



# Schoolhouse

MMXX

2020-2021

## DISTRICT #3 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS



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## WELCOME TO THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR!



**Dr. Travis R. Roundcount,**  
Superintendent of Schools

### Return to School Plan

We would like to welcome everyone to the 2020-2021 school year! After a very unusual spring and summer, we still have much uncertainty about the fall season. Our return to school plan follows the Center for Disease Control, Illinois Department of Public Health, and Illinois State Board of Education guidelines. This plan is on our website under the district tab. You can also find a Question and Answer document as well as a Remote Learning Request Form. Starting on August 20th, we plan to allow in-person education for students to attend as long as the state of Illinois does not mandate shutdowns, and as long as local cases of COVID-19 do not prohibit us from having students

at school physically. For in-person learning, grades 7-12 will attend from 8:00 AM-2:04 PM, and grades K-6 will attend from 8:40 AM-2:35 PM Monday-Friday. Face masks must be in place for in-person learning. Students who cannot wear a mask throughout the day will need to either provide a medical note from their doctor or choose remote learning, which is our other education option. If your family would like to utilize remote learning for all or part-time, a Remote Learning Request Form must be completed for your child. Our remote learners will receive the core relevant instruction that our in-person learners receive. Please be reminded that these options are in place for the Phase 4 government restrictions. If we are told to move back to Phase 3 of the government restrictions, all families will be contacted and given new directions for moving forward with remote learning for all students.

The school board and administration view student and staff safety as a top priority. We will provide the best education in the safest environment possible. We are

working closely with the Public Health Department on any required communication regarding individuals that may be positive for COVID-19 or have been in close contact with the student (within 6ft for 15 or more minutes). We have received information from community members that approximately ten (10) students in the community have tested positive for COVID-19. After contacting the Public Health Department, we were informed they could not share any information with the School District if those individuals were not present on school property. If positive cases continue in our community, it will affect our ability to have in-person instruction. We remind each of you to remain vigilant in monitoring your children for COVID-19 symptoms and to immediately consult a health care professional if symptoms are present. In the event a student or employee tests positive for COVID, or multiple individuals test positive after we commence in-person instruction, we will work closely with the Public Health Department, close school buildings, and move to remote

## 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.*

learning per our plan document. For confidentiality purposes, the Mt. Zion School District will never disclose the names of students or employees that may test positive. We are legally required to notify the Public Health Department of any individual that has a confirmed positive test or is suspected of being positive.

We realize these are challenging times for every family in our community. We truly appreciate your support as we develop and modify plans to provide each student with a quality education and, at the same time, implement measures to provide our students and staff a safe environment.

### New Principals at Mt. Zion Schools

New teachers will be introduced by the building principals. However, we have two new principals that I would like to introduce to everyone. We have Mrs. Heather Ethell as the new principal at McGaughey. She has been an administrator in Decatur Public Schools and Sullivan School District. She came very highly recommended by both districts and I feel very fortunate that we are able to have her leading one of our schools. Mrs. Ethell lives in Mt. Zion with her family and is invested in the community. We look forward to her positive energy and experience that will assist in developing the abilities of every student at McGaughey.

We also have Mr. Justin Johnson as the new principal at Mt. Zion High School. Mr. Johnson has been an administrator at Taylorville High School, and previously an English teacher at Mt. Zion High School for 13 years. He knows our system well, but has also gained valuable experience at Taylorville, chairing their remote learning plan this last year. He will be bringing his family to Mt. Zion Schools and we look to Mr. Johnson providing years of consistent leadership at the High School through a collaborative team effort.

### Mt. Zion Foundation for Quality Education

We are fortunate to have the Mt. Zion Foundation to assist our schools with items that fall outside of the school budget. The Mt. Zion Foundation for Quality Education is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization governed by a Board of Trustees whose members are

parent volunteers, business leaders, and professionals from the community with a commitment to education. The Foundation operates as an independent entity, established to enrich programs throughout the Mt. Zion Schools. In 2020 the Foundation will again extend its support by allowing teachers to submit mini-grants for various items they want for their students. These items would be valued at or under \$200, and the Foundation covers the cost. To make a donation please follow [this link](#). If you would like to provide the Foundation an extra hand please email [mzfqe@mtzschools.org](mailto:mzfqe@mtzschools.org).

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: Interactive flat panel TVs, Ipad, Digital streaming equipment, google expedition kits, classroom speakers, science materials, books, as well as materials needed to support the freshman orientation, drama and robotics programs. ADM has also graciously provided additional funds to purchase STEM programming materials and fund classroom field trips.

