

Dear Parents,

6/3/24

What a year! It is our privilege to have been a part of your child's academic, emotional, and spiritual growth this year. We pray you all find time to rest, reflect, and reconnect as a family this summer. Thank you for all your support and prayers.

Final Reminders:

Wednesday is a half day! MS has a normal start time and will end at 10:45 am.

On Wednesday the students will learn which charity will receive a portion of their car wash money. Ask your child about it on Wednesday evening.

Laptop Information -

On Wednesday, your child will turn in his/her laptop and charger. Mr. Fischer would like them fully charged before the turn-in time so please make sure your child is charging his/her laptop overnight on Tuesday. ZCS may send you a bill this summer if there is a missing charger or damaged computer.

Baton- On Wednesday, your child will come home with his/her baton. Please read this with him/her and keep it safe for the fall.

Philippine Donations-We have the opportunity to donate our gently used school supplies to our friends at GCCS in the Philippines who do not have as much access to quality supplies. Your child will be able to donate any supplies that they have in our classroom. If there is anything that you want your child to take home instead of donating, please be sure to talk with them about that. Thank you!

Chorus Auditions -- Chorus auditions for the next school year will take place in September. The Chorus is an extracurricular choir for 7th & 8th-grade girls that meets on Mondays and Fridays from 2:35-3:15. 7th graders who are currently in the group do not need to re-audition. Audition times/dates will be announced at the beginning of next school year.

Worship Team -- 8th-grade worship team auditions for next year will take place in September. We will be auditioning following roles:

- Keyboard/Piano
- Drum set/cajon
- Acoustic Guitar
- Bass Guitar
- Electric Guitar
- Vocalists
- Tech team

All students will receive information about the audition song & other details at the beginning of the next school year. If you are interested in being a part of the worship team and want tips on the best way to prepare for your audition over the summer, please talk with Miss Walters.

Report Cards will be mailed home on Friday. The final MAPS results will be in that envelope as well.

ZCS will not be collecting bus tags at the end of the year. Students need to keep their bus tags until the end of this school year. **We will NOT be collecting the bus tags at school or on the buses this year.**

Parents/guardians may properly dispose of the bus tags at home once this school year has ended. Parents should **keep the blue lanyards or black/red fobs at home** to reuse for the next school year. Thank you!

Grace and peace,

Carla Zastrow

Ben Kapenga

Sarah Fredericks

Alex Zhou

Parents,

5/13/24

We hope the information below will help you stay on top of a busy time of year!

-WaterFest is on Wednesday afternoon. Your child will rotate through eight stations with their Small Group.

Each station will involve water. Your child should wear quick-drying clothes on Wednesday and after the event change into dry clothes. *Students should not wear any swim gear.* Attire should fit within normal ZCS dress code limits but plan on getting very wet. In addition to the typical dress code. On this day we should not have anyone wearing white t-shirts, AND their shirts should cover their shoulders. Students should bring a towel and a complete change of clothes for the end of the day (and a plastic bag to take their wet stuff home.)

-Market Day - After Waterfest, your child can visit Market Day if he/she has cash along. The purpose of this time is to help the fourth graders struggling to sell items. It is not about getting what he/she wants.

-Car Wash- Thank you for your help in making the Car Wash a success. The parent volunteers were awesome, the kids did a great job and the car supply donations were appreciated. We washed 166 cars in three hours (including six mopeds.) The donations and pledges have been counted, and we raised \$9500 to support our friends in the Philippines and a local cause that the students will choose. We will still gladly accept money, it just won't count for the two incentive contests. Congratulations to 7Z for raising the most money of the three homerooms. They will celebrate with a class breakfast tomorrow morning. We will also take six kids to Captain Sundae next week for contacting the most people and/or raising the most money.

-MAP Growth Snacks- Thank you to all who supplied MAPS snacks! All the make-up tests are complete. The MAPS results are typically shared in the last report card that goes home.

-ID Days Tomorrow - We will discuss female development in a separate setting.

-Class Trip Information - [Conference Grounds - Parent Information](#) Please read this document but do not discuss it with your child. We will discuss this event with him/her the week of May 27.

Keep smiling,

Carla
Ben
Sarah
Alex

Parents,

4/29/24

Here are some reminders to get you through this week!

-Maps Testing- Please encourage a good night's sleep and breakfast every day, especially on testing days!

Thank you to the people who are supplying snacks. The cupcakes were a hit today!

Tuesday, April 30 LA in LA1 - Candybars

Wednesday, May 1 Spanish Reading - Cookies

Friday, May 3 Reading - Little Debbie's

-Car Wash -Thank you for making the car wash a success. It was fun to see the students outside of the academic classroom. Thank you for working, picking up and dropping off the sign, contributing financially, buying supplies, and more. Our goal is to collect the money by Tuesday, May 7 at 8:30 am. We will accept the money after this time, but it will not go toward the incentives. Please put the money in a sealed Ziploc or envelope with your child's name on it. Please include the bright pink pledge sheet, so we know how many people your child contacted. Any checkers should be made out to Zeeland Christian with "Car Wash" in the memo.

-ID Days Tomorrow we will discuss harassment and addictions with the boys and girls in a separate setting.

-Philippines 2025 Spring Break - Applications are due Friday, May 3.

-8th Grade Math (Deur) - This week we will wrap up our study of functions of equations. Due to 8th grade MAP Testing 3 days this week and the 8th grade Shadow Day on Thursday, our Math class times will look different. On Monday we will do some Booklet Review activities in class. On Tuesday, we will have a short, open book/note/use a partner "test" on Functions. On Friday, we will start a short unit on Volume. Due to all the extra things this week the 7th grade and 8th grade schedules will not always line up. My 7th-grade students should check out Google Classroom on days that the schedules do not align. --

-Theme Day - On Friday, May 10, the 7th graders will spend the morning with the 8th-grade teachers choosing the theme for next year. (The 7th-grade teachers will be teaching the 8th-graders.) Your child will walk over to Faith Church with the 8th-grade teachers. Your child will need a physical Bible that day. Ask your child if he/she has their English Bible at school. Break and Hot lunch are not affected by this activity.

-Last quarter supplies - Please check if your child has enough pencils to make it to the end of the year. Also, check if he/she has headphones or earbuds in his/her backpack.

-Fun Night is this Friday! Next year, your child will be involved in running a game at Fun Night. Check it out this year to see what you are in for:) Your child has a purple half sheet of paper with details.

Thank you for being so supportive!

Sarah

Ben

Carla

Alex

Parents,

4-22-24

The seventh graders did a fantastic job on the All-School chapel last week. A link is on the ZCS Facebook page if you missed it. Congratulations to Hannah Russher for taking first place in the Book Madness contest, to Elena Gritter who took third place, and to Will Elenbaas for winning the Random Bracket. Congratulations to Elise Hemmeke for receiving the highest (Division 1) rating on her clarinet solo for the MSBOA District 10 competition. Seventh-grade sports are going well and it is fun to see the many talents of this class.

Reminders-

-Maps Testing- [Sign Up Genius](#) for MAPS Snacks

Monday, April 29 Math - Cupcakes

Tuesday, April 30 LA in LA1 - Candybars

Wednesday, May 1 Spanish Reading - Cookies

Friday, May 3 Reading - Little Debbie's

Please encourage a good night's sleep and breakfast every day, especially on testing days!

-Car Wash-Only 16 kids left to sign up! Check the weather for Saturday and help your child choose appropriate attire and sunscreen (we can hope). If you are a parent volunteer, you will receive an email later this week with a few details. When you drop your child off to work at the car wash, please drive through the car wash too!

[Car Wash Parent Letter - 2024](#)

-Sports for Next Year- Please read this document carefully. If you have questions please contact Joel Nagelkirk jnagelkirk@zcs.org



2024-25 Sports Sign-up

-ID Days - Tomorrow we will discuss technology and cyberbullying in separate classes. How might technology improve your friendships? How might technology hurt your friendships? What does cyberbullying mean? What should I do if something makes me uncomfortable online?

-Interested in learning more about the Philippines 2025 Spring Break student trip? We invite parents and students of current 6th and 7th graders (2024-2025 7th and 8th graders) to join us for an informational meeting on Monday, April 22 at 7:00 in the Choir Room. This short meeting will:

- give you some history about our sister-school relationship with GCCS
- show an example itinerary from a previous trip
- explain some expectations we will have for students on the trip
- share how the tough decisions about who get selected to attend will be made
- give time for Q&A.

Students/parents do not need to attend the meeting. It is offered as an option to anyone who would like more information. Student applications will be handed out at this meeting and at school starting on April 23rd.

Please email Kristi Van Dyk (kvandyk@zcs.org) if you are unable to attend the meeting and would like to zoom in.

-The **Band Concert** is on Thursday at 7 pm in the ZCS gym. Your child should arrive at 6:40 pm at ZCS to warm up.

Curriculum Updates-

LA1-We are discussing the steps it takes to write a successful research paper. We will also focus on the outline this week. We are learning three comma rules this week and plugging along with the illustrations in our picture books. Ask to see your child's picture book as he/she should have around 15 pictures completed. I did a quick check on Friday and many kids were behind.

Math- This week in math we will wrap up Unit 5, "Rational Number Arithmetic" with a test on Thursday. After this, we will dive into Unit 6- "Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities".

Science-We are in the middle of frog dissections! We're using this opportunity to learn about laboratory processes and procedures as well as gain a better understanding of both frog and human anatomy.

Bible- Your child will finish the first mini-unit on Wednesday and begin a new rotation on Friday. (Thursday we are explaining the Car Wash to them.)

LA2 Zastrow-We are studying the first information text signpost and looking for it in news articles. The students are reading a book set in Africa and have required pages each day. They have a list in Google Classroom and I also list the pages on the blog most days. We continue to study our vocabulary words.

LA2 Frederick-This week we are continuing our unit on reading informational texts. We will continue to practice approaching the text with a questioning stance, asking our three big questions, and will start to learn about our first signpost– contrasts and contradictions.

SS- We are beginning to study the continent of Africa! Students will be studying the geography and government of the various countries in Africa.

SI7- We are concluding our presentations on "Cataluña". While they are listening, students are engaging in peer evaluation to enhance their skills in analyzing various aspects of the project and their peers' performances.

Mandarin- In Math, we will review Unit 7 Angles, Triangles, and Prisms. In MLA, narrative writing will be the next topic. Meanwhile, reading strategies will be introduced as well. In Bible, we are learning about the book "Job".

World Languages Spanish-We are working on our new unit "Personal description". In this unit, we are focusing on how to describe ourselves and our family members in Spanish. We have been focusing on -Er verbs in grammar and will be having a short "show what you know" next week!

Math (Deur)- This week we will continue our study of functions of equations. Homework will look a little different this week. Students will be given a packet of practice problems that cover several different lessons. As we complete each lesson in that packet they will complete the questions for that lesson. The packet will be due the day after we finish the last lesson in the packet. I hope to finish the information on functions this week and then have a short, open book/note/use a partner quiz on the following Monday/Tuesday.

See you at the car wash!

Carla

Ben

Sarah

Dear 7th Grade Parents,

April 9, 2024

It is that time of year when the 7th grade begins finalizing plans for our 7th-grade fundraiser. This fundraiser raises enough money for our class to sponsor students at our sister school, Grace Community Christian, in the Philippines, with extra funds supporting a local cause chosen by the students. This event not only raises money but also provides students the opportunity to continue their spiritual growth and serve the community. This service project provides yet another opportunity for us to help students deepen their understanding of our 7th-grade theme: WHO AM I, WHO ARE WE, WHO IS HE. We will explain this event to the kids on Friday of this week.

