



## 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.



## ZM EVENTS

Covid-19 has made participation at school events difficult this year, but activities will be live-streamed at <http://www.zmschools.us/live-streaming-zm>. Tune in and cheer for the Cougars!

## HOMECOMING HELD OCTOBER 5-9

A modified Homecoming was held this year, but the spirit was strong as ever! Activities were scaled down, but numerous daily events were held, such as dress up day, spirit day, etc. Sporting events were held, but spectators were not allowed at the volleyball game and limited tickets were available for the football game. The coronation ceremony was live-streamed, as well as all other sporting events. Student enthusiasm still ran high!



Homecoming Court included: Raelyn Stiller, Sierrah Hamilton, McKenzie Cordes, Sarah Mensink, Queen Hailey Grudem, King Josh Hutton, Logan Jaspersen, Tanner Gates, Broc Fredrickson, and William Stussy.

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### WHAT'S COMING UP?

- 11/6—NO SCHOOL. TEACHER IN-SERVICE. END 1ST QTR
- 11/10—PREK-12 CONFERENCES
- 11/11—EARLY RELEASE
- 11/12—PREK-6 CONFERENCES
- 11/25, 26, 27—NO SCHOOL/HOLIDAY

## SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

The General Election is November 3. ZM will have three school board director positions listed on the General Election ballot. The terms of Angie Bredehoft, Jason Lohmann, and Stephanie Miller will expire December 31, 2020 and they are seeking reelection for four-year terms.

The combined polling places and hours to vote are listed on the Notice of General Election on page 3.

Please vote in the upcoming election—

**Your voice is important!**



## Early Childhood Screening 2020-2021

Free early childhood screenings are being held on October 29, November 5, and November 19. If your child is between the ages of three and four, he/she should be screened. If parents have questions about the screening, they may call Amy at the Zumbrota –Mazeppa Primary School at 732-7848.

This screening is not registration for kindergarten, ***but is required by state law to be done prior to entering kindergarten.*** The screening takes about an hour and includes height, weight, vision and hearing, developmental and speech assessments, followed by an exit interview with the Early Childhood Resource person.

### First Choice

Oct 29 \_\_\_ AM \_\_\_ PM

Nov 5 \_\_\_ AM \_\_\_ PM

Nov 19 \_\_\_ AM \_\_\_ PM

### Second Choice

Oct 29 \_\_\_ AM \_\_\_ PM

Nov 5 \_\_\_ AM \_\_\_ PM

Nov 19 \_\_\_ AM \_\_\_ PM



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. 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](mailto: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](http://www.zmschools.us)) under the "How to Order Free Meals" article.

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.2805  
(ZUMBROTA-MAZEPPA)  
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a general election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 2805 (Zumbrota-Mazeppa), State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November 2020, for the purpose of electing three school board members for four year terms. The ballot shall provide as follows:

**Instructions to Voters:**  
**To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: **

**School Board Member**  
**Vote for Up to Three\***

- Angie Bredehoft
- Jason Lohmann
- Stephanie Miller
- \_\_\_\_\_  
write-in, if any
- \_\_\_\_\_  
write-in, if any
- \_\_\_\_\_  
write-in, if any

The combined polling places for this election and the precincts served by those polling places will be as follows:

Goodhue County:

Belle Creek Township at Town Hall, 36500 County 7 Blvd, Belle Creek Township  
Minneola Township at Town Hall, 16004 Sherwood Trail, Minneola Township  
Pine Island Township at Town Hall, 48980 County 55 Blvd, Pine Island Township  
Roscoe Township at Town Hall, 47498 150<sup>th</sup> Ave., Roscoe Township  
City of Zumbrota, City Hall, W1 & W2, 175 West Ave., Zumbrota  
Zumbrota Township at Town Hall, 21991 County 4 Blvd., Zumbrota Township

Olmsted County:

Oronoco Township at 115 Second Street NW, Oronoco

Wabasha County:

Chester Township at Bellechester Community Center, 101 First Street, Bellechester  
Mazeppa Township at Town Hall, 59176 County Road 71, Mazeppa  
Zumbro Township at St. John's Lutheran Church, 80 Third Avenue South, Hammond  
City of Mazeppa at Community Center, 278 First Avenue North, Mazeppa

Any eligible voter residing in the school district may vote at said election at the polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides. The polls for said election will open at 7:00 o'clock a.m. and will close at 8:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day.

Dated: 8/10/2020

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

/s/ Angie Bredehoft  
School District Clerk



Zumbrota-Mazeppa FFA is selling fruit, meat, and cheese. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, FFA members will not be doing any door-to-door sales this year. If you are not contacted by an FFA member and you would like to order, you are encouraged to reach out to an FFA member or place your order online.

