



Akron Public Schools LEARNING 2020-2021



ADAPTIVE RESPONSIVE SUPPORTIVE

WEEKLY UPDATE

Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020

Merkle's Mental Health Moment – coping during the holidays

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

When there's a disconnect between our expectations and reality or when we can't do something the way we normally do, our bodies are biologically wired to get upset. (Consider things such as holiday rituals or less potent topics like how to tie our shoes.) [According to the New York Times journalist, Kate Murphy, "...the key to coping during this, or any, time of upheaval is to quickly establish new routines so that, even if the world is uncertain, there are still things you can count on."](#) While we can't control everything in our lives these days, we can create predictable routines that give us a sense of rhythm and dominion.

Summit County remains in "purple," governor extends curfew to Jan. 2

Summit County remains at Risk Level 4/Purple in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System for COVID-19. Level 4 is the highest level and indicates severe exposure and spread. For more information, visit the [Ohio Department of Health's \(ODH\) COVID-19 website](#). As of this week, Summit County has roughly 20,000 cases of COVID-19, with 423 deaths. The governor announced today that the statewide 10 p.m. curfew will be extended to Jan. 2, 2021.

City of Akron private gathering ordinance expires Dec. 16, will not renew

The City of Akron private gathering ordinance expires Wednesday, Dec. 16 and the city will not be seeking to renew these restrictions at this time. According to a news release from the city, the data was, and remains, very clear: community spread of COVID-19 is happening at home. The private gathering ordinance was an attempt to disrupt complacency, counteract misinformation about where risk is greatest and urgently increase COVID-19 protocols within citizens' homes to slow the spread of this deadly virus.

APS Athletics Update

Non-league competitions (home and away) and practices are permitted at this time, League competitions are delayed until Dec. 16. No spectators will be permitted at APS sites until Dec.16. Spring sports workouts are delayed until Jan. 4.

APS announces Goodyear as College & Career Academies named partner

The district announced that Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. will be the official named partner for College & Career Academies (CCAA) at Ellet CLC and STEM High School. Named partners are the highest level of partnership for CCAA and include significant hours working with students and staff. Ellet will have the Goodyear Academy of Applied Engineering, and STEM will have the Goodyear Academy of Advanced Technology and Design.

STEM High School students win congressional award

Three students from STEM High School were recognized by U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan as winners of this year's Congressional App Challenge for Ohio's 13th district. Sophomore Lucas Hacker and juniors Cameron Neuman and Jared Phavixay collaborated remotely to code a "STEM Hub" app, which is an extension for Google Chrome that organizes links and information for high school students and faculty. Each year, students across the country compete in the contest. Each participating congressional district selects a winning app that will be displayed at the U.S. Capitol. This is the third year a team from STEM High School has won.

Red Cross Critical Need Blood Drive, Dec. 13

The Red Cross is hosting a critical need blood drive on Dec. 13 from 1-6 p.m. at R. Shea Brewing, LLC Party Room, 540 S. Main St., Akron. Registration is encouraged. For more information and how to register, click [here](#).

APS meal pickup now on winter schedule

Starting Dec. 7, meals may be picked up at schools from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. There will be no meal service on days schools are closed due to weather, holidays or other breaks.

Virtual STEM Expo registration starts Dec. 14

The annual APS STEM EXPO is going virtual this year. This is the 65th year for the event, which provides students an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and passion for science, technology, engineering and math. Students who are interested in participating can find guidance by visiting the [Akron Public Schools STEM EXPO family site](#). Registration begins Dec. 14, 2020 – Jan. 14, 2021.

Ohio state testing requirements continue

The Ohio Department of Education has no remote testing option and is requiring all testing to be taken in person. Students will come into buildings to complete required state test(s). Local tests, such as high school exams, will be administered remotely. In-school testing will be administered in small, socially distanced groups. Mask requirements and other safety protocols will be in place and will need to be followed while in the building to ensure safety of students and staff. Visit the [Learning 2020-21 site](#) for information on in-person assessments taking place this winter.

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 are **Monday-Thursday from 4-7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. -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 \(ODE\)](#)
- [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](#)