



Building a Bridge to the Future



ZM MESSENGER

In accordance with Governor Walz' executive order, masks are required in all ZM School buildings and grounds. Thank you for your cooperation.

Classes look a little different this year at ZM!



Even though students are physically distanced and wearing masks, the learning is happening! Pictured is Mrs. Bradley's 7th grade Language Arts class and Mrs. Sjolander's third grade STEAM class. The STEAM kids needed to build a two story house with at least two doors and three windows. It just takes a little creativity!



ZM Students Come Back to a New Look

When students in the ZM Primary School and Cougar Care buildings came back to school this fall they came into a facility that had been remodeled and updated this summer. This is all part of phase one of the district's remodel project that was approved by voters in November of 2019. New additions to the same buildings are set for completion in April. Many parts of the remodel had not seen upgrades since it was built in the 1950's. Classrooms were given new flooring, paint, plumbing, electrical, cabinetry, and contemporary learning tools. Classroom restrooms were upgraded to meet ADA requirements. Special education classrooms were upgraded with additional storage, learning spaces, and a sensory room. Heating and ventilation were upgraded where needed and fire sprinkler systems were installed in locations where they were not previously installed. The building has an overall new look and feel to it as you walk through the facility.

Classroom teachers helped design many of the features in the building including new furniture throughout the building. One priority was for flexible furniture on wheels which will allow classrooms to be rearranged quickly and used in different ways by students and teachers. This flexible furniture also provides more flexible learning for students. Students can quickly move from independent work to collaborative work. Teachers have access to more contemporary learning tools such as whiteboards and moveable touchscreen TV monitors for instruction.

The buildings already have a different feel to them and will change more once the new spaces are complete this Spring. According to Nexus Solutions, who is overseeing the project, construction on the new space is on schedule and on budget. Final design for the 7-12 building is now going to the engineers to prepare the bid packages for a November/December bid window. The Elementary School is in the design phase and the plan is to have these bids ready for a January/February bid. Both the 7-12 and the Elementary School will begin substantial renovations and additions during the summer of 2021. Due to Covid 19 the district has not had an open house in the newly renovated Primary School but does plan to have one next year.

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WHAT'S COMING UP?

Fall sports begin in October—
check the school website
(www.zmschools.us) for activity times/dates

- 10/5-9 - Homecoming Week
- 10/12 - School Board Work Session, 7:00 p.m.
- 10/14 Early Release
- 10/15 No Students. Teacher Flex Day
- 10/16 No School/MEA
- 10/26 - School Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 10/27 Scheduled Gr. 7-12 Conferences

Free meals are available now! See Pg. 2 for info



Due to a waiver by the USDA, ZM Schools is now able to offer ALL of our students meals (breakfast & lunch) FREE of charge beginning September 11. This waiver only goes through December 31, 2020 or earlier if funding is exhausted. It is still extremely important that families who meet the state guidelines complete the Application for Educational Benefits now or before the Oct. 1, 2020 deadline. Our school relies on the funding we receive from the Application for Educational Benefits and families will need to turn in these applications to be set up for free/reduced meals when this waiver is no longer available. Families who qualify for free meals through the application process bring in critical funding for our district.

This funding pays for positions in the district such as Title 1 support, credit recovery, paraprofessional support, and helps add teachers to reduce elementary class sizes. That is why it is so important to continue to complete the applications even if meals are temporarily free. Qualifying families can also com-

plete the application and continue to pay for meals if they choose when the waiver runs out. Many families do this knowing that they are bringing extra state and federal funding to the district for our student programs.



Please keep in mind that as of now this waiver for free meals is ONLY temporary, it could end at any time if federal funding runs out.

If your family has experienced a disruption in income in anyway, please consider filling out the form based on that period of disruption. Completing the Application for Educational Benefits will ensure financial protection to families in the future and assist the school district in receiving our funding for programs. Even if your student

(s) do not eat school meals please complete the application. This will allow the school to receive more funding.

Completely fill out and sign the application and send to the District Office, 343 Third Ave NE, Mazeppa, MN 55956 or email to brendaw@zmsch.k12.mn.us. This waiver does not apply to our snack/milk program or our ala-carte lunch items.



