



August 1, 2021

Dear ZCA Families,

Welcome to a brand new school year at Zion Classical Academy! We are so blessed to partner with your family in our mission of educating your children for Eternity. ZCA provides superior academics that include the best of tradition with a modern delivery and Biblical worldview. We look forward to a year of adventure and challenge that will raise the bar in your children's education, providing them with transformative opportunities that will enable them to stand unashamedly for the cause of Christ while building character, work ethic and the ability to be excellent in whatever God calls them to do. It won't be easy, but it will always be worth it, and it begins here and now. With all that has been happening in our society lately, our children need this type of education now more than ever.

Our staff has been hard at work this summer, preparing for a year full of exciting changes. In May, all of our teachers (including our newest teacher, Ms. Klein) traveled to Hillsdale Academy/College in Michigan for four days of intense observation and training. Hillsdale is known for its rigorous academics and dedication to civil and religious liberty. It was a privilege to be immersed in the culture of such an established and reputable classical school system. Their faculty and administration welcomed us with open arms and spent considerable time answering our many questions. We came away with lots of inspiration and ideas to infuse into our program at ZCA. For instance, starting this school year, we will have a daily schoolwide opening ceremony where we gather to raise our flags and recite our pledges, listen to student recitations, and pray together. We will also be using a new Language Arts/Reading/Phonics/Spelling curriculum for grades K-6, as well as a new Geography and Latin curriculum (all of which are used by Hillsdale). You will also notice changes to the décor in our classrooms, hallways, and commons areas, which reflect the more sophisticated style of classical aesthetics. Mrs. Novotne, Ms. Ellis, Ms. Klein, and Mrs. Nielsen were blessed to receive weekly Latin lessons all summer from a Hillsdale College Latin Scholar. The knowledge gained from these tutoring sessions will greatly enhance our Latin instruction at ZCA for many years to come.

Thank you again for entrusting your children to us this coming year. We desire to build a strong community relationship with you and your family through open communication and a shared dedication to the hard work that will accomplish our mission. Please pray daily, along with us, for your children, their teacher and ZCA administration and staff. Together and with God's guidance, we strive to assist you in transforming your children into young men and women of Christ-like character who will become the leaders of current and future generations.

God's Blessings,

Mrs. Sara Nielsen