the Community Club is to promote family events and projects for the direct benefit of the students. Membership is open to any

parent/guardian with a child in Pre-K – 6th grade. Volunteers can participate in a range of activities from helping during one of the many family activities to facilitating classroom celebrations.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

A nurturing, family friendly environment with academic excellence for all students is the climate we strive for at McGaughey. We expect the students, teachers, office staff, and support staff to “Be the best they can be!” Technology will continue to be an important part of learning this school year as well as other advancements in educational practice. We will continue to use Bridges Math Series in Kindergarten, and Go Math for 1st Grade. Macmillan McGraw-Hill/Treasures Reading Series will continue to be the reading series used in 1st Grade. Three of our first grade classrooms; however, will be piloting McGraw-Hill/Wonders Reading Series. Our curriculum is supplemented with guided reading, Accelerated Reading, and other research based educational programs. The Response to Intervention (RtI) model is utilized in order to help all students reach their fullest academic potential. Teachers and support staff provide students with research-based interventions in a small group setting based on student need of remediation and/or enrichment on a daily basis. In order to aid in effective and consistent data gathering, computer aided assessment tools as well as one-on-one reading and math diagnostic testing are used with all students. It is our goal to keep parents well informed of student progress.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS & SUPPORTS

McGaughey Busy Bees follow the motto of “Be the best you can be!” Our motto is incorporated into the school through implementation of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) which is a proactive systems approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture needed for all students in a school to achieve social,

emotional, and academic success. McGaughey will be entering the 9th year of PBIS. We have been recognized by the IL PBIS Network and have been designated as an exemplary school for other emerging PBIS schools to visit.

All students are encouraged to follow the 3 R’s: Be Ready! Be Responsible! Be Respectful!

All students practice the 3 R’s throughout the building in various settings, such as during PE, on the playground, during lunch, and on the school bus. We begin the school year with PBIS by establishing clear expectations for behavior that are taught, modeled, and reinforced across all settings by all staff. Students participate in Beehive Boot Camp and travel throughout the building with staff to earn recognition on their 3 R’s Passport which shows that they have displayed the 3 R’s throughout the building. Parents also have a chance to earn recognition through the use of a Parent 3 R’s Passport in which parents make note of particular activities completed with their child. Teachers reinforce the 3 R’s even further with Cool Tool Tuesdays in which they teach a mini-lesson to the students regarding social emotional skills. Many additional motivating activities that reinforce the 3 R’s are planned throughout the year.

All students will also learn about the 7 Habits of Happy Kids at McGaughey. The 7 Habits include Habit 1: Be Proactive, Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind, Habit 3: Put First Things First, Habit 4: Think Win-Win, Habit 5: Seek First to Understand and Then to Be Understood, Habit 6: Synergize, and Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw. The 7 Habits are taught in a developmentally appropriate manner to teach students timeless principles of interpersonal effectiveness, such as responsibility, vision, integrity, teamwork, collaboration, and renewal. The 7 Habits helps students “Be the best they can be!”

REGISTRATION

Registration will be held at McGaughey on Tuesday, August 7th, from 8:00 AM- 6:00 PM. Parents of incoming kindergarten students that were screened and pre-registered in the spring are encouraged to attend in order to set up bus transportation, initiate your child's food service account, update any new contact information, sign up as a Community Club member, and visit the building. Parents of first grade students are able to complete registration online starting Monday, July 9th. Online registration will allow parents to update contact and health information, pay the registration fee, update transportation information, and deposit money into your child's food service account.

Each family will also have access to the Mt. Zion District Handbook/Calendar via online registration. First grade families that do not have easy access to a computer to complete online registration may come to the building during registration times for online assistance. Anyone enrolling in the Mt. Zion School District for the first time must attend registration at the building instead of registering online.

Registration fees for Pre-K students will be \$35.00. Registration fees for kindergarten and first grade students will be \$70.00. Registration fees, and most others, may be paid on-line using e-Funds, by cash, or by check made out to "Mt. Zion School District".

New kindergarten students to the district that have not already been assessed will be screened for kindergarten readiness at registration; please call ahead (864-2711) to schedule this screening. All incoming kindergarten students to McGaughey need physical, dental and eye exams to enter school.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN HOME VISITS & ORIENTATION

Pre-Kindergarten families are not required to attend registration. Pre-Kindergarten parents will be contacted by Pre-K staff to schedule an introductory home visit between August 17th and

August 22nd. The first day of attendance and orientation for parents and students is Thursday, August 23rd. Time and details of the schedule for this day will be sent via mail.

