



# Akron Public Schools LEARNING 2020-2021



ADAPTIVE RESPONSIVE SUPPORTIVE

## WEEKLY UPDATE

Thurs. Oct. 29, 2020

### Merkle's Mental Health Moment

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

With the 2020 election just around the corner, [researchers at the American Psychological Association](#) found that nearly 70% of Americans are on edge and view the current political climate as a source of significant emotional distress. Talking to others about politics can lead to difficult social interactions and apprehension about what will happen, which is heightened in today's especially divisive times. [On Our Sleeves through Nationwide Children's Hospital offers guidance on how to talk to our children](#) about politics and engage in our democratic process. For adults, [reporters at USA Today offer suggestions from several mental health professionals](#) on how to manage stress leading up to Election Day. Regardless of which party wins or loses, this is a bipartisan challenge to ensure all of us are emotionally weathering these stormy political days.

### Board approves plan to stay remote, add in-person services

APS wants nothing more than to get back to normal and return everyone to school buildings. But given the recent spikes in COVID cases and the large number of students and buildings we need to manage (as compared to other districts), our board and administrative team have determined that the best choice for everyone is to continue learning in a remote environment. We realize that remote learning is not working for all students. That is why our school board has also voted to add what we call in-person supports to our learning platform. These additional supports will open our buildings to many of our students for additional mental health services, therapies, hands-on learning time for industry credentials, additional academic help and support for English language learners. Additional supports are slated to start near the end of November. More details will be coming in this Weekly Update and on our Learning 2020-2021 page at [akronschools.com](#).

### APS receives \$100,000 Arby's Foundation grant to help kids "Stay in the Game"

The district has received a \$100,000 grant from the Arby's Foundation through its Stay in the Game partnership with the Cleveland Browns Foundation. The grant will be used to support attendance initiatives to be led by school-based attendance teams. These teams will work with individual students that display at-risk attendance patterns to help them identify barriers and create solutions to improve attendance. Each team includes a school counselor, administrator, teacher and parent/guardian. Some teams may include additional community partners for mental health and case management needs. Stay tuned for more information on upcoming initiatives.

### Get out and vote – election day is Nov. 3

"Somewhere inside all of us is the power to change the world," Roald Dahl. Use your power and vote! Every vote counts and every voice matters.

### Lyft offering discounted rides on election day

On Election Day (Nov. 3), **Lyft is offering 50% off one ride up to \$10 to any polling location or ballot dropbox using the code 2020VOTE in-app.** For the first time, this offer also includes Lyft's network of bikes and scooters in cities where they're available. For more info and terms go to: <http://lyft.com/vote> #LyftUp #VoteUnited #LiveUnited #2020Election. To view a promotional flyer, click [here](#).

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

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](#).

### Online books available through Akron-Summit County Public Library

Looking for another way to have your students get books into their hands while at home? Have your son or daughter sign into the APS portal and search for Sora. Students are able to find electronic books that they can follow along with, have read to them or read independently. APS has proudly partnered with The Akron Summit County Public Library and our students are able to access electronic books and audiobooks from the public library in the same Sora app. Here is a [quick tutorial](#) on how to use Sora with your son or daughter on the APS student portal.

### College & Career Academies of Akron Eighth Grade Showcase underway

APS eighth graders have a chance to meet with teachers, community members and older students to take a big step toward their future during the annual Eighth Grade Showcase. This year's digital event features a video about graduation requirements, opportunities for college credit and ways to explore CCAA pathways and programs to help families know what options are available to students in high school. Through the College & Career Academies, 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.](#)

### Crafters and vendors sought for virtual holiday craft and vendor show fundraiser

Crafters and vendors have an opportunity to sell their creations and promote their business at the North High School Virtual Holiday Craft and Vendors Show. The virtual event is raising money for the school's library makerspace. The show will run from Nov. 27-Dec. 5. Cost is \$10 per virtual book and \$5 for advertising space. Contact [Cassandra Rondinella](#) with questions or for an event application.

## 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](#)