



Schoolhouse

MMXXI

2021-2022

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WELCOME TO THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR!



Dr. Travis R. Roundcount,
Superintendent of Schools

We would like to welcome everyone to the 2021-2022 school year! After a very unusual last year, I'm writing this in July, with the expectations of a normal fall. I've provided some dates and times based on the original calendar. If school restrictions are required this coming year, we will notify you. 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 16th. Each school principal has scheduled department/grade level meetings, building meetings, and other organizational meetings for the faculty throughout the day. Students

will return to the classroom on Tuesday, August 17th, with an early dismissal for the half day. Regular bus transportation will be available on August 17th. Families new to the Mt. Zion community are encouraged to visit the school(s) their child(ren) will be attending. Parents with special circumstances or questions regarding any aspect of the educational programs or activities for the 2021-2022 school year are encouraged to contact the building principals or central office administration.

Return to Learn

Regarding reopening school, the School Board and Administration view student and staff safety as a top priority. We have witnessed the importance of in-person instruction and the state of Illinois also promotes 5-days of in-person instruction. If a medical condition doesn't allow the student to return to in-person instruction, we will have an alternate educational system ready to support the student. We plan to have a normal school year, but any COVID-related

requirements from the state (bussing, lunch, masks, quarantines, etc.) will be emailed to parents and placed on our website as soon as possible after being issued by the state. We will continue to keep the lines of communication open with our parents, and we encourage you to reach out to us anytime you have a question or concern.

School Start Times

Grades 7-12 7:45 a.m.
Grades K-6 8:30 a.m.

School Dismissal Times

Tuesday, August 17, December 22nd, & on the last day of school
Grades 7-12 11:05 a.m.
Grades K-3 11:35 a.m.
Grades 4-6 11:40 a.m.
Wednesday, August 18th & each regular school day after that
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.*

Mt. Zion School District Return to Learn Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year

1. The School District will return to pre-COVID school attendance days and times. The District recommends but doesn't require self-screening/temperature checks before attending school. School events will take place as scheduled and as allowed by state guidelines at the time of the event.

2. **ACADEMICS-** All students should be at school for in-person instruction unless they are quarantined or sick. Additional support for student's academic, social-emotional, and other needs will be provided through various ways (examples: after-school tutoring, RtI, counseling). If a parent feels their student needs any of these services, they should contact the building principal.

3. **QUARANTINES-** If unvaccinated and quarantined by the health department, the District will provide learning opportunities to the student. They get an extra day for each day quarantined to complete and turn in the assignments missed. Note: According to the health department's current rules, students who have been in close contact with an individual with COVID-19 may avoid being quarantined if they are vaccinated or if both students are properly wearing masks. Contact the Macon County Health Department for additional information concerning testing, vaccinations, contact tracing, or quarantine guidelines.

4. **MASKS-** Mask use is recommended for people who are not fully vaccinated but not required during school hours.

5. **BUSES-** Per the CDC, masks are required on all district-provided transportation. Masks are available on all buses for those who need them. Windows should be down when possible to allow open airflow.

6. **LUNCHES-** The District will return to normal meal options, locations, and times. Students will be

socially distanced as much as the cafeteria allows.

7. **WATER BOTTLES/FOUNTAINS-** Water fountains will be used, but water bottles may also be allowed as the building administration sees fit.

8. **LOCKERS-** The District will return to locker use in grades 2-12.

9. **HAND SANITIZER/WASHING-** General good hygiene will continue to be promoted.

10. **CLEANING-** Our custodians provide appropriate daily cleaning to provide a clean and safe environment. The District has EPA-approved air filters and cleaning solutions.

11. **SOCIAL DISTANCING-** Students and staff may be subject to physical distancing based on the IDPH guidance.

Many of the mitigation measures previously put into effect have been eased or removed. The administration may add or modify mitigation measures to classrooms, school buildings, or the entire district as needed during the school year to prevent closures. These additional mitigations may include enhanced cleaning, required masks, modified schedules, etc. The district will review the plan at least every six months. The District considers public input that can be emailed to the superintendent or presented at school board meetings.

