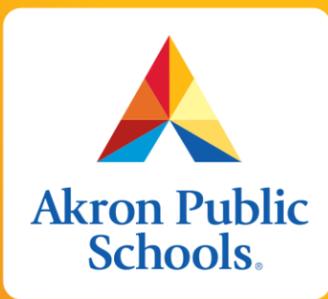




# APS DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE



Wednesday, May 13, 2020

The official COVID-19 news source for members of the Akron Public Schools community



## From the Superintendent

David W. James, Ed.D., superintendent

### Dear APS and Community

*Social Distancing, Day 58*

Akron Public Schools has done well operating in uncharted territory these past two months. In early March, 21,000 of our kids were still coming to class in APS buildings. Then, we had to pivot like LeBron James. Not just for a few days or even a week, but for two and a half months and right on through to graduation. Now we find ourselves working on planning graduation ceremonies for each of our nine high schools. In smaller districts with only one school, this could be considered fairly simple. But we've proven we can handle "complicated" and should have news very soon about just how our seniors will graduate in the unusual year of 2020. Keep washing your hands. Stay safe.

## News of the Day

### Merkle's Mental Health Moment: Be kind to your mind.

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

The outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) can be very stressful for all of us. Fear and anxiety about a disease can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in adults and children. **Coping effectively with stress will make you, the people you care about and your community stronger.** [Be sure to check out the CDC's Be Kind to Your Mind initiative to learn about key strategies: pause, take breaks, make time, reach out, and seek help.](#)

#### Be Kind to Your Mind tips to cope with stress during COVID-19

- **PAUSE.** Breathe. Notice how you feel
- **TAKE BREAKS** from COVID-19 content
- **MAKE TIME** to sleep and exercise
- **REACH OUT** and stay connected
- **SEEK HELP** if overwhelmed or unsafe

### Hatching a plan via APS Connected Learning

APS science classes continue to spark curiosity and invite students to ask questions as they watch eggs hatching and the metamorphosis of caterpillars via YouTube livestreams. Watching the videos, paired with learning about nature covers a variety of subjects including science, math, reading, writing and art.

- [Caterpillars](#)
- [Chicks](#)

### Eligible students across Ohio to receive additional SNAP benefits

Governor Mike DeWine announced some welcome news for many APS families on the SNAP (food stamps) program. Federal authorities have approved Ohio's pandemic plan that will distribute \$300 to approximately 850,000 qualifying, needy families. This extra income will help families feed children who otherwise may not have access to free meals every day. The total in federal dollars is \$250 million.

### New program to check-in on, help older adults stay connected

The Ohio Department of Aging is now offering a free, daily check-in call for adults age 60+ to ensure they are doing okay and to connect them to live support if they need it. To register yourself or a loved one for the Staying Connected program, visit [aging.ohio.gov](http://aging.ohio.gov) or call 1.833.ODA.CHAT (1.833.632.2428).

## District Updates

### Online registration for 2020-21 is open for new families/incoming kindergartners

Families who are new to APS (including incoming kindergartners) may register their student(s) online through our website [akronschools.com](http://akronschools.com). [Click here](#) for step-by-step instructions. Questions? Call the Engagement Center at 330.761.2810.

### Online lessons/APS Connected Learning live/family resources available

Students can access APS Connected Learning at [akronschools.com](http://akronschools.com). Our [family resource page](#) has important dates, messages, learning tools and more. Call 330.761.2810 if you have questions.

### Student meal pick up for all children ages 1-18

Most APS schools and Reach Opportunity Center Mon.-Thurs. from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Steve Wise Boys & Girls Club location at 889 Jonathan Ave., Akron, Mon.-Fri. from 12-1 p.m.

### UA free homework hotline

Free online homework help for K-12 students is available Mon.-Fri. from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. [Sign up here](#).

### APS Story Sharing at 3

APS librarians are sharing stories for students of all ages every day at 3 p.m. Story Sharing at 3 is live every day and is recorded for viewing later. [Click here](#) to learn more and view past story recordings.

## Other Resources

### Government resources

- [Summit County Public Health](#)
- [State of Ohio – Governor](#)
- [State of Ohio Department of Education](#)
- [Federal government](#)

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### Health information and other resources

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Updates](#)
- [Ohio Department of Health Updates](#)
- [Ohio Mental Health & Addiction Services: Managing Coronavirus-related Stress](#)
- [World Health Organization Updates](#)
- [Summit County ADM Board – Managing Stress and Anxiety Around Coronavirus](#)
- [How to talk to your kids about coronavirus](#)
- [ANIMATED VIDEO: What coronavirus does to the body](#)
- [NAMI Support Group for Families](#)
- [PBS learning resources](#)

### Available Downloads

- [APS coronavirus and helpful hygiene tips poster](#)
  - [Arabic](#)
  - [Farsi](#)
  - [Karen](#)
  - [Mon](#)
  - [Nepali](#)
  - [Pashto](#)
  - [Spanish](#)
  - [Swahili](#)
- [Cover your Cough](#)
- [Wash your Hands](#)
- [Sick = Stay Home](#)
- [Bullying/harassment Complaint Form](#)