



## Building a Bridge to the Future



# ZM MESSENGER

**In accordance with Governor Walz' executive order, masks are required in all ZM School buildings and grounds. Thank you for your cooperation.**

### Message From the Superintendent

Parents and Guardians, Like families we had another busy week navigating all the changes due to Covid 19. I wanted to give you another update on what we are seeing at this time and share some

thoughts with you. We are continuing to see cases in our school community at the 7-12 level. The level of quarantined students is decreasing as we do not have the 7-12 students together in the classroom and in activities. The question is where do we go from here with what we are currently seeing?

Goodhue County numbers are high enough to go to distance learning if we were seeing high numbers locally. The state wants us to use the County numbers to start our conversation on learning models and use additional local data to finalize the decision. We are not seeing many cases at the K-6 level. These classrooms are more contained due to the fact that these students do not get as many chances to mix during the day. The following are the five goals from the State that schools are supposed to achieve when making decisions on what learning model we should be in.

#### State Safe Learning Plan Goals

1. Prioritize the safety of students and staff
2. Prioritize in-person learning, especially for younger learners
3. Consider infectiousness and transmission risk among different ages
4. Support planning, while permitting flexibility for districts
5. Take into account disease prevalence at a local level

Early on, the Minnesota Department of Health told us that younger students do not transmit or get the disease at as high of a rate as older students. That is a driving force behind the five goals that they set and why our learning model looks different at different age levels.

In the K-6 grades, if needed we are more easily able to quarantine whole classrooms or grade levels when needed, while keeping the rest of these younger learners in the school. If we start seeing major increases in the numbers, we will consider making a model change, but at this time for these age levels the plan is still working. The added teachers and spaces from this summer are really benefiting us right now. We are having K-6 students in school every day. That does not mean that our students are less

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#### WHAT'S COMING UP?

- 12/11—No School/Teacher Workday
- 12/14—School Board Work Session
- 12/21—Tax Hearing/Adoption 6:30 pm with Regular Meeting to Follow
- 12/23—No School/Teacher Workday
- 12/24 -1/1— Holiday Break
- 1/4—School Resumes. School Board Organization Meeting 6:00 pm



◆ Pick up your Cougarwear orders on Wed, December 2, from 5:30 -7 pm, Ag Shop door #6 (behind the school). Your order will be brought to you. Because of COVID, make sure you or someone else picks up your order. The school does not want extra people in the building during regular hours.

◆ The ZM School Board recognizes the importance of keeping students in school during Covid as much as possible. Therefore, the board approved December 11 and December 23 as full non-instructional student days to give teachers work time to prepare curriculum and collaborate with their teams. The early release scheduled for December 23 is cancelled.

◆ Grades 7-12 will stay in distance learning through the winter holiday break and K-6 will remain in school in the hybrid learning model unless Covid numbers change or staffing issues arise.



## SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The ZM School Board held their monthly work session November 9. Items discussed included the following:

