



Message from the Principal August 2024



Dear Zeman Community,

I just wanted to Welcome Scholars, Staff, and Families to a new month of August. As we get ready to embark on this new year of teaching and learning together I thought it would be good for me to share a little more about me.

- **My Strengths:** *Learner *Responsibility *Relator *Woo *Arranger
- **Meaningful Quotes:**
 - "Do the best you can until you know better. Then, when you know better, do better."-Maya Angelou
 - "Every day, in 100 small ways, our children ask, 'Do you hear me? Do you see me? Do I matter?' Their behavior often reflects our response." ~ L.R. Knost
 - You must be the change you wish to see in the world."-Mahatma Gandhi
 - "To promote equality for all, my mission is to faithfully serve, educate, and empower others to seek opportunities for success and growth."

Below and on the next page you will find some important updates & reminders for the upcoming weeks as we get closer to starting the 2024-2025 school year .

- **Wed. Aug. 7, 2024**
 - Families are able see Homeroom Teachers on ParentVue/StudentVue.
 - Homeroom Teachers will send out email communication to scholar families.
 - Parents can sign-up on ParentVue for Parent-Teacher Conferences. If you need more support please call the front office during office hours at Zeman and we will gladly help.
- **Thurs. Aug. 8**
 - **Open House is from 6pm-7pm** at Zeman Elementary School with Kona Ice at the Front.
 - The Zeman Elementary Calendar & Family Handbook will be provided to families (1 per household).
 - Please remember, Open House is for a quick check-in with the teacher and to help the scholar get acquainted with the classroom environment. If you have further information to share with the teachers, please contact them through email or phone at another time. Please know we state this because their are many families in the classroom also trying to get to know their learning community members and environment.
- **Introducing Digital Solutions for School photos** : Lincoln Public Schools will now be using Digital Solutions to take and distribute the official school portrait of your student. As part of the new and improved process, we are transitioning from pre-orders before photo day to emailing a proof of the portraits home after photo day. Families will order the portraits online. You will receive an email with an ordering link five business days after picture day. All packages will be delivered to your home via the United States Postal Service. This change aims to provide a more convenient and flexible experience for families, allowing you to review and select your favorite photos at your leisure. **Please note: This means LPS will no longer be using Lifetouch to provide these services.**

Sincerely,
Rudi Wolfe-Principal

rwolfe3@lps.org; 402-436-1169



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Zeman Elementary School



Reminders (Continued)

ParentVue Reminder- Complete the online enrollment verification

If you haven't already, please verify your child's information online through the parent portal, ParentVUE. This includes updating contact and emergency information, signing consent release forms, etc. We would appreciate you completing/updating the information before the first day of school. **Note: this process is to be completed each year.**

Please visit <https://synergyvue.lps.org/> to access and log in to your ParentVUE account. Once you have logged in, select the Online Registration button in the upper right corner, and follow the prompts to update and verify your information. It is important that you complete this task as soon as possible.

If you have previously used your ParentVUE account, but can't remember your password, you can reset it online at <https://synergyvue.lps.org/>. If you have not yet activated your LPS ParentVUE account, please contact the Zeman main office for instructions and an activation key.

If you have questions or need help with completing these steps, please contact Zeman's main office.

Reminder- Free/Reduced Lunch Applications Due

Did you know LPS families can potentially save money by filling out the [Free and Reduced Meal Application](#). This application must be completed each year in order for families to qualify for free or reduced school meals. We are encouraging families* to fill out the [Free and Reduced meal application](#) online as soon as possible.

**Please note: If your family received notification in July that your student has been Directly Certified for the 2024-2025 school year or you attend a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school then an application is not needed.*

This application must be completed each year in order for families to qualify for free or reduced school meals. Families who do not complete the application will be charged normal meal prices for any school meals their child eats. You can go to our website to [fill out this quick and easy online application](#). If you do not have access to the online application, you can come to Zeman's main office and pick up a paper application.

Additional information about Free and Reduced meals is on the LPS website: <https://home.lps.org/ns/free-reduced>. If you have any questions, please call LPS at (402) 436-1747 or email LPS at freeandreduced@lps.org.





