

Z·B·E PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



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April 22, 2025

Instructional Updates

April 15 was a milestone testing day, with students participating in the statewide ACT. In the weeks leading up to the test, teachers worked diligently to prepare students—incorporating ACT-style questions into instruction, sharing test-taking strategies, supporting goal-setting, and offering resources for extra practice.

While official scores are still pending, we're proud of the 93% attendance rate on test day and the smooth, successful implementation of this new testing platform. This achievement was truly a team effort. Special thanks to the Office of Academics led by Dr. DiGangi, Assistant Principal Isaacs, our entire staff, and most importantly, our students for their focus and commitment.

On March 20, our seniors participated in the "Bite of Reality" simulation, hosted by Great Lakes Credit Union. This hands-on event offered a powerful lesson in financial literacy, giving students a realistic look at budgeting and making informed financial decisions. A huge thank you to Ms. Ruggles for bringing this important experience to our students.

On April 8, Ms. Casado-Parejo and her Spanish Heritage classes celebrated Spanish culture and cuisine with student-led presentations and shared dishes that highlighted the cultural and historical significance of various foods. It was a festive and educational celebration of heritage and identity.

Operational Updates

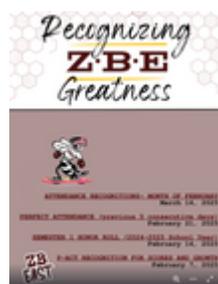
With ACT testing behind us and seniors receiving their caps and gowns, the end of the school year is in sight! Zion-Benton East is excited to celebrate the graduating Class of 2025, gear up for a productive summer, and welcome both the incoming Class of 2029 and the 2025-2026 school year.

Now that the Board of Education has approved new language in the Student Handbook regarding the Personal Electronic Device Policy, staff are engaging in professional development to ensure consistent implementation for the 2025-2026 school year. These conversations also focus on the policy's impact on student behavior, classroom learning, and school climate. Staff are thoughtfully considering how to communicate the "why" behind the policy to help students understand its purpose and encourage cooperation rather than resistance.

Attendance Update / Celebrations

As of April 11, 2025, Zion-Benton East's average daily attendance stands at 92.10%, which aligns with the state average from the previous year. While this is a slight decrease of 1.69% compared to the same time last year, it remains strong overall. Chronic absenteeism currently sits at 17%, up 6% from last year but still significantly below the state average of 26%. ZB East continues to celebrate individual students for excellent attendance or improvement in attendance through weekly videos.

Bite of Reality



Spanish Heritage