1. Nexus High School/Middle School Project Presentation: Russ Schumacher and Adam Frankenburg from Nexus presented on the middle/high school giving a visual walk-through of the design. Construction bids will be called for in November and due December 2. Bid opening will be December 15 at 2:00 pm and a special meeting will be called to review the bids. Approval will be scheduled for December 21.
2. Mr. Harvey reported on the Covid-19 numbers and Tiffany Boraas reviewed the current status in the school and communities. At this meeting, there were over 300 students and 18 staff members quarantined or out with the virus. The county numbers are rising very fast which will affect the school learning model. As of November 9, the middle/high school is distance learning only and the K-6 has implemented hybrid learning.
3. Mr. Harvey reviewed Governor Walz' executive order requiring schools to implement an additional 30 minutes of prep time per day for teachers. This order must be in effect by November 30, 2020 and will require schools to amend the learning day to accommodate this time daily. There will be much more discussion and work to follow for the implementation of this order.
4. Mr. Harvey reviewed the Covid-19 budget numbers. The school is grateful for the various donations from the counties, cities, and townships but the expenses still exceed the funding.
5. Community Education Director, Jen Lohmann, updated the board on the community ed childcare program since Covid-19 began in March. Emergency worker childcare has reopened as of last week with the advent of distance learning. She reviewed the spacing issues and how many children they can accommodate.
6. Sports during distance learning: The State Safe Learning Plan guidance recommended that during distance learning, no sports should be allowed (November 23 or two weeks). Numbers would be reevaluated at that time. This includes youth sports at school, fall MSHSL activities and winter MSHSL activities just starting. After much discussion, the board did decide to follow the recommendation and suspend sports for two weeks. The board did vote to discontinue youth sports at school, fall MSHSL activities and winter MSHSL activities until November 23, 2020 with the numbers reevaluated at that time.
7. The district policies for review included #50 Caseload Size in Special Education, #101 Legal Status of the School District, #102 Equal Educational Opportunity, #201 Legal Status of the School Board, #202 Organization of the Board, #203 Operation of the School Board Governing Rules, #203.1 School Board Procedures Rules of Order, #203.2 Operation of the School Board Governing Rules, and #203.5 School Board Meeting Agenda. They will be on the

agenda November 23 for approval.

8. Policies reviewed included #50 Caseload Size in Special Education, #101 Legal Status of the School District, #102 Equal Educational Opportunity, #201 Legal Status of the School Board, #202 Organization of the Board, #203 Operation of the School Board Governing Rules, #203.1 School Board Procedures Rules of Order, #203.2 Operation of the School Board Governing Rules, and #203.5 School Board Meeting Agenda.

The board went into a closed session to discuss the purchase price of property for sale near the Mazeppa Elementary School. Properties were identified as 278 Chestnut Street NE, 473 Third Avenue NE, and 178 Maple Street NE.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

The board canvassed the school board election on November 13 at 6:30 a.m. The total number of voters was 7,515 and the ballot counts were as follows: Jason Lohmann 2,914; Stephanie Miller 2,696, and Angie Bredehoft 2,588. There were 85 write-in votes. The resolution canvassing the returns was adopted, along with the resolution authorizing the issuance of certificates of election.

The board met for their regular monthly meeting on November 23. The usual business, including payment of bills, was conducted.

Reports: Mr. Anderson reported for the middle/high school. He expressed appreciation to the 7-12 teachers and paras for their work during the hybrid model and now during the full-time distance learning transition. Another parent/student survey will be launched in December to gather feedback on the distance learning. Staff is working on finalizing the registration guide for students in grades 6-11 for the 2021-22 school year with registration attempted in mid-January. Mr. Anderson also presented graduate trend data from 2016-2020.

Mr. Rasmussen reported for the elementary school. He also expressed great appreciation to the paras and teachers for their flexibility and ability to teach during these difficult times. Conference attendance was 98%.

Ms. Ahern reported on the primary playground installation as well as the Halloween celebration held in individual classrooms. The primary had a 99% family conference attendance rate.

A finance report on Covid expenses and revenue was available for board review. Mr. Harvey reviewed the various areas where dollars were used.

Mr. Harvey reported that enrollment numbers were 1,262. Any board members wishing to attend the MSBA virtual conference in January should let Brenda know for registration purposes.

There was no patron input.

Mr. Harvey recommended that the board review the MSHSL sports/activities at the December 21 meeting after the Governor's executive order expires.

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## Superintendent Message, continued from page 1

safe than students in neighboring districts who are not going every day. We are implementing the same levels of protection for students, but because we added resources such as teachers and space early, your kids can come every day in our hybrid model. Know that this is a very fluid situation that can change quickly. Changes can occur because of local cases or from changes in State orders. Please stay tuned to the latest as we navigate the ever-changing landscape of Covid 19.

