

ANNOUNCER

Adams Protestant Reformed Christian School

5539 Byron Center Avenue – Wyoming, Michigan 49519 – (616) 531-0748 – May, 2025
adamschristianschool.org

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Class Text

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident." Ps 27:1-3

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Administration & Staff

No Fear. God is God.

Mr. Rick Mingerink
Administrator

Within the next year, three schools (Covenant, Hope, and Adams) will lose their administrators. These individuals will be replaced with three new faces. For the last few years, the West Michigan sister schools have had an overall period of consistent school administration. In alphabetical order, Adams has had the same administrator for 16 years, Covenant for 28 years, Eastside for 6 years, Heritage for 18 years, Hope for 29 years, and Redeemer for 1 year. Starting next school year, this will begin to change.

Leadership transitions in these schools are not frequent so it is unique to see three schools obtain new administrators this close together. Most of us like stability and predictability. God created men and women that way. Because of this, there may be some concern about what direction a school will go in when a new administrator arrives. Teachers and staff may wonder what will be different about their work when "so and so" comes around. Parents may wonder will the school continue to be the school they desired when they first enrolled their children. Board members may wonder what issues they will need to face when someone new arrives.

As Adams prepares for the arrival of a new administrator, I remind us of a few important truths.

God is Guiding. God isn't surprised by the fact that the above three schools will be changing their administrators. God's hand is guiding this all the way. Sometimes we forget this. We forget that God is omniscient. Change happens BECAUSE of God, not regardless of Him. He knows the beginning and the end of all people and all things. God is guiding and the only right thing any of us can do is follow. Because of this, we trust God. His way is right.

God is Good. Not only is God guiding all things, but He is guiding them as a good God. His purposes are not evil. They are not to destroy His people, but to strengthen them. This doesn't mean God's people won't feel pain or hurt or struggle, but it does mean they ought not worry. God is good and what He does is good, too.

God is God. God alone is God. This is something we need to remind ourselves of. By confessing God is God, we are confessing that we are *not* God. We are confessing that we don't get to have control. God is ruling and we don't have to rule for Him. You and I have one responsibility and that is to follow. God is God!

None of us knows what lies ahead. That is good. We don't need to know what tomorrow brings, or next year. Let us trust God and faithfully follow Him. He is guiding, He is good, and He alone is God.

Waiting Well

Mrs. Annica Kuiper
First Grade

A couple of weeks ago, on the first day of spring break, my husband and I got up at 4am, brushed our teeth, grabbed our suitcases, met a kind friend in the driveway who was willing to be up before dawn to take us to the airport, checked our bags, made it through security, boarded the plane, and sank with a sigh of relief into our seats. Vacation. Finally. We were on our way.

Except...we weren't. The plane didn't pull away from the gate. Instead, we sat there and waited. And waited. And kept on waiting. Finally, the pilot notified us that we were waiting for a fuel truck, which was about 20 minutes away, putting our flight nearly an hour behind schedule.

The whole plane groaned. It was now almost 7:00am and the knowledge that we had gotten up at an unearthly hour to start our trip as early as possible and make the most out of each day was rankling in my mind. 20 minutes came and went and still, we kept on waiting. And checking our watches. And waiting some more. The waiting became harder the longer we sat. As a first-grade teacher, I have learned to be fairly patient in the face of inexplicable circumstances, but for an airport to be short on fuel trucks on one of the busiest days of air traffic travel? The 4am wakeup call was starting to eat at me.

Waiting. It's one of the most common experiences in the world, and yet somehow, we are always surprised by it.

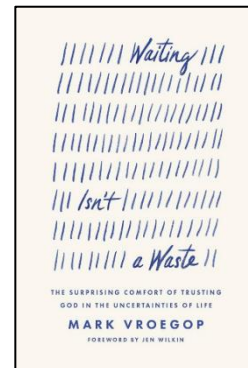
In God's providence, I recently had the opportunity to study a book by Mark Vroegop entitled *Waiting Isn't a Waste*. It's a practical and culturally-relevant look at an underexamined area of the Christian life—times of waiting. In a fast-paced society that thrives on instant gratification, waiting isn't what we do best. As I sat there on the plane, I realized I was being given the opportunity to put into practice what I had read in this book: that when we wait, we don't sit and do nothing. Rather, we actively relinquish our right to *know* and intentionally choose to *trust* in God. We acknowledge that our plans and our schedule are not necessarily God's plan for us, and we surrender to His gracious providence.

It wasn't easy, but right there on the plane, I had to admit that a vacation was not my right. That my plan was not a priority. And that trusting in God is a full-time commitment—even in the middle seat of a delayed plane on the first day of spring break. Feeling guilty over my frustration, I took a deep breath and settled in to wait with a better attitude. Two hours later, the plane was fueled, and we were on our way. In the big scheme of things, a very small matter. But it was a good opportunity to practice waiting intentionally, and when we practice waiting well in the unimportant times, it helps us learn a posture of patience for all of the waiting in our lives.

Each of us is waiting. Sometimes we wait for big things—a medical diagnosis, a job opportunity, a pastor to fill a vacant pulpit, the return of a wayward family member; and sometimes we wait for lesser things—like a delayed plane or summer vacation. None of us are strangers to waiting. And that's intentional. God uses our times of waiting to lead us closer to him. As Vroegop writes, "Waiting is...God's

design to regularly remind us that we are not divine" (p. 33). Waiting leads us to realign our trust and hope in the almighty God and to rest in him. God commands his people to wait, "Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for him..." (Psalm 37:7) and promises his blessing to those who wait, "Blessed are all they that wait for him" (Isaiah 30:18).

Waiting is a collective experience for the child of God. For all of time and for all of history, God's people have waited. My first graders and I came up with a lengthy list of people from our Bible lessons who were called by God to wait. Noah waited for the flood. Job waited to be healed. Abraham waited for a son. Joseph waited in prison. Israel waited to enter the Promised Land. David waited to be king. The list could go on for pages.



As we considered all the waiting that God calls his people to do, I asked my students to share something that they are waiting for. Children are, after all, well-acquainted with waiting. The answers were varied: *waiting to get my ears pierced, waiting for my birthday, waiting to go on vacation*. And then one student said, "Waiting for heaven." And there it was. What we are all waiting for: heaven.

Waiting is the shared, lived experience of every child of God since the dawn of time. We are a waiting people—waiting for the return of Jesus Christ our King and the eternal life we will have with him in heavenly glory. One day, our waiting will be over. But until then, we can practice waiting well—actively trusting in God and intentionally living in hope. I think Psalm 27 says it best, "I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD" (vv. 13-14).

The first graders chose to write a short paragraph about someone from our Bible lessons who had to wait or something they themselves are currently waiting for. Enjoy their insights on this important aspect of the Christian life.

A Lesson for the Israelites

~ Logan Oosterbaan

In the Bible, the Israelites were not obeying God. They had to wander and wander in the desert for 40 years. They felt tired of walking in the dry land and many people died. They waited for a long time to finally get into Canaan. One day, they reached the end of the desert, and they could see the beautiful land of Canaan. God taught them a lesson in the wilderness: they had to learn to obey Him.

Waiting for a Special Child

~ Theodore Hoekstra

Elisabeth and Zacharias were waiting for a special child. They were very old. Years went past and they still had no baby. An angel came down to Zacharias in the Most Holy Place and told him that he would have a son. Finally, they had a baby and his name was John. As John was growing up, he was a prophet and preached about Jesus coming. God was teaching Zacharias and Elisabeth patience while they were waiting for a baby.

Noah and the Flood

~ Fern Pastoor

God told Noah He was going to send a flood, but Noah had to wait a long time for the rain. Noah was building the ark for 120 years. Noah might have felt a little scared, but he put his trust in God. After the rain and water covered the earth, Noah waited in the ark until the water was almost gone. God sent a beautiful rainbow as a special sign. God taught Noah to be patient during the flood.

Hannah and Samuel

~ Colin Kortering

Hannah was waiting for a baby for a long time. Hannah prayed at the tabernacle for years and years. Hannah was sad because she had no baby, and her sister was mocking her. Eli spoke to Hannah and told her that she would soon have a baby. Hannah finally had a baby boy who she named "Samuel"—Asked of God. Hannah gave Samuel back to God by leaving him at the tabernacle to learn about God. Sometimes God is not ready to give us what we want, so we have to trust in Him.

Israel and the Battle of Jericho

~ Isaac Mingerink

Israel was waiting for their first battle in Canaan against Jericho. For six days, they walked one time around the huge city of Jericho and when their one time was over, they went back to their tents. The Israelites were wondering how they were going to win the battle of Jericho. On the seventh day, they walked around Jericho seven times. After the seventh time, the priests blew trumpets, and the people shouted as loud as they could and then the walls fell down. The Israelite men attacked, and the people won the battle! The people were taught to trust in the Lord when they felt afraid.

Noah in the Ark

~ Jayla Kooienga

Noah had to wait in the ark a long time for the water of the flood to dry up. Noah and his family were waiting in the boat for many months. They were happy to listen to God, not like the

wicked people who were drowned in the flood. While they were waiting, Noah was still taking care of the animals. When he thought the water was almost gone, Noah sent out birds. When the birds didn't come back, Noah knew that his family could get out of the boat, too. God is not always ready for us to do things right away. We sometimes have to learn to wait.

Waiting to Go to Canaan

~ Holland Kamps

In the Bible, the Israelites were waiting to go to Canaan for a long time. They were slaves in Egypt for 400 years. Pharaoh made the Israelites' lives hard and some of them were dying. Finally, Moses was born to save the Israelites. God would tell Moses to save the people from Egypt. God taught the Israelites to be patient while they were waiting to go to Canaan.

Waiting To Be Saved

~ Caleb Koole

Mary was waiting for her baby Jesus to be born. Mary visited Elisabeth and Elisabeth told her that her baby would be special. Mary was joyful and happy because Jesus would save us from our sins. All of God's people were waiting for Jesus to be born. God was teaching them to be patient and be ready for the Savior to come.

Moses in the Desert

~ Travis Hanko

Moses was waiting in the desert for a long time to lead Israel out of Egypt. For 40 years, Moses was in the desert taking care of sheep. Then Moses saw a burning bush that was still green! God commanded Moses to go back to Egypt to speak to Pharaoh and tell him, "Let my people go." God taught Moses to be patient until God was ready to save His people.

Hannah Prays to God

~ Eloise Kregel

Hannah was waiting for a special child. She prayed for years and years and begged God for a child. Hannah was sad for a long time. Then, Hannah was praying in the tabernacle and Eli the priest spoke to her. He said that she would have a baby. Hannah had a baby boy and his name was Samuel. Samuel would be the judge when he grew up. The lesson we learn is that sometimes God's answer is *no*, sometimes His answer is *yes*, and sometimes His answer is *not right now*.

Sleeper Camping Trip

~ Charlotte Kaiser

Me and my family are waiting to go on our vacation trip this summer. In July, we are going camping at Sleeper State Park. I'm so happy because our camping trip is coming up very soon. I'm going to ride my scooter around the loop and build a sandcastle at the beach. Going camping at Sleeper is special because I go every year with my family. This year, my grandma and grandpa are coming too, and we will get to go in the water with them at the beach. I have to be patient until summer because I still have school in the spring. I'm excited to go to Sleeper with my family!

A Fun Colorado Trip*~ Sally VanTil*

I am waiting to go to Colorado in July with my family. We will be driving for a long time and at night we will sleep in a hotel. I am excited to go, but I'm kind of nervous to be away from home. I'm happy that I'll be with my grandpa and grandma and cousins. On our trip, we will stay in a cabin and hike and sight-see. I have to wait patiently until summer vacation.

My Cottage Vacation*~ Josie Langerak*

I am waiting to go to my cottage on vacation. We aren't going to go this summer, but maybe we will go next year. If we go, I will be happy and excited. At the cottage, we do a scavenger hunt outside and have a sleepover with my cousins. I have to be patient while we wait to go on vacation again.

Flying to Tennessee*~ Sam Elzinga*

I am waiting to go to Tennessee on an airplane. I have to wait until school is finished, and then two days later, I will go. I am excited because we only get to go on a trip once a year. We're going to stay in a cabin and go hiking and go to Dollywood. Dollywood is like a fair and park combined. My family will have fun and time to relax. It will take a while to plan and pack, so we will have to be patient.

Patiently Waiting for My Birthday*~ Josie Bodbyl*

I'm waiting for my birthday and as it gets closer, I'm getting more excited each day. My birthday is on April 30 which is one week away—only six more days! I have been getting happier each week. I'm hoping that I'll get a Barbie dreamhouse and a mermaid birthday cake. We are going golfing to celebrate with my family. Soon we'll get ready to decorate for the party. My mom taught me to be patient while I wait for my birthday.

An Exciting Birthday*~ Davis VanOverloop*

I am waiting for my 7th birthday which is on May 25. It is a special day for me because it is the day that I was born and my parents were very happy. May 25 is at the end of the school year. I am excited to open fun presents from my family. On my birthday, I will get gifts, eat cake, and say "Thank you!" to everyone. After I open my presents, I will play with my new toys. I do not always get what I want right away, so I am learning to be patient.

Community in Christ*Miss Heidi Gritters***Second Grade**

Community. This is a word we hear often in the second grade. We have read stories about different communities and spend time discussing the many people that are involved. In social studies we have

learned how to be a valuable part of our communities. We have talked about all different kinds of communities: the towns and neighborhoods we live in, the gyms you attend, where you work each day, the church you attend, Adams Christian School, and even our little second grade class.

According to the Oxford Dictionary, a community is "a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common." All of the groups of people that we mentioned share characteristics in some way. You live in the same place as your neighbors in your town. At the gym, each person shares the same common goal of healthy living. At your job, you are all working to achieve the same final product.

But our churches, schools, and classes have something in common far more important than any other type of community. We share the love of our God. There is nothing greater than this love. Psalm 133:1, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." We live in the unity of the covenant with God who loves us. God binds us together. He makes us a community of elect believers, and this is a gracious gift of God.

It is such a blessing to be able to be a part of such an amazing community. We see the fruits of this community each day through the communion of the saints. Here are the thoughts that our little second grade community came up with concerning this topic!

A community is a big group of people that like to help. I am in a community with my class. All of my teammates help me do hard things together. You can help people in lots of different ways. I can help in many different ways like helping them count or lift heavy things. If you have a big group of people, you can do lots more things together. When you are stuck in something, there is always an adult or kid to help you out. Now you know why a community is so special.

~ Gabe Brummel

A community is something that involves lots of people. These people work together as a team. My community is a school. Sometimes we work together and pick up trash. We help friends who are hurt. We also can be a friend to someone who doesn't have a friend. You can help a person who doesn't know to read a word in a book. Everyone has a community even if you don't know, because you work together.

~ Bridget VandenToorn

A community is a huge group of people. I am part of a community of a church. They all help together to keep the church in shape. A community is a big group of people that work together.

A community is a neighborhood. If you want to help part of a community neighborhood, you could clean the neighborhood. If you want to help a church, you can help the people that are injured.

~ Jude VanTil

A community is a group of people that work together. Church is a community that you get together. Or your town is a community. If you send a letter to someone in the hospital in your church, that is working together in a community. If you lived right next to an old person, you can help them get to church. If someone does not believe in God, you can help them go to your church. My grandpa had to write his sermon for a deaf person to help. A good community will help a lot.

~ August Bruinsma

A community is a place where there are a lot of people. I am part of Kent County and the city of Wyoming. We are part of that community, because we live there. We can help the community by picking up smelly trash by the road. You can also be helpful to someone to give a card to them to make them feel better when they are sick. You can invite someone for dinner at your house if somebody died in their family. Also, you can help people that got hurt. So, this is all about a community.

~ Jacob Jabaay

A community is a big group of people that work together. Because God gave us a school, we are all joyful when we work together. Our communities are schools, churches, and even our houses! We work joyfully at schools because we help friends if they get hurt on the playground. We are all a part of a community because we help if a loved one dies. We help each other at home because if your mom said to do something you would probably do it. We help each other at church because moms drop off their children at nursery and we take care of them. We also help people who have wheelchairs by pushing them in the wheelchair.

~ Nora Langerak

A community is a group of people that all help each other. My community is my neighborhood. Me and Alex helpfully play with kids who have no friends. We have a neighbor that does not have a kid so me and Alex keep them company. Our other neighbor has two kids, a boy and a girl. The girl is my age so I play with her because she only has a few friends. Me and her have a lot of fun. Her name is Blessed but her nickname is Foxy. I call her Foxy. What is your community and how do you help them?

~ Ashlyn Griffioen

A community is something like being a garbage collector. If there weren't garbage people, then if you went outside it would smell like rotten eggs. We need all kinds of jobs because they all work together as a community. They all work together because if the trash needs to be picked up, the trash man comes. If the sink gets clogged, the plumber needs to come. If the electricity goes out, the electrician has to come. That is how we work as a community.

~ Jake Schipper

A community is a group of people that help each other and work together. Did you know that even students are in a community? They are in a school! I am in a community because I go to school. This is a way you can be helpful. You can give something like cookies to people in your neighborhood. I am thankful for communities.

~ Mason Dykstra

A community is a big place with a large group of people. A community is when they work hard. A community is a lot of things. I am part of a Godly church. Everyone is a part of the church they go to. I am a member of my church. We moved to our church. Our whole family goes to our church. My Dad puts money in the collection plate. My mom probably does but I never see her. It is good to put things in the collection plate.

~ Clara Mingerink

What is a community? A community is people who work together. I am part of a school community and a church. I ask my friends at school if they are okay. I listen to the sermon. So it's not dirty at school, I clean up at school. I write notes that the minister said and remember them. That's what a community is.

~ Asher Bodbyl

What is a community? That's a great question! A community is a faithful group of people who love to work together. For example, a group of people might work in a school or your family is a little community. A community I am part of is Adams Christian School as me being a second grader. I work with my class to write a good story together. Can you think of a community you are part of? If you ever see trash on the side of the road in your community, go pick it up to help nature not be full of litter. Another community is your church. Your church is a fantastic part of a community. I go to Trinity PRC and I'm telling you, a big community goes there. There's also a hospital. I think it's the biggest community. The minister also has an important job to spread the gospel and to preach to the community/church. A community is a loving, faithful group that are willing to help each other.

~ Emmalyn Karsemeyer

A community is a group of people that help. I am a member of Trinity URC! That is a church in Kalamazoo. I tell about Jesus, my Lord. A school is a community. My teacher is Miss Gritters. My school is Adams Christian School. I love school. I help in a community, love and be kind. Do you? A store is a community! A community is a place where a group of people is.

~ Eden Thalen

A community is something that has a big group of people that work happily together. A community that you are a part of is something where you go. I got to a church. I am part of a church because I want to worship God. I like to be helpful and pick up something that fell. I like doing other things to help too. I like to pick someone up if they fall. One more thing I do to help someone is to help them bring something to the table. What community would you want to be part of?

~ Simon Kalsbeek

A humongous group of people help each other. I am a part of a really good school. I would clean the school. I would work hard. I would include someone in a game. When someone doesn't know a word, I would tell them. I am part of a church. I could help in catechism. A community is a group of people that help each other.

~ Milo Dykshorn

A Great Turning

Mr. Jon Mingerink

Sixth Grade

God, in His providence, upholds and governs all things so that nothing is by chance but comes about by His fatherly hand. He directs all things for the salvation of His people in Jesus Christ. Studying History is a beautiful and fascinating dive into the working out of how God accomplishes this. Sometimes, it's accomplished using small and subtle ways. At other times, God uses a large event to abruptly change the course of human history. God works a great turning. History appears to be heading in a certain direction and then God dramatically turns it. God can do this in a big way by the sending of a Flood or the confounding of languages at Babel. At other times God uses a seemingly small or insignificant event to bring about the great turning, a sleepless night by King Ahasuerus that saved the Jews in the Book of Esther.

In February, the 6th grade History classes looked at one of God's great turnings when we covered a chapter called the Rise and Spread of Islam. Islam began on the Arabian Peninsula when its founder Muhammad began publicly teaching in 613 AD. It quickly spread and in just over 100 years all of today's Middle East, North Africa, and Spain were under its control. This ushered in the Golden Age of Islam, stretching from the 8th Century to the 13th Century. The Golden Age of Islam was a time of incredible cultural, technological, and scientific advancement.

While Christian Europe was floundering in its system of feudalism, incredible things were happening in the Islamic World. Algebra was developed into a useful system. They were among the earliest people to use the zero. The numbers that we use today, known as Arabic numerals, come to us from this Golden Age of Islam. Math is hard enough, but can you imagine if the problems were VIII x XIV = CXII? I think even Mrs. Dykstra would have a hard time enjoying Math then. The Islamic World was on

the cutting edge of science and technology. From a merely human standpoint, life in the Muslim World was far superior to Christian Europe.

But, in the 13th Century, this Golden Age of Islam came crashing down. It would not be the Muslim World that would usher in the First or Second Industrial Revolutions, or the Transportation Revolution or the Digital Age we are currently in. Instead, God would use the Christian European World to bring these about. So, what happened? God caused a great turning. God used the Mongol armies of Genghis Khan and those after him to collapse the Golden Age of Islam. The Mongol armies swept in and destroyed the cities and culture of the Islamic world. So much of their writing and learning was destroyed. Islam would rise again, but it would not include the cultural, technological, or scientific achievements of the Golden Age.

Using the Mongol armies, God caused a great turning in History. A few hundred years after the Golden Age of Islam collapsed, the Italian Renaissance would begin, and soon after that, the Protestant Reformation. The light of human learning would shift from the East and go West. With that, the preaching of the gospel would flourish. It would continue to go West when the New Worlds were discovered by Columbus and the other explorers. It would not be the Islamic World that would lead mankind for the next 800 years, but the Christian World. God, in His providence, directs all things for His Church and prepares for the return of Jesus Christ. God used the Mongol armies to put a halt to the Islamic World and its expansion. History is filled with these great turnings. The study of History is a look into the wisdom and power of our God as He upholds and governs all things. What a God we serve.

Even Math

Mrs. Kristin Dykstra

Seventh Grade

I remember, years ago, hearing the term "woke." I had no idea what this word meant or even if it was a good thing or a bad thing. As the years passed and the woke ideology movement grew, developed, and encroached into the schools and curriculums, I admit I felt a sense of pride believing there was no way the field of mathematics would be affected by this. I was wrong.

In itself woke refers to a “heightened awareness of social inequalities and injustices” (Communication studies scholar Gordana Lazic). Woke has now evolved into a “single-word summation of leftist political ideology, centered on social justice policies and critical race theory” (Aja Romano). Mandatory teaching standards have been approved in state legislatures which emphasize critical theory and identity politics, and now the traditional method of teaching mathematics has been judged by many as “racist.” A group of educators have published a paper that calls for a “dismantling of white supremacy in math classrooms by visibilizing the toxic characteristics of white supremacy culture with respect to math.” These educators argue that the traditional way of teaching math, which requires the students to show their work and demands a correct answer, is racist and promotes this white supremacy.

Along with school districts in Oregon, Washington, and Virginia, California is leading the charge in attempting to change the traditional method of teaching mathematics to one that would incorporate and emphasize culture and race. The California Instructional Commission released a “mathematics framework” that relies on a program called “A Pathway to Equitable Math Instruction” which claims that minority students are given the message that they are not capable of doing the higher-level mathematics when compared to white students. To combat this, the Commission proposed that all students should move through the levels of mathematics together regardless of ability or talent. Along with this change, it was also proposed that math should be taught as a tool of social justice replacing the traditional method of teaching the subject. Included in the plan, teachers would be encouraged to reflect in what ways they included racist ideas and bias in their daily teaching of mathematics. Teachers would also be told to “identify and challenge the ways that math is used to uphold capitalist, imperialist, and racist views.” Instead of penalizing a student’s wrong answer, which is said to be a form of white supremacy, an educator should inquire how the student arrived at the incorrect solution. When solving mathematical word problems, students should be encouraged to pay attention to the role of gender and be able to identify how gender plays a role in the problem. The proposal was 1,000 pages long and based on their “extensive research.” (Those who did an in-depth analysis of this research called it “shady” at best.)

There was an immediate push back against this woke math proposal. Prominent professors, educators, and parents penned and signed a rebuttal. Rather than “reframe math in social justice terms,” they contended that, “California should do a better job of teaching math skills that students will need in the real world, particularly students from disadvantaged backgrounds.” After years of revising and discussion, the California State Board of Education adopted the Mathematics Framework for public schools on July 12, 2023. Because of public outcry, one of the concessions was to allow students to move forward through the math classes at their own individual pace based on their skill and understanding levels.

According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, known as the Nation’s Report Card, less than half of 4th and 8th graders in the United States are performing at proficient levels in math. While many will blame this on the residual effect of closing schools due to Covid, another very likely reason is due to the amount of time schools dedicate to teaching about woke issues and activism which necessarily takes away from time spent teaching basic numeracy skills. Many teachers throughout the United States are being forced to adhere to the woke ideology with the risk of losing their jobs should they disagree. Others choose to leave the field of education rather than adhere to the new woke requirements. Parents are afraid and unable to speak up for their children who they believe are being indoctrinated and their education compromised because these parents are immediately attacked and accused of being racist.

What a blessing our Christian schools are. Math is taught. The attributes and power of God in His amazing Creation are clearly exhibited in every new concept. But we need to be aware of the concerted attack taking place against the children of the world in every area of education. Even math.

School Board

God's Faithful Protection

Mr. Jordan Dykstra
Board President

There are many places in the Bible that speak about God's protection over His people. Psalm 91 gives us comfort and shows that God is our protector. He will protect us both physically and spiritually. We must not fear what this world can do to us, for we have our protector close to us at all times. Every day, we trust God when we drive, play sports, go to work, and send our children to school, often without even thinking about it.

When it comes to the safety of our students and staff at school, the school board places their trust in God alone, knowing that we can do nothing without His care and protection. At the same time, the board recognizes that God has given the staff and our vulnerable-aged students into our care. This is an important responsibility in the world we live in today. We realize we are not immune to the dangers that exist around us.

About a year and a half ago, the school board decided to form a Security Committee. The task of this committee has been to upgrade our security measures by consulting outside resources, including police officers, researching how other schools have handled active threats, and learning from experts about how to mitigate risks.

You may recall a letter sent out asking for donations to help with security upgrades. The board was very appreciative of the generous response! With the donated funds, we have made several improvements. We have installed locks on all interior doors, applied protective film to all entry doors and some interior windows that prevent the glass from shattering, and installed bollards to protect entrances from vehicles. We have also created policies for evacuation, including designated pickup at SW PRC; set up a mass text alert system for parents to be notified in case of emergency, which will start next school year; added a new entry system with cameras; and equipped all teachers with radios for emergency communication.

Most recently, EPS Security installed an alarm system that staff can activate with a button they carry. This alarm will immediately alert students and staff to danger, allowing them to react

quickly. Additionally, a direct line to Kent County Dispatch, provided to us by Kent County, will be activated to ensure a quick police response.

We have also held staff training sessions on how to respond in an active threat situation. These discussions and training can be very difficult, it is not easy to imagine such situations, and it takes courage and care to prepare for them. The board is thankful for the time and thought our teachers have invested in this important preparation. When we send our children to school, we ask teachers to instruct them and lead them in the ways of the Lord. They are teachers, not police officers or armed guards. The committee's goal is to equip our teachers with options and training so they can respond as best as possible to dangerous situations that could occur.

The committee will continue to work to make our building as secure as we can. Yet, we always remember that unless God blesses our efforts, they are in vain. We are comforted by the words of Psalm 121:5-8: "The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.

The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore." We pray that the Lord will use our efforts to preserve His people.

Support Drive

Mr. Ben Zandstra
Treasurer
Finance Chairman

Requests for financial support can feel never-ending: deficit drives, building campaigns, fundraisers, and more. With so many appeals, deciding which causes to support, and at what level, can be a real challenge.

With that in mind, I'd like to take this opportunity to give an overview of Adams Christian School's Support Drive - what it's used for, why it matters, and how you can help.

What are the funds collected by the Support Drive used for?

The day-to-day operations of the school: paying teachers and staff, keeping the lights on, running

the buses, maintaining the campus, and stocking classrooms with necessary supplies.

Is the Support Drive important?

Yes! Outside of tuition, the Support Drive is by far the school's largest source of revenue.

How does the Support Drive impact tuition?

On average, the Support Drive saves each tuition-paying family around \$3,300. Put another way: without this support, tuition rates would need to increase by nearly 30%.

How much does the Support Drive need to collect?

For the 2024/25 school year, the Support Drive goal is \$391,414, of which \$378,326 has been collected (as of April 21). Looking ahead, the School Board intends to propose a budgeted goal of \$395,000 for the 2025/26 school year.

Who gives to the Support Drive?

The Support Drive mailing list reaches 476 supporters, and in recent years we have been receiving contributions from between 175 and 190 donors. Many are Association members, but a significant number are supporters who are not members of the Association.

I'm convinced - how much should I give?

Giving is a deeply personal decision - one to be made individually, prayerfully, and intentionally. To provide some context: based on our current number of active supporters, each donor would need to give around \$2,150 to meet our goal. Of course, we understand that not every donor can give at that level. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps bring us closer to our goal.

In conclusion:

We are again asking you to prayerfully consider contributing to our Support Drive. Every gift makes a meaningful impact on the work being done here at ACS. While financial responsibilities are many, we continue to place our trust in God's unfailing provision.

We humbly thank you for your continued support.

2025 ACS Association Meeting

Secretary's Report

Mr. Todd Kooienga

School Board Secretary

By God's grace, the 75th year of instruction at Adams Christian School is coming to a close. For 75 years Adams has worked "to prepare students to fulfill their principle in life; namely to glorify God," per the Constitution of this Association. The teachers, staff, volunteers, administrator, and board have once again worked diligently this past year to fulfill this purpose. We pray that God's name be glorified in this work.

With the graduation of a single 8th grade class this past year, an additional junior high teacher was needed for the split 8th grade for 24/25. The board was unable to secure a full-time junior high teacher; however, Gracia Schipper was hired part-time to teach English and PE, in addition to the junior high choir that she was already teaching. An additional teacher aide was also hired to assist with the extra grading work for this class. We give thanks to Gracia for teaching this year, and to Kristin Dykstra, Ryan Kregel, and Susan VanKoevering for teaching a combined class of 29 students for the other subjects.

For next year, Gracia is planning to teach English for both 7th and 8th grade. Ryan Kregel and Kristin Dykstra will be handling the junior high PE classes. Also, for the 7th and 8th grade non-band students, Ryan will take on the additional work of teaching a Worldview course for half the year, and Kristin will be adding a Logic course for the other half of the year.

Another change in the past year was the unsettling situation in the 3rd grade and the broader ACS community due to the removal of a 3rd grade teacher. The board spent many hours carefully considering the proper course of action in this case. On very short notice, Mary Brummel once again came out of retirement to teach for us in the 3rd grade classroom. Heidi Pipe was then hired to fill the 3rd grade position for the second half of the year, after she completed her student teaching under Annica Kuiper in the first half of the year. We give much appreciation to Mary and Heidi for providing for Adams in our need.

In addition to Heidi returning to teach the 3rd grade, we are happy to report that all of our other

teachers also plan to return for the 25/26 school year. Mike Feenstra will be moving to 4th grade for 25/26 to accommodate the single class moving to 5th grade. We owe a large debt of gratitude to our Heavenly Father for once again providing dedicated, godly teachers to stand in our place as parents in the daily education of our covenant children.

There will be some changes to a few other staff positions for the 25/26 school year. We give thanks to Michelle Bodbyl for her years of service as a K-3 PE instructor as she steps away from that role. And we also give thanks to Emily Miersma as she steps away from the yearbook coordinator position.

We also plan to have additional aides for Education Support Services as we anticipate additional students with higher academic needs next year. We are so grateful for the work of Tara Flikkema, Melissa Looyenga, and the various aides and volunteers who meet the needs of our children with various abilities and special needs. The Protestant Reformed Special Education society also continues to provide financial assistance for ESS at Adams. And the PRSE staff at Heritage continue to collaborate with Tara for idea sharing and process improvements. We are truly thankful for this, and we encourage all the ACS association members to consider also joining the PRSE Society.

Another significant change that is looming on the horizon is the administrator position. Rick Mingerink has accepted the administrator position for Covenant Christian High School, starting with the 2026/2027 school year. While we are excited for Rick in this new endeavor, we will certainly miss his presence here at Adams. We are deeply grateful for Rick's 16 years of exceptional leadership, commitment, and humble service. And we are thankful that Rick will continue to serve as the ACS administrator for the 2025/2026 school year, allowing time to hire and transition to the next administrator without needing to rush this process.

The process of hiring our next administrator is well underway. The school board has been considering all aspects of this role. Some of these considerations are the qualities and capabilities necessary, re-evaluating the job descriptions of this role, and the impact this change will have on the teachers, staff, students, families, and overall ACS community. As we prepare for this transition, we ask that you keep Rick, his family, and our school community in your prayers. We also encourage you to take the

opportunity to express your appreciation to Rick for his years of faithful service and leadership here at ACS.

With regard to other work of the school board, the various committees continue to work tirelessly to fulfill the purpose of ACS. The Building Committee and various volunteers capably renovated one of the 2nd grade classrooms this past summer. Renovations to the two 1st grade classrooms are planned for this coming summer. These renovations provide significant functional improvements to the three oldest classrooms in the school.

The ACS bookkeeper, Mr. Gary Bylsma, continues to work diligently to manage the finances of the school. Also, Kaptein, Dykstra & Company once again reviewed the end of year balances, financial statements, and total receipt and disbursement records for the school and Mothers Club accounts and found all reviewed items to be in good order.

As a school board, it is encouraging to see in more detail the diligent labors of all the teachers, staff, volunteers, and parents in the education of our children. We can often forget what a truly monumental task this is and take it for granted because it often runs so smoothly. But this is only possible when everyone is working together towards the same goal. And we know that all of this is possible only through the strength and blessing of our Heavenly Father. Therefore, our prayer is that of Moses in Psalm 90: 17. *"And establish thou the work of our hands upon us: Yea, the work of our hands establish thou it."* Please pray for the board, administrator, teachers, staff, volunteers, parents, and students as we work to praise God through our work at Adams Christian School.

Education Committee Update

Spring 2025

Dr. Jared Langerak
Education Chairman

This spring, the Education Committee is embarking on a task we hope doesn't come around too often: that of searching for a new administrator for Adams Christian School. While the process may seem daunting, it's also a time of excitement as we look ahead to the future of ACS. In this update, I hope to share some insight into this process and give

you an overview of what the Education Committee has done so far.

Before we can post the position, solicit applications, and conduct interviews, we must lay the groundwork by thoughtfully considering the role itself. A key step in that preparation is identifying the qualifications we believe are essential for an effective administrator. The committee has outlined several key character traits, including godliness, wisdom, humility, flexibility, strong communication skills, and being proactive. The feedback from those who will work most closely with the new administrator – our teachers and staff – has been especially valuable in identifying these qualities.

Alongside this, we're also reviewing and updating the administrator's job description. This allows us to set expectations with candidates, reflect the current responsibilities of the role, and clarify certain administrative duties.

The committee has also developed a timeline for the hiring process. Thankfully, we are not in a rush! Our goal is to have a new administrator hired by January, when the administrator contract is typically issued – but we're hopeful that a decision can be made well before then.

You may have already noticed the bulletin announcements advertising the ACS administrator position. We hope to begin the interview process soon. As we meet with candidates, we plan to ask thoughtful, discerning questions, and we're interested in hearing their visions for ACS.

If you have more questions about the process – or if you or someone you know is considering applying for the position – please reach out to any member of the Education Committee. We covet your support and prayers as we move forward in this important process. In a biblical time of transition, the aging Moses offered Joshua and Israel a word of encouragement that remains applicable to us during a time of transition in our school, *"And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed."* – Deut. 31:8

Enrollment Spring Update 2025

Dr. Jared Langerak
Enrollment Chairman

Spring is an exciting season for the Enrollment Committee, particularly because it gives us the opportunity to meet families enrolling at Adams for the first time. In some cases, this meeting serves as a family's first formal introduction to our school. It's a joy to hear the motivation that parents have for pursuing Reformed, Christian education. We also review ACS policies and enrollment requirements. Finally, we use this opportunity to encourage involvement in our school community through the Association, Boosters, and Mothers Club.

This year, we anticipate meeting with seven new families who will be enrolling for the first time. The incoming kindergarten class is expected to have 27 students. We expect a slight decrease in total enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year, with 275 students from 118 families.

For all returning families, enrollment will open on FACTS following the ACS Association Meeting on May 6.

Building Committee Update

Mr. Mike Kerkstra
Building Committee Chairman

As yet another school year comes to an end, I'd like to share some new things that have gone on over the past school year and what we will be doing before the start of the new school year.

We were notified by the State of Michigan this year that we have to install filters on all drinking water at school. The new filters will be in place by the 25-26 school year.

ACS received a soccer scoreboard that was donated by CCHS. We installed the sign this spring on the north side of the field. Thanks to CCHS for the sign!

The school also updated the door entry system. The old system we had to use cards with magnetic strips to open some doors. Now all the doors have some form of a reader that can be opened by smart phone, QR code or key fob. Two of the five doors also have cameras on them to see who is coming and going from school. This was a welcome addition for the secretaries at school.

This summer we are hoping to remodel a couple of the older rooms at school. We will be updating the cabinets, lighting, flooring, ceiling tiles, plumbing and countertops. There is always a lot going on in the summertime at school. If anyone would like to volunteer, donate materials or just send a donation we would really appreciate the help. It takes a team or a group effort to maintain the school.

For the first time in a while we had the Fire Marshall in to scope out the school. We learned a lot from his visit, and, based on his recommendations, we are changing and fixing items around the school.

It is also worth mentioning all the work that goes on behind the scenes. A BIG thanks to Mark Ophoff for keeping the school clean and ready to go every day. The work is not easy sometimes during the flu and snow season, but it is appreciated. Also, thank you to the kids that show up to help after school and during the summertime to lend a hand.

Finally, I'd like to thank the two men that are retiring from the committee this year. Your efforts and hard work didn't go unnoticed. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to serve with these selfless hard-working men.

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men." Colossians 3:23

Other News

From the Athletic Director:

Mrs. Melissa Lubbers

Athletic Director

As another year of athletics concludes, I would like to focus this article on our amazing coaches. It doesn't matter what sport is being played; our coaches are the heart of the team. The coaches are held at a high standard both on and off the court/field. They play a vital role not only in teaching the fundamentals of the sport, but also help in the personal growth of each player. They must model Christ-like behavior and encourage the players to do the same. Whether leading team prayers, encouraging respectful conduct toward both teammates and opponents, or offering support during tough moments, our coaches are seen as spiritual leaders who help students grow into Christ-centered athletes and young people.

While much of the leadership of our coaches is visible during games, a significant part of a coach's

role happens behind the scenes. Coaches must work closely with the athletic director. Often this requires much flexibility, especially when it comes to scheduling practices, as this may require shared gym time, or no gym time available due to the game schedule. Sometimes coaches see two or three versions of the schedule before we call it "final". Hours are spent planning practices and then assigning player positions on game day, sometimes arriving to find out a player (or 2 or 3) is sick and not able to play, then quickly having to adjust their plan. They help manage the equipment and must communicate with both the parents and the school office all season long. Coaches must know the rules and strategies of the game and be able to teach them. After school, coaches must be ready to meet the "I've survived school" crew, bouncing between exhaustion and excitement; this definitely requires a whistle and a whole lot of patience. Thank you coaches for a job well done!

Our coaches and assistants this year were: Tim Dykstra, Bruce Feenstra, Larissa Harris, Amanda Kooienga, Jared Kraker, Joe Kuiper, Kayla Kuiper, Marc Kuiper, Brianna Kunst, Joe Ophoff, Angela Postma, Alex Postma, Anna VanOverloop, and Ben Zandstra. If you see any of them around, they deserve a big thank-you.

I think I can speak for all of our coaches; they don't do it for the pay, although hopefully it is a perk. They do it for the love of the game, the kids, the memories, the high-fives, and the occasional win.... that's priceless! I asked ChatGPT to give me a positive one-liner to sum up coaching middle school sports and I thought this was a fitting response: "Coaching middle school sports is part pep talk, part chaos control, and all about building character while having a blast." With that being said, Adams is looking for a 7th/8th grade boys' soccer coach for next year. If you want to add the title "coach" to your name and join in on the fun, please let me know. If we don't find a coach we will not be able to have a team!

Thank you all for your continued support of Adams Christian Athletics and Go Knights!

Mothers' Club Year-End Report

Mrs. Lindsay Kerskstra
Retiring Mothers Club Secretary

As the 2024-2025 school year draws to a close, we reflect with gratitude on the work accomplished through Mothers' Club in pursuit of our shared goal: a Christ-centered education for our children. Year after year, the Lord continues to bless Adams Christian School by working in and through the hearts and hands of the mothers who serve in Mothers' Club.

We are pleased to report another successful year of fundraising. This year, we introduced a new Freezer Meal fundraiser, hosted our annual Soup Supper, and held a spring Walk-a-Thon. Additionally, we continued our ongoing fundraisers, including TRIP, Pizza Friday, Adams Apparel, and Box Tops. Thanks to the dedication of our committee members, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters, we raised over \$40,000.00. We deeply appreciate everyone who contributed to making these fundraisers a success!

Each year, our primary financial goal is to cover the Standard and Teacher Wishlists, and we are thankful that the funds raised allowed us to achieve this goal. The Standard Wishlist totaled \$20,779.00, covering recurring expenses such as Bibles and Psalters for first graders, piano tuning, office and kitchen supplies, staff birthday gifts, Grandparents' Day coffee, a Staff Appreciation Luncheon, classroom paper products, and class trip funds. The Teacher Wishlist amounted to \$4,371.01 and included various classroom resources requested by teachers, such as name tags, books for classroom libraries, organizational and craft supplies, posters, headphones, math and science aids, and even fans and air fresheners to improve classroom environments. Supporting our teachers and staff in this way is truly a privilege, and we are grateful for the opportunity to show our appreciation.

Additionally, with funds remaining after fulfilling the wish lists, we were able to contribute \$13,174.00 to complete the deficit drive of the school. We also gave \$20,000 to Adams' Long-Range Planning Fund. This investment will aid future projects coordinated by Mothers' Club, the Boosters Club, and the School Board.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to our retiring leaders for their service: - Nicole Kooienga,

President - Kim Schipper, Treasurer - Kristin Griffioen and Sara VanTil, Ways and Means Committee

Your dedication over the past two years has been deeply appreciated. We also recognize Brenda VanBaren, Jessica VanDyk, and Maria VanDyk, whose youngest children are graduating this year—thank you for your years of service to Adams Christian School.

Looking ahead, our proposed fundraisers for next year include Freezer Meals, the Soup Supper, and Family Fun Night, along with the continuation of TRIP, Pizza Friday, Adams Apparel, and Box Tops. We welcome our new officers: -Tina Mingerink, President -Kristin Jabaay, Treasurer - Michelle Bodbyl, Secretary.

Please keep them in your prayers as they take on these roles in support of our school. We also pray that the Lord continues to provide willing mothers to serve, ensuring that all we do in Mothers' Club glorifies Him.

Supply List - 2025-2026**KINDERGARTEN**

Green medical information sheet
 Paint shirt
 Small pillow
 Pencil box
 3 large glue sticks
 Gym shoes (NO black or gray soles)
 Markers – no fine tip
 Colored pencils – 12 pack

FIRST GRADE

24 crayons
 Colored pencils
 2 erasers
 Small pencil/crayon box
 3 lg. glue sticks
 Scissors – preferably Fiskars
 2 folders
 Washable markers (no fine tip please)
 Spiral bound wide ruled notebook
 Gym shoes (NO black or gray soles)
 10 #2 pencils

SECOND GRADE

12” ruler (inches and centimeters)
 10 sharpened pencils & 10 #2 extra pencils
 10-12 Washable markers
 2 white erasers
 16-24 count crayons, not larger
 12 pack of Colored pencils
 Scissors
 1 folder (not trapper-keeper)
 4 small OR 2 large glue sticks
 1 spiral notebook (wide-rule – 70 sheets)
 Pencil/crayon box
 Gym shoes (NO black or gray soles)
 No personal pencil sharpeners

THIRD GRADE

1 pocket folder
 Wide rule notebook paper – 1 pack
 12 pencils & 2 erasers
 12-inch ruler (inches & centimeters)
 Crayons
 Colored pencils
 Markers
 Scissors
 2 large glue sticks
 Pencil box or zipper pouch
 2 wide-ruled spiral notebooks
 Gym shoes (NO black or gray soles)
 Headphones

A file paper storage system – can be accordion or binder
 Red, blue, and black pens
 2 ultra-fine point permanent markers
 Highlighter
 Number 2 wood pencils or better mechanical pencils
 12 pk. (at minimum) colored pencils
 College ruled notebook paper (3 hole)
 1 one-subject spiral-bound notebooks (college ruled)
 Graph paper (7th and 8th ONLY)
 Ruler (12 inch)
 Eraser - white vinyl
 Carry-all pouch (for pencils, pens, erasers, etc.)

FOURTH GRADE

Wide-rule notebook paper – 2 packs
 Clear plastic 12” ruler (1/4”, 1/2”, 1/8” & centimeter markings)
 Scissors (sharp-nosed)
 Colored pencils – Crayola, Berol, or Prismacolor brands
 Colored markers
 2 large erasers
 1 composition book or spiral notebook
 2 large glue sticks
 2 dozen #2 pencils
 4 pens (black or blue)
 2 red ink pens
 Carry-all pouch for pencils, pens, erasers, etc.
 Gym shoes (NO black or gray soles)
 2 highlighters
 Headphones
NO TRAPPER KEEPERS

FIFTH GRADE

Assignment book (purchased thru school office)
 Wide-ruled notebook paper – 2 packs
 3 wide-ruled spiral notebooks
 1 red pen
 1 black or blue pen
 1 box of pencils & sharpener
 2 white erasers
 2 clear large glue sticks
 Colored pencils - Crayola or Berol
 Crayola colored markers
 Fiskars or similar quality (sharp) adult scissors
 12-inch and centimeter ruler
 1 highlighter
 Clear plastic protractor
 2 black ultra-fine fiber-tipped pens (Sharpie) for map work
 Gym shoes (NO black or gray soles)
NO TRAPPER KEEPERS

5th - 8th students come the first day of school with money to purchase the following supplies from the office (the school-issued planner is the only accepted planner):

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. TI30XIIS calculator (6 th -7 th <u>grades only</u>) | \$13 |
| (6 th grade; 7 th should already have one) | |
| 2. 5th - 8th: Student Planner (assignment book) | \$3 |

6th – 8th GRADES

1 White-Out tape
 Scissors
 Compass
 Clear protractor
 Glue Stick

7th grade only

1-inch 3-ring binder
 25 sheet protectors

8th grade only

8th graders must purchase a TI-84 calculator (Plus, Silver, etc. will work). These calculators will be used in high school, too.

Important dates for Fall 2025

First Day of School – Sept. 2

Student Pictures – Sept. 10

Field Day – Sept. 19

Grandparents' Day – Oct. 10

PRTI Convention – Oct. 16 - 17

Parent/Teacher Conferences – Oct. 31

Band/Choir Concert – Dec. 4