

8/16/24

Dear Meridian Community,

What an awesome start to the 24-25 school year! It was so great to see the level of excitement and all the bright smiles that came to us on Monday. However, it is even better that those same smiles and level of excitement continued throughout the week. The energy and enthusiasm that our students are showing for their school and the excitement for learning gives all of us the energy to be the best we can be for them every day. In addition, the appreciation that we have for the partnership we have with our families is what makes it possible to meet the needs of every student. Thank you for having students ready and supporting a great start to the year at home. As you have probably seen, our students have worked hard this week and we have no doubt that they have been tired at night and should sleep well over the weekend. We also hope that they have come home each afternoon with excited tales about all the fun they're having and telling you about all that they are learning. As we begin to settle into a more regular routine next week, please continue to reach out to any staff member if there's anything we can do to help your student or your family.

We hope everyone has a fun, relaxing, and restful weekend and returns ready to learn next week! Please read below for some important updates and information about the coming days and weeks.

Rest up and be ready for next week!
The Meridian Staff

Upcoming Events:

Aug. 29 - Fall Picture Day

Aug. 30 - Mustang Mile Kick-off (for students)

Sept. 2 - Labor Day **No School**

Sept. 3 - **NO School for Students**; Teacher Professional Development Day

Sept. 18 - Vision and Hearing Screening Day

Sept. 20 - Mustang Mile & Fall Festival

Arrival/Dismissal Notes

We had a great first week with extremely safe and orderly arrivals and dismissals. A big thanks to everyone for your patience as we work out the logistical kinks of getting everyone to the right place at the right time. In addition, it is clear that everyone has had a solid arrival and dismissal plan going into the week. Below are a couple notes to keep in mind that will make the process go even more smoothly and will help keep kids as safe as possible:

Arrival / Hug & Go:

1. Remember, there is no outside supervision before 7:35. If you could plan to arrive between 7:35 and 7:45, it would be greatly appreciated. If your student is eating breakfast, they can arrive at 7:30.
2. When using the hug & go, please pull forward as far as you can regardless of the door your student uses. This will help get everyone in and out of the lot quickly.
3. It is important that adults stay in the car both for safety and efficiency reasons.
4. It is also important to have students ready to get out the passenger side of the vehicle as it is very unsafe to have students crossing between cars.
5. If you are walking students up, you should drop off near the entrance of the parking lot allowing students to walk to their door on their own. There are signs there indicating the drop-off location for walkers. Staff in yellow vests will be there to assist as needed. This helps both with safety as well as helping to instill confidence.

Dismissal:

1. In grades K-2, teachers will look for the trusted adult who should be picking students up after school. Please wait a distance away from the exit door so that all students can get out of the building and teachers can safely keep track of them. Once eye contact is made, they will be released to go with you. In grades 3-5, students will be released out their exit door to come find you or walk/bike home.
2. As long as students are with an adult and supervised, it is permissible to play on the main playground and/or fields for 15 minutes after school. However, after that time, our BASE program needs access to these spaces. Please do not allow students to climb trees, fences, or run near the streets.
3. Please talk to, or practice with students, the safe uses of crosswalks. Students and parents will be asked to use crosswalks and not cross in the middle of the street. Students should wait at the corner, make eye contact with the driver(s), and cross only when there is no moving traffic. Students should not cut diagonally across an intersection.

Pets on School Property

In an effort to keep our school feeling safe for all students and families and in accordance with District Policy, only service animals and therapy dogs are permitted on school property. District Policy requires prior authorization from the principal to have a therapy dog on school property. We ask that all other pets remain on the perimeter of the school grounds before, during, and after school. We appreciate your cooperation with this request.

Pre-Arranged Absences:

Now that we are all settling into the school routine, we wanted to take a minute to inform our new families and remind our returning families about attendance. Attending school each day and being on time to school are extremely important to a student's academic development and achievement. Every day a student is in school is an opportunity to learn, build relationships, and access needed support. Please take time to look at the [Meridian Attendance Information Handout](#). The handout reviews excused vs. unexcused absences, making pre-arranged absences, state law as well as school and district policy. It also details ways in which parents

can help support positive attendance. As a reminder, a student will be considered excused based on the following:

- Doctor's note (shared with the front office)
- Religious holiday
- Absence required by the judicial system
- School sends student home (ie: health office sends home a sick student)
- Prearranged absence ([Pre-Arranged Absence Form](#) must be filled out and turned into front office prior to absence)

If you have any questions about attendance, please contact the main office.

Color Days:

In Kindergarten, students will kick off the 2nd week of school with color days. Kindergarten students are asked to dress in the following corresponding colors each day. If students in grades 1-5 would like to show support of our newest Mustangs, they are welcome to wear the colors each day as well.

Mon 19th - Blue Day

Tues 20th - Green Day (not the band)

Wed 21st - Red Day

Thurs 22nd - Purple Day

Friday 23rd - Favorite Color Day

Fall Picture Day: Our fall individual picture day is on Thursday, August 29. Picture forms went home today in your student's Friday Folder. You can pre-order picture packages now. Visit mylifetouch.com and use Picture Day ID **EVTW9XX9Z** to access the Meridian Elementary School picture day portal.

Pizza Days: Pizza is normally served every Wednesday. Blackjack pizza is served one Wednesday per month. Below are the scheduled dates for Blackjack this school year. Aug 28, Sept 25, Oct 30, No Blackjack November, Dec 4, Jan 15, Feb 12, March 19, Apr 23, May 21

Safety Drills: We will be conducting beginning of the year safety drills over the first few weeks of the school year. Students will practice evacuation, shelter in place, and lockdown drills in order to be well prepared in the event of an emergency. After conducting a drill, we will always send out communication to let you know which drill was conducted. If you or your student has any questions or concerns with safety drills, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can find more information about emergency preparedness on the [Adams 12 Safety & Security website](#). This week students will have their **first Fire Drill on Tuesday**.

ST Math Celebration

Exciting news! From August 28th to 30th, ST Math will be visiting our school to capture the joy of learning on camera. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase our students and staff as they

engage with the ST Math platform, which supports our math curriculum across all elementary schools. The footage will be featured in celebration for both Adams 12 and ST Math, including social media, websites, and printed content. No names will be used—just happy faces enjoying the benefits of ST Math! *Unless you have submitted a media opt-out form, your child may be part of this special celebration.*

Celebrating Our Students

Here are a few pics from the first week of school.







Community Flyers for Services, Activities and Resources

Once a month, district schools will distribute digital flyers for community events, activities and resources. ***These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Adams 12 Five Star Schools, its Board, the Superintendent, or this school.*** Use the link below to view the flyer's we received this month from community organizations offering various services, activities and resources for families. [August Community Flyers](#)