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

Kindergarten parents and students are invited to an evening orientation to be held on Wednesday, August 15th. Parents and students attend during an assigned time, noted below, according to classroom. Parents have an informational orientation, meet their child's teacher, and students will receive a tour of the building and playground. Students are to bring their school supplies to orientation. The first day of attendance for kindergarten students is Thursday, August 16th with an 11:35 AM dismissal time.

5:00 PM - KA Team

Mrs. Bagley's Class
Mrs. Ditty's Class
Mrs. Jenkins' Class
Miss Perry's Class

6:00 PM - KB Team

Mrs. Hamrick's Class
Ms. Mills
Mrs. Orris' Class
Mrs. Reatherford's Class

FIRST GRADE ORIENTATION

First grade parents and students are invited to an evening orientation on Thursday, August 16th at 6:00 PM. Parents can meet the teacher and discuss classroom procedures.

KINDERGARTEN & FIRST GRADE SCHOOL HOURS

McGaughey school hours are from 8:30 AM until 3:00 PM. Our playground is supervised before school, beginning at 8:00 AM; children who arrive before this time should register for the Before and After School Activities Program (BASAP). Weather permitting, students will play outdoors until 8:20 AM when they pass to their classes. During inclement weather, students go to the cafeteria and gym. Detailed information regarding drop-off and pick-up procedures will be available prior to the start of school.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL HOURS

AM PreK hours are from 8:00 AM to 10:30 AM, and PM PreK hours are from 12:00 PM to

2:30 PM. There is no supervision available for PreK students prior to or after their school day. Detailed information regarding drop off and pick up procedures will be available prior to the start of school.

MCGAUGHEY FACULTY & STAFF

PRINCIPAL: Mrs. Brandi Kelly

SECRETARY: Mrs. Debi Hall

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: Mrs. Taylor Larrison

KINDERGARTEN: Mrs. Amy Bagley, Mrs. Mandi Ditty, Mrs. Angie Hamrick, Mrs. Diane Jenkins, Ms. Jessica Mills
Mrs. Rachel Orris, Mrs. Brittany Reatherford, Miss Dana Perry

FIRST GRADE: Mrs. Jessica Buckley, Mrs. Rachel Cravatta, Ms. Lori Hanson, Mrs. Christine Koehn, Mrs. Sarah Nichols, Mrs. Katie Patrick, Mrs. Dianna Weirman

NURSE: Mrs. Pam Hilligoss

SOCIAL WORKER: Mrs. Marie Baker

REMEDIAL READING: Mrs. Shelly Wheeler

MUSIC: Mrs. Jamie Sill

ART: Mrs. Kimberley McSherry

SPEECH: Mrs. Rachael Althoff

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Mrs. Jill Driscoll, Mrs. Nancy Smith, Mrs. Trena Freeman, Mrs. Tonya Freeland, and Ms. Crystal Evans

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Mr. Craig Koshinski, Mrs. Jenny Moore

LIBRARY RESOURCE: Mrs. Julia Moroney

BASAP DIRECTOR: Mrs. Lori Rutherford

CUSTODIAN: Donna Herrmann and Jeff Henry

PLAYGROUND SUPERVISORS: Mrs. Amy Cassell, Mrs. Christy Fyke, Mrs. Kim Arthur, Mrs. Amber Shobe

**MT. ZION GRADE SCHOOL
WELCOME TO THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR**



**Gary Gruen, Mt. Zion Grade
School Principal**

I hope that the summer finds you well. It's hard to believe that when you read this, school will be right around the corner. Many of the staff members will also have been in after a break and getting themselves ready to meet your children. Once again this year, we are welcoming a new faculty member and there is an update in technology that we would like to announce.

This fall we welcome Mrs. Renee Wendell to our Third Grade. Mrs. Wendell comes to us from a very successful Fourth Grade teaching experience at Mt. Zion Intermediate School. We look forward to her sharing her knowledge, experiences, and instructional abilities with our Third Grade students and staff.

In the way of technology, the Mt. Zion Foundation for Quality Education has come through with their generosity again. This year they have ensured that all students at Mt. Zion Grade School will be 1:1 with Chromebooks. Third Grade was very successful in implementing 1:1 Chromebooks as a communication and learning tool

last year, and we are sure that our Second Grade classrooms will have the same results.

As always, we look

forward to this year bringing many fun and challenging learning experiences and events that will enhance your child's education. We have very dedicated and caring staff members who eagerly await meeting your child and instilling within them a love for learning with excellence. Our families have made a special effort to have their children enrolled in Mt. Zion, and we look forward to assisting them in creating a well-educated and well-adjusted citizen for now and in the future. On behalf of Mt. Zion Grade School faculty and staff, welcome to the 2018-2019 school year!

