

Zion Lutheran School

Christ-Centered, Classical Education

EARLY CHILDHOOD HANDBOOK 2023-2024

This publication will guide you, the parent of a Zion preschooler and/or prekindergartener, through the various aspects of your child's schooling. Please refer to this document for specific program information, class schedules and rules, and school policies on health, discipline, school closings, and the like.



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GENERAL INFORMATION

WELCOME!



Zion Lutheran School has a rich history of 92 years of Christ-centered education and is the proud inaugural home of the “Best Preschool of Kearney” award. We are glad to have the opportunity to share our story with you. If you can’t find what you are looking for in this document, try our website (www.zionkearney.org), give us a call at (308) 234-3410, or email the principal at anthony.splittgerber@zionkearney.org.



MISSION STATEMENT

We strive to provide an excellent, classical education in a safe environment, while connecting students to Christ for life in the church, world, and eternity.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

As part of the total ministry of Zion Lutheran Church, our purpose is to serve families who desire Christ-centered education and care for their children. We work in partnership with parents who have the primary and most critical role of nurturing their children. Our goal is to provide a safe, caring, educational, and uniquely Christian environment for children in which they can grow and experience the love of Jesus. We hope to work together with parents to strengthen all families according to God's plan and purpose.

Luke 2:52 says: "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." We believe that like Jesus, children also grow in wisdom and stature. We are dedicated to this growth of the whole child. The environment and programs are carefully planned to provide challenging and interesting activities. Plenty of time is allowed for meaningful play- a valuable learning tool and a pleasant, enjoyable approach to discovery and creativity. Outdoor and indoor play, music, literature, art, large and small motor experiences, science and math are some activities children enjoy daily. Through teacher interaction and

Biblical instruction, children learn about the love of God through Jesus, and the wonders of the world around them.

At Zion Lutheran School we recognize the five basic needs of the individual. These needs are spiritual, mental, emotional, social and physical. We always seek to meet these needs in a variety of ways throughout the day. First and foremost, we recognize that all of our spiritual needs have been met in Jesus Christ who also provides all that we need to support this body and life. Then we are able to challenge students mentally as well as physically. We are also able to help our students understand their God-given emotions and help them learn to live as a Christian in a non-Christian society.

As students grow in God's Word they learn to distinguish between the Law and the Gospel. The Law of God always reveals our sin and convicts us of that sin, but the Gospel always points us to the suffering and death of Jesus Christ for our salvation. Our salvation was earned completely by Jesus Christ, and not by anything that we could have done.

Our school strives to teach the words of Colossians 3:16 which say, "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

We affirm that Lutheran Schools:

- † Care a great deal about sharing the message of salvation in Jesus Christ to a dying world.
- † Assist the parents in their God-given responsibility of raising a child in the “nurture and admonition of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4)
- † Use professionally trained Christian teachers that share the Law and Gospel by modeling Christian principles and by providing safe, disciplined classrooms for learning.
- † “Let the little children come to [Jesus].” (Matthew 19:14)
- † Are a great place to grow!

The goal of Zion Lutheran School is to prepare students to live a productive life that is spiritually, emotionally and intellectually pleasing to their Lord. This means living in faith as children of our Heavenly Father who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ. Zion Lutheran School recognizes and respects the right of the state to teach, yet reserves its God-given responsibility to instruct its children within the framework of God’s Word. Through the combined effort of home, church and school, we strive to model redeemed, God-loving, moral citizens who show respect for their Triune God, for their fellow man, and for their country. We encourage you to become familiar with our facility and our staff. We value good communication, as it helps us meet the individual needs of each family. We appreciate hearing your concerns and compliments.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Zion admits students of any race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, and other school-administered programs.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

PRESCHOOL: THREE YEAR OLDS

SCHEDULE: This class meets mornings from 8:15 am to 11:15 am.

CLASS SIZE: Each 3 yr. old section is capped at a maximum of 16 students.

