



# Akron Public Schools LEARNING 2021-2022



ADAPTIVE RESPONSIVE SUPPORTIVE

## WEEKLY UPDATE

Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021

### Merkle's Mental Health Moment - Strengthening resilience to lower suicidal risk

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

As the final week of National Suicide Awareness Month ends, it's important to discuss resiliency as a characteristic that can lower suicidal risk and the stigma behind mental health. Psychologists from the [American Psychological Association describe resilience as](#) "the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats or significant sources of stress—such as family and relationship problems, serious health problems or workplace and financial stressors." Resilience can be taught and developed. Nationwide Children's Hospital "On Our Sleeves" recommends that parents [promote healthy skills in their children that develop protective factors and resilience](#).

### Learn about COVID-19 statistics and mask effectiveness

As we continue to fight against COVID-19, it's important to stay updated on current statistics and information. Learn about vaccination and hospitalization levels, mask effectiveness and booster shots:

- Governor DeWine addressed school leaders on the effectiveness of masks in preventing the spread of COVID-19. [Read this article](#) from the Ohio Department of Health to learn more.
- 50.04% of Ohio residents have received both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine while 54% of residents have received one dose of the vaccine. Health officials are encouraging residents to receive the vaccine with the [Ohio Vax-to-School program](#) to slow the spread of the Delta variant.
- Booster Pfizer vaccinations are available and offered through Summit County Public Health. Check [this flyer](#) for information and eligibility.
- [Check the current COVID-19 case and hospitalization count](#).

### Roll Up a Sleeve with APS

APS is encouraging students and families to participate in the APS [Roll Up a Sleeve](#) campaign in partnership with Akron Children's Hospital and Summit County Public Health. The campaign encourages students 12 years old or older and their families to get a COVID-19 vaccine to help lower the rising number of younger, unvaccinated patients. The district will be hosting family vaccination clinics on Oct. 4 from 4-7 p.m. at Ellet CLC and Oct. 11 from 4-7 p.m. at Buchtel CLC. [Learn more](#).

### Attend a forum discussing vaccination hesitancy in the Black community

A forum will be held Oct. 7 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. to discuss vaccination hesitancy in the Black community. Community members are encouraged to attend and share their thoughts. The forum will be held at the Gus Johnson Community Center at 1015 S. Hawkins Ave. Registration and a mask are required to attend. Refreshments will be provided from 5-5:30 p.m. [Learn more](#).

### Free career clothing closet

Akron Urban League is providing a free professional clothing closet for the community. The service is available Tuesdays from 9-11 a.m. and Thursdays from 2-4 p.m. at 440 Vernon Odom Boulevard. [Learn more](#).

### Support Native American Heritage Month

Summit County is celebrating North American First People's Day. The event is set to last Oct. 1-4 and will include:

- [The Lakota Wíá art exhibit](#) showcases contemporary drawings and paintings from the artist's Native American heritage. The exhibit is located at the Institute for Human Science and Culture at The University of Akron Cummings Center for the History of Psychology. Admission is free.
- A guided walk led by Summit Metro Parks and discussion led by artist Peter Jones, creator of the statues of the portaging American Indian located at the termini of the Portage Path.
- The fifth annual Portage Path Walk led by members of the Northern Cheyenne Nation. Authentic Native American cuisine will be available in a food trailer to the public.
- In-school activities around Summit County with Indian nation representatives.
- A conversation surrounding contemporary issues of the Native American community at the Akron-Summit County Public Library.

Dates and times vary per event. [Learn more](#).

### Participate in a family-friendly Cardboard Challenge at the Akron Art Museum

Join the Akron Art Museum for its [Family Day Cardboard Challenge](#) on Oct. 3 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The challenge is inspired by the short film Caine's Arcade and is known as a celebration of childhood creativity and the ways communities can help nurture it. Participants will use cardboard, recycled materials and their imagination to create and build structures. Screenings of the film will be played. The event is free and no registration is required.

### 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 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](#)