



MOUNT ZION MIDDLE SCHOOL

Parent and Student Handbook 2021-2022

Small Town.....Big Dreams.....Big Opportunities.....Eagles Rise Up!



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Welcome Message

Dear Mt. Zion Middle Students and Parents:

We are excited to welcome you to the 2020-21 school year at Mt. Zion Middle School. Mt. Zion Middle School is a part of the Carroll County School System. The tradition of Mt. Zion started in 1881. This strong community has the distinction of having the oldest continuous school in Carroll County beginning with the small, one room Mt. Zion Seminary and continuing to the beautiful facilities that we have today. The Mt. Zion Community has always been resilient. Past generations of Eagles have left a legacy of hard work, dedication to family and community, and commitment to excellence for future Eagles. As we look back on our struggles of the past, we see they have made us who we are today ...Eagles who are rising up and soaring.

Mt. Zion Middle School is a proud part of the three schools that make up the Mt. Zion cluster. The faculty, staff, and administration are committed to providing you with premier learning environments led by premier teachers. We are proud to be part of the tradition that makes Mt. Zion great.

At Mt. Zion Middle, we believe that all students should be given the opportunity to reach their highest potential in a safe, supportive environment that ensures students are academically ready to be successful in high school and the world beyond. It is our goal to provide learning opportunities that motivate and challenge students while respecting individual differences. We are also committed to being agents of HOPE and providing our students more Help, more Opportunities, more Preparation, and more Encouragement.

The information in this handbook is a brief summary of the policies and procedures of Mt. Zion Middle School and Carroll County Schools. All students and parents should take time to carefully read these policies and procedures. Every attempt has been made to provide you with the most accurate and up to date information; however, at times there may be some changes that need to be made. Any additions or changes to this handbook will be provided via written communication as well as posted on our school website and social media sites.

We encourage students and parents to utilize our Facebook, Twitter, and school webpage for the most current and accurate information available. We also encourage you to keep the lines of communication open by contacting teachers via email, phone calls, and conferences. As parents and guardians, you play an integral part in your child's education and future and we want you to be involved whenever possible.

We look forward to an exciting school year. If we can be of service to you, please let us know. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Connie Robison

Principal

Committed to Positively Changing Lives

Mt. Zion Middle School's Mission

The mission of Mount Zion Middle School is to meet the needs of all students through the development of positive relationships and premier learning opportunities.

Mt. Zion Middle School's Vision

Mount Zion Middle School's vision is for all students to become productive members of society and make a positive difference in the world around them.

We will be recognized as a premier school by sustaining the following commitments:

- *Focusing on Learning
- *Maximizing our Talent
- *Providing Premier Experiences
- *Serving our Communities
- *Practicing Good Stewardship

Bell Schedule

Mt. Zion Middle School's office hours are from 7:45 am until 4:00 pm. Instructional hours are from 8:10 am until 3:20 pm. There will be two bell schedules utilized for the 2021-2022 year. The regular daily bell schedule is as follows:

MZMS Bell Schedule 2021-2022	
7:30-8:10	Breakfast in 1st Period classrooms
1 st	8:10-9:10
2 nd	9:10-10:10
3 rd	10:10-11:10 (Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence, and Announcements)
4 th	11:10-12:20
Lunch	Group 1: 11:10-11:30 Group 2: 11:35-11:55 Group 3: 12:00-12:20
5 th	12:20-1:20
6 th	1:20-2:20
7 th	2:20-3:20

On Friday of each week, MZMS will follow a modified schedule for Clubs and the R⁴ISE program. The Friday schedule is as follows:

MZMS Friday Bell Schedule 2021-2022	
7:30-8:10	Breakfast in 1st Period classrooms
Monthly Schedule	1st and 3rd Friday – R⁴ISE Club* 2nd and 4th Friday - Clubs*
1 st	8:10-9:00
2 nd	9:00-9:50
3 rd	9:50-10:40 (Announcements, Pledge, Moment of Silence)
4 th	10:45-11:55
Lunch	Group 1: 10:45-11:05 Group 2: 11:10-11:30 Group 3: 11:35-11:55
5 th	11:55-12:45
Club/ R⁴ISE Period	12:45-1:45
6 th	1:45-2:35
7 th	2:35-3:20

*1st and 3rd Friday - R⁴ISE Club - Students will report to their Mentor’s room (assigned)

*2nd and 4th Friday -Students may choose one or two clubs to join from the school’s list. Students will be in clubs for one semester minimally. Students who choose not to join a club will go to the cafeteria for academic tutoring.