7-12 Lunch Information—Reminder to middle/high school students: While you are distance learning, you are eligible for free breakfast and lunch. How does it work? Fill out the Free Meal Form and submit before 8:00 a.m. each Monday. The form is also found on the school website under the Free Meal Information article. You or your parent/guardian can pick up your free breakfast and lunch for the week from 1:30 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. each Wednesday. For Mazeppa pickup, drive up to Door 15 or for Zumbrota pickup, go to the ZM Primary School front door. For the safety of our staff, quarantining students should not accompany the driver to the meal pick up.

Per public health, we are seeing cases from birthday parties and from people who are supposed to quarantine and are not. We are all part of the solution to this. More cases will keep our kids out of school and out of the activities that they enjoy. Locally we are not making the rules on this. We are trying to keep your kids in school, but we need your help. We do not like this any more than any of you, but truly our actions can make a difference and keep more people safe!

Michael Harvey, Superintendent of Schools

## School Board Minutes, continued from page 2

The board approved the following district policies: #50 Caseload Size in Special Education, #101 Legal Status of the School District, #102 Equal Educational Opportunity, #201 Legal Status of the School Board, #202 Organization of the Board, #203 Operation of the School Board Governing Rules, #203.1 School Board Procedures Rules of Order, #203.2 Operation of the School Board Governing Rules, and #203.5 School Board Meeting Agenda.

The board approved the consent agenda, including payment of the bills as follows:

1. Approval of minutes:
  - A) 10/26/20 Meeting
  - B) 11/9/20 Work Session
  - C) 11/13/20 Canvass Election Meeting
2. Approval of Hires
  - A) Claudia Vanderborght, Long-term Spanish substitute teacher, beginning 1/9/21-4/1/21
3. Approval of resignations
  - A) Joy Post, Paraprofessional, effective 11/24/2020
4. Approval of tenure—none
5. Approval of reassignment—none
6. Approval of childcare leave—none
7. Approval of terminations—none
8. Approval of fundraisers—none
9. Approval of donations
  - A) City of Zumbrota and Roscoe and Zumbrota townships for their CARES donations
  - B) Mazeppa American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 588 for their elementary library donation
10. Approval of grants—none
11. Approval of lane changes
  - A) Ashley Buchholz, MA to MA+10
12. Approval of bill consideration—Ms. Roth November and Ms. Bredehoft December

There was discussion of the possibility of E sports beginning in the school. This is a video sports club where students compete in video games against other schools. Mr. Harvey wanted the board to be aware of this possibly beginning at ZM. The 2020-21 enrollment options report was reviewed. Mr. Harvey said the

middle/high school construction project is out for bids and bids will be approved at the December 21 meeting. The World's Best Workforce was approved as presented and the McGraw Hill science curriculum in the amount of \$74,913.78 was approved for grades K-9.

Mr. Harvey updated the board on Covid-19 and how the county numbers are affecting our learning model. The local Covid response team met last week to review the local county data and it was reported that transmission rates in the 5-9 year-old group was low. Staffing poses the greatest challenge right now along with bus transportation. The board discussed the situation with Kennedy Transportation and school nurse, Tiffany Boraas. The board's recommendation was to keep grades K-6 in school as long as possible and to continue with distance learning for grades 7-12 until the winter break. The board approved December 11 and 23 as teacher workdays with no students and to continue grades 7-12 in distance learning until December 23 and at the December 21 meeting, the learning model for these grades after winter break will be considered again.

Board Comments and Reports: Ms. Miller questioned the dance team and their Zoom practice sessions. The dance team is able to continue with practices right now as they were already in their season before the Governor's lock-down. The varsity coach was available to answer questions.

Pertinent Dates:

12/14 - School Board Work Session, 12/21 - Tax Hearing- Adoption Meeting, 6:30 p.m. with Regular Meeting to Follow 12/23 - No School/Teacher Workday, 12/24-1/1 - Holiday Break 1/4 - School Resumes. School Board Organization Meeting 6:00 p.m. (note earlier start).