STUDENT/TEACHER RATIO: 8:1 each preschool class has a teacher and an aide.

SECTIONS: Zion is currently offering two sections of preschool. We offer a Tuesday/Thursday section and a Monday/Wednesday/Friday section. Last year we filled these sections very quickly, so do not delay if you want a spot. If the classes reach their maximum, we will start a waiting list.

TEACHER: to be determined

PREKINDERGARTEN: FOUR & FIVE YEAR OLDS

SCHEDULE: MORNING-ONLY CLASS: This class meets every day, Monday thru Friday, mornings from 8:15 am to 11:15 am. Morning students do have the option of staying for lunch; for these students, dismissal is at 11:40 a.m.
FULL DAY CLASS: 8:15-3:15 p.m.

CLASS SIZE: Each 4 yr. old section is capped at a maximum of 16 students.

STUDENT/TEACHER RATIO: 8:1 each prekindergarten class has a teacher and an aide.

SECTION: Zion currently offers two sections of all-week prekindergarten: a morning section, and an all-day session.

TEACHERS: Mrs. Sarah Filbert will each teach the morning-only section of this class and Mrs. Halva will teach the full-day pre-k class. Both teachers will have a classroom aide.

Five year olds are admitted as well, since kindergarten readiness varies from child to child. There is no shame in this – research shows that it is far better for a child to wait a year than to start before they are ready!

TUITION & FEES

To reserve a place on the roster for your child you must pay a registration fee of \$100 + the first month's tuition. This fee is non-refundable. We must charge this fee to pay for supplies but also to insure that only serious applicants apply. We often have to turn people away once a class fills up so if someone signs up and changes their mind, we have lost a potential client.

Tuition can be paid monthly by automatic withdrawal or by cash or check in lump sums. For the 2022-2023 year Zion is contracting with FACTS to handle all payments. Families will receive information on this in the summer mailing.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

- 1) All prekindergarten students must be at least five years old by July 31 in order to enter kindergarten for the 2022-23 school year. We are somewhat flexible with birthdates in our early childhood programs. If your child comes of age to enter kindergarten between the dates of Aug. 1st and Oct. 15th, you, the parents, can request that this requirement be waived. The requirement can and will be waived if you meet one of three criteria set forth by the state. For more information on this, please see the principal.
- 2) Preschoolers need to be potty-trained. We understand that there may be the occasional accident and pull-ups are allowed for preschoolers who are in the final stages of bathroom independence.

- a. For the protection of your child, teachers and aides do not enter the stall nor will they assist in any cleanup. In extreme circumstances where adult help is needed (i.e. diarrhea) parents will be called and another adult will be present during cleanup.
- b. Please always have an extra change of clothes in your child's backpack.

RECORDS, REQUIRED FORMS, & ACCOUNTS

Prior to enrollment, the following must be completed. Final registration day will be by appointment only on July 28 & 29, 2022. Please be prepared to submit this information then.

- 1) Child registration form with signed permissions page.
- 2) Copy of a valid, state-issued birth certificate
- 3) Completed health form
- 4) Current record of immunizations. Families that choose to not immunize must complete a special refusal form. This is a state requirement.
- 5) If you think you may ever be a field trip driver, we will need to make a copy of your driver's license and insurance.
- 6) Lunch & Milk accounts. Lunch is only available as an option for prekindergarten students; there are milk fees for all preschool/pre-k classes.

CURRICULUM & SCHEDULES

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

ARRIVAL

- **MORNING students:** school starts at 8:15. Students may be dropped off no earlier than 7:45 a.m. The drop-off location for those arriving between 7:45 and 8:10 will be in the SOUTH parking lot only this year. Children should only enter the classroom if a teacher is present in the room. If the teacher is not in the room, please wait patiently with your child. **TIP:** Prior to the start of school, have your child use the restroom! This is a big help!