Arrival and Dismissal from School

Mt. Zion Middle School begins at 8:10 am and ends each day at 3:20 pm. Students may be dropped off as early as 7:30 am. Car riders should be picked up no later than 3:40 pm. Students who arrive early should be dropped off in the Parent Pick up area and should report to the cafeteria. Any student who arrives late should sign in through the front office. Students may sign themselves in. Parents are not required to sign a student into school.

Attendance

Attendance is crucial to learning and progress in school. Mt. Zion Middle School follows the Carroll County School Board Policy and Protocol in regards to school attendance. Specific information regarding this may be found in the District Section of this handbook. Let’s work together to eliminate unnecessary absences so that students can reach their full potential. (D3)

Bus Conduct

Students are expected to behave appropriately on the school buses at all times. Specific rules and policies related to bus rules and conduct may be found in the Carroll County Administrative Rule JCDA-R in the district section of this handbook. (D14)

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Mt. Zion Middle School is a one-to-one school. Every student will be issued a Chromebook to serve as an electronic notebook and class resource throughout the day. Below, you will find a copy of the Chromebook contract form. Once this form is completed, students will receive their Chromebook. Since students do have access to technology through their Chromebooks, there is no academic benefit for a student to utilize personal technology in the classroom.

Personal electronic devices, including cell phones, are prohibited from being utilized from the time students arrive on campus until afternoon dismissal. If students need to use the phone, they may come to the front office.

Students are not allowed at any time to:

- 1) Video or take pictures of other students or teachers. Cameras may only be used with consent of the administration or staff.
- 2) Use a VPN or otherwise circumvent the district's firewall to access blocked sites. The phone must be on CCS wi-fi.
- 3) Send inappropriate messages or content to other students.
- 4) Listen to loud games or music

All phones should minimally be placed on silent or powered off. At 3:20 students may turn phones back on and have them during afternoon bus dismissal.

*Please note that if students engage in inappropriate use of technology outside of school and it impacts the orderly operations of the school day, administration has the right to determine appropriate consequences.

*All devices are subject to search if there is reasonable suspicion that the student has done something to violate the code of conduct using the electronic device.

Upon entering class students have two options:

- 1) Turn the phone into the pocket holder in the teacher's classroom each period. Teachers will remind students to do this but it is the responsibility of the student to do so. Students will pick up the phone at the end of the class period.
- 2) Store the phone (turned off) in a backpack or locker where it cannot be seen.

Students should not have the phones in their pocket or on their person as this makes it very tempting to use the phone during instructional time.

If a cell-phone is confiscated from a student during the school day, the following consequences will be given:

1st offense: Cell phone taken to the front office. The student may pick it up at the end of the day.

2nd offense and all other offenses: Cell phone taken to the front office, and must be picked up by the parent/guardian OR students can pay a \$5.00 fee to get the phone back at the end of the day.

Parents: Please know if your child has an emergency during the school day, they can let the front office know, and we will contact you. If you need to get in touch with your child, you can call or email us in the front office. As always, learning is our focus at MZMS, and we want to eliminate as many distractions as possible.

Wireless earbuds/airpods will not be permitted to be worn at MZMS. All headphones should be wired and able to be plugged into the chromebooks.



Chromebook Checkout Policies and Procedures

Mount Zion Middle School provides a one-to-one learning environment for students. All students will receive Chromebooks for use at school and home. Please take a moment to read over the following policies and make sure you understand the responsibilities in regards to acceptable Chromebook usage. It is highly recommended that students carry Chromebooks in a sturdy book bag or laptop case to better protect it.

