



Zion Lutheran Church and School

1810 McClintock Avenue, Belleville, IL 62221-6460

www.zionschoolbelleville.org

Dear Zion Families,

I recently read a devotion by Michael Milton entitled “Faith Conditioning for the Fourth Quarters of Life” that gave me great perspective as we approach the fourth and final quarter of our school year. He writes of Paul’s words in the second letter to the Corinthians, “*We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed*” (2 Corinthians 4:8-9). Yup! The beginning of each phrase definitely feels like the fourth quarter of the school year! It can be hard for students, teachers, and families to stay focused on the work we still have ahead of us as we look forward to the finish line of the school year. However, the second half of each phrase reminds us that we are strengthened with the power of God that works best in our weakness. God will get us through and bring us across that finish line!

I wanted to share with you a list of important items and events happening in our fourth quarter to help prepare and equip us all to finish strong.

CALENDAR ITEMS

- July 17 **Friday, March 19th** - third quarter ends
- July 17 **Monday, March 22nd** - picture retake day open to all students
- July 17 **Wednesday, March 31st** - 3rd quarter report cards available for viewing on Blackbaud
- July 17 **Wednesday, March 31st** - Deadline for early registration
- July 17 **Wednesday, March 31st - Tuesday, April 6th** - Easter Break - NO SCHOOL
- July 17 **Thursday, April 1st** - Registration fees raised to \$275 per student/\$625 max per family

END OF YEAR EVENTS

- ★ **Iowa Assessments** - Standardized testing for grades 3 & 4 from April 12-16, grades 5-8 April 19-23
- ★ **National Lutheran School Accreditation Visit** - April 13th and 14th we will welcome a team of principals and teachers from other Lutheran schools who will review our accreditation report and observe our school's day-to-day operations.
- ★ **Fun Run** - Monday, April 26th. The Fun Run this year will serve as our major school fundraiser in place of our annual school auction and as a kickoff to National Lutheran Schools Week, which we postponed until we had warmer weather to gather our student body community outdoors. Watch for more information and get ready to get your family and friends involved in donating to ZLS students and programs!
- ★ **National Lutheran Schools Week** - Monday, April 26th-Friday, April 30th with celebration video in church on May 2nd. We will have themed dress up days and “Praise Rallies” each morning for students to attend either in-person or live streamed into their classrooms, and we will end our



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week with a fun-filled Friday - an all-day celebration of fun, games, and service activities for our students to celebrate the blessings we receive from God through our Lutheran school.

☀ **Scholastic Book Fair ONLINE** - Monday, April 26th - Sunday, May 9th. Watch for information and instructions on how you can participate in the online Book Fair!

☀ **Graduation Celebrations** - Plans, options, and details are in progress to hold our usual graduation milestone celebrations (even if they look a little different). Information will be sent to families as it unfolds.

- Preschool Celebration - date and time TBD
- 8th grade graduation service - Thursday, May 20th, 7pm
- Kindergarten graduation - Wednesday, May 26th, 9:15am

DAY-TO-DAY REMINDERS

✓ **Registration** - If you desire to remain a part of our Zion Lutheran School family for the 2021-2022 school year, please do not delay in completing your student registration. Class sizes and staffing are being planned now and must be finalized in May. We would love to continue to serve your children and families!

✓ **Water Bottles** - As the weather warms up, please keep in mind that our water fountains are set to bottle filler only. Please remember to send your children to school with their water bottle every day.

✓ **Allergies and Illness** - Our parents are the reason why Zion students have remained in-person all year long! Please continue to keep an eye on your child's symptoms as illnesses and allergies have started to pop up and keep your children at home when they are symptomatic. If you have a doctor's note for your child's known allergies, you can send that information to school.

None of us could have run this race of a school year by ourselves. This school year has truly been a witness of God's strength and His love as we have trusted in and committed our plans to Him. Please join us in praying for a strong finish during our fourth quarter!

In His Service,

Mrs. Ananda Baron, principal

Milton, Michael A., 2003. "Faith Conditioning in the Fourth Quarters of Life". Retrieved from <https://www.preaching.com/sermons/faith-conditioning-in-the-fourth-quarters-of-life/>.



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