



# Akron Public Schools LEARNING 2021-2022



ADAPTIVE RESPONSIVE SUPPORTIVE

## WEEKLY UPDATE

Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021

### Merkle's Mental Health Moment - Sounding the alarm on Black youth suicide

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

As September continues to recognize National Suicide Awareness Month, psychologists are showing concern that suicide attempts surrounding Black youths have increased by 73% in the past decade, including those aged 5-11 years old. "Across the board, mental health problems such as depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder put youth at risk for suicidal thoughts and attempts. But many African American children and adolescents face additional challenges, including exposure to violence and racial discrimination, that may further increase their risk," according to [the American Psychological Association](#). African American youth are less likely to receive treatment for mood and suicidal concerns proving the importance of behavioral health care in minoritized communities and ensuring equal access and treatment.

### At-home COVID-19 test kits available from Ohio Department of Health

The Ohio Department of Health is partnering with many companies and organizations to provide rapid COVID-19 tests both at-home and on-site. APS approves of these tests as long as recipients provide verifiable, visual evidence of the results. [Learn more.](#)

### Collect Advance Child Tax Credit payments

The 2021 Advance Child Tax Credit makes payments of up to \$1,800 per child to taxpayers who qualified on their 2020 tax return. The IRS created a tool to direct payments to qualifying families and also help them receive Economic Impact Payments (EIP) that might have been missed. Payments could amount to over \$14,000 for a family of two adults and two children. [Access the payment tool and see if you qualify.](#)

### Attend the APS job fair

[APS is hosting a job fair](#) on Sept. 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 10 N. Main St. to fill positions within the district. [Open positions](#) include paraprofessionals, substitute teachers, tutors, bus drivers, food services, temp custodians, office support and safety team members. Those interested should bring their resume and be prepared for on-site interviews. The event is open to the public, and no registration is required.

### Akron community events for the family

While it's important to settle into new school year routines, it is equally important to add fun into the mix. Check out these family fun community events:

- [Akron Rubber Ducks vs. Somerset Patriots APS STEM night](#) – Catch an Akron Rubber Ducks baseball game saluting STEM students at Canal Park Friday, Sept. 17 at 7:05 p.m. Fireworks are included after the game. [Get tickets.](#)
- [FREE Zumba class](#) - Participate in a FREE hour-long Zumba class Saturday, Sept. 18 at 9:30 a.m. at 1 Cascade Plaza. S. Space is limited, and registration is encouraged. Parking is available for free in the Cascade Parking Deck.
- [Smithsonian Museum Day](#)- As a Smithsonian affiliate, The University of Akron is celebrating Smithsonian Museum Day with FREE admission to the National Museum of Psychology and Institute Galleries Saturday, Sept. 18 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 73 S. College St. All attendees are required to wear a mask.

### Celebrate International Red Panda Day at the Akron Zoo

[The Akron Zoo is celebrating National Red Panda Day](#) on Saturday, Sept. 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a fun event that includes enrichment sessions, a red panda training, crafts, family photos with the red panda mascot and more. The event is included with general admission.

### Attendance Awareness Month at APS

September is Attendance Awareness Month and APS is providing many activities for students to stay involved. Check out how we are celebrating:

- [Taking the Stay in the Game! Attendance Pledge](#) – Students are taking the attendance pledge and participating in a friendly competition among schools to earn the most attendance pledges for week two of Attendance Awareness Month. Currently, there is a total of 1,046 pledges!
- [Creating Attendance Awareness Month posters](#) – Students are creating posters on why going to school every day is important. One winner from each building will receive districtwide recognition and a special shoutout from the Cleveland Browns! Posters are due to homeroom teachers by Sept. 30.
- At-ten-dance – To celebrate attendance, students danced at 10 a.m. creating the "at-ten-dance". [Check out the video!](#)

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

After-hours support reopens on **Sept. 20**. 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 will be **Monday through 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

- [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](#)