1. All use of the school Chromebooks must be for educational purposes. Students must abide by the acceptable use policy found in its entirety in the Mount Zion Middle School Student Handbook. Chromebook use will be monitored by teachers during class time. Inappropriate use will result in Chromebook use being suspended for a period of time or possibly permanently.
2. Students assume full responsibility for the device during the school day. Any intentional or unintentional damage will be the responsibility of the student and parents. Common damage and costs for repairs include:
 - A. Key damage or loss = \$10.00 per key
 - B. Screen damage = \$45.00
 - C. Keyboard damage = \$30.00
 - D. Total replacement of Chromebook = \$265.00

Damage can be avoided by following these simple rules:

- Do not loan your assigned Chromebook to another student during class.
 - Do not leave your assigned Chromebook unattended.
 - Do not eat or drink while using your Chromebook. A Chromebook should not be in close proximity to any food or drink.
 - Do not place the Chromebook on the floor or in sitting areas such as in desks or chairs.
 - Do not leave the Chromebook near the edges of a table or desk.
 - Do not run in the hallway while carrying the Chromebook.
 - Do not have your Chromebooks open as you are moving from class to class.
 - Do not carry your Chromebook by holding the screen.
3. Students assume full responsibility for reporting device problems, breakage, damage, loss, or theft immediately to their teacher.
 4. Students are not allowed to deface the Chromebook in any way with writing, stickers, etc.
 5. Students are not allowed to download or install any programs, files, images, etc. onto their Chromebooks.
 6. Students are not allowed to tamper with the settings on their Chromebook or destroy files downloaded by the school district.
 7. Students are not allowed to override, bypass, or change the CCS Internet filter settings.
 8. Students are not allowed to be on unauthorized sites. The Chromebook will be checked frequently for misuse.
 9. Students are not allowed to connect any personal devices to the Chromebook including, but not limited to: personal speakers, USB devices, headphones, etc. unless specifically authorized by the teacher.
 10. Students are not allowed to trade Chromebooks with other students, or loan Chromebooks to other students.
 11. Identifying stickers, serial numbers, or tags should not be removed from the Chromebook at any time.
 12. Failure to utilize Chromebooks properly will result in a loss of technology privileges. Students will not receive their Chromebooks each day and will have to complete assignments on paper.

I have read the Chromebook policies above and agree to comply with them as stated. I also understand that any violation of these procedures may constitute my loss of Chromebook privileges.

USER NAME (please print)

SCHOOL:

USER SIGNATURE :

DATE:

I have read the Chromebook policies above and agree to comply with them as stated. I also understand that any violation of these procedures may constitute my child not having future access to a Chromebook for use.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE :

DATE:

Check in/Check Out Procedures

After 8:10, students should report to the office to check in. Parents do not have to accompany the student unless they choose to do so as students will be allowed to sign themselves in. Please make sure to bring a note stating the reason why the student was late.

Parents should come into the office to check a student out. Things to Remember: Students may only be checked out of school by those persons listed in Infinite Campus. Please make sure to bring a Picture ID when checking out a student. Please make sure we have updated information at all times in Infinite Campus.

We cannot take check out information over the phone. If there is an emergency, check out by other means may be allowed with approval by an administrator. Parents may email or fax notes to Ms. Wyatt for emergencies at sabriena.wyatt@carrollcountyschools.com or 770-291-7794.

Clubs

Middle school clubs will meet on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month, unless otherwise announced. Students may sign up for clubs each semester but must follow the rules of club attendance that will be announced at the beginning of each semester. Student participation in school clubs and organizations is voluntary. Current clubs with faculty advisors are listed below. For more information on the purpose and mission of the club, please contact the club sponsor directly. If you wish to decline permission for your student to participate in a particular club or organization, please complete and sign the form at the back of this handbook. Parents must give written permission prior to a student's participation in any new club begun after the start of the school year. (D6) Any students who do not wish to participate in a club on club day will be assigned to academic tutoring during club period.

