

Welcome Back! School Resumes at ACS on Wednesday, September 6th

A Message From the Superintendent

Dear Akron Central School Community,

I hope this annual Back to School newsletter finds you enjoying the final days of summer and looking forward with anticipation to the beginning of a new academic year. As the Interim Superintendent of the Akron Central School District, I am delighted to welcome each student, teacher, staff member, parent, and community member to what promises to be a successful and rewarding year ahead.

I consider it a tremendous honor to be named Interim Superintendent during this time of transition for our district. While this period is one of change, we will continue to move forward without loss of momentum, steadfast in our commitment to providing the best educational experiences possible for our students. I want to assure each one of you that my role as an interim superintendent is not merely to ‘stay the course.’ I am here to lead, listen, and work with the entire community to ensure that our district continues to thrive.

There is much to be excited about at ACS. In the coming months, one of our primary focuses will be the continued execution of our district’s Strategic Plan. This roadmap is designed to support academic excellence, student well-being, and improve upon our district’s communication practices. This year also marks the initiation of a significant capital improvement project aimed at enhancing our school facilities.

Transparent and frequent communication is an essential component of our path forward. We will keep you updated on the strategic plan’s implementation, progress on the capital project, and the process of selecting a permanent superintendent. Updates will be provided through our district website, newsletters, community meetings, and our new district Facebook page at facebook.com/Akron-Central-School-District. We value and depend on your insights, feedback, and active participation. Your engagement is critical in helping us make informed decisions that ultimately benefit our students.

The success of any educational institution lies not only in its academic offerings and in infrastructure, but also in the partnerships it builds within the community it serves. This coming year is filled with opportunity and promise. Together, let’s harness these opportunities and create a learning environment that empowers every student in our district. I look forward to all we can achieve together, in partnership and in service to the students of ACS.

Thank you for your ongoing support and trust. Please feel free to reach me at (716)542-5006 or akersten@akronk12.org.

Warmest regards,

Andrea S. Kersten

Andrea S. Kersten, Interim Superintendent



Andrea S. Kersten
Interim Superintendent

AKRON

CENTRAL
SCHOOL
DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 2023

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Superintendent Search Survey

The Board of Education has begun a search for a new Superintendent of Schools.

They invite you - community

members, parents, staff, and students - to provide input as they develop a profile of the desirable qualities of this individual. Please complete the survey found at akronschools.org/survey or use the QR code with your smartphone! The survey ends September 10th after which the summary of compiled responses will be used while evaluating prospective candidates. Your participation in this survey is valued and appreciated!



Capital Project Update

Our Capital Improvement Project approved by voters back in May is underway in the design phase! Several meetings have been held this summer with board members, administrators, teachers, architects, design consultants, and project managers to develop plans for the first phase. Phase 1 focuses on various renovations to the buildings and the addition to the transportation facility. Phase 2 will bring significant change to our campus with the construction of a new multi-sport turf field stadium.

If you are interested in learning more, please visit our webpage devoted to the project that will be updated periodically with more information at www.akronschools.org/capitalproject.



Board of Education Re-Organized; Welcome New Trustees

Mr. Erik Polkowski was elected president of the Akron Board of Education at the re-organizational meeting held Wednesday, July 5, 2023. Mr. Phillip Kenline was elected vice-president. Both gentlemen were voted by residents to serve on the Board in 2018.

Beginning their first three-year term are newly elected and sworn in trustees, Mr. Joseph Cena and Mrs. Stephanie Coffta. Mr. Ryan Allen, Mrs. Heather Cayea, and Mrs. Kristy Pingitore are also trustees on the seven-member board. Meeting dates are found on our website at akronschools.org/boe and we live-stream at youtube.com/c/AkronCentralSchoolDistrict. Please be sure to subscribe to our channel.



Joe Cena

Joseph Cena has been an English teacher at Depew Schools since 2005. In addition to teaching at Depew, he has also coached modified football and track, as well as JV baseball. Joe currently teaches 8th grade English and leads the middle school leadership program, W.E.B. (Where Everyone Belongs). The program allows 8th grade students to serve as big brothers/sisters for the school's 6th grade students. Besides teaching

and coaching, Joe has also served as both a high school and middle school class advisor for the past twelve years.

