



Akron Public Schools LEARNING 2020-2021



ADAPTIVE RESPONSIVE SUPPORTIVE

WEEKLY UPDATE

Thursday, Feb. 4, 2021

Merkle's Mental Health Moment – Supporting young children in virtual education

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

In March 2020, the start of school building closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic deeply affected our professional and personal lives and resulted in major disruptions in services for children and families. These disruptions continue to impact children of all ages but are particularly problematic for children from birth to age five given this is a critical time for learning and development. [ChildTrends offers strategies for communities and families to support our youngest children during this period of virtual learning](#) so their social, emotional, cognitive and physical skills and abilities continue to thrive.

- Strategy 1: Use engaging online lessons to support parent learning and skills.
- Strategy 2: Use virtual communication technologies to help parents integrate learning into real-life contexts.
- Strategy 3: Use technology to make sure helpful information and resources are at parents' fingertips.
- Strategy 4: Use technology to build relationships and improve a sense of community.

Vaccinations for teachers and staff begin Saturday

Akron Children's Hospital will begin to distribute vaccinations to APS teachers and staff members this Saturday as part of the district's commitment to return to the classroom. This first group to be vaccinated includes 780 teachers and support staff who work with children in kindergarten through second grade and students with the most pressing special needs. [A letter from Superintendent David W. James, Ed.D.](#) provides more information on our vaccination plan.

APS invites families to submit items for digital time capsule

APS and the Summit County Historical Society are creating a [digital time capsule](#) to preserve memories and experiences from the past year to share with future generations. Students and their families are invited to submit poetry, artwork, videos, musical or instrumental pieces, journal entries, photos, interviews and more. For information on how to participate, email akronlegacy2020@apslearns.org.

Free online ACT prep available for APS juniors

The ACT, a college admittance test used by colleges to determine college course placement and scholarships, is offered free of charge to all APS juniors. Now, APS is excited to also offer free online prep to students preparing to take the exam. ACT Online Prep can help boost students' confidence, skills and knowledge of the test prior to taking it. Contact your school's principal or counselors for more information.

NIHF STEM High School student creates Instagram filter for Stay in the Game initiative

NIHF STEM High School student Zaq Brown created an Instagram filter as part of Cleveland Browns Foundation's Stay in the Game attendance initiative in our district. Zaq developed several filters and plans to add new filters and themes throughout the year. To try the filters, follow [@apsstayinthegame](#) on Instagram.

Salvation Army offering free food distribution Feb. 10

The Salvation Army, in partnership with the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, is distributing free food Wednesday, Feb. 10 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Salvation Army (2207 Romig Road, Akron).

Community Action Akron Summit providing free tax preparation

Community Action Akron Summit's [Earned Income Tax Credit \(EITC\) Tax Program](#) is offering drop-off tax preparation appointments to families who qualify. For more information, call 866.861.6401 or [schedule your appointment online](#).

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](#)