Mt. Zion Foundation for Quality Education

We are fortunate to have the Mt. Zion Foundation assists 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 2021 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 donate, please follow [this link](#). If you would like to provide the Foundation, an extra hand please email mzfqc@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 and non-interactive flat-panel TVs, Ipads, science materials, classroom projectors, books, flexible seating, document cameras, as well as materials needed to support the freshman orientation, special education, drama, and robotics programs. ADM has also graciously provided additional funds to purchase STEM programming materials and fund classroom field trips. During the past 28 years, the Mt. Zion Foundation for Quality Education has provided over 1.8 million dollars for projects, including the purchase of items such as:

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, Ipads, 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
- Video equipment
- Kindles and E-books
- Reading software and books
- Document cameras
- Band Instruments
- IPADs
- Science equipment
- Program support

Mt. Zion is fortunate to have the following individuals as Foundation for Quality Education Trustees for the 2021-2022 school year: Kelli McInerney-Chairman, Michelle Shumaker-Vice Chairman, Steve Grohne-Treasurer, Katy Doolin-Secretary, Jessica Allen, Lisa Flora, Jamie Foster, Kevin Fritzsche, Heather Mason, Billy Rockey, Betsy Tanner, Kristen Thompson.

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

Per 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 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 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 the best school year yet.

This past school year was definitely a challenge for all of us. The pandemic sent shockwaves through the state and local 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. Thankfully, the state has continued to fund the new Evidence Based Funding model and the federal government has covered the costs to the district associated with the pandemic to date. 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 \$1.25 per transaction for checking or \$2.85 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	
Sample Notes And/Or Memo To Include On The Check		
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 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 was challenging for students and families, academically and for many, emotionally. 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 beginning Friday, July 23rd. For those that cannot register online, on-site registration

for students is Wednesday, August 4th from 12:00pm – 6:00pm. The instructional fee is \$100.00 per student and can be paid online by eFunds, electronic payments or on registration day.

We have scheduled a tentative open campus time for 7th grade students to walk around the school and find their classrooms and lockers before school begins. The open campus opportunity is Wednesday, August 4th from 12:00 - 6:00 pm. Please watch your email, the Jr. High website and the Jr. High 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, French, Spanish, home economics, computer concepts, yearbook/ journalism, or study hall as an elective

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.

SCHOOL HOURS

School will start at 7:45 AM daily and be dismissed at 2:30 PM. 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, 11:07-12:25 (lunch is served during this period)
- 6th Period, 12:29-1:13
- 7th Period, 1:17-2:01
- Focus Period: 2:05-2:30

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.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Students and parents are reminded that we have a social worker and student services coordinator on staff 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 31st. Picture packets will be distributed during the second day of school. Students should bring money (payable to Inter-State Studio) that day if they wish to purchase pictures.

DRESS CODE

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.





Mt. Zion Community Unit School District #3

2021-2022 School Year

MT. ZION JR. HIGH SCHOOL – SUPPLY LIST



GENERAL SUPPLIES – SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES

All students must have their own headphones/earbuds.

(MTZ earbuds are available for purchase in the Jr. High office for \$5.00.)

- Binder system/accordion organizer for organizing 7 subjects
- Pencil pouch
- Loose leaf paper
- Pens (blue or black) and red
- #2 Pencils
- Erasers
- Colored pencils
- One highlighter
- 3x5 note cards
- Elmer's glue or glue stick
- Scissors
- Kleenex ~ 2 boxes (give to 1st hour teacher)

MATH

Ruler- centimeter and inch markings
 Protractor (clear plastic)
 Graph paper (quad ruled)
 Texas Instrument TI-30 or higher numbered calculator-for Pre-Algebra or higher class
 Spiral notebook with at least 3 subject dividers
 Binder (1" to 2")

SCIENCE

Colored pencils
 Glue stick
 Scissors
 Metric ruler

SPANISH

1 package of loose-leaf paper
 3-ring binder (1½" with 5 dividers) **REQUIRED**
 Composition notebook

LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

1 package of loose-leaf paper
 1 set of binder dividers
 1 ½"- 3 ring binder (will stay in the classroom)
 1 composition notebook (cannot be a spiral notebook)
 3x5 note cards

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

1. Lock/Lockers:

Combination lock (preferably a Master Lock). Locks are required on all gym lockers. Through the year many items are lost or stolen. To prevent this, all personal belongings must be locked in the assigned locker and the combination must not be shared with other students. A lost uniform must be replaced in two weeks.