ZM Schools is offering free breakfast and lunch for **children ages 0-18** through a state waiver program. This program is similar to the Grab 'n Go meal program from this summer. The waiver for the free meal program will only be in effect until December 31, 2020 or earlier if funds are exhausted. Meals are free to any child age 0-18. ZM requests that the distance learners (NOT the hybrid students) also use this form for ordering meals. (Students currently in school, including hybrid students, are already covered under the free meal program explained in the article above.)

To order breakfast and lunch for the week, parents/guardians should complete and submit the form below each **Monday by 8:00 a.m.** Meals will be available for pick up by an adult or child/student between 1:30-2:00 p.m. each Wednesday at Door 1 in Mazeppa or Door 11 in Zumbrota. It is important that the meals are picked up promptly between the required time frame. Questions? Call

507-732-1400. Note that the parent/guardian needs to submit a new order form each Monday to ensure an accurate count for Wednesday pick up. The form is available on the school website (www.zmschools.us) under the "How to Order Free Meals" article.





**STUDENT INFLUENZA
IMMUNIZATION CLINICS:**
Monday, October 19
Mazeppa Student Clinic:
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 am
Zumbrota Student Clinic:
11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Registration is required; complete one form per child.
Form found at https://www.cognitofirms.com/HomelandHealthSpecialists1/_2020FluClinicConsentSchoolFluClinicsGoodhueCounty

Or, if you prefer, paper forms can be picked up at the school or downloaded on the school’s website and then returned to school.

Registration deadline is October 14 at 11:00 p.m.
Questions: Contact school nurse at 507-732-7848 or Goodhue County Nurse at 651-385-6114.

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

The school board held their monthly work session on September 14. Due to Covid 19 restrictions, the board is continuing to hold the meetings remotely via Zoom.

Items discussed included the following:

1. Policy Review: The following policies are up for review this month. They will be on the September 28 agenda for approval:
 - a. Procurement Procedure
 - b. MSHSL State Tournaments
 - c. #214 Out of State Travel by School Board Members
 - d. #230 Board Election
 - e. #310 Elementary School Principal
 - f. #311 Middle School Principal
 - g. #312 High School Principal
 - h. #516.B Essential Oil and Aromatherapy
 - i. #518 DNR
- B. Mr. Harvey updated the board on the construction. He informed the board that the school is waiting for storm shelter approval from the state for the middle/high school site and the elementary site. Bid packages are being prepared for the middle/high school and in early 2021, bid packages will be prepared for the elementary project. The construction team regularly meets each Tuesday.
- C. Mr. Harvey gave a Covid 19 update to the board. School is in session and everything seems to be running smoothly so far. The Covid team will be called together this week for a meeting to review the Covid numbers, etc.
- D. Mr. Harvey presented a spreadsheet that reviewed items purchased with Covid 19 relief funds. He informed the board that the budget for items must be completed by October 1 and any dollars need to be spent by December 2020. To date there is a deficit of -\$71,468.43, but he explained that budget items need to be placed now because they cannot be added later.
- E. The board was presented with a Covid 19 Quarantine and Compensation Time Memorandum of Understanding for the Teacher Master Agreement. This MOU outlines the Covid procedures if teachers are exposed in regard to PTO language. It also extends the comp time carry-over through May 15, 2022. This MOU will be on the September 28 agenda for possible approval. The EMZM has already approved this MOU.

The resignation of Mike Matuska, head baseball coach, was accepted with thanks.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

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For the Love of Reading

Third graders held a “book tasting”, choosing the book that tasted right to them!





Please join me in welcoming Sally Rude, RN to Zumbrota Mazeppa schools. She started with us in August of this school year. She will be working in the Zumbrota Mazeppa Middle School High School health office.

The school year is off to a great start! We are so happy to be back together! Please help us to keep your kids safe while at school: If your child needs to take ANY medications (self-carry or to be administered by a nurse) or has a health need that would require an emergency health plan at school please make sure to get the

correct paperwork filled out and returned to the health office as soon as possible. Forms are located on health services page of the ZM website. www.zmschools.us Location: Parents tab, Health Services - choose either Health Conditions or Medication. Please call Tiffany, Rachel or Sally with any questions at 507-732-7848.

