

Z·B·E PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



MR. KEVIN WILAND ZION-BENTON EAST PRINCIPAL kevin.wiland@zb126.org

March 18, 2025

Instructional Updates

The countdown to the April 15th ACT is officially underway! Teachers across all disciplines are integrating ACT-style questions into their coursework to help students practice and master essential skills. Students are also being equipped with strategies in reading, science, and math to demonstrate their proficiency on test day. Each student is setting individualized goals and reviewing them with their advisory teacher. We encourage parents to actively support their students in achieving these goals. Zion-Benton East offers [various resources to help students prepare effectively and reach their ACT target scores.](#)

On February 26, our math teachers participated in professional development focused on deepening students' understanding of mathematical concepts. Key topics discussed included the importance of regular cumulative review, the integration of ACT-style questions throughout the curriculum, and emphasizing depth of understanding over breadth of topics. Additionally, teachers explored strategies to engage students in meaningful discourse and use relevant, motivating examples. The insights gained from this session were immediately implemented in classrooms.

Celebrations

At Zion-Benton East, we believe in the power of celebrating student success. We recognize students who demonstrate exceptional achievement or growth in academics, attendance, or proficiency. These celebrations are highlighted through videos displayed during advisory periods [and are also available for families to view on our website.](#) We are proud to showcase the accomplishments of our students and remain committed to celebrating their hard work and dedication.

Operational Updates

At Zion-Benton East, we continue to prioritize student attendance and provide interventions for students with frequent absences. Our current attendance rate stands at 92.4%, with a chronic truancy rate of 11.8%. Encouragingly, our Class of 2028 (freshmen) is leading the way with an impressively low chronic truancy rate of 2.9%. It's inspiring to see our youngest students embracing the importance of regular school attendance. Great job, freshmen!

Zion-Benton East also values the feedback from all our stakeholders, which is why [we are encouraging students, staff, and parents to participate in the 5Essentials Survey.](#) This feedback is essential for our ongoing efforts to improve the school and ensure we provide an exceptional education for every student.

After collecting feedback from the Electronic Device Stakeholder Survey, the Zion-Benton East School Improvement Team and administration reviewed the results and implemented a new policy, effective for the 2025-2026 school year. The updated student handbook states, "During instructional time, students are not permitted to use cell phones. Instructional time is defined as any time designated for teaching, learning, assessment, or enrichment activities. All cell phones must be silenced and stored out of sight for the entire duration of each instructional period." In the coming weeks, Zion-Benton East will communicate with students and parents to ensure everyone understands the new policy, its importance in minimizing distractions, and the support systems in place to help implement it effectively.

Click link