Club Name	Sponsor	Co-Sponsor
Chorus	Christie Ezzell	
Art	TBD	
STEM	TBD	
History Club	Brian Ballew	
FCA	Candace Buchanan	Brandon Bedford
FBLA	Tewanna Brown	
Jr. Beta	Sharon Morgan	
Debate	Charlotte Smith	
Aspiring Chefs	Sandy Bradley	
Literature Club	Mark Richardson	
Gaming	Wade Cohen	
Lifetime Sports	Randall Wright	
Spirit Club	TBD	Tina Martin
4-H	Rhonda Reynolds	
Builder's Club	Amanda Carter	Tammy McDaniel
Math Counts	Andrea Teal	
Music Appreciation/Garage Band	Alex Ansaldo	
Yoga/Mindfulness	Kelley Bennett	
Leadership	Connie Robison	David Rooks
Life Skills	Eric Fussell	
Writer's Workshop	TBD	
Outdoor Adventure	Tyler Banister	
TBD	Casey Teal	
Academic Tutoring	Dawn Werner	
Academic Tutoring	TBD	

R⁴ISE (Resourceful, Reflective, Resilient, Responsible, Independent Soaring Eagles)

As a part of the effort to support the whole child, MZMS will have the R⁴ISE program each 1st and 3rd Friday of each month. All students will be assigned a R⁴ISE mentor for the duration of their time in middle school. Mentors will teach lessons designed to promote social-emotional wellness, future-focused thinking, and ownership of learning. A website has been developed specifically for these lessons and for this mentoring program at MZMS. This program is critical in helping students' overall success and well-being.

Counseling and Support Services

At Mt. Zion Middle, student success is a top priority. Parents and students are provided with a variety of services to help meet a student's educational needs. Below are listed a few of these services:

- Exceptional Children's Services-Mount Zion Middle School offers a comprehensive program for students with disabilities. For more information, contact Mr. Wade Cohen.
- Guidance and School Counseling-Mount Zion Middle School has a full-time counselor who can assist students and parents with educational counseling, personal counseling, and career counseling. Students may request to see the counselor, a teacher may refer a student to the counselor, or a parent/guardian may request for a student to see the counselor. All information discussed with the school counselor is confidential unless it involves the harming of oneself or others (appropriate persons would be contacted in these cases). The school counselor will also help students with academic and career planning, as well as any scheduling issues. Schedules will be changed at the discretion of the school administration only.
- Gifted Services-The Carroll County School System offers gifted instruction for students in grades K-12. These services are provided through direct instruction, resource, consultation/collaborative, cluster, or other service models. Students must qualify by meeting the criteria outlined in the Gifted Administration Plan. For more information, contact Mrs. Charlotte Smith.
- School Nurse-A school nurse is available at Mount Zion Middle School on a part-time basis. The nurse is available to help with minor first aid treatments or emergencies. The nurse is not able to diagnose or prescribe medication. If you would like to speak to the nurse, please contact the front office at Mt. Zion Middle.
- MTSS/Student Support Team-The Student Support Team is designed to offer students and parents support when the student is experiencing instructional, behavioral, or attendance difficulties. The Team meets and offers suggestions as well as possible strategies to help make the student more successful in the classroom. More information on this process is available through the school counselor.

Discipline and Code of Conduct

Carroll County Schools and Mt. Zion Middle are committed to providing students with a safe and healthy school environment. We believe that all students have an obligation to demonstrate respect and personal responsibility in regards to behavioral choices. Mt. Zion Middle follows the Carroll County Discipline and Code of Conduct Administrative Rule JCDA-R which can be found in its entirety in the [district handbook](#).

Dress Code

Dressing for success can have a tremendous impact on student achievement. Mt. Zion Middle School follows Carroll County Administrative Rule JCDA-R in regards to Dress Code which can be found in its entirety in the District section of this handbook. (D14)

Two areas of emphasis for the 2021-2022 school year focus on head-coverings (hoods, hats, toboggans, etc.) and clothing that promotes another school. Students are expected to remove any head-covering while in the building. It is difficult for teachers to know if students have blue-tooth earbuds/airpods when their heads are covered. Students will be asked to remove the head-coverings one time. If he/she refuses or puts it back on, disciplinary consequences may follow.

Any clothing that promotes another school is also prohibited. We take pride in being Mt. Zion Eagles expect our students to wear clothing that reflects that pride. If there are any questions regarding the dress code, please contact an administrator.

If a student is in violation of the dress code, alternative clothing may be provided by the school, or someone may bring clothing to the school for the student to change into. If a student refuses to change clothes, he/she will be placed in ISS for the remainder of the day.

Extracurricular Activities

Mt. Zion Middle is proud to offer a variety of extracurricular activities for students. Participation is voluntary; however, students are expected to meet all eligibility requirements. Parents and students should understand that participating in extracurricular activities is a privilege that can be denied due to academic or disciplinary concerns. We want our students who participate in extracurricular activities to also give back to our community, so it is the expectation that each club and team will complete a minimum of two community service projects each year. ****Research shows that students who are involved in extracurricular activities of any type generally make higher grades, have higher GPAs, have better attendance, and have higher aspirations for post-secondary opportunities.*

Academic Team

Faculty Sponsor: Sharon Morgan

Select students are chosen for the Academic Team and compete in local and district level academic competitions.

Athletics

Mt. Zion Middle School offers extracurricular athletic opportunities for both males and females. It is our goal to provide our student-athletes with quality learning experiences on the field and courts. Inevitably in athletic activities, there will be some disagreement and disappointment. Parents and students need to understand that at the middle school level, not everyone makes the team, and there is no guaranteed playing time. It is a coach's responsibility to help student-athletes grow into productive young men and women and to get them ready for participation at the high school level. If for some reason, a disagreement or an issue arises with a coach, we ask that you follow the chain of command. Please do not confront coaches on the sidelines before, during, or immediately after the game. After the heat of the battle, everyone may need a cooling down period so they can see things objectively. If there is no immediate threat to the safety or well-being of your student-athlete, please contact the coach and set up a meeting. The athletic director may be involved as well. If the parties cannot come to a satisfactory resolution, please contact Ms. Robison to set up a meeting. Please help us by refraining from posting negative comments on social media and/or downgrading a coach in front of your student. Students will model the kind of respect that they see their parents practicing.

In order to participate in middle school athletics students must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Pass 70% of classes for the semester (5 out of 7 classes) immediately preceding participation or try-outs.
- Students must have an up-to-date physical form, signed by a physician and permission to participate form. Physicals are good for one year if they are completed after April 1. Free physicals are usually given at the beginning of each school year.
- Provide documentation of current health insurance, school insurance, or signed waiver.

Mt. Zion Middle is a member of the West Georgia Middle School Athletic Conference which follows Georgia High School Association Rules. Admission to events is set by the WGMSAC league. Admission to away and home events will be \$5.00. Carroll County School IDs will be honored at events as well as GHSA passes unless the event is a fundraising event such as an extra tournament or competition.

Band

Mt. Zion Middle offers a full band program for grades 6-8 in conjunction with the Mt. Zion High School Band. Students in grades 6-8 may elect to take Band class during one of their scheduled connections classes. Select band students may be asked to participate in the high school marching band activities during the school year. This is strictly at the discretion of the Middle School and High School Band Directors. Select band students may also be eligible to participate in band competitions including District Honor Band. While there is no eligibility criteria for participation in band, grades and behavior can affect a student's standing in band.

Field Trips

Field trips can have a significant impact on student learning. We strongly encourage students to participate in field trips, which are designed to enhance their educational experiences. Field trips will be under the supervision of a Carroll County School Board employee. A permission note will be sent home with information concerning each trip. This signed permission note must be returned by the due date in order for your child to participate. Handwritten notes or phone calls cannot be accepted as permission for participation.

Homecoming Representatives

Homecoming will be held in the fall at a designated football game. Girls and boys may be elected to the homecoming court one time during grades 6-7. All 8th grade girls and boys are eligible to be elected. Male representatives will be presented at the Pep Rally while female representatives will be presented during half time of the football game. Representatives will have escorts during the ceremony. Escorts should be a parent/guardian, family member, or a student enrolled at Mount Zion Middle or High School.

Honor Roll and Other Awards

Mount Zion Middle School is committed to honoring students who have demonstrated excellence in the classroom, on the athletic field, in Fine Arts, in attendance, and good citizenship. Listed below are some of the MZMS Student Celebration/Recognition programs at MZMS.

Honor Roll

Mount Zion Middle School recognizes superior academic achievement by students with a publicized honor roll at the end of the 1st semester and the end of the school year. Students can qualify for the high honor roll by having a 4.0 GPA and honor roll with a 3.5 to 3.9 GPA. 1st semester will be based on the 1st semester averages while the end of the year will be based on grades through mid-term of the 4th nine weeks. Students are recognized with incentives during lunch time each 9 weeks. This is in accordance with honor graduate requirements at the high school level.

Eagle Pride Wall

Each 9 weeks, grade level teachers nominate two students for our Pride Wall of Fame. Students are nominated based on the following criteria:

All Time High – This category recognizes students who have made significant improvement, excelled on a test, or have maintained a very high average in class. Teachers may recognize a student if he/she has earned an all-time best grade on an assignment or test, or made improvement overall.

Citizenship – This category represents acts of kindness, exemplary citizenship, or positive choices/behavior. Teachers may recognize a student who has demonstrated good character, volunteered or began/participated in a community (school) initiative.

Arts/Athletics – This category recognizes students for visual artistic ability, music and performing arts as well as athleticism either on a sports team or in P.E. Teachers may nominate a student for an exceptional performance or effort.

Students and parents will be invited to a reception where students will be recognized. This will be done at the end of each nine weeks.

Outstanding Eagles

Each year, members of the faculty and staff at MZMS each choose an 8th grade student to be honored as an Outstanding Eagle. Faculty members are looking to recognize those students who have demonstrated courage, commitment, integrity, work ethic, character, perseverance, and the ability to grow over the student's entire middle school experience grades 6-8.

Lockers

Lockers are available for students to rent for \$15.00 per year. Lockers are school property and can be searched by school administration if it is considered necessary. Some helpful hints about lockers to protect students and their belongings:

- Use the locker assigned to you. Don't trade lockers with someone else. If there is a problem, let us help you by changing lockers if possible.
- Sharing your locker is not advised. Whoever rents the locker is responsible for the contents of the locker.
- Keep your locker combination a secret. Keep your locker closed and locked at all times. Don't "jam" the locker mechanism, so you have easy access because that means others do too.

- Keep your locker clean. Don't write on it or put permanent stickers on the inside or outside. Nothing is allowed to be glued or taped to the outside of the lockers unless permission is given by the administration.

School Advisory Council

Stakeholder engagement and support is crucial to the overall efforts of schools in improving school culture/climate and performance. In an effort to support this, MZMS will have a school advisory council. The MZMS council will meet four times each year. Dates for meetings are published on the School Calendar located on the school's website. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the school principal.

School Nutrition

Mt. Zion Middle consistently serves a healthy and delicious breakfast and lunch to our students. We appreciate all the hard work our school nutrition staff puts in to feed our students, faculty, and visitors daily. Ms. April Shirey is our Lunchroom Manager. If you have questions regarding the school nutrition program, please contact her.

The School Nutrition Program will return to normal meal service this school year and will again provide meals at no charge to students 18 years old and under. We encourage families to take advantage of this opportunity and to also complete a Free and Reduced meal application. Students may purchase items ala carte. Parents can place funds in a student account through www.MySchoolBucks.com. With the exception of milk to accompany meals brought from home, ala carte items cannot be charged.

Extra Milk \$0.50

Adult Breakfast \$1.75; Adult Lunch \$3.75

Breakfast is served each morning from 7:45 am until 8:10 am.

Lunch is served from 11:10-12:20 (by group).

