



May 25, 2018

Dear Adams City High School students and families:

At the start of the school year, I asked, “What inspires you?” For me, the answer was simple: Adams City High School students.

Our students not only inspire me but also make me proud. All of our students deserve to reach their potential and achieve their dreams. Throughout the year, we have witnessed tremendous hard work, determination, and dedication from our students, and the results can be seen in: accountability test participation rates (up 4–9 percentage points); increased testing numbers for Advanced Placement exams and all WIDA (an English language learner program) proficiency scores, which increased on certain measures in all grade levels by more than 20 percentage points.

At Adams City High School, we strive to provide a once-in-a-lifetime experience for our students that sets the stage for their future. We work to make our school a place where students want to be and feel supported. We have made progress in this area, increasing our attendance rate from 82 percent to 89 percent this year. A high school diploma is our students’ first step on the journey to their future, which is why we have such a strong focus on college, career, and community readiness. We have an abundance of partnerships—GEAR Up, YESS Mentoring, CSU Talent Search, CSU Alliance, MSU EXCEL Program, UCD Scholar Program, and CU Boulder Pre-Collegiate program, to name a few—that expose students to career fields and college-level coursework and help them plan for and get into college certificate and degree programs.

Counseling services are essential in high school. Counselors play the very important role in supporting all students with instructional and academic guidance. Next school year, with the support of instructional staff, a college readiness dean and a full complement of counselors will review every student’s individual academic record and accrued credits to ensure that the information is accurate and timely. We are doubling our efforts to guide students and inform their families about the types of classes and number of credits required to ensure that they graduate on time.

This additional support will be complemented by the launch of the AVID program. AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, is a college-readiness program designed to help students develop the skills they need to be successful in college, including writing, critical thinking, teamwork, organization, and reading skills. The launch of AVID, along with our intentionally evolved counseling strategy, will move Adams City High School toward a more robust college-readiness approach. The goal of our approach is to reach more students and leverage more adults to support student success, so, for example, we will continue to see an increasing number of students graduating with the Seal of Biliteracy. In 2018, we saw an increase of 27 students from the year before. This is especially important because Adams City’s requirements to earn this seal are more rigorous than surrounding school districts.

As the 2017–18 school year comes to a close, I can say with confidence and pride that our focus this year was on students and their success. Adams City High School is a great school. Every day, over the past year, I have witnessed great contributions by our students, staff, and parents. As a school, we are in a continuous growth mode, and we are staying the course, creating a strong, collaborative, and committed environment that offers pathways that allows our students to be successful.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school for the 2018–19 school year!

Sincerely,

Gabriella Maldonado
Principal, Adams City High School