

Zumbrota-Mazeppa Students Come Back to a New Look

Welcome back to school, students and staff to the 2022-23 school year! This year we have many changes to be excited for as we move through the school year. The District is preparing this year with upgraded facilities, new programs, and new staff members. The challenges of the past few years are coming to an end and we now look forward to building a new vision for the Zumbrota-Mazeppa students community. The resources invested into our schools will now be blended into developing programs for our students.

We are nearing the completion of our facility upgrades. We will however be busy throughout the year finishing the details of the project to make sure everything is wrapped up. Just like building a home, the final details are what really gives it a sense of completion. Look for us to have fewer large scale renovations that interrupt normal student and community routine. That is exciting because we have lived with major construction for over 2 years.

New programs in the district include Zumbrota-Mazeppa taking back its food service from a management company model to a local District ran model and an expansion of our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. Having our own food service again is a huge undertaking and will take some time to get it to where the District's vision is: Having local control and providing more locally sourced foods with quality and affordability for students and families. Regarding Career and Technical Education, we have added staff for more student course choices in this area. Using our new Career and Technical Education space, we are adding some high technology programming and manufacturing equipment to the district. Prior to the renovations we did not have space for such programs and we are now grateful to be able to build this program area.

When the doors open this Fall, we have over 30 new staff members in the district. Programs that were previously contracted out and retirees make up the bulk of these new staff members. We welcome all of our new staff to the Zumbrota-Mazeppa Community!

This year the School Board is setting a vision for the future of Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools by completing a Strategic Planning process. The goals of the last few years have largely been facilities for students and programs. With that being accomplished, we now turn to set a vision for what academic programs will look like at Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools. Like it or not, the pandemic has reshaped the way we do things and the skills students will need to be competitive in the job market for the careers required to do these new things. Working through the first half of this year, the district will be using planning groups made up of staff, students, and the community to help shape this Strategic Plan. The plan will set the direction of resources and programs that we must build to meet the goals of the Strategic Plan. We are very excited to start this process, obtain input from the community during the process, and to begin implementing the plan so we can build the programs that will benefit our students.

Welcome again to the 2022-23 school year. We have a lot to be grateful for and a great amount of wonderful things to be excited about!