# ANNOUNCER

## Adams Protestant Reformed Christian School

5539 Byron Center Avenue – Wyoming, Michigan 49519 – (616) 531-0748 – August, 2026
adamschristianschool.org

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## Administration & Staff

### *Different and Similar*

**Mr. Ryan Kregel**
**Administrator**

It happened one sunny afternoon in June. Rick leaned back in his chair and said to me, "I don't think I will be coming back tomorrow."

I believe the thoughts going through my head at that moment were somewhere along the lines of: "Oh boy, here we go. Time to sink or swim!" After months of planning and work, the time had come.

It is mid-July now as I write. The boxes, binders, and files have been sorted through, and I feel like I am sitting good as far as knowing what needs to be accomplished before school begins in the fall.

The thought that usually goes through the minds of many people when a change in leadership happens is: "I wonder what will change now?" The thought described here is not the "I think X, Y, and Z need to change and I hope this new guy makes it happen" kind of thought. It is the natural acknowledgement that the person now in the leadership role is not the same person that was there last year. Different people think and act in different ways. This is neither good, nor bad, it just is.

Here is another acknowledgement. Throughout the tenure of Rick's time at the helm of this ship, we have had a really good thing going here at Adams, even through the storms of COVID and church controversy. The plan is to keep this ship sailing in the same direction. Some things will be different, and some things will remain the same. I was reminded of this fact when Rick pulled a gem of a letter from his files as he was vacating the office here. It was a letter from my grandmother after she attended a Grandparents Day at school.

October 18, 2010

*Dear Adams teachers, principal, Mothers Club, and all who helped.*

*Thank you for a wonderful Grandparents Day! It's infinitely rewarding to see your great-grandchildren receive the same God-centered education that your children received, only richer, more complex, and much more sharply honed. When our children went to school, it was during the turmoil of the fifties for some of them, and Adams was a fledgling institution. I think that in general, you have kept up with the best in education, while keeping your commitment to being God-centered. Thanks again for a great day.*

In him,

Lois Kregel

There it is. Much remains the same. The people, times, and circumstances change, but some things do not change, and we can thank God for that. Here is what will happen on Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 8:10 AM, Lord willing. For the 77th time, covenant children will walk through the doors of this school. For some of them it will be their very first day of school at Adams. For others, they will be coming back to the same familiar halls. The teachers might be new and different. The curriculum will be at a higher level academically than the year previous. But the foundation will be the same and that is what matters.

God be thanked for another year of covenant education. May He be with us this year as He has in the years past.

# *New Teachers*

## *Mrs. Jennie VanDenBerg*

Hello everyone! Mrs. VanDenBerg here! While I may not be a new face at Adams, I am stepping into a new role this year. Over the past 11 years, I have been blessed to serve Adams in many ways. Some of you may know me as Adalyn, Olive, Paisley, Liam, or Mason's mom. Others may remember me as a room mom, a Field Day team leader (best day of the year, in my opinion), one of the "Pizza Friday ladies," or the preschool teacher at Adams Preschool. Shout out to the current 1st graders—you all were my first class, and we have lots of great memories together! I have loved being part of this community in each of those roles. Now, God has given me a new opportunity to serve the students here at Adams as this year's new kindergarten teacher. While I know I will never replace Mrs. Decker, I am so thankful for the opportunity to follow in her footsteps, and I am excited to welcome the 16 students God has entrusted to my care this year. I look forward to seeing many familiar faces on the first day of school—this time from inside the classroom. To God be the glory!

## *Miss Emma Minderhoud*

Hello! My name is Emma Minderhoud, and I am excited to begin teaching at Adams Christian School this year. As I sit here in my classroom writing this, I marvel at the providence of God that has led me here. I think all the way back to fourth grade when the love for teaching first began to be instilled in me. All throughout my schooling I watched teachers who loved the Lord teach students what it means to love the Lord in everything they do. As I grew older, experiences continued to confirm for me the joy that teaching brings. As the middle child of Joel and Valerie's nine children, I grew up helping and spending time with my siblings, cultivating a joy for encouraging and supporting others in their growth and development.

Now looking back, I am thankful for the schooling that brought me to this place in life, going from Hope PRCS to Covenant Christian High School to Calvin University. I was grateful for the opportunity to be placed in Christian schools (Internship 1 at Moline Christian and student teaching at Dutton Christian), learning what it means for teachers to stand in the place of parents each day and instruct children in the fear of God's name.

Now after many years of schooling, my days at school will continue but in a different way. Here in my own classroom I look forward to the opportunity to work with the students each day that come through my door and teach them how great and good our God is.

The opportunity this past spring to work in Adam's ESS room was beneficial for me to begin to get

to know the Adams community. Growing up attending Hope School and Hope Church, I am now excited to get to know more of the community of saints here at Adams. I covet your prayers and support as I begin this labor. What a gift the Lord has given us with our good Christian schools! We need each other. I am grateful for the way the Lord has led me and prepared me to take up this work. May our prayer together be that of Moses in Psalm 90: *"… establish thou the work of our hands; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it"* (Psalm 90:17).

## School Board

### *Enrollment*

**Mr. Don Kuiper**
**Enrollment Committee chairman**

In a few short weeks Adams will open its doors and welcome students in to begin a school year for the 77th time. A lot has changed over the years. Consider this fun fact – in the fall of 1950 tuition for 3 students in school was $4.00 per week. How times have changed!

Giving thanks to our faithful God we gladly report that what has remained the same at our school, through many economic and physical changes, is the basis of belief and the stated purpose that guides all that happens in our school. The **Statement of Purpose** of Adams begins with this statement. "The purpose of **Association for Christian Education**, also known as **Adams Protestant Reformed Christian School** is to provide primary education in a school system where instruction is based on the infallible Word of God, the Holy Bible." Our **Basis of Belief** begins with this - "The supreme standard of **Adams Protestant Reformed Christian School** shall be the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, herein confessed to be the infallibly inspired Word of God, the doctrine of which is contained in the Heidelberg Catechism, the Canons of Dordrecht and the Netherlands or Belgic Confession. These form the basis for administration, instruction and discipline in the school."

Part of our responsibility as enrollment committee is to, as much as is possible, see to it that families enrolled in our school agree with and sincerely desire to have their children instructed in harmony with our Stated Purpose and Basis of Belief. It is truly a wonder of God's amazing grace that in this late time in history He preserves in us the desire and commitment to carry out our calling regarding the covenant instruction of our children. We give all thanks and praise to Him that we can confidently report we believe this is the desire of each family enrolled in our school. Let us all be constant in prayer that faithfulness be preserved now, in this generation and in the generations to come. We ask each of you to remember the many needs of the school, our families, teachers and students in your prayers. *Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it"* (Psalm 127:1a).

Lord willing, Adams will serve 270 students from 116 families this school year. A slight change from 268 students and 117 families last year. We extend a warm welcome and encourage you to do the same to our four new families: Bradley and Cambry Butgereit and their daughter Adleigh (K), Marco and Paula Barone and their son Joshua (K), Peter and Kamy Kleyn and their daughter Annalise (K) and Kyle and Jessie Van Dyke and their daughter Charleigh (K).

### *ESS – New Faces and Places*

**Mr. Nate Bodbyl**
**Special Ed Committee chairman**

Amazing work will once again begin in the classrooms here at Adams. Teachers will soon be instructing children in the fear of God, showing them His mighty works in all subjects. One of the truly special locations this work takes place is in the Education Support Services (ESS).

Since the inception of ESS, the approach of the department has been to integrate ESS students as much as possible into the life of the classroom. This approach has shown increased comprehension and social skills for ESS students as they learn alongside the rest of the class. These benefits extend to the rest of the students also as they learn together.

This year we have 16 students with ISPs (Individualized Service Plan) and another 42 students meeting with ESS staff. We are thankful for Tara Flikkema once again taking the helm of the ESS program and championing this important work. We are also thankful and excited to have three aides this year to assist her. Melissa Looyenga and Naomi Vanderveen return to shoulder the work. ESS students love seeing familiar faces in the department! We will have one new face this year as Samantha Meulenberg joins the team. Sam is new to Adams as she attended Hope for elementary and recently graduated from Covenant this past spring. We are excited to have her join our staff, so please join me in welcoming her to the ACS community! Sam and Tara attended Para Educator boot camp this summer. This program helps teach ESS staff inclusive education and how to work with higher needs students.

As ESS supports more students, more space is needed as well. The TRIP office that was across from Annica's classroom will now support ESS, while TRIP will move just down the hall. We are thankful for the space we have here at Adams that allows us to be flexible with moves like this.

The ESS staff continue to learn each year as well. In addition to partnering with All Belong, which supports Adam's vision of ESS education, Tara has visited and will continue to visit other Christian schools' ESS programs to observe and meet with staff to share ideas. Here at school, Tara continues to work with homeroom teachers to collaborate and determine how best to serve ESS in the context of each class and teacher.

On a final personal note, as a parent of an ESS student, Adams has been a blessing to our family, and we are incredibly thankful for the work of the staff at Adams and for the continued support of our community here. As this new year begins, please remember to thank and encourage our ESS department as well as all our staff here at ACS as we pray for God's richest blessings on another year.

## Other News

### *From the Library*

**Mrs. Sara Van Til**
**Librarian**

As summer comes to a close, we thank God for His many blessings over the past months and look forward with excitement to another school year in the library!

Our K–5 Reading Challenge will begin again this fall. Throughout the year, students are encouraged to submit reading forms for the books they complete. They will earn prizes based on their reading, which will be awarded during their final library class in May. We hope this program continues to inspire our students to develop a lifelong love of reading.

We are also excited to share several new additions to our library shelves this year! Students will discover Calpurnia Tate Girl Vet, The Secret Explorers, Heartwood Hotel, and a brand new series of Campground Kids based in Michigan at our 5 Great Lakes!

We are always looking for quality books to add to our collection. If you have books in good condition that you would like to donate, we would be grateful to use them in our library or for reading challenge prizes. We also welcome recommendations for books that are engaging, well-written, and consistent with our Christian values.

Many families have asked how they can support the library, so we will once again be maintaining an Amazon Wish List of titles we'd love to add to our shelves. Watch for an announcement in the Monday Note once the list is available.

Finally, thank you for your continued generosity, encouragement, and prayers. Your support has allowed us to place books into the hands of our students that have helped foster a love of reading. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with you as we encourage our children to grow in the great skill of reading.

We look forward to another fantastic year of reading together!

### *From the Athletic Director*

**Mrs. Melissa Lubbers**
**Athletic Director**

Athletics at Adams are already moving at full speed as we begin the new school year! Planning began last spring, coaches were hired over the summer, rosters were confirmed, and schedules were made and communicated.

Now, we know that many love that final summer stretch before Labor Day, but our fall athletes and coaches face a unique challenge. Eleven of the thirteen schools in our AOK Christian middle school league actually start a week or two before us, as early as August 19th! With Adams starting on September 8th, this means our rivals are practicing while we're still enjoying summer break. Our coaches aim to schedule a few practices before the school year starts, hoping to remain competitive and prepared for the games kicking off in our very first week.

We are excited to welcome back one of our own to the coaching staff! Leading the charge for boys' soccer is Austin Smith, a 2015 Adams graduate. He has a challenging task ahead managing a large roster of 24 energetic seventh- and eighth-graders!

For volleyball, Miss Brianna Meulenberg returns to guide our single seventh-grade team. Our eighth-grade players were divided into two teams: one led again by Mrs. Elaina Hulst, and the second coached by newly hired Miss Brooklynn Meulenberg, sister to Bri Meulenberg, and a recent graduate of Covenant Christian High School. Welcome Brooklynn!

The athletic calendar stays busy once the fall sports conclude. We will transition straight into boys' basketball, where a large seventh-grade class may require us to establish multiple teams. We will have to see what the sign-ups show. Following that, we will head into girls' basketball, boys' volleyball, and our packed spring season featuring girls' soccer, girls' softball, and boys' baseball. Keep an eye on upcoming announcements if you are interested in assisting, as we anticipate needing additional coaches.

Please also note a change to our conference: Borculo Christian officially joined the league last spring. They will be included on our upcoming schedules. You can find all game times and venue locations on our school website, which is updated every season.

A huge THANK YOU goes out to all our volunteers—students, parents, and our dedicated coaches—who make this program possible. We believe athletics are a gift from God, providing a time for our students to be

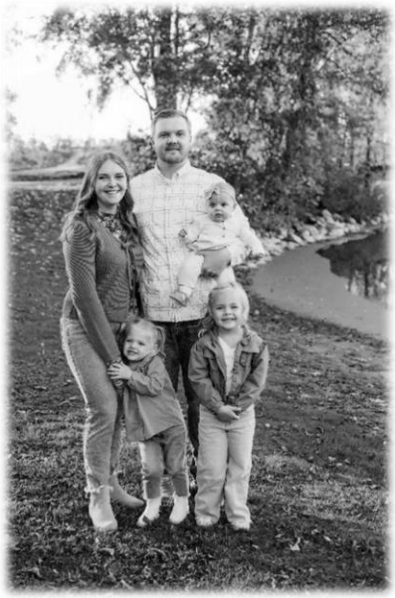
godly examples, build teamwork, and practice Christian virtues like kindness and humility. Let's carry that same spirit to the stands! We encourage all our fans to be respectful and encouraging to officials and opponents alike. Let's make sure every cheer and every play is done for the glory and honor of His name! Go Knights!

## *New Families*

### *Marco and Paula Barone*

Hello! We are the Barones - Marco, Paula, Joshua, and Josiah. After a year of preschool with Mrs. VanDenBerg, Joshua is looking forward to spending the upcoming year with her in Kindergarten. To introduce you to our family, Marco grew up in Italy, came to the Lord at 17, moved to Limerick in the Republic of Ireland and later Ballymena in Northern Ireland where he completed a Master's degree and PhD in Philosophy. He was a member of the Limerick Reformed Fellowship under Rev. McGeown's preaching, and the Covenant PRC with Rev. Stewart. Paula grew up in Grandville, attended Hope and Covenant, and went on to Calvin College to earn her teaching degree. She returned to Covenant to teach in the Academic Support program and met Marco while traveling to attend the British Reformed Fellowship conference held in Northern Ireland in 2016. Marco and Paula were married in 2019 and Joshua was born in early 2021, just weeks after Marco began his current job working at the Reformed Free Publishing Association in Jenison. Josiah was born this past November. It has been a joy watching the brothers learn to love and entertain each other despite a nearly 5-year age difference. As a family, we attend Southwest PRC. We love reading, spending time outside, and discussing philosophical and theorical concepts. (Marco - What implications does the nature of God have on this or that aspect of our Christian walk? Joshua - If the ocean had a drain and it came unplugged, how big of a whirlpool would it make?) It is our prayer that God may use Adams school as a means to instill in Joshua a knowledge of and love for Himself.

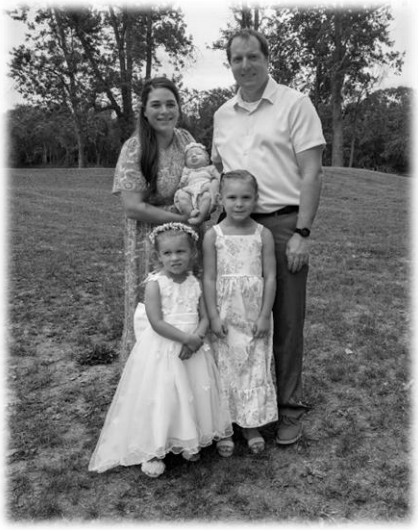
### *Brad and Cambry Butgereit*



Hello! We are Brad & Cambry Butgereit. We are blessed to be members at Faith PRC. Brad currently works at Coastline Door & Drawer as their programmer and CNC operator. This coming school year our daughter Adleigh (5) will be heading to Kindergarten and she is super excited! We also have two other daughters, Maelynn (3) and Hazel (1). If you ask Adleigh how many sisters she has, sometimes she might answer “5” (she likes to count me and the dog) “and only 1 boy.” Having a house full of girls is fun, and we’re always busy with all the girly things! That means lots of singing and dress-up happens here. To keep ourselves busy in the summer we love visiting both grandparents’ houses and getting the best of both worlds; one has a pool, and one has a lake!

We are so excited to be joining the community at Adams Christian School, and meeting so many of you. What a blessing to have such good Christian schools to send our children to!

### *Peter and Kamy Kleyn*



Hello! We are Peter and Kamy Kleyn. We live in Wyoming and attend Hudsonville PRC. Peter works for Kleyn Electric as a project manager and Kamy is a stay-at-home mom. We have three girls; Annalise is 5 and going into kindergarten. Emery is 4 and is going to preschool this year. They are very excited that they will have the same teacher. We welcomed our third daughter, Brielle, this June.

As a family we enjoy spending time outdoors, gardening, swimming in the pool, and going to grandpa's golf course. We look forward to sending our children to Adams.

### *Kyle and Jessica VanDyke*

Hello! We are Kyle, Jessie, and Charleigh VanDyke. We are excited to be joining the Adams Christian school community!

Kyle is an Accountant at Speedwrench, Inc., where he enjoys his work and is thankful for the opportunity to provide for his family. In his free time, he enjoys cheering on his favorite sports teams, playing basketball, and reading. Jessie is a full-time mom who loves caring for her family. She enjoys playing the piano, reading, cooking, and searching for great thrift store finds. Charleigh is a fun, energetic girl who loves discovering new things, crafting, reading books, and joining in on all our family adventures. Her joyful personality and curiosity bring so much laughter and happiness to our home.

We are grateful to call Byron Center PRC our church home and are thankful for the friendships and fellowship we've found within our congregation. We currently live in northwest Grand Rapids and are prayerfully looking to move closer to our church and school community so we can become even more involved in the life of our school and church.

In our free time, we enjoy family bike rides, camping, and spending sunny days at the beach. We also love spending time with our friends and family, whether we're gathering for meals, celebrating special occasions, or simply enjoying each other's company.

We are excited to become part of the Adams Christian School community and look forward to building lasting friendships while supporting the school in the years ahead.

# Just a few reminders!

- School starts Tuesday, September 8 at **8:10a.** Students are dismissed after **3:05p**. Buses leave at **3:15p.** Kindergarten will have Round Up at 8:10 am on Tuesday, Sept. 8, and half days Wednesday and Friday of the first week of school.
- Bell Schedule:

| | |
|---|---|
| 8:10 | First Bell |
| 8:15 | Tardy Bell |
| 9:55 (10:00) – 10:15 | K-5 Recess (6-8 Recess) |
| 10:20 | Start of Class Bell |
| 11:55 – 12:35 | Lunch |
| 12:40 | Start of Class Bell |
| 2:10 – 2:20 | Recess |
| 2:25 | Start of Class Bell |
| 3:05 | Final Bell |
| 3:15 | Buses leave |

- **Pick up and drop off**:
  - Morning drop-offs can occur in either parking lot. If you have younger students, it is best to use the north parking lot (by the playground and baseball field area) since it prevents them from walking around school. Please pull into a parking spot to drop off your children. Stopping your car where other cars are coming and going is a safety problem and will cause congestion if everyone else starts to do it.
  - End of day pick-up will occur in the north parking lot. Please do not select parking spots along the Byron Center Ave. side of the lot since it causes students to have to cross the parking lot which is a safety concern.
- **School Entry**:
  - Just a reminder that during the school day, all school doors will be locked. All visitors can enter the building through Door A.
  - At the start of the school day, all students will enter the school building using the designated doors their grade level uses (doors C, E, or F). If a family drops their children off in the morning, please drop them off in the parking lot area with enough time so that they can find their way to these doors by **8:10a**. The main front doors (A) are not meant for regular student entry in the morning since these are locked. Teachers are monitoring the correct entry doors in the morning and letting students in. Students must use these doors for regular morning entry.
- **Attendance Guidelines**
  - If a student arrives at school prior to the first recess and remains at school the remainder of the day, they are considered *present* for that day of school although they may be issued either an excused or unexcused tardy.
  - If a student is at school from the start of school but leaves after the final recess, they are also considered *present* for that day of school.
  - If a student arrives at school or leaves (and doesn't come back) within the period between the first and last recess of the day, they are issued a half day of *absence.* A student who leaves prior to the first recess is issued a full day of *absence.*
- **Tardy:** Please be reminded that any student who arrives to school after the 2nd bell has run (8:15a) will be issued a tardy. If the tardy is due to a legitimate reason (i.e., car broke down, accident), the parents must notify school that morning and it will be considered an **excused tardy**; otherwise, they will be given an **unexcused tardy**. Students cannot excuse themselves.

- **Communicating student absences or dismissals**
  - If a student does not come into school for the day, arrives late, needs to leave early, or has an appointment, the school office is the only one that needs to be notified. Please do so by phone or email asap (no later than 9a). The office will always let the teacher/bus driver know, too. One exception is if your children do not need morning pickup due to a last minute emergency or illness, bus riding families should contact the family ahead of them on the route, (unless you are the first family on the route, then you should contact the driver) as well as a follow up phone call or email to the office.
  - If a student must leave during school hours, the student needs to obtain a **"check-out slip"** from the teacher. This slip must be given to the office before leaving school. The student will remain in the office area until parents arrive. If the student returns the same day, he must stop at the office to get a **"check-in slip"**. The student will not be allowed back into the classroom without this slip.
- **Dress Code reminders**:
  - Please dress students in nice, clean, respectable clothing that sets the tone for them and others in the building that Christian education is important. Sloppy or careless dress is to be avoided.
  - Please send students to school with good sturdy footwear that covers the toes. No slippers, flip-flops, or sandals.
  - For $6^{th}$ – $8^{th}$ students, shorts or skirts must be **longer than their fingertips**. Leggings and yoga pants are not considered pants and, therefore, must be covered with **a top that is longer than their fingertips**.
    If a dress code violation occurs, your child will be issued a violation slip requiring your signature.

# Thank you!

**School Year 2026-2027**

Sept. 8----------First day of school
18----------School pictures
25----------Field Day
Oct. 9----------Grandparents Open House
14-16---------PRTI Convention at Heritage
30----------Parent/Teacher Conferences
Nov. 26-27---------Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 3----------Band/Choir concert
Dec. 23-Jan. 1-----Christmas Break
Jan. 4----------First day of school in 2025
Feb. 19----------Parent/Teacher Conferences
Mar. 19----------Spring Program
Apr. 2-9----------Spring Break
May 5---------- Kindergarten Program
May 28----------Graduation