



## LOVE GOD LOVE KIDS LOVE LEARNING

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are thrilled that you are interested in Zeeland Christian School! We hope through face-to-face interactions, this information packet, our website and social media platforms you will witness how God is working in the lives of kids and families at Zeeland Christian.

Please contact us whenever you have questions or simply want to talk more about how Zeeland Christian could be a fit for your child(ren). We are here for YOU! So feel free to contact any of our teachers as well ([zcs.org/staff](http://zcs.org/staff)). You can ask them questions about anything - including their own faith story.

If you are new to the Zeeland Christian School community, we invite you to take a tour of our classrooms. We'd love to get to know you and hear more about your educational desires. Our prayer is that every new family at ZCS feels known and welcomed.

If you have any questions about or are interested in visiting while class is in session, please email Tracy Nelesen ([tnelesen@zcs.org](mailto:tnelesen@zcs.org)) or call our main office at 616.772.2609.

Blessings to you and your child!  
Sincerely,

Tim McAboy  
Head of School

Nancy Pyle  
Preschool Co-Director

Sherri Tibbe  
K-5 Lead Teacher



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## ZCS Kindergarten

ZCS Kindergarten is dedicated to teaching children to love God, love others and love learning. We do this by nurturing a child's social, emotional, physical, spiritual and intellectual growth.

### Schedule Options for Kindergarten Students

#### Transitional Kindergarten

All students attend kindergarten every morning from 8:40-11:50. Parents who choose transitional kindergarten set a part time school schedule for their child at the start of the year. Pick up times each day may be 11:50 or 3:25. See additional notes on page 9.

#### Full Time Kindergarten

Some students attend kindergarten from 8:40-3:25, Monday through Friday, all year long.

#### Extended Care

In addition to your child's classroom time at school, we offer Extended Care for children in threeschool-5th grade. Kids can be enrolled in Before School Care (as early as 7:00 am) or After School Care (as late as 6:00 pm).

### Programs

#### Traditional

This program is the foundation of all our educational programs at ZCS (taught in English).

#### Inclusive Education

This beloved program welcomes students with special needs into the classroom. Inclusion benefits both the general education student and the student with special needs because it teaches that we are all created in God's image and part of the body of Christ.

#### Spanish Immersion

Spanish Immersion contains all the elements of our traditional program with one additional layer - classes are taught entirely in Spanish!

#### Mandarin Immersion

Mandarin Immersion contains all the elements of our traditional program with one additional layer - classes are taught entirely in Mandarin Chinese! (Note: only full time kindergarten is offered in Mandarin Immersion.)

#### School/Home Collaborative

This program is a K-5 multi-age classroom designed with three days of instruction at school and two days of instruction at home. The teacher and parents create a unique partnership as they work together to educate the child.



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## ZCS Young Fives

### Schedule Options for Young Fives Students (Must be 5 by September 1, 2018)

#### Mornings

All young fives students attend class every morning from 8:40-11:50. Classes will follow K-8 calendar from Aug. - June.

#### M-F Mornings & T/Th Afternoons

\*New\* Students may be enrolled in 5 mornings plus T/TH afternoons. M/W/F 8:40-11:50 am, T/TH 8:40-3:25.

#### All Day Every Day

\*New\* Students may be enrolled in all day every day young fives. M-F 8:40-3:25 pm.

#### Extended Care

In addition to your child's classroom time at school, we offer Extended Care for children in threeschool-5th grade. Kids can be enrolled in Before School Care (as early as 7:00 am) or After School Care (as late as 6:00 pm).

### Programs

#### Traditional

This program is the foundation of all our educational programs at ZCS (taught in English).

#### Inclusive Education

This beloved program welcomes students with special needs into the classroom. Inclusion benefits both the general education student and the student with special needs because it teaches that we are all created in God's image and part of the body of Christ.

#### Spanish Immersion

\*New\* Spanish Immersion contains all the elements of our traditional program with one additional layer - classes are taught entirely in Spanish!

