



ZEELAND
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

泽兰基督教学校 ■ ESCUELA CRISTIANA DE ZEELAND ■ ZEELAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

BURN BRIGHT



Guide to ZCS January 2023

Table of Contents



3	Note from our Head of School
4-5	Distinctly ZCS
6-9	Preschool
10-11	Young Fives and Kindergarten
12-13	Immersion Education
14-15	Support Services/Inclusive Education
16-17	Elementary (Y5 - 5th grade)
18-19	Extended Care Information
20-21	Middle School (6th - 8th grade)
22-23	Enrollment Process
24-25	Frequently Asked Questions
26-27	Financial Information

ZCS MISSION

The mission of Zeeland Christian School is to provide a high quality Christian education based on the Reformed understanding of the Christian faith. We do so as an extension of the Christian family, assisting parents in carrying out their responsibility to instruct their children in the Christian faith.

Our goal is to enable students to function to their fullest potential in contemporary society as Christian citizens who personally respond in loving obedience to God's revealed will, who recognize the significance of serving others with their lives, and who accept their responsibility toward the world in which they live.

A Note from our Head of School



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are thrilled about your interest in Zeeland Christian School! ZCS is a place where every child can thrive and grow into the person God created him or her to be. We believe God created each student to be unique, and we approach each student's educational experience with that in mind. We believe there is no better place for your child than Zeeland Christian.

As a Christ-centered community, we celebrate the opportunity to work hand-in-hand with families and churches to educate students from a Christian perspective. As faith formation intentionally happens at home, the church and Christian school come alongside each family to support them. My parents were intentional about my faith formation, and my love of God and others now is a result.

It is our goal to look at everything through the lens of scripture and give your child the very best education possible. We have an experienced staff who are learners themselves and who continue to develop their abilities. During a staff training on resilience, it was said that, "Resilient people don't shy away from reality, they lean in." Our teachers are leaning in. Our curriculum is examined yearly to make it the very best it can be. We believe that there is no finer educational environment available than what we can offer at ZCS.

We hope that through face-to-face interactions, parent and grandparent testimonials, seeing classroom and teacher experiences, and viewing our website and social media platforms you will witness how God is working in the lives of students and families at ZCS. The ZCS staff would love to get to know you. Our prayer is that every new family at ZCS feels like they have multiple people they can say "hi" to, so that you not only feel welcome but also like you belong here!

Enclosed you will find a wide breadth of information on what makes ZCS such a unique school. That said, this information can only go so far. You are warmly encouraged to contact us to set up a virtual or in-person tour of our facilities.

We pray that God will guide you in making this spiritual and academic investment in your child(ren)'s future. Blessings to you and your family!

In Christ,

Tim McAboy
Head of School



Faith-Building Opportunities

All-School Chapel:

This is a monthly event for Preschool through 8th grade. Parents and grandparents are invited to attend as we all gather to worship our Lord and Savior. Elementary students have grade-level worship times once a month, and middle school students have a weekly chapel. Preschool students also participate in regular weekly group worship opportunities.

Daily Devotions:

Every classroom begins its day with devotions and prayer. Teachers also begin and end each week in prayer and worship together as a staff.



Bible Curriculum through Christian

Schools International: ZCS uses a curriculum that focuses on God's story and how it has been revealed to his people, fostering faith development and personal response in learners.

Service Projects:

Students work in partnership with their classmates to live out their faith through service to others within the community. Projects take place through a variety of activities each year that foster relationships with local community organizations.



Spiritual Journals:

Beginning in kindergarten, students make at least three journal entries expressing spiritual growth during that school year. The completed journals are presented to students at their 8th-grade banquet, highlighting each student's personal walk with our Lord during their school career at ZCS.

What makes us unique from other schools in the area?



Family Groups:

Beginning in 1st grade, students are assigned to a family group they will stay with throughout their time at ZCS. These groups include a few students from each grade level, 1st-8th, who gather to study the Bible and work on projects together several times each year.

School Culture:

At ZCS, we celebrate the privilege of being a community made up of multiple cultures, races, backgrounds, and abilities. In our trilingual environment, language barriers diminish, the unknown becomes known, and the unfamiliar feels less threatening. We worship God through cultural liturgies from around the world. Those often overlooked are seen and celebrated, and we are all given the opportunity to know God more deeply and to love our neighbor more intentionally.

PBL (Project Based Learning):

Students at all grade levels work to develop deep content knowledge, critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication skills through this approach to learning. A real-world problem or complex question is taken on by students over an extended period of time, culminating in a public product or presentation for a real audience.

Responsive Teaching:

We utilize ongoing feedback and assessment to meet the needs of each child in our community. Whether that means providing a challenge or offering needed support, we desire for each child to thrive in developing their God-given talents and passions. We utilize MAP Growth assessments to evaluate programs and curriculum and to gauge how students are achieving compared to national norms. From one-on-one literacy assessments to focused math

screeners, we are committed to supporting all children in ways that maximize their learning potential.

PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support):

We want all students to behave with Christ-like AMOR (Acceptance, Mindfulness, Ownership, and Respect). We want to be vigilant in acknowledging the positive behaviors happening all the time, focusing our efforts on the behavior that we expect from students. We believe that behaviors need to be taught and retaught, and we strive for clarity for students and unity among our staff.



Preschool Options

What class options are available?

Learning environments are based on age, not on a child's skills. Within each class, teachers will support and challenge a child where they are developmentally. Zeeland Christian Preschool offers classes that are 2-day, 3-day, and 4-day options.

Must be three or four by Sept 1st of the school year enrolled

Threeschool - A play-based learning experience designed specifically for three-year-olds and young four-year-olds. Students gain independence and grow in their ability to learn from others, participate in a group, and play well with peers.

Preschool - A kindergarten readiness program for four-year-olds, preschool teaches both academic and social skills. Teachers work with children individually and as a group, assessing students' skills and working to help each child prepare for the coming year.

What types of skills will my child learn at Zeeland Christian Preschool?

- How to pray and worship with friends
- Letters, numbers, colors, shapes
- Name recognition and writing
- Taking turns and sharing
- Developing independence



 ZEELAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Preschool Truths About God

- ✕ God made everyone.
- ✕ God loves everyone.
- ✕ God hears our prayers.
- God is always with us.
- God can do anything.
- God is mighty and strong.
- God sent Jesus to save us.

Creation Ridge

Since 2020, nature-based threeschool and preschool classes are held on the 155-acre Ridge Point Community Church site. This is a ZCS experience in an outdoor classroom and is offered in both English and Spanish.

How do Creation Ridge classes look different from other ZCS classes?

- Classes are outside for at least 90 minutes each day in all weather except extreme conditions.
- Classes take daily hikes outside of the main playscape space.
- Students learn using natural outdoor elements as tools and for imaginative play.
- A list of required outdoor clothing items is provided for families.
- Tuition is slightly higher due to facility costs and added expenses for a nature-based program.

Creation Ridge Explorers:

Mondays, 4-year-olds 1:00-3:00 PM

Wednesdays, 3-year-olds 1:00-3:00 PM

Explorers is a two-hour experience for three and four-year-olds. Students may stay after their morning preschool class at Creation Ridge or come to Creation Ridge at 1:00 PM to join their friends and enjoy the afternoon exploring the property with their teachers. If a student does not have an OAKI suit, one will be provided. Explorers do not involve teacher conferences or child assessments.



2023-2024 Preschool Schedule

Morning classes run 8:45-11:30 AM.
 Afternoon classes run 12:30-3:15 PM.

Threeschool Classes: Children must be 3 by September 1, 2022

ZCS Site	Class #	Days of class	Language
Central Ave	Session 1	Monday/Wednesday Morning	English
Central Ave	Session 2	Tuesday/Thursday Morning	English
Central Ave	Session 3	Monday/Wednesday/Friday Morning	English
Central Ave	Session 4	Tuesday/Thursday Morning	Spanish
Creation Ridge	Session A	Tuesday/Thursday Morning	English
Creation Ridge	Session B	Monday/Wednesday/Friday Morning	English
Creation Ridge	Session C	Tuesday/Thursday Morning	Spanish
Creation Ridge	Session D	Tuesday/Thursday Morning	English
Creation Ridge	Explorers	Wednesday Afternoon 1-3pm	English