**Orders are due November 5.**

Online order instructions are listed below:

1. Go to this website: <https://sales.minntexcitrus.com/>

organization/zumbrota-mazeppa-ffa/

2. Select "Zumbrota-Mazeppa FFA" where it says to select your organization.
3. Select the items you'd like to order. Credit cards must be used for online orders.
4. At checkout, fill out all contact information. If you are not ordering from an FFA member, enter "FFA" in the Seller/Student name spot at checkout.

Any fruit not ordered from an FFA member will need to be picked up in the high school ag shop (door #6) the day it is delivered. Fruit is expected to come in the week of December 7. An email will be sent out about a week prior to delivery (as soon as the fruit company schedules our delivery date). If you have any questions, please contact FFA Advisor Andrea Siewert at [andreaac@zmsch.k12.mn.us](mailto:andreaac@zmsch.k12.mn.us).

**W.I.L.D. WILL BE USED THIS YEAR AGAIN**

We want to remind parents that we will be implementing Weather Impacted Learning Days (WILD) days again this year. In the event that weather keeps us from having school, the first day will not be a WILD day. Please have your child check Schoology for assignments on WILD days or in the case of younger students have them complete the predetermined activities.

Although the type of learning looks different for different age groups, Online Learning remains a good option for a majority of our students when traditional face to face learning cannot take place.

Parent Choice: Often times predicting weather and road conditions is not a one size fits all decision. Parent opinions on the topic vary from: we should never shut down to, call it off at the first flake of snow. The district weighs a lot of circumstances when making the decision. As a parent, you also weigh in on decisions when weather becomes questionable. If you have a young driver, have them ride the bus and if you ever question the safe-ty of travel in your area of the school district, you as a parent can decide to keep your child home. Our district covers several municipalities and many townships. If the majority of these roads are plowed and a few are not, we may hold school. This is where we rely on you to make the best decision based on your circumstances.

School Notification: In addition to Text Messaging, E-mail, and Facebook, school notifications will also go out via WCCO 4, KTTC 10, KMSP 9, KARE 11, KAAL 6. Let's not hope for snow too soon!



**School Board Minutes, continued from page 6**

nearly completed, and bids will be called for and accepted by the end of December. The elementary design is two-thirds completed. Mr. Harvey updated the board on Covid-19 and how the county numbers are affecting our learning model. As of this meeting, numbers were climbing but we are still able to keep K-6 in school daily and the middle/high school in the hybrid model. The Covid-19 team will meet next week to discuss options. Mr. Harvey also informed the board that Goodhue and Wabasha County and district cities and townships have donated dollars to the school through their CARES dollars. These donations are greatly appreciated by the school.

Ms. Miller thanked school staff for keeping the students in school. Mr. Harvey said there was a lot of thought put into the plan this summer and we are very pleased to be in school as of this date. Minutes were available from the Goodhue County Education District and the Southeast Service Cooperative. No minutes were available from the Wasioja Education Technology

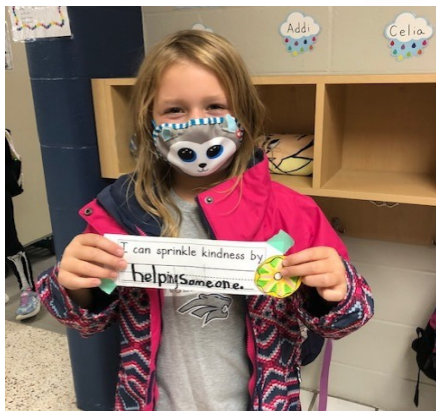
**Cooperative.**

- Pertinent Dates:
- 11/6 - End 1st Quarter/Teacher Inservice-Workday. No students
- 11/9 - School Board Work Session, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom
- 11/10 - Pre-K-12 Conferences
- 11/11 - Early Release
- 11/12 - PreK-6 Conferences
- 11/13 - Special Meeting to Canvass Election Results, 6:30 a.m. via Zoom
- 11/23 - School Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom
- 11/25 - No School
- 11/26-27 - No School/Holiday

Future agenda items include the high school final design and bid package and an update on the Covid 19 meeting held during the first week of November. Future agenda items include the high school final design and bid package and an update on the Covid-19 meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.



# OCTOBER 'LEAVES'



Kindness was "sprinkled" in the primary school



Studying speed in 9th grade science class



Thank you Lions for the third graders' dictionaries



iPads arrived for third graders!!



Homecoming week provided some crazy costumes during dress-up days.





## SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The ZM School Board held their monthly work session October 12 via Zoom. First order of business was to accept, with thanks, the resignation and retirement of Activities Director, Tim McAthie, effective May 26, 2021.

