



Akron Public Schools LEARNING 2020-2021



ADAPTIVE RESPONSIVE SUPPORTIVE

WEEKLY UPDATE

Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020

Merkle's Mental Health Moment – coping during the holidays

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

In most years, we would be eagerly anticipating the arrival of winter recess and the forthcoming holiday season. Of course, this year, we're living in the COVID-19 pandemic as a year of many firsts. We have to consider how to celebrate the holidays while also changing or adopting new family traditions because of COVID-19. [Nationwide Children's Hospital's Movement to Transform Mental Health called On Our Sleeves offers guidance on rethinking the holidays, dealing with holiday stress, giving back, tips for staying healthy, and so much more.](#) Despite these challenges, we can still enjoy this festive season and embrace opportunities to have a healthy, safe and joyous time too.

Summit County returns to "red," extends stay-at-home advisory. State curfew expires Jan. 2.

Summit County drops to Risk Level 3/Red in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System for COVID-19. Level 3 indicates a very high exposure and spread of COVID-19 and it is advised for people to limit activities as much as possible. The county has extended its stay-at-home health advisory to Jan. 31. The advisory, originally set to expire Dec. 16, is urging residents to stay home through January to prevent another surge of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths. The state of Ohio has also extended its 10 p.m. curfew until Jan. 2.

- Risk Level Information: Visit the [Ohio Department of Health's \(ODH\) COVID-19 website](#).
- Summit County Advisory Information: [Click here](#).
- State Curfew Information: [Click here](#).

Portage Path CLC named IB School

Portage Path CLC earned the designation as an International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP) World School. Portage Path joins Firestone, Litchfield, Resnik, King and Case CLCs as IB-designated schools. The IB evaluation process is rigorous and can take two years or more. According to the IB Primary Years Programme's website "*Reflecting on their own learning, PYP students develop knowledge, conceptual understandings, skills and the attributes of the IB Learner profile to make a difference in their own lives, their communities and beyond. The framework emphasizes the central principle of agency, which underpins the three pillars of school life: the learner, learning and teaching, the learning community. Embedded in the framework is the recognition of the importance of fostering an individual's self-efficacy. Students with a strong sense of self-efficacy are active in their own learning and take action in their learning community.*"

APS employees share the warmth

Thank you to APS employees who donated nearly 400 new and gently used blankets to the Share the Warmth program. The collection was sponsored by the Akron Association of Classified Personnel to help the homeless. Volunteers will deliver the blankets on Christmas morning along with a hot meal cooked by the Waterloo restaurant.

Akron area drive-thru food distribution site dates announced for December

Good Samaritan Free Food Distribution: Recipients must have their car trunk open and empty and they must wear masks.

- Fri., Dec. 18 – 1:30-3 p.m.: Patterson Park Community Center, 800 Patterson Avenue, Akron
For more information and a food distribution schedule for December and January, [click here](#).

Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank Free Drive-Thru Food Distribution: Please make sure trunk is cleared out of receiving vehicles. Drivers and passengers must stay in their cars or trucks.

- Tues., Dec. 22 – 2-4 p.m.: Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, 350 Opportunity Parkway, Akron
For more information, [click here](#).

City Hall art display now online

Each year, our APS elementary art students participate in a Holiday Art Show that is displayed at City Hall. This year's Mayor's Art Gallery will take place virtually and include artwork from our students in grades K-5 (K-6 in the East Cluster) that will be shared with City Hall staff and presented through the City's social media channels. Thank you to APS art teachers and students for working to continue this wonderful tradition. Watch the show [here](#).

APS meal pickup 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. The last day for meal pickup for 2020 will be Dec. 18. Meals will resume Jan. 4.

Holiday makerspace challenge opens Dec. 18

Do you love turning something old into something new? Take the APS Virtual Makerspace "Winter Decoration Challenge," which is open to APS students in grades K-12. Don't be afraid to get creative! Look for items around you that could be repurposed to beautify your surroundings or create a decoration. Then submit it for a chance to win prizes. [Click here](#) to learn more about the upcoming challenge and other makerspace challenges.

Virtual STEM Expo registration now open

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 closes Jan. 14.

APS plus After-Hours Support for students and families – Dec. 17 last day for 2020.

The last day for students and families to access APS plus After-Hours Support in 2020 is Dec. 17. After-hours support will reopen in 2021 on Jan. 11. 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](#)