



Akron Public Schools

LEARNING

2020-2021



ADAPTIVE RESPONSIVE SUPPORTIVE

WEEKLY UPDATE

Thurs., April 29, 2021

Merkle's Mental Health Moment – Helping students prepare for high-stakes testing

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

High-stakes tests are used to determine student placement and measure if state standards have been achieved. While there are differing opinions regarding testing, high-stakes tests are critical assessments in measuring student success.

Edmentum, a curriculum and assessment partner for educators, offers families [these eight tips](#) to help your child/children prepare and maintain a healthy mindset while testing. Overall, it's most important to help your child/children be emotionally and physically healthy so they can do their best on testing days.

APS announces next superintendent

On Tues., April 27 the Akron Board of Education officially announced Christine Fowler-Mack as the next APS superintendent. Fowler-Mack is the first woman superintendent in APS history and a graduate of East High School (now East CLC.) Plans are being made to have her start her new position by July as current Superintendent David W. James, Ed.D. is retiring June 30. [Learn more.](#)

Summit County Public Health to resume use of Johnson & Johnson vaccine

Summit County Public Health will resume administering the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine May 1 at its mass vaccination site located at the Summit County Fairgrounds. The health department temporarily paused using the J&J vaccine due to concerns of [blood clots](#). The U.S. Food and Drug Administration studied the potential side effects and concluded the benefits outweigh the risks, approving it for emergency use. [Sign up and learn more.](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updates mask guidance

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [updated its guidance for wearing masks](#), stating those who are fully vaccinated can gather outdoors without a mask. A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their final dose of the vaccine. The CDC still recommends that masks be worn in crowded settings and venues such as crowded outdoor events, live performances, parades or sports events. The current statewide mandate requires Ohioans to wear masks while:

- Inside stores, restaurants and indoor public buildings
- Using public transportation
- Outside where social distancing isn't possible

APS to offer more than 60 summer programs to engage students in learning

APS is offering more than 60 summer programs to continue learning over the summer in fun, engaging ways. The programs are designed to help students catch up if needed, while offering opportunities to work ahead. Registration begins Tues., May 4. [Learn more.](#)

Participate in the Youth Truth survey

All families are encouraged to participate in the Youth Truth survey to provide APS feedback from a parent/guardian perspective. The survey is open until May 11 and takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. [Take the survey.](#)

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](#)