Here's the scoop:

1. The car wash is Saturday, April 27 from 9 am to noon.
2. The car wash takes place off Main Street in Zeeland in the parking lot in front of Ace Hardware and Dollar General.
3. We need six parent volunteers for each of the three shifts.
4. Each student is responsible for working one shift. If your child cannot work on April 27, there is a place to acknowledge that on the Sign-up Genius, and your child will be assigned a different task to complete or an item to donate to help us out.
5. The shifts are 8:50-10 am, 9:55-11:00 am, and 10:55 am -12:15 pm. Please do not bring your child early to his/her shift.
6. Your child will get instructions and a pledge sheet on Friday and should begin collecting pledges or flat donations. We encourage each student to make a personal donation using his/her money.
7. Parent volunteers are also needed to pick up and set up the rental sign from Taylor Rental on Friday, April 26 by noon, and another parent to bring the sign back after the car wash on Saturday, April 29 by 1 pm. There are slots on the Sign-Up Genius to participate in this way as well. Picking up or returning the sign would count as your child working a shift.
8. The car wash occurs in every type of weather except lightning and tornado warnings. We have washed cars in the rain before! If there is inclement weather on April 27, you will receive an email that morning with instructions.

9. After the car wash, the money should be collected and turned in by Tuesday, May 7, by 8:30 am. We will accept donations after this time, but the incentives we offer will be based on the money gathered by that time.
10. Students should turn in their pledge sheet and any cash or checks collected in an envelope or plastic bag labeled with their name and the amount of money inside. Checks can be made out to Zeeland Christian School with a memo that says "7th Grade Car Wash."
11. We do not use Venmo for this event so that we can track the funds that come in from individual students and homerooms. Thanks for your understanding.

Please use this link to sign up for a parent and/or student shift. There is also a category for students who are unable to work at the car wash.

[Car Wash, Saturday, April 27](#)

This event is a great reminder to think about and pray for our sister school, Grace Community Christian School, in Pasay City, Philippines!

Blessings,
The 7th Grade Team
Carla, Ben, Sarah

Parents,

4/8/24

Welcome back to reality. We hope you had a safe and meaningful time away from the regular pressures of school. Ask your child about looking (safely) at the partial eclipse this afternoon.

Reminders-

-The 7th grade Car Wash will take place on Saturday, April 27. You will receive a separate email with details about this event. We will talk to the kids about this fundraiser on Friday and give them the pledge forms on Friday as well.

-Interested in learning more about the Philippines 2025 Spring Break student trip? We invite parents and students of current 6th and 7th graders (2024-2025 7th and 8th graders) to join us for an informational meeting on Monday, April 22 at 7:00 in the Choir Room. This short meeting will:

- give you some history about our sister-school relationship with GCCS
- show an example itinerary from a previous trip
- explain some expectations we will have for students on the trip
- share how the tough decisions about who get selected to attend will be made
- give time for Q&A.

Students/parents do not need to attend the meeting, it is offered as an option to anyone who would like more information. Student applications will be handed out at this meeting, as well as at school starting on April 23rd. Please email Kristi Van Dyk (kvandyk@zcs.org) if you are unable to attend the meeting and would like to zoom in.

-ID Days-. Tomorrow we will begin our first ID Days conversation about Friendships: What makes a good friend? Why do friendships change? Does anyone else feel left out at times? Am I a good friend?

Curriculum Updates-

-Mandarin: In Math, we just started the Unit of Angles, Triangles, and Prisms. In MLA, we finished reading the book "The Breadwinner". Students will be working on narrative writing this week.

-SI7 Diaz - This week, we will focus on AALPA presentations relating to their speeches on the situation in "Cataluña, España".

-Band - Reminder that the band concert is on April 25 at 7:00 pm in the ZCS Gym. Also, uniforms must be tried on at home by Thursday of this week so that we can make plans to resize students before Tulip Time.

-LA1-We continue to add illustrations to our picture books. We will do a wrap-up activity based on the book that your child read for LA1 before spring break. We will begin our research paper on an African country. We have a DGP Quiz tomorrow.

-Math- This week in math we will continue where we left off multiplying signed numbers and add in dividing as well by the end of the week. By next week we will combine all four operations to solve problems in many different contexts and begin preparing for our Quiz on multiplying and dividing signed numbers.

-8th Grade Math (Deur)- This week we will wrap up Unit 4. We will work on new lessons on Monday and Tuesday. We will have a test review on Thursday. We will take the Unit 4 Test on Friday.

-LA2 Frederick- This week we will begin our unit reading nonfiction and identifying the signposts that can aid our understanding of nonfiction work.

-LA2-Zastrow-We chose a new book to read. All of the books are based in Africa to coincide with the upcoming Africa unit in SS. We got our new vocabulary words today and will continue our study of the stance that is necessary when reading informational text.

-SS-.This week we will begin to learn about the European Union, why it was formed, and what factors unify the various countries, and what factors divide the members of the EU.

-Bible- This week in Bible we will kick off our Bible rotations. The kids will be in their homeroom groupings but with a different teacher. 7K will be studying the Prophets, 7F the book of Job, and 7Z the Genres of the Bible.

Enjoy another beautiful day,

Alex

Carla

Ben

Sarah

Parents,

3/25/24

We are working hard this week! Please see the reminders below.

Report Cards are coming home tomorrow in a sealed envelope. Please look at the report card with your child.

ID Days Beginning after spring break, we'll use homebase time once per week to discuss how 7th grade students are still changing socially, emotionally, and physically. In 7th grade, we cover topics that connect the 6th-grade "How You Are Changing" unit and the 8th-grade encore class. We believe it is important that the topics being covered are discussed both at home and at school. The main topics we will cover are physical

development, social media and tech use, and healthy friendships. All the topics will be covered through the lens of how we respond to God's love for us. The unit will be taught at times with all the kids together and at other times the kids will be separated by gender. When separated, the guys will be in class with Mr. Kapenga while the girls will be with Mrs. Zastrow and Miss Frederick.

Tissues for 7th graders-Thank you for the tissues that have come in, and we can still use more!

Please donate glue sticks for gluing in our picture books illustrations and words.

ZCS 7th Grade Blog <https://zcs7thgrade.blogspot.com/>

[2023-2024 School Day Arrival & Dismissal Protocols](#)

Dress Up on Wednesday-Dress up in a t-shirt that supports a cause that is important to you.

Wear Blue Tomorrow - to support our friends with Autism.

Bible Memory this week is Ephesians 4:29-32.

Bible Class- After break each homeroom will rotate to Mr. Kapenga, Mrs. Zastrow and Miss Fredrick for two weeks each for a mini-unit. 7F will start with Mrs. Z, 7Z will start with Mr. Kapenga and 7K will start with Miss Frederick.

Band Students need to try on their uniforms before we return from Spring Break. We will be resizing that first week back!

Car Wash- Save the morning of Saturday, April 27 for the 7th Grade Totally Free Car Wash. This fundraiser pays for the tuition of four of our friends in the Philippines. You will receive more details after break. We realize that not all kids will be available to work that morning.

Missing Work- We have learned how to print a list of missing work for each student. We will print this on Tuesdays or ask your child to look in Infinite Campus for this list. If a student's list becomes longer, they attend a worktime with support services personnel during homebase to try and get a few items caught up. If you'd like to see this list, please ask your child to open Infinite Campus and click on "Assignments" and then "Missing." Make sure he/she is on the current term.

Please pray for the ZCS group, which includes 7th graders, who will be traveling to Taiwan during spring break.

Parents,

3/11/24

Many good things are happening in 7th grade and at ZCS! Check out the reminders and updates below.

Reminders-

-The Musical is on Friday and Saturday. Get tickets here- [ticket link](#)

- On Wednesday, March 20, we'll be headed to Saugatuck for a field trip. Our first stop will be to watch a playlist of short films curated specifically for middle school students as part of the traveling Mountainfilm Festival hosted by the Saugatuck Center for the Arts. The films focus on themes of the outdoors, adventure, overcoming obstacles, and building community. While the films are not usually explicitly Christian, these stories and themes help us understand the gospel more fully, and we look forward to processing them with students on Thursday. After the film festival, we'll go for a hike at Mount Baldhead, rain or shine, to appreciate God's

creation in response to the themes of the films. Please watch the forecast carefully and guide your child on appropriate coats, shoes, etc...We will eat an early lunch at school before we leave, and students will only be able to order the B choice for lunch-Aztec Wrap. I will ask the students tomorrow if they want the Aztec wrap on the field trip day.

-The Wellness Survey will be administered to the 7th graders tomorrow morning. You should have received a letter from Aaron Kauffman explaining this wellness screening.

-[ZCS 7th Grade Blog](#) This is the best tool to see daily homework and announcements.

-[2023-2024 School Day Arrival & Dismissal Protocols](#)-

-We have learned how to print a list of missing work for each student. We will print this on Tuesdays or ask your child to look in Infinite Campus for this list. If a student's list becomes longer, they attend a work time with support services personnel during homebase to try and get a few items caught up. If you'd like to see this list, please ask your child to open Infinite Campus and click on "Assignments" and then "Missing." Make sure he/she is on the current term.

Updates-

Mandarin-In Math, we are working on the Unit of Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities. In MLA, we are writing a letter of complaint. Meanwhile, we keep reading the book "The Breadwinner".

SI Diaz- We have been working on the interpretative task of the AALPA assessment. So, we are working on the interpersonal task where the students will be evaluated in terms of communication, argumentation, and use of the correct grammar.

Bible- We are completing the book *While the World Watched* this week and will begin a project as a wrap-up to this unit. The Bible Memory due Friday is Psalm 23:1-6.

Math- This week in math we are continuing our study of negative numbers. After concluding learning how to add integers we will next learn how to subtract integers, and next week dive into multiplication and division of integers.

LA1-We are working on the rough draft of our picture book front cover, back cover, About the Author page, and Title and Dedication page. We are studying the sentence structure of questions and continue to study pronouns.

SS- This week we are wrapping up our study of the conflict over the use of the land in the Amazon Rainforest. Next, we will move on to studying Europe and Russia.

LA2 Zastrow-We turned in our persuasive paragraphs and are moving on to study informational texts. We will learn a stance needed to read informational text and two signposts to use while reading these texts. We began our new set of vocabulary words today.

LA2- Frederick- This week we are concluding our unit on Persuasive/Argumentative Writing by writing our own persuasive paragraphs.

Math (Deur) - This week is a special week in the world of Math. This Thursday is known as "Pi Day," because pi is 3.14 and Thursday's date is 3/14 (March 14). We will celebrate by doing some "pi related" math activities and eating any circle-shaped treats students bring. So if your student wants to bring in cookies, cake, pie, pizza, life savers, etc) to share with their classmates, they are welcome to do so. This is optional of course, so do not feel like you need to send things in on Thursday. The rest of the week will be spent continuing our

conversations surrounding solving linear equations. We will work through lessons 7-9 which will lead up to our Unit 4 Quiz A that covers Lessons 1-9. This is tentatively scheduled for next week on Monday.

Enjoy the sunshine,

Carla

Ben

Sarah

Alex

Parents,

It is Spirit Week this week, and it has been fun to see "Merica outfits and Team outfits so far. The rest of the week's dress-up days are listed below.

Reminders-

-Friday is a half day of school.

-Please take a few minutes to remind yourselves of our arrival and dismissal procedures. We ask you to follow these steps for the safety of all of our students. If you have specific questions, please feel free to email zcsinfo@zcs.org. This document reminds you of the where, the when, and the how. The why is easy...SAFETY! Thank you for taking the time to refresh your memory.