Future agenda items include the truth in taxation hearing on December 21 at 6:30 p.m. This meeting will be a Zoom meeting and those wishing to comment during the meeting will need to email their comments to Board Chair Jean Roth prior to the meeting at [jeanr@zmsch.k12.mn.us](mailto:jeanr@zmsch.k12.mn.us).

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.



We want to remind parents that we will be implementing Weather Impacted Learning Days (WILD) days again this year.

In the event that weather keeps us from having school, the first day will not be a WILD day. Please have your child

check Schoology for assignments on WILD days or in the case of younger students have them complete the predetermined activities.

Although the type of learning looks different for different age groups, Online Learning remains a good option for a majority of our students when traditional face to face learning cannot take place.

Parent Choice: Often times predicting weather and road conditions is not a one size fits all decision. Parent opinions on the topic vary from: we should never shut down to, call it off at the first flake of snow. The district weighs a lot of circumstances when making the decision. As a parent, you also weigh in on decisions when weather becomes questionable. If you have a young driver, have them ride the bus and if you ever question the safe-ty of travel in your area of the school district, you as a parent can decide to keep your child home. Our district covers

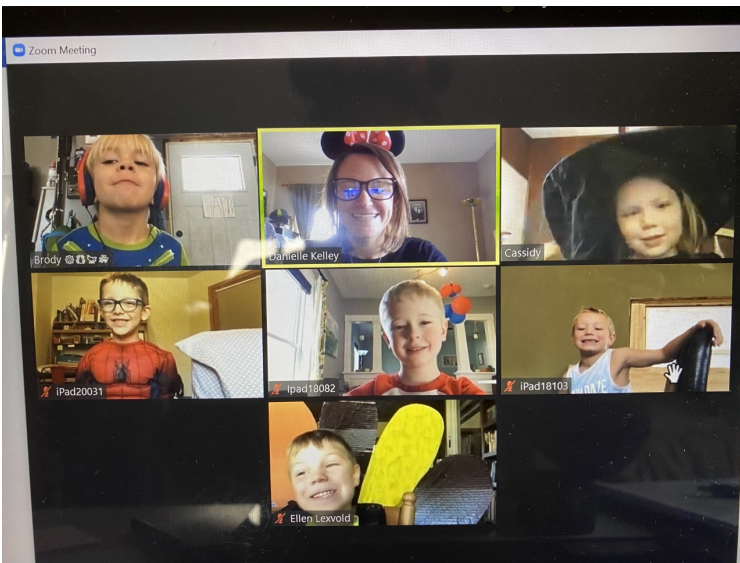
several municipalities and many townships. If the majority of these roads are plowed and a few are not, we may hold school. This is where we rely on you to make the best decision based on your circumstances.

School Notification: In addition to Text Messaging, E-mail, and Facebook, school notifications will also go out via WCCO 4, KTTC 10, KMSP 9, KARE 11, KAAL 6.

In order to receive notices of school weather closings or any emergency message from the school, it is vital that you update your information on the Parent Portal portion of Infinite Campus. If you wish to receive emails, calls, texts, etc., your current phone number and email needs to be entered into the Portal.



To obtain portal permission, fill out the permission form found on the school website or in any of the school offices. Fill it out and return to your child's school principal's office to register for your GUID number. This information cannot be mailed or emailed for security reasons. This registration is one time only.



**Celebrating Halloween via distance learning in the Primary & pumpkin painting with social distancing in Grade 2**

## Learning Model

ZM moved to a distance learning model for grades 7-12 on November 9. K-6 moved to a hybrid setting. This learning model change was due to the rising Covid-19 numbers in the school and communities.

The school board also halted all school and MSHSL activities for two weeks at their November 9 work session. It is hoped that through these precautionary measures, the virus spread may slow down. Please continue to practice social distancing and wear a mask—this is for everyone's health and safety!