2. P.E. Clothes (boys and girls):

Every student is required to have a regulation P.E. clothes. All Jr. High P.E. clothes are red shorts and a plain white t-shirt and gym shoes. Team shirts i.e.: basketball, volleyball, etc. will not be allowed.

NOTE: P.E. CLOTHES ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN THE JR. HIGH OFFICE.

THE COST IS \$15.00 EACH FOR SHORTS AND SHIRTS OR \$25.00 FOR THE SET.

3. Identify P.E. Clothes:

Mark P.E. items with permanent black ink. P.E. clothes are to be marked with the student's last name across the back of the shirt and on one of the legs of the shorts.

***NOTE: Mt. Zion Jr. High will provide every student with an assignment notebook.**

ART

Eraser
 Handheld pencil sharpener
 Bottle of glue or glue stick
 Black permanent markers
 1 roll masking tape (any size)

HOME ECONOMICS

Apron:

- 1 spool of all-purpose thread that matches the exterior fabric
- 1 yard cotton fabric for exterior (**print or solid color**)
- 1 yard cotton fabric for lining (**solid color**)

Tote:

- 1 spool of all-purpose thread that matches the exterior fabric
- ¾ yard cotton fabric for exterior
- ¾ yard cotton fabric for lining

Other Supplies:

- 1 box of straight pins (the long pins are easiest to use)

BAND/ORCHESTRA

Combination lock (preferably a Master lock)

TECHNOLOGY CONCEPTS

2 pocket folder or binder

SCHOOL HEALTH NEWS



Jeanne Luckenbill, Nurse

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, 2021, 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 - 11th 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 2022 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, 2021 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 eighth year in this position. I have been with Mount Zion Schools for the last fifteen years as a teacher and more recently as the Director of Curriculum and Technology. I am excited to continue serving the 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 was the 5th year of our 7-12th grade 1:1 initiative where all students are assigned their own Chromebook to take to classes and work with at home. The last five 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. This year, all students in 7th and 8th grade will have brand new Chromebooks entering the school year. Students in grades 2-6 will also utilize brand new Chromebooks in their classrooms as they are currently 1 to 1 with Chromebook carts, 1st grade is also 1 to 1, utilizing iPads to enhance their curriculum. While the last year was certainly full of opportunities, 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 look forward to continuing our Lego/Robotics program in all buildings this 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 instrumental this past year in providing live streaming for concerts, assemblies, and sporting events to the public during and after capacity limits 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 several 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 1,000 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 <mailto:rockeyw@mtzschools.org>.

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

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.

NUTRITION STANDARDS IN NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH

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



The 2021-22 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 2021-22 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 be maintaining a healthy balanced nutritious quality meal. **The USDA will provide a free hot lunch for all students for the 2021-22 school year. Students may also purchase ala carte items.**

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 makes 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 2021-22 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 2021-22 should contact Darcie Hayes four weeks prior to the event at 217- 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 217-864-2114, 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 the 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 ensure 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 ensure 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 (\$0.45 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 - \$1.95

Reduced - \$.30

Adult - \$2.25

Lunch – K-3

Full - \$2.65

Reduced - \$0.40

Adult - \$3.35

Lunch – 4 -12

Full - \$2.85

Reduced - \$0.40

Adult - \$3.35

Second meal - \$3.35 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.

<p>K-3 one week of lunch = \$13.25 K-3 one week of breakfast = \$9.75 4-12 one week of lunch = \$14.25 4-12 one week of breakfast = \$9.75</p>

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM (BASAP)



The Before and After School Activities Program for the 2021-2022 school year will officially begin on August 17, 2021, 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 12, 2021 at McGaughey Elementary School from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (if such gatherings are allowed.) A complete overview of the program will be discussed at this meeting.

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