REGISTRATION

Registration for all current students will be online. Online registration will open July 9. Those who may have difficulty registering online may come to the school to register on computer stations set-up available on the onsite registration day. Assistance will be provided by office staff as needed. The onsite registration date is Tuesday, August 7, from 8:00 AM until 6:00 PM. Registration fees will be \$85.00 per student. This fee and most others may be paid on-line using e-Funds or by paying in person by cash or



check in our office. Please make checks payable to "Mt. Zion School District".

Anyone enrolling their child in the Mt. Zion School District for the first time must bring their child's certified birth certificate and the parent/guardian's driver's license or State of Illinois ID. Complete proof of residency for new enrollments must also be provided within 30 school days of the child's enrollment date. For more information on meeting the residency requirements of the District, see the additional section on Residency Requirements located elsewhere in this publication.

**STUDENT/PARENT
ORIENTATION NIGHT:
GRADES 2 & 3**

Mt. Zion Grade School will hold two separate Open House Orientation Nights for each grade level. Second Grade Orientation will be held on the first day of school, Thursday, August 16, from 7:00-7:45 PM. Third Grade Orientation will be held on Monday, August 20, from 5:30-6:15 PM. All students and their guests should gather in the gym by their start time. After a brief introduction to all grade level staff, the students and their guests will be

dismissed to meet their teacher in their classroom. On both nights, each homeroom teacher will briefly discuss academic and behavioral expectations for the year, daily schedules and procedures, and some of the annual activities that the children can expect throughout the year. Further information about both orientation nights will be e-mailed with registration information.

FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

Students will begin their new school year with a half-day on Thursday, August 16, from 8:30 11:30 AM. Lunch will not be served on this day. We will begin our regular schedule of student attendance, from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM, on Friday, August 17.

FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Hot or cold lunches will be available daily except on early dismissal days; milk and juice will be available for purchase during lunch. The Food Service article, found in this publication, provides more detail about the lunch and breakfast program.

.STAFF

This year we anticipate having 8 second grade and 8 third grade classrooms. All of our teachers look forward to serving the educational needs of our students. We know that a great year of learning awaits us!

Second Grade – Mrs. Mary Gemar, Mrs. Denise Hatayama, Mrs. Michelle Koslofski, Mrs. Allison Perry, Mrs. Jessica Peters, Mrs. Nicole Tapscott, Mrs. Marcia Whitley, Mrs. Kelly Wilson

Third Grade – Mr. Michael DeMeio, Mrs. Elizabeth Kyburz, Mrs. Heather Guasco, Mrs. Melissa Larrison, Mrs. Devon Logue, Mrs. Sheri Schorfheide, Mrs. Mary Swartz, Mrs. Wendell

Art – Mrs. Kim McSherry

Library – Mrs. Julia Moroney

Music – Mrs. Jamie Sill

Physical Education – Mr. Greg Blakey, Ms. Jenny Moore

Special Education – Mrs. Nicole Paulson, TBD

Special Education Aid – Mrs. Denise Toothman

Special Reading – Mrs. Julie Courson

Speech – Mrs. Morgan Holst

Student Assistance Counselor – Mrs. Marie Baker

Custodial Staff–Ms. Diana Wickline, Mr. Eric Childress

Cafeteria Staff– Mrs. Cindy Howerton, Mrs. Shari May, Mrs. Monica Stuart, Mrs. Vickie Wehr

Playground Supervisors – Mrs. Christen Cantrell, Mrs. Llavonne Marshall, Mrs. Danette Robinson, Ms. Karen Tharp,

Office Secretary - Mrs. Sheila Drum

Student Office Aid – Ms. Miranda Pygott (Mt. Zion High School)

COMMUNITY CLUB

The Community Club provides our students and staff with those "extras" that we find so indispensable. It also provides a great way for parents to become involved in the school community. The staff and I look forward to working with them, and we appreciate their hard work and dedication to the cause!

YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME

Mt. Zion Grade School continues the tradition of high quality education in a safe and nurturing environment. We appreciate your entrusting us with your child's education, and we certainly encourage the participation of parents and guardians in their child's education at both home and school. Open and honest communication serves each child best. Therefore, we will contact you if any concerns arise. Likewise, we ask that you feel free to contact us at 864-3631. We also enjoy visitors, so please plan on attending as many events as possible, and please remember to sign in at the office as required. The staff of Mt. Zion Grade School looks forward to meeting and working with you and your children. By working together, we can help ensure a productive and rewarding learning experience for all of the children at Mt. Zion Grade School!

MT. ZION INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
“PREPARING STUDENTS TO BE WORLD READY”



Mr. Randy Thacker,
Mt. Zion Intermediate School
Principal

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff of the Intermediate School, I am very excited to welcome all new and returning students and families to the 2018-2019 school year.

