

The Great Things Happening in Our School



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At Adams Elementary, we believe young people who develop high levels of social, emotional, and cognitive skills perform better in school and develop into happy and productive adults. These students also develop greater levels of kindness, sharing, and empathy and often have better attitudes about school and self. We strive to give our students the opportunity to develop these skills through many events we put into place throughout the school year.

Veterans Day of Honor

Each November, we hold a special Veterans Day of Honor. Our students invite a Veteran or active service man or woman. Our students submit a picture and a brief description of the individual and these are displayed in our foyer. Each grade level has a specific assignment that makes our day extra special. These assignments include art, letters of thanks, as well as grade level songs to memorize for the different divisions of service. Students in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade write essays about "Honoring our Veterans." One winning essay from each grade is selected and written in our program.

On our Day of Honor, these students share their essays with our special guests and there is rarely a dry eye to be seen. Our Adams School Choir performs, and each grade level sings a patriotic rendition for the Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Army. The men and women, both young and old, stand while their branch of service is honored.

In conclusion, our favorite part is the "Heroes Walk." All of our students and staff line the hall as *The Star-Spangled Banner* echoes triumphantly throughout the school. The veterans and active service members walk the halls as our students sing and wave flags in honor of our brave men

and women who have done so much for each of us. This is a great event that allows our students to show honor and respect to real heroes of our time. Joseph Campbell says it best, "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."

Golden Rule Week

In February, we try to develop greater awareness of kindness and love as we hold our Golden Rule Week. We start the week off with a kindness assembly and then throughout the week, students are given different tasks to complete. One task is Kindness Bingo. Each student has a bingo card with specific acts of service. As they complete their bingo card, they bring joy to others, and it is their Golden Reward. We follow the words of Helen Keller, "The most beautiful things in the world can not be seen or touched. They can only be felt with the heart." Our wonderful community and parents donated fleece and every student had the opportunity to either cut, tie, or package fleece blankets. Our Student Council, HOPE Squad, and Adams Choir took these blankets to Chancelor Gardens, an assisted living facility in our area. As our students sang and handed the blankets out to these elderly individuals, the joy and admiration grew within both the students and the residents. Hugs were exchanged and peace and happiness filled the room. This tender and thoughtful event showed the service our students provided was indeed a beautiful thing and love was felt within every heart.

Teachers and Staff Care about One Another

Our school has a culture of positivity and support. This is something that takes time and a conscious effort to create. I asked our teachers and staff what they felt was something good happening within our school. I received this reply from our STS, Bambi Gibson. "Both of these may seem like small, insignificant things, but not every school does this, and the feeling is different in the school when these things are encouraged. Most teachers eat in the faculty room. I believe it might be related to the atmosphere of trust we have at our school. Also, another seemingly unimportant, but important observation is that teachers feel free to visit each other in the hallways. This type of camaraderie, when it is allowed and encouraged, in my opinion, boosts many other healthy and good things that happen within the school." I couldn't agree more. It doesn't matter if you teach kindergarten, are an aide in a resource class, or work in the cafeteria, everyone at our school is willing to help one another. Our care and concern for others cross the grade level boundaries that are not always evident within a school.

STEAM Night

What a fun night it is to see hundreds of parents, grandparents, and families walking the hallways and enjoying the STEAM activities together. Teachers in each grade level create a make-and-take activity, food trucks are on sight for a quick and easy dinner, and cooperating businesses unite with us to provide an evening of diverse and enriching activities.

As students enter for STEAM night, they are given a punch card. The students roam from activity to activity and their card is punched. When completed, they get a chance to play Plinko and win a prize. The students cheer each other on and we have many excited children walking out the doors with a new science kit, LEGO, or other STEAM prizes.

As professionals entrusted to ignite student learning and growth, we must never forget the significant role of nurturing the emotional, social, and cognitive skills of our students. By doing so, we help develop our students into caring, service-oriented, and intelligent individuals that will go forth and make a difference in the community and the world.

