



# Akron Public Schools LEARNING 2020-2021



ADAPTIVE RESPONSIVE SUPPORTIVE

## WEEKLY UPDATE

Thurs., Sept. 10, 2020

### Summit County Public Health issues letter regarding school openings

On Sept. 4, Summit County Public Health issued a letter to parents and guardians outlining protocols and procedures for the safe reopening of schools. The letter addresses reopening planning, contact tracing and isolating individuals who have been exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19. The full letter is included as an addendum to this edition of Weekly Update.

### APS/Akron Summit County Public Library provide electronic books/audiobooks for students

APS has partnered with [Akron Summit County Public Library](#) to provide access to electronic books and audiobooks they can follow along with, read on their own or read independently. Encourage reading at home by having your student sign onto the APS portal and search for [Sora](#). Books are available via the Sora app.

### Akron YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs, Salvation Army providing learning support

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio, Akron Area YMCA and The Salvation Army of Summit County are offering learning support for Akron Public Schools students during the school day. All programs will help students engage in remote learning and are designed to help parents during working hours. Tutoring and personal assistance and some meals will be provided. Check locations for full details.

#### Akron Area YMCA

Cost: \$170/week for members, \$190/week for non-members. Scholarships available. Title XX accepted.

Locations throughout the Akron Area. Hours vary by location from 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

For students in grades K-5

[Registration information](#)

#### Boys & Girls Clubs Learning Centers

Cost: Free – Registration is required, and space is limited.

- Steve Wise Club, 889 Jonathan Ave. – Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. (ages 6-12)
- Eller Teen Club, 888 Eller Ave., - Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. (ages 13-18)

[Download the registration form](#) or visit the Steve Wise Club to pick up an application.

#### The Salvation Army of Summit County

Cost: \$85/week per child – enrollment is limited and preferences will be made for working families

Mon.-Fri., 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Call 330.762.8481 for location information, to enroll and discuss eligibility

### APS welcomes back fall sports

APS welcomes back fall sports, guided and regulated by COVID-19 restrictions. Our return to all fall sports and marching band is underway. Please check [akronschools.com](#); we are still updating many of our sites, including athletics, with constantly changing information. Updates for athletics will include game scheduling, ticketing and social distancing rules.

### Student meal pick-up for all children ages 18 and younger

Student meals (breakfast and lunch) are available at all APS neighborhood schools from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday-Friday. No meals will be served at Ott, Essex, Stewart, Early College, NIHF STEM, STEM HS, I PROMISE or Miller South. These students may come to other neighborhood schools.

### Merkle's Mental Health Moment:

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

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year! Restarting the academic year in a virtual environment is certainly not how most of us wanted to resume school. Despite this, rest assured APS has dedicated itself throughout the summer to providing high quality, rigorous online instruction and support the social emotional needs of our APS community. Our weekly Mental Health Moments will feature guidance for families, staff and students as we navigate the connected world of virtual learning.

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers this checklist](#) to help families prepare for another virtual or at-home learning experience. September is also National Suicide Prevention Month with [Thursday, Sept. 10 designated as World Suicide Prevention Day](#) to remember those affected by suicide, raise awareness about suicide and ensure treatment is available to those who need it. As many of us are struggling with the disruptions, stress and feeling down or anxious from the intersection of COVID-19 and many social injustices present in society, watch for [signs of emotional distress](#) in both children and adults. Knowing the risk factors and warning signs of suicide lets us help one another be emotionally healthy and prevent tragic death by suicide. If you or a loved one is struggling with suicidal thoughts, immediate help is available at 800.273.8255, Text "4-Hope" to 741-741, or contact your local hospital emergency department.

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

All the resources below have clickable links for your convenience.

#### General resources

- [Akron Summit County Library](#)
- [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](#)



September 4, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we enter into this new school year, we are facing many challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To say these times are unprecedented is an understatement and the challenges we have faced in 2020 are unlike any we have seen in recent history. Over the summer, the health district met with superintendents, headmasters and other school administrators to craft plans to reopen schools as safely as possible. Every district and school is different and, as such, they have all developed plans to meet the needs of each unique learning environment. Many have chosen hybrid or remote options or have made significant modifications to building configurations to accommodate students. All schools have approached this re-opening using guidance from the CDC, the Ohio Department of Health and Summit County Public Health.

One element of a safe reopening is the ability to quickly isolate sick individuals, evaluate their symptoms, test for disease and quarantine those that have been in close contact with the COVID-19 positive individual. This process is called contact tracing and is an effective tool to ensure disease is not spread in a school building. We have had many questions about contact tracing and would like to explain the process.

Contact tracing in schools is a partnership between the school and the health district. Parameters are set defining an exposure and the school is required to report both sick individuals and those who have been in contact with that person to the health district. Once reports are made, the health district verifies the positive result and begins contract tracing with the school. The school maintains attendance records, seating charts, rosters, and other methods of tracking to determine who may have been potentially exposed to the virus. When a child is at school they are usually not able to report who they have been in close contact with and parents do not have contact information for these students. This is why it is critical that the schools and parents cooperate in contact tracing to prevent the spread of disease in school buildings.

- If your child may have been exposed to a positive case, your information (date of exposure, student name, parent/guardian name, phone number) is required to be released to the health district for quarantine purposes.
- Quarantine generally lasts for 14 days. The purpose is to determine if a person who is well will become symptomatic. If a person who is in quarantine develops symptoms, they are required to isolate for 10 days from the date of the symptoms or from the date of the test, if they do not have symptoms, have an improvement in symptoms and be fever free for at least 24 hours before they may return to school.



- If your child is placed in quarantine, you can expect a call from SCPH about the requirements and the projected return date to school. You can also expect some form of communication from your school that there has been a positive case in the building.

A successful reopening depends on all of us taking the necessary precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our schools. These include social distancing of at least 6 ft, wearing a mask, staying home when you are sick, and good hand hygiene. It is also very important at this time to limit your children from participating in events outside of school such as sleepovers, dinners out before games, and ride sharing. Just because they are in school or sports together, it does not mean they should engage in these more risky activities that will increase the likelihood of viral spread.

If you have any questions about COVID-19 you can contact our call center at 926-5600 or visit our website at [www.scph.org](http://www.scph.org).

Sincerely,



Donna R. Skoda, MS, RD, LD  
Health Commissioner