At Mt. Zion Intermediate School, we have an inspiring team of educators which bring both an academic challenge and the care and concern for each student. We also have a strong parent and family support base, which strengthens the educational success of our student programs. In this rapidly changing world, the Intermediate School students are being guided to think globally, engage learning through technology, and fulfill the academic rigor of their grade levels. Together, we strive to provide the support, challenge and rewards that every student requires to be “world” ready.

During this school year, we are excited to bring additional learning opportunities through a variety of programs such as: 1 to 1 Chromebook classroom activities, Honor Choirs, Jazz Band, Lego League, online Spanish class for all 6th graders, etc. These extra opportunities, along with an enhanced classroom curriculum, help bring an enriching educational experience for the Intermediate School students.

Finally, throughout the upcoming school year, we encourage parents to join our faculty in maintaining frequent

communication. Please phone, email or schedule visits to monitor your student’s progress. We know that when parents are active in their child’s educational experiences the greatest achievements will occur. We

encourage you to review the school calendar for various scheduled visitation opportunities.

We are looking forward to another outstanding school year!

**REGISTRATION &
 INSTRUCTIONAL FEE**
Grades 4th through 6th

On-line registration is available for all current Mt. Zion students beginning July 9. Parents/guardians can access the on-line registration materials via the Skyward Family Access system. Start by going to the Mt. Zion School District website www.mtzschools.org and click on the Skyward Family Access Tab.

Walk-in registration will be held at the Intermediate School on Tuesday, August 7, 8:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Instructional Fee - 4th through 6th grade students is \$85. The instructional fee, and other related fees, may be paid on-line or at the school using e-Funds, by cash, or by check made out to “Mt. Zion School District”.

**HEALTH & PHYSICAL
 EXAMINATIONS**

Record keeping for physicals and immunizations is completed in the fall, with the state requiring physicals for



Pre-K students, Kindergartners, 6th and 9th graders, as well as any student entering an Illinois school for the first time. Public Act 95-0422 revised the School Code such that a health exam was required before entering the sixth grade of any public, private or parochial school, as opposed to entering the fifth grade; the Act did not change other instances when a health exam is required. Immunizations at certain age levels are also required by the State of Illinois. School nurses can provide clarification, if needed.

Also, the State of Illinois requires any student entering a public, private or parochial school for the first time to have an eye exam by an ophthalmologist or optometrist. Each child is to present proof of having this exam within the previous year before October 15 of the school year. This includes children entering Kindergarten and any new students from out-of-state. State mandated vision screenings are conducted for Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Special Education, new students to the district and by parent/teacher request. Students who fail the first screening exam are rescreened in 10-14 days. If the student also fails the second screen, a referral is sent home to the student’s parent or guardian.

Record keeping for the dental exam is to be completed by May 15, with the State requiring exams for K, 2nd and 6th grade students.

Additionally, students who require medication during the school day must obtain a medication form, which is completed by the parent/guardian and the child's physician. The District's school nurses can aid in the process by faxing/emailing necessary forms to the doctor's office once the parent/guardian has completed the form. The medication form is available at the school and on the District's website.

SCHOOL HOURS

School hours for the Intermediate School are from 8:30 a.m. – 3:05 p.m. The first bell rings at 8:13 at which time students go to their lockers and then to their classrooms. A second bell rings at 8:25 at which time teachers read announcements and students broadcast daily news on channel WMTZ. Classes begin at 8:30 a.m. Supervision of children begins at 8:00 a.m. in the cafeteria and all-purpose room. Students should not arrive before 8:00 a.m. unless they are attending band or chorus practice.

SAFE STUDENT PICK-UP

In order to provide a safe environment for our students we would appreciate your cooperation when "picking-up" students after school in our south parking lot. Because of the volume of traffic after school, we are asking that all vehicles line up around the outer perimeter of the parking lot and follow the flow of traffic. Additionally, please do not double park in the traffic lane. On occasion, drivers have motioned to students to cross through the traffic to a parked vehicle and this has caused a few "near misses" as students were not seen crossing the lot.

Students have been directed to wait on the sidewalk until their vehicle pulls up and parks before entering the vehicle. Our goal is to provide a safe dismissal and student pickup process.

CAFETERIA PROGRAM

School lunch prices for the 2018-19 school year are included in this publication. Hot lunch menus are posted on-line at the District web site during the school year. Additionally, breakfast is served every morning with milk and juice available.

