



Akron Public Schools LEARNING 2020-2021



ADAPTIVE RESPONSIVE SUPPORTIVE

WEEKLY UPDATE

Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021

Merkle's Mental Health Moment – Getting back into distance learning routines

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

Getting back into school routines after the holiday break can be difficult in the best of times. For many kids, it's even harder this year. From the disappointment of COVID-19 cancelling many educational and extracurricular activities (again!) to the frustration of realizing post-holiday COVID-19 contagion rates are spiking, there are plenty of reasons why kids might be tempted to tune out of remote learning as 2021 begins. However, there are strategies you can use to help children and teenagers rally. The Child Mind Institute offers expert advice to help our students and families resume online learning in these disruptive times:

- [Keeping Kids Engaged in Remote Learning](#)
- [Strategies for Supporting Learning at Home in the New Year](#)
- [5 Reasons Students Aren't Engaged in Distance Learning](#)

Resources available for students struggling to understand the sociopolitical climate

Yesterday's violence in the US Capitol may leave many students confused and trying to understand our current sociopolitical climate. The National Association of School Psychologists prepared this [guidance document on the 2020 election](#) last fall, but it is just as timely and useful today. Nationwide Children's Hospital and the On Our Sleeves Program created this [guide on talking to children about politics](#) that may also be helpful.

Register for Summit County Public Health COVID-19 vaccine information

Summit County Public Health has created a mailing list to communicate directly with members of the community about the COVID-19 vaccine. [Register today](#) to receive an email when your priority group is eligible to receive the vaccine.

IRS issues second round of stimulus payments

The IRS has started issuing the second round of stimulus payments to eligible Americans. Paper checks were mailed out beginning Dec. 30, 2020 and the official date for direct deposits entering accounts was Jan. 4, 2021. Payments are automatic and should be received through the same method the first economic impact payment was received. You can check the status of your payment on the IRS website using the [Get My Payment tool](#).

APS highlights staff members' efforts to connect with students and families

We've received great feedback on the things our staff members are doing to connect with students and families through the pandemic and distance learning. [Click here](#) to see some of the videos we compiled to spotlight those efforts.

Virtual STEM Expo registration closes Jan. 14

The annual APS STEM EXPO is going virtual this year. This is the 65th year for the event, which provides students an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and passion for science, technology, engineering and math. Students who are interested in participating can find guidance by visiting the [Akron Public Schools STEM EXPO family site](#). Registration closes Jan. 14.

APS plus After-Hours Support for students and families reopens Jan. 11

After-hours support will reopen on Jan. 11. 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. -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 \(ODE\)](#)
- [Parent and Caregiver Resources](#)
- [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](#)