

Zeeland Christian School

Telephone: 772-2609 • Absentee Line: 741-0051

Website: www.zcs.org



ZEELAND
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

2017-2018
Parent Handbook

October, 2017

Dear Parents and Friends of Zeeland Christian School,

Welcome to Zeeland Christian School! For over 100 years, ZCS has sought to fulfill our calling to Love God, Love Kids, and Love Learning. The story of ZCS is **a story of parents, teachers, and the church working together to raise our children to love and follow Christ**. It is a story of graduates living a life of service to others. It is also a story still being written by our many great families and students.

Considering the influence, relationships, and academic preparation that encompass the education experience, choosing a school for your children is one of the most important decisions you will make as a parent. We believe raising our children works best when the home, church, and school work together. **We count it as a true privilege to link arms with parents as they work to raise their family in a way which honors God.**

At Zeeland Christian School, over 140 faculty and staff teach our children to be good stewards of the gifts God has given them and live a life in service to Him and others. The greatest testimony of the good work being done at Zeeland Christian School is in the lives of our graduates. **I'm excited for your child to be forever changed by their interactions with a student in our Inclusion Program or by their exposure to the blending and valuing of multiple languages and cultures. This is a special and unique place.**

Our 1,000 students from all over West Michigan are exposed to a challenging and nurturing environment. Students are provided with numerous opportunities to exercise their gifts academically, spiritually, socially, and physically.

Thank you for your investment in Zeeland Christian School.

Tim McAboy
Head of School

HOW TO COMMUNICATE CONCERNS

Communication is a vital part of any organization, but it is especially important in a school system that is dealing with the most precious thing in the world, our children. Communication between parents and the school system is vital. As a Christian school, we have a wonderful model that is presented to us in Matthew 18:15-20. Basically, what this model says is that if you have a concern about something or with someone, go to the person that you have the concern with first, sit down with him or her in Christian love, and discuss the concern.

From our experience here at Zeeland Christian, most problems are solved in this way. If that doesn't work, then you bring a witness and try to solve the problem with that person. In the case of a school system, that person would be the school administrator. Please don't ever hesitate to involve the administrator in a situation that you feel has not been resolved to your satisfaction. The next step would be to go to one of the Board committees, most likely the Education Committee. The final step would be to appear before the entire Board with your concern.

As a staff at Zeeland Christian, we dedicate ourselves to educating children to the honor and glory of God. We do that in partnership with the parents and value their comments and concerns. Good communication helps us work together in Christian love.

Zeeland Christian School PARENT HANDBOOK

Zeeland Christian School is a preschool through middle school facility of over 1,000 students. Our curriculum takes the best in recent curriculum studies and adapts it to the needs of this school system. Our program includes physical education, vocal and instrumental music, art, foreign language, and computers. Our Christian beliefs and teachings are at the heart of everything we teach and all our dealings with students.

Society members are defined as families with children attending Zeeland Christian School, grandparents, ZCS graduates, and those who are regular financial and prayer supporters of ZCS.

School Times – Elementary starting time is 8:40 a.m. and school ends at 3:25 p.m. For safety purposes, children who walk to school are dismissed as soon as the buses have left the school grounds. Elementary students have a morning recess from 10:15-10:30. Grades K-2 will have lunch from 11:55-12:15 and midday recess from 12:20-12:45. Grades 3-5 will have lunch from 12:00-12:20 and midday recess from 12:20-12:45. Afternoon recess time is 2:05-2:20. **Middle School** begins at 7:35 a.m. and the tardy bell rings at 7:40 a.m. Students are dismissed at 2:30. Lunch is from 11:50-12:20 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Middle School lunch is from 11:20 - 11:50 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

School Delays/Cancellations – Zeeland Christian operates on the same schedule as Zeeland Public Schools when there are delays and cancellations. Tune into local radio or TV stations for updates. When school is delayed for two hours, it means that all buses will run two hours later than scheduled. Hot lunch will be provided as scheduled on delay days. Morning preschool classes will not meet.

