



Adams Update October 2, 2021

Welcome to Adams: Mrs. Richard, 1st Grade Teacher

Last week we introduced you to one of our new 1st grade teachers, and this week you'll meet the second new member of our 1st grade team: Amy Richard! Mrs. Richard graduated from the University of Northern



Colorado, with a degree in Elementary Education and an emphasis in English as a Second Language. She taught second grade and pre-school for eight years in Lamar, Colorado, where she met her husband Luke, a Midland native. She and Luke have two daughters: first grader Madelyn, and Claire, who enjoys preschool. They love spending time together as a family, especially camping, hiking, being active in their church, and playing with their pets.

Since she was very young, Mrs. Richard always knew she wanted to be a teacher, and she is very excited to be part of the Adams Elementary team. She gives her students a lot of encouragement, is their biggest cheerleader, and loves teaching them that with effort, they can do great things!

NWEA Family Reports

This week you received the NWEA Family Report for your child. This report shows how your child performed on the test for both Reading and Math. The attached letter gives you more information, but here are the highlights.

- The NWEA is an adaptive test, so as students get questions right, the questions get harder. When answers are wrong, the questions get easier. The goal is to place the student at their academic level—this is the RIT score that you see on the report.
- If your child took the NWEA here at Adams last fall, the report shows growth over time—this is why our students take this test three times per year, so we can see how they learn as they attend class.
- The report also shows you how your child compares to other students. This is the “percentile” score. A student at the 50th percentile scored better than 50% of the students that took the test—right in the middle. This is not how many questions the student answered correctly, but rather how they compare to other students.
- The NWEA helps us identify strengths, and areas to grow, for all of our students, which helps us focus our instruction.

M-STEP Parent Reports also Coming Home

Last Spring our students in grades 3-5 took the Michigan state assessment, the M-STEP. If your child took that assessment, we're also sending that Parent Report home this week. The report shows how your child performed on each section of the test. This test is more traditional—students in the same grade get the same questions, and more questions answered correctly leads to higher scores. The report you'll receive shows you how your child scored compared to the goal for students in your child's grade.

Robotics

In past years Adams Elementary has had a number of teams participate in *First Lego League Robotics*. We did not participate last year, with the Covid situation being what it was, but now we're looking to start the program again. There are teams for students in grades 2 and 3, and grades 4 and 5. You can learn more about FLL at their website: <https://www.firstlegoleague.org/season>. The *Explore* is for grades 2-3, and the *Challenge* is for grades 4-5.

Is your child interested? If so, please fill out the form below and let us know. If we have enough interest, we will likely be able to start teams this Fall. We will also need parent mentors, so if you are interested in filling that role, please note that on the form, as well.

LINK TO FORM... [Robotics - Join the Adams Team!](#)

Paraprofessional Subs

Are you interested in helping out at school? We are on the lookout for paraprofessional substitutes to help out as needed. Our paraprofessionals do critical work here at Adams, helping students at lunchtime, working with students in classes, and helping maintain safety before and after school. We want to increase the number of people on our paraprofessional substitute list, people that could work to cover time when our paras are not able to work. If you are interested, please call and let us know.

5th grade Band, Orchestra, Choir

It has been so nice to hear the 5th grade Band, Orchestra, and Choir classes start up, again. 5th graders have the opportunity to start their participation in our Music programs, and many find it to be one of their most favorite activities from now through high school. Thank you to our teachers for being awesome, and we can't wait to hear from the Band, Orchestra, and Choir!

Mrs. Bruski, Band teacher

Mr. Will, Orchestra teacher

Mr. Gardner, Choir teacher

PTO Update

Be sure to check out the PTO Update for the latest info. Good notes about the results from the latest restaurant night, and more info about Spirit Wear. Thanks, PTO!

[Adams Atoms Newsletter Oct 1](#)

Upcoming Events

Thurs, Oct 28	Picture Retakes
Tues, Nov 2	No school for students
Thurs, Nov 11	½ day for students, 11:51 a.m. dismissal
Thurs, Nov 11	Parent-Teacher Conferences

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

Educationally yours,

Scott Cochran

Principal



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Dear MPS Families:

District wide, all students in grades DK-10 will take the NWEA MAP Growth assessment, in both reading and math. The results provide teachers with information to help guide appropriate instruction for each student's academic growth. It also provides you, as a parent, a snapshot of your child's growth over time. It is important to know the NWEA scores are just one data point about student learning. Teachers continuously use classroom assessments and tools to dig deeper with student learning and inform instructional plans. Below is additional information about the assessment.

What does MAP Growth measure?

MAP Growth measures what students know and what they don't know, regardless of their grade level, in math and reading. This helps teachers adjust their instruction for each student. It also measures growth over time, allowing you to track your student's progress throughout the school year and across multiple years.

Can MAP Growth tell me if my student is working at grade level?

MAP Growth scores are just one data point that teachers use to determine how a child is performing. MAP Growth measures if a student is performing similar to their peers (nationwide). The MAP Growth assessment is not used for any part of a student's grade.

Is MAP Growth a standardized test?

MAP Growth is administered periodically during the school year (fall, winter, spring). Instead of asking all students the same questions, it is computer adaptive, adjusting to each child's performance—giving a more accurate measure of what they know and what they are ready to learn. Teachers also receive results right away, which enables them to react more quickly.

What information will I receive from my student's school?

All schools will provide your student's Family Report, which contains information and scores from your student's most recent and past MAP Growth tests. We encourage you to visit the *Supporting Your Learner* section of our [Family Toolkit](#).

What do I do if I believe my child's abilities aren't being accurately reflected by their MAP scores?

Always talk to your child's teacher about any questions you have. They will have the most accurate, up to date information about your student's progress, and can further direct you to other instructional staff or administrators if you need additional support.

Additional information for parents can be found here:

- [Family Toolkit: Resources for Parents](#)
- [MAP Growth Video for Parents](#)
- [NWEA MAP Common Questions for Families](#)
- [A Family Guide to MAP Growth](#)