



Adams Update September 11, 2020

Picture Day: Monday, September 21

Adams Picture Day is **Monday, September 21**. This is for **both face-to-face AND Virtual Academy students**. These pictures are for your school picture collection, and will also be included the school yearbook. If your child attends face-to-face, teachers will escort their students to the Media Center for photos.

Important information for **Virtual Academy** students who want pictures taken:

1. Come to Adams between 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., or 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
2. Please wear a mask, and enter through the Main Entrance, and then go directly into the Media Center through the door on the right. Pictures will be taken in the Media Center.
3. Parents may wait outside, or in the front lobby, while the pictures are being taken.
4. Proofs and order forms arrive about a week after picture day. Parents will be notified when they are ready for pick-up in the lobby.

NWEA Testing

Next Wednesday we begin the NWEA Map Assessment for all students, grades K-5, Virtual Academy and face-to-face. We will give this assessment multiple times this school year to meet the benchmark assessment requirement from the state of Michigan. This is not a “high stakes” test for your child, as the purpose is to simply measure student skill, knowledge, and growth in English and Math. We will use the information we receive to help direct our instruction in those areas. The NWEA is a technology-based assessment and will be taken on the Chromebooks.

Morning Drop-Off and Afternoon Pick-Up

The beginning and end of the school day went well this week. Please continue to plan to have your children arrive no earlier than 8:20 a.m. At the end of the day, whether you are here to pick-up your children or they leave on their own, please continue to leave the school property promptly, in order to limit germ communication. Thank you for your continued cooperation in this area.

Parking Lot Protocols

When dropping off and picking up students in your car, please remember to pull your car all the way forward, along the curb, as directed, to allow traffic to keep moving as much as possible. Other important notes:

1. Students need to enter/exit vehicles on the **PASSENGER SIDE**, closest to the curb.
2. You may find it goes smoother if students have bags and materials with them in the car, rather than in the trunk. This will save time when students are exiting the car.
3. Please **DO NOT** park and get out of your car along the drop-off/pick up line at the curb. If you are parking and walking to the school, park in the lot. Thank you!

Talking with Children about Difficult Topics, 9-11 Edition

Today is September 11. If your child talks with you about what happened on September 11, 2001, it can be hard to know what to say or how to approach the topic. Thank you to Debbie Winstone, our Student Support Specialist, for this article about that conversation. You may find that some of the strategies in the article are also helpful for other difficult topics and conversations.

<https://www.today.com/parents/how-talk-kids-about-september-11-age-age-I381045>

Stressed Brains Cannot Learn

The past six months has been a very stressful period in our lives and those of our children, particularly here in Midland, with the flood locally, political strife nationally, and the pandemic globally. Research clearly indicates that a high level of stress has a negative outcome for learning and general well-being. To this end, here at Adams we will be introducing some short mindfulness activities to help students learn how to calm their brains and bodies. These will be simple, guided, two to three minute deep breathing, stretching and relaxation exercises. If you have any questions about mindfulness or the activities, or want other ideas for your children, please do not hesitate to reach out to Debbie Winstone, our Student Support Specialist.

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Backpack Buddy Emergency Food Program

We are aware that it is sometimes difficult to make ends meet and to provide adequate nutrition for families. The Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network supplies the **Backpack Buddy** program to help bridge this gap. The program distributes packages of food to elementary and preschool children in backpacks or plastic bags on Friday afternoons (or the last day of the school week) to provide meals and snacks for the weekend. There is no cost for the program; please read the attached information for more information. To participate in Backpack Buddies, please fill out the attached form and return to your teacher or the school office. Note: this program is also available to Virtual Academy students, but there is no delivery—the backpacks will need to be picked up/dropped off at Adams. Forms are also available in the lobby.

Repeat from last week: School Breakfast and Lunch Program

We received information last week that breakfast and lunch can be provided to all students at no cost to families through the end of 2020. Families are still asked to complete the free/reduced price meal application for the 2020-21 school year. The application can be completed online:

www.lunchapp.com. If you would like to complete a paper copy of the application, they are available in the school office.

Students in the Virtual Academy may also have meals provided. They must be pre-ordered, and then picked up here at Adams on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. If pre-ordering is not completed, there will be no meal available for pick-up. To pre-order, please use this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfqOe9zsBEICE8gwIC7EDjyuS3zSFyuH8WQz6UE9oj1Z00suw/closedform>

Sharing Tree and Christmas Closet

Sharing Tree forms and Community Christmas Closet forms are available in the Adams office. Sharing Tree forms need to be returned to the office by October 1, 2020. Community Christmas Closet forms need to be returned by mail to the Community Christmas Closet or to the school office before October 15, 2020.

Chromebook Insurance

Today is the last day to sign up for Chromebook Insurance—if you haven't paid by the end of the day, you are considered to be "opted out" of the insurance and will be responsible for full cost of repairs and replacement. Here is the link for SchoolPay.

<https://www.schoolpay.com/pay/for/20202021-Technology-Insurance/SlxbME>

Upcoming Events

Mon, September 21

Picture Day

Wed, November 11

Parent-Teacher Conferences

We had a great week here at Adams, and we look forward to seeing you and your students again next week. Have a good weekend!

Educationally yours,

Scott Cochran

Principal