During the past 26 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
- Classroom audio/visual equipment
- Live streaming equipment
- 3D-Printers
- Portable laptop computer labs
- Video equipment
- Kindles and E-books
- Reading software and books
- Document cameras
- Band Instruments
- IPADS
- Science equipment
- Portable sound systems

Mt. Zion is fortunate to have the following individuals as Foundation for Quality Education Trustees for the 2020-2021 school year: Kelli McInerney-Chairman, TBA-Vice Chairman, Steve Grohne-Treasurer, Michelle Shumaker-Secretary, Katy Doolin, Lisa Flora, Kevin Fritzsche, Heather Mason, Shane Mendenhall, Kristi Niles, Billy Rockey, Betsy Tanner, and Dr. 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."

### 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.



**Mr. Brian Rhoades,**  
**Associate Superintendent**

Welcome to the 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 the best school year yet.

This past year has definitely been a challenge for all of us. The pandemic sent shockwaves through the state budget. Since the state is one of our primary sources of income to the district, we keep a close eye on what happens in Springfield. The new Evidence Based Funding model provides a pathway for the state to better fund our educational system, but

in order to provide districts with a stable revenue source that is dependable, the state must fix its economic issues, many of which were made worse by recent events. The state has pledged to keep funding schools at the same level as prior to the pandemic, but the reality of a shrinking revenue stream may make that difficult to maintain. 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 while being fiscally responsible with your tax dollars. 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.

Required Addresses for the Electronic Payment Process		
MTZ HS- Food Service 305 S. Henderson St Mt. Zion, IL 62549-1323	MTZ High School Office 305 S. Henderson St. Mt. Zion, IL 62549-1323	MTZ JH-Food Service 315 S. Henderson St. Mt. Zion, IL 62549-1323
MTZ JH- School Office 315 S. Henderson St. Mt. Zion, IL 62549-1323	MTZ INT- Food Service 310 S. Henderson St. Mt. Zion, IL 62549-1384	MTZ INT- School Office 310 S. Henderson St. Mt. Zion, IL 62549-1384
MZG- Food Service 725 W. Main St. Mt. Zion, IL 62549-1335	MZG- School Office 725 W. Main St. Mt. Zion, IL 62549-1335	McG.- Food Service 1320 W. Main St. Mt. Zion, IL 62549-1348
McG- School Office 1320 W. Main St. Mt. Zion, IL 62549-1348	MTZ- Central Office 1595 W Main Street Mt. Zion, IL 62549-1314	
<b>Sample Notes And/Or Memo To Include On The Check</b>		
Please post to Acct. # 123456- John Smith		Lunch Acct. for John Smith
Registration Fee for John Smith		Athletic Fee for John Smith
Pay Rider Fee for John Smith		



## 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.

**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. Last year did not end the way we would have liked, and this year may not start the way we would like, but rest assured the JH staff has been working hard to assure that the students' transition back into the classroom will be a smooth one.

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. For those that cannot register online, on-site registration for students is Wednesday, August

6th from 12:00 – 6:00. Due to social distancing requirements, parents will be sent an email to schedule a time to register on-site. The instructional fee is \$100.00 per student and can be paid online by efunds, electronic payments or on-site the week of August 6th. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the building will not be open for tours on August 6th. We are working on plans for seventh graders to walk through the school and pick up their Chromebooks before school begins. Please check your email and watch the JH website and Facebook page for further details.

**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, show choir, French, Spanish, home economics, computer concepts, yearbook/journalism, or study hall as an elective.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Physical Education will take place, however students will not be required to change for PE. Students will be required to wear PE appropriate shoes for participation.

**SPORTS**

We will follow the guidelines of state associations and IDPH in regards to IESA athletics. If sports are allowed to be held, 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 website. 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.

**SCHOOL HOURS**

School will start at 8:00 AM daily and be dismissed at 2:04 PM. The schedule is as follows:

- 1st Period, 8:00-8:42
- 2nd Period, 8:46-9:28
- 3rd Period, 9:32-10:14
- 4th Period, 10:18-11:00
- 5th Period, 11:04-11:46
- 6th Period, 11:50-12:32
- Lunch, 12:36-1:18
- 7th Period, 1:22-2:04.

**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. Students should not remain on campus after the school day unless supervised by a teacher or coach.

**STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

Students and parents are reminded that we have a social worker and student services coordinator on at the Junior High School. If you have any questions

regarding your child's schedule, please call the office at 864-2369.

### 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 25th. 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.



## SCHOOL HEALTH NEWS



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 requirements are due on or before the first day of the school year, but no later than October 15th, 2020, 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 schools 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 - 10th 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- 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
- The approved medical or religious exemption may be submitted in lieu of immunizations and must be on file with your child's school. [Religions Exempt Form](#)

Dental Examinations or Waiver are required by May 15th 2021 for all students entering

- Kindergarten
- 2nd grade
- 6th grade 9th 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 on the District website.

