

Preparing for the Fall 2025:

- **Canvas Tote** - Look for an email soon with a link to order your child a canvas tote with their name embroidered on it. These are required in the toddler and 2's classrooms. It allows easier access for the teachers and more independence for your child. This is paid for by you, the parent, and yours to keep.



- **Backpacks**—3's and Pre-K classes have the option to carry a backpack but it must be LARGE enough to carry all personal belongings such as extra change of clothes, classroom folder, snack, lunchbox, water bottle, and a jacket or sweater. Please label or embroider it with their name.



- **Labels** - Please order labels with your child's first and last name. Everything must be labeled. This is VERY important in keeping track of each student's personal items.



- **Lunch Boxes** - Must be BENTO-style, which is a compartmentalized lunch box container like the images below. It's helpful for the children to start using these before they start school so they can practice eating out of it and opening/closing it.



- **Lunch Guidelines** - To help maintain a safe and hygienic environment for all children and to minimize contact with items that go directly into your child's mouth, please follow these guidelines:

- **Pre-Opened Items:** All lunch contents must be opened at home and placed inside a bento box or similar container. We prefer that teachers do not open prepackaged food, such as a string cheese.
- **Water Bottles:**
 - Water bottles should be easy for your child to open independently.
 - Please choose a water bottle that has a lid covering the mouthpiece to ensure hygiene.
- **Snack Guidelines** - To promote healthy eating habits and comply with state licensing guidelines, we have established the following snack policy:
 - **Healthy Snacks:** Each child should bring a healthy snack from home every day. Examples include fresh fruit, vegetables, applesauce, granola bars, crackers, or other wholesome, non-sugary options.
 - **Prohibited Items:** Sugary snacks such as fruit snacks, gummy snacks, and cookies cannot be served before noon, per state licensing regulations.
 - **Packaging:** Snacks should be packed in a **labeled**, disposable container or ziplock bag for easy cleanup. Please do not send snacks that require cooling or utensils.
 - **Snack Time:** Snack time typically occurs between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. and may take place outdoors, weather permitting.
- **Water Bottles** - Each student needs to come to school with a water bottle that is easy to open, and preferably has a lid that snaps over the mouthpiece to reduce germs. We prefer that these hold 16 ounces of liquid or more in warmer months; we want to limit filling these as much as possible.
- **Nap Time/Rest Time Essentials (Toddlers through 3's)** - Each student must have a nap mat or blanket with attached pillow (example: Olive Kids or Wildkin nap mat). The nap mat must be embroidered with the child's name or labeled. Send "lovies" if your child needs them to settle themselves during rest time (stuffed animal, pacifiers, etc. for toddler and twos classes only). Please make sure all these items are labeled. It's helpful for children to practice using their nap mats at home before transitioning to school.



As you prepare, please also note our ADS Dress Code as specified in the Parent Handbook:

- **Shoes** - Closed-toe shoes that best support your child's feet for development; Velcro is strongly recommended. No sandals, crocs, Natives or flip flops are allowed (mulch gets in shoes with large openings and makes recess time less enjoyable). Pre-K and Kinder should wear shoes they can take off and put on themselves. If your child cannot lace their own shoes, they are not allowed to wear shoes with laces.

- **Clothing** - Elastic waist shorts/pants/skirts are preferred and mandatory if your child is potty training; no buttons or snaps please unless children are in Pre-K/Kinder and they can independently fasten them. Please send girls with shorts under dresses so they can comfortably participate in all gross motor activities.

Additionally, please review a few key points from our ADS Toilet Training Policy as specified in the Parent Handbook:

- To ensure health, safety, and sanitation in the school environment, children must demonstrate readiness before transitioning to underwear. Specifically, a child must maintain a dry diaper or pull-up for 15 consecutive days before being permitted to attend school in underwear. This requirement helps ensure a clean and comfortable environment for all students and staff.
- Children who are in the process of learning to use the toilet independently may wear pull-ups, or underwear over a pull-up. However, we kindly ask that pull-ups be used **only** if your child is actively engaged in toilet training.
- At ADS, children must be fully potty-trained before entering the 3s, Pre-K, or Kindergarten classes.
- Please note that classrooms 107 and 108 (typically Pre-K classrooms) do not have toilets in their classrooms and they use both the Narthex bathrooms and bathrooms by the school entrance.
- Teachers and staff are unable to assist your child in the bathroom stalls due to safety concerns. Children must be able to use toilet paper appropriately.

A mandatory parent-only orientation will be held before the first day of school.