



Akron Public Schools LEARNING 2020-2021



ADAPTIVE RESPONSIVE SUPPORTIVE

WEEKLY UPDATE

Thurs. Nov. 5, 2020

Merkle's Mental Health Moment

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

Lately, there seems to be so much happening that depletes our internal capacity to maintain some level of optimism and general happiness. Today's societal challenges, ranging from the raging COVID-19 pandemic, racial injustice, economic downturns, and political divisiveness, among so many other topics, can all deflate our moods - if we allow it. Fortunately, psychological science reminds us that happiness is within our personal control. [Reporters at CNET offer these pointers](#) to improve our happiness, even in these incredibly challenging times. Now let's cue an internal chorus of Bobby McFerrin's *Don't Worry, Be Happy* as we try to shift our activities and mind frame.

APS open enrollment now accepting applications for 2021-22 school year

Open enrollment applications are now being accepted for the 2021-22 school year. The deadline is Friday, Nov. 20 at 4 p.m. The [OE application is available online only this year](#). Open enrollment is required for Akron Early College High School, Miller South School for Visual and Performing Arts, National Inventors Hall of Fame STEM (NIHF STEM) middle and high schools, Akron Early College High School, Firestone CLC's Akron School for the Arts and its International Baccalaureate program. Families wishing to enroll in a school outside of their designated neighborhood school must also complete an open enrollment application. **Please note:** *if you have an elementary school student who is currently open enrolled and an incoming kindergarten student and you wish to also open enroll for 2021-22, you should apply for open enrollment at this time. Do not wait until next summer. Also, if you are applying to Akron Early College High School, Firestone Performing Arts School, Firestone International Baccalaureate program, Miller South School VPA, NIHF STEM Middle School and STEM High School, there may be school-specific required applications or auditions.* [Apply today.](#)

Board approves winter sports plan

The [Akron Board of Education](#) approved a plan to start winter sports immediately. The board voted 5-2 at a special meeting Monday, Nov. 2 to approve the start of contact sports, namely basketball and wrestling, with requirements for COVID-19 testing. The board voted 4-3 in favor of starting non-contact sports, such as bowling and swimming. There will be no mandatory COVID-19 testing for these sports.

District continues to work on plans for in-person supports

The district is continuing to work on plans for in-person supports to supplement 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 expected to be in place by the end of November or the start of December. More details will be coming in the Weekly Update and on our Learning 2020-2021 page at [akronschools.com](#).

SPARK kindergarten readiness program now enrolling

SPARK (Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids) is now enrolling three- and four-year-old children for its FREE kindergarten readiness program. Children will receive free books and supplies, fun activities, resources, support and MORE! All children who will attend Akron Public Schools are eligible. Complete the [SPARK Inquiry Form](#) to apply. For more information, [download the SPARK flier](#).

Rent, mortgage, water/sewer assistance available for families

Rent, mortgage and water/sewer assistance is available to low-income Summit County residents who have been impacted by COVID-19. The funding is part of the CARES Act stimulus package and eligible residents must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty guideline level (\$52,400 for a family of four) and have fallen behind on payments due to COVID-19. Assistance can be applied to outstanding rent, mortgage, water, and/or sewer bills for service after April 1 until the program ends on Dec. 30. Call CA at 330.940.1120 for more information.

Winter HEAP application process now open

Applications are now open for the winter HEAP program. Interested individuals must schedule a phone interview (no in-person interviews will take place this year). Call Akron Summit Community Action at 866.504.7400 to schedule an appointment. HEAP Specialists will provide an email address to send required documentation. Interested applications may also begin the application process by clicking [here](#). For more information, [download the flier](#).

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](#).

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. Students will learn about graduation requirements, opportunities for college credit and ways to explore CCAA pathways and available programs that link academic subjects to college majors and career opportunities. [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](#)