



Akron Public Schools LEARNING 2020-2021



ADAPTIVE RESPONSIVE SUPPORTIVE

WEEKLY UPDATE

Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021

Merkle's Mental Health Moment – Turning fear into motivation

Dr. Erich Merkle, Pupil Adjustment Program, Office of Special Education, Akron Public Schools

With plans to reopen our school buildings after nearly 12 months of virtual instruction, many of our staff members and students are feeling overwhelmed, if not fearful of this change. Fortunately, fear of failure and anxiety can be reframed into opportunity. A [chief executive officer shares his thoughts on putting fear in its place and helping us achieve our goals](#). How we look at fear, respond to it, and incorporate it in our journey is largely a personal choice. When we take a logical and proactive approach to fear and failure, it can empower us to reach for the stars—or at the very least, reopen our school buildings and do what we all do well, educate.

APS plans return to in-person learning

Akron Public Schools (APS) will soon return to in-person learning. The school board unanimously voted Monday, Feb. 22 for students in kindergarten, first and second grades to start in-person learning March 8. All other students, including early learners, will return March 15. Families have informed APS that 70% of students wish to return to in-person learning, while 30% will continue with remote learning. To learn more visit [APS Return to the Classroom](#).

AxessPointe and Medicaid providing free transportation to COVID-19 services

Medicaid and AxessPointe Community Health Center are offering free transportation to COVID-19 vaccination sites for enrolled members. For those interested in Medicaid transportation, read [this flyer](#) for more information. To be added to AxessPointe's contact list regarding the Covid-19 vaccine and other related services, complete [this form](#).

Good Samaritan Hunger Center offering free food distribution

Good Samaritan Hunger Center is providing free food distribution this Friday, Feb. 26. Recipients must wear a mask and have their car trunk open and empty. Distribution time and other information can be found using [this schedule](#).

GPD Employees Foundation grant provides school supplies to APS students

A series of grants from GPD in Akron have helped students make necessary adjustments due to remote learning. Executive Director of Elementary Education Mary Kelly and Grants Manager Peggy Greiner shared [this photo](#) of first grader Cateleya Congrove from Forest Hill CLC using a mouse and lap desk that were provided through the grant. We are grateful for all of our partners who have supported APS students in so many ways during COVID-19. [View more photos](#).

Salvation Army after-school program available for students

Salvation Army of Summit County is offering an after-school program for children in kindergarten through age 12. The program runs Monday through Friday from 3–6 p.m. with provided transportation from select local schools. Visit [their website](#) for more information on the program, including activities and tuition.

STEM EXPO results released

The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math EXPO took place virtually on Saturday, Feb. 20. Judges from all around the country awarded students as they presented their projects. [The recorded live stream](#) details the monetary and other awards given during the ceremony.

APS *plus* After-Hours Support for students and families

After-hours support has reopened for the semester. APS *plus* After-Hours Support assists students and families with K-12 tutoring and academic support, family support services, social-emotional urgent support, technology and Google Classroom troubleshooting. Hours are **Monday-Thursday from 4-7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be closed on holidays**. Call 330.761.7943 for assistance. For information, visit [akronschools.com](#).

HELPFUL RESOURCES

All the resources below have clickable links for your convenience.

General resources

- [Akron Summit County Library](#)
- [APS Covid-19 Dashboard](#)
- [APS District Website](#)
- [APS Family Resources](#)
- [APS Learning 2020-21 Google Site](#)
- [Get 2 School/Stay in the Game](#)
- [Ohio Department of Education \(ODE\)](#)
- [Summit County Public Health](#)
- [United Way 2-1-1 Resource Referral](#)

Forms and downloads

- [Bullying/harassment Complaint Form](#)
- [Help Desk Form](#)

Educational and mental health resources

- [5 Things Parents Can Do to Support Learning at Home](#)
- [9 Tips for Parents Navigating Online Learning](#)
- [22 Remote Learning Tips for Parents](#)
- [CDC: Help Children Learn at Home](#)
- [Online Learning Tips for Families](#)

APS social media

- Facebook [@akronpublicschools](#)
- Twitter [@akronschools](#)
- LinkedIn [@akron-public-schools](#)
- YouTube [@Akron Schools](#)