Half Days – Throughout the year occasional half days may be scheduled (i.e. Tulip Time). Elementary students are dismissed at 11:50 and middle school at 10:50. There may be times

when our half-day schedule does not coincide with Zeeland Public School and transportation will be an issue. Please watch the [Blue Note](#) for important information regarding busing.

Severe Weather – Zeeland Christian has a weather radio that notifies us immediately when a storm watch or warning has been issued. In the event of a tornado watch, children will remain in school with the weather monitored continually. In the event of a tornado warning the children will seek immediate shelter in the school in assigned areas until the warning expires. Parents are allowed to pick up children at any time but students will not be dismissed on their own. In winter, wind chills are taken into consideration and staff will make the decision on how long students go outside. ZCS has a “Sled Shed” housing 300 sleds. Warm winter clothing is a must.

Bus transportation is provided to our students by Zeeland Public Schools. This includes transporting high school students to Holland Christian High School. Questions should be directed to the ZPS Transportation Department at 748-3425.

Pick up/drop off – Parents who drive their children to school may either use the drop off zone in front of the school or park on the street or in the west parking lot and walk their child(ren) into school. Remember that the drop-off zone is for dropping-off only. Please do not park in the drop-off zone. Please also avoid using the bus drives to pick up or drop off your students.

Student Absentees/Tardys/Vacations and Sign Out Policy – Parents are requested to call the Absentee Line (741-0051) or email attendance@zcs.org to report the students who will be absent or late and the reason for the event. Elementary calls should be received before 9:00 a.m. and middle school calls before 8:00 a.m. When there is no call in, the office will make a call to your home or work to confirm why a student is not in school. Please let the office know if your family is taking a scheduled vacation. Elementary students leaving the school grounds need to have permission from their teachers. Middle school students are required to sign in and sign out in the school office and should have a note if leaving with someone other than a parent.

Dress Code - The guidelines are very simple: moderation and appropriateness. Some popular styles do not comply with these guidelines so please be thoughtful when buying school clothes.

Hot lunch – Hot lunch is provided by Zeeland Public Schools. Hot lunch envelopes are available in the office. One envelope can be used for each family, listing student names, grades, and the amount of money to be credited to each individual account. There is a green “Lunch Envelope” box on the counter in the office to collect completed envelopes. All checks should be written to [Zeeland Public School](#). Please call ZPS Food Service at 748-3128 if you have questions about your account. You can also add funds to an account using a credit card by going to Sendmoneytoschool.com. There is a \$2 convenience fee for this service. You will need your student’s ID number to set up an account. These are available from ZCS office staff. The link for a monthly menu can be accessed on our Blue Note or at zps.org.

Support Services-Coordinated by Janelle Sievert and Stacy Deters

- The **Resource Room** program serves many of our students in both elementary and middle school. The program meets the needs of students in many ways: by direct intervention, tutoring, and testing services provided by the Christian Learning Center.

- The **Reading Recovery** program provides first grade students with reading support when needed. It is a very intentional one-on-one program that helps students determine what strategies to use so that they can become lifelong readers. In addition to Reading Recovery, we offer reading support for students in 2nd-5th grade as needed in all of our programs-Spanish, Mandarin, and English.

- **Inclusive Education** is a vital part of our culture here at Zeeland Christian as we desire to be a fully inclusive community for students of all abilities. Zeeland Christian has truly been blessed by this program which works to meet the physical, emotional, social, and academic needs of several students.
- **Psychological Educational Services** can be arranged upon request and are administered by the Christian Learning Center.
- A **counselor** is available to our students one half day per week. She also provides support for students or families who are involved in adoption or foster care.
- A **speech pathologist** is on site several days a week to work with preschool and elementary students who are having difficulty.

Health Services are provided by the Ottawa County Health Department. These include vision screening for students in grades 1, 3, 5, and 7, hearing screening for students in grades K, 2, and 4.

Extracurricular activities – We have a number of programs that are set up for our students. Some of the examples of these programs are Destination Imagination, Spelling Bee, and Geography Bee.

