



# January Family Update

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ADM Families and Staff,

The safety of our students and staff has been and continues to be our top priority. The tragic school shooting in Perry is a reminder of the importance of everyone working together to ensure the safety of our students and staff at ADM. While at no time did authorities communicate that there was a threat to ADM Schools and they continue to communicate that there is no known threat to ADM Schools, we continue to be vigilant in our safety and security practices to ensure students and staff safety. As part of this ongoing work, this month's Parent and Family update is focused on school safety and security reminders, requests for parent support, and other related updates.

## **If You See Something, Say Something**

As always, we continue to ask everyone's partnership in being vigilant to speak up if you see or hear anything that could represent a potential threat to school safety. Threats to school safety can always be reported by calling 911, contacting a school administrator or school employee, or by [reporting a threat](#) through resources on our website.

## **Adel and DeSoto Police Department Partnership and Increased Presence**

The Adel and DeSoto Police Departments have always provided great support for ADM Schools. This was once again made evident during and after last week's incident in Perry. We are thankful for their ongoing partnership and their continued support of ADM Schools, students, and families. Both departments continue to provide an increased presence at all ADM school buildings. This is in addition to ADM's full-time School Resource Officer (SRO) who supports all ADM Schools. Additionally, in partnership with the Adel Police Department, ADM has been working even before the shooting in Perry to hire a second SRO for the 2024-25 school year.

## **Rumors of Threats to ADM Schools**

Sadly, since the school shooting in Perry, there have been rumors of additional violence against schools in Iowa. Due to our proximity to Perry, ADM is naturally a part of those rumors. Again, we have no notification from law enforcement that there were or are any threats to ADM Schools related to the Perry tragedy. ADM has been actively monitoring and investigating all rumors or concerns brought forward about ADM Schools and has been working directly with the Adel Police Department to ensure the safety of students and staff at ADM. All school districts in Iowa have the responsibility of investigating information that is brought to the school related to school safety. Administrators are trained in these investigative processes and coordinate with Adel and DeSoto PD as needed for additional assistance. When appropriate, relevant information is turned over to the authorities for formal police investigation.

In response to concerns about threats to schools or the community, the Adel Police Department has released the following statement.

*"The Adel Police Department would like to take this opportunity to remind anyone who engages in or considers making threatening comments of violence towards others, whether through social media or in any other fashion, that they will be held legally accountable for such actions. The safety and security of our community is our top priority. We will work tirelessly to make sure our schools, businesses, and neighborhoods are protected from such threats. The Adel Police Department will work with all Federal, State, & local law enforcement partners and violators will be charged to the fullest extent of the law."*

Additionally, ADM would like to clearly communicate that any students who make threats of violence toward others at ADM will face school discipline including suspension and expulsion.

## **How Can Parents Help?**

Please review the following areas identified on the next page where parent partnership is requested to help keep ADM safe and secure for students and staff.

- **Parent Support 1: Threats of Violence** Please talk to your student (in an age-appropriate way) about the serious nature of making any threat of violence towards others. (Resource: [Think Before You Post](#))
  - The Adel Police Department will work with all Federal, State, & local law enforcement partners and violators will be charged to the fullest extent of the law.
  - Individuals making threats of violence toward others at ADM will face school discipline including suspension and expulsion.
  
- **Parent Support 2: Concerns or Rumors** Please talk to your student (in an age-appropriate way) about reporting concerns or rumors but not engaging in discussing, reposting, or circulating rumors / false information.
  - If an individual does not have information about a specific threat but “just heard that something might happen” they should still come forward about what they have heard so that an investigation can occur.
  
- **Parent Support 3: Social Media** Please talk to your student about age-appropriate use of social media and monitor their social media use. (Resource: [Internet Matters Social Media Advice Hub](#))
  - Student’s use of social media outside of school is a growing challenge for ADM and all schools. Issues between students often occur off of the ADM campus, in the virtual environment, and become a disruptive issue or conflict when students arrive at school.
  - Did you know that the minimum age to open an account on nearly every social media platform—TikTok, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, Kik, YouTube, Snapchat, Facebook, and more— is 13? Yet, many ADM students 12 and under have accounts with these social media sites and apps on their personal devices.

### Emergency Operations Plans

Like all Iowa Schools, ADM is required to have an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) specific to each building. ADM’s EOPs were developed in collaboration with district personnel, teachers and school support staff, county emergency management, fire, law enforcement, public health, mental health service providers, and other community partners. These plans are legally not available to the public but are updated annually and reviewed in closed session with the ADM School Board each summer before the start of the next school year.

### Drills, Reports, and Training

ADM’s Emergency Operations Plans require each school building to conduct a minimum of two active threat drills, four fire drills, and four severe weather drills annually. Each building has a dedicated EOP team that plans each drill, sets objectives and goals for each drill, and completes an after-action report following each drill. The after-action report identifies strengths and areas for improvement along with corrective action plans. Additionally, all ADM employees are required to complete formal ALICE training (active threat) annually and students receive age-appropriate instruction in the ALICE response system (active threat) each school year.

### Governor’s School Safety Program

We continue to be involved in the Governor’s School Safety Program which will ultimately lead to funding for Iowa schools to make safety improvements in all buildings. All five attendance centers have completed a formal safety assessment conducted by a vendor provided by the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and received reports of findings and action steps from each safety assessment. We have been using these reports to identify priority future projects to improve safety and security at each school building.

### Reminder: Student Assistance Program

ADM has partnered with Employee and Family Resources (EFR) to provide a formal Student Assistance Program (SAP). ADM’s Student Assistance Program is confidential, free, and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please read the following overview for more information about this important and FREE program: [ADM Student Assistance Program](#)

I am proud of our staff and students and I know we will move through this difficult and complicated time in true Tiger fashion. Let’s all continue to support our friends in Perry. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me with any questions. Please call my office at 993-4283 ext 1002.

Sincerely,  
 Greg Dufoe  
 ADM Superintendent