DISMISSAL

- We will not release your child until you are out of your vehicle and physically close enough that we feel safe dismissing them to you. Under no circumstances will we allow students to run across the parking lot.
- **PRESCHOOL:** Please pick up your child(ren) at the NORTH parking lot. Dismissal is at 11:15. Students not picked up by 11:25 will wait outside the school office. Please enter the building and check your child out with the administrative assistant.
- **PREKINDERGARTEN:** Please pick up your child at the SOUTH parking lot.
 - **MORNING PRE-K:** Dismissal for students not eating lunch is 11:15, and 11:40 for those eating lunch. Students not picked up after 11:20 will have to be picked up at the school office.

- FULL-DAY PRE-K: Dismissal is at 3:15 in the NORTH parking lot. Students will be taken to the office at 3:30 so that the elementary school can dismiss.

NON-PARENT PICKUP

Any person picking up a child (other than a parent or persons indicated at final registration), must have written permission from the parent and be prepared to show a valid picture ID. A note (or text) from a parent must be presented to the teacher prior to the release of a child.

DAILY SCHEDULE

The following is a basic plan that our early childhood classes follow in the morning. The schedule may vary slightly on any given day and at the teacher's discretion.

- CALENDAR/CIRCLE TIME: Calendar, weather, days, months, seasons, letter and number introductions, color, shapes, and stories
- CHAPEL: Held every Wednesday at 8:20 am. Children are integrated into school family groups with students from the upper grades. Older children help younger students in the chapel setting. Parents are welcome to attend.
- LEARNING CENTERS: A variety of options are available each day. Centers encourage development of fine and gross motor skills, pre-reading/writing activities, math, science, dramatic play, and age appropriate critical thinking skills.
- JESUS TIME: Bible stories, songs, prayers, puppets, flannel figures – all used to show God's unconditional love for each student.

- RECESS: Free play outside (weather permitting) or structured/free play in the gymnasium.
- SNACK: Provided by students on a weekly, rotating basis. School will provide white milk for a drink.
- THEME: Stories, reenactments, readiness activities, and arts & crafts.
- LIBRARY: Students will visit the library once a week and are allowed to check out one book for one week.
- REST: Students in the all-day program will have an afternoon rest period.

SNACK NOTES

Students will need to bring their own snacks for the milk break.

SNACK Tips:

- Healthy/nutritious snacks are preferred. Healthier snacks tend to replenish the body, reduce unwanted behaviors, and avoid allergies and reactions to artificial colors and preservatives.
- White milk will be provided as the drink.
- Avoid snacks with food dyes or nuts (some students have allergies).

LUNCH

Lunch is available for students in the morning and full-day prekindergarten programs. At final registration you will be asked if your child will be staying for lunch. They may purchase a hot lunch or bring their own sack lunch.

Lunch accounts can also be set up on final registration day. Free and reduced lunches are available for those who qualify. Please inquire at the school office if you have any questions about how our lunch program works.

CURRICULUM NOTES

Students will be involved in daily Bible study activities through the use of the *One-In-Christ* Bible curriculum in the 3-5 year old classes. Using basic Christian concepts, we will share God's love through Bible stories, songs, prayers and worship. Chapel will be held on Wednesdays each week. You will receive a family handout each week that goes over the Bible stories taught each week.

ASSESSMENT

We do not formally assess preschool (3 yr. old) students. Students in prekindergarten are assessed on a variety of skills in the fall and again in the spring. The teachers will be looking for specific items that will help gauge strengths and weaknesses before the students enter kindergarten. The results of both formal assessment and informal observations will be discussed with parents at the spring parent-teacher conference, though parents are always encouraged to discuss progress with the teacher throughout the year.

FIELD TRIPS

All early childhood classes take field trips into the community (and the country!) throughout the year. Parents will be notified through newsletters and will be asked to sign permission forms. Parents will be needed as chaperones and drivers. Please consider being a driver if your schedule will allow. A copy of your driver's license and insurance will need to be made and kept on file; all drivers will also need to submit to a background check to ensure the safety of the children.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

ABSENCES & TARDIES

Parents should phone in any absence from 8:15-8:45 am. If no call is made, the school will contact the parent or guardian to determine the reason for the absence.

TARDIES CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR EVERYONE

When a student is tardy to school it creates many difficulties for the teacher(s), the other students, the office staff, the administration, the parents and the student.

FIRST: It is unfair to the **teacher**. The teacher must stop the instruction of the other students in order to enter the tardy student. This creates a class disturbance for the teacher, and the students who were on time and prepared for class. The teacher must correct the class attendance record and the lunch count for the day and inform the office of the changes. The teacher attempts to “catch the late student up” with the class, and then attempts to return all the students to the point in the instruction where the class was when it was interrupted by the late student. Continuity of instruction is extremely important for the students. It can, and usually does, take several minutes to “get the class back on track.” It is important instructional time that is lost.

SECOND: It is unfair to the **students** who were on time and prepared for class. This is a disturbance to them. Tardy students cause instructional time to be taken away from these responsible students.

THIRD: It is unfair to the **administrative assistants** in the office. They must correct the lunch count and attendance for the day by contacting the hot lunch provider and informing them of the late arriving child so that adequate hot lunches can be prepared.

FOURTH: It is unfair to the **student** who is tardy. The tardy student misses very important instruction that usually cannot be duplicated. By missing this instruction, **the student's** basic skill level may drop and even lead to a failure in particular classes. It is unfair to the **student** because it teaches them a pattern of late arrivals for homework, appointments, job interviews, deadlines are acceptable when in fact it is not. This is a life skill a child is developing. It is unfair to the **student** because the student misses valuable relationship building time with the teacher and classmates before school begins.

FIFTH: It is unfair to the **parents**. When a student is tardy, parents are often inconvenienced or late for their daily schedules and routines. Being tardy usually causes stress and strains relationships. Eventually parents will need to take time to visit with the administration when concerted effort can resolve these difficulties before they become a pattern.

All this can happen just because a student is tardy to school. By working together we hope students' tardiness will be prevented.

COMMUNICATION

One of the keys to a successful school year is communication with your child's teacher and the school office. The teachers and the Zion office try to use multiple avenues of communication so that you know what's happening. Zion uses the following to communicate with parents:

- REMIND app
- Text messaging
- Weekly newsletter (look for this in your child's backpack weekly)
- Zion app (for whole school updates such as snow days, cancellations, special upcoming events, etc). Download the app, go to settings, and enable notifications.

It's Everything Zion Kearney, **in your pocket.**

Cafeteria Menus · Events · Staff Directory · Alerts · Athletics



DISCIPLINE

Good communication between teacher, child, and parent helps to make the total area of discipline a positive, beneficial experience. We use positive methods of discipline, which encourage self-direction and good self-esteem in a firm consistent manner. We will use the following methods:

- Give positive directions (explain to child what they should do).
- Redirect the child to an appropriate activity.
- Talk to the child, and help the child express any feelings he/she is having.
- Give opportunity for the child(ren) to problem-solve under our direction, and give suggestions for solutions when necessary.
- Remove the child from the source of conflict for an age appropriate break.
- Give choices whenever possible
- Share Christ's forgiveness and remind the child of God's love for them

We will inform parents if we notice a pattern of inappropriate behavior. We want all students to reach their potential and learn behaviors that will set them up for success.

WITHDRAWAL/REMOVAL FROM PROGRAM

Zion Lutheran's early childhood programs are here to provide a safe learning environment for your children. If a child in the program is continuously aggressive or injurious to other children, steps will be taken to try to work with the child to overcome their inability to control their emotions. The use of redirection, clear expectations and behavior modification programs (such as behavior charts) will be employed. As our staff is not trained in child

psychology, if every other means has been exhausted to try to correct the situation, the parents will be asked to remove their child from the program.

EMERGENCIES

In light of past school tragedies, Zion has gone to great lengths to ensure the safety of your child while in our care. Zion has contracted with Nesbitt & Associates, school safety experts, to develop a comprehensive crisis management plan and to train the staff of Zion Lutheran School in the procedures to be taken in emergency situations.

STAFF TRAINING

The staff is certified in Red Cross CPR and First Aid, as well as crisis management.

DRILLS

For their safety in an emergency situation, students will be trained and will participate in the following safety drills:

- Fire drills
- Tornado drills
- Lock-down/Intruder-Alert drills. In today's society this is a necessity. Teachers discuss why we have such drills in such a way as to not alarm the children.

SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

In the event that we need to cancel school due to weather or some other emergency, the cancellation information can be found in three ways:

1. Your Zion app! Please download and sign-up for text notifications in order to receive the most up-to-date announcements and notices!
2. The school website, www.zionkearney.org.
3. Text-notification. At the beginning of the year, on final registration day, we will be asking for cell numbers and carriers (service providers). We will add your number to a notification list and you will receive a text anytime we have a closing.

HEALTH

ILLNESS

Parents should not send a child to school when the following symptoms occur:

- Fever of 100 degrees or more
- Vomiting or diarrhea in the last 12 hours
- Sore throat with fever or visible pus
- Earache with discharge or fever
- Infectious disease such as head lice, influenza, measles, chicken pox, impetigo and pinkeye
- Illness that would cause school activity to suffer

Children will be dismissed from school if:

- Vomiting occurs or there is persistent nausea (lasting more than one hour)
- Child develops a fever of 100 degrees or more
- Child feels too ill to function in a “normal” way
- An accident at school requires immediate attention
- Child has evidence of head lice or any other contagious disease

MEDICATIONS

If your child needs to take medicine, please give it to him/her at home before and/or after school. Zion Lutheran School will not be responsible for dispensing medications to students in preschool/prekindergarten. Exceptions will be reviewed on an individual basis.

ACCIDENTS

Occasionally, even potty-trained preschoolers have accidents! In the event of such an occurrence, it is helpful that all students have an extra set of clothing in a large freezer bag. The plastic bag will keep the change of clothes organized and is especially useful when returning the wet/soiled garments. Parents are asked to ensure that this bag is kept in the child's backpack at all times.

DRESS CODE

Please dress children in washable play clothes that allow for freedom of movement. We do use paint shirts and smocks, but sometimes accidents happen...

If your child is a girl and chooses to wear a dress to school, please have her wear a pair of shorts underneath her dress.

Shoes should be rubber soled and have closed toes, i.e. tennis shoes. **Please do not send your child to school in sandals, crocs, or flip-flops.**

*Those flip-flops are adorable, Your sandals are so cute
And you look very stylish in your clogs and cowboy boots.*

*But when you're on the playground Where there's dirt and mulch and rocks
The safest thing for you to wear Are sneakers and some socks.
The mulch can scratch your ankles; The rocks can stub your toes.
You might take a tumble And bop your little nose.*

*Your teachers want to keep you safe; We think you're very sweet.
So, please wear your socks and sneakers To protect your little feet.*

The children will play outdoors during all seasons, except in rainy weather and extreme cold (below 20°F), and should bring necessary outerwear. If you do not feel your child should be outside for whatever reason, please do not send him/her to school that day. Please keep in mind that early childhood classes

have recess time between 9:15-9:45 a.m. Outside temps are frequently significantly cooler than forecasted highs. Please send appropriate outerwear.

It is helpful for all clothing, back packs, lunch boxes, etc. to be marked with the child's name.

FUNDRAISING

Operating a large preschool like Zion's is an expensive undertaking! Our preschool participates in Zion's major fundraisers, which are as follows:

- Pie sales (Fall)
- PEACE Auction (Spring)
- Plant sales (Spring)

Fundraising dollars do benefit the early childhood program as well as the elementary school. Funds raised recently have been used to do the following:

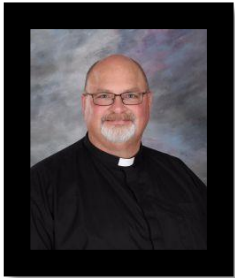
- Install a new security system for the safety of Zion's students
- Remodel the school library and purchase quality books.
- Remodel and update a new prekindergarten classroom.
- Add beauty and safety features to the playground area
- NEW KID-FRIENDLY EARLY CHILDHOOD RESTROOMS!!!

Please consider helping with our fundraising efforts, so that we can continue to offer the finest early childhood education programs in Kearney.

FACULTY & STAFF



Mr. Anthony Splittgerber has served at Zion Lutheran School since 2006 and is the principal and 7th/8th grade teacher. He has four children, Alexandra, Addison, Asher, & Levi. He has a passion for classical education and looks forward to getting to know all of our new little ones.



Reverend James DeLoach has served the congregation of Zion Lutheran since 2008. Pastor DeLoach also visits the early childhood classrooms and does chapel on Wednesday mornings for the school. Pastor DeLoach also teaches religion opposite Pr. Gaunt in the middle school. He would love to visit with anyone that has questions about what we believe and teach as Lutherans.



Reverend Doug Gaunt joined the Zion Lutheran staff in 2016 and has been an invaluable addition. He is active in the school and helps with Wednesday chapels. He also helps parents that are interested in settling into Zion as a church home, offering adult instruction. During the summer, he heads up our vacation Bible school. He has three grandchildren in Zion this year!



Mrs. Sarah Filbert will be our new morning prekindergarten teacher. Many will recognize Mrs. Filbert as she served in a substitute capacity at Zion last year. She knows the Zion early childhood program well which will make for a smooth teaching transition. Mrs. Filbert holds a Bachelor's degree in elementary education, K-6 and has prior experience in early childhood from her time in Kansas City. She has one daughter, Hailey, and is very happy to be back in Kearney, close to family.



Mrs. Nancy Halva has served at Zion since 2008. She is a warm and friendly teacher who loves what she does. She is the proud mother of three children: a college graduate, a high school graduate, and a high schooler. Her training as a mother serves her well as a teacher of both three and four year olds.

ZION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL F-A-Q's

We are confident that your early childhood experience at Zion will be a success. Please consider keeping your child at Zion through their elementary years – you'll be glad you did! Here are some frequently asked questions about Zion Lutheran School, with answers.

Q: What grades does Zion offer?

A: We offer kindergarten through 8th grade.

Q: Does our family have to be Lutheran?

A: By no means! We have students from all faith backgrounds.

Q: What if we can't afford the tuition?

A: We do have scholarships and tuition assistance for families that qualify. Students that are members of Zion or Holy Cross Lutheran Churches do receive significant scholarships.

Q: We don't have a church home – is that a problem?

A: Not as long as you have no objection to the fact that your child will be receiving a Lutheran Christian education. In fact, we'd like to invite you to consider joining Zion as your church home. This has been a good option for many of families that didn't have a church.

Q: How big are the classes in the elementary school?

A: For the past several years, Zion has capped and filled its kindergarten classes at 20 students. Kindergarten thru second grade are single grade classrooms with 12-16 students, as are the fifth and eighth grades. Grades 3 and 4, and six and

seven will be combined grade classrooms. We make every effort never to have more than 24 students in a combined classroom.

Q: How does the combined class work?

A: There are many reasons that a combined classroom can provide a superior education for your child:

- Students will have the same teacher for two years; in this time students and teachers develop a strong relationship that facilitates learning. Teachers gain an intimate knowledge of each student's strengths and weaknesses and can tailor lessons to meet the child's needs.
- Students thrive academically. In a combination classroom, some subjects are taught whole class on a two year cycle and other classes are taught separately by grade or level of achievement.
- Students in the higher of the two classes often develop leadership skills and serve as models and mentors to their younger classmates. This is how we maintain such a positive and well-behaved student body. The older students model to the younger each year.

