



Akron Public Schools LEARNING 2021-2022



ADAPTIVE RESPONSIVE SUPPORTIVE

WEEKLY UPDATE

Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022

Weekly Update is changing formats — sign up to receive future updates

Get Weekly Update delivered right to your email! Soon, a mobile-friendly version of Weekly Update will be sent to those who opt in every Thursday while school is in session. To receive district and community news, updates, resources and other information, please sign up [here](#).

Merkle's Mental Health Moment – boredom can be good for you

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

How many times have you heard a child say, "I'm bored!" especially during these cold winter months when we are all spending lots of time indoors? Despite having access to toys, games and other activities, caregivers can feel frustrated when their children need constant attention and structured activities to remain entertained. Forcing our children to be creative and find solutions to entertain their time can be healthy for their cognitive development in the long run. Nationwide Children's Hospital [offers information about boredom](#) and how it can foster creativity and self-directed play. In case you need some ideas, here's [a guide to managing indoor boredom](#).

COVID-19 trends and discussion of restrictions ending

- While the Omicron variant is more mild than other variants, its transmissibility increased hospitalizations in January. The variant is especially dangerous to those who are over 75 years old, medically vulnerable and the unvaccinated. [This site](#) uses interactive maps that show COVID-19 hot spots, total cases and trends to help you stay up-to-date and informed.
- Pandemic restrictions could end as early as this year, according to NIAID Director Anthony Fauci. Moving forward, COVID-19 decisions will be made locally instead of mandated by the Biden administration. This will allow individuals to make their own decisions regarding the virus. [Learn more](#).

Community Action Akron Summit Water Assistance program

Eligible households who are behind on their water and wastewater bills may apply to receive assistance through the [Low Income Household Water Assistance Program](#) (LIHWAP). Assistance amounts will depend on federal funding received, household count and household income. Applications will be accepted until Sept. 30. [Schedule an appointment](#).

Akron Summit Earned Income Tax Credit program

The Akron Summit Earned Income Tax program is providing free tax preparation assistance to eligible residents. IRS-certified volunteers will assist with EITC eligibility, prepare returns and ensure taxpayers receive proper returns. The program is available at three Community Action Akron Summit locations. Dates and times vary. [Learn more and schedule an appointment](#).

Nominate a teacher or student for Ohio Lottery's Partners in Education program

The Ohio Lottery's Partners in Education program honors exceptional teachers and students in Ohio. [Nominate](#) a teacher for Teacher of the Month or a student as an Academic All Star to recognize their achievements.

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. **Support hours are Monday through Thursday from 4-7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** For more information or to call the support squad, visit akronschools.com/apsplus.

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](#)
- [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

- [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](#)