SUPPORT PROGRAMS

- The Mt. Zion Community Club is a parent/teacher organization for the Mt. Zion Schools representing Pre-K through 6th Grade. The Community Club's purpose is to provide each school with the volunteer base for events, projects and fundraising; assist teachers and staff as needed and to make our children's schools both an enriching and fun environment. Past support has included important donations to support the educational enrichment programs, Spring Fling student activities, Red Ribbon Week activities, Teacher Appreciation Week, Play Day etc. As a parent of a child at Mt. Zion Intermediate you are a valued member of the Mt. Zion Schools Community Club. Opportunities to volunteer will be shared during registration. During the 2018 – 2019 school year, Mrs. Lauri Flaherty and Mrs. Samantha Kelley will serve as the Intermediate School Co-Presidents.
- The Mt. Zion Foundation for Quality Education has provided many years of outstanding educational support for the students of the Mt. Zion School District. For the 2018 -19

school year, the Mt. Zion FQE has provided significant funding to purchase and bring a variety of teacher resources. Thank you to the leadership and supporters of the Foundation!

- RtI – Response to Intervention continues to enhance student abilities in reading and math. This important educational program strengthens our high level of academic standards and learning. The RtI process begins with high quality instruction and periodic universal screening of all students. Students identified with academic weaknesses are provided with academic intervention to accelerate their rate of learning in a small group environment. Additionally, students identified academically above average receive enrichment learning activities.

- Accelerated Reader and Accelerated Math programs elevate additional student learning and achievement. Specifically, Accelerated Reader motivates a strong reading practice with differentiated reading and practice goals. Students simply choose books, read them and then take a short comprehension quiz. Accelerated Math helps ensure math proficiency as students begin with a set of math objectives at their current level. Once a set of objectives are mastered, a student moves to the next set of more challenging objectives.

As we look forward to a great school year, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. You can reach me at the school office, 864-2921, and/or at thackerr@mtzschoools.org.

MT. ZION JUNIOR HIGH HOME OF PRIDE, TRADITION, AND SPIRIT



**Mrs. Julie Marquardt,
Mt. Zion Junior High School
Principal**

Greetings from the Mt. Zion Junior High faculty and staff. We are eagerly anticipating the upcoming school year with enthusiasm and a warm welcome awaits all the students as they begin and complete their journey at the Junior High School.

It is always apparent to me through observation and discussions with students and parents that Mt. Zion residents desire a quality education for their children and they encourage them to behave in an acceptable manner both academically and socially.

The District is large enough to offer challenging programs to all students, yet small enough to maintain a feeling of "togetherness"

.REGISTRATION

Online registration is available to parents/guardians using Skyward Family Access beginning July 9th. For those that cannot register online, on-site registration for students is Wednesday, August 7th from 8:00am – 6:00pm. The instructional fee is \$100.00 per student and can be paid online by eFunds, electronic payments or on registration day.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Mt. Zion Junior High students are required to take science, math, literature/composition, social studies, physical education, and an elective. The students may choose art, band, orchestra, French, Spanish, home economics, computer concepts, yearbook/ journalism, or study hall as an elective.

SCHOOL HOURS

School will start at 7:45 a.m. daily and be dismissed at 2:30 p.m. The schedule is as follows: 1st Period, 7:45-8:33; 2nd Period, 8:37-9:22; 3rd Period, 9:26-10:11; 4th Period,

10:15-11:03; 5th Period, 11:07-11:55 (lunch is served during this period); 6th Period, 12:29-1:13; 7th Period, 1:17-2:01, Focus Period, 2:05-2:30.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education uniforms may be purchased using eFunds or they will be on sale during registration. Cost is \$25.00 per set or \$15 per item. Uniforms are required for participation in physical education classes. The fee can be paid online by eFunds, electronic payments or on registration day.

SPORTS

Softball, baseball, and cross country will begin in late July or early August. For exact times and dates, please call the Junior High Office, at 864-2369. Please remember that all athletes must have a physical on file to try out and participate. The athletic physical form is available on the school web site. There is a \$40.00 athletic fee per sport, per student for all who participate in Junior High sports. Note: There is \$260.00 cap per family.

HANDBOOK/CALENDAR & CO-CURRICULAR GUIDE

As part of the registration process parents will be required to go online and sign off indicating that they have read and agreed to the terms of the documents. The Student/Parent Handbook/Calendar will be distributed on the first day of attendance.

PICKING UP STUDENTS AFTER SCHOOL

Parents are asked to leave the circle drive on the east side of the school open for bus pick up before and after school. The suggested place to pick up your children would be in the back parking lot on the west side of the school. The circle drive may be used when buses are not loading and unloading.

COUNSELOR

Students and parents are reminded that we have a full time counselor on staff at the Junior High School, Laura Mandernach. If you have any questions regarding your child's schedule, please call the office at 864-2369 and talk to Mrs. Mandernach.