Joe has been married to his wife, Jessica (an Akron graduate herself and Teacher Assistant at Akron Elementary), for sixteen years. They moved back to the Akron school district in 2018. Joe and Jessica have three boys: Cameron, who is entering Akron Middle School, and Jordan and Devin who attend Akron Elementary.

"My ultimate goal is to listen to the ideas, thoughts, and concerns of our residents, and develop ideas that aim to address these together, strengthening the bond between the Board and our community," said Joe.



Stephanie Coffta

Stephanie Coffta is a licensed clinical social worker currently in private practice. She began her career working for Catholic Charities, providing services in the home with families who had children at risk for placement due to behavioral disorders.

Stephanie and her husband, Jeff, both graduated from Akron Schools.

They have a son, Aidan, who begins his senior year, and a daughter, Lucy, who will be a 7th grader.

"I ran for the school board because I wanted to ensure that every child has a voice within the walls of ACS and is set up to reach his or her highest potential," said Stephanie. "I believe that my professional experience, as well as my personal experience of having two children with ADHD, will help me be a positive asset to the Board when it comes to advocating for children and families. I am looking forward to building on the many strengths we already have at ACS, while also helping to bring about positive changes that are also needed."

We Are Hiring!

Akron Schools is always looking to hire for substitute positions including teachers, teacher aides, bus drivers, bus attendants, food service helpers, clerical and maintenance personnel. Positions are ideal for stay-at-home parents, retirees, and anyone who enjoys working with children! Please visit our website at:

www.akronschools.org/employment.

Welcome New Faculty

Akron Schools is pleased to welcome several new faculty & staff members.



Jennifer Adornetto
UPK
BA Canisius College
MS Canisius College



Jacquelyn Daigler
Elementary Reading
BS Medaille College
MS Medaille College



Kaitlyn Gaik
Grade 2
BS Buffalo State College
M.S. Ed Buffalo State College



Kimberly Garippo
HS Health
BS The College at Brockport
MS Arkansas State University



Christina Komosinski
Elementary/MS
Instrumental Music
BM SUNY Potsdam
MM Bowling Green State
University



Rachel Polanski
Long Term Substitute
HS Math
BA University of Buffalo
M. Ed. University of Buffalo



Kristin Smith
MS Art
BS and M.S. Ed from
Buffalo State University



Erica Stoeckl
Long Term Substitute UPK
BS SUNY Cortland
MS Buffalo State University



Kayla Stuber
HS Math
BS & MEd Roberts
Wesleyan University



Lisa Williams
Grade 4
BS Buffalo State College
MS Ed. University of
Phoenix

Meet our New Cook Manager Kathleen Rybarczyk

Ms. Kathleen Rybarczyk joined the Food Service Department at the end of April. She works closely with Cook Manager Sara Alexander and the food service cooks, assistant cooks, and food service helpers for all three buildings while managing much of the bookkeeping and clerical duties of the department.

Additionally, Kathleen is the point person for Free and Reduced Price School Meals. The application is included in this newsletter and families are encouraged to complete it and submit to: **Kathleen Rybarczyk, Cook Manager, Akron Schools, 47 Bloomingdale Avenue, Akron, NY 14001**

If you need help completing the application, please contact Kathleen at (716)542-5027.



IMPORTANT LINKS:

2023-24 School Safety Plan: akronschools.org/SAVEManual

2022-25 Strategic Plan: akronschools.org/StrategicPlan

Community Use of School Facilities

The facilities at Akron Schools are available for use by community organizations. Scheduling priority is given to academic and extra-curricular school activities. Organizations must submit a Facilities Use Form to the District Clerk, Mrs. Roxanne Rebmann, at the District Office, Room H193 of the High School. The form and additional information about using school facilities are available on the school website at www.akronschools.org/facilities. Proof of insurance must also be submitted as indicated on page two of the form.