Eye/Vision Examinations or Waiver are required by October 15th, 2020 for students entering

- Kindergarten
- Any student entering an Illinois school for the first time, within six weeks of enrollment.

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! 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 seventh year in this position. I have been with Mount Zion Schools for the last fourteen 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 21<sup>st</sup> century learners. Last year was the 4<sup>th</sup> year of our 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade 1:1 initiative where all students are assigned their own Chromebook to take to classes and work with at home. The last four years have certainly been growing years for our students and staff, and we look forward to utilizing this technology to enhance the learning both in the classroom and at home. Because of this configuration, our students were well equipped to learn remotely when the COVID-19 closure occurred. This year, all students in high school will have brand new Chromebooks entering the school year. Students in grades 2-6 are currently 1 to 1 within their classroom with Chromebook carts, and 1<sup>st</sup> grade will be expanding their use of student devices in the 20-21 school year as well. We are proud of the efforts our teachers have made to develop their own

proficiencies in utilizing technology to develop the young minds of our students.

We continue to increase opportunities for our students at all grade levels with S.T.E.M. initiatives funded by A.D.M. We were also able to continue our Lego/Robotics program in all buildings last year. In addition, funds from A.D.M. and The Mount Zion Foundation for Quality Education supported the launch of Braves TV, the student run live streaming station. Braves TV was utilized throughout the year to broadcast concerts, assemblies, and sporting events to the public so families from all over the globe could enjoy these events. Most recently, the Foundation has provided funds for classroom technology upgrades, specifically BenQ Interactive Flat Panels to replace our aging fleet of Smart Boards. In addition, The Foundation put forth funds to support upgrading many, many classrooms across the district with new projectors, document cameras, and large screen televisions to enhance the classroom experiences of our students. The Foundation has also provided science laboratory equipment, 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.

We are proud of our achievements in improving our network infrastructure over the last 6 years. We have wifi in every classroom and continue to expand

access in high traffic areas. This additional connectivity will allow us to meet the increasing demand of our district's expanding technological needs. We have also expanded our district Internet bandwidth to 500 mbps to support the continued growth of online educational learning across the district.

Mt. Zion Schools continues to look for ways to improve communication with parents. All parents have access to Skyward Family Access. Logging into this program will show you a wealth of information including student grades, food service information, discipline, report cards, and more. If you do not currently have this access, you can fill out the Family Access Request Form found under the links section of the district web page. We utilize the Skylert broadcasting system to keep parents informed of emergencies and general information. Our website can be found by going to <http://www.mtzschools.org>. All teachers have email and their addresses can be found on the district web page. We'd also like to encourage parents to follow our district Facebook and Twitter pages on social media.

Julie McNamara, Technology Specialist, continues to play a vital role in keeping our growing resources working efficiently. The assistance she provides to our staff, along with the behind-the-scenes infrastructure maintenance she performs enables our teachers to provide a high quality, technology-rich environment for students.

I am happy to discuss the district's curriculum and technology matters with parents and community members. I can be reached at 217-864-2369 or by email at [rockeyw@mtzschools.org](mailto:rockeyw@mtzschools.org).

*Visit your child's school and see how technology is being used to enhance your child's education!*

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## NUTRITION STANDARDS IN NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH

**Mrs. Darcie Hayes,  
Food Service Director**



The 2020-21 school year continues following the National School Lunch Program requirements for hot lunch. Our school nutrition services will be participating in the DOD program this 2020-21 school year. The USDA annually allocates money for Illinois to spend with the Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program. Mt. Zion Food & Nutrition Services will also be implementing new entrée items throughout the 2020-21 school year as well as maintaining a healthy balanced nutritious quality meal.

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 2020-21 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 2020-21 should contact Darcie Hayes 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 Grab N Go lunch that consists of Nutritious items that are approved for the Child and Nutrition Program.

### **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. Payments should be sent in an envelope with student's name, student's ID number, and teacher's name. 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 five 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 when we return to Phase 5 until payments are posted.

Payments by check, money order, cash and online e-fund payments are accepted 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 Food Service Administrative Assistant 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-12

Full - \$1.85

Reduced - \$.30

Adult - \$2.05

Lunch – K-3

Full - \$2.55

Reduced - \$0.40

Adult - \$3.25

Lunch – 4 -12

Full - \$2.75

Reduced - \$0.40

Adult - \$3.25

Second meal - \$3.25 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 = \$12.75  
K-3 one week of breakfast = \$9.25  
4-12 one week of lunch = \$13.75  
4-12 one week of breakfast = \$9.25

**BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM (BASAP)**



The Before and After School Activities Program for the 2020-2021 school year will officially begin on August 18, 2020, 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.

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