



Akron Public Schools LEARNING 2020-2021



ADAPTIVE RESPONSIVE SUPPORTIVE

WEEKLY UPDATE

Thurs., April 22, 2021

Merkle's Mental Health Moment – Supporting children in the aftermath of the Chauvin trial

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

Ongoing media coverage of the George Floyd murder trial has exposed inequities and unconscious bias in our country, according to the American Psychological Association. Highlighting these acts can disrupt our sense of safety and have long-lasting effects on our mental and physical health. It is important for parents and caretakers to help children understand these complex sociopolitical, racial and cultural experiences. The articles below can help you start these conversations with your child/children:

- ["Beyond the Golden Rule: A Parent's Guide to Preventing and Responding to Prejudice"](#)
- ["Your Kids Aren't Too Young to Talk About Race"](#)
- [Supporting Children in the Chauvin Trial](#)
- ["Understanding Race and Privilege"](#)

APS superintendent search narrowed to two finalists

The Akron Board of Education has named two finalists for the district's [superintendent position](#) after hearing from the community, staff, partners and families. The two candidates are:

- Christine Fowler-Mack (Cleveland Metropolitan School District)
- Dr. Sandy Womack (Columbus City Schools)

The board will meet Thurs., April 22 at 5:30 p.m. to proceed with the selection process and conduct a 30-minute virtual conversation with the two final candidates. It is the board's intent to make a final decision regarding the superintendent position before the end of the month.

Summit County Fairgrounds cancels upcoming vaccine clinic

Due to decreased demand, the Summit County Public Health department is cancelling a vaccine clinic scheduled at the fairgrounds for Tues., April 27 from 1-6 p.m. Those who have scheduled appointments for that date will be contacted to reschedule at another Summit County Public Health clinic. [Learn more.](#)

The University of Akron offers affordability scholarship

The University of Akron is offering a brand-new scholarship to help students start and finish their college degree. The Zips Affordability Scholarship will cover the entire cost of tuition and the general fee after federal and state grants have been applied. To be eligible, you must:

- Be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant.
- Live in the University's primary six-county service area.
- Be a freshman starting in the fall of 2021 or later.

[Learn more.](#)

School counselors working to meet students' mental health needs

Many students are returning to the classroom accompanied by mental health concerns caused by a year of stress and isolation from the pandemic. Rashawn McCraney, counselor at Firestone CLC says students are, "hesitant to engage because they were so alone." [Read more](#) on how school counselors are working to meet students' needs.

Schedule released for Rock the Lock 2021

The City of Akron's Lock 3 released its [2021 spring and summer schedule](#) to appear on the Cleveland Clinic Akron General Stage. The line-up will follow all community and entertainment health guidelines and offer limited attendance. Individuals are required to wear masks, social distance and gather in groups of 10 people or fewer.

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](#)