



Akron Public Schools LEARNING 2020-2021



ADAPTIVE RESPONSIVE SUPPORTIVE

WEEKLY UPDATE

Thurs., April 15, 2021

Merkle's Mental Health Moment – Talking to children about racism in society

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

The Derek Chauvin trial along with other high-profile acts of police-mediated violence against Black and Indigenous People of Color has dominated national media coverage the past few weeks. These events have intensified discussion about racial tensions in our communities and it is likely your student(s) has/have heard of these events through some type of media or acquaintance. Experts in child psychology revealed in a [USA Today](#) interview that it's important for parents to talk with their children about racism broadly, and about the Chauvin trial specifically.

APS summer programs available

APS is offering a multitude of programs this summer for students of all ages. Offerings are catered to students who need assistance catching up after a year of learning at home or those who are simply looking for a fun learning experience. Programs are designed to continue education into the summer to keep learning alive. More details will be made available at a later date. [Learn more.](#)

Superintendent tour ends

In the search for a new superintendent, APS held a four-day-long interviewing process filled with community and family forums and school visits. This portion of the process ends April 15; it is a critical week in the decision-making process to replace current superintendent David W. James, Ed.D. Learn more about the potential candidates [here](#).

State releases Ohio Healthy Student Profiles

Each year, the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Medicaid compile health and education data on students in grades K-12 throughout the state. These Ohio Healthy Student Profiles include measures on health care interactions, health conditions and education indicators by school. Educators and community members use this information to develop programming, funding and support for students' well-being. [Click here](#) to find information on a specific school.

Pause on Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine

On Tues., April 13, federal officials [paused use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine](#) after reports of blood clots in six recipients. Both [The University of Akron](#) and [Kent State University](#) were administering the one-shot vaccination and are pausing all on-campus COVID-19 vaccination clinics as a result. The drive-through clinic at the Summit County Fairgrounds in Tallmadge was also administering the vaccination. Summit County has announced that it will now switch to the Pfizer vaccine for its mass vaccination site. [Learn more.](#)

Local, upcoming events

Although spring break is over, there are still many fun, local activities to attend. The [Downtown Akron Partnership](#) site lists a wide variety of family-fun events. Upcoming events include:

- A virtual short films series. Tickets are \$12 per category viewing of animated, live action and documentary. Viewing dates differ per film. [Learn more.](#)
- Family Friday with the Akron-Summit County Library. Enjoy [a virtual concert of African drums, dancing and tales](#) on Fri., April 16 from 10:30–11:15 a.m.
- [A free graphic design portfolio gallery](#) at the University of Akron. The gallery is open from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and ends Sun., April 18.

[Discover more activities.](#)

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](#)