Upcoming Events

Important Dates	Events
August 8th August 12th August 12th-25th August 15th August 21st August 22nd August 25th	Safe Walk to School/ Open House @ 6-7pm; Kona Ice @ Front Entrance First Day of School and Kindergarten Zeman Gear Sales Online- Zeman.ptboard.com PTO Mtg. @ 6:30-7:30 pm Dairy Queen Dine Out Fundraiser (@ 40th & South Street) Kindergarten Meet & Greet Event @ Zeman Playground @ 5-6 pm Zeman Saltdogs Event @ 1:05-3:35 pm (Zeman singing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game"-7th Inning)
September 2nd September 3rd September 4th September 13th September 19th September 20th	Labor Day-No School No School Don & Millie's Dine Out Event (@ 56th & Edgewood) from 5-9pm Zeman 50th Birthday Bash Block Party @ Zeman @ 5:30-8 pm PTO Mtg. @ 6:30- 7:30 pm Picture Day
October 3rd and 8th October 3rd, 4th, 7th, 8th October 11th October 11th, 14th, and 15th	Parent Teacher Conferences @ 3:45 pm-6:45 pm; Register in synergy Book Fair @ Zeman in the Media Center @ 3-5 pm End of Quarter 1 No School

"Equity is meeting the children where they are... as they are."
Principal Kabele

"To empower kids, you must **LOVE** them."

L Listen to them.

O Observe them.

V Value them.

E Empower them."

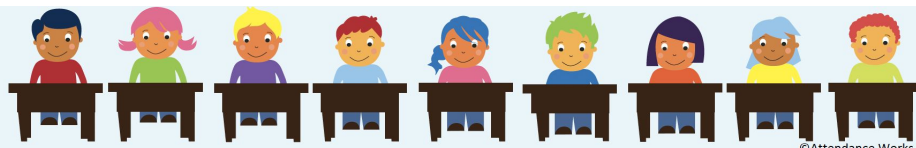
—EDUCATOR EUGENE PARK #121

"When a teacher truly believes in what a student is capable of becoming, the child rises to that. **The power of believing is a gift to our students.**"
—EDUCATOR HEATHER BUCKMAN



ATTENDANCE

in the early grades



©Attendance Works

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow



Who Is Affected

Kindergarten and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom.

1 in 10 kids

in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it's as high as 1 in 4.¹



2 in 10 low-income kids miss too much school. They're also more likely to suffer academically.¹



2.5 in 10 homeless kids are chronically absent.²



4 in 10 transient kids miss too much school when families move.²



¹ Chang, Hedy; Romero, Mariajose, Present, *Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*, National Center for Children in Poverty: NY: NY, September 2008.

² *Chronic Absence in Utah*, Utah Education Policy Center at the University of Utah, 2012.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just one or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Eventually good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and college.

#schooleveryday

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
read well by the end of third grade



MIDDLE SCHOOLERS
pass important courses



HIGH SCHOOLERS
stay on track for graduation



COLLEGE STUDENTS
earn their degrees



WORKERS
succeed in their jobs

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.



When Do Absences Become a Problem?



CHRONIC ABSENCE
18 or more days

WARNING SIGNS
10 to 17 days

SATISFACTORY
9 or fewer absences

Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

Why It Matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?



64%

of kids with good attendance in K and 1st (missed 9 or fewer days both years)



43%

of kids with at-risk attendance (missed more than 9 days both years)



41%

of kids chronically absent in K or 1st (missed 18 or more days one year)



17%

of kids chronically absent in K and 1st (missed 18 or more days both years)

Attendance Process Flowchart

The student's parent/guardian is expected to notify the school when their student will be absent. The school will record the information, document the reason for the absence, and determine if the absence is either School Excused or Not School Excused.

Nebraska State Law, 79-209, allows schools to refer every student, whether of elementary, middle, or high school age who exceeds 20 days of Not School Excused absences during the school year to the County Attorney.

Stage 1

The student has missed 10 days of school or the hourly equivalent thereof this school year.

- The school sends out to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) the Stage 1 letter.
- School staff reviews the student's attendance history.
- School staff (administrator, counselor, social worker) meets with the student about their problematic attendance.
- The school contacts the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) with regards to their student's continued problematic attendance and scheduling a Collaborative Plan Meeting with school personnel.

Stage 2

The student has missed more than 15 days of school or the hourly equivalent thereof this school year.

- The school sends out to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) the Stage 2 letter.
- School staff (administrator, counselor, social worker) meets with the student about their problematic attendance.
- The school contacts the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) with regards to their student's continued problematic attendance and/or scheduling a meeting to review the Collaborative Plan Meeting with school personnel.

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Stage 3

The student has accumulated more than 20 days of school or the hourly equivalent thereof this school year.

- The school sends out to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) the Stage 3 letter.
- After the Stage 3 letter is sent, the school may send a referral to the County Attorney

County Attorney Referral

- The school sends out the following documents to the County Attorney: the County Attorney Referral Letter, the Collaborative Plan(s), and Information regarding the dates the stage letters were sent and the dates regarding meetings with the student and their parent(s)/guardian(s).
- The school sends the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) a copy of the County Attorney referral letter.
- Elementary and middle school students may receive a building revocation of their Special Attendance Permit.