

# The *WORLD* of ZCMS

*W*orship

*O*wnership

*R*elationship

*L*eadership

*D*iscipleship

**Worship:** An important part of our middle school world is worship. Beginning in the morning with our daily devotions, sharing times, prayers, and continuing throughout the day with chapels and small group Bible studies, our praise and worship of God sets the tone for our daily school experiences.

**Ownership:** Yes, technically the parents own the school. But we want our students to strongly identify with ZCMS. All middle school students, but particularly the eighth graders, have important roles to play in the day to day functioning of our school. Through our spring Leadership Camp, future eighth graders give their input regarding school environment, discipline, activities, chapels, teacher expectations, etc. Eighth graders also choose the school theme for the year as well as design and paint a mural in the hallway based on that theme. We want our students to feel positively about their school – that comes from the pride of ownership.

**Relationship:** In the Worship aspect of ZCMS, we develop our relationship with God. But we are also called by God to be in a right relationship with each other. At ZCMS we take this very seriously. We intentionally set apart times in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades for building positive Christian relationships among students and teachers. Through camps, special days and activities, family groups, and small groups, ZCMS places a strong emphasis on living in community with others.

**Leadership:** Positive student leadership is essential for a successful middle school. It has become a tradition at ZCMS that eighth graders lead the way. The expectation is that all eighth graders are leaders. Some, however, are chosen for more specific roles. At the spring Leadership Camp, future eighth graders choose a Planning Team from among their peers. This group of students helps make decisions on matters which impact the middle school throughout the school year. Eighth grade Small Group leaders and co-leaders take an active leadership role during our Bible study times. The Worship Class plans and leads our middle school chapels. We rely heavily on our positive eighth grade leaders.

**Discipleship:** A natural result of Worship, Ownership, Relationship, and Leadership is Discipleship – the desire to live for and rely on Jesus. As part of our Leadership Camp, eighth graders participate in a Jewish ceremony called Mikveh. During that ceremony each student rededicates his or her life to God. This rededication translates into service – first in everyday life at ZCMS and second to a wider service in our community and even around the world. ZCMS students participate in many community projects and assist Christian ministries around the world.

Mr. Van Dyk

Mr. Heeres

With the WORLD of ZCMS as a foundation, we need some basic information about how to do school. Students always have specific questions – especially sixth graders and other students new to our school. Hopefully, the following questions and answers will help students and parents understand what is expected of ZCMS students.

### **What should I do to get ready for the first day of school?**

1. A \$20 Activity Fee (checks made out to ZCS) should be paid to your homeroom teacher. This fee covers the cost of Camp Geneva Day, the Christmas Serve and Skate Day, and one other grade level activity.
2. You will need to purchase some supplies.
  - a. A 2” three-ring binder, a plastic pocket for pens and pencils, subject dividers, black or blue pens, pencils, colored pencils, colored markers, straight edge, and lined notebook paper (not spiral).
  - b. Eighth graders need a graphing calculator (TI-83) that may be purchased at Staples or many other stores.
  - c. Seventh and eighth graders need graph paper – hole punched.
  - d. Students in seventh and eighth grades who participate in sports are required to buy shorts from ZCMS at a cost of \$12. These must be used for games (soccer, volleyball, basketball) and purchased from Mr. Heeres.

### **What about attendance?**

1. The first bell rings at 7:35 – please head for class. The start bell rings at 7:40. Please be in your seats and ready to go.
2. If you are absent due to sickness, a parent must call the absentee line at 741-0051 before 9:00 A.M. so the office staff is informed. It is the students’ responsibility to get assignments and tests made up as soon as possible. “Homework Buddies” will write down your assignments for the day and put that list in your locker at 2:40. It is always a good idea to double check with your teachers when you return to find out if assignments were collected or tests assigned while you were absent.
3. If you must leave school during the school day or arrive at school after it starts, please sign in or out in the office so that our staff can keep accurate records.
4. If your parents want to take you out of school for a day or more, you must complete an “I’m Going on Vacation” form. These may be picked up in the office and then signed by all your teachers.
5. Remember to turn in “vacation” homework and make up tests and quizzes when you return. The Infinite Campus grading program counts missing work as zeroes.

### **What should I wear?**

The guidelines are very simple: moderation and appropriateness. Some popular styles do not comply with these guidelines so please be thoughtful when buying school clothes. Here are some more specific suggestions which may help you:

1. Pants, jeans, and shorts with shirts or tops that are neat and in good taste are acceptable. That means no bare midriffs, no low cut tops, and appropriate coverage when bending over or sitting in the classroom.
2. Shorts and skirts should come at least halfway between the hip and knee.
3. Students may not wear clothing that promotes alcohol, drugs, music groups, or any wording or illustration that has sexual suggestiveness or an unchristian connotation.
4. If any question arises on what is appropriate, the clothing should be checked before it is worn.
5. If you wear something “iffy”, a staff member will give you something else to wear for the day.

