

ACS BOARD NEWSLETTER

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Curriculum Changes

Mr. Joel Bodbyl

Chairman, Education Committee

Christian education at Adams Christian School; did you take it for granted? Which part of it; Christian, education at Adams, or both? Guilty for both is my feeble answer. How quickly we are reminded of what a privilege and responsibility it is to have this school. Thank God that is He is faithful to His word and to us covenant parents and children. He has determined to have His children brought up and instructed about His breathtaking creation and in His infallible word to start this school year. By His power, in-classroom education commenced on September 8 here at Adams! That is newsworthy.

What about this year of Christian education at Adams? We started on time and in-person! Led by our capable and experienced administrator Rick Mingerink, our excellent faculty and supporting staff's enthusiasm for the start of the year has been palpable. Despite some much taller than usual hurdles, which they cleared, we are off and running. Most of the faculty is back from last year giving us a strong backbone for the educational process at Adams. In addition, the Board welcomes four new faculty members this year at Adams. David Mahtani is teaching one of the sixth grade classes, Lynnae Miedema one of the third grade classes, Gracia Schipper is instructing junior high choir and Lauren Dykstra is leading intermediate choir. The Board has also hired Lillian Engelsma as a teacher aide. The commitment of the returning and new faculty is one that must never be forgotten; Christ-centered, cross-focused, triune God-glorifying education. May He stir up these fine brothers and sisters for this most righteous labor. We have also made a few curriculum changes to start the year. We changed the third grade grammar curriculum to better align with curriculum in future grades. We are piloting a Singapore math curriculum in a few of our classrooms as well. The Education Committee continues to review current educational modules and programs to ensure the students are growing. We must not be lazy in learning.

Preparing our school building and bringing back our faculty and staff is just part of what makes education here at Adams possible. You the parents fulfilling those humbling baptism vows makes this cause so important. We thank you for enrolling your children here this year and you have the Board's continued commitment to Christian education for your children. After all, these children belong to the King and He is pleased to use Adams for that work. Our gratitude is also expressed to you for following our rules and guidelines to help make the educational process as smooth as possible this year. We know that some of these have not been easy and your continued patience with the Board is appreciated during these times and also as we continue to navigate the future.

Is gratitude newsworthy? It may not seem like it at first but when we realize how quickly God changed our educational plans last year, we humbly thank Him for allowing us to open the door of Adams Christian School this year.

From The Athletic Director

Mr. Jon Mingerink

Athletic Director

Adams Christian Athletics is back! It was disappointing that we had to cancel the spring girls soccer and boys baseball season due to COVID. We were looking forward to using the new baseball field, but that will just have to wait until spring of 2021. New bleachers were installed by the field this summer as well as a flagpole that flies the school logo. The flagpole was a gift from the 8th grade graduating class. Thank you for the class gift! The flag is flying high and looks sharp.

Fall sports of boys soccer and girls volleyball are winding down. Thank you to our coaches; Melissa Looyenga who coached 7th grade volleyball, Brianna Kunst who coached 8th grade volleyball, and Tim Kortering who coached 7th / 8th soccer. Coaching is difficult enough but doing it with the

added COVID guidelines made it extra challenging this year. Players and coaches alike made a valiant effort in following the guidelines. Playing a game of soccer is not easy with a mask on!

We begin to transition out of the fall sports and into the winter sports; first up is boys basketball. Tim Dykstra will return as our 8th grade coach. There is a need for a 7th grade boys basketball coach and a girls basketball coach. If that interests you, please let me know. At this point it is looking like the boys basketball season will have much of the same COVID guidelines as the girls volleyball. Only two guests per athlete will be allowed to watch the game and players, coaches, and fans will have to wear masks. A more complete rundown will be sent out as we get closer to the season.

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

School Finances – Thank You Moms

Mr. Joe Kuiper

Chairman, Finance Committee

“Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.” Proverbs 31:31

The instructions for the October board newsletter for the finance committee indicate we should remind our constituents of the ongoing support drive, timely payment of tuition, and other finance updates. I'll include that here. Our support drive is very important to our school as it provides nearly twenty percent of our annual budget. We are thankful that ACS supporters have faithfully made this drive a reality year after year, even though it is at no small sacrifice to their personal finances. You should be receiving your fall drive mailing in the upcoming days. The support drive goal for 2020-2021 is \$330,000. We have collected around \$163,000 already, leaving about \$167,000 remaining to be collected. We ask that you remember the drive in your prayers and year-end giving. We also remind parents that tuition is due on the first of each month. As in prior years, the year has started off well and tuition is generally arriving on time without issues. For that we thank you all.

Another matter we wanted to touch on is the great thanks we owe to the mothers of our children, for the many ways in which they make school finance possible. While this article doesn't suppose that every home's situation is the same, the reality is that in the vast majority of our homes, the father works at a job outside of the home to earn wages, some of which go to paying the school tuition, while the mother stays and takes care of the home. May we never forget the great sacrifices and tireless labors of the mom in the home, that make the father's daily vocation even possible. We get up in the morning, go to work, work all day, and come home. This would be nearly impossible without the million things (maybe an overstatement for emphasis, although maybe not) that mom did at home, that allowed us to be gone all day at work. Up early, getting the kids out of bed. Picking the outfit for them for the day, even though they don't like even one combination mom chooses. Making breakfast, encouraging them on the day ahead, last minute cram for the spelling test, maybe learn a few questions from the catechism book, calming a few nerves, sending them off on the bus, or even driving them to school. I'd be done for the day at that point. Then off to get ready to take another to preschool. Then on to school to help with hot lunch. Time to pick up an item for the school auction for husband who is on boosters but can't find time to pick up the item. Better pick up some groceries so we can eat tonight. Oh no, now I'm late and the bus will arrive at home in only a few minutes. Kids are home, homework starts, off to catechism, back home making something to eat, wash the clothes that kid wadded up in the corner on the floor eight days ago because tomorrow is the day that son or daughter absolutely has to wear that shirt again. Back to homework, time for baths, read a few books, tuck in the kids while hearing of their joys and sorrows of the day, kiss them goodnight, and close their bedroom doors. Ahhh. Time to relax (oh wait, that's what I do). For mom, it's now time for the ever exciting.....MAKING LUNCHES!! And

on to making lunches they go, with better attitudes than I can even imagine. Just writing what I know of a mom's day makes me feel exhausted, and I'm sure I've hardly touched on the number of tasks accomplished by mom during the day.

So how does this relate to school finance? Well, making those lunches affords the school the luxury of not having to have a very expensive food service program. Picking up the auction item for boosters makes the auction happen, which earns a lot of money for the school. Showing up for hot lunch and getting paid nothing for it saves the school a bundle. The list could go on and on. And not to be forgotten, taking care of the children and the home allows husband to go to his paying job where he can earn his wages and write a check for tuition. So, moms, thank you. When you do what you do, you are helping pay the tuition, and keeping the school going.

Moms are very important to the school's finances. Husbands, thank them for it. We owe them big.

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." Proverbs 31:2

Keeping our Students Safe Online

Mr. Jason Elzinga
Chairman, Technology Committee

Finishing the end of last school year with remote learning required students, staff, and parents to work together to finish the year strong. As a Board we are thankful for all who supported this unexpected challenge, and we are also thankful for the technology our school is furnished with that helped facilitate this remote learning. The new school year is now well underway, and we are grateful that the children have been able to return to school for in-person instruction.

In this article, I would like to highlight something that the Technology Committee (and the Board) takes very seriously – keeping our students safe online. We are all well aware of the dangers associated with the Internet. With over 150 Chromebooks along with a number of other devices in use at ACS, it is important that we have an efficient and effective way to oversee this technology. Our school currently uses a program called GoGuardian. This program filters and monitors the Internet activity of the devices at school. Using this program, teachers are able to monitor the screen of every child in their classroom at any given time. The program will also send out a notification if a student tries to access an inappropriate site. We have found that this program works very well for us, and we plan to continue using this for the foreseeable future.

During remote learning this past spring, some families used Chromebooks borrowed from ACS. Some parents may have wondered about whether these borrowed Chromebooks had any Internet protection once they were connected to their home network. We are happy to report that the GoGuardian software retains its functionality, even when the Chromebook is used at home by the student. The same filtering, monitoring, and notification system is in place, even when the Chromebook is used somewhere other than ACS.

Our goal at ACS is to use technology in a responsible, God-glorifying way. Please contact me or any member of the Board if you have questions or concerns regarding the technology in use at ACS. Let all of us heed the words of Paul in I Corinthians 10:31, and apply it to ourselves and our families regarding our use of technology: *"...whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God"*.

ACH Foundation Update

Mr. Justin Kamps
President, ACS Foundation

Greetings from the Adams Foundation. This past year the foundation witnessed the blessing that we call the Adams Christian Community. So many acts of love, generous support for one another, and support shown toward the school and foundation.

Most of you are familiar with the yearly school drives that are necessary to support all the different functions that go into the running of a busy school. The foundation however might be slightly less known to the constituents. The Adams foundation is a special endowment with the intent from its earnings to lower the cost of education for our children. A portion of the proceeds from our fundraising efforts supports the school on a yearly basis and the remainder is invested to provide for the future. The foundation generates money in

three different areas; Estate gifts, yearend giving, and the Adams Foundation golf outing.

Covid certainly threw a wrench into our plans for the outing this year. With a change of date and some alterations on the course we are happy to report that the outing was again a wonderful success. On behalf of the board as well as the school we thank all the sponsors, helpers, and golfers who continue to make the Adams Outing a tremendous event. We earned over \$21,000 which will enable us to meet our commitment to the school for 2020.

The Foundation was very humbled and grateful to receive many donations in year end giving as well as 2 gifts from estates this year. We thank all of the supporters for their contribution, this type of support will go a long way to ensure the continued financial stability of the foundation. In this very update 6 or 7 years ago the foundation set out a goal to reach \$500,000 in the investment account. Although it took a little bit longer than our target timeframe I am happy to report we have hit that milestone this year!

We also would like to thank the two retiring board members Joe Kuiper and Marc Velthouse for their faithful years of service.

Finally, we ask all the supporters of our beloved school to prayerfully consider adding the foundation in their 2020 year end giving as well as in their will and estate planning distribution.

If you have questions about estate planning or how you can support the foundation please reach out to anyone on the foundation board, Tedd Vansolkema, Andy Baas, Tim Kortering, Derek Kuiper, Tim Vantil or Justin Kamps.

Boosters Club Update

Mr. Nate Bodbyl
President, Boosters Club

Greetings from the Boosters Club! This year has forced a couple changes for the Boosters with what we have been able to do. The Father, Daughter canoe trip, normally in August, was cancelled. Lord willing, we can resume canoeing in 2021. Positively, we were able to host a pop can drive in the spring which gave us the opportunity to speak with a few of you when you stopped at the trailer to drop off cans and bottles as well as raise some money for the school. Thank you for helping make this a big success!

The annual auction, we are happy and thankful to announce, will still be held! This year's auction, like the rest of 2020, will take on some major changes. The auction will be an Online Auction this year due to the government restrictions and concerns for safety. While we are thankful for the technology we have, we will miss seeing fellow supporters in person, being able to catch up with the family or individual you have not seen in some time over dinner, and perking your ears to the chatter of the auctioneers as the live auction begins. Thanks to the help of our friends at Miedema Auctioneering, the auction will take place from 8 AM to 8 PM on Friday the 13th of November.

The Auction Committee will be sending out more details soon concerning the online auction. For now, here are a few of the knowns. Pre-bidding can begin on Monday the 9th when you register online, and you can enter a starting bid on items. Your bidding will not be visible until Friday the 13th at 8 AM and should be anonymous. The auction will close sharply at 8 PM. On Saturday the 14th, from noon to 4 PM, you will be able to pick up any items purchased from the Boosters barn, where the Boosters Club will be happy to help carry your items to your car.

The Auction Committee has been busy and so have the Boosters to help get the auction ready. It is not too late for you to help either. You can contribute items for the auction or give financially to help defray expenses. Please reach out to either Abby VanSolkema (abby.vs10134@gmail.com) or Larissa Mingerink (douglasmingerink@comcast.net) with donations you may have.

Finally, I extend a hearty welcome to all men to join the Boosters Club. It is a great way to serve the school and is only a few nights a year in regards to the time commitment. If you would like more information, please reach out to me (natebodbyl@gmail.com) and I can let you know when our next meeting will be.