

AARON DECKER SCHOOL
REPORT CARD NARRATIVE
2024/2025

Highlights

- Aaron Decker School is a PreK-4 Elementary School serving approximately 370 students.
- Daily schedule- 8:00 am -2:30 pm.
- We communicate through social media outlets(Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) Blackboard, email, and various school updates and newsletters.
- The school's focus is ensuring all children thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. We provide a combination of strong academic programs alongside proactive social and emotional learning.

Mission

Our primary mission at Aaron Decker School is to provide a safe and secure educational environment through compassionate leadership. We promote academic excellence and nurture the social and emotional well-being of all our children to help students become resilient, innovative learners while living a balanced life of kindness, respect, and responsibility. Every student deserves a quality education and we firmly believe that collaborative communication between parents and the school is critical to children's success.

Awards

State School of Character Recipient

Curriculum

ADS delivers the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in a supportive and inclusive environment at each grade level. Grade level teams plan lessons and review data frequently to keep the continuum of learning and growth moving forward in all areas of the curriculum. . In addition to core academic subjects, Aaron Decker School offers strong programs in the Arts, Physical Education, and Technology. Using the School-wide Enrichment Model (Renzulli), a state of the art MakerSpace (STeAM) lab (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) has been constructed at Aaron Decker School to allow our students to apply their knowledge in a hands-on learning environment.

Activities

T.R.A.C.K program, along with many BASE programs run through our PTA. There are music concerts and art shows throughout the year.

Before/After Care Programs

DC Education Solutions is our before and after care program for students PreK-4.

Staff and Professional Learning

All teachers participate in professional learning during workshops offered on full and half day in-service days. Teachers collaborate during grade-level meetings and curriculum committees.

Student Supports and Services

Aaron Decker School offers a comprehensive special education program for students in grades PK-4. Students are programmed in the least restrictive environment in either our in class resource programs, pull out resource sections, LLD program or MD program. Related services such as a BCBA, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech Therapy are available and provided to students on a regular basis. ADS offers ML programming to students learning the language and supports the students in multiple modalities. ADS utilizes a multi-tiered RTI system of support for struggling learners. A reading specialist and math specialist are on staff to assist as part of the RTI process. ADS also provides a HALO period (academic assistance period every day) along with a Gifted and Talented program for students.

Student Health and Wellness

All students receive Physical Education (P.E.), which includes a comprehensive curriculum covering nutrition, personal wellness, and fitness standards. Students participate in P.E., health lessons, and activities, and enjoy daily recess. Additionally, a breakfast program is available to all students. We have integrated a mindfulness block into the daily schedule, supported by a full-time counselor who focuses on the social and emotional well-being of our students. We have implemented a district-wide mindfulness movement to develop the personal and social skills of our students. Both students and teachers use self-regulation techniques, mindful breathing, and growth mindset strategies aimed at fostering personal growth and self-awareness.

ADS also has a full-time school nurse who provides care to all students and staff and offers programs to parents, staff, and students.

Parent and Community Involvement

We have a SEPAG group which meets quarterly. Parents are free to join and attend meetings. We run a Back to School night, parent workshops, Kindergarten Orientation, and 4th grade transition programs. The Parent-Teacher Association provides students with a variety of services, materials, and enrichment activities that reinforce, expand, and complement the instructional program. We have a parent portal that all parents are given access to. We partner with the Butler Police, local churches and other community groups.

Facilities

ADS is a two story building. We have made many renovations to our building recently including an updated security and camera system, UV lighting, ceilings, and flooring. We added a new digital marquee to announce events and other important information. Many of our individual rooms have air conditioning and we continue to add more each year. ADS has a Makerspace Lab, Gym/cafeteria, media center, art room, and music room. ADS has a brand new playground which was recently installed.

School Safety

Meetings and a strong partnership with Butler Police Departments. Updates to doors and security camera systems. New vestibule installed for main entrance. Raptor system installed for visitor screening. ADS has a School Safety Team/Culture and Climate Team/BTAM team. Extensive EOP and safety plan which is shared with staff and Butler Police. ADS has a part time RPO on duty. Security drills are completed on a monthly basis as per NJDOE guidelines.

Technology and STEM

We are a 1:1 district, ensuring every student has access to their own technology device. At ADS, integrating technology is a key initiative for all staff members. Our lessons across all curricular areas incorporate technology to promote collaborative and active learning. This approach fosters dynamic, personalized learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

We regularly provide professional development for our staff and adhere to the SAMR model for technology integration. ADS also features a Makerspace/STeAM Lab, which students visit weekly as part of the Related Arts cycle.

Early Childhood Education

AM/PM Preschool disabled class. 2.5 hours each session.