



Akron Public Schools

LEARNING

2021-2022



ADAPTIVE RESPONSIVE SUPPORTIVE

WEEKLY UPDATE

Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021

Merkle's Mental Health Moment - Talking to children about stress

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

These days seem to be filled with stress for all of us. Students are struggling to transition back to the classroom following rigorous school demands after 22 months away from traditional school experiences. Parents are trying to navigate their children's school life while also attending to their household and larger life demands. School staff are finding these days equally challenging between their life demands and educational responsibilities. Stress can be functional and help us take necessary action, but it can also become difficult to manage. The American Psychological Association offers [these tips](#) for parents and caregivers to help our children manage stress, reminding us that, "...By knowing what to listen to and watch for and by seeking out opportunities to engage in conversation with children of all ages, parents can help their children to better handle life challenges."

COVID-19 vaccine approval for ages 5-11, vaccination clinics and other updates

- The CDC approved the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children ages 5-11. Children as young as 5 years old are now eligible to receive an age-appropriate dose of the vaccine. Not all COVID-19 vaccines are approved for this age range. [Learn more](#) about Pfizer approval for children, including safety, clinics and other recommendations.
- APS is partnering with Akron Children's Hospital to provide COVID-19 vaccine clinics for students ages 5 and older. Vaccinations come in two doses and will be administered one month apart. Visit an upcoming clinic for your child's first vaccine dose:
 - Saturday, Nov. 13 from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. at Hyre CLC
 - Thursday, Nov. 18 from 4 p.m.- 7 p.m. at Schumacher CLC
 - Saturday, Nov. 20 from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. at North High School

Additional information regarding second doses and other details can be found on our [Roll Up a Sleeve website](#).

- Akron Children's Hospital is hosting vaccination clinics starting Nov. 6 at its Akron and MV campuses for children ages 5 and older. Parents are encouraged to bring a stuffed animal or other item to comfort and distract children who may have a difficult time receiving the vaccine. [Learn more about the clinics](#).
- Johns Hopkins released [this tool](#) that shows global COVID-19 cases, deaths and vaccinations. The tool allows users to toggle between countries and use an interactive map to view results.

Get assistance paying your energy bill through E-HEAP Winter Program

The Community Action Akron Summit E-HEAP Winter Program helps low-income residents with their energy bill who have been disconnected, are establishing a new service, need to pay to transfer service or have up to 25% of bulk fuel supply left. Households can apply to the program only once through March 31, 2022. Eligibility is based partly on income and must be at or below 175% of the federal poverty guidelines to qualify. There will be no in-person appointments due to COVID-19. Recipients must schedule an appointment to apply to the program. [Apply here](#). [Learn more](#).

Receive Thanksgiving assistance

Upcoming Thanksgiving assistance:

- Turkey giveaway – Participate in the Coats and Cans for Kids Turkey Giveaway event on Nov. 19 from 12-4 p.m. By donating a coat or can, you can receive a free Thanksgiving turkey. There are 1,000 turkeys available. [Learn more](#).
- Turkey distribution – The Good Samaritan Hunger Center is providing a turkey distribution on Nov. 22 from 1:30-6:30 p.m. at Joy Park Community Center. The event is first come, first served with a limit of two families per vehicle. No reservations are allowed. [Learn more](#).

Attend Game Fest at the Akron Art Museum

The Akron Art Museum is hosting Game Fest Saturday, Nov. 13 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at 1 S. High St., Akron, Ohio. The event includes a meet and greet with Akron area developers, video games from Games Done Legit, games and activities, a chance to win prizes and access to food trucks. The event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. [Register](#).

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 more 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](#)