## FREE MEALS FOR CHILDREN AGES 0-18

ZM Schools is offering free breakfast and lunch for children ages 0-18 through a state waiver program. This program is similar to the Grab 'n Go meal program that ran this past summer. The waiver for the free meal program will only be in effect until December 31, 2020 or earlier if funds are exhausted. Meals are free to any child age 0-18. ZM requests that the distance learners (NOT the hybrid students) also use this form for ordering meals. (Students currently in school, including hybrid students, are already covered under the free meal program explained in the article above). To order breakfast and lunch for the week,

parents/guardians should complete and submit the form each **Monday by 8:00 a.m.** Meals will be available for pick up by an adult or child/student between 1:30-2:00 p.m. each Wednesday at Door 1 in Mazeppa or the Primary School Door in Zumbrota. It is important that the meals are picked up promptly between the required time frame. Questions? Call 507-732-1400.

Note that the parent/guardian needs to submit a new order form each Monday to ensure an accurate count for Wednesday pick up. **The form is available on the school website ([www.zmschools.us](http://www.zmschools.us)) under the "How to Order Free Meals" article.**

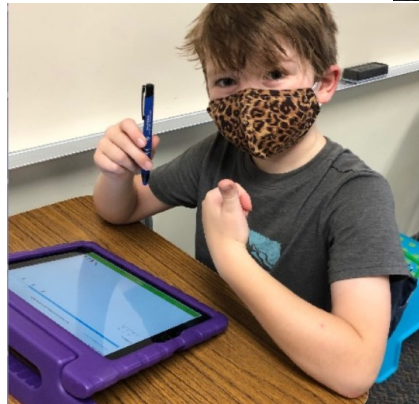
This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider



Kindergarten Strong!!



Fun in the leaves while learning



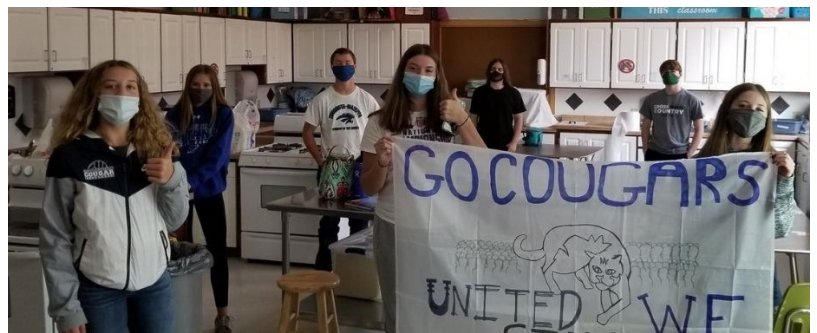
Enjoying & studying during one of the last nice days of November

and

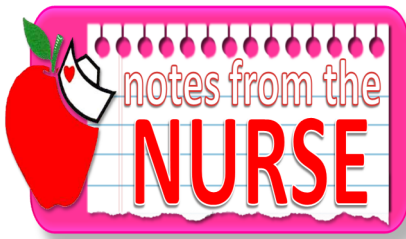
Thank you to the Bank of Zumbrota for supplying grade 4 students with iPad styluses



Studying mass in grade 8 science class



Family Consumer Science class showing their pride



### **COVID-19 Incubation Period and Quarantine:**

A lot of people are struggling with why they need to quarantine for 14 days after exposure to a positive case of COVID-19 when the “feel fine” and get a negative test. Here is an explanation to help you understand why this is important.

COVID-19 symptoms can start at any time during the incubation period.

COVID-19 tests capture the virus status at that moment. With the example below, Sally did not have enough viral load at her first test and tested negative. At the time of the second test, she did have enough viral load and tested positive. Even if you receive a negative test result you must quarantine for 14 days and watch for symptoms to prevent spreading the disease to others.

Quarantine means you stay in your house. You do not go shopping, to hair appointments or visit friends who are also in quarantine. You should also be staying away from the rest of your family members if possible, so that if you start showing symptoms, they are less likely to get sick. Together we can help stop the spread of COVID-19!

