



ZM MESSENGER

August 2023

Dear ZM Families,

It has been a busy summer and I'd like to formally welcome you back to another school year at Zumbrota - Mazeppa Public Schools! I hope you all have had a wonderful summer break and have had ample opportunities to make new memories with friends and family. If you are new to Zumbrota - Mazeppa, I want to also extend a special "welcome" to our Cougar family! I am excited to be joining you as your new Superintendent of Schools and feel fortunate to be a Cougar! Though I have only been in Zumbrota - Mazeppa for a short period of time, I can tell you I already feel at home and cannot wait to serve our community.



I also wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and my family. I currently live outside of Mantorville with my wife (Jessica), son (Roman), and daughter (Jewelty). Roman (7th grade) and Jewelty (6th grade) both attend school at Kasson - Mantorville Middle School. Roman enjoys playing basketball and football while Jewelty plays soccer and is involved in gymnastics. Jess and I have known each other since high school with both of us attending Alden - Conger High School. In fact, one of the draws for me to Zumbrota - Mazeppa was how much these two communities remind me of the communities and values I grew up in. I am grateful that I was raised in a town that valued community. As you can imagine, everyone knew and supported each other much like Zumbrota and Mazeppa.

Prior to Zumbrota - Mazeppa, for the past four years I was a principal with Austin Public Schools and before that, a principal at The American School of Bangkok in Thailand. I often get the question, "Why did you move overseas?" The short answer is simple; we wanted to show our kids the world. Over the course of six years we did that, but then realized though they have experienced many countries and cultures of Southeast Asia, they didn't have a true understanding of their own family roots here in Minnesota. I started my career as a paraprofessional while I was in graduate school and then taught middle school special education (ASD) with Richfield and Minneapolis Public Schools before transitioning into school administration.

Welcome again to the 2023 - 2024 school year! If I have yet to meet you, please do take a moment to introduce yourself when you see me. Understanding who we are as a community is critical for me to learn and lead in a capacity that best serves our families. Relationships are and will be the core of our success, and I look forward to creating valuable collaboration opportunities for our school district and community to unite as one.

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- August 28-30 -Teacher Inservice**
- September 4 -Labor Day—No School**
- September 5-First Day 7-12 Grade**
- September 7-First Day K-6**
- September 11-First Day of Pre-School**
- September 11-School Board Work Session**
- September 25-School Board Meeting**



2022-2023 YEAR AT A GLANCE

August 28-30 -Teacher Inservice

September 4—Labor Day

September 5— First Day 7-12

September 7—Frist Day K—6

September 11—Preschool Begins

October 18—Early Release

October 19 & 20— MEA Conference/No School

November 6—End of 1st Quarter-Teacher Work Day
-No School

November 9-Pre K—12 Conferences

November 15—Early Release

November 16- Pre K—12 Conferences

November 22—Comp Day-No School

November 23 & 24—No School-Holiday

December 13—Early Release

December 23-January 1st—No School-Winter Break

January 2—School Resumes

January 10—Early Release

January 15—No School-Holiday

January 19-End of Q2

January 22-Teacher Inservice/Work Day

February 7—Early Release

February 16—Teacher Flex Day-No Students

February 19—No School-Holiday

March 13—Early Release

March 19—Prek-12 Conferences

March 20—PreK—6 Conferences

March 28-End of Q3-Teacher Work Day-No Students

March 29-No School/Holiday

April 1-Comp Day/No Students

April 10—Early Release

May 15—Early Release

May 27—Holiday-No School

May 30—Last Student Day

May 31—Graduation

May 31—Teacher Work Day

Early Release Time: Buses leave Mazeppa at
12:30 pm and Zumbrota at 12:45 pm



**Bridge
to
Kindergarten!**



ZM Schools welcomes new staff!

- ✦ Michelle Zidlicky—MSHS Special Education
- ✦ Nikki Flaaen—Ag and FFA
- ✦ Megan Anderson—ECFE Coordinator/Pre School
- ✦ Ryan Liffrig—K-6 Special Education
- ✦ Gretchen Forbes— Long Term Substitute
- ✦ Stephanie Adams—MSHS Special Education
- ✦ Kiley Curlee—Long Term Substitute
- ✦ Heather McConnel—Paraprofessional
- ✦ Jennifer Olson—Paraprofessional

**Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools contracts school bus transportation through Palmer Bus Service of Zumbrota-Mazeppa. If you have questions on bus pickup/drop off times, bus numbers, routes or polices contact:
Zumbrota Bus Shed: 507-732-7670**

Important thing to remember

- ◆ **Have your child to their bust stop 5 minutes prior to pick up time.**
 - ◆ **Please have your child dressed appropriately for weather**
 - ◆ **Go over the bus rules with your child**
 - ◆ **Riding the bus is a privilege. Students will receive bus violation tickets when the rules are not followed.**
1. 1st Violation-Written Warning Report. A report will be send home with the student stating there was misconduct. A parent will need to sign.
 2. 2nd Violation-Written Report. A report will be sent home with the student stating there was misconduct. A parent will need to sign. Loses bus riding privilege for 1 day.
 3. 3rd Violation-Written Report and Conference. A report will be sent home with the student stating there was misconduct. A parent will need to sign. Student will lose bus riding privileges for 2-5 days, depending on the severity of the incident. A conference will be held with principal, bus contractor and parents
 4. 4th Violation-Written Report and Conference-A report will be sent home stating the student has now lost their bus riding privilege for the remainder of the school year. A conference will be held with the principal, bus contractor and parents.

Please note that route and shuttle buses are at full capacity. Palmer Bus Service of Zumbrota-Mazeppa request no extra student riders for birthday parties, sleepovers, etc. The only extra riders allowed will be emergency situations or a daycare issue.



ANNUAL PARENT NOTIFICATIONS

Minnesota Statute requires we provide annual notification to parents, staff, and students of Zumbrota-Mazeppa Public Schools of the topics below. If you have any questions, please use the contact number found in the notices.

LEAD-IN-WATER ANNUAL NOTIFICATION

Minnesota Statute 121A.335 requires public school buildings serving kindergarten through grade 12 to test for lead in water every 5 years. This statute also requires school districts to make the results of the testing available to the public for review and to notify parents of the availability of the information. Notification may be accomplished by publishing a statement in the “Back to School” newsletter or publication that is available to staff, student, parents and the public.

Zumbrota-Mazeppa Public Schools is committed to providing a safe working and learning environment for employees and students. The district has developed a lead in water management plan and testing program that complies with Minnesota Statute 121A.335, as well as recommendations from the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) of 1988 and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).

For more information on Zumbrota-Mazeppa Public Schools lead reduction and testing program, please contact the District at 507-732-1400.

INDOOR AIR QUALITY

Zumbrota-Mazeppa Public Schools has an indoor air quality management plan that outlines specific policies and procedures used in district to address indoor air quality issues. The District Health and Safety Committee chaired by the Superintendent and the Institute for Environmental Assessment, the district’s health and safety consultant, review the plan annually. If you have any questions concerning indoor air quality or would like to use the EPA’s Tools for Schools checklists, please contact the District at 507-732-1400.

AHERA ANNUAL ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

During the past school year and continuing into the 2023-2024 school year, the following asbestos management plan activities have been or are currently being completed. These activities are pursuant to the Environmental Protection Agency 40 CFR Part 763- “Asbestos Containing Materials in Schools; Final Rule and Notice.”

Two (2) Semi-Annual Periodic Surveillances

Asbestos removal for renovation projects

Notification of Asbestos Locations for Short-Term Workers (Electricians, Plumbers, etc.)

Training of District Personnel

Zumbrota-Mazeppa Public Schools has contracted with the Institute for Environmental Assessment to provide environmental consulting services.

The complete updated Asbestos Management Plan for Zumbrota-Mazeppa Public Schools can be found in the District office or by phoning 507-732-1400. The Management Plan can be viewed, without cost or restriction, during normal working hours. Copies can be obtained for a fee of \$.10 per page. Any questions concerning this notice, or an explanation of our Asbestos Management Plan can be directed to the District at 507-732-1400.

PESTICIDE NOTICE

All MN schools are required to inform parents/guardians and school employees that they may request to be notified prior to pesticide application on school property. Pesticides include chemicals which are used to control insects, weeds, rodents or other pests as defined by the law (M.S.123b.575, Subd.9). To be notified about pesticide applications or any other questions regarding the District’s pest management practices please contact the District at 507-732-1400.

Tentative schedules for application of weed control chemicals and pesticide treatments are kept in the Custodial/Maintenance Office.



Annual Notification cont.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities in any program receiving federal financial assistance. The Act defines a person with a disability as anyone who has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working; has a record of such impairment; or is regarded as having such impairment. In order to fulfill obligations under Section 504, the ZM School District has the responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel and students. No discrimination against any person with a disability should knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices of the school system. Our school district (#2805) shall annually attempt to identify and locate every qualified individual with disabilities residing in our jurisdiction who is not receiving a public education. If you have a child thought to have a disability and want more information, please contact the Section 504 contact persons: Primary/Middle/High Schools: Katie G. Kennedy 507-732-7395 or Elementary School: Morgan Stamschror 507-732-1420.