Organization leaders requesting use of the facilities are asked to be mindful that many organizations request the use of facilities and considerable time is spent scheduling the building as well.

Leaders are asked to please contact the District Office if their scheduled event is canceled or their organization no longer needs to utilize the reserved space.

Please contact Mrs. Rebmann with any questions at (716)542-5006.

April 8, 2024
NO SCHOOL
due to
TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

at **2:18:54 pm**

Wear eclipse safety glasses!



"Every Child Matters" Day Recognized Sept. 29th



Orange T-shirts designed by ACS graduates to raise awareness for the "Every Child Matters" movement will once again be on sale at the Intro to Business class' Tigers Den online store through Akron Market on Main. Orange Shirt Day on September 30th is an international event recognized by the U.S. and Canada that will be observed at ACS on Friday, September 29th. It is meant to bring awareness, recovery, and reconciliation for the atrocities at Residential Schools against Native American people and their children.

Orders are accepted at <https://carried-away-customs.square.site/s/shop> no later than Friday, September 8th. This is a project to help build awareness!

Pre-sale shirts will be available for pick-up at the Akron Market on Main or at Tigers Den School Store beginning September 25th. Additional shirts, in limited quantities, will also be available September 25-29 at either location.

For additional information about the shirt sale, please contact Mrs. Karen Saeli at ksaeli@akronk12.org. To learn more about the "Every Child Matters" movement, visit orangeshirtday.org.

SAVE THE DATE: Homecoming is October 13th!



Dig out your Akron jacket! Let's celebrate the Orange & Black! The ACS Homecoming festivities will begin with SPIRIT WEEK, October 10-13, and culminate with daylong events for school and community on Friday, October 13, 2023. The Akron Tiger Marching Band will lead the parade at 5:00PM starting at Brooklyn Park, marching up Main Street, then Bloomingdale Avenue. The "Decades" themed class floats, homecoming court, Athletic Wall of Fame inductees, other tiger-spirited groups, and local fire trucks will bring the excitement back to the ACS campus.

The Athletic Wall of Fame induction ceremony at 6:00PM in the performance gymnasium draws alumni to the homecoming events each year. Our 2023 inductees include the Akron Bugle as recipient of the "Eye of the Tiger" Award for giving 42 years of tremendous support and generations of athletes newspaper clippings of their feats; Larson Sundown '15 for his stellar career as a high school, amateur, and professional lacrosse player; JC Tretter '09, who also made his mark as a professional with the National Football League following fantastic high school and college careers; and Lori Hirtzel of the Class of '91 who excelled as a runner for the Tigers and at the college level. The 2008-09 Varsity Boys Basketball Team, who earned the school's first sectional title among other achievements, joins them on the Wall.

The Tiger football team will take on the Eden Raiders at 7:30PM. Admission is free with a non-perishable food donation for the Akron-Newstead Food Pantry.

Public Flu Shot Clinic

Monday, October 23rd

3:00PM – 6:00PM

GYM 3

adjacent to the HS upper parking lot

Wegmans Pharmacy will administer vaccinations to those 2 years of age or older. Insurance plans accepted include Blue Cross of WNY, Independent Health, Univera, Fidelis, Medicare and most regional and national plans.



Scan code to
make appointment.

Wegmans
pharmacy

Chromebooks - Be sure to charge for the start of school!

Students in grades 6 through 12 should locate their Chromebook and charge the device for the start of school.

If you are missing your charger, replacement chargers can be purchased for \$20 through the Technology Office in room M212.

Replacement chargers are billed through MySchoolBucks or payment can be made at the Business Office.



Devices for elementary students will be available in classrooms on the first day of school.

Devices needing repairs should be brought to the Technology Department in room M212. Parents are reminded that charges for repairs are for the cost of parts only, up to \$100; there is no charge for the labor as per the Chromebook Agreement. Chromebooks are an integral part of a student's education at every grade level. Repairs are important to keep devices in working order so that students are prepared each day.

Troubleshooting tips and helpful tutorials are available on the school website at akronschools.org/techsupport for both students and their parents.