Items for discussion included the following:

Policy Review: The following policies are up for review this month. They will be on the October 26 agenda for approval:

- #419 Tobacco-Free Environment: Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction
- #516 Student Medication
- #601 School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals

Construction Updates: Mr. Harvey updated the board on the construction project, and more was discussed later in the meeting when the contract manager gave an update.

Covid 19 Updates: Mr. Harvey gave a Covid 19 update to the board. Numbers are rising in Wabasha County, but fairly stable in Goodhue County. The school is still able to stay in the learning model recommended by the health department.

Activities Director/Dean of Students Position: There was discussion on the activities director/dean of student position that will be open with Tim McAthie's retirement. Mr. Harvey recommended that the position become an administrative one so the new hire can do events under an administrative contract. He also recommended that the position be opened internally first and if no interest, be posted as soon as possible after the second semester begins.

Custodial Contract: The 2020-22 custodial contract was discussed. There were minimal changes: \$1.00/hour for shift differential, up from \$0.75/per hour; deferred compensation would be raised to \$900 for year 10 through 14, up from \$840; and health insurance would increase from \$500 to \$600 for single coverage and from \$750 to \$875 for family. The contract will be on the October 26 agenda for approval.

Nexus Building Project Budget Presentation/Information: Nexus project coordinator, Adam Frankenberg, updated the board on the building project and the budget. The project is on track and bids will be called for the middle/high school portion before the end of the year.

State of the State Budgeting and Cashflow Options Information: Mr. Harvey gave the board information on the possibility of state budget cuts and the effect that will have on schools if the state does not provide the expected revenue to schools. He felt the school is in good shape now, but this could be something that needs to be addressed in the future depending upon the state finances and if the state can balance their budget or not.

PEIP Health Insurance Rate Information: There will be a 9.7% increase this year in the PEIP insurance rates. Much of this increase is due to Covid issues and the fact that PEIP has added approximately 200 new groups in the last three years.

The work session adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

The regular monthly board meeting was held via Zoom on October 26 with the usual business conducted, including payment of bills. The Mazeppa Lions were recognized for their donation of dictionaries to all third grade students again this year.

Reports: Mr. Anderson reported for the middle/high school. The student government and Ms. Kennedy were thanked for their efforts putting Homecoming week together. Forty-four seniors participated in a half-day ACT exam October 6. Parents have the option to change their students from hybrid to distance learning or vice versa for Semester 2 beginning on November 9. They must contact the school office by October 28 if they wish to change. Mr. Anderson also reported on the fall 7-12 parent survey.

Mr. Rasmussen reported for the elementary school. Staff has been reviewing science curriculum through presentations of various companies. Picture day was October 23.

Ms. Ahern was unable to attend the meeting but did submit her monthly report. The playground equipment has been ordered and will be installed in late November. Cougar care playground installation will be in the spring of 2021. Conferences will be held via Zoom or phone calls this fall.

Ms. Fitzgerald gave a revenue and expenditure summary for the board. She noted that final numbers will be available after the school audit has been completed.

Mr. Harvey reported that enrollment numbers were 1,269. He reported later in the meeting on Covid-19 and construction.

There was no patron input.

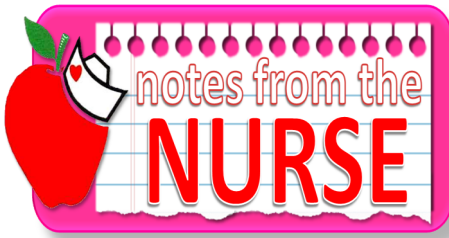
Old Business: The 2020-21 teacher and non-certified seniority lists were approved and policies \$419 Tobacco-Free Environment, #516 Student Medication, and #601 School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals were approved as presented. The consent agenda was approved as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes: 9/28/20 and 10/12/20
2. Approval of Hires: William Wendt, Custodial, 10/8/20 and A. J. Yusten, Head Baseball Coach, beginning 2020-21 school year
3. Approval of Resignations—none
4. Approval of Tenure—none
5. Approval of Reassignment—none
6. Approval of Childcare Leave—Stephanie Foss, 1/4/2021 through end of 2020-21 school year
7. Approval of Terminations—none
8. Approval of Fundraisers—none
9. Approval of Donations—none
10. Approval of Grants—none
11. Approval of Lane Changes— Melissa Boraas, BA to BA+10
12. Approval of Bill Consideration—Ms. Peters and Ms. Roth in November.

The combined polling place resolution was approved along with the PEIP renewal rates. The custodian contract for 2020-22 was approved as presented. The activities director/dean of students position will be posted internally first, and if no candidates, externally. The position will be made a full-time administrative position. The board approved the revision of the 2020-21 school calendar moving the last day of the semester to January 15 with January 18 a teacher workday. The Kennedy Special Education Transportation contract was approved as presented.

Mr. Harvey gave a construction update to the board. The Cougar Care building is ahead of schedule and they are hoping to move in approximately two weeks. The high school design is

Continued on page 4



#### Health Offices:

The month of September recorded a total of 500+ visits to the health offices. This included illness, injuries, medication administration and health conditions.

Please be sure to have current emergency contact information in the Parent Portal so that nursing staff can get ahold of parents/guardians when needed.

#### When to Keep Your Child Home:

One of the goals of health services is to assure a healthy environment. Many parents ask about when students should stay home or attend school. This year we must follow the MDH COVID-19 Decision Tree in regard to symptoms that require students and staff to stay home from school.

One or more "More Common" symptoms:

–Fever over 100.4, new onset or worsening cough, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell

Two or more "Less Common" symptoms:

– Sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, excessive fatigue, new onset severe headache, new onset nasal congestion or runny nose

If students are experiencing the above symptoms, we ask that they stay home and contact health care provider for recommendations regarding COVID testing or getting an alternate diagnosis. Siblings and household members must also stay home while awaiting MD evaluation.

If student with illness symptoms does not seek evaluation from health care provider, they must stay home for at least 10 days from onset of symptoms. Siblings and household members must stay home for 14 days from onset of symptoms.

Please report all symptoms your child has to the office when you are calling or emailing to let us know they are staying home ill so that we can use this information for health tracking.

#### Influenza season is now upon us:

Influenza is a contagious respiratory infection that spreads around the United States every year, usually between October and May. Symptoms can vary by age, but can include: fever/chills, sore throat, cough, muscle aches, headache, fatigue, runny or stuffy nose. Flu can also lead to pneumonia and worsen other medical conditions. Many of these symptoms are similar to the symptoms on the COVID-19 decision tree and will require exclusion from school. Protect yourself and others by getting your influenza vaccine.

If you missed the opportunity to get your immunization in Zumbrota/Mazeppa at the student/community clinics. Immunizations are available at local pharmacies and through your primary care provider. Mayo Clinic is offering evening immunization appointments this year.

#### Hearing and Vision Screenings:

With the COVID-19 restrictions on visitors we were not able to

do our annual mass hearing and vision screenings. Remember that you may refer a student at any time during the school year for a hearing or vision screening concerns. Feel free to contact Tiffany Boraas, Licensed School Nurse at any of the health offices with questions or concerns @ [tiffanyb@zmsch.k12.mn.us](mailto:tiffanyb@zmsch.k12.mn.us)

#### October is National Down Syndrome Awareness Month

During the month of October, we celebrate people with Down Syndrome and their abilities and accomplishments. In honor of the month, here are 12 facts about Down syndrome you may not know:

1. Down syndrome is named for Dr. John Langdon Down, who wrote the most prominent paper describing the disorder in the 1860s. The name Down syndrome was not standardized until 1975.
2. Down syndrome is far and away the most common condition involving chromosomes, occurring approximately in one out of every 691 births.
3. More than 400,000 people are living with Down syndrome in the United States.
4. The most common type of Down syndrome is trisomy 21, which means an extra copy of the 21st It is not hereditary. The other two types are translocation and mosaicism, which account for around 5% of cases.
5. While incidences of Down syndrome correlate with the mother's age, around 80% of Down syndrome babies are born to mothers under the age of 35.
6. Nothing a parent does or does not do is known to cause Down syndrome during pregnancy – it occurs randomly.
7. Down syndrome occurs regularly in both sexes and across socioeconomic classes.
8. With the great strides made in understanding this disorder, individuals with Down syndrome are living long, happy lives. The life expectancy for these individuals has increased from 25 years in 1980 to over 60 years today.
9. Down syndrome leaves people with an increased risk of some medical conditions. These conditions include congenital heart defects, respiratory issues, hearing problems, Alzheimer's disease, leukemia, and thyroid disorders. Parents and caretakers need to take extra care in screening for medical issues.
10. Students with Down syndrome are now included in many classrooms across the country. In the past, special needs classes were the only option for learners with Down syndrome, but today most experts recommend full or partial inclusion in many standard classes.
11. While individuals with Down syndrome experience cognitive delays, they are often mild to moderate. Most people with Down syndrome lead fulfilling and productive lives.
12. Down syndrome is still a little-understood disorder. While researchers are aware of what this condition is, we know little about what causes it or how symptoms develop. There is hope that future research can lead mitigation of some symptoms.