### **What about sports?**

1. Zeeland Christian belongs to the A.O.K. Christian Athletic League. It includes these Christian schools: Byron Center, Legacy, Heritage, Hope, Moline, and Dutton.
2. ZCMS offers these sports for seventh and eighth graders:
  - a. Early fall – Boys’ soccer and girls’ volleyball
  - b. Late fall – Boys’ basketball
  - c. Winter – Girls’ basketball
  - d. Spring – Boys’ baseball and track, girls’ soccer, softball, and track
3. If a team is made up of only seventh graders, there are no cuts. More than one team will be made if necessary.
4. In addition to the sports mentioned above, ZCMS participates in a co-op sports program with Holland Christian Middle School. This program is sanctioned by the Michigan High School Athletic Association and includes football, cross country (boys and girls), swimming and diving (boys and girls), boys’ tennis, competitive cheer, and lacrosse. Additional sports may be added at a later date.
5. All students participating in ZCMS sports must have an up-to-date sports physical card on file with Mr. Heeres. (“Up-to-date” means the card is dated on or after April 15 of the year the school year began. For this year it’s April 15, 2010.)
6. An athlete participating in a ZCS sport may not play games on another team of that sport during the ZCS season. (This is a MHSAA rule.)
7. Athletic eligibility:
  - a. An athlete who uses or possesses illegal substances will be ineligible and subject to probation.
  - b. An athlete may be ineligible for up to two games if classroom work or school behavior is not appropriate or up to the standards of a ZCMS athlete.
  - c. In order to participate in a game, an athlete must be in school for afternoon classes the day of a game. (There are exceptions for ortho, doctor, family situations, etc. Please clear these ahead of time with Mr. Heeres or Mr. Nagelkirk.)

### **What’s the grading scale at ZCMS?**

97-100=A	93-96=A-	90-92=B+	86-89=B	82-85=B-	79-81=C+
75-78=C	71-74=C-	68-70=D+	64-67=D	60-63=D-	0-59=E

### **What about report cards?**

Due to the addition of the Infinite Campus online grade report program, ZCMS will not send home printed report cards. Grades and assignments may be checked online at any time.

### **What about band?**

1. Students may drop band only at the end of the first semester or before band begins in the fall.
2. Students who drop band at the end of the first semester will be put into an exploration if there is room or do an independent study.

### **What about discipline at ZCMS?**

ZCMS wants to maintain a Christian educational environment for its students. A few simple rules make this quite easy.

1. Your behavior must not be a problem for anyone else. (Example: “Hands off”)
2. Your behavior must be safe for you and others. (Example: no running)
3. If you make a bad choice, there will be an appropriate, fair consequence.
4. If you cause a problem, you must be part of the solution.

### **Are there any school-wide rules I should know about?**

1. ZCS as well as all schools in Michigan have had to adopt a weapons and extreme behavior policy. The ZCS School board will permanently expel any student who possesses a dangerous weapon, commits arson or a violent crime in a ZCS building or on ZCS property including buses used in transporting students. (The complete policy is available in the office.)
2. In compliance with other area schools, ZCS has also adopted a Substance Abuse Policy: “Any student who has an illegal substance in his/her possession at ZCS will receive a minimum of a one day in-school suspension. The student faces the possibility of expulsion which will be determined by the Education Committee of the School Board.”

### **Are there any day to day rules that I should know about?**

There are some general every day rules that we need just to keep our school day running smoothly and to avoid any confusion. Some of these you probably won't agree with, but we have found them necessary to do ZCMS the right way.

1. Sorry – no gum at school. It's too messy and too distracting. This means before, during, and after school.
2. Beverage and snack machines are to be used after school only. (Exceptions: water may be purchased at noon or if your class is having a special snack day.)
3. Please park bikes only in the bike racks.

4. iPods, etc. may not be used before or during the school day. After school use is ok unless you are part of a ZCMS activity (sports, play, etc.)
5. Students should use the pay phone. (See Mr. Heeres if you have an emergency.)
6. You have the right to open only your locker. Do not use tape on your lockers – only magnets or poster putty.
7. Once you arrive at school in the morning, you may not leave the school grounds without permission.
8. Teachers may not supply students with any medication. It's the law.
9. Stay in designated middle school areas both in the building and on the playground. (Your teacher will explain.)
10. Be respectful to all adults in the building – especially our visitors.
11. Please be responsible with playground equipment. Bring it in even if you didn't take it out. Thanks.
12. You may use the gym only with permission and only with sports equipment from the gym. (In other words you may not use your sports equipment or equipment intended for outdoor use in the gym.)
13. Cell phones may not be used during the school day without permission.

### **Laptop Reminders:**

1. Laptops may be used before school or at noon for doing homework only.
2. Laptops may not be kept in lockers.
3. Laptops not taken home at night must be in a classroom recharging.
4. After school laptops may be used in a classroom until further notice.
5. If you are not sure what to do – ask first, please.

### **Wow! Is that it?**

Just a few gentle reminders that help our days go smoothly.

1. Be ready to start when the teacher is.
2. Listen carefully and follow directions.
3. Keep an accurate, up-to-date assignment list either in your binder or on your laptop.
4. Help keep classrooms and hallways clean by doing your part.
5. Be respectful and courteous to all teachers, students, and visitors in the building.
6. Always do your best.

Remember our Theme and Verse:

“Priceless”

Psalm 36:7 “How priceless is your unfailing love. Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings.”