Any questions regarding the Chromebook program may be directed to the Technology Department at (716)542-5045 or by email at akronitdept@akronk12.org.

Health Office Reminders

- **All students entering Grades 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12** must have the meningococcal vaccine to start school! 12th grade students may require a booster depending on when the child received the initial vaccine.
- New York State mandates physical examinations and BMI (body mass index) for **all new entrants and students entering Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11**. We are also requesting a dental certificate for students in those grade levels as well. The NYS Required Health Examination Form is available at www.akronschools.org/physical
- Students entering 6th Grade are required to have the Tdap immunization with documentation from their private physician.
- Students entering Kindergarten are required to have two vaccinations for Varicella (chicken pox).
- A lead level with documented results is required for all students entering Pre-Kindergarten.

Please send all documentation to:

HEALTH OFFICE: Akron Central Schools
47 Bloomingdale Avenue, Akron, NY 14001



Bus Safety Tips & Reminders

- Be at the bus stop 5 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Stand at least 15 feet from the road and wait for the driver to signal to cross.
- Look both ways before stepping on to the road and cross 10 feet in front of the bus.
- Remain seated at all times. Talk quietly and keep your hands to yourself.
- Backpacks should be placed on the floor near student or on lap.
- No eating or drinking on the bus.
- Make sure your child knows and recognizes their bus number.
- Upon return home, look both ways before stepping off the bus.
- Walk 10 steps in front of the bus and wait for the driver to signal to cross.
- If the driver sounds the horn, stop and go back where you came from.
- Go immediately up your driveway; do not stop to get mail or garbage cans.
- Drivers are reminded that it is illegal to pass a stopped school bus with its lights flashing whether on or off roadways.

Questions or concerns about bus safety should be directed to Mr. Mark Alexander, Director of Transportation, at (716) 542-5026.



School Closing Information

Occasionally, it is necessary to close school in case of weather conditions or other emergencies that may pose a threat to the health and safety of students. The Superintendent of Schools makes this decision based on information from the Director of Transportation and in consultation with the State Police who monitor road conditions. Every effort is made to make the decision as early in the morning as possible.

When Akron Central School is closed, Akron school buses will not transport any students, regardless of the school they attend. When schools are closed, all activities are cancelled within the building and all sport trips and field trips are also cancelled. Due to child care issues, school will normally dismiss at regularly scheduled times, even in the event of bad weather. Only the most extreme conditions warrant the early dismissal of students. The decision may be made, however, to cancel after-school activities.

Should an urgent situation occur, the District will send an emergency message to affected households through an automated notification system. Because power outages may affect the reliability of the automated system, emergency information is also released to the following radio and television stations:

- WBEN (930 AM)
- WKBW-TV Channel 7
- WIVB-TV Channel 4
- WGRZ-TV Channel 2
- Spectrum News

Parent Portal Access

The Parent Portal, a web-based application for parents of students at all grade levels, except Universal Pre-K, allows the parent/guardian to access their child's grades, attendance, class schedule and other information pertaining to academics. Report cards or progress reports are no longer mailed home unless requested through HS Student Support Services, the MS Office or the Elementary Office. Third trimester report cards for Elementary ONLY will be mailed home. Parents are encouraged to access the portal regularly. To recover a lost username or password for the Parent Portal, please contact the Instructional Technology Office at (716)542-5045. A letter will be mailed home as passwords cannot be disclosed over the phone.

Child Find

Child Find is a continuous process of public awareness activities, screening and evaluation designed to locate, identify, and refer as early as possible young children with disabilities and their families who are in need of an Early Intervention Program or Pre-school Special Education services through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

To receive an Early Intervention Program or Special Education, children must meet eligibility guidelines according to the IDEA. IDEA requires all states to have a "comprehensive Child Find System" to assure that all children who are in need of early intervention or special education services are located, identified, and referred.

If you believe that your child may be a child with a disability or in need of support services, please contact Mr. Timothy Dunham, Director of Special Education, at (716) 542-5077.