### Tuition

M-F Mornings: \$2,524

M-F Mornings & T/Th Afternoons: \$4,004

M-F All Day \$6,004

\* If you have 2 or more children enrolled in Young fives through 8th grade, you may apply the sliding scale to Young Fives tuition.



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## 2018-19 Kindergarten/Young Fives Timeline

Jan. 18	ZCS Showcase - Kindergarten/Young Fives Information Meeting
Jan. 25	TRIP Information Meeting at ZCS 7pm
Feb. 6	Online registration ( <a href="https://zcskindergarten.eventbrite.com">zcskindergarten.eventbrite.com</a> )
March	Enrollment packet mailed to your home
March 20	TRIP Information Meeting at ZCS 7pm
March 29	Enrollment + transportation forms due back to ZCS
May 31	New kindergarten families sign-up online for Parent Points
June 5	Returning K-8 ZCS families sign-up online for Parent Points
June	Summer information email to help prepare for start of the year
July	1st tuition payment due
August	Class lists emailed (typically 2nd week of August)
August	"Bus Night" info from ZCS & ZPS mailed to you
August	Parent Information Meeting
<b>Aug. 27*</b>	1st day of school!

*\*Dates are tentative. Visit [zcs.org/calendar](https://zcs.org/calendar) for the most recent updates.*



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## ZCS Extended Care 2018-19 (Kindergarten/Young Fives)

Our extended care programs are designed to support family child-care needs on the days their children attend school. All children must be pre-registered in order to attend Extended Care programs. There is a \$30 registration fee per family.

### Before School Care

Offered everyday from 7:00am-8:40am  
Offered to preschool or elementary students (PS-5th)  
Nutritional breakfast provided  
Cost \$6.00 for 1 child/day, \$10.00 for 2, \$14.00 for 3

### Lunch Bunch

Offered everyday from 11:50am-1:00pm  
Kids bring their lunch from home and eat at school  
Cost \$6.50 per child/per day  
\*Afternoon Care is available for Young Fives students who are not enrolled in a full-time class schedule.

### Afternoon Care

Offered everyday from 11:50am-3:30pm  
Kids bring their lunch from home  
Cost \$18.00 per child/per day  
\*Afternoon Care is available for Young Fives students who are not enrolled in a full-time class schedule.

### After School Care

Offered everyday from 3:30pm-6:00pm  
Offered to preschool and elementary students (PS-5th)  
Nutritional snack provided  
Cost \$5.00 per child/per hour, \$9/hour for 2, \$12/hour for 3, billed in half hour increments

For more information contact Heather Mulder at [hmulder@zcs.org](mailto:hmulder@zcs.org) or 616.772.2609.



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## Frequently Asked Questions

### How old should my child be?

All kindergarten and young fives students should be five by Sept. 1, 2018

### What are the start/end time for kindergarten?

Full-Day                               8:40 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.  
Half-Day:                               8:40 a.m. - 11:50 p.m.

### How does bussing work?

Zeeland Public Schools provides busing for our in district students. Busing is typically available when ZPS is in session. If you have questions, please contact Dave Meeuwssen in the transportation office at 748-3425. Note: Busing is not available for students at 11:50am. Parents of part-time students will need to arrange transportation home.

### How does hot lunch work?

Zeeland Public Schools provide hot lunch for our students when ZPS is in session. More information will be provided at the beginning of the year.

### How can parents get involved at ZCS?

1. Classroom volunteers - Parent volunteers are hugely helpful for our teachers! Parents can be involved in reading with students, driving for field trips, etc.
2. Parents' Club (See top of page 9)
3. ZCS Events - Join us for concerts, chapels, Fun Night, 8th Grade Play, ZCS Auction, etc.

### How often will I hear about my child's progress?

Parent-Teacher conferences are held in the fall and in the spring. Report cards are available twice a year in January and June. They can be viewed online via the Parent Portal. Login information will be provided at the start of the school year. In addition, teachers will reach out to parents as needed throughout the year.



