



Akron Public Schools LEARNING 2020-2021



ADAPTIVE RESPONSIVE SUPPORTIVE

WEEKLY UPDATE

Thurs., Oct. 8, 2020

Merkle's Mental Health Moment

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

Regardless of what we do right now, COVID-19 may seem like a stormy cloud hanging over much of life. Someone close to you may notice you feeling more stressed, anxious, sad or angry than usual. Your behaviors may be changing. You may be easily distracted, bored, sleeping or eating too much or too little, or overindulging in alcohol or tobacco. If so, be assured that you are not alone. The Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services are providing resources that can help. They are offering [the ABCs of Mental Health](#) resources for educators to help us acknowledge feelings and learn potential signs and symptoms of mental health issues or suicide. Our physical health is vital, but our mental health is equally important to you, your loved ones and your profession.

Complete your parent/guardian selection questionnaire now – Deadline Oct. 9

APS is now planning for the second nine weeks of school, which starts on Nov. 11. We need to hear from parents regarding the learning environment they want for their children. The school board will make its final decision by the end of October regarding whether we continue with 100% remote education or whether we have students physically attending school at least two days per week. If the board decides to have students attend school in the building at least two days per week, parents/guardians will still have a choice to keep their children 100% remote. The questionnaire is open until Oct. 9. Once the board votes on a final model for the second nine weeks, we will ask you to make a final decision on 100% remote or APS Blended Learning. [Complete questionnaire now.](#)

APS Plus After-Hours Support Center now open

APS is now offering additional resources to students and families after the school day has ended. The APS Plus After-Hours Support Center 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 will be staffed with high-quality educators, tutors and other professionals that will use Google Meet and phone calls to provide support. 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 in a 100% remote model or a blended learning model. Call 330.761.7943 for assistance. For more information, visit akronschools.com.

The Student Voice Part 3 of 5: On Extracurricular Activities

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 Dream Day for seniors launches in a virtual environment

APS's annual Dream Day event is going virtual this year and will give seniors a chance to explore the next phase of their career planning throughout the month of October. Dream Day is designed to connect seniors to the next phase of their career by exposing them to information and opportunities to enroll in college/trade school, enlist in the armed services or become employed after graduation. Senior students will have the opportunity to meet virtually with college representatives and attend sessions to learn more about enrolling, enlisting or gaining employment. Virtual opportunities are now open and run through October. Students should contact their school counselor who will help them register in the app.

Summit County COVID-19 Pop-Up Testing Site open Oct. 9-10

A COVID-19 pop-up testing site will be available on Oct. 9-10 at Summit County Public Health (1867 W. Market St.). Anyone may get a no-cost test at this location (insurance will be billed if applicable). No appointment or health care providers' referral is needed; walks-in and drive-ins are welcome. The testing times are 3-7 p.m. on Oct. 9 and 8 a.m.- 12 p.m. on Oct. 10. For more information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

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](#)