Breakfast and Lunch Pricing for the 2023-24 School Year



Lunch – High School/Middle School	\$2.75
Lunch – Elementary School.	\$2.50
Breakfast – High School/Middle School.....	\$1.75
Breakfast – Elementary School	\$1.50

Family ID

The Athletic Department uses FamilyID for online interscholastic sports registration. If you have not already done so, please visit www.akronschoools.org/FamilyID to register for Fall 2023 sports. Deadline is September 8th for those still planning to play on modified teams!



Parking Restrictions

Visitors to Akron Schools are reminded to adhere to all parking restrictions. Signage and road paint throughout the campus indicate "NO PARKING – FIRE LANE" areas. The Akron Police Department will enforce the parking rules and ticket violators who have illegally parked their cars.

Thank you for keeping our campus safe by refraining from parking in fire lanes or other restricted areas.

Letter to Parents for School Meal Programs

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Akron Central School** offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs **\$1.50** for Elementary students and **\$1.75** for Middle and High School students. Lunch costs **\$2.50** for Elementary students and **\$2.75** for Middle School and High School students. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. **Students in New York State that are approved for reduced price meals will receive breakfast and lunch meals and snacks served through the Afterschool Snack Program at no charge. Below are common questions and answers to help you with the application process.**

- DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?** No. Complete one Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals/Milk to apply for free or reduced price meals for all students in your household attending this School Food Authority. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information as indicated on the application and application instructions. Return the completed application to: Kathleen Rybarczyk, Cook Manager, Akron Schools, 47 Bloomingdale Ave., Akron, NY 14001 or (716)542-5027.
- WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS?**
 - All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), are eligible for free meals. Categorical eligibility for free meal benefits is extended to all children in a household when the application lists an Assistance Program's case number for any household member.
 - Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
 - Children participating in their school's Head Start Program are eligible for free meals.
 - Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals. Households with children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway or migrant should contact the SFA for assistance in receiving benefits.
 - Children may receive free meals if your household's gross income is within the free or reduced price limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Students in New York State that are approved for reduced price meals will receive breakfast and lunch meals and snacks served through the Afterschool Snack Program at no charge.
 - Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart:

2023-2024 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES Reduced Price Eligibility Income Chart

Total Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$ 26,973	\$ 2,248	\$ 1,124	\$ 1,038	\$ 519
2	\$ 36,482	\$ 3,041	\$ 1,521	\$ 1,404	\$ 702
3	\$ 45,991	\$ 3,833	\$ 1,917	\$ 1,769	\$ 885
4	\$ 55,500	\$ 4,625	\$ 2,313	\$ 2,135	\$ 1,068
5	\$ 65,009	\$ 5,418	\$ 2,709	\$ 2,501	\$ 1,251
6	\$ 74,518	\$ 6,210	\$ 3,105	\$ 2,867	\$ 1,434
7	\$ 84,027	\$ 7,003	\$ 3,502	\$ 3,232	\$ 1,616
8	\$ 93,536	\$ 7,795	\$ 3,898	\$ 3,598	\$ 1,799
*Each add'l person, add	\$ 9,509	\$ 793	\$ 397	\$ 366	\$ 183

- CAN FOSTER CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Yes, foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income. Foster children may also be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits for other children. Including children in foster care as household members may help other children in the household qualify for benefits. If non-foster children in a foster family are not eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits, an eligible foster child will still receive free benefits.
- CAN HOMELESS, RUNAWAY, AND MIGRANT CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Yes, children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail **Mr. Timothy Dunham, Liaison for Homeless Children or Youth, at (716)542-5077 or tdunham@akronk12.org** to see if they qualify.
- SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS?** Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at **(716)542-5027** if you have questions.
- MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER ONE?** Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and carried over for the first 30 operating days of this school year (or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first). You must send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.
- I GET WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC) BENEFITS. CAN MY CHILD(REN) GET FREE MEALS?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out an Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals/Milk.
- WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
- IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER?** Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed or who experiences financial hardship mid-year may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.

continued on next page

10. **WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION?** You should talk to school officials. **You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Mrs. Cynthia Tretter, Hearing Official, Akron Schools, 47 Bloomingdