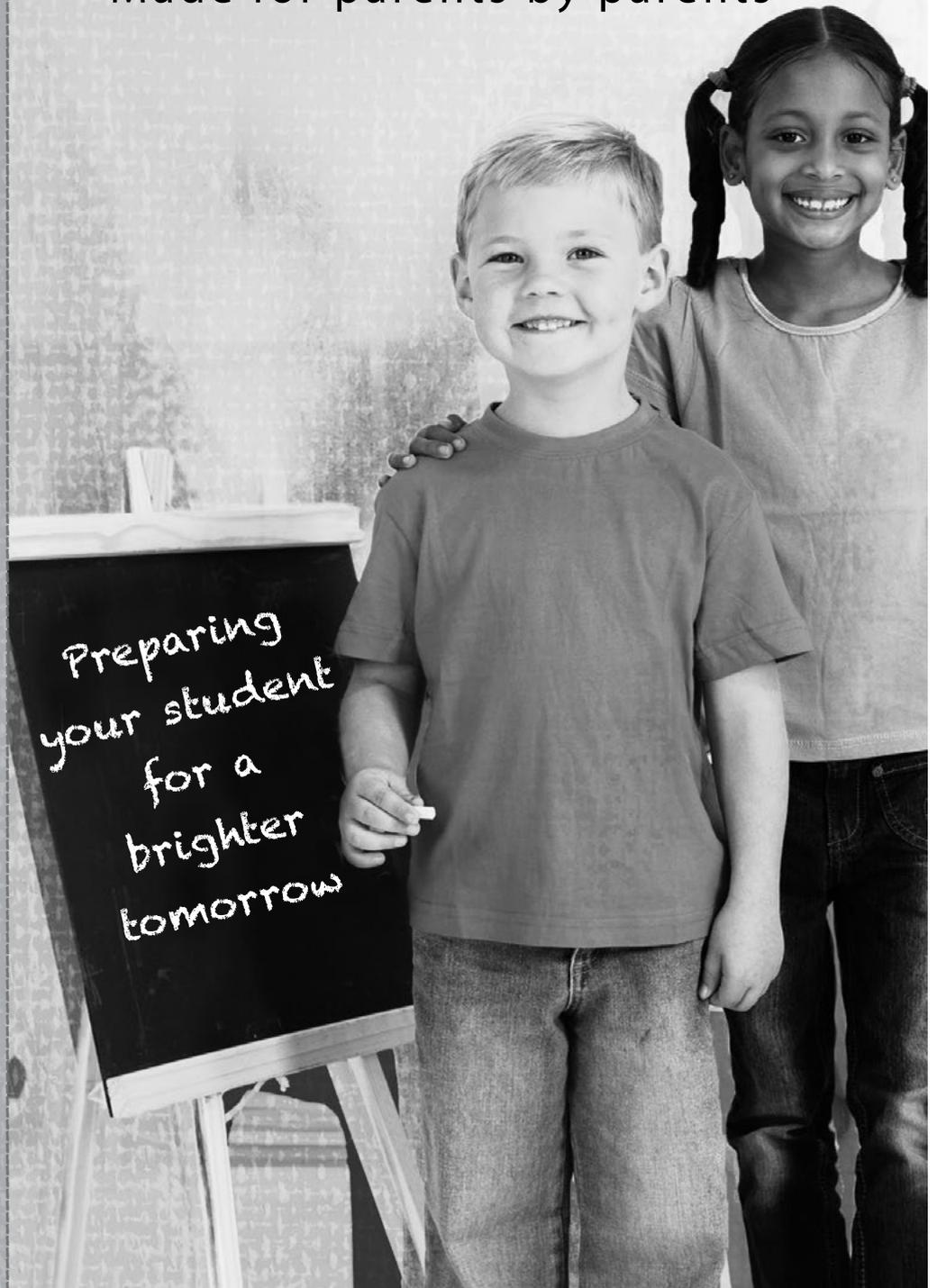


Kindergarten Guide

Adams 12 Five Star Schools

A Kindergarten Guide

Made for parents by parents



All I really need to know ... I learned in kindergarten

It's true! Kindergarten provides all students the first experience of their academic career.

While there is still a strong emphasis on your student's social-emotional development, the kindergarten experience in Adams 12 Five Star Schools provides every student with rigorous academic programs necessary to develop a strong foundation that will help them succeed as they progress through their elementary and secondary school career.

Special thanks

Thanks to all of the parent and teacher volunteers who contributed to the creation of this document. Parents serving on the District School Improvement Team (DSIT) and teacher members of District Twelve Educators' Association (DTEA) graciously gave of their time and expertise to create this guide to welcome new parents and students to the district. The subcommittee met over a year to compile, research and answer commonly asked questions from parents sending their children to kindergarten for the first time. Teachers contributed learning materials and insight on what happens in the classroom on a daily basis. We hope you find this guide to be practical, useful and a good introduction to what's ahead for the coming year!

Learn how you can get involved www.adams12.org/dsit.

Welcome to Adams 12 Five Star Schools!

We are excited to welcome new kindergarten students and their families into our district community. The beginning of kindergarten is a major time of transition for both children and their families. The information provided here was compiled by parents for parents in the hopes that it will help answer many of the questions you have and that it helps you and your child start the year feeling prepared and excited to begin the school journey.



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Enrollment

General Enrollment Information

How old does my child need to be to start kindergarten?

Your child must be 5 years old on or before October 1 of the school year he/she will start school.



Gifted & Talented

If your child misses the cut-off date but is a highly advanced gifted student (at or above 98th percentile on nationally normed assessments as per Colorado Department of Education guidelines), you can apply for early entrance. For more information on early entrance, please click here: http://www.adams12.org/kindergarten/early_entrance.



School Boundary

How do I know what school my child should attend?

The district has school boundaries set based on geography. To find what elementary school your child should attend, please click here: www.adams12.org/boundary_locator.



Choice

What if I want to choose my child's school?

You can check for information on the district's website regarding what schools are open for choice. The district has magnet programs that focus on particular areas of interest and some neighborhood schools are also open for choice. Please read the district's policy on school choice for the most complete information. For information on schools open to choice, application information and deadlines visit: www.adams12.org/choice.

Will my child go to school all day?

Most kindergarteners will go to school half day. Extended-day kindergarten is offered at many schools and is tuition-based. Students who attend Title I schools are able to attend full-day kindergarten which is funded through the Title I grant program. Schools with 80 percent or more of their students receiving free-and-reduced lunch benefits are allocated funding through the grant to offer full-day programming for all students in those schools.



Records

How do I enroll my child into kindergarten?

Regardless of the school your child will attend, you will need to bring the following information to enroll him/her:

- **PARENT/GUARDIAN PHOTO I.D.** Guardians must have proper guardianship forms signed and notarized or a copy of court authorization and, if applicable, custody documentation.
- **BIRTH CERTIFICATE** Your child must be 5 years old on or before October 1.
- **CHILD'S IMMUNIZATION RECORDS** Please click here to learn about the district's immunization policy www.adams12.org/files/dms/5410-Student_Immunizations.pdf.
- **TWO PROOFS OF RESIDENCY DOCUMENTS WHICH CAN BE:** Any utility bill, signed rental agreement, signed sales contract, warranty deed or deed of trust.
- **YOU MUST LIVE IN THE BOUNDARY AREA OF THE SCHOOL** in which you are enrolling unless you are registering for extended-day kindergarten at a school outside your boundary school or are enrolling at a magnet school.

Kindergarten Options



Half-Day Kindergarten

If you choose to enroll your child in the traditional half-day kindergarten, simply register your child at your neighborhood boundary school. Your student will automatically be enrolled for fall and the school will notify you if your student will be attending a morning or afternoon program.

Extended-Day Kindergarten

If you're interested in the tuition-based kindergarten program, register for the program during open registration dates at your child's neighborhood boundary school or at the school where you would prefer your child attend. Your child's name will automatically be entered into a computer-generated lottery. You will be notified if you are selected for that school's program.

You will be given three options at registration for extended-day kindergarten and you will need to indicate your choice upon registration. You will be asked the following:

*If your student's name is **NOT** drawn in the computer generated lottery, you may go to your neighborhood boundary school and request an intent form. On the form, you will indicate your preferences by selecting one of the following options. You may:*

1. Submit your child's name on the waiting list for your school of choice.
2. Enroll your child in half-day kindergarten at your first school of choice.
3. Place your child's name in the district lottery which is available for any of the district school's openings for the extended-day kindergarten program.
This information is available from the district's admissions office. Please call 720-972-4055 for the list of schools who have space available.

- **If you register for extended-day kindergarten and are selected in the priority lottery,** you will be required to pay a registration fee to the school.
- **If your child is registered to attend extended-day kindergarten,** a non-refundable deposit is due to the school to reserve a space for your child. The deposit and registration fee will be applied toward your May payment.
You will be required to sign a contract agreeing to pay tuition on an assigned payment schedule. Failure to pay will result in your account being turned over to a collections agency, and your child will be moved to a half-day kindergarten class. These fees are non-refundable per the signed contract.

*** **PLEASE NOTE:** If your child is accepted for extended-day kindergarten in a school that is not your neighborhood boundary school, you will need to return to your neighborhood boundary school for first grade or apply to stay through the choice process.

Kindergarten by the Numbers

5 years

Your child must be 5 years old by October

18-26

The average number of kindergarten students in each classroom

100%

of your child's day is impacted by highly qualified teachers who have been licensed through the Colorado Department of Education

100%

of schools offer tuition-based before-and-after school care



Choosing the right program for your child

Your Neighborhood School

What makes kindergarten special at my neighborhood school? Neighborhood schools offer half-day and extended-day programs that provide instruction based on Colorado's academic content standards. Every school in our district offers quality programs which include developmentally appropriate instruction in reading, writing, math, science and social studies. All students attend PE, art and music classes, go on field trips and participate in special learning opportunities like guest authors. In addition, they can take part in exciting activities like school carnivals, book fairs, movie nights and other fun events. Every neighborhood school is unique and special. Learn more about your neighborhood school by attending kindergarten information event(s), or call the school to arrange a tour.

Magnet Schools

Magnet schools are designed to serve students with special interests or needs. Magnet schools have a particular focus (e.g., arts, technology) or serve special needs such as gifted and talented students. There are also charter schools available that may have special programs. Charter schools are overseen by the district but do not follow district policies or district curricula. The magnet programs offered by the district include:

INTERNATIONAL BACALAUREATE (IB) PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAM (K-5)

This program is offered at Coronado Hills, Leroy, McElwain and Thornton Elementary schools. The IB Primary Years Program is an internationally recognized curriculum that revolves around the concept of learners constructing meaning by building on their own prior knowledge and using learning activities to build new understandings. The Primary Years Program can lead into IB curriculums offered at The International School at Thornton Middle, Century Middle School and Thornton High School.

STEM- SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH (K-8)

This program is offered at STEM Lab and STEM Launch K-8 schools. This program offers special

emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math through a problem-based learning approach.

THE STUDIO SCHOOL (K-5)

The Studio School is an arts-integrated approach to learning. Core subjects are infused with the arts and learning is expanded through drama, visual arts, music and dance.

HULSTROM (K-8)

Hulstrom offers two different academic programs. The Gifted Options Program gives gifted and talented students the opportunity to learn at an accelerated pace. The Advanced Academic Options program provides a research & standards-based approach to education for average to high ability students.

Please see the websites at the individual schools for in-depth information on the learning philosophies, programs and application processes for these schools. Parents must apply for entry into kindergarten at these magnet programs through the choice application process. If there are more applicants than spaces available at the school, a lottery will be held to select students.

Kindergarten Programs

Here are a list of schools and the options available to families:

			Half-Day	Extended-Day	Full Day	PYP	K-8	BASE	 Visit your neighborhood school webpage for more information
Arapahoe Ridge	13095 Pecos St. Westminster	720-972-5740	●	●				●	www.arapahoe.adams12.org
Centennial	13200 Westlake Dr. Broomfield	720-972-5280	●					●	www.centennial.adams12.org
Cherry Drive	11500 Cherry Dr. Thornton	720-972-5300	●	●				●	www.cherry.adams12.org
Coronado Hills	8300 Downing Dr. Thornton	720-972-5320			●	●		●	www.coronado.adams12.org
Cotton Creek	11100 Vrain St. Westminster	720-972-5340	●	●				●	www.cotton.adams12.org
Coyote Ridge	13770 Broadlands Dr. Broomfield	720-972-5780	●	●				●	www.coyote.adams12.org
Eagleview	4601 Summit Grove Pkwy. Thornton	720-972-5760	●	●				●	www.eagleview.adams12.org
Federal Heights	2500 W. 96th Ave. Federal Heights	720-972-5360			●				www.federal.adams12.org
Glacier Peak	12060 Jasmine St. Thornton	720-972-5940	●	●				●	www.glacier.adams12.org
Hillcrest	10335 Croke Dr. Northglenn	720-972-5380			●				www.hillcrest.adams12.org
Hulstrom	11551 Wyco Dr. Northglenn	720-972-5400		●			●	●	www.hulstrom.adams12.org
Hunters Glen	13222 Corona St. Thornton	720-972-5440	●	●				●	www.hunters.adams12.org
Leroy	1451 Leroy Dr. Northglenn	720-972-5460	●			●		●	www.leroy.adams12.org
Malley Drive	1300 Malley Dr. Northglenn	720-972-5480			●			●	www.malley.adams12.org
McElwain	1020 Dawson Dr. Thornton	720-972-5500			●	●			www.mcelwain.adams12.org
Meridian	14256 McKay Prk Cir. Broomfield	720-972-7880	●	●				●	www.meridian.adams12.org
Mountain View	12401 Perry St. Broomfield	720-972-5520	●	●				●	www.mountain.adams12.org
North Mor	9580 Damon Dr. Northglenn	720-972-5540			●			●	www.northmor.adams12.org
North Star	8740 North Star Dr. Thornton	720-972-5560			●				www.northstar.adams12.org
Prairie Hills	13801 Garfield Pl. Thornton	720-972-8780	●	●				●	www.prairie.adams12.org
Riverdale	10724 Elm Dr. Thornton	720-972-5580	●					●	www.riverdale.adams12.org
Rocky Mountain	3350 W. 99th Ave. Westminster	720-972-5600			●			●	www.rocky.adams12.org
Silver Creek	15101 Fillmore St. Thornton	720-972-3940	●	●				●	www.silvercreek.adams12.org
Skyview	5021 E. 123rd Ave. Thornton	720-972-5620	●					●	www.skyview.adams12.org
Stellar	3901 E. 124th Ave. Thornton	720-972-2340	●					●	www.stellar.adams12.org
STEM Lab	11700 Irma Dr. Northglenn	720-972-3340		●			●	●	www.stem.adams12.org
STEM Launch	9450 Pecos St. Thornton	720-972-5120		●			●	●	www.stemlaunch.org
The Studio School	10604 Grant Dr. Northglenn	720-972-3620		●				●	www.thestudioschool.adams12.org
Stukey	11080 Grant Dr. Northglenn	720-972-5420			●				www.stukey.adams12.org
Tarver	3500 Summit Grove Pkwy. Thornton	720-972-5640	●	●				●	www.tarver.adams12.org
Thornton Elem	991 Eppinger Blvd Thornton	720-972-5660			●	●		●	www.thorntone.adams12.org
Westview	1300 Roseanna Dr. Northglenn	720-972-5680	●					●	www.westview.adams12.org
Woodglen	11717 Madison St. Thornton	720-972-5700	●					●	www.woodglen.adams12.org

- Half Day** Half-day kindergarten (*no tuition*)
- EDKP** Extended-day kindergarten (*tuition based*)
- Full Day** Full-day kindergarten Title Schools only (*no tuition*)
- PYP** Primary Years Programme
- K-8** Kindergarten – 8th grade
- BASE** Before-and-after school program (*fee based*)

◇ Check with school for availability
 ○ BASE available for students at a neighboring school
No matter which school your child attends, they will benefit from a rich kindergarten experience.



Readiness and Learning Expectations

How do I know if my child is ready to start kindergarten?

There is no set rule about what kids should know and be able to do before starting kindergarten. Children mature at vastly different rates and their skills change very quickly. To help assess readiness, consider your child's ability in these areas:

- Can get through the day without a nap
- Manage bathroom needs
- Dress, zip and/or button clothing
- Hold a pencil with a three-finger grip
- Cut with scissors
- Listen, understand and follow two-step directions
- Listen to stories without interrupting
- Know at least 10 letters of the alphabet, specifically letters in own name
- Hold books upright and right side up. Turn pages in order
- Recognize common words seen everyday (e.g., stop)
- Draw pictures to express ideas or share information.
- Sort objects
- Count to 10
- Put together a puzzle
- Build with blocks

Your child will be learning these and other skills as part of their kindergarten experience, so don't worry if they haven't mastered them all. We have provided the list as some touchstones to get you thinking about what will prepare them best for their first year of school.



State Standards

If you are interested in very detailed information about preschool knowledge and skills expectations, the State of Colorado has standards for what students should know and be able to do for preschool students through high school students. For full list of preschool standards go to: www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/UAS/CoAcademicStandards.html and search the content areas (e.g., math, social studies, etc.) for the preschool standards. (Note: These are long documents that begin with the high school standards so scroll to the end.)

What will my child be learning in kindergarten?

There are standards set by the state and adopted by the district that detail what your child should be able to know by the end of kindergarten. As with preschool, if you are interested in very detailed information, the State of Colorado has standards for what students should know and be able to do for kindergarten students in content areas like math, reading, dance, health, science, etc. For full list of kindergarten standards go to: www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/UAS/CoAcademicStandards.html and search the content area (e.g., math, social studies, etc.) for the standards.

Below are selected standards-based skills for math, reading, and writing that your child will be working to accomplish in kindergarten. Your child may have already mastered some of these and will be challenged to further their learning or may need the entire year to work towards these goals.

Math Skills

- Understand number words, the symbol for the number and the quantity it represents
- Count objects in a set (e.g., *How many apples are in the bag?*)
- Count out a given number of objects (e.g., *Show me three spoons*)
- Write the number when shown a number of objects (e.g., *show 3 spoons and the student writes the number 3*)
- Use objects to do simple addition and simple subtraction
- Count in various ways (e.g., *forward and backwards, starting with different numbers*)
- Count objects with one-to-one correspondence
- Explore part-whole relationships (for example, *5 is made of 2 and 3*).
- Solve simple problems using story addition and subtraction.
- Explore, build and extend repeating patterns.
- Sequence familiar events in time



Reading & Writing Skills

- Take part in discussions on age-related topics and books with other students and adults in large and small groups
- Use new words learned through reading books and classroom conversations
- Ask and answer questions in order to seek help, get information or clarify something that is not understood
- Know letter names and sounds
- Blend sounds orally to make one-syllable words /c/-/a/-/t/= cat
- Read common high-frequency words by sight (e.g., the, of, to, you, she, my, is, are, do, does)
- Identify how texts on the same topic are the same and different (e.g., in pictures, wording, etc.)
- Read and spell simple words by sounding them out
- Recognize rhyming and non-rhyming words
- After listening to a story, retell the story including a beginning, middle and end
- Make a logical prediction about what might happen next in a story
- Uses capital and lower case letters appropriately in writing first name
- Write a few high frequency words correctly
- Write one or two complete sentences
- Write words left to right and top to bottom
- Space words
- Write legibly



State Standards

If you are interested in very detailed information, the State of Colorado has standards for what students should know and be able to do for kindergarten students in content areas like math, reading, dance, health, science and others. For full list of kindergarten standards go to: www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/UAS/CoAcademicStandards.html and search the content area (e.g., math, social studies, etc.) for the standards.



Assessments

How will you know if my child is learning what he/she should?

You will have parent/teacher conferences and report cards as forms of communication about your child's progress. Assessments are also done at the beginning, middle and end of the year. During these assessments, teachers check students' knowledge and skills in specific areas to see if they are on track to know and be able to do all that is expected by the end of the year.



Homework

Will my kindergartener have homework?

You can expect your child to have some homework. The amount and type will vary by teacher. Your child's teacher should make you aware of their homework policies at the beginning of the year. If you find that the homework is too much for your child, please let the teacher know so he/she can address the issue. Adams 12 Five Star Schools has a policy on homework, please click here to read the district's policy www.adams12.org/files/dms/6280-Homework.pdf.

Behavioral Expectations



Kindergarten is a major time of growth for your child in both learning and maturity. Your child will be practicing skills like:

- taking turns
- listening
- following directions
- showing respect to teachers, self and others
- practicing self-control

Each kindergarten classroom generally has its own set of rules and each school has its own code of conduct. You will learn more from your child's classroom teacher and through the school's handbook when you begin the school year.

Special Learning Needs

The Five Star District strives to serve children with all different abilities and learning needs. The following links can help you learn about district services offered for these groups:

 **ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)**
www.adams12.org/english_learners
ELL

 **GIFTED AND TALENTED (GT)**
www.adams12.org/gifted_and_talented
GT

 **SPECIAL NEEDS (SPED)**
www.adams12.org/sss
SPED

If you have concerns or questions about whether your child needs services in any of these areas, please call the district's Early Childhood Office at 720-972-8761.



Childcare

What options do I have for childcare for my kindergartener?



BASE

BASE (BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM)

BASE is an on-site childcare program offered at district schools. Each BASE program is independently operated. In general you can expect a registration fee to enroll your child and then rates vary by school. BASE provides care on all days the school operates including assessment days. BASE is closed on district snow days and offers varying degrees of service during spring and winter vacations. Most BASE programs also offer summer day programs. Space is limited in many BASE programs so it is important to sign up at the beginning of the program's registration window. With BASE, you can sign your child up for only before-school care, only after-school care or both. If your child is in half-day kindergarten, BASE does not provide care either before or after the half day. Some schools have kindergarten enrichment programs that can provide care during those hours. Please again, check your child's boundary school for more information. For more information visit: www.adams12.org/base.

Other childcare options

Some area preschools will pick up children or drop children off for half-day kindergarten. Check area preschools for this option or ask at your boundary school what programs offer transportation. You can also contact the Adams County Child Care Assistance Program at 303-604-1043 for a list of programs.

School Calendar & Policy Information



School Calendar

Where can I find out about vacations, holidays and scheduled days off?

The calendar for the district is posted on the district's website, www.adams12.org/calendars.



Calendar

Tip: Check your boundary school's website for a link to its calendar which will show dates for school-specific events like parent-teacher conferences, concerts and family nights.

School Policies

Where can I find information on the school's policies?

Each school has a student/parent handbook that you should receive at the beginning of the school year. The handbook outlines policies related to discipline, attendance, behavior and many other issues. You should receive a hard copy from the school but also check the school's website to see if there is a link to the handbook. For district policies, please click on this link: www.adams12.org/superintendent_policies.



Policies



School Breakfast & Lunch Information

Can my child get breakfast at school?

The following elementary schools offer breakfast: Centennial, Cherry Drive, Coronado Hills, Federal Heights, Hillcrest, Leroy Drive, Malley Drive, McElwain, North Mor, North Star, Riverdale, Rocky Mountain, Stukey, Thornton, Westview, Woodglen.

Breakfast is available for free-and-reduced rates for families who qualify based on income.

How do I sign my child up for hot lunch?

