



## Adams Update December 10, 2021

### **Masks Highly Recommended, but No Longer Required**

As you heard from our Superintendent, as of Monday, December 13, masks are highly recommended at our elementary schools, but no longer required. The rules are a little different if a student is a close contact and in the testing protocol, but absent that, masks are recommended/not required. As has been the case all year, the MPS Covid protocols will be adapted and changed in response to the Covid numbers in our schools and community.

### **Playground Zones Transitioning Out**

Also as of Monday, December 13, we are no longer dividing the playground into zones. Students in different classes may be able to play with students from other classes in the same grade. It will take us a few weeks to completely transition from our current schedule to the new schedule, but by January 3 this will be the case across all of our grades.

### **Lunch in the Cafeteria Starting Monday, January 3**

Starting Monday, January 3, all MPS elementary schools, including Adams, will be using Cafeterias for lunch. While in the Cafeteria, each class will sit together at their own assigned tables. Breakfast will continue to be in the classrooms. We are working with our students to teach or remind them how to eat in the Cafeteria. This will take a little bit of time, as our Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students have never used the Cafeteria before! Training will take place prior to January 3 for our youngest students, especially.

### **Art Update from Mrs. Dulude**



We have been finishing up our clay projects by adding COLOR to them! Fourth and Fifth graders painted their projects with glaze. We learned how glaze is very different than other types of paint that we use. Check out these awesome, colorful Chameleons and Whistles!



1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students enjoyed painting their projects with tempera paint. These puppies and apples are too cute!



3<sup>rd</sup> grade celebrated their Thanksgiving with some amazing tempera-painted turkeys with feathers.

Next, we will be still working in the 3D media but learning all about paper sculptures. Paper clay and paper mache projects are on the roster after Christmas break!

### PTO Update

Be sure to check out today's PTO Update. Good information here about the **Friends of Adams Closet** (please consider donations of clothes that are no longer needed), and our upcoming meeting. New folks are always welcome—we meet this **Monday, December 13, 6:00 p.m.**, in the Adams Media Center—see you there!

[Adams Atoms Newsletter Dec 10](#)



## Parking Lot Etiquette

With the onset of snow and cold weather we have more families dropping off and picking up students. Our parking lot is small, and the neighborhood traffic patterns were designed when few parents drove to school. It is important to **plan extra time** if you are coming to school for drop off or pick up, and **please be patient with each other**. Important tips:

- A. If you are getting out of your car, please park in the lot and walk to the building. Do NOT leave your car in the pick up/drop off line, do NOT park on the street.
- B. During the pick up and drop off times, cars need to enter and exit the lot at the same place, at the entrance furthest from the light, on the east side of the parking lot. Do NOT use the exit closest to the light at those times—it is for busses only.
- C. School busses pull up into the area by the flagpole, which is crossed off with yellow lines. Please do NOT park or wait for children in those areas.
- D. Remember to have children exit and enter cars on the passenger side if you pull up in the line—that will keep them out of the way of traffic. If you park your car in the lot, please walk your children between the building and the cars.
- E. As always, be **kind and patient** with each other. This is an elementary school, we are all here to serve the needs of 5-11 year-olds. Let's model polite and respectful behavior for them, and they will mirror it back to us. Thank you!

## Repeat—How Do We Talk with Our Children About Recent Events?

In case you missed it last week, Mrs. Selaty, our Student Support Specialist, shared a very wise summary of ideas about how to talk with children about the types of events that occurred in Oxford last week. Please review the thoughts and tips, and use them as you see fit.

[Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers \(nasponline.org\)](http://nasponline.org)

## Upcoming Events

Wed, Dec 22	Half-day of school, 11:51am dismissal
Dec 23 – Jan 2	No school: Winter Break
Mon, Jan 3	First day of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester

It was 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

# the PYP Pulse

[December Edition]



"The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery." - Mark Von Doren

## PROGRAMME news

A major component of the PYP is learning through inquiry. Inquiry puts students in the driver's seat- they are not given information, but provided the opportunity to search and discover on their own. It is a process that honors students' wonderings and questions, and helps them discover areas of interest. Inquiry in the classroom is often driven through a central idea or "big" question, which gives focus to the learning. Inquiry moves students from their current understanding to a new or deeper level of understanding. Most learning experiences will fall along a continuum of structured inquiry to open inquiry; all methods aiming to develop students' abilities to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information.

Many teachers support the development of inquiry through uses of Wonder Walls, Jot Lots or its equivalent posted within the classroom. Wonder Walls, in general, is a place for students to ask questions, seek answers, and validate their curiosity. It allows teachers a vehicle to capture and honor students questions on a regular basis which may be inspired from Units of Inquiry, independent reading or a current event. Many teachers then provide opportunities for all members of the classroom- either individually, with a partner, small groups or whole group to be responsible for investigating the questions and learning with each other.

As IB PYP parents, there are many ways you can encourage and reinforce this learning and understanding at home.

- Encourage inquiry! Allow opportunities for your child to find out how things work and to explore the world around them!
- Model being an inquirer. When you don't know the answer to a question or how to solve a problem, talk about how you might find the answers/solutions.
- Encourage your child to try to think of solutions to problems independently. Allow him/her time to find out for him/herself.
- Pose real-life problems and questions to your child.
- Use the internet together to find appropriate websites to help with research. Teach your child how to judge if a site contains reliable information.

Adapted from The Curious Classroom, by Harvey Daniels

### Your PYP Coordinators:

Adams Elementary & Siebert Elementary: **Melissa Ahearn** [ahearnml@midlandps.org](mailto:ahearnml@midlandps.org)

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Central Park Elementary, Plymouth Elementary & Pre-Primary Center: **Whitney Jacobs** [jacobswd@midlandps.org](mailto:jacobswd@midlandps.org)



## LEARNING focus

### 10 Reasons to use Inquiry-based Learning

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- 1 Nurture student passions & talents
  - 2 Empower student voice & honour student choice
  - 3 Increase motivation and engagement
  - 4 Foster curiosity and a love for learning
  - 5 Teach grit, perseverance, growth mindset & self-regulation
  - 6 Make research meaningful & develop strong research skills
  - 7 Deepen understanding to go beyond memorizing facts and content
  - 8 Fortify the importance of asking good questions
  - 9 Enable students to take ownership over their own learning and to reach their goals
  - 10 Solve the problems of tomorrow in the classrooms of today
- Genius Hour 20% Time Passion Projects

## SCHOOL - HOME connection

Read Alouds to support the Learner Profile Attribute:

### Inquirer-

We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

### Be a Maker

By Katie Howes

### Going Places

by Peter Reynolds

### Izzy Gizmo

by Pip Jones

### What Do You Do with an Idea?

by Kobi Yamada