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## Frequently Asked Questions

**Will there be an opportunity for my child to visit a Kindergarten or Young Fives class?**

Absolutely! If your child would benefit from a classroom visit, please contact us at 616.772.2609 to schedule a time or visit [zcs.org/schedule-a-visit](https://zcs.org/schedule-a-visit).

**Do you do any kindergarten readiness testing?**

Yes, we do! Kindergarten readiness testing is conducted in April. If you would like to set up testing for your child, please email Nancy Pyle at [npyle@zcs.org](mailto:npyle@zcs.org).

**What about immunizations?**

The State of Michigan requires parents to report their child's immunization status before they are allowed to attend school. Therefore, parents must provide ZCS with a "Health Appraisal" form affirming that immunizations are up-to-date. Or, if they have decided against immunizations, they must provide a certified immunization waiver (which can be applied for at the Ottawa County Health Department). **Children without a health form or a certified waiver on file will not be able to attend school in the fall.** Note: If you submitted a "Health Appraisal" form to ZCS for preschool, you might not need to submit another one. Please check your immunizations against those required by the state.



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## Frequently Asked Questions: Online Registration

**Where do I go to register for ZCS kindergarten/young fives?**

[zcskindergarten.eventbrite.com](http://zcskindergarten.eventbrite.com)

**When does registration begin?**

Registration begins on Tuesday, Feb. 6, at 6:45 pm. If you visit this page before 6:45 pm on the 6th, the page will require a password. The password will be removed at 6:45 pm.

**Do I need to register right at 6:45 pm. on February 6, in order to guarantee a spot in the program I'd like for my child?**

No. We will make space for all kindergarten/young fives students in the program of their choice. However, it is important that we receive registration information at this time in February so that we can begin the process of Y5-8th enrollment for 2018-2019. If you are unable to be online at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday, February 6, we ask that you please complete the online registration by Thursday, February 8, so that we can continue in our enrollment process on Friday morning.

**What information do I need available to register?**

You will first be required to sign up on the Eventbrite website. Then, the rest of the information is standard ZCS Registration information. We need your contact information, your child's birth date and school history. We will also need your employment information. All fields are required, so please enter "n/a" for any field that does not apply to you or your child's registration.

**How do I know if my registration was successful?**

You will receive an email confirmation of your registration.

**What do I do if I have questions when I'm trying to register my child?**

Please email [registration@zcs.org](mailto:registration@zcs.org). We will have staff members answering emails throughout the time of registration.

**Is there an online registration fee?**

No. Kindergarten and Young 5s registration is free.



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## Transitional Kindergarten

1. Parents may choose their own child's **part time or full time** schedule at the start of the school year. Parent pick up times are 11:50AM or 3:25PM.
2. In mid-October, parents may choose to **add any afternoons** to their child's schedule if desired.
3. All transitional kindergarten students will begin to attend class on **Tuesday afternoons** starting after Thanksgiving. Parents may choose to add additional afternoons at that time.
4. All transitional kindergarten will attend class on **Thursday afternoons** starting after Christmas break. Parents may add more afternoons if desired.
5. In mid-February, parents may choose to **add afternoons** to their child's schedule if desired.
6. All students will attend class on **Wednesday afternoons** starting after Spring Break. Some parents may want to add Mondays and Fridays but that is not required.
7. The cost of one child full time in Kindergarten for 2018-2019 (no older siblings) is **\$8,579**. All families will be charged the full time tuition rate, with refunds issued in January and June based on the child's part-time schedule. For a child who is enrolled in Transitional Kindergarten, who is the only or oldest child, the largest refund they could receive would be **\$1,920**, if they strictly follow our transitional kindergarten plan listed above. This means they will pay a Transitional Kindergarten tuition amount of no less than **\$6,659**.

Contact Nancy Pyle, [npyle@zcs.org](mailto:npyle@zcs.org) or Sherri Tibbe, [stibbe@zcs.org](mailto:stibbe@zcs.org) with further questions.



