



# Akron Public Schools LEARNING 2020-2021



ADAPTIVE RESPONSIVE SUPPORTIVE

## WEEKLY UPDATE

Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020

### Merkle's Mental Health Moment

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

We are now transitioning from arguably one of the most disruptive Thanksgiving seasons any of us might have experienced, and now the busy holiday-laden month of December is upon us. [Clinical social worker Edy Nathan from Psychology Today](#) gives us guidance on how to identify grief that arises from changing all of these holiday experiences and what we can do to take care of ourselves and those we care about in these unusual times.

### Academies receive funding boost from national foundations

College & Career Academies of Akron will be expanding to APS middle and elementary schools. The effort will be bolstered by significant grants secured by the district. A \$1.5 million grant from The Hewlett Foundation will focus on developing the academy model for middle schools. This model will be different than the high school model that partners with corporations and businesses. The middle schools will partner with area nonprofit organizations. Another grant for \$1.5 million from the Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative will be used, in part, for elementary school academies. The goals of this funding are to prioritize more comprehensive student development for elementary students and to develop diversity, equity and inclusion strategies.

### APS meal pickup moving to winter schedule Dec. 7

Starting Dec. 7, meals may be picked up at schools from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. There will be no meal service on days schools are closed due to weather, holidays or other breaks.

### APS delaying in-school programs

APS is rolling back its plans to start reopening school buildings to students due to a severe spike in COVID-19 cases. Students will stick with remote learning until further notice. The only in-person work will be students who must come in for state testing in December.

### Ohio state testing requirements continue

Per the Ohio Department of Education, there is no option to remotely administer state tests. All testing must be taken in person due to technology and test security requirements. Students will come into buildings to complete required state test(s). Local tests, such as high school exams, will be administered remotely. In-school testing will be administered in small, socially distanced groups. Mask requirements and other safety protocols will be in place and will need to be followed while in the building to ensure safety of students and staff. Visit the [Learning 2020-21 site](#) for information on in-person assessments taking place this winter.

### Share the warmth – donations of blankets, hats and socks are needed

Help share the love this winter by donating new or gently used blankets, hats and socks to help the homeless. Donations can be dropped off at your nearby APS school or the administration building at 10. N. Main St. The project is sponsored by the Akron Association of Classified Personnel. Call 330.209.8007 for more information. Deadline is Dec. 11.

### Summit County Health offering FREE pop-up COVID-19 testing Dec. 4 and 6

Summit County Health is hosting a COVID-19 testing event on Friday, Dec. 4 and Sunday, Dec. 6 from 1-6 p.m. No appointment is required. Testing is available to anyone while supplies last. Testing will take place at the **Summit County Health Department**, 1867 W. Market St., Akron. Questions? Call 330.926.5795 or [download](#) an informational flier.

### STEM Expo goes virtual

The annual APS STEM EXPO is going virtual this year. This is the 65<sup>th</sup> 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 begins Dec. 14, 2020 – Jan. 14, 2021.

### APS plus After-Hours Support for students and families

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](#).

### Affordable Care Act Enrollment application period open through Dec. 15

The enrollment period for consumers shopping for health insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act started Nov. 1 and runs through Dec. 15. for coverage beginning Jan. 1, 2021. This is the eighth annual open enrollment for the ACA plans, which are available for those without health insurance through a job, Medicare, Medicaid or other source. For more information, click [here](#).

## 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](#)