



Hayes Adopt-A-Teacher 2020-2021 School Year

General Information

Thank you for adopting a teacher through our Hayes Adopt-A-Teacher initiative. The teachers in our community have had a different start to school than ever before. We have such a privilege to engage the community through the public schools and we are grateful for your partnership here.

We invite you to engage through praying for the teachers and being a presence through notes of encouragement, lunch blessings and any way in which the teacher invites you to come along with them on their journey.

We praise God for you and for His love that shines through you in all ways. We have provided the following information to help answer any questions you may have as you encourage your teacher.

Common Questions & Answers

Why Hayes Adopt-A-Teacher?

We believe impact is made through prayer and presence. Our desired outcome is to encourage, by way of holding the teachers and staff in prayer as well as to be a presence during this especially challenging time.

Does my teacher know that I've been assigned to them or do they have any knowledge about Sanctuary's initiative?

Yes, all teachers have been notified about the initiative and we have received many positive responses from the teachers showing their excitement.

How do I get started?

You could start with email to them, introducing yourself and letting them know you are with Sanctuary's partnership at Hayes and you have the opportunity to come alongside them in any way you can. Simply ask, if there is a way in which you can encourage them as they stand on the front lines of education to please let you know.

Some questions you may ask them: Are working from home or school? What are some of your favorite things (lunch spot, beverage, candy, hobbies, etc)?

Sample Introduction Email

Dear {teachers name},

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is {your name} and I attend Sanctuary which is a partner in education with Hayes Elementary School. It's my privilege this year through our "Adopt-A-Teacher" initiative to come alongside and advocate for you the best I can.

I know this school year has started off different than ever before. Are you working from home or at the school? If there are ways in which I can best encourage you and join you, please let me know. Also, if you don't mind, share some of your favorite lunch spots, beverages, treats, hobbies, color, etc.

I am honored to encourage you and excited to get to know you better throughout this school year.

How can I be a presence?

For this initiative, we ask that you commit to hold your teacher in prayer (even if they don't know your praying), As the Spirit guides you to express a tangible presence, this can be done through writing notes of encouragement, sending lunch occasionally, providing much needed school supplies, small gifts or gift cards.

Can I give gifts?

Yes, remember to keep it simple and appropriate. If you do not get a "favorites" list from the teacher, you can give them much needed school supplies, small gifts or gift cards. Remember, you are not obligated in any way to participate financially as this initiative is not intended to be a financial burden for anyone.

Should I decide to send lunch to my teacher, how is the best way to do this?

Many restaurants offer delivery. Other options are delivery services such as [Uber Eats](#), [Door Dash](#) or [Grub Hub](#). These delivery services have online & app platforms. Sanctuary can reimburse you up to twice per semester. Send Denise Gallichio denise@sanctuaryinhim.org a copy of your receipts for reimbursement.

Can I drop off items at the school for my teacher?

Yes, first, make sure your teacher is working from the school not from home. Second, contact the school office (678.594.8127) beforehand to make arrangements for stopping by.

How often should I connect with my teacher?

Let the teacher hear from you at least once a month via a note of encouragement and commit to praying weekly for the teacher.

Can I let them know I'm praying?

Yes, you can even ask them if there are ways in which you can join them in prayer however stay reminded that you don't have to. We are not held to any government mandates; however, we want to be sensitive and keep in mind that we do not have to prove God or defend Him, trusting that His presence will be made known in us and through us.

Some may object to this and that's okay, we can still pray. We do not want to be a hindrance to their spiritual journey, however respect where they are as well as minister by way of His Spirit loving through us, which takes the pressure off us to "do" or ensure we are making a way.

Can I send a scripture?

Yes, since we are not interacting with any students, we are not held to any church vs. state mandates. Keep in mind our purpose is to be sensitive as we are an example of His gentle presence. You will probably get a feel for your teacher's beliefs early on in your relationship with them. Respond as the Spirit leads you in this area.

Can I ask my teacher about any family needs?

Right now we are focusing on the teachers & staff; however, if you feel led, you can ask about any family needs.

What if my teacher doesn't respond?

First, let Denise Gallichio denise@sanctuaryinhim.org know so we can verify the email address. You still may not get a response from your teacher. That's okay! We are called to be faithful and the one who God calls, He will be faithful to do His work. If you do not hear from your teacher, continue to send them a note or email once a month and keep praying.

Are there other ways I can bless Hayes?

Yes! From time to time Sanctuary will provide a breakfast or lunch with a small gift for the entire Hayes staff. We will invite you to help with packaging gifts, invite your teacher or even come to the school to welcome teachers as they get their meal.

What if my teacher expresses a larger need?

If your teacher expresses some larger personal need, please ask them if they mind you sharing this need with Sanctuary. Send that need to Heather Canup heather@sanctuaryinhim.org with the teacher's contact information and we will handle the need as a benevolence request.

Since Hayes Adopt-A-Teacher is a new initiative this year, your feedback is critical for its success. Please contact Denise Gallichio

denise@sanctuaryinhim.org with any suggestions, comments or questions.