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## 2018-19 Tuition Schedule

Elementary and Middle School (K-8)	Yearly	Monthly
1 Child	\$8,579	\$713.08
2 Children	\$12,866	\$1,069.58
3 Children	\$15,869	\$1,319.17
4 Children	\$18,013	\$1,497.42
5 Children	\$19,657	\$1,634.08

### Note Regarding the Tuition Schedule

Zeeland Christian School is a covenantal family made up of many parents and guardians. Many years ago the School Board decided it would implement a *sliding tuition schedule* that would allow parents with more children to pay a lower cost per child.

Enrolling at ZCS makes you a member of the ZCS Society. As a member of this Society, we are asking that you commit to this sliding scale until your child(ren) leave the ZCS school system. That may be in eighth grade or upon graduation from high school at Holland Christian. This way we can continue to provide this service for our families and continue to provide quality education for the children in this community. Thank you! If you are a new family, welcome to the ZCS Society!



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## Lowering Your Out-of-Pocket Cost

Check out some of the ways we try to keep tuition costs down and how you can reduce your own tuition costs even more!

### Parent Point System (Kindergarten - 8th Grade)

The Parents' Club organizes several fundraisers throughout the year to help offset the cost of tuition. We use a point system to distribute the workload. This system helps ZCS earn over \$100,000 annually! That money helps keep the cost of tuition down.

Examples of current fundraisers include: ZCS Auction, 3-on-3 Basketball, Baked Goods Sale, Magazine Sale, etc. Each fundraiser has various jobs (cashier, food prep, first-aid, etc.) that are worth varying amount of points.

New kindergarten families are required to work 5 points at one of these fundraisers or to contribute \$125 to the ZCS Parents' Club. Sign up for new families begins on May 31!

Returning Families (with older children at ZCS) are required to work at least 10 points or more at one of these fundraisers or to contribute \$250 to the ZCS Parents' Club. Sign up for current families begins June 5.

Sign-up at [www.signupgenius.com/go/508084AABA72A1-parent3](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084AABA72A1-parent3).

If you have any questions about Parent Points, please contact [jschafer@zcs.org](mailto:jschafer@zcs.org).

### DITTO Grant (Kindergarten - 8th Grade)

Ditto Upscale Resale sells used clothing, furniture, sporting goods, home decor, etc. The store is mostly staffed by volunteers and is furnished with donated goods. The proceeds from the store are equally distributed between Zeeland Christian and Holland Christian Schools to help offset the cost of tuition.

For 2018-2019, ZCS will receive \$200 for every enrolled student. This money is already accounted for in our tuition schedule. However, all families are invited to donate the \$200 grant back if they are able. All grants donated back to school go toward the ZCS Tuition Assistance Fund. Last year over \$30,000 was donated to tuition assistance.



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## Lowering Your Out-of-Pocket Cost cont.

### TRIP - Tuition Reduction Incentive Program (Kindergarten - 8th Grade)

Purpose: To provide current and future families an opportunity to reduce their tuition at ZCS by shopping with participating businesses.

How it works:

Families purchase gift cards from participating businesses.

The businesses give back a certain percentage of each purchase to ZCS.

The money given to ZCS goes into each family's account. This is then applied to your tuition balance in July or January upon request. Over time, the money can add up.

"I highly encourage ZCS families to participate in TRIP since it is a very easy way to earn free money toward tuition. We primarily use TRIP for groceries and gas each week. With that alone we earn over \$500 per year toward our kids' tuition!" - Traci, ZCS Mom

Interested in participating in TRIP? Join us for an informational meeting on January 25 or March 20 at 7 pm in the media center.

### Tuition Assistance (Kindergarten- 8th Grade)

One of our strongest desires is to make ZCS affordable for more families. The ZCS Tuition Assistance Fund is a need-based tuition grant program that is administered by FACTS Management Inc. Awards are made based upon funds available. You can apply online at [www.factstuitionaid.com](http://www.factstuitionaid.com) from March 12 - April 16, 2018. You can apply after April 16, but it is possible that all funds will have been dispersed. There is a \$30 fee to apply for assistance.

The goal at ZCS is to help people who are paying more than 18 percent of their adjusted gross income.



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