The **ZCMS athletic program** is an extension of our overall middle school philosophy. The focus of athletics centers on the needs and development of our middle school students spiritually, relationally, and physically. The athletic program allows for a maximum level of student participation in seventh grade, and works as a springboard into high school in eighth grade providing the opportunity for development of basic athletic skills. Both boys and girls have the opportunity to participate in cross-country, tennis, swimming and diving, track, basketball, and soccer. Baseball, football, and lacrosse are offered for boys and softball, volleyball, and competitive cheer for girls. Some sports are offered directly by ZCS and some sports are offered through a co-op with Holland Christian. Joel Nagelkirk is our athletic director.

Voice Mail/E-Mail – All teachers and some assistants at ZCS have voice mail. During school hours, calls to teachers are routed through the main switchboard or go directly to voicemail if the teacher has chosen to give out her/his direct number. After school hours, a menu is available.

E-mail is an easy and efficient way to contact staff members. These addresses are based on the basic format of first initial and last name @zcs.org. For example: tmcaboy@zcs.org.

Bus Passes – Bus passes are not available from teachers or the ZCS office. An arrangement for students to ride buses other than their own requires permission from Zeeland Transportation at 748-3425.

Hilltop Prayer Service – This is an informal evening where families gather behind school for prayer, worship and song. Lawn chairs or blankets are the seating of choice.

PaperGator – Zeeland Christian has a PaperGator in the back parking lot. Supporters are welcome to place newspapers, catalogs, magazines, junk mail, phone books, and office or school paper in the container. Please, no plastic, metal, trash, glass, or cardboard (includes cereal boxes).

Tuition Reduction Incentive Program (TRIP) – The purpose of the TRIP program is to provide current and future families of Zeeland Christian School an opportunity to reduce their tuition. Through the TRIP program, gift/merchandise certificates are purchased from participating businesses at a discount. These certificates are sold at face value to families who participate in the program. The discount, or credit, that is earned by TRIP is passed on to the families registered to participate in the program in the form of tuition credit. TRIP registration meetings are held several times a year. These meetings take approximately 30-40 minutes and are required for participation in the TRIP program. Meeting information and any TRIP updates or changes are published in the Blue Note in the “TRIP News” section.

On-line Report Cards and Student Information – Parents can view student progress on-line using Infinite Campus. It is necessary to set up this procedure through the school office. Once you are set up, your account will show you information on all your enrolled children. Middle school students also have access to the on-line report card through their own account.

Where can I get more information or information specific to my situation? Our Head of School, Tim McAboy, would be glad to schedule time to talk with you. Please contact the office at 772-2609 to make an appointment. You can also visit our web site at www.zcs.org or e-mail us at zcsinfo@zcs.org.

ZEELAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL CALENDAR – 2017-18

August 24	Hilltop Prayer & Worship - 6:30 pm. - 7:00 pm. Popsicles on the Playground afterward.
August 27	Staff Worship Service and Dinner
August 28	Staff In-Service Day AM.
August 28	K-8 Open House 4:00-6:00 pm.
August 28	Band Instrument Rental Meeting 5:30-6:30 pm.
August 28	Bus Night and Parent Meeting (7:00 pm.) for Young Fives & Kindergarten
August 29	K-8 and SHC Students Begin – Full Day
August 29	All School Chapel - 9:00 am.
September 1-4	Labor Day Vacation
September 5, 6	Preschool Parent Meeting 7:00 pm. & Meet and Greet with Tim McAboy
September 6-8	6th Grade Camp
September 7	Elementary Parent Meeting 6:00 pm. and 6:45 pm. & Meet and Greet with Tim McAboy
September 7-8	8 th Grade Leadership Camp
September 9	ZCS Golf Outing
September 11, 12, 15	Threeschool/Preschool/Young Fives Classes Begin
September 12	Middle School Parent Meeting 6:00 pm. and 6:45 pm. & Meet and Greet with Tim McAboy
September 13-15	7 th Grade Camp
September 21	TRIP Registration Meeting 7:00 pm.
September 22	Middle School Small Group Activity Day
October 2-4, 6	School Pictures
October 7	Pumpkin Parade
October 10	TRIP Registration Meeting 7:00 pm.
October 19-20	CEA Convention – No School
October 24	Fall Festival of Music (5-8 bands and choirs) 7:00 pm. – ZCS Gym
November 1-2	Preschool Grandparents' Day (depending on class schedule)
November 3	Grandparents' Day (No Preschool in session)
November 3	End of Marking Period – K-8
November 8-9	Parent/Teacher Conferences - Evening - K-8 School in session
November 8-9	No Preschool, Parent/Teacher Conferences, times vary
November 9	School Picture Retakes
November 10	No School
November 22-24	Thanksgiving Vacation
November 27	Students Return
November 28	Elementary Music Program - Community Church 7:00 pm.
December 12	Middle School Geography Bee
December 18, 20	Jingle Jogs
December 19	Middle School Christmas Concert 7:00 pm. – ZCS Gym
December 22	Middle School Serve 'n' Skate Day
Dec. 25 – Jan. 5	Christmas Vacation
January 8	Students Return
January 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Day – School in session
January 16	Spelling Bee – 9:30 am. – ZCS gym
January 18	ZCS Showcase - Preschool/Kindergarten/Immersion/School Home

	Collaborative – Evening Open House
January 22	End of Semester – No School (Preschool-8 th) – Teacher In-service
January 23	Second Semester Begins
January 25	TRIP registration meeting 7:00 pm.
January 29	HCHS Showcase 7:00 - 8:15 pm.
February 6	Kindergarten Registration 6:45 p.m.
February 6	Preschool Pre-registration 7:00 p.m.
February 8	Preschool Registration 7:00 p.m.
February 19	President’s Day break – No School (Preschool-8 th)
March 5	Parent/Teacher Conferences – No School (Preschool-8 th)
March 6	Parent/Teacher Conferences – K-8 School in session (No Preschool)
March 8-9	8th Grade Play
March 13	2 nd - 4 th Grade Musical - Community Reformed 7:00 p.m.
March 15	Society Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
March 20	TRIP registration meeting 7:00 p.m.
March 23	End of Marking Period – K-8
March 24	3 on 3 Basket Breakers
March 27	Music Dept. Solo/Ensemble Night – 7:00 p.m. ZCS Media Center
March 30- April 6	Spring Vacation
April 9	Students Return
April 13	Young Author’s Visit - our very own Joel Meyer!
April 17	Middle School Info Meeting
April 20	Auction
April 23	Spring Band & Choir – 7th-8 th 7:00 p.m. - ZCS Gym
April 24	7 th /8 th Grade Band Trip
April 28	7 th Grade Car Wash to Benefit Grace Christian School
May 4	Fun Night
May 9	Tulip Time, Half day school wide (No a.m. or p.m. Preschool)
May 10	Tulip Time – Half day for 7 th /8 th Grade Band only
May 14	Transition Meetings – No field trips
May 15	Transition Meetings – No field trips
May 15	5 th /6 th grade Band & Choir Concert – ZCS Gym
May 18	Market Day
May 19	ZCS Zip
May 21-24	Preschool (4s)/Young Fives Graduations
May 23-25	Last Day of Threeschool/Preschool/Young Fives (Park Parties)
May 28	Memorial Day Vacation/Parade
May 29	Students Return
May 29	Eighth Grade Class Trip
June 1	8 th Grade Banquet (Faith Church)
June 4	Family Games (June 5 rain date)
June 7	Sixth and Seventh Grade Class Trips
June 7	End of Semester/School Year – Full Day K-5
June 8	Teacher In-Service

Zeeland Christian School

Enrollment Statistics

Grade	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Threeschool	118	98	88
Preschool	163	208	183
Young Fives	20	22	14
Kindergarten	105	85	83
First Grade	95	104	82
Second Grade	85	95	103
Third Grade	81	88	94
Fourth Grade	77	84	84
Fifth Grade	86	81	83
Sixth Grade	71	88	80
Seventh Grade	83	71	86
Eighth Grade	71	84	67
School/Home Collaborative	15	15	16
Totals	1,070	1,123	1,063

Zeeland Christian School

Voluntary Enrichment and Extension Activities

The following is a list of voluntary enrichment and extension activities that are available to Zeeland Christian School students during the school year.

Language Arts/Social Studies

Young Author's Celebration – 1-5

Spelling Bee – 5-8

March is Reading Month – K-5

Book-It – K-5

Geography Bee – 6-8

Math

Robotics - Cooperative with Holland Christian Middle School 7-8

Art

Royal Park Art Show – 3-8

Zeeland Hospital Show – 3-8

Office Display – 4-5

Performing Arts

Elementary Musical

Eighth Grade Play (March)

Music

8th Grade Worship Team-by audition

Choir – Choir is a weekly part of the curriculum for grades 1-8. All choir students perform at different concerts throughout the year.

Band – Cadet Band is an elective for beginning students in fifth grade. Cadet Band meets early mornings before the start of the elementary school day.

Concert Band is an elective for sixth grade students who have some playing experience.

Both of these bands perform at several concerts during the year. In addition, they combine to march in the annual Memorial Day parade in Zeeland. Students in sixth grade may audition to become majorettes for this event.

Symphonic Band is open to seventh and eighth grade students with playing experience. They perform several concerts throughout the school year. They also participate in several parades. (Pumpkinfest, Tulip Festival, Memorial Day). Seventh and eighth grade students may audition to become a majorette or color guard.

Physical Activities

Girls Running Club and Boys Running Club – 3-6

Intramurals – 5-8

100 Miler Club – 6-8

After school athletic program – 7 -8

Track and field – boys and girls – 7-8

Basketball – boys and girls – 7-8

Soccer – boys and girls – 7-8

Volleyball – girls – 7-8

Baseball – boys – 7-8 (combined)

Softball – girls – 7-8 (combined)

Cooperative programs with Holland Christian Middle – football, lacrosse, swimming, cross country, tennis – 7-8

There are no cuts for seventh grade teams or track and field. There are cuts for the combined seventh and eighth grade teams for baseball and softball. There are cuts for the eighth grade team.

Athletic Director – Joel Nagelkirk

Other

Destination Imagination – 4th grade and up depending on interest

Yearbook – eighth grade

Zeeland Christian School
Parents' Club
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2017

	\$36,110.63
Beginning Balance, July 1, 2016	
Fundraising Receipts:	
3 on 3 Basketball	7,860.74
Auction	97,898.96
Box Tops for Education	718.60
Catering	4,115.28
HMI Picnic	900.00
Magazine Sale	6,162.79
Parent Club Dues	6,600.00
Pigs & Banket	5,035.50
Gift Sale	2,049.33
Target (Take Charge of Education)	666.06
ZCS Zip	3,112.57
Total Fundraising Receipts:	135,119.83
Total Balance and Receipts	\$171,230.46
Expenses:	
Check to ZCS General Fund 5/26/17	\$125,000.00
Total Expenses:	\$125,000.00
Ending Balance, June 30, 2017	46,230.46

Submitted by Jennifer Schafer, Volunteer Coordinator

Zeeland Christian School

Parents' Club

Calendar 2017-2018

SEPTEMBER

Golf Outing

Nick and Sarah Terpstra, Jim and Kelli
Huisenga
Nate and Claire Baumann

OCTOBER

Wrapping Paper Sale
Magazine Sale

Jennifer Schafer
Jennifer Schafer

DECEMBER, JANUARY

FEBRUARY

Box Tops

Jennifer Schafer

MARCH

3-on-3 Basketball
Tournament

Ted and Kristi Patrick, Nate and Lisa Karsten
Gregg and Monica Vander Zwaag

APRIL

Auction

Chris and Laurie Wierda, Dan and Tonya Mannes,
Natalie Huizenga, Steve and Kathy Langeland

JUNE

Herman Miller Picnic

Brenda Van Dyke

ONGOING

Baked Goods
Hospitality

Allison Kruithof, Marcie Leegwater
Mary Van Dam