Notes from the school nurse.....

Summer is winding down and it is time to start thinking about what paperwork needs to be turned in before students return to school in August/September.

Medications:

The health office requires new orders each school year for all medications. If your student requires daily medication or as needed medications for the 2023-2024 school year please have your primary provider update medication orders and have them sent to the school.

Orders can be faxed directly to the school. Primary: 507-732-4522, Elementary: 507-732-1421, Middle School/High School: 507-732-4511.

All medications must be dropped off by an adult and may not be sent to school with student in backpack for the safety of our students. **7th grade parents and new students you may bring medications to the open house on 8/30/23 from 4-6 pm.**

Health Conditions:

We want to ensure that all students at ZM are healthy, safe and ready to learn. If you have a student with an ongoing health condition (Asthma, Allergies, Diabetes, Seizures, etc) please contact the health office so that we can have an up-to-date plan for the 2023-2024 school year.

Contact Tiffany Boraas, Licensed School Nurse with any questions for PreK- 6 via email: tiffanyb@zmsch.k12.mn.us or phone: 507-732-7848 or Sally Rude, Licensed School Nurse with any questions for 7-12 via email: sallyr@zmsch.k12.mn.us or phone: 507-732-7395

Required Immunizations for 12th graders, 7th graders and Kindergarten students:

Does your child have all the required immunizations for school???

Now is the time to turn in your child's immunization sheets! It is important that your child's paperwork is turned in to the health office prior to the start of the new school year. Students **WILL NOT** be able to start school in the September unless immunization are up to date and on record with the school by the first day of school. Immunizations are required by Minnesota law and must be completed before students can start school in the fall. Kindergarten, 7th grade and 12th grade students have several requirements. **All students in grades 7-12 need to show proof of a Tetanus Diphtheria booster shot and meningococcal vaccine after the age of 11 and meningococcal booster after age 16. A complete list of required immunizations is available on the ZM school webpage under the Health Services link under the Parents tab.**



SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Ryan Barnick, Superintendent of Schools	507-732-1400 ext. 1001	ryanb@zmsch.k12.mn.us
John Stapleton, MS/HS Assistant Principal	507-732-7395 ext 1199	johns@zmsch.k12.mn.us
Quinn Rasmussen, Elementary Principal	507-732-1420 ext. 1003	quinnr@zmsch.k12.mn.us
Wendy Ahern, Primary Principal/SPED Director	507-732-7395 ext. 1151	wendya@zmsch.k12.mn.us
Tony Brown, Activities Coordinator	507-732-7395, ext. 1104	tonyb@zmsch.k12.mn.us
Aaron Schumacher, K-12 Curriculum Director/ 7-12 Dean of Students	507-732-7395. ext. 1037	Aarons@zmsch.k.12.mn.us
Jen Lohmann, Community Ed Director	507-732-4244	jenb@zmsch.k12.mn.us
Jordan Pahl, Childcare Coordinator	507-732-4650	erinh@zmsch.k12.mn.us
District Office— Amber Rasmussen	507-732-1400	amberr@zmsch.k12.mn.us
MS/HS Office— Nancy Bremer	507-732-7395	nancy@zmsch.k12.mn.us
MS/HS Office— Julie Vath	507-732-7395	juliev@zmsch.12.mn.us
Elementary Office— Tammy Gruhlke	507-732-1420	tammyg@zmsch.k12.mn.us
Primary Office— Amy Hansen	507-732-7848	amyh@zmsch.k12.mn.us
Community Ed Office— Erin Huneke	507-732-4244	juliev@zmsch.k12.mn.us

Zumbrota-Mazeppa School Board Contact Information

Angie Bredehoft, Chair	507-272-7896	angie.bredehoft@zmsch.k12.mn.us
Jason Lohmann, Vice Chair	507-951-3680	Jason.lohmann@zmsch.k12.mn.us
Stephanie Miller, Clerk	507-319-5115	stephanie.miller@zmsch.k12.mn.us
Jean Roth, Treasurer	507-732-4203	jean.roth@zmsch.k12.mn.us
Travis Liffbrig, Director	507-358-3844	travis.liffbrig@zmsch.k12.mn.us
Jake Rude, Director	507-251-0807	jake.rude@zmsch.k12.mn.us

Make ZM Schools part of your social media



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