[2023-2024 School Day Arrival & Dismissal Protocols](#)

-[ZCS 7th Grade Blog](#) Check this out!

-**Optional Parent Teacher Conferences are this Thursday night.** If you missed the sign-up window, please email czastrow@zcs.org to get a time.

-**The Unified Basketball Game** is Friday from 9-10 am in the ZCS gym. Come cheer on Ady, Tau, Elena, and Jaycob!

-**Spirit Week** is this week! - Wednesday is PJ Day, Thursday is Tropical Day, (no bathing suits) Anything but a Backpack (no motors or electronic devices), and wear Blue is Friday

-**The Regional Spelling Bee** is Thursday night from 6-8:30 in the ZCS gym. Come cheer on our own Henry Kerher and Andres Duran.

-**MAPS Review** - On Friday, your child's homeroom teacher will sit down with your child and look at his/her digital Winter MAPS results. We will focus on one strength and one growth area.

Curriculum Updates-

Mandarin- In Math, we are finishing up the unit of Rational Number Arithmetic with a test. We will begin the new unit Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities next week. In MLA, new Chinese characters and grammar are introduced. Meanwhile, we keep reading the book "The Breadwinner" together.

SI Diaz- We will be engrossed in the AALPA evaluation throughout the next few classes. Also, we have been working on informal writing in the last classes, so we will be working on finishing this task in the best conditions.

World Languages Zoerhof- We are wrapping up our unit on sports next week! Students did a GREAT job presenting their projects on Guatemala! Grades will be updated in Infinite Campus over the next week!

Bible- Over the next two weeks we are working to finish reading *While the World Watched*. This week we will be discussing Romans 12:19-21 and its applications to situations that we read about in the book.

Math- This week we are reviewing all of Unit 4- "Proportional Relationships and Percentages" and culminating the week with a test over this material on Thursday. Next week we will begin Unit 5- Rational Number Arithmetic.

Science-We are finishing up our unit on Genetics. Students will begin preparing for a final test that will take place next week on Tuesday.

LA1-We will write out picture book stories this week. We will review the sentence type of commands and have a quiz on Thursday. We will continue our study of pronouns and fill in our Book Madness Brackets.

SS- We have just finished learning about the different groups with a vested interest in the resources within the Amazon Rainforest. We will now begin writing argumentative essays on what should be done with the Amazon Rainforest.

LA2 Zastrow-We will gather evidence and write our persuasive paragraphs this week. We will continue to study our 20 vocabulary words with a matching quiz in mid-March.

LA2 Frederick- We are continuing our unit on persuasive writing this week by learning how to evaluate the credibility of sources, and how to properly cite them when using them.

Deur Math- We took the Unit 3 Math Test today. On Tuesday, we will start on Unit 4. Unit 4 takes a deeper dive into Linear Equations (the last half of Unit 3) and introduces the idea of Linear Systems and their solutions.

Band - We had a very successful band festival trip to Covenant High School this past Wednesday morning! Students received written and verbal feedback on the Music we had prepared. We spent the next two days incorporating that advice into our playing and reflecting on it. I'm so glad that they had this opportunity and we are looking forward to using what we have learned to polish our pieces for the April 25 Spring concert.

Enjoy the amazing weather outdoors! Run and read!

Carla

Ben

Sarah

Alex

Alberto

Parents,

2/12/24

We had a meaningful and fun time on Friday for our Camp Reflection and Theme Day. Please ask your child how we focussed on each part of our Theme: Identity in Christ - Who am I? Who are we? Who is He? Thank you for the magazine donations that helped make the day a success.

Reminders-

-Stay in the loop by checking our blog. [ZCS 7th Grade Blog](#)

-Optional Spring Parent Teacher Conferences -Please read [THIS LETTER](#)

- We will be reaching out to some parents to schedule a conference, but you may request a conference as well. If you'd like a parent-teacher conference, please click on this link. [Parent Form to Request a Parent-Teacher Conference](#)

-Spirit Week -is February 26-March 1 - Merica Monday, Team Tuesday, PJ Wednesday, Tropical Thursday, Anything but a Backpack Friday

-No school on Friday or Monday - enjoy!

Curriculum Updates-

Mandarin- In math, we are finishing up the Unit of Rational Number Arithmetic and will head into the Unit of Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities. In MLA, we continue reading the book "The Breadwinner".

Meanwhile, new Chinese characters are introduced.

SI Diaz- We have been working on subject pronouns, learning the theory and working on some assignments about it. Also, we will start once we finish the informal writing of a letter. We need to improve their writing skills and also be capable of communicating informally in Spanish with some collocations and tips.

Bible- This week students will write their memory verse, Matthew 5:3-10, and consider how we can live out the truth of these verses through the discussions that accompany our study of While the World Watched. The three classes are on different chapters but should finish chapter 10 this week for sure.

Math- This week in math we will continue strengthening our skills working with percentages and will look at specific applications of these skills in contexts such as taxes, tips, and measurement error.

Science-Students will continue exploring heredity, genetics, and the protein-to-trait relationships by breeding animals in an online simulation activity.

LA1-We will write a note to our sponsored students who live in the Philippines so the teachers who are traveling to the Philippines on Thursday can deliver the notes. We will continue working on commands, pronouns, and picture books.

SS- This week we are wrapping up lesson 9 "Spatial Inequality" and introducing our next unit on the Amazon Rainforest.

LA2 Zastrow-We got 20 new vocabulary words today. We worked to determine if the source we found was credible or not. Your child will choose a topic for his/her Persuasive Paragraph this week.

LA2 Frederick- We are continuing our study on persuasive writing. We will be wrapping up our discussion of commentary and begin working on writing topic sentences.

Grace and peace,

Ben

Carla

Sarah

Parents,

1/29/24

We are holding a 7th-grade Camp Reflection Day on Friday, February 9. The kids will participate in a group activity and then rotate through three additional activities on Friday morning to revisit our time at camp and focus on the lessons learned through our 7th-grade theme of Identity in Christ - 'Who am I? Who are we? Who is He?' We will eat regular lunch at school and then head to Hudsonville Lanes on a bus to go bowling, returning at the normal time for student dismissal. At this point, we do not need any drivers. If this changes, we will share a Sign-Up Genius to get volunteers.

The snack bar will be open at Hudsonville lanes but that is not the focus of our day, and we would like your child to limit his/her purchases.

If you have any magazines that we could have for an activity that day, please send them in with your child. We will cut them up so you will not get them back.

If you know your child will be gone on Friday, February 9, please let Carla Zastrow know at czastrow@zcs.org. Thank you for supplying the MAPS Snacks. It is a great celebration after a time of intense focus. If your day is coming up, please have your child bring the snacks to Mrs. Zastrow.

Thank you for your continued support,

The 7th-grade team

Parents,

1/22/24

Will we have a "normal week" of school? Who knows, but we hope so! We love snow days, but we also love being with the kids.

Reminders-

-If you have any magazines at home or your place of work, please send them in for a project in February.

-MAPS Snacks - The winter MAPS testing will be on Monday, January 29 (Math), Tuesday, January 30 (LA), and Monday, February 5 (Reading). If you would like to help with a celebration snack, please click the link.

[Winter MAPS Snacks](#) Read the full MAPS Parent letter [here](#).

-On February 9, will have Camp Reflection Day. We will reflect on our theme in the morning and go bowling in the afternoon. The kids will still have band and choir that day but no other "normal" classes. Please let us know if your child will be gone that day so we can get an accurate count for bowling.

-Report Cards are going home tomorrow. They are in a sealed envelope addressed to you, the parents. The students can see all the information on their computers so they have no reason to open your mail.

[-ZCS 7th Grade Blog](#)

-Congratulations to Henry Kehrer, a seventh grader, who won the ZCS Spelling Bee!

Curriculum Updates-

Mandarin- In Math, we will begin Unit 5 - Rational Number Arithmetic. In MLA, we will take the reading test and start a new lesson. Meanwhile, we just started reading a book "The Breadwinner" together.

Bible-We watched a movie about the Children's March in Bible last week. Please ask your child about what he/she chose as the memorable moment in that movie for them. We will read two chapters of the book *While the World Watched* (WTWW) and study our Bible Memory Isaiah 1:16b, 17. The quiz will be on Friday.

Math- This week, having reached the "third" way through mark for Unit 4-Proportional Relationships and Percentages, we will take a moment to look back at old learning goals before moving into a study of percent decrease and percent increase.

Science- We have just begun engaging in an online simulation activity exploring heredity, genetics, and the protein-to-trait relationship by breeding and studying virtual dragons.

LA1-We will begin planning our picture books using a map and storyboard. We will take the DGP AWUBIS Quiz tomorrow and then begin working with the sentence structure of commands. We continue our study of pronouns. We will choose an English book to read for the next six to eight weeks and do weekly reflections on the books. This allows the Spanish and Mandarin students to read in English.

SS-We are finishing up our study of the countries that comprise both Central and South America as well as the physical features that make up the region. We will be moving quickly into spatial inequality issues in and around Mexico City as well as land use conflict within the Amazon RainForest.

LA2 Zastrow-Since we are reading in LA2, we will be writing our persuasive paragraphs in LA2. We will continue working with vocabulary words that come from the book we are reading in Bible called *While the World Watched*.

LA2 Frederick- This week we will be wrapping up the book, *La Pura Verdad* and diving into our first writing unit on persuasive writing.

Thank you for your prayers and support,

Ben Kapenga

Carla Zastrow

Sarah Frederick

Alex Zhou

Parents,

1/8/24

We hope that you had a break full of quality time with your family and a chance to recharge for a new year. It was good to see the students again today and to get back into a routine! Thank you for the many gifts that were given to us before the break.

Reminders-

-STEM Opportunities - Please see the attachment below.

-New Year Celebration this Friday at The 3 Mile Project- Pizza will be sold for \$2 a slice or your child may bring a sack lunch. Your child may want to wear athletic clothing and shoes. Students may bring money with them to purchase snacks, but should not bring more than \$20. We are not responsible for their money if they lose it. Your child may bring appropriate card games to play with classmates as well.

-If you or your place of employment have any December magazines, we'd love to have them for a project in February. Please send them in to Mrs. Zastrow.

-MAPS Snacks - The winter MAPS testing will be on Monday, January 29 (Math), Tuesday, January 30 (LA), and Monday, February 5 (Reading). If you would like to help with a celebration snack, please click the link.

[Winter MAPS Snacks](#)

-The first semester (2nd nine weeks) ends this Friday. Ask your child to open Infinite Campus while you sit next to him/her. Ask him/her to click on "Assignments" and then "Missing". Make sure your child is in the 2nd term. We will be doing this with your child during home base tomorrow as well.

Curriculum Updates-

Mandarin- In Math, students will have a Unit 4 test after a quick review. Then, we will begin a new Unit - Rational Number Arithmetic. In MLA, new Chinese characters will be taught. We will begin to read a new book, *The Breadwinner*.

Bible-WTWW -To introduce the book, this week students will watch the short film [Mighty Times: The Children's March](#). Please be aware that some of the black men and women interviewed in the film use a pejorative word for black people while retelling these stories. We are clear to students that this word should never be heard or used by students because of the way it has been used to violently target and demean black Americans throughout history. However, it's important to also note the way that the black community has repurposed this word as one to use within that community--a creative use of turning an insulting word into something playful. That being said, it's not a word that should be used here at school.