All schools have a computerized meal accounting system whereby money may be deposited for a week, month, or year. Monthly statements of account balance are available to students and parents. Parents may pay on-line for their student's meals at <https://www.myschoolbucks.com/> (on the District level website under parents/school nutrition). **Students are not allowed to charge any meals.** If there is a problem, please contact the front office or Ms. April Shirey so we can make sure your student receives a nutritious meal that day. All food allergies or health concerns should be reported to the school nurse so that meal alternatives can be served.

Student Advisement

Mt. Zion Middle School students will participate in a series of middle school advisement lessons through their RISE group. The lessons cover a variety of topics including: Making it at Middle School, Internet Safety, Bullying, College and Career Exploration, Test-taking Skills, and other topics as determined by the needs of the students. For more information, you may contact the school counselor or your student's mentor teacher.

Surveys

Mt. Zion Middle School conducts several surveys each year to get input from parents and students on ways to improve the overall program at MZMS. One of these surveys is the Georgia Health Survey (November-January), and the other is the Title I School Improvement Survey (March-April). These surveys will be available on the school website and Facebook page. Please help us to provide a premier learning environment by completing the surveys. We will send home flyers and announcements reminding you when the surveys are posted.

Title I

Mt. Zion Middle School is designated as a Title I school. Title I funds supplement local and state educational programs to ensure all students achieve in all academic areas. The Title I program offers a variety of services which may include additional teachers and support staff, extra time for instruction, a variety of teaching methods and materials, smaller classes, and additional training for staff.

Title I Annual Meeting, Title I Plan, and Parent Involvement Plan

Each year Mt. Zion Middle School will host an Annual Title I meeting and Parent/Stakeholder input meeting to discuss with parents and all stakeholders the progress that has been made in meeting the needs of all students at Mt. Zion Middle School. The previous Title I plan will be reviewed, and a comprehensive Title I plan, and a Parent and Family Engagement Plan will be written using the input received at the meeting. Published plans will be made available to parents via the school's website, paper copies sent home, and in the Parent Resource Center/Title I Notebook.

School/Student/Parent Compact

This compact will be developed outlining each stakeholder's responsibility in increasing student achievement and overall school improvement and the means by which the school and parents will develop a partnership. All students and parents must sign a compact and have it on file at the school.

Parental Involvement Activities

As a part of Title I, MZMS will host at least two academic nights for parents to review the curriculum in each of the major content areas. These activities will include ways for parents to help their students. Other Parental Involvement activities may be scheduled. For more information on parental involvement resources and parental involvement activities, please contact the front office.

Title I Surveys

Title I surveys are given during the spring of each school. Results of these surveys are used to inform the Title I School Improvement Plan for the following year. Information about completing these surveys will be sent home in the spring. Your input is very important to us.

Parent Resource Center

The Parent Resource Center is located in the Media Center of MZMS. In addition to school-wide data and information, parenting resources are available to help parents with a variety of issues. A computer and an internet connection are also provided for parents who need to use them. The room is open from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm daily.

Transportation Changes

For the safety of students, we do not allow students to make changes in transportation unless we have a written request from parents. In cases of emergency, a parent may email (sabriena.wyatt@carrollcountyschools.com) or fax a transportation change request. **Students who intend to ride home with one another whether by bus or by car should bring notes from both parents with phone numbers.** We will verify requests with both parents. If we are unable to verify notes, students will not be allowed to ride with each other. Please remember that some of our buses are full and cannot allow additional riders.

Visitors

In order to keep our students and faculty safe, all visitors are required to report to the front office to sign in and receive a pass. If you need to meet with teachers, please make sure that you have scheduled a conference in advance as we will not be able to interrupt instructional time. Teachers may not be able to meet unless it is during their planning period. Conferences may be scheduled through individual teachers or the school counselor. While we encourage parents to visit classrooms, there are district policies and procedures that must be followed. Please see "Visitors To School" in the district section of this handbook. (D27)

Carroll County Schools' District-Wide Middle and High School Handbook

Additional information regarding policies and rules may be found in the Carroll County Schools' district-wide handbook. You may access it [HERE](#).