Q: How does Zion perform academically compared to other schools?

A: Spectacularly! Zion now uses the NWEA MAP assessment to gauge student learning. This test is given in fall, winter, and spring testing sessions and gives the teacher, student, and families immediate feedback on achievement. The MAP assessment has become the assessment of choice for the Lutheran schools of the Nebraska district and is also administered by Kearney Public Schools. This uniformity of testing allows us now to better compare school achievement using classroom averages. See the graphs below for a clear picture of our performance.

2022-2023 NWEA MAP Results: READING Zion Kearney vs. Nebraska Dist. vs. Nation



2022-2023 NWEA MAP Results: MATH Zion Kearney vs. Nebraska Dist. vs. Nation



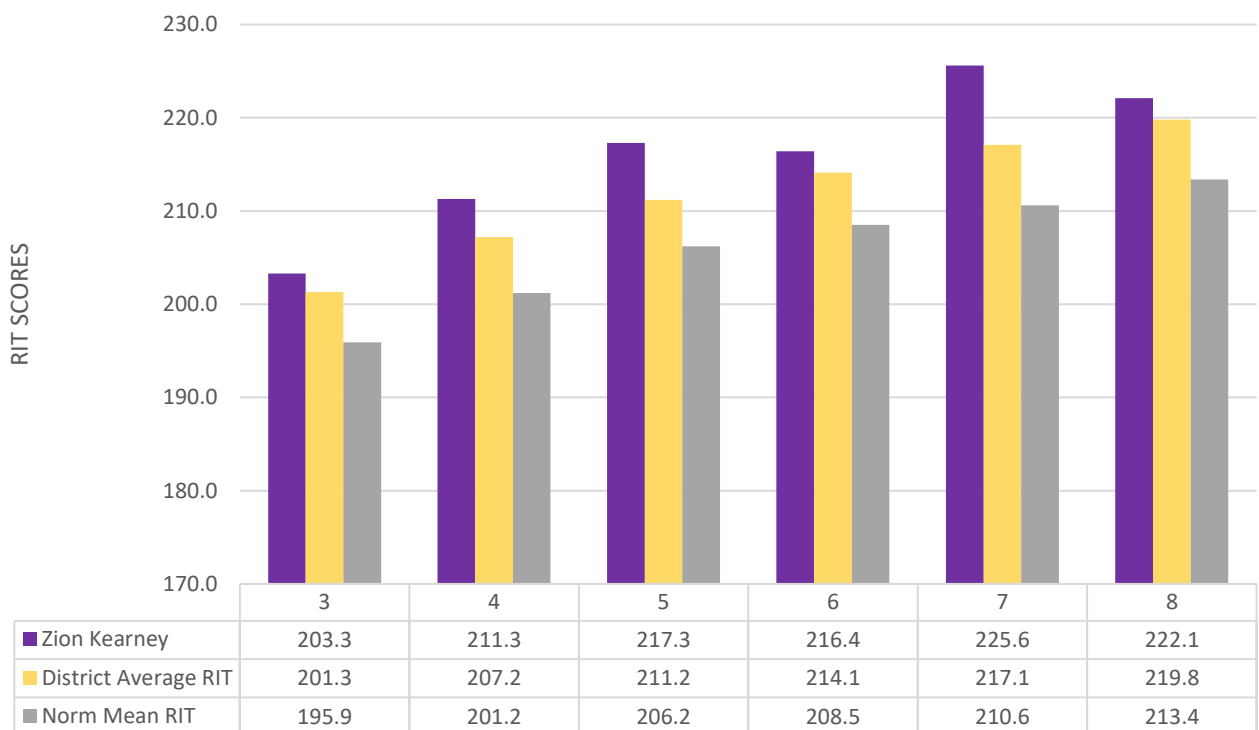
2022-23 NWEA MAP Results: LANGUAGE ARTS

Zion Kearney vs. Nebraska Dist. vs. Nation



2022-23 NWEA MAP Results: SCIENCE

Zion Kearney vs. Nebraska Dist. vs. Nation



Q: I hear Zion is called a classical school. What does that mean?

A: It means that we follow a format of instruction and curriculum that includes the teaching of Latin, Logic, and Rhetoric. We teach children more than just facts and what to learn; but how to learn, how to think, and how to solve problems.

Classical education is not a new method of learning. In fact, it has been a sound and proven philosophy of education for hundreds of years and has produced some of the greatest minds in history. It can be understood in part by its methodology called the Trivium. The Trivium includes the teaching of Latin, Logic and Rhetoric. It has three stages of instruction:

1. The Grammar Stage is the study of fundamentals of various subjects like history, science, math, and language arts, in order to build a framework of knowledge on which later information can be hung. Latin is the paradigm discipline of the Grammar Stage and begins in the third grade. The goal is to teach the students from K-5th grade facts of who, what, where and when, at a time when memorization of facts is easy and fun.
2. The Dialectic or Logic Stage begins in the middle school and brings the data of the Grammar Stage into ordered relationship. Formal and informal logic is taught with the goal of equipping the students with thinking skills, making them capable of detecting sound and fallacious arguments. Questions of how and why are thoroughly addressed with this age group.
3. The Rhetoric Stage makes use of the data of the Grammar Stage and the reasoning skills of the Dialectic Stage. Combined they teach our junior high students (7th & 8th grades) how to express what they think eloquently and persuasively. These are the years when we offer confirmation instruction. This

stage continues into the high school years. Because of this method, two goals are achieved. The first goal is that basics of sound education are successfully imparted. What a joy to see children who can read well and problem solve! The second is to see our young graduates go into high school and college with a firm grasp on the tools of learning. It will be a pleasure to see young men and women who can think.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Looking for a church home? Please join us for worship every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. with Sunday School at 10:30. Visitors are always welcome! Here's a synopsis of what we believe:

Our congregation accepts and preaches the Bible-based teachings of Martin Luther that inspired the reformation of the Christian Church in the 16th century. The teaching of Luther and the reformers can be summarized in three phrases: *Grace alone, Faith alone, Scripture alone.*



GRACE ALONE

God loves the people of the world, even though they are sinful, rebel against Him and do not deserve His love. He sent Jesus, His Son, to love the unlovable and save the ungodly.

FAITH ALONE

By His suffering and death as the substitute for all people of all time, Jesus purchased and won forgiveness and eternal life for them. Those who hear this Good News and believe it have the eternal life that it offers. God creates faith in Christ and gives people forgiveness through Him.

SCRIPTURE ALONE

The Bible is God's inerrant and infallible Word, in which He reveals His Law and His Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ. It is the sole rule and norm for Christian doctrine.



2023-2024 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

15- Back to School Night	<table><tr><th colspan="7">AUGUST 2023</th></tr><tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr><tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr><tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	AUGUST 2023							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			<table><tr><th colspan="7">JANUARY 2024</th></tr><tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr><tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	JANUARY 2024							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				3- School Resumes 15-19 – MAP Testing 26- No School- Teacher In-Service														
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10- K-8 Christmas Program 15- End of the 2 nd Quarter (39 Days) Dec. 18-Jan. 2- No School Christmas Break	<table><tr><th colspan="7">DECEMBER 2023</th></tr><tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr><tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr></table>	DECEMBER 2023							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	<table><tr><th colspan="7">MAY 2024</th></tr><tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr></table>	MAY 2024							S	M	T	W	Th	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		3 – Heartland Field Day 10- K-8 Musical 14- 8 th Grade Graduation 15- Last Day of School 11:30am dismissal (42.5 days)														
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