**No Cost At Home COVID-19 Saliva Testing for all Minnesotans:** Minnesota is proud to offer at-home COVID-19 saliva testing for any person who wants to be tested, with or without symptoms, at no cost. This saliva test is just as accurate as the nasal swab test and is available at no cost for every Minnesotan, whether or not you have insurance. With the COVID-19 positivity rate climbing higher than ever before, expanding access to COVID-19 testing to all communities across the state is critical to keeping Minnesotans informed and safe. More information about this partnership with Vault Medical Services is available [Minnesota Department of Health’s website](#), including information on how to order test (<https://learn.vaulthealth.com/state-of-minnesota/>).

**Influenza season is upon us:** The Influenza clinics in October were a huge success!! We vaccinated 322 students/staff at our school and community clinics.

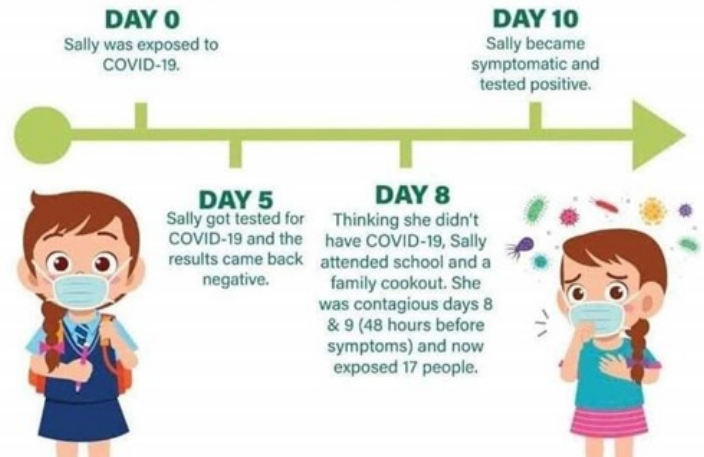
**It is not too late to get the Influenza vaccine!** Influenza is a contagious respiratory infection that spreads around the United States every year, usually between October and May. Symptoms can vary by age, but can include: fever/chills, sore throat, cough, muscle aches, headache, fatigue, runny or stuffy nose. Flu can also lead to pneumonia and worsen other medical conditions. Many of these are like symptoms of COVID-19.

Please report the following symptoms to the office to help us

## **COVID-19 INCUBATION TIMELINE**

COVID-19 has up to a 14 day incubation period

**SALLY WAS EXPOSED TO COVID-19.**



monitor influenza-like-illness: Fever of 100 degrees or higher with a sore throat and/or cough. Students may also have fatigue, headache and body aches.

### **November is National Epilepsy Awareness Month!!**

According to the [World Health Organization](#), epilepsy is the most common serious brain disorder worldwide with no age, racial, social class, national or geographic boundaries. The [U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#) (CDC) estimates that 3.4 million people in the United States are affected by epilepsy. It is the underlying tendency of the brain to produce seizures which are sudden abnormal bursts of electrical energy that disrupt brain functions.

#### **Seizure First Aid**

Seizure First Aid is simple - Three S's: Stay, Safe, Side.

**STAY** with the person and start timing the seizure. Remain calm and check for medical ID.

Keep the person **SAFE**. Move or guide away from harmful objects.

Turn the person onto their **SIDE** if they are not awake and aware. Don't block airway, put something small and soft under the head, loosen tight clothes around neck.

Do **NOT** put anything in their mouth. Don't give water, pills or food until the person is awake.

Do **NOT** restrain.

**STAY** with them until they are awake and alert after the seizure. Most seizures end in a few minutes.

#### **When to Call 911**

Seizure lasts longer than 5 minutes

Repeated seizures

Difficulty breathing

Seizure occurs in water

Person is injured, pregnant, or sick

Person does not return to their usual state

First time seizure