You can pay in cash or you will need to create a lunch account and put money in it for your child at the beginning of the school year. Usually there is someone available at check-in to help you with this process. At this time, your child will be assigned a 4-digit lunch number. Your child will give this number to the lunchroom attendants when ordering lunch so the correct account can be charged.



Pay School Lunch

Payment options for school lunches:

- **CASH**
- **CHECK:** Please make sure your child's lunch number and your phone number is noted on all checks sent to school to pay for lunch.
- **ON-LINE:** School payment solutions offers an on-line option. Please note, there is a service fee charged by the company for using this option. For more information, click here: <https://www.schoolpaymentsolutions.com/>.



Menu

How do I know what is being served for lunch?

The district publishes a menu each month that includes what is served daily for lunch. You will also see what is being served for breakfast at schools where breakfast is served. Most schools send copies of the menu home, but you can always access monthly menus through the district website or through this link: www.adams12.org/nutrition_school_meals.



Free/Reduced Lunch

What are options for free-and-reduced lunch and breakfast?

The Five Star District offers free-and-reduced breakfast and lunches to those families who qualify based on need. For more information go to: www.adams12.org/nutrition_free_reduced for information on who can qualify and how to apply.



Dietary Needs

What if my child has special dietary needs?

There is always a vegetarian option on the meal plan. For other dietary accommodations please refer to Superintendent Policy 3700 www.adams12.org/files/school_lunch/3700-Nutrition_Services_Operations.pdf.

Be sure to contact the school's kitchen with any questions or Nutrition Services at 720-972-4123.

Parent Role in Education

As parents, we play a critical role in our child's education. Not only are we our child's first educator, we need to be there to guide and support them actively throughout their K-12 academic journey. There are many ways we can make a difference, one of the easiest and most important ways is simply getting our children to school every day, ready to learn! Most of us remember kindergarten as a time of recess and naps and don't realize how kindergarten can have lasting effects on our children's academic success.

Parents often wonder what they can do to support their children as they go to school. These tips, courtesy of Coronado Hills Elementary, seem basic but are very important and make a difference:

- Make sure your child is healthy, well rested, and has had a good breakfast.
- Have your child at school every day and on time
- Spend time with your child discussing what is being learned at school and in completing homework.
- Attend school functions and parent teacher conferences.
- Make time regularly for family activities and just to talk.
- If possible, volunteer in the classroom or at school-wide events.
- Read with your child each night according to the grade level expectation.
- Provide a consistent time and location free of distractions for your child to complete their homework. Review the homework with them upon completion.
- Check your child's backpack each evening to check on school information and to ensure they are ready for the next day.
- Limit your child's screen time (*TV, video games, computers, etc.*) to less than two hours each day.

Getting Involved

There are lots of ways to get involved with your child's education in the Five Star District. Classroom teachers use volunteers in a variety of ways, schools have parent groups that meet regularly and the district has a group of parents that meets monthly (DSIT). Whatever amount of time you have to give is greatly welcomed, encouraged and appreciated. The success of our kids, schools and the district depends on a strong partnership between parents and schools. Get involved www.adams12.org/dsit.

We know you will continue to have lots of questions.

The best thing you can do to stay informed is to connect with administrators and teachers at your child's school, talk to other parents, read school and district newsletters and websites, and most importantly stay connected. We hope you found this information helpful and that your child's first year of school is full of fun and learning!

School Visit Checklist

School Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Quick Facts:

As an active observer, look for the following indicators during your school visit.

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Each classroom looks cheerful and students are focused on their work.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Student work is displayed and is appropriate for each grade level.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Teachers seem enthusiastic and knowledgeable.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The principal is confident and interested in interacting with children, teachers and parents.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Students behave in a respectful manner toward one another in class, during transition and at lunchtime.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There is a gym, playground or field.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There is an art room, music room, science room and/or computer lab.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Facilities are well maintained, the bathrooms are clean and well supplied and the grounds look safe and inviting.

Other information:

Transportation options:

School start and end times:

Before-and-after school programming:

Extracurricular activities:

Homework practices:

Technology use:

Discipline and safety policies:

Philosophy or mission:

School communication:

Notes: