



ZEELAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Kindergarten/Young Fives
Information Packet

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are thrilled that you are interested in Zeeland Christian School! ZCS is a place where every child can thrive and grow into the person God created them to be. 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 ZCS.

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 the members of our leadership team (zcs.org/staff). You can ask them questions about anything - including their faith story.

If you are new to the Zeeland Christian 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) or call our main office at 616.772.2609.

Blessings to you and your child!

In Christ,

Tim McAboy
Head of School

Sherri Tibbe
Elementary Principal

Nancy Pyle
Preschool Director

LOVE GOD • LOVE KIDS • LOVE LEARNING

zcs.org | 334 W. Central Ave. Zeeland, MI 49464 | (616) 772-2609



Paths to Kindergarten

This is the traditional path that many families have chosen for their children.



Threeschool is a great opportunity for children to learn how to “do school” before they begin the Kindergarten Readiness structure of Preschool. Our teachers have found that children who complete Threeschool are very well prepared for Preschool.



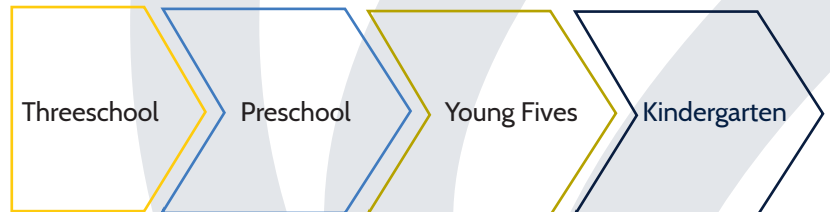
This is a good option for children who have birthdays between September 1 and December 1. If you think your child will benefit from a year of Young Fives (5 mornings a week), give your child a year of Preschool before beginning Young Fives.



If your child has a fall birthday but you are not ready to start them in Young Fives, start your child in Threeschool and then work with the classroom teacher to determine if Preschool or Young Fives is the best option for your child for the next year.



This option includes three years of schooling before Kindergarten, but it may be a great option for a child with a summer birthday who enters Threeschool as a young three-year-old. Even after the year of Preschool is finished, Young Fives is an option to give the “gift of a year” to a child who still needs time to grow and develop skills before entering Kindergarten.



If your child has had good educational experiences outside of a school setting, he/she may do well with a year of Young Fives and then Kindergarten.





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 - Must be 5 by September 1, 2020

Full-time Kindergarten

Students attend kindergarten from 8:40AM-3:25PM, Monday through Friday, all year long.

Transitional Kindergarten

All students attend kindergarten every morning from 8:40-11:50AM. Parents who choose transitional kindergarten set a part time school schedule for their child at the start of the year, and increase to full days during the year. Pick up times each day may be 11:50AM or 3:25PM. See additional notes on page 4.

Extended Care

In addition to your child's classroom time at school, we offer Extended Care for children in three-school-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

English

This program is the foundation of all our educational programs at ZCS.

Inclusive Education

This beloved program welcomes students with varied abilities into the classroom. Inclusion benefits all students because it teaches that we are all created in God's image and part of the body of Christ. If you have a child you would like to discuss with our support services staff, please contact Barb Newman at bnewman@zcs.org to discuss how we can serve you and your child.

Spanish Immersion

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

Mandarin Immersion

Mandarin Immersion contains all the elements of our English 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 (M,T,TH) 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.



Transitional Kindergarten

1. All Transitional Kindergarten students attend school M-F mornings all year. 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 11:50 a.m or 3:25 p.m.
2. All Transitional Kindergarten students will begin to attend class on **Tuesday and Thursday afternoons** starting the last week of October. Parents may make any other schedule changes too.
3. All Transitional Kindergarten students will attend class on **Wednesday afternoons** starting at the second semester, the third week of January. Parents may add more afternoons if desired.
4. All Transitional Kindergarten students will attend class on **Monday afternoons** starting after Spring Break. Some parents may want to add Friday afternoons but that is not required.
5. The cost of one child full-time in Kindergarten for 2020-2021 (no older siblings) is **\$9,191**. All families will be charged the full-time tuition rate, with refunds issued in January and June for 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 **\$1,558**, if they strictly follow our Transitional Kindergarten plan listed above. This means they will pay a Transitional Kindergarten tuition amount of no less than **\$7,633**.
6. For parents who have 2 or more children in Y5-12th grade, the sliding scale will apply to the family's tuition. A child's transitional kindergarten schedule will not impact tuition payments.
 - 2 Children: \$13,783
 - 3 Children: \$17,000
 - 4 Children: \$19,297

Contact Nancy Pyle, npyle@zcs.org or Sherri Tibbe, stibbe@zcs.org with further questions.



Young Fives

Schedule Options for Young Fives Students - Must be 5 by December 1, 2020

Mornings

All Young fives students attend class every morning from 8:40-11:50 a.m. Classes follow the K-8 calendar from Aug. - June.

Afternoons

Young Fives students have the option to stay at school for any afternoons. Afternoon pick up time is 3:25 p.m. Students may stay from the English or Spanish immersion class, but they will combine for the afternoon with the class taught in English. Parents may choose 1-5 afternoons for their child's schedule, but the day(s) chosen must be consistent each week.

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

English

This program is the foundation of all our educational programs at ZCS.

Inclusive Education

This beloved program welcomes students with varied abilities into the classroom. Inclusion benefits all students because it teaches that we are all created in God's image and part of the body of Christ. If you have a child you would like to discuss with our support services staff, please contact Barb Newman at bnewman@zcs.org to discuss how we can serve you and your child.

Spanish Immersion

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

Tuition*

M-F Mornings: \$3,306

M-F Mornings + 1 afternoon: \$4,002

M-F Mornings + 2 afternoons: \$4,698

M-F Mornings + 3 afternoons: \$5,394

M-F Mornings + 4 afternoons: \$6,090

M-F Full Days: \$6,786

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



Frequently Asked Questions

How old should my child be?

All Kindergarten students should be 5 by September 1, 2020. All Young Fives students must be 5 by December 1, 2020.

What are the start/end time for kindergarten / Young Fives?

Full-Day 8:40 AM - 3:25 PM

Half-Day: 8:45 AM - 11:50 AM

How does ZCS keep the building secure?

Exterior doors at ZCS are kept locked during school hours except during drop-off times. Visitors must enter through the main ZCS office (off Central Ave.), sign in, fill out a name tag and then sign out when they leave.

How does busing 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 Meeuwse in the transportation office at 616-748-3425. Note: Busing is not available for students at 11:50 a.m. 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 a huge help 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.

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.



Frequently Asked Questions Cont.

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, Preschool Director, at 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 do not need to submit another one. Please check your immunizations against those required by the state.



2020-21 K-8 Tuition Sliding Scale

Grades K-8	Tuition*	Monthly Payments*
1 Child	\$4,596 - \$9,191	\$383 - \$766
2 Children	\$6,892 - \$13,783	\$575 - \$1,149
3 Children	\$8,500 - \$17,000	\$708 - \$1,417
4 Children	\$9,648 - \$19,297	\$804 - \$1,608
5 Children	\$10,529 - \$21,057	\$878 - \$1,755

+ A \$150 charge per student will be added to all middle school students for laptop fees.

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

If you have financial concerns about your ability to enroll your family at ZCS, please know we have tuition assistance (T.A.) available. Over the last few years, our families and donors have worked hard to be able to offer 80-100% of the assistance families qualify for. The qualifying formula for T.A. is:

Step 1: $18\% \times \text{Adjusted Gross Income} = X$

Step 2: $\text{Total tuition} - X = \text{T.A. amount a family qualifies for}$

Contact Dir. of Finance and Operations, Mike Arendsen (marendsen@zcs.org) with further questions.

*The ranges provided in the tuition schedule take into account our tuition assistance program. The largest tuition reduction a family can currently receive is 50%.



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 \$120,000 annually! This money reduces the cost of tuition.

Examples of current fundraisers include: Auction, 3-on-3 Tournament, ZIP 5k and more. Each fundraiser has various jobs (cashier, food prep, first-aid, etc.) 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. Online 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. Online sign up for current families begins June 5.

If you have any questions about Parent Points, please contact Jennifer Schafer, jschafer@zcs.org.

DITTO Grant (Young Fives - 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 2019-2020, ZCS will receive \$300 for every enrolled student. This money is already accounted for in our tuition schedule. However, all families are invited to donate the \$300 grant back if they would like to do so. All grants donated back to school go toward the Tuition Assistance Fund. Last year over \$39,000 was donated back to tuition assistance.



Lowering Your Out-of-Pocket Cost cont.

TRIP - Tuition Reduction Incentive Program (Preschool - 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 through TRIP for 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. Over time, the money can really 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? Register online at www.zcs.org/trip

Families who register for TRIP when they enroll the first student in ZCS Preschool or Young Fives receive a \$500 tuition voucher when their oldest reaches 1st-grade!



Ready to Begin Your ZCS Story?

Enrollment Process

Yay! We are thrilled you are enrolling your child(ren) at Zeeland Christian School. Online registration is open at www.zcskindergarten.eventbrite.com. An enrollment form will follow.

The enrollment process consists of 3 Steps.

- 1 Fill Out Continuous Enrollment Form Online**
This form will provide us with all the information needed to begin the process of your placing your child in a classroom. You will only fill out this form only once per child during their time at ZCS.
- 2 Set up SMART Tuition Account**
Every ZCS family has a SMART account which is used to pay tuition. You will receive an email from SMART tuition within a week after filling out the enrollment form with instructions on how to set up your account and tuition payment plan.
- 3 Complete the SAVE-ME-A-SEAT Checklist**
This check list will be emailed to you once your SMART account is set-up. It includes items like submitting immunization records, health forms, etc.