HEALTH INFORMATION

All students who attend Mt. Zion Junior High School must have a parent complete and sign a Health Information form. This form is

provided at registration or may be obtained on Family Access. The health information form equips the school nurse, teachers, and coaches to deal with any health problems or emergencies students may experience while at school or participating in a sport. This form should be on file by the first day of school.

All students who will use medication of any kind while at school must have the medication authorization form filled out by their doctor and parent. This includes any over the counter medication as well as inhalers. Illinois state laws provides for students who wish to carry their inhaler while at school. However, any student with an inhaler must have the authorization form on file with both doctor and parent signatures. Any form submitted without both signatures cannot be accepted. Forms are provided at registration. If there are any questions pertaining to your student's health, please feel free to call your child's school and speak with the nurse.

PICTURE INFORMATION

Inter-State Studio will take pictures of junior high school students during the morning of Tuesday, August 21 st. Picture packets will be distributed during the first day of school. Students should bring money (payable to Inter-State Studio) that day if they wish to purchase pictures.

As your building administrator in the Mt. Zion School District, I am anticipating a great year! In an effort to provide a wholesome atmosphere at the Junior High School, it is requested that parents again cooperate in monitoring the apparel your children wear to school. Specifically, the following will not be allowed; apparel that doesn't meet the dress code, shirts that have profanity on them or advertise alcohol or tobacco product, and/or shirts having scenes which imply the physical or sexual abuse of people or animals. Your understanding and cooperation with this concern will be appreciated. For additional information, please refer to the District Dress Code. I trust the information in this publication will be helpful. If you have any additional questions, please call me at 864-2369. please refer to the District Dress Code. I trust the information in this publication will be helpful. If you have any additional questions, please call me at 864-2369.

SCHOOL HEALTH NEWS 2018 - 2019**Nurse Jeanne Luckenbill****Nurse Pam Hilligos**

Welcome back to the new school year! We hope that your summer was a healthy one! The following information is designed to assist students and parents regarding health and medication needs during the coming school year.

Physical Examination is required by October 15th, 2018 for all students entering the following grades for the first time:

- Pre-Kindergarten
- Kindergarten
- 6th grade
- 9th grade

Any student who is entering an Illinois school for the first time, regardless of grade level, within 6 weeks of enrollment.

The school physical must be documented on the Department of Human Services Certificate of Child Health Examination. This required form has been revised and is available at the school and for download from the District website. Parents must complete and sign the health history portion of the physical (top half). Without this information, the physical cannot be accepted.

Sports physicals are required yearly. A school physical as required by grade level (K, 6th and 9th) cannot be accepted if completed on a "sports exam" form. However, the required grade level physical, completed on the appropriate Certificate of Child Health form, will be accepted as a sports physical, eliminating the need for the completion of two physicals.

IMMUNIZATIONS/VACCINES

Pre-K, Kindergarten and all students new to the District must present proof of all required vaccines.

All students entering 6th - 9th grade are required to show proof of having received one dose of the Meningococcal vaccine. All students entering grade 12 must show proof of two doses of the Meningococcal vaccine with one dose given on or after the 16th birthday. If the first dose was received on or after the 16th birthday, only one dose of the vaccine is required.

Proof of one dose of Tdap is required for students entering grades 6-12.

All students entering grade K- 4th and 6th -12th grade, must show proof of two doses of the Varicella vaccine, or proof of immunity.

All students grade K – 12th must show proof of two doses of MMR.

All Pre-K students must show proof of the Invasive Pneumococcal Disease vaccine.

Any student entering an Illinois school for the first time, regardless of grade level, must submit proof of immunization and physical exam within 6 weeks of enrollment

An approved medical or religious exemption may be submitted in lieu of immunizations and must be on file with your child's school.

Dental Examinations or Waiver are required by May 15th 2019 for all students entering

- Kindergarten
- 2nd grade
- 6th grade

Any student new to the District or entering an Illinois school for the first time regardless of grade level, within 6 weeks of enrollment.

Dental exams must be completed on the appropriate State of Illinois form, available at the schools or the District website.

Eye/Vision Examinations or Waiver are required by October 15th, 2018 for students entering Kindergarten

Any student entering an Illinois school for the first time

Eye exams must be completed by an Optometrist or Ophthalmologist on the appropriate State of Illinois Eye Exam form, available at the school or the District website

If your student needs to take prescription or over-the-counter medication during the school year, a medication authorization form must be on file with the school nurse. A medication authorization is only valid for one school year, thus new medication authorizations must be completed each year and for each medication to be taken at school. This form, available at the school and on the District website, must be completed by the health care provider and must be signed by the parent. Parents must furnish the medication at the time the medication form is submitted. All prescription medication must be in the pharmacy labeled container. All over-the-counter medication must be in the original container. All medication, with the possible exception of inhalers, will be kept in the school nurse's office.

Parents of students with Diabetes are required to submit the Diabetic Medical Management Plan. Parents of students with Asthma, Severe Food Allergy, Seizure Disorders, or other serious medical conditions are asked to submit an Emergency Action Plan to the school. This Emergency Action Plan should be coordinated and signed by your primary health care provider and the parent/guardian. Copies of various Emergency Action Plans are now available on the District website.

When registering your student for school, it is important that you complete the online Health History questionnaire. The school nurse reviews this information so that the best possible care can be provided for your student while at school. If you wish to discuss any health issue regarding your child, please do not hesitate to contact your school nurse.

We welcome the opportunity to assist parents and students during the upcoming school year and look forward to seeing all of you soon

MT. ZION SCHOOL DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY

Billy Rockey
Director of Curriculum
and Technology

Hello, my name is Billy Rockey, and I am entering my fifth year in this position. I have been with Mount Zion Schools for the last twelve years as a teacher and more recently as the Director of Curriculum and Technology. I am excited to continue serving the amazing teachers, staff, and students of Mount Zion Schools. As the parent of three Mount Zion students, working with our teachers and staff on increasing student achievement through more effective use of educational technology and curricular best practices is my number one priority.

Mount Zion Schools continues to focus on helping our students be 21st century learners. Last year we expanded implementation of our district 1 to 1 Google Chromebook initiative, with students in grades 3 through 12 having access to their own device, including 7-12 graders taking devices home with them. We are excited to announce that all second grade students will now have their own Chromebook cart available to

them throughout the day this year as well. Achieving a ratio of 1 device per student would not have been possible without the continued support of the Mt. Zion Foundation for Quality Education. Mt. Zion Schools will continue offering an optional product protection plan for parents of 7-12 graders with a desire for peace of mind about the responsibility of their student carrying this device day-to-day. This program was very successful last year.

We continue to increase opportunities for our students at all grade levels with S.T.E.M. initiatives funded by A.D.M., as well as The Mount Zion Foundation for Quality Education. For example, over the last several months students in our lower grades have begun programming and exploring S.T.E.M. through the use of such devices as Ozobots, Sphero Balls, and Lego WeDo kits, while many students all across the district have enjoyed the experience of field trips to such locations as the Children's Museum and the Challenger Learning Center. We were also able to initiate a Lego/Robotics program in grades 1-12 last year (including a state finish for our Junior High First Lego League Competition Team). In addition, we are excited to announce that funds from A.D.M. have provided us the opportunity to purchase a classroom Google Expeditions Kit. This virtual reality experience allows teachers to take their students on virtual field trips to locations all over the world so

the students can see first-hand the environments they have been learning about in class (for more information about Google Expeditions, click here.) The Foundation has also provided document cameras, active speaker systems, laboratory equipment, SMART Boards, and a variety of other educational supports that enrich the education of Mt. Zion students

Internet safety is a major concern for our district. We are proud of the safeguards we have put in place to allow us to track student activity and filter the content as dictated by Children's Internet Protection Act. Google Chromebooks used at school and home are filtered using both the built-in Google content filter, as well as an additional layer of filtering and reporting software called GoGuardian. Teachers at school also utilize a program called Hapara, which allows them to see a student's Chromebook screen while they are at school, in addition to other features used within the educational setting.

This summer we implemented the final phase of our district infrastructure upgrades adding access points to every classroom at McGaughey, as well as expanded wifi coverage across the district. This additional connectivity will allow us to meet the increasing demand of our district's expanding technological needs. We have a district Internet bandwidth of 300 mbps which allows us to have a robust network.

NUTRITION STANDARDS IN NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH



**Mrs. Gwen Karr,
Food Service Director**

The 2018-19 school year continues following the National School Lunch Program requirements for hot lunch. On May 1, 2017, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced several menu-planning flexibilities to assist schools in serving healthy and appealing school meals. The areas that will change are sodium, whole grains, and flavored milk. Students may notice a difference throughout the school year. For example chocolate milk can now be 1% instead of fat free. It should taste better and should be more acceptable to students.

The focus continues on offering healthier options for students in the Mt. Zion Community Unit School District #3. The District monitors the Local Wellness Policy and make appropriate changes to improve nutrition and health education in the classroom, PE classes, and class parties. We encourage healthy choices in the breakfast and lunch program in the District. The Wellness committee includes administrators, teachers, PE staff, school nurse, food service, parents and students. Mt. Zion School District will continue to monitor the policy's implementation in the 2018-19 school year. Parents are encouraged to look at their student's food service information on Family Access.

Any school organization that requires the kitchen in any of the schools for the 2018-19 should contact Gwen Karr four weeks prior to the event

at 864-2114. This allows for plenty of preparation in order to make the fund-raising event successful.

FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM- DISTRICT #3 OVERVIEW

The food service program for grades K-12 offers a daily meal consisting of a meat/meat alternative, vegetable, fruit, bread, and milk. A breakfast meal is offered to students in grades K-12 each day before school. A la carte items are available for purchase during lunch each day for grades 4-12.

DEBIT ACCOUNT OVERVIEW

Nutrition and Technology team-up in the Mt. Zion School District with an automated meal purchasing system. This program provides a positive identification process used to access a student debit account and record purchases of food service items. A debit account will be established for each user and sharing of accounts will not be allowed. Students, parents, and staff may deposit advance sums of money to cover food service purchases. Advance deposits allow the user to draw from an individual debit account rather than having to handle cash during the lunch serving time. Payments and purchases are recorded daily. Parents will receive an email when the student's account reaches \$10.00. This is a reminder that will be delivered via email until a deposit is made into the student's account. If the student has a negative balance, an automatic call, email, and texted message through School Messenger will be made to the parents as a reminder. Payments may be made using e-funds through Family Access. Once online payments are made the money is automatically credited to the student account. Online payments can be made anytime. **Parents may also call the Food Service Office at 864-2114, by 10:00 a.m. and request a student transfer from one sibling to another.**

GRADES K-6

Payments will be accepted each morning school is in session and should equal at least one week of food service purchases. Payments should be sent in an envelope with student's name, student's ID number, and teacher's name. Payments should include enough lunch money for breakfast and lunch. Payments should include break-milk money for students in Kindergarten only. Payments will be posted to the student's debit account on the same day if received before 10:00 a.m. The food service office maintains a record of student payments. Payments may also be made using e-funds through Family Access. Once online payments are made, the money automatically is credited to the student account. Online payments can be made anytime.

GRADES 7-12

Payments will be accepted before 10:00 a.m. each morning that school is in session. Locked drop boxes are available in four locations in the Jr. & Sr. High School buildings. This method of payment collection will insure posting of deposits and that funds will be available in the student's debit account before lunch serving time (10:10 a.m.). Payments made after 10:00 a.m. will be posted the following school day. Students will not be allowed to purchase a la carte items until payments are posted.

Payments by check or money order are preferred and must contain student name and ID number to insure proper posting. Payments of cash will be accepted in a sealed envelope, available at drop box locations. The envelope must be labeled with student name, ID number, and amount of cash deposit. No change will be given to students. The school cashier will maintain records of all cash deposits and parents can view these deposits in Family Access.

FREE / REDUCED MEAL APPLICATIONS

Free and reduced lunch and breakfast applications, along with letters containing guidelines, are available online throughout the school year and in each school's office. A parent/guardian wishing to apply must complete and return the application to their student's school office. Verification of income, and a letter of approval or denial will be sent by mail to the parent/guardian.

Students with Free/Reduced Status may only purchase A la Carte items if his/her debit account has funds available to cover such items. Kindergarten students with free/reduced status wishing to purchase milk for break time should make payment to cover such (\$.45 per carton) on a weekly or monthly basis. Students with free/reduced status may only receive one (1) free/reduced lunch and one (1) free/reduced breakfast per day.

MEAL PRICING

Breakfast – K-8

Full - \$1.55

Reduced - \$.30

Adult - \$1.75

Lunch – K-3

Full - \$2.35

Reduced - \$0.40

Adult - \$3.05

Lunch – 4 -12

Full - \$2.55

Reduced - \$0.40

Adult - \$3.05

Second meal - \$3.05 Second meals are charged at full price; there is no federal support for second meals. Menu items may be purchased A la Carte only in addition to a paid lunch.

K-3 one week of lunch = \$11.75
 K-3 one week of breakfast = \$7.75
 4-12 one week of lunch = \$12.75
 4-12 one week of breakfast = \$7.75

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM (BASAP)



The Before and After School Activities Program for the 2018-2019 school year will officially begin on August 16, 2018, the first day of school for students. All children registered in the program should bring a sack lunch on this day since this is an early dismissal day.

Prior to this date, the BASAP staff will be hosting an orientation on Thursday, August 9, 2017 at McGaughey Elementary School from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. A complete overview of the program will be discussed at this meeting. If you have not registered your child for this program, information will be provided at Mt. Zion Grade School and McGaughey Elementary School during registration on August 7st from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

We look forward to another exciting school year. If you have any questions regarding BASAP, contact Lori Rutherford, BASAP Director, at 217-864-2814.