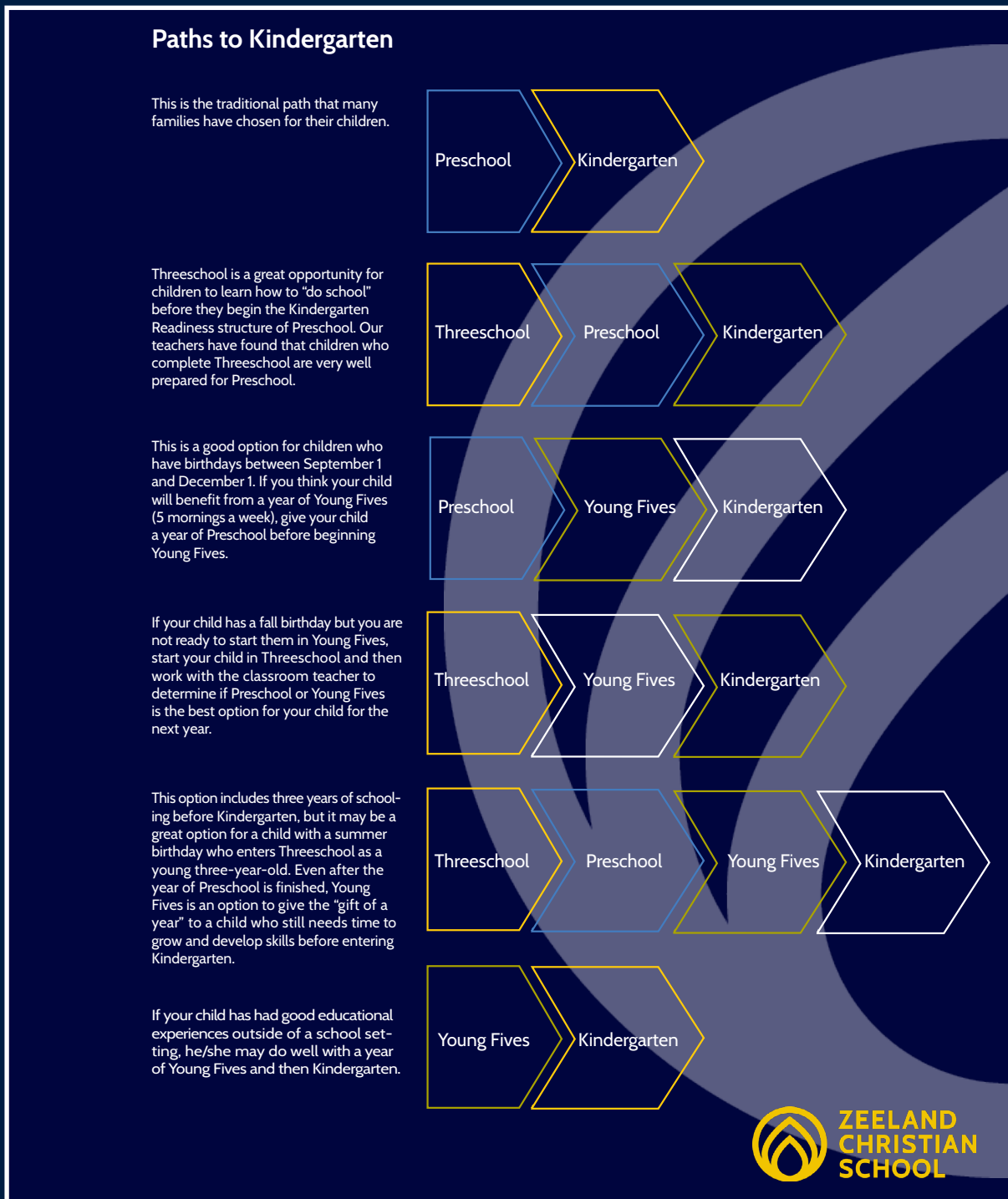
Four-year-Old Preschool Classes: Children must be 4 by Sept. 1, 2022

ZCS Site	Class #	Days of class	Language
Central Ave	Session 5	Monday/Wednesday/Friday Morning	English
Central Ave	Session 6	Monday/Wednesday/Friday Afternoon	English
Central Ave	Session 7	Tuesday/Thursday/Friday Morning	English
Central Ave	Session 8	Monday - Thursday Morning, plus the option to add up to four afternoons	English
Central Ave	Session 9	Monday - Thursday Morning, plus the option to add up to four afternoons	Spanish
Central Ave	Session 10	Monday - Thursday Mornings	Mandarin Chinese
Creation Ridge	Session E	Monday/Wednesday/Friday Morning	English
Creation Ridge	Session F	Monday/Tuesday/Thursday Morning	English
Creation Ridge	Session G	Monday/Tuesday/Thursday Afternoon	English
Creation Ridge	Session H	Monday/Wednesday/Friday Morning	Spanish
Creation Ridge	Session I	Monday/Wednesday/Friday Afternoon	Spanish
Creation Ridge	Explorers	Monday Afternoon 1-3pm	English

All children enrolled in Zeeland Christian Preschool must be toilet trained and independent in the bathroom. No pull-ups are allowed. Our staff will coach children in the bathroom but not physically assist them. Exceptions are made for children who have a specific plan with our support services staff.

Paths to Kindergarten

Chart created by ZCS



There are varying paths to choose from for a child's journey to kindergarten. Parents make choices based on their child's birth date, time at home vs. time at preschool/in childcare, family schedules, and more. **There isn't a right or wrong choice--the best choice is whatever is best for your child.**

The state of Michigan requires that a child turns five by September 1 of the year he/she enters kindergarten. This means that all children should be five, turning six, during their kindergarten year. (Some children with late summer birthdays start kindergarten as six-year-olds.)

Young Fives

Mornings

- All students enrolled in Young Fives attend class Monday thru Friday from 8:40-11:50 AM.
- Classes, which are offered in English and Spanish, follow the K-8 calendar from August - June.

Afternoons

- Young Fives students have the option to stay at school for any or all afternoons. The afternoon pick-up time is 3:25 PM.
- Students from both English and Spanish classes combine for the afternoon in a 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. Changes to a child's schedule may only be made in October, January, or April and are only available as space allows.

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Brilla Intensamente
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Kindergarten

Full-time Kindergarten

Students attend kindergarten from 8:40 AM - 3:25 PM, Monday through Friday, all year. Classes are offered in Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, and English.

Transitional Kindergarten

All transitional kindergarten students attend school M-F from 8:40-11:50 AM all year and increase the number of afternoons as the year goes on. The afternoon pickup time is 3:25 PM. Classes are offered in Spanish and English only.

Changes to a transitional student's afternoon schedule are set as follows. Additional afternoons may only be added at these three times during the school year:

- All transitional students will begin to attend class on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons starting the last week of October.
- Beginning second semester (the third week of January), all transitional students will attend class on Wednesday afternoons, giving them three full days of school.
- All transitional students will attend class on Monday afternoons after Spring Break in April, bringing students up to four full days at school. Some parents may choose to add Friday afternoons, but this is not required.



Kindergarten Readiness Testing:

Readiness Testing is done in April upon parent or preschool teacher request. This is for children whose parents are deciding between young fives and kindergarten and for students with summer birthdays. Staff work in conjunction with preschool teachers to assess readiness for kindergarten, offering recommendations to parents.

Immersion

In our immersion programs at ZCS, children are immersed in a target language from the very beginning of their educational experience. They begin to acquire their new language in much the same way as their first language, through meaningful communication and experiential learning. With immersion, seeing is believing! Schedule an in-person or virtual tour today at www.zcs.org/explore.

Students in this program can be expected to attain developmentally appropriate bilingualism as they advance through the program. Initially, all classroom instruction is solely in the target language. Limited formal English instruction begins in 3rd grade. Even through middle school, students continue to spend a portion of their day studying core content in their target language.

Mandarin Immersion

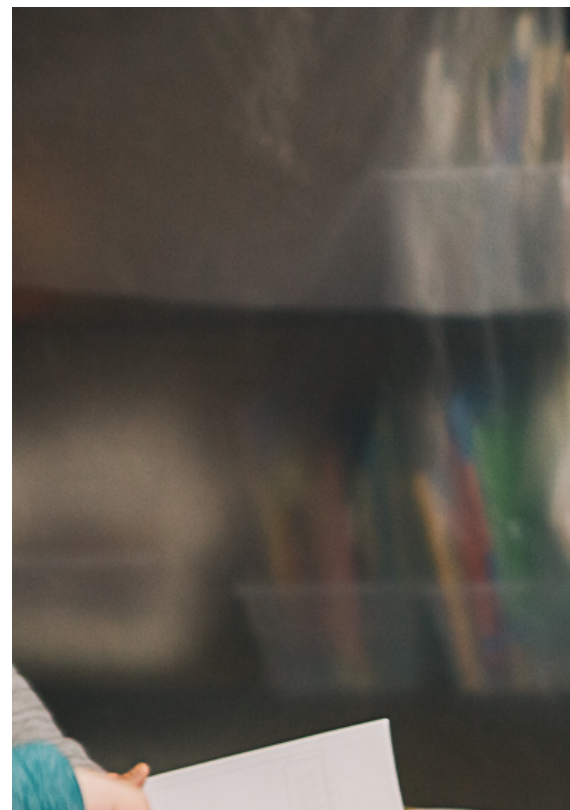
Mandarin Immersion began at ZCS in the fall of 2012. Mandarin Chinese is a character-based, tonal language which presents students with exciting new challenges and learning opportunities. Zeeland Christian is home to the only Christian Mandarin Immersion program in the Midwest.

Spanish Immersion

Our Spanish Immersion program, which began in the fall of 2006, is the largest and most established Christian Spanish Immersion program in Michigan. As Spanish is one of the most commonly spoken languages in the world, fluency in this language opens up an array of cultural opportunities for our students.

Things you should know:

- Immersion students comprise approximately 50% of the ZCS student body.
- There are 12 different countries of origin represented by our staff.
- In both immersion programs, students study the same core curriculum as in our English classes, but entirely in either Mandarin Chinese or Spanish.
- All immersion students also study the opposite world language through a Mandarin or Spanish class twice a week.
- Students may join both the Mandarin or Spanish programs in preschool or kindergarten. We also accept new 1st grade students in our Spanish Immersion program.
- In partnership with local colleges, area high schools provide options for our immersion students after they graduate from 8th grade at ZCS.





爱上帝，爱孩子，爱学习
Ama a Dios, Ama a los Niños, Ama Aprender
Love God, Love Kids, Love Learning



语法练习
需要重复练习吗

我可以有	一只小狗吗?
我可以摸	你的小狗吗?
请让我和他说	这件事。
我可以和你一起读	这本书吗?
你喜欢	吃冰淇淋吗?
我们一起去	旅行吧!
请让我看	这本书。
你应该尝	这个口味的巧克力。
请把球扔	给我。
请你说	

Support Services/Inclusive Education

At Zeeland Christian, we are passionate about teaching all children about the love of Jesus, including those who have unique gifts and needs. Support Services comprises several strands. One strand is the **Resource Room, which supports students with learning disabilities and other learning-related challenges.** Another strand is the **inclusion program, which provides modified educational goals for students with varied abilities to find a place of acceptance and belonging in the heart of our general education classrooms.** Additionally, Support Services provides **care for the “non-visible” struggles of our students in the day-to-day.** When emotional challenges or trauma occur for a family, Support Services is prepared to help students with difficulties that arise.



Inclusion Program:

God fundamentally changed Zeeland Christian School 33 years ago with the beginning of inclusive education. Education for all children of differing abilities wasn't a new idea, but including children of all abilities in the same classroom was, especially in Christian schools. ZCS is the oldest inclusion model school in the U.S., and the second oldest in North America, making ZCS a global leader in inclusive education.

Students who are a part of the inclusion program are valued members of our general education classrooms and learn alongside their peers. An individualized plan is crafted for each student, taking into consideration their specific needs and areas of strength. Our goal is that students spend as much of the day with their peers and classroom teachers as possible, while also scheduling time for individualized lessons and therapies as needed.

The inclusion program is an essential part of our school. Not only do those receiving support benefit by being fully included in Zeeland Christian life, but this model also provides peers with an opportunity to receive, experience, and learn from the gifts and

abilities of others. Together, we recognize how the puzzle of our school would be incomplete with even just one piece missing.

Literacy Support Services:

We offer literacy support to our youngest readers at the elementary grade levels, both in the classroom and through individual literacy support.

Resource Room:

Our Resource Room provides support for students with learning disabilities and other learning-related challenges. Our support staff meets many student, teacher, and parent needs through assessment, academic support, and direct instruction.

Mental Health Team:

We are blessed to provide short-term counseling services to students at Zeeland Christian. At the request of parents or teachers, a counselor can see students for 3-4 sessions during the school day and then make recommendations if further support might help. We are also grateful for a full-time social worker to offer extra support to our students, teachers, and families. Our mental health team is also available to support families who are involved in adoption or foster care.



Elementary

Elementary is an exciting and robust environment full of reading, creative writing, and math foundations. **Our teachers work with students to build a love for learning, to demonstrate care for others, and to develop a sense of belonging to God.**

Within each classroom, our curriculum promotes growth in Math, Language/Grammar, Bible, Science, Social Studies, Reading Comprehension, and Writing. In each area, **we approach classroom learning with an awareness that God created each student to be unique, differentiating our instruction to maximize student growth.**

Students experience literacy instruction tailored to their strengths and growth areas through “Daily 5” time. The Daily 5 framework promotes reading, writing, and learning engagement while building independence and fostering collaboration with peers for 45-60 minutes each day.

We know that students learn best when their bodies can move, so three daily recess times are provided outside on our spacious property. Additionally, teachers do their best to provide students with opportunities to move around the classroom, to choose alternative seating options as part of their learning each day, and to head outdoors for learning when possible.



Weekly Specials

Art:

The opportunity to attend art classes is a blessing and something students enjoy each week. Our art classes develop artistic expression, incorporate art history, explore a variety of art mediums, and provide opportunities to make connections with art.

Music:

Kindergarten to 5th-grade general music classes meet twice per week to teach students how to understand, explain, and appreciate the music they experience. Emphasis is placed on the natural way music allows students to express themselves and worship their Creator.

As part of their general music class, students in 4th grade experience playing instruments with a recorder. Students in 3rd and 4th grade present a musical in December each year.

Ukuleles are introduced in 5th grade in addition to continued vocal development and preparation for worship opportunities in middle school and beyond. 5th-grade students may also choose to begin a band instrument.



World Language:

World Language classes take place several times a week to introduce and expose students to a world language interactively. As a trilingual school, students in Mandarin immersion and our English program acquire Spanish in World Language class, and students in Spanish immersion learn Mandarin Chinese. By learning and developing a world language and studying the culture it represents, students' minds and hearts are open to the rich diversity God created.

Technology:

Technology classes take place across all grade levels, teaching students the basics of technology and internet safety and linking technology to the classroom by incorporating other content-area learning. Students also learn through hands-on STEM activities.

Library:

Students have regular access to our school library, visiting once a week with their class, searching and investigating titles and authors, and building a love of books!

Physical Education:

Kindergarten - 8th-grade students have the opportunity to enjoy physical education classes several times a week. P.E. addresses physical fitness, team and individual sports, and movement concepts.



Extended Care/Power Hour

Our Extended Care program is designed to support family childcare needs on school days.

Extended care for students in threeschool through 5th grade is available at the main ZCS campus Monday to Friday.

A \$25 registration fee per child is assessed upon enrollment in the Extended Care and Cub Club programs. **All children must be pre-registered in order to attend and limited spaces are available in each class.** Billing for Extended Care usage is uploaded to your family's School Admin account once a month, starting in October.

Central Ave:

Before School Care

- Offered from 7:00 AM-8:45 AM
- Offered to students in threeschool through 5th grade
- Nutritional breakfast provided

Lunch Bunch

- Offered from 11:30 AM-1:00 PM
- Offered to students in threeschool and preschool
- Children bring their lunch from home
- If your child is enrolled in two preschool classes (a morning class and an afternoon class), there will be no charge for Lunch Bunch

Enrichment

- Offered from 11:30 AM-3:15 PM
- Enrichment classes follow the preschool calendar; students keep the same schedule for the same school year
- Offered to threeschool and preschool students

Enrichment Schedule

Monday - STEM Essentials
Tuesday - Central Ave. Outdoor Explorers
Wednesday - Art Explosion
Thursday - Central Ave Outdoor Explorers
Friday - Language Exploration

After School Care

- Offered from 3:15 PM-6:00 PM
- Offered to students in threeschool through 5th grade



Cub Club at Creation Ridge:

Before School Care

- Offered from 7:30 AM-8:45 AM
- Nutritional breakfast provided

Lunch Bunch 11:30-1:00 PM

- If your child is enrolled in two preschool classes (a morning class and an afternoon class), there will be no charge for Lunch Bunch.
- Children bring their lunch from home

Full Afternoon Care

- Offered from 11:30 AM-5:30 PM
- Nutritional snack provided

Partial Afternoon Care

- Offered from 3:15 PM-5:30 PM
- Nutritional snack provided

Power Hour:

Supervised middle school care is available for students who need to stay after school. Power hour is from 2:25 PM-3:20 PM and is for middle school students who have younger siblings in elementary. If your child does not have younger siblings but needs after-school care, please contact the middle school principal to get permission to utilize power hour.



Middle School

Middle School is a phase of life where students experience many emotions and questions as they begin to feel more independent. Our staff has the distinct privilege of walking with students to help them process big feelings and decisions and the impact these will have on their life. We have the opportunity to apply a Christ-centered approach to the unique challenges that arise each day.

A defining aspect of ZCMS is the way our staff encourages students to make good choices. We do not utilize zero hours or detention. Instead, our teachers work thoughtfully to create

relationships with students and help guide them along the way. What happens if a student makes a poor choice? Our staff will help them process and understand as they experience the natural consequences of their actions. In moments like these, our teachers will ask a student, "Who or what has been harmed, and what are some ways you can make it right again to help restore what has been broken?" We believe strongly that this relational approach better helps our students grow into the people God created them to be.

Middle School Camps

Over the years, our middle school staff has developed a series of experiences that help students grow into leaders and mentors for the rest of the school. Key experiences for our students' development include our middle school camps. Each year, grade levels attend 1-2 highly anticipated camps specifically designed to move students forward in their personal and communal relationships with God and each other.

- **6th Grade Camp** - Fall: Focus is on building community, beginning middle school together, and setting the tone for the next three years.
- **7th Grade Camp** - Fall: Emphasis is on spiritual growth and creating a covenantal community based on love and respect for everyone in the class.
- **7th Grade Camp** - Spring: Intensely focused on leadership development and preparing for 8th grade by choosing the following year's theme and small group leaders.
- **8th Grade Camp** - This is a highly spiritual, emotional, and personal camp where students spend time committing their lives to God, reflecting on where they've been, and preparing for where God is leading them.





Student Cell Phone Policy

Between the hours of 7:00 AM - 3:25 PM, our middle school students may not check their phones or have them in their pockets. If staff sees a cell phone out during the school day for any reason, it will be given to the Middle School Principal, who will call the parents/guardians and ask them to pick it up from the main office at their convenience. Phones will not be given back to the student directly.

Enrichment Opportunity Highlights

- Robotics: Offered to 7th and 8th graders as a joint activity with Holland Christian Middle School.
- Worship Team: Student-led worship is rich, meaningful, and imperfect. When students lead, the ZCS community is blessed.
- Other opportunities include Calling All Colors, Ski Club, and the 5th-8th grade Spelling Bee.

Student Life Opportunities

- All-School Chapel
- MS Worship
- Camps
- Family Groups
- Small Groups
- 7th/8th Play

Weekly Encores

See page 17 for more detailed information about these offerings: Art, World Language, Technology, Library, Physical Education

Music Education

Students in 6th-8th grade choose either choir or band class to continue their musical development. All middle school music students perform concerts throughout the year.

Our ZCS band students have the opportunity to march in several local parades, including Pumpkinfest, the Tulip Time Festival, and Memorial Day. A spring day 'off-campus' is often part of continued music enrichment for middle school students.

Middle School Athletic Opportunities

We have a variety of opportunities for 6th-8th graders to participate in sports at Zeeland Christian. Our bodies are a gift, and students have an opportunity to pursue physical health through a multitude of athletic opportunities, as listed below. We collaborate with Holland Christian schools to offer even more opportunities through co-op sports. ZCS requires a "Pay to Play" fee for each sport your child participates in.

ZCS Sports

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Soccer
- Track and Field
- Volleyball

Co-op Sports

- Competitive Cheer
- Cross Country
- Football
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Sailing Club

Application Process

We thank you for prayerfully selecting Zeeland Christian School to partner with your family in the Christian education of your child. The following will assist you in the admissions process.

If at any time you have questions or need additional help, our Director of Admissions and Enrollment, Natalia McGowen, is here to walk alongside you! Natalia can be reached at 616.239.9812 or at nmcgowen@zcs.org.

Threeschool & Preschool Steps

Threeschool and Preschool Enrollment Steps:

1. **Create an account** through SchoolAdmin
 - a. Sign-Up for a School Admin Account
 - b. Parent portal for current account holders needing to enroll another student:
<https://zcs.schooladminonline.com/portal>
2. **Submit an application** for EACH child you are enrolling at Zeeland Christian School
 - a. Application questions will include information about contact information, household members, previous school experience, etc.
3. **Complete all checklist items** to finalize the application
 - a. There is a \$100 application fee for each child.
Your child's application isn't considered complete until the fee is paid.
 - b. Upload a photo of your child.
 - c. Fill out the "Top 3 Preschool Class Choice" to let staff know which class you would prefer for your child. As classes fill, they will be removed as options on this form.
 - d. If you indicate a need for Extended Care, a \$25 fee will be assessed when you fill out the appropriate form on your checklist. Extended Care placements are finalized in February.
4. **Parents are notified of class placement within one week** of submitting an application.



Once your child has been officially accepted at Zeeland Christian, you will be notified via email. After you receive an email, you must sign into your SchoolAdmin account to complete the enrollment process and submit additional information.



Application Process

Young Fives thru 8th grade steps

1. **Create an account** through SchoolAdmin
 - a. Sign-Up for a School Admin Account
 - b. Parent portal for current account holders needing to enroll another student:
<https://zcs.schooladminonline.com/portal>
2. **Submit an application** for EACH child you are enrolling at Zeeland Christian School
 - a. Application questions will include information about contact information, household members, previous school experience, etc.
3. **Complete all checklist items** to finalize the application
 - a. There is a \$100 application fee for each child. Your child's application isn't considered complete until the fee is paid.
4. Enrollment Staff will contact you within two business days of application submission regarding what you can expect as the next steps.



Once your child has been officially accepted at Zeeland Christian, you will be notified via email. After you receive an email, you must sign into your SchoolAdmin account to complete the enrollment process and submit additional information.



Additional FAQ

How does lunch work?

Lunch is eaten in students' classrooms – either packed lunch from home or hot lunch from school. Hot lunch is made on-site by Holland Christian School staff. Food allergy accommodations are taken into consideration on an individual classroom basis.

How do you keep your building secure?

Exterior doors are open during drop-off and pickup times only. During school hours all doors will be locked. To enter the school you will need to come through the office and sign in through our electronic visitor management system.

How do you address mean behavior or bullying?

Our leaders and teachers always want ZCS students to feel safe and to know they belong among peers and at school. We work

hard to make decisions based on this goal, doing our best to listen and actively problem-solve when a student might not feel safe or accepted.

Can my child ride the bus?

Busing is provided by the Zeeland Public School system for in-district students in Young Fives through 8th grade on days ZPS is in session. Busing is not provided for half-day Young Fives or transitional kindergarten students.

What is your average class size?

Class sizes vary as we strive to best meet the needs of every child. Students are placed in classes with teachers and assistants to ensure their safety and educational needs are met; as class sizes increase, so does staffing. On average, across preschool through 8th grade, class sizes run between 18 and 25 students.

What is the typical school day schedule?

- Preschool: 8:45 - 11:30 AM OR 12:30 - 3:15 PM
- Elementary (Young Fives - 5th grade): 8:40 AM - 3:25 PM
- Middle School (6th - 8th grade): 7:35 AM - 2:25 PM

Do you have more questions?

Please email admissions@zcs.org and someone will assist you.



What curriculum is used at ZCS?

The Board of Directors expects that our school is aligned academically to the Michigan State Standards while taking every opportunity to teach through a distinctively Christian worldview.

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

Parent-teacher conferences are held in the fall and spring. Report cards are available for 1st through 8th grade four times a year (twice a year for Young Fives & kindergarten). These provide an opportunity to sit down with your child and affirm how you also see them growing and developing.

Each 2nd - 8th grade child takes a MAP (Measures of Academic Performance) growth assessment in the early fall, winter, and late spring. MAP® Growth™ measures what students know and informs what they're ready to learn next. These reports are used to develop ongoing learning plans and are shared with parents twice a year.

**How can parents get involved at ZCS?**

- Be a classroom volunteer. Parent volunteers are a huge help to our teachers! Parents can be involved in reading with students, chaperoning for field trips, etc.
- Attend ZCS Events. Join us for concerts, chapels, Fun Night, the 8th Grade play, sporting events, and more.

Is there a dress code?

ZCS does not have a dress code, but we do ask that all school attire be appropriate and modest. You can purchase school logo wear via zcs.org.

What are your Immunization requirements?

The State of Michigan requires parents to report their child's immunization status before they are allowed to attend school. Parents must provide ZCS with a record showing that immunizations are up-to-date for students going into preschool, young fives, kindergarten, and 7th grade, or if enrolling a new-to-ZCS student in any grade. If parents have decided against immunizations, they must provide a certified immunization waiver (which can be applied for at the Ottawa County Health Department). Children without immunization records or a certified waiver on file will not be able to attend school. Additionally, preschool students need to have a health appraisal, which is completed by their physician, on file.



Tuition

We desire to make Christian education attainable for all families who want to attend Zeeland Christian School.

Sliding Scale Tuition Schedule:

ZCS is a covenantal family made up of many parents. 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 percentage of the cost of education.

Preschool to 8th-grade tuition can be paid annually, by semester, or over 12 months (July-June). There are two grants that all families receive, which reduce overall tuition costs and are accounted for in our tuition schedule.

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 distributed between Zeeland Christian and Holland Christian Schools to help offset the cost of tuition.

For the 2023-24 school year, ZCS is projected to receive \$325 for every enrolled student. However, all families are invited to participate in our OPTS give-back and donate all or a portion of their grant back if they would like to do so. All grants contributed back to school go toward the Tuition Assistance Fund. Last year, over \$28,000 was donated back to tuition assistance.

Endowment Grant (Young Fives - 8th Grade):

The ZCS Endowment lowers tuition for every single family while also providing financial aid for those who need it most. For the 2022-23 school year, ZCS received a \$285 Endowment Grant for every enrolled student. The Endowment is funded primarily by estate and memorial gifts, the ZCS golf outing, and the annual Legacy Event. The Endowment fund balance is \$7.4 million. As the Endowment fund grows, so does this grant.



zcs.org/tuition

Tuition Reduction Incentive Program (TRIP):

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

Families who enroll in the TRIP program are able to build tuition credit by participating in the program. The sooner a family is enrolled in the program, the sooner they can begin building tuition credit. It is even possible to enroll in the program before your child is of school age.

How it works:

- Families purchase gift cards from participating businesses (physical cards or instant digital gift cards).
- 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 automatically applied to your tuition balance in June and December.

"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

See the TRIP page online for more information.
Register online at www.zcs.org/trip

\$500 CREDIT FOR NEW FAMILIES!

To encourage participation in the TRIP program, Zeeland Christian is offering one \$500 credit for new families through their TRIP account. To be eligible, families must enroll in the TRIP program while their child is in preschool (or kindergarten for new-to-ZCS families). Once your child has completed preschool and kindergarten at Zeeland Christian, your \$500 credit will be applied to their first-grade tuition.



Tuition Assistance

Sometimes a combination of extended family support and church support can help families afford tuition payments. Other times, our school can help. Over 16% of families at ZCS receive tuition assistance in addition to the grants listed on the opposite page. **At ZCS our goal is for a family not to pay more than 15% of their income in tuition for their children to attend school each year.**

Tuition assistance is offered for families with children in Young Fives thru 8th grade, up to 50% of a family's tuition cost. If a family also has a preschooler, that tuition number is also taken into account when awarding assistance.

Zeeland Christian School's need-based tuition grant program is administered by FACTS Management, Inc. There is a \$40 fee to apply for assistance. Awards are made based upon funds available, and our families and donors have worked hard to be able to offer 100% of the assistance for which families qualify.

The THRIVE scholarship fund goes above and beyond tuition assistance AND includes financial aid for preschool. Our community is committed to making sure ANYONE can access a Christian education for their children. If tuition assistance does not provide enough financial help, please contact Natalia at nmcgowen@zcs.org.

Tuition assistance applications for the upcoming school year may be submitted from March 1-31, 2023. Information about award totals is provided to applicants in late April.



The best way to experience ZCS is to join us for an in-person tour. Contact our Director of Admissions & Enrollment (nmcgowen@zcs.org) today to schedule a visit.



www.zcs.org

admissions@zcs.org 616.772.2609

334 W. Central Ave. Zeeland, MI 49464

2023-24 School Year