



# Akron Public Schools LEARNING 2020-2021



ADAPTIVE RESPONSIVE SUPPORTIVE

## WEEKLY UPDATE

Thurs., Oct. 22, 2020

### Merkle's Mental Health Moment

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

Do you feel like you have multiple, simultaneously spinning plates you're trying to keep going without the ability to take on one more thing? In usual times, many of us, especially in education, are caregivers and helpers. Yet months of social restrictions, trying to balance work and school at home, and caring for others has taken an emotional toll that results in empathy fatigue. Anxiety, sadness, and questioning our self-worth are all signs of this exhaustion that require us to seek some help. [National Public Radio reports on how to refresh yourself and maybe recharge those empathy batteries](#) in this article on empathy overload.

### APS board to discuss questions about learning plan for final weeks of 2020 at Oct. 26 meeting

The Akron Public Schools (APS) Board of Education will be briefed again Monday, Oct. 26 on the district's learning plan for the final weeks of the calendar year. While the district's administration recently presented the board with models for hybrid learning (a mix of in-class and remote learning), the board had more questions it wanted to have addressed. Those will be answered Monday and could influence any board decision on how APS students will be learning for November and December. Another influence for the board to consider is the state of Ohio's regular color coding to show the severity of exposure and spread in each county, which has shown an uptick in cases in recent weeks. Stay tuned.

### Cleveland Browns Foundation works with APS to encourage student attendance

APS and the Cleveland Browns Foundation continue to work together to inspire students to stay engaged at school through the Get 2 School – Stay in the Game initiative. Check out the [Get 2 School website](#) for fun, helpful resources and rewards that encourage students to attend class (virtually, for now) and increase their participation.

### APS interpreters help students and families navigate virtual learning language barriers

While they have always been an invaluable resource, our interpreters have been especially vital to the success of this year's learning plan. We currently have 26 interpreters working for the district and helping bridge communication barriers between students, parents, teachers and principals to ensure everyone has the information they need in a language they understand. Anyone needing interpreting assistance for their child or family should contact their school principal.

### APS plus After-Hours Support now open

APS plus After-Hours Support assists students and families in a variety of services including: K-12 tutoring and academic support, family support services, social-emotional urgent support, technology and Google Classroom troubleshooting. It is staffed with high-quality educators, tutors and other professionals. The center is open Monday-Thursday from 4-7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. -2 p.m. It will be closed on holidays. The program will be available whether students are working 100% remotely or in a blended learning model. Call 330.761.7943 for assistance. For information, visit [akronschools.com](#).

### Minority Behavioral Health Group offers free mental health chat line

If you or someone you know is looking for mental health support, consider calling Minority Behavioral Health Group's free mental health chat line to receive emotional support and resources. Call 929.205.6099. [Click here for hours and more information.](#)

### The Student Voice Part 5 of 5: On virtual learning

Dreama Whitfield, K-12 career advising manager, moderates a panel of amazing students sharing their real thoughts and feelings on topics ranging from virtual learning to mental health. These incredible students belong to the student board member team consisting of one member from each high school. *Note: Not all team members were able to be present for this recording.* [Watch now.](#)

### Annual College & Career Academies of Akron Eighth Grade Showcase (now digital) underway

Each year, Akron Public Schools invites eighth grade students to meet with teachers, community members and older students to take a big step toward their future. Students are also asked to watch a video about graduation requirements, opportunities for college credit and ways to explore CCAA pathways and programs they will have available to them in high school. Through the College & Career Academies of Akron, students can choose from 55 different pathways linking academic subjects to college majors and career opportunities. The showcase allows students to hear about these different pathways and plan for their personal pathway. [Click here to view the showcase.](#)

## 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](#)