



Akron Public Schools LEARNING 2020-2021



ADAPTIVE RESPONSIVE SUPPORTIVE

WEEKLY UPDATE

Thurs., March 18, 2021

Merkle's Mental Health Moment – The pandemic's one year anniversary

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

One year ago, on March 16, 2020, we began pandemic living for the first time, suspecting only a few weeks of restrictions. Despite what public health authorities first cautioned, quarantine has become a way of life for over a year. Medical writer Seraphine Seow reminds us of this [auspicious anniversary and offers support](#) in how to cope while our lives have changed over this disruptive year.

Stark State College offering free tuition for high school seniors

Current high school seniors can get FREE tuition for the fall 2021 semester at Stark State College. No restrictions apply regarding major, number of credit hours or whether students are online or on-campus. Participants must apply for admission, fill out the 2021-22 FAFSA, schedule an advising appointment and attend fall classes. [Click here](#) for details and links to begin the process.

Cleveland Clinic webinar to focus on COVID-19 strategies, information for 2021

Cleveland Clinic is hosting a webinar on Wed., March 31 from 12-1 p.m. to update families about relevant COVID-19 topics for 2021. "The Virus, Vaccines and Variants," will focus on topics such as vaccine distribution, prevention and safety strategies, new variants of the virus and long-term health impacts among others. Participants can join the webinar through [this weblink](#), or call in by phone. [Click here](#) to register, view featured speakers and learn more.

Firestone Focus highlights changing habits during COVID-19

Firestone CLC students are sharing how their habits have changed in the year of COVID-19 in the most recent issue of Firestone Focus. Interviews with 30 students were conducted for the article "How Has COVID Changed Our Habits?", which reveals students' intent to make their habits permanent moving forward. Topics discussed include shopping trends, sharing food, wearing masks and social distancing. The topic of in-person and remote learning gained a great deal of attention as 77% of students opted for in-person learning this spring because they missed social interaction. [Read more of their findings.](#)

Third stimulus payments arriving soon

The IRS is delivering a third round of stimulus checks that should be reaching Americans this week. The first group of economic impact payments will be sent via direct deposit with additional batches being sent through direct deposit, check or debit card. To check your payment status, use [this tool](#) provided by the IRS.

Good Samaritan Hunger Center distributing free food

The Good Samaritan Hunger Center is providing free food distribution Fri., March 19. Recipients must wear a mask and have their car trunk open and empty. Dates and times vary. [Click here](#) for more information.

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](#)