The students are mixed into different "homerooms" for this unit. In Infinite Campus, your child will receive two grades a week from the teacher they are with. One grade will be for classroom discussion and homework and one will be for the Bible Memory for that week.

Math- This week we will begin by reviewing our introduction to Unit 4: Proportional Relationships and Percentages and move on to learn about percent increase and percent decrease.

Science- We are finishing up our unit on Thermal Energy with snap presentations. The next unit will focus on Genetics. Students will develop a strong understanding of how our genes can impact our traits, including the way our senses work. Students will also develop an understanding of how the structure of our protein receptors is determined by our inherited genes, and how the structure of each protein is integral to how it functions.

LA1-We will continue to read picture books and begin writing our picture books. We will eventually read these books to ZCS Kindergarteners. We are finishing our study of AWUBIS sentences and will have a quiz next

week. Next week we will begin reading books in LA1 and writing in LA2. We do this so Spanish Immersion students get a chance to work on reading in English.

SS-We begin this new year by presenting the much anticipated Immigration Projects. We will quickly move into our next unit focusing on Latin America. We will begin by studying the physical and human geography of both Central and South America. Once we have a good understanding of geography, we will take a deeper look into spatial inequality issues in Mexico City and land use conflict within the Amazon RainForest.

LA2 Zastrow-We will begin our new vocabulary words that come from the Bible book *While the World Watched*. Next week, we will begin writing in LA2 and reading in LA1. We will work on the writing unit titled Persuasive Paragraphs.

LA2 Frederick- This week we will finish reading *La Pura Verdad* and with it complete our unit studying the signposts to help us engage with our reading. Next week we will begin our first writing unit.

Happy New Year!

Carla Zastrow

Ben Kapenga

Sarah Frederick

Alex Zhou

Parents,

12/18/23

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We are grateful for your support in 2023 and look forward to partnering with you in 2024. It is a gift to work with your children. Here are a few reminders as we close out this week and this year!

Reminders-

-Choir Concert at Community Reformed Church at 7 pm on Wednesday, December 20. Choir members must arrive earlier.

-There will be **no Learning Lab** this week Thursday, 12/21. Students who are staying after school should plan on checking in to Power Hour OR have a plan for getting picked up at the end of the day.

-Events at ZCS require guests to sign in via the sign-in system in the office. Yes! Sign-in will be required for the Jingle Jog as well as for the chapels. Signing in with a driver's license is the quickest way to sign in and receive a guest badge. Please have their driver's licenses out and ready when you come to sign in to speed up the process.

-In Bible class in January, we will start the 7th-grade tradition of reading the book [While the World Watched](#) by Carolyn Maull McKinstry. Ms. McKinstry writes through the lens of her faith about growing up in Birmingham, Alabama during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. We hope to see God in a new way through the author's stories, perspectives, and reflections. All of the chapters will be connected to our Bible Memory and class theme of Identity: Who and I? Who are we? Who is He? Please be aware that the author describes intense emotions and violent events. We feel that it is on a level appropriate for seventh graders. If you would like to preview the book with your child before the new year, we can send the book home with your child tomorrow and you may read it with him/her before January. Please email Carla Zastrow if you would like a copy

of the book sent home with your child this week. Your child may also choose to listen to the audio version.

Chapter 1 can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyl1v_0LS9E ZCS also owns the CD of the book if you have a way to play CDs.

-Christmas Dress-Up Days this week:

Tuesday - Ugly Sweater

Wednesday - Christmas Hats, ties, jewelry (accessories)

Thursday-Christmas socks and blankets

Friday - Christmas PJs

-Students are expected to go outside during the lunch recess. Please wear appropriate clothes for the temperatures.

-The MS earned over 2,000 PBIS tickets so the whole middle school will watch a Christmas movie this week.

Please email Tim Paauw with any questions tpaauw@zcs.org

-All "Lost and Found" items left at ZCS will be donated over Christmas break. Remind your child to bring home all of his/her items over the break.

Grace and peace,

Carla Zastrow

Ben Kapenga

Sarah Frederick

Alex Zhou

Parents,

12/12/23

We are busy learning and enjoying our 7th-grade community. It is a busy time of year, so get ready for the details!

Reminders-

-If you have any extra magazines please donate them to Mrs. Zastrow for a project in February.

-Next week we will get in the spirit by dressing up for the season!

Monday-green and red

Tuesday-Ugly sweater

Wednesday-Christmas accessories (hats, ties, antlers, necklaces...)

Thursday-Christmas socks and blankets

Friday-Christmas pajamas

-Events at ZCS require guests to sign in via the sign-in system in the office. Yes! Sign-in will be required for the Jingle Jog as well as for the chapels. Signing in with a driver's license is the quickest way to sign in and receive a guest badge. Please have their driver's licenses out and ready when you come to sign in to speed up the process.

-In Bible class in January, we will start the 7th-grade tradition of reading the book [While the World Watched](#) by Carolyn Maull McKinstry. Ms. McKinstry writes through the lens of her faith about growing up in Birmingham, Alabama during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. We hope to see God in a new way through the author's stories, perspectives, and reflections. Please be aware that the author describes intense emotions and

violent events. We feel that it is on a level appropriate for seventh graders. If you would like to preview the book with your child before the new year, we can send the book home with your child tomorrow and you may read it with him/her before January. Please email Carla Zastrow if you would like a copy of the book sent home with your child this week. Your child may also choose to listen to the audio version. Chapter 1 can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyl1v_0LS9E ZCS also owns the CD of the book if you have a way to play CDs.

Curriculum Updates-

Math- This week in math we are wrapping up our unit on Circles. We will finish reviewing on Monday and take our test today. In the remaining time leading up to Christmas, we will begin our 4th unit, "Proportional Relationships and Percentages"

Science-In science we are carrying out final tests on physical models of dog crates that have been designed to keep dogs cool throughout the heat of a summer day.

LA1-We are beginning our new writing project, the picture book. We are currently reading picture books and articles written by picture book authors. We are studying sentences that begin with a subordinating conjunction and contain an independent and dependent clause.

BAND - The band concert is on Thursday, December 14 at 7:00 pm. Students arrive at 6:40 to their designated rooms. Information was sent home on paper and in an email. The last video assignment is due Friday, December 22. We will be using our instruments the day after the concert.

LA2-Frederick-This week in LA2 we will continue to read through *La Pura Verdad* and practice identifying our six reading comprehension sign posts as we do. Additionally, we will continue working on our vocab list from *La Pura Verdad* which we will test over next week.

LA2-Zastrow-We have a vocabulary quiz next Wednesday. The students will have a word bank and will put the correct word into a sentence with a missing word in it. We will finish the book called *The Honest Truth* and complete a project on it.

SI7- After doing a great job on the present simple, we are going to work on the accents through different kinds of examples and activities. We will approach this assignment to learn about Christmas traditions in Spain.

SS-both-We are wrapping up our Immigration unit by listening to the stories of community members who have immigrated to the United States. Beginning this week Wednesday, immigrants will be making their way to our school to share their stories and experiences with our students.

Bible- Next week we will begin working on our final projects in Bible. These projects will encompass all of our biblical themes from the first semester as found in the Old Testament. Our Bible memory this week is Isaiah 53:4-6. There will not be bible memory next week.

Mandarin- In Math, we are learning to solve real-life percentage problems. In Bible, we finish the unit by learning about the journey to the Promised Land. In MLA, we are finishing the Informational writing and learning new vocabulary.

World Language Spanish-



Hola Familias,
¡Feliz Diciembre! Happy December!

I love the month of December and all of the learning it brings to Spanish class.

This week in Spanish, we began learning Christmas songs in Spanish and we will continue to do so throughout the month! Please ask your learners what they are working on and maybe to even sing a few lines for you!

We also began reading The Christmas Story. This short book is completely in Spanish and learners will be taking a copy home at the end of the month. I welcomed them to read it aloud to their family and maybe start a NEW Christmas tradition!

We are continuing to work on our ongoing service project with Kids Food Basket. Students have been using their Spanish to create Christmas and winter-themed bags for K.F.B. If your family would like blank bags to work on at home, please let me know and I will send them with your learners. One of my family's favorite traditions is to take a handful of bags to a local coffee shop, enjoy hot chocolate, and decorate these bags together.

In 7th grade, we have been working on reviewing vocabulary and learning some new grammar concepts. We started a new unit all about sports this week and this unit will continue when we get back from Christmas break.

- Maestra Zoerhof

Remember the reason for the season:)

Ben Kapenga

Alberto Diaz

Alex Zhou

Carla Zastrow

Sarah Frederick

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Parents,

11/28/23

We hope that you had a relaxing break and had time to reflect on God's many blessings. We appreciate you and feel your support!

Reminders-

-We are aware of an issue with our blog. We have learned that if two teachers are posting at the same time, one teacher's post will not show up. We apologize for the appearance of a lack of posting and are working to correct the issue.

-If you have any extra magazines, please send them to Mrs. Z's room. We will be doing a camp reflection activity in February that requires a large number of magazines. Since most magazines are digital, we are asking for paper magazines now. If you own a business that sets magazines out in the lobby, please snag those each month and send them in with your child.

-Please remind your child to bring warm clothes for outdoor recesses.

-The 7th-grade Spelling Bee is tomorrow. Our six winners will go on to the school spelling bee in January.

-The Ottawa County Health Department will be doing vision testing on December 7 in the morning for 7th-graders.

-The last day for our Guatemalan students is on December 8. If you have a photo of one of them, please share it with Carla Zastrow at czastrow@zcs.org so I can add it to a goodbye slideshow.

Curriculum Updates-

Math- This week in math we will continue our study of circles and solidify our ability to find radius, diameter, and circumference. Then we will dive into a study on area, learning how to find the area of compound shapes, circles, and partial circles.

Science- We will use the remainder of November and December to finish our Unit on Thermal Energy transfer. Students will continue to use a combination of engineering practices to design, test, and improve their physical models of a "pet crate" that will keep a dog cool during hot summer days.

LA1- We are writing the closing of our memoirs. We will edit and submit them this week. We will have a preposition check this week and move on to pronouns. We continue practicing our analogies and we keep writing and speaking into the MI Diaries app.

LA2-Frederick- This week we will begin our in-class reading assignments of the book *La Pura Verdad*. Each day, students will find each of the reading signposts that we studied during our first unit and practice using these signposts to drive deeper comprehension of the books that they read. In addition, we will begin working on daily vocabulary-building activities.

LA2-Zastrow-

SS-both- We will continue looking at how migration affects the lives of people and the character of places around the world. By the end of our unit, students will understand the primary reasons people emigrate from their country of origin and immigrate to the United States and other countries around the world. We will also look at key ways in which migration impacts the United States, immigrants, and the countries left behind.

Bible- This week we will be starting our new Bible memory, Psalm 89:1-4, due Friday. This verse summarizes the promise that we have been studying that God made to David to "establish (his) line forever and make (his) throne firm through all generations" which is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus. We will continue studying how God is faithful to his covenant even as Israel drifted from him in our lesson "Something Rotten."

Mandarin- In math, we just finished Unit 3 and started the new Unit of Ratio. In Bible, we are working on a project in which students will try to transfer the Bible memory into songs. In MLA, we are reviewing the vocabulary and keep working on the writing assignment.

Band- The Christmas band concert is on Thursday, December 14 @ 7:00 pm in the ZCS Gym. Detailed information will be sent home on paper and via email on Thursday, November 30.

Grace and peace,

Ben Kapenga

Sarah Frederick
Alex Zhou
Carla Zastrow

Parents,

11/06/23

I had a substitute teacher (Mr. Keyser) last week Thursday and Friday. On both days, I got a text from him saying what a great group of kids this was and what a joy it must be to teach them each day. I agree with Mr. Keyser and am grateful that the kids respected a guest teacher so well.

Reminders-

- There is no school on Friday due to teacher training.
- Picture retakes are on Thursday. Your child must bring in the full packet of pictures that you did not like in order to get a picture taken again. Be aware that Thursday is also "Tacky Day." Your child may wear mismatched clothes and crazy hair. You may want to have your child bring a bag of the crazy stuff to change into after his/her retake:)
- Report cards are going home tomorrow in a sealed envelope. We emphasize that the envelope is addressed to you, the parents, so your child should not open the envelope.
- We are attending the dress rehearsal of the HC Musical on Nov. 15. Your child will eat lunch at 10:25 a.m. that day, so only the Aztec Wrap is available for "hot" lunch. I will take an Aztec Wrap count on Wednesday, November 8 so let your child know if he/she should order that.
- Parents, the ZCS Family Directory has been updated for this new school year! Please bookmark this link for easy access. This will be regularly updated throughout the year as we are made aware of any changes. If you notice any errors in your family information, please reach out to zcsinfo@zcs.org. Please Notice: There are three separate links at the top of the directory that bring you to the class lists, a staff listing, and a listing of the members of the current ZCS Board of Trustees.

[2023-2024 ZCS Family Directory](#)

Curriculum Updates-

Math- This week in math we will be finishing up our Proportional Relationships unit. Next week we will be reviewing all that we have learned so far, taking one day to complete our study guide together in class, and taking our unit test on Thursday or Friday.

Science- We are using this week to hone our graphing skills. Students are learning how to interpret data in the form of charts and then convert the charts to graphs. We finish up the week by learning how to graph using Google Sheets.

LA1- We are beginning our study of prepositions and appositive sentences. We continue to practice adding good descriptions so that our upcoming memoirs will be amazing. We will also study how dialogue makes a memoir more interesting.

Bible-We are finishing our wandering through the desert to the Promised Land and will begin learning how Israel's desire for a king was different from God's plan for a king. There is no Bible Memory due this week on Friday due to a short week but it will carry over into next week and be due on November 17 - Jeremiah 33:14-16.

SS- This week we are finishing up our Consumption challenge. Students will reflect daily in class on their experience and how the lifestyle change that they chose is affecting them. On Thursday we will begin writing our final paper together and continue writing it in class on Monday. Then, starting on Wednesday we will dive into our unit on Immigration!

Mandarin - In math, we are finishing up Unit 3 Measuring Circles. In Bible, we are on lesson 10 - to the Promised Land. In MLA, we are doing activities based on the new vocabulary words.

SI7- (Diaz) This week we are working on the acknowledgment of the present simple tense explaining the theory and practicing some exercises. Then, we are going to work on the difference between formal and informal voice and the use of accents. We will study all of these topics with some information about cultural events in Spain. I asked the students to bring a new notebook for Spanish Immersion. It will be a great tool and help for collecting all the information for this class. Please bring in the spiral notebook by Thursday.

LA2 (Zastrow)-We have learned all six signposts and are trying to find any of them that show up in our short stories. We will begin a whole class book next week. We will continue to find all six signposts in this book as well. We have 20 vocabulary words which will be tested on November 17.

LA2 (Frederick)- This week we started a new read-aloud book called "Refugiado" that corresponds with our upcoming Social Studies Unit on Immigration. We will also be finishing up our last reading signpost- Contrasts and Contradictions this week. Next week we will take a test over all of the signposts and start anticipating our first class novel, *La Pura Verdad*.

World Languages-Hola families! Please see the attached letter for an update on the Spanish world language: [Spanish World Language Update!](#) Please let me know if you have any questions! - Maestra Zoerhof

BAND - Video #5 is due this Friday, November 10 on WeVideo. We will have only a few more before the Christmas Concert. Also, please keep that date on your radar: Thursday, December 14 at 7 p.m. in the ZCS Gym. Encourage your student to practice their Christmas Concert music! They also have red and blue books for them to explore and use and plenty of materials in their band binders.

In Him,

Ben Kapenga

Sarah Frederick

Alex Zhou

Carla Zastrow

Parents,

10/23/23

We pray that you had a restful break and are ready for a great week ahead.

Reminders-

- The 7th grade as a whole has earned enough PBIS tickets to enjoy their first incentive. We will walk to Frank's for a Chocho this Wednesday, October 25 from 1:05-2:05. If your child cannot have a Chocho (chocolate malt popsicle), please let Carla Zastrow know so a substitute snack can be provided. We will let the kids know on Monday so that they bring a jacket and comfy shoes for walking on Wednesday. Please check the weather forecast that morning. Your child will not need to bring money for this event.

-Grandparents' Day is this Friday, October 27. It is a half day of school.

- **October 27th Schedule:**

9:00 - 9:05 Welcome - Mr. McAbey (students and grandparents)

9:05 - 9:45 Worship (students and grandparents)

9:45 - 10:00 Coffee and Fellowship (grandparents)

9:45 - 10:00 Recess for Y5-8th grade

10:00 - 11:10 Grandparents Visit Any Classroom

[*Middle School Rotation Schedule](#)

11:10 Grandparent/Grandfriend Dismissal (and students leaving with grandparents)

11:40 Students getting picked up or walking home are dismissed.

*Students Leaving **WITH** Grandparents/Grandfriends are dismissed at 11:10 with their grandparents/grandfriends.

*Students **NOT LEAVING** with their grandparents/grandfriends remain for parent pick-up dismissal at 11:40. Walkers are dismissed at this time as well.

*There is **NO busing home** for elementary or middle school students this day.

-As a parent, it is possible for you to see your child's internet activity, block websites, and restrict access to the internet to better match your family's schedule. If you would like to have these capabilities when your child is using their school-issued Chromebook at home please fill out the form below. After filling out the form you will receive an email from Securly.com and a link to their home application. **Securly Home** is an app that lets parents monitor their student's online activities.

<https://forms.gle/yHtvfGygtYoDqeT96>

Service Learning Club-You are invited to join us after school on Wednesday, November 8 as we serve together at [Sus Manos Gleaners](#) in Jenison. We will be leaving right after school and will aim to return around 5:00, no later than 5:30, and will plan on having one "Early Return Vehicle" for students who need to return sooner. Please wear closed-toed shoes and bring a hat to wear while we're processing the food. We are limited to 25 students for this event - please use this [sign-up form](#). **We are also looking for parent drivers.** If you're able to take kids, please contact Laurie Schnakenberg at Laup547@yahoo.com.

(Since space is limited for this event, families are invited to find different times to serve together. Here's their [schedule and sign up](#))

-Haiti Donation Drive: We are collecting toothpaste, toothbrushes, washcloths, bar soap, band aids, flip flops (new & gently used), and rehydration powder from now until November 8. The collection boxes can be found near the main entrance and by Mr. Paauw's office. You're invited to bring items in or use this link to the Amazon Wishlist. https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2L66DA2BRDDX8/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2

Curriculum Updates-

Mandarin-Zhou - In Math, we will wrap up Unit 2 with a test on Tuesday. In Bible, we are learning about the Law and 10 commandments. In MLA, we keep reading the book "Hatchet". Students are working on their informational writing assignments. A list of Chinese characters will be introduced as well.

SI7-Diaz

We are working on a documentary of the Men's Soccer World Cup of 2010 which is helping to improve some of the skills of listening in Spanish. At the same time, we are doing evaluations of the students' abilities to speak in Spanish. Also, we are creating a Spanish environment to encourage students to talk all the time in Spanish. Then, we will work on improving some important and needed grammar skills and key vocabulary.

Bible-All Homerooms-Our Bible Memory is Psalm 145:1-7 and it is due on Friday. We will finish studying The Law (Ten Commandments and surrounding events) and move into the lesson called "To the Promised Land."

LA1-We are practicing for our DGP quiz on Thursday. We continue to study coordinating conjunctions and will record week 7 of MI Diaries. We will begin brainstorming for our next writing project which is a memoir.

Science-Over the next two weeks we'll be finishing up our unit on Volcanoes. A unit test will be given on Friday, November 3.

Math- In math we will be strengthening our ability to write equations for proportional relationships and moving on to identifying and interpreting graphs of proportional relationships.

SS-7-3 and 7-4-In Social Studies we will be entering a unit on Consumption Patterns Across North America.

During our consumption unit, students will begin a **"consumption challenge"**. Students will be asked to change a pattern of their consumption (tech, food, laundry, etc.) for the purpose of either 1) making a positive impact through lowering their consumption or 2) stepping into the shoes of someone from a developing nation with a different consumption pattern. It should be a change that impacts your student more than anyone else, and we encourage them to avoid challenges related to lower calorie or nutrition intake. Please help them stay accountable to this assignment and encourage them to think about how their change is impacting them and their communities.

LA2-7-3 and 7-4-We are working our way through the six signposts that writers put in good writing. We are finishing the "Words of the Wiser" and will begin "Contrast and Contradictions." We continue to read our free choice book and fill in a story map. We have twenty new vocabulary words.

SS-7-2 This week in Spanish Immersion Social Studies we will continue studying Canada and America's physical features, climate, vegetation, human geography, history, population, and economic activity. We will take a test on Thursday over the 50 US states and 13 Canadian provinces and territories. Next week we will dive into our unit on Consumption. During our consumption unit, students will begin a **"consumption challenge"**. Students will be asked to change a pattern of their consumption (tech, food, laundry, etc.) for the purpose of either 1) making a positive impact through lowering their consumption or 2) stepping into the shoes

of someone from a developing nation with a different consumption pattern. It should be a change that impacts your student more than anyone else, and we encourage them to avoid challenges related to lower calorie or nutrition intake. Please help them stay accountable to this assignment and encourage them to think about how their change is impacting them and their communities.

LA2-7-2 In Spanish Immersion LA2 we will continue studying signposts that help us understand fiction texts better. We will be focusing on identifying Tough Questions, Words to the Wise, and Contrasts and Contradictions and analyzing what deeper understandings those signposts point us toward in our readings.

Grace and peace,
Carla Zastrow
Ben Kapenga
Sarah Frederick
Alex Zhou

Hello Parents,

10/17/23

We look forward to seeing some of you this evening for parent-teacher conferences. We hope you have time to connect as families over this longer break.

Reminders-

-Our three Guatemalan friends, Miriano, Nicki, and Rodrigo, arrived safely, and we are enjoying getting to know them and their culture.

-Are you confused about the blog, Infinite Campus, and other tools? Please see this presentation with helpful hints. It can be found on the ZCS families page (<https://www.zcs.org/families/>) scroll down to the "Middle School Tips" tab

-SHHHH The 7th grade as a whole has earned enough PBIS tickets to enjoy their first incentive. We will walk to Frank's for a Chocho on Wednesday, October 25 from 1:05-2:05. If your child cannot have a Chocho (chocolate malt popsicle), please let Carla Zastrow know so a substitute snack can be provided. We will let the kids know on Monday so that they bring a jacket and comfy shoes for walking on Wednesday. Your child will not need to bring money for this event.

-Grandparents' Day is Friday, October 27. It is a half day of school. Please see the attachment below. We look forward to meeting all the Grandparents and Grand Friends.

-Did you know? As a parent, it is possible for you to see your child's internet activity, block websites, and restrict access to the internet to better match your family's schedule. If you would like to have these capabilities when your child is using their school-issued Chromebook at home please fill out the form below.

After filling out the form you will receive an email from Securly.com and a link to their home application.

Securly Home is an app that lets parents monitor their student's online activities.

<https://forms.gle/yHtvfGygtYoDqeT96>

-MEDICATION SAFETY

For the safety of all students, please do not send medications in backpacks to school with your child (pain relievers ie: Tylenol/Motrin/Ibuprofen), cold medicines, cough drops, Tums, nose sprays, inhalers, etc).

Michigan law requires parent and doctor signatures for school staff to give medication. Medication forms are available on the ZCS website or from the school nurse. Parents, you are welcome to stop in during your child's lunch break to give them a dose of medication. Questions? Contact Nurse Lindsey at lwagenmaker@zcs.org

Thank you for your understanding!

Have a great long "weekend,"

Carla Zastrow

Ben Kapenga

Sarah Frederick

Alex Zhou

Parents,

10/9/23

We look forward to seeing many of you on Thursday! Please read the details below.

Reminders-

-Grandparents' Day - Please pass the following information on to your family members.

[Grandparents'/Grandfriends' Schedule](#)

[Grandparents'/Grandfriends' Invitation](#)

Grandparent/Grandfriend Registration Link: Register [HERE](#) if you are a [grandparent/grandfriend](#) who will be joining us on October 27th.

[HERE](#) is the Middle School Grandparent Visiting Schedule if you have a middle school student with a visiting grandparent/grand friend.

-MAPS results were handed to your child today during the last hour. Please ask for the paper and look it over with your child. Please contact us with any questions.

-Parent Teacher Conferences are this Thursday and next Tuesday. The sign-up closes at 10 pm today. Please sign up with your child's homeroom teacher and bring your child with you to the conference.

-Zach VanDenend and Maria Klomp maker put together a presentation for parents about staying informed about what is happening in the Middle School. [Keeping Informed](#)

-World Languages Spanish-

In Spanish World Language we have been talking about the value of learning a second language and how it can be used to serve others. With this mindset, we began our year-long service project with “Kids Food Basket” where we will be using Spanish to serve others right in our West Michigan Community! Please ask your learners about this! In class, we have also been working on a culture unit about Mexico and are continuing to work on new vocabulary from our curriculum each week.

Here are some questions you could ask your learner about Spanish:

1. What is “Kids Food Basket” and how does that organization connect to your Spanish class?
2. You had a short grammar quiz this week, how did it go? What was easy for you? What was tricky?

Medication Safety- For the safety of all students, please do not send medications in backpacks to school with your child (pain relievers ie: Tylenol/Motrin/Ibuprofen), cold medicines, cough drops, Tums, nose sprays, inhalers, etc). Michigan law requires parent and doctor signatures for school staff to give medication. Medication forms are available on the ZCS website or from the school nurse. Parents, you are welcome to stop in during your child's lunch break to give them a dose of medication. Questions? Contact Nurse Lindsey at lwagenmaker@zcs.org Thank you for your understanding!

-Faces and Cultures Program -Next Monday 7th grade will welcome three new students to our grade. The students are from Guatemala and will be with us from October through December. We look forward to learning about their culture and sharing our culture with them. Our three students are José Mariano Escobar, Camila Martínez, and Nicolle Urrutia.

We look forward to seeing you soon,

Ben Kapenga

Sarah Frederick

Carla Zastrow

Alex Zhou

Grandparents' Day

10/6/23

Parents: For Your **INFORMATION:**

- Y5-8th Transportation Information: October 27th is a half day. There is NO busing on this day.
 - Bus transportation **TO** school **IS** the normal schedule and is available.
 - Bus transportation **FROM** school is **NOT** available.

- Y5-8th Students may be **dismissed with Grandparents** at **11:10 a.m.**
- OR**
- Y5-8th Students may be **picked up by parents** using the regular car pick-up line at **11:40 a.m.**

Parents: For You TO PASS Along: Please review all of this information and ***pass it along*** to grandparents/grandfriends as needed!

- [Grandparents'/Grandfriends' Schedule](#)
- [Grandparents'/Grandfriends' Invitation](#)
- Grandparent/Grandfriend Registration Link: Register [HERE](#) if you are a ***grandparent/grandfriend*** who will be joining us on October 27th.
- [HERE](#) is the Middle School Grandparent Visiting Schedule if you have a middle school student with a visiting grandparent/grand friend.

Dear Parents,

10/2/23

We hope you were able to get outside this weekend and today!

Updates

-Parent-teacher conferences are on October 12 and 17. Your child attends the conference with you so please choose a time that works for all of you. Please sign up with your child's homeroom teacher. If your child is in the Mandarin program, please sign up with Mr. Zhou. Please see the information in [THIS letter](#) on the details of signing up. The window opened today for the sign-ups.

-We have a coach for the Middle School Destination Imagination team! If your child is interested, please have him/her attend an information meeting on Thursday at lunch in the project room. DI meeting on Thursday. Kristi Van Dyk is the coach and can be contacted through her email kvandyk@zcs.org

-There is another Servant Leadership Team activity available to students. Please check the blog with your child to see the details. <https://zcs7thgrade.blogspot.com/>

Curriculum Updates-

Science—Throughout this week we'll be looking at how hot spot volcanoes occur when a very hot part of the mantle melts through the tectonic plate above and moves rock material to the surface. Students will identify how volcanoes form in linear patterns (chains) within plates due to the motion of a tectonic plate over a mantle hot spot. We will use models to represent time, space, and energy phenomena that are too large or small to observe directly.

Math—This week in math we will be wrapping up our unit on Scale with a test on Tuesday. From there we will begin our next unit on Proportional Relationships.

LA1—We wrote our Who am I? paragraph and are beginning our Who are we? paragraph. We are studying compound sentences and conjunctions. We are practicing our speaking through the MI Diaries and WeVideo apps. It has been fun hearing about your mistakes when we present the OOPS! papers each Friday.

Bible—Bible Memory for this week comes out of Revelation 21:1-3A. We begin a unit entitled Slavery and Salvation where students will observe as God reveals his covenant name to His people, demonstrating his love and desire to be in a relationship with them.

SS(English and Spanish)—Students will continue to trek throughout North America. They will be introduced to cartograms and will use them to identify current consumption patterns in the United States as well as compare U.S. consumption patterns to those of other countries around the world. Students will also be challenged to evaluate the effects and predict the future impact of growing levels of consumerism.

LA2—English- We are continuing our study of the signposts by learning about the "Tough Questions" that authors use in their writing. We have a vocabulary quiz on Friday. We are reading our free choice book and filling in a story map (plot diagram).

Mandarin—In Bible, we are learning about the conflicts between God and Israelis. In Math, everyone did a fantastic job on their Unit 1 test. Now we are on Unit 2, Introduction to Algebra. In MLA, we just finished a writing assignment. There will be a quiz at the end of the week to test their understanding of the new Chinese characters. Meanwhile, we are reading the book <Hatchet> together. And students are reading on Level Chinese separately.

World Languages Spanish—

In Spanish World Language we have been talking about the value of learning a second language and how it can be used to serve others. With this mindset, we began our year long service project with “Kids Food Basket” where we will be using Spanish to serve others right in our West Michigan Community! Please ask your learners about this! In class, we have also been working on a culture unit about Mexico and are continuing to work on new vocabulary from our curriculum each week.

Here are some questions you could ask your learner about Spanish:

1. What is “Kids Food Basket” and how does that organization connect to your Spanish class?
2. You had a short grammar quiz this week, how did it go? What was easy for you? What was tricky?

Please contact us with any questions or concerns,

Carla Zastrow

Ben Kapenga

Sarah Frederick

Alex Zhou

It was wonderful to meet so many of you at Monday's Parent Night. You will find the slideshow and handout linked below in case you could not attend.

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, October 12, and Tuesday, October 17 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. **Please sign up with your child's homeroom teacher unless your child is in the Mandarin program.** If your child is in the Mandarin program, please sign up with Mr. Zhou. [THIS letter](#) will explain how and when to sign up. We look forward to connecting with all of you. One thing that is new in 7th grade is that **your child attends the conference with you.** We ask your child to step out during the last five minutes of the conference so we can have an adult conversation for part of the conference.

Enjoy this wonderful weather,

Sarah Frederick

Carla Zastrow

Alex Zhou

Ben Kapenga

Parents,

9/18/23

We had an amazing time at camp last week. Thank you for your donations and prayers. We look forward to seeing you tonight at the Parent Meetings at 6:00 pm or 6:45 pm.

Reminders

-Spanish Immersion will take the Spanish Reading MAPS on Wednesday. MAPS retakes will begin tomorrow and Wednesday.

-School Picture Day - Tuesday, Sept. 26 Order envelopes came home with your child today. Each envelope is pre-printed with your child's name and a unique QR code. **Please return the PRE-PRINTED envelopes to school with your child on picture day** even if you preorder online or don't order pictures at all. **EVERY student needs a photo envelope even if their parents pre-ordered online.** The photo envelope is almost like the "ticket" they need to present to the photographer. We have our pictures taken before PE and outdoor break so no need to worry about your child's hair:)

- If your student is sick or gone during your scheduled time slot, that student may pop over to a photographer any other day next week while the photographers are in the building and get their photo taken. As long as they have their pre-printed envelope, that is not a problem.
- If you have a student who is not at school at all during picture week, they may have their photo taken on **Picture Re-Take Day** which is **November 9**. They will need to take their photo envelope with them that day.
- For students who want to have their photo retaken, they must bring their full picture order (it comes in the form of a booklet) with them on November 9th. If they do not have their photo booklet or if it has photos cut out of it, they will not be allowed to have their picture re-taken.

Curriculum Updates-

Math- In Math we will continue our exploration of scale copies. We will refine our ability to determine scale factor and will use scale factor to help us create scale copies.

LA1- We are continuing to gather information on "Who am I? Who are we? and Who is He?" We will then turn these three items into paragraphs. We will begin our study of subjects and predicates and pronouns. We will share the first OOPS! stories on Friday.

Bible-Jeremish 31:33-34 is due next Thursday, September 28. We will continue discussing the theme of Conflict and Doubt and begin our work on Covenants. We keep track of each theme we study and do a large project on them in December.

SS (Spanish/English)-In our up and coming lessons, students will better understand why geographers use a variety of maps to represent the world. They will read and analyze six different thematics maps to gather information about the world as well as to learn terminology specific to the maps.

LA2 (Spanish/English)-We continue to work on our 20 vocabulary words. We are studying the signpost call "Again and Again." We are reading a free choice book and looking for the signposts in our books.

Mandarin- In Math, we are reviewing the Unit 1 - Scale drawings. The Unit test will take place soon. In MLA, we will learn 25 new Chinese characters. And students will also keep working on their descriptive writing. Meanwhile, we will continue to read the book *Hatchet*. In Bible, we are talking about the different names of God, which tells us the characteristics of God and what that means to us. We will start learning about the conflicts between God and human and how to build a deep relationships with God.

Science-This past week students spent time learning how to use models to describe how different types of volcanoes form from molten rock material that has cooled and crystallized. Based on our up and coming lessons, students should be able to use a model to describe how the flow of energy from the center of earth and the flow of matter causes linear patterns of volcanic activity at plate boundaries.

Spanish World Language-We have had a fun start to the school year and have dove into our Spanish "Somos" curriculum. This week students will be focusing on building their Spanish vocabulary with food and verbs. We will also be adding to our interactive notebooks and completing Señor Wooly assignments. Our grammar focus this week is on Verbs in the present tense. Last week, students were able to access our Spanish World Language Google Classroom, where their Señor Wooly log in information will be housed.

Grace and peace,

Carla Zastrow

Ben Kepenga

Sarah Frederick

Alex Zhou

Parents,

9/11/23

It is a big week, full of adventure. We conquered the Math MAPS this morning. We take the LA MAPS test during the LA block tomorrow and head to camp later this week.

The Sign-Up Genius for camp still has 11 blanks. Help out if you are able. [Camp Donations](#)

Please continue to check out [the blog](#) for day-to-day reminders and homework. If you click on the upper left side, you can read all the emails we have sent out so far this year. The ones about camp are located here as well.

Our parent meeting is on Monday, September 18. We will do the same presentation at 6 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. We can't wait to meet you then.

We head to camp on Thursday morning! Please have your child here at the normal time. They do not need their laptop along. They do need a sack lunch that is completely "throw away." You received a list of what to pack and what not to pack in a previous email and it is attached below. Notice the temperature for Thursday evening is nice and cool. Please bring your child's sleeping bag, pillow, and suitcase to the trailer located in the parking lot behind Faith Church. A quick goodbye is best for anxious kids.

Pictures Day is tentatively set for Tuesday, Sept. 26. Seventh grade gets their pictures taken before outdoor recess and PE so no worries about the hair:)

Curriculum Update-

Spanish World Language:

Hola! This week learners received their beginning of the year Spanish survey back. I recommend talking to your child/ren about their survey and their opinions/goals for Spanish. This week, we finalized our basic materials for Spanish learning this year, including our work folder, interactive notebook, and personal dictionary. Next week we will be introducing our Spanish Google Classroom and an electronic resource that many learners are familiar with, "**Señor Wolly**".

Please contact us with questions,

Ben Kapenga

Carla Zastrow

Alex Zhou

Sarah Frederick

Hello Parents,

9/6/23

This is a busy time of year so you are receiving more frequent emails. Don't worry, after camp next week, the emails will slow down!

Reminders-

-Parent Meetings are on Monday, September 18 at 6:00 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. We'd love to meet you at one of these times or both if you are really bored. The presentation is the same at both meetings but we run two of them in case you have two middle schoolers.

-A Camp email went out on Thursday, August 31, and September 5 with a lot of information. These are important links:

[7th Grade Camp Help](#)

[Sack Lunch for Camp Roger](#)

Medication forms can be found here <https://www.zcs.org/schoolforms/> They are due in the nurse's office on Monday morning September 11 at the latest. Contact Nurse Lindsey Wagenmaker with med questions, lwagenmaker@zcs.org

-MAPS Testing is around the corner!

We're looking forward to upcoming MAP Growth assessments! MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessments in Math, Reading, and Language will help teachers understand what students will be ready to learn throughout this school year. We'll be taking these assessments in the morning during class on the following dates:

- Monday, September 11 Math
- Tuesday, September 12 Language Arts
- Monday, September 18 Reading
- Wednesday, September 20 Spanish

It's important that students do their best to show all that they've learned this year! We are helping your students by preparing them to know what to expect on the assessment, coaching them on assessment-taking strategies, reminding them that they are capable of doing well and shaping a structured and supportive classroom environment on those mornings. You can help your student by ensuring that they get proper **sleep** the evening before an assessment, feeding them a healthy **breakfast** on each assessment morning, and encouraging them to have a **positive attitude** and to do their best--this assessment is important, and they are capable! Together, we can support students in doing their best to show what they're reading to learn this year! There is additional information available at <https://www.nwea.org/parent-toolkit/>. We will end each session with a celebration snack. I have volunteers for the upcoming sessions but be on the lookout to help in the winter and spring.

-Driving for Field Trips/Volunteering 1:1/Recess Duty help

We have a new procedure for parents if you want to drive for a field trip. Seventh grade does not use parent drivers often as Mr. Kapenga has his bus license so he drives us on most of the trips.

Who: Any parent/grandparent/guardian who would like to drive for a field trip/chaperone, recess duty, or 1:1 volunteering with students. Individuals **MUST** be approved in the system prior to volunteering.

How: ZCS Volunteer Application Portal: <https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/NzEyOTplbi1VUw==> The link will be ready for use **AFTER** Friday, September 8.

All required documents will be handled in the portal.....we will not need to take copies of insurance or driver's licenses and we will not need volunteers to sign the field trip form on the day of the field trip. Drivers will sign the form when they apply. You will have to follow the school guidelines.

Timing: Processing of applications **MAY** take up to 5 days....it **MAY** take less. Please get your application submitted in a timely manner if you plan to help out.

Thanks for taking the time to read all of this!

Alex Zhou
Ben Kapenga
Sarah Frederick
Carla Zastrow

Hello, 9/5/23
We try to keep the cost of camp lower to stay within the activity fee you paid at the beginning of the year. In order to do that, we need some donations for our time at camp. We would love your help with the following items. Please have the items at school by Tuesday, September 12. Please bring the items to the boxes outside Mrs. Zastrow's room by door E. If you have a refrigerated item, please label it "7th Grade" and bring it to the refrigerator in the project room. Thanks!

[7th Grade Camp Help](#)

Reminder from the previous email-

Students should bring a sack lunch to be eaten on Thursday. If your child would like a hot lunch sack lunch that day, you must put your child's name on the [Sack Lunch for Camp Roger](#) Sign-Up Genius by September 8 at noon as the food service orders their food in advance. In the past, the sack lunch has been a turkey sandwich, apple, chips, a cookie, and carrot sticks. The sack lunch is \$3 and charged to the hot lunch account. If you pack a lunch it must be a "throw-away" lunch - paper bag, plastic spoon, etc. A juice pouch will be provided so there is no need to send an expensive water bottle along.

Thanks for your support,

The 7th-Grade Team
Ben
Carla
Alex
Sarah

Dear Parents, 8/31/23

We are excited about our annual 7th-grade Camp. As a teaching team, we see this as an opportunity to build relationships with the students outside of academics, especially on a spiritual level. The purpose of this retreat is to discover who we are in God's world. We hope it will yield personal growth and the growth of our 7th-grade community. Times of worship will be set aside, and devotions will be an important part of meals and cabin time. We will have an evening campfire dedicated to spiritual growth, fellowship, personal sharing, and community building. We will focus on our 7th-grade theme of Identity using our motto, "Who am I?, Who are we?, Who is He?"

The 7th graders will be accompanied by the 7th-grade teachers, Officer Ousley, Mrs. Klompmaker, Mr. Buyten, Mr. Zhou, Mr. DeVries, and Miss Brit. Also joining us will be a group of high school seniors who will act as counselors. The students will be divided into several groups throughout the camp experience, such as cabin, eating, and activity groups. The activity groups will rotate through outdoor lessons designed to expose students to God's creation and help them develop the skill of working in a group.

Details-

Students should arrive at their normal time on Thursday, September 14. Our destination will be Camp Roger in Rockford, MI. We will spend two days at camp, **returning Friday, September 15, around 2:30 p.m.**

Please have the kids bring their camp items to school on Thursday morning, and we will load the trailer in the Faith Church parking lot when they arrive at school. We will be telling your child they may bring a carry-on-sized suitcase, sleeping bag, and pillow. The list of what your child should bring to camp is listed below. We do not have a lot of storage room in the trailer. Your child does not need his/her laptop at camp.

Students should bring a sack lunch to be eaten on Thursday. If your child would like a hot lunch sack lunch that day, you must put your child's name on the Sack Lunch through Hot Lunch Sign-Up Genius by September 8 at noon as the food service orders their food in advance. In the past, the sack lunch has been a turkey sandwich, apple, chips, cookie, and carrot sticks. The sack lunch is \$3 and charged to the hot lunch account. If you pack a lunch it must be a "throw-away" lunch - paper bag, plastic spoon, etc. A juice pouch will be provided so there is no need to send an expensive water bottle along.

Please plan to pick up your son or daughter on the 15th around 2:30 p.m. since he/she will have too much stuff to carry home on the bus. Traffic or construction occasionally makes us later than 2:30 p.m. He/she may attend Power Hour when we return. The sports coaches will let you know if there is a practice that day or not.

Medications

If your child needs medication for overnight camp (including over-the-counter medication ie; Tylenol, Motrin, melatonin, Benadryl) a medication form needs to be signed by a provider and brought to school no later than **48 hours prior to the overnight field trip**. Medication needs to be in the **original container/bottle (no Ziploc bags), labeled with the student's name, and only the amount of medication/tablet(s) needed for camp**. Please drop it off in the front office no later than *48 hours prior to the overnight field trip*. Contact Nurse Lindsey Wagenmaker with questions, lwagenmaker@zcs.org Thank you!

Medication forms can be found here <https://www.zcs.org/schoolforms/> They are due in the nurse's office on Monday morning September 11 at the latest. Please do not change your child's medication routine for our days at camp as there is enough change for him/her as it is. Two trained staff members will discreetly disperse the medication.

Next week another Sign-Up Genius will be opened so that you can help by donating items we need for our camp adventure.

We do not use Camp Roger's food service. We have volunteers cooking for us. If your child has special dietary needs, please contact Carla Zastrow, and she will share the menu with you and you can provide replacement meals and snacks. We do not provide specialized meals.

We will discuss the details of camp with the kids on the Tuesday before camp, so they do not know all this information yet as going to camp can cause anxiety for some students and excitement for others. Use your discretion on what to share and when. If your child gets homesick easily, please let us know so we can go out of our way to make him/her feel at home.

If you have questions about these or any other camp-related issues, please contact one of the 7th-grade teachers by email and we will be happy to answer any questions. We thank you for this opportunity to spend time with your child, experiencing God's world and building community with each other.

In Christ,

Ben Kapenga (bkapenga@zcs.org)

Carla Zastrow (czastrow@zcs.org)

Sarah Frederick (sfrederick@zcs.org)

Alex Zhou (azhou@zcs.org)

What To/Not To Bring to Camp Roger

Please take a labeled carry-on-sized bag/suitcase.

Clothing (check the weather forecast)

- ☐ 1-2 pairs of shorts
- ☐ one pair of pants
- ☐ Sweatshirt/Jacket
- ☐ T-shirts/Long sleeve shirt
- ☐ Jacket/Rain gear
- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Appropriate swimsuit for a lot of movement in and out of canoes
- ☐ Sleepwear
- ☐ two towels- one for the beach and for use after showering
- ☐ Athletic Shoes/Camp Shoes (flip-flops not recommended)

Misc. Items

- ☐ Bible -may take the one from school
- ☐ Sleeping Bag
- ☐ Pillow and “lovey” stuffed animal
- ☐ Soap/Shampoo
- ☐ Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Bug repellent/anti-itch cream
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Card game in case of rain
- ☐ Sunscreen lotion (not spray)

What *NOT* to bring

Electronics of any kind (This includes phones/watches/Fitbits/iPods etc.) The kids will be allowed to use a teacher’s phone if needed.

Candy/Food/Pop items

Matches/Lighter/Knives

You have to carry your items by yourself once at camp. (Ladies, there is a nice hill to climb to get to your cabins so don't overpack! There is not a hill for the boys.)

Make sure that all medications are to the nurse by Monday, September 11.

Dear Parents,

8/28/23

Here is a typical "Reminders and Updates" email. This typically comes out every other week. You may also receive other emails from us, but this is the one that is formulated by the team of 7th-grade teachers and then sent out by me.

Reminders

- The Parent Meeting is Monday, September 18 at 6:00 pm and 6:45 pm. It is the same presentation so if you have multiple students in the middle school, you can attend different meetings.
- You will receive a separate letter about your child attending Camp Roger this week. For now, we are leaving for camp on September 14, staying overnight, and arriving back to school by 2:30 p.m. on Friday, September 15. This camp has already been paid for in the activity fee.
- MI Diaries-tomorrow your child will bring home a paper note about using MI Diaries as a tool in LA1 this year. You will also receive an email about that program as well. Ask your child for that paper tomorrow.
- You should have received an email from your child asking you to remind him/her to check the blog. Ask a parent it is very helpful for you to check the blog as well. [7th grade blog](#)
- We are excited to be starting our 2023 season of FIRST Robotics at Zeeland Christian Middle School. The FIRST Robotics Team is open to 6th-8th Grade Students who are interested in learning about Engineering Design and Programming. Students will work alongside industry professionals to learn basic engineering skills. Robotics is a Fall Activity that will meet twice a week. For more information or to inquire about signing up, please visit our team website at: <https://team107robotics.weebly.com/ftc-teams.html>. We will be closing the interest sign-up form on Friday, September 1st. Please note that space is limited and priority for joining the team will be given to past students first."

Curriculum Update-

Math- We are diving into our first math unit discussing scaled copies. This will lead to a discussion on scale factors and eventually lead to learning about proportional relationships.

SS-7th Grade Social Studies focuses on Geography, and so we begin the year by considering elements of maps, describing places, and learning necessary geography terms.

Bible- -We will begin with an overview of the themes of the Old Testament. We are currently focused on the importance of names, both of God and individuals in these stories. Bible Memory for this week is our theme verse of 2 Corinthians 5:17. The Bible Memory quiz is on Thursday.

LA1- Our first writing project will fit with our motto "Who am I? Who are we? Who is He?" and camp experience. The students will write about Who am I? Who are we? and Who is He? We will focus on topic sentences with supporting details. In grammar, we will work on subjects, predicates, and pronouns. We will begin our work on analogies as well.

Science-Students learned about their weekly routines, and Mr. Kapenga's expectations, and they saw a brief overview of all the units we'll be covering each term. Soon enough we will begin reading Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac* and begin focusing on increasing our scientific vocabulary.

Mandarin- In Bible, we started off the new year by introducing the theme verse of 2023-2024. On top of that, we are learning about writing spiritual journeys. In Math, the first Unit is all about scale drawings. In Mandarin, we have started reading the book *Esperanza Rising* together. 25 Chinese characters will be introduced to students in the coming week.

LA2 -We will begin working with our 20 vocabulary words this week. We will choose a "Right Fit" book and begin reading. We will review the signpost of Memory Moment and look for Memory Moments in our books.
SI7-Mr. Diaz is in Spain finishing the process of obtaining his visa to teach this course and will be starting with our 7th grade on Monday, September 11. In the meantime, Mrs. Capestany is our SI7 substitute teacher for the upcoming weeks.

Enjoy the beautiful weather today!

Carla Zastrow

Sarah Frederick

Ben Kapenga

Alex Zhou

Dear Parents,

8/23/23

We love this 7th-grade community! This week, we have already witnessed many acts of kindness and plenty of smiles. We would appreciate your prayers as we journey through this year together.

We are thrilled to welcome three new families to 7th grade, the Morrow, the Perez and the Alvero families. If you see an unfamiliar face at a sporting event, music concert or in the hallways, please introduce yourself.

Typically, our 7th-grade team meets on Monday morning to discuss student concerns and curriculum. Later that evening, I send out an email that has been crafted by the four of us. The email usually comes out bi-weekly and contains practical reminders and curriculum updates. This week we met on Wednesday as we did not have school on Monday. Since we are still in the phase of getting to know the kids, we did not include a curriculum portion; we only did practical reminders. Check in with your 7th grade parent friends to see if they are receiving these emails, as a few people have found me in their junk mail. If you would like to add another email to our "Updates and Reminders," please email me at czastrow@zcs.org. Please notice that Sarah Frederick does have an "e" in her name and does not have an "s" at the end of her name. It was published on the ZCS website incorrectly at one point so she has missed out on a few emails and occasionally when you click on the link to her email it does not go through. Mr. Fischer is looking into this.

Reminders-

-Once again, this year, we may only accept non-edible birthday treats. We will sing to your child and acknowledge it is his/her special day, but we cannot share any food items.

-Please check that your child has earphones or earbuds in his/her backpack. We will begin using them soon!

-Please visit our blog if you have not done so yet. [7th Grade Blog](#). There is a link on the left side to all our emails if you prefer to check there for information.

-Learning Lab is an opportunity for students to have additional time after school on Mondays and Thursdays (2:35-3:20 pm) to work on academic assignments, organize materials, check email, etc. Learning Lab is staffed by two members of the Support Service Team who are there to support students as needed during this time. Both parents and teachers can refer a child/student to Learning Lab at no additional cost. Students who come to Learning Lab are expected to stay until 3:20 pm unless we hear directly from their parents about a different plan. Use [this link](#) to sign your child up for Learning Lab. It will take place in Mrs. Hernandez's classroom (Room 96) will begin on Monday, August 28.

-The Camp Roger overnight field trip is September 14 and 15. If your child needs medication for overnight camp (including over the counter medication ie; Tylenol, Motrin, melatonin, Benadryl) a medication form needs to be signed by a provider and brought to school no later than **48 hours prior to the overnight field trip**.

Camp Medication and Sunscreen forms can be found here [-https://www.zcs.org/schoolforms/](https://www.zcs.org/schoolforms/)

-If you did not fill in a permission slip at the RAMS's fest, a paper one is available from your child's homeroom teacher or you may print this one and send it in. [Permission Slip 23_24.pdf](#)

- The 7th grade band students are in the Zeeland Pumpkin Parade on Saturday, October 7! They will be measured for a uniform and will receive them soon. These are to stay at home throughout the entire year safely in it's bag. Students are resized in April before the Spring Parades because middle school students grow! Go Band!
- Chorus is an extracurricular all-female choir made up of 7th & 8th grade girls. They rehearse on Mondays and Fridays from 2:25-3:15 throughout the school year. Any 7th grade girl who is interested in participating in the group will have the chance to audition on September 11 or 13 after school. A signup sheet will be sent to you soon! Email Kendra Walters if you have any questions (kendra.walters@zcs.org).
- The theater department at ZCS will be offering a musical this year! The title of the musical will be announced later this fall, auditions will be held in December, and rehearsals start in January. The performances will take place on March 15 & 16. All 7th and 8th graders are welcome to audition.
- "We are excited to be starting our 2023 season of FIRST Robotics at Zeeland Christian Middle School. The FIRST Robotics Team is open to 6th-8th Grade Students that are interested in learning about Engineering Design and Programming. Students will work alongside industry professionals to learn basic engineering skills. Robotics is a Fall Activity that will meet twice a week. For more information or to inquire about signing up, please visit our team website at: <https://team107robotics.weebly.com/ftc-teams.html>. We will be closing the interest sign up form on Friday, September 1st. Please note that space is limited and priority for joining the team will be given to past students first."

Stay cool,

Carla Zastrow czastrow@zcs.org

Ben Kapenga bkapenga@zcs.org

Sarah Frederick sfrederick@zcs.org (Please carefully type this in until we figure out the problem with the link.)

Alex Zhou azhou@zcs.org

Dear Seventh Grade Parents,

8/14/23

We are eagerly anticipating the start of a new school year, and we are sure your children are as well! We are excited to see God's work in and through our seventh-grade community. We know he has this year figured out for us already, and we can't wait to follow his lead.

A few important dates moving forward are Wednesday, August 16, from 4 pm -7 pm, which is the RAM Fest/Open House. You may meet the teachers and visit our classrooms from 4-6 pm, drop off batons and supplies and grab something to eat. The first day of school is Tuesday, August 22, and Seventh Grade Camp is September 14 and 15 at Camp Roger. We leave on Thursday morning, stay overnight and plan to be back at school by 2:30 pm on Friday. There are other exciting all-school events, so check the [ZCS website](#) for further information or click [HERE](#)

Middle school parent meetings will take place on Monday, September 18, and we will offer identical sessions at 6:00 pm and 6:45 pm so that parents can visit multiple presentations or hear ours twice! We look forward to meeting you in Carla Zastrow and Sarah Frederick's classrooms, rooms 90 and 91.

Staying connected and communicating in all classes is essential, which is why we maintain the 7th-grade blog (<http://zcs7thgrade.blogspot.com>). The blog also provides a resource for parents, students, and teachers to view class assignments, information, and activities. Please check the blog for our current supply list as well. All the 7th-grade teachers will use Google Classroom to give kids assignments and feedback. In addition, all the grades will be posted in [Infinite Campus](#). If there is an additional or different email than this one that you would like us to use, or if you would prefer not to receive emails at this address, please email Mrs. Zastrow at czastrow@zcs.org. Please add the teachers' email addresses below to your contact list.

The seventh graders do not have cubbies in the classroom like last year. They do not get an assigned cubby, so they will take items home each night. Instead, seventh graders keep their items in the cubbies across from the middle school bathrooms. Students will carry backpacks between classes, so limit the extra stuff your child brings to school.

Please see the note below from Alayna Visser, Middle School Support Services Teacher. There are also some helpful links and requested announcements below.

Enjoy your last few days of summer, and we can't wait to see you all soon!

Grace and peace,

[Sarah Frederick](#)

Ben Kapenga bkapenga@zcs.org

Carla Zastrow czastrow@zcs.org

Alex Zhou azhou@zcs.org

From Alayna Visser-

Dear Parents,

We have so many ways to invite your child into a place of learning this year. Sometimes that learning happens in the middle of a reading lesson, outdoors gathered around a piece of God's creation, or as part of a worship time in chapel. It's important to mention, however, that the members of our classrooms offer us chances to learn and grow, as well. Part of your child's learning this year will be the direct result of living and working with children of varied abilities in and out of their classrooms. We want to impact your child's heart as we learn with one another in our classroom communities.

This year we will be having some special opportunities, discussions and events that your child is welcomed to be a part of. These opportunities include circle of friends groups, recess buddies/sidekicks, the unified basketball team and so much more! We are eager to see and discuss together how God will form and grow us this year through the gift of each child and adult in our classroom community.

While each one of us has gifts to share, we also have areas of challenge. Those challenges may happen in academic, social, physical, or behavioral areas. As we walk together into the school year, it is our prayer that we resemble a living, breathing picture of I Corinthians 12 - one body together in Christ. We will learn that "the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you,'" and we have a chance to learn that "there are many parts, but one body." Together, we will make sure each child has chances to learn and grow in Christ.


If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me via email: avisser@zcs.org


Sincerely,

Alayna Visser, Middle School Support Services Teacher

Helpful Links and Requested Announcements-

7th Grade Permission Slip - A paper copy will be available at the Open House and first week of school.

 [Permission Slip 23_24.pdf](#)

 [Permission Slip 23/24](#)

Camp Medication and Sunscreen form-<https://www.zcs.org/schoolforms/> A paper copy will be available at the Open House and first week of school.

Fall Sports Start Dates:

Volleyball at ZC - Wednesday, August 23

Soccer at ZC - Wednesday, August 23

Boys Tennis at HC - Tuesday, August 22

Cross-Country at HC - Tuesday, August 22

Boys Football at HC - Tuesday, August 15

Mom's in Prayer-

Moms in Prayer meets once a week to pray scripture over our children, the teachers, staff, and ZCS as a whole. We don't have childcare, but don't let that stop you. Come with your little one to see if it will work out. It is good for them to see their mom in prayer.

Questions? Call Erica Boerman at 202-218-5123 or boerman.ERICA@gmail.com

[Family Reference Guide](#) (handbook)