Cold and flu season is just around the corner!

Thank you for your continued understanding and support during this challenging COVID-19 pandemic. Our school district will continue to follow the MDH COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth and Child Care Programs during this entire school year. Visit this site for information: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf>

Please keep your child home if they have any of these symptoms of illness:

- One of the following: fever over 100.4 degrees, new onset/worsening cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell.
- Two or more of the following: sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills muscle pain, excessive fatigue, new onset of severe headache, new onset of nasal congestion or runny nose.

Contact the office and report symptoms and ask to talk with the nurse about necessary next steps.

Please follow these guidelines and keep your child home if in doubt to lessen exposure to other children and school staff. Thank you for your cooperation.

CLOSE CONTACT with someone who tested positive for COVID-19:

- A close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of a positive person for at least 15 minutes.
- This includes anyone who lives in the same household as positive person.
- Close contacts are required to stay home (quarantine) for 14 days from last contact with positive person. Even if they receive a negative test, they remain in quarantine for 14 days.
- **YOU CAN NOT TEST OUT OF QUARANTINE.**

Please notify the school if you have a student who has been identified as a close contact and keep them home from school and any other activities in the community for 14 days. This will help to prevent community transmission of this virus and help to keep us in school.

Student Influenza Immunization clinics:

Goodhue County Health & Human Services and Zumbrota-Mazeppa are partnering with Homeland Health to give flu shots to students during school. Parents can register their children now by completing the online form using the link below: https://www.cognitoforms.com/HomelandHealthSpecialists1/_2020FluClinicConsentGoodhueSchools. A list of insurances accepted is on the form. The vaccination will be billed to the child's insurance and will be provided for a minimal fee to those without insurance. Registration is required and is now open. **Parents need to fill out one registration form for each student.**

Registration deadline is October 14, 2020 at 11:00 pm. Paper forms can be picked up at the school or downloaded from the school's website and returned to school.

Zumbrota-Mazeppa Student Flu Clinics will be held on Monday, October 19, 2020.

Mazeppa Student Flu Clinic is from 8:30 am - 10:30 am.

Zumbrota Student Flu Clinic is from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm.

Zumbrota Community Clinic will be held on 10/19/2020 from 3:30 – 6:00 pm at United Redeemer Church 560 W 3rd St, Zumbrota, MN 55992. This clinic is for anyone 6 months of age or older. No preregistration necessary.

For questions, please contact your licensed school nurse, Tiffany Boraas at 507-732-7848 or email tiffanyb@zmsch.k12.mn.us or contact Vicki Iocco, Public Health Nurse for Goodhue County Health & Human Services, at 651-385-6114 or email vicki.iocco@co.goodhue.mn.us

School Board Minutes, continued from page 3

The regular monthly board meeting was held via Zoom on Monday, September 28. The usual business was conducted, including payment of bills.

Reports: Mr. Anderson reported for the middle/high school. He recognized staff for their hard work balancing hybrid and distance learning. The custodial staff was also recognized for their efforts. Conferences were discussed and most preferred meetings in person through scheduled meetings. A modified Homecoming Week will be observed October 5-9.

Mr. Rasmussen reported for the elementary school. He also recognized the staff for their hard work and noted the students are happy to be back in the buildings. Students are observing the rules with masks and recess cohorts.

Ms. Ahern reported for the primary and special education. The building project is moving along with the plan for bright beginnings/cougar care and the primary playground next on the agenda. The early morning student drop-off is working well with many parents taking advantage of the times. Bus safety and Alice drills have been completed and FASTbridge and classroom assessment will be completed this week.

Mr. Harvey reported that enrollment numbers were steady at 1,296. He noted many schools were down on enrollment due to Covid-19 and there is the possibility of the state holding these districts harmless on funding.

Minutes were available from the Goodhue County Education District and the Southeast Service Cooperative. No minutes were available from the Wasioja Education Technology Cooperative.

The Memorandum of Understanding for the Covid-19 Quarantine and Compensation in the teacher master agreement was approved as presented. The 2020-22 Principal Agreement representing district administrators was also approved as presented. The following district policies were approved as presented: Procurement Procedure, MSHSL State Tournaments, #214 Out of State Travel by School Board Members, #230 Board Election, #310 Elementary School Principal, #311 Middle School Principal, #312 High School Principal, #516.B Essential Oil and Aromatherapy, and #518 DNR.

The consent agenda, including payment of bills, was approved as follows:

1. Approve Minutes 8/24/20 Board Meeting and 9/14/20 Work Session
2. Approval of Hires
Ryan Gingerich, Paraprofessional, beginning 9/2/20
Morgan Berg, Cougar Care Teacher Assistant, beginning 9/2/20
Toni Pegram, Paraprofessional, beginning 9/21/20
Stephanie Gosse, Paraprofessional, beginning 10/12/20
Mara Els, Paraprofessional, beginning 10/12/20
Chelsie Lockner, Senior Class Advisor

4. Approval of Resignations
Sally Grove, Paraprofessional, 9/18/20
5. Approval of Tenure - none
6. Approval of Reassignment
Courtney Hammes, Education Assistant to Primary Media Center Assistant
7. Approval of Childcare Leave - none
8. Approval of Terminations - none
9. Approval of Fundraisers - none
10. Approval of Donations - none
11. Approval of Grants -none
12. Approval of Lane Changes
Jamie Quam MS to MS+10
Susan Peterson MA+20
Jill Ziebell MA+20 to MA+30
Shannon Johnson MS to MS+10
Christina Ryan, BS to BS+20
13. Approval of Bill Consideration
Ms. Peters - October and Ms. Roth November.

The 2020 Pay 2021 Levy for Certification was approved for the maximum amount. The board will canvass the school board election on Friday, November 13 at 6:30 a.m.

Mr. Lohmann expressed the board's thanks to staff for their efforts in opening school and keeping everyone safe. Mr. Harvey reiterated that it is up to everyone to observe the rules regarding Covid-19.

Pertinent Dates:

1. 10/5-9 - Homecoming Week
2. 10/12 - School Board Work Session, 7:00 p.m.
3. 10/14 Early Release
4. 10/15 No Students. Teacher Flex Day
5. 10/16 No School/MEA
6. 10/26 - School Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
7. 10/27 Scheduled Gr. 7-12 Conferences

Future agenda items include the high school final design and bid package and the rising Covid-19 numbers in Wabasha County.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

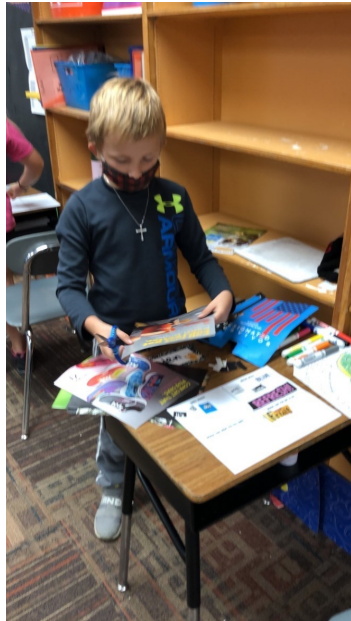


LEGO Learning in the Primary

SEPTEMBER HAS ARRIVED!



School looks a little different, but the learning is the same!



Bus evacuation and training at all three sites keeping our students safe



Third grade made "balancing robots" in science

National Honor Society held its long-awaited induction ceremony recently after Covid 19 postponed the spring service. NHS students are chosen for their qualities of leadership, scholarship, service, and character. Congratulations to these outstanding students!

front row l-r: Rosa Perrotti, Olivia Seymour, Peter Meyer, Mitchell Meyer, Addie Voxland, Kailey Cooper, Madelyn Fredrickson, Hailey Schliep, Madison Kohn

Second row l-r: Emma Nelson, Peighton Buck, Siddha Hunt, Sydney Higley, Rianne Buck, Hailey Grudem, Kenzie Cordes

Third row l-r: Sadie Voth, Josh Hutton, Natasha Ludington, Raelyn Stiller, Soren Hellyer, Tanner Gates, Annika Angerman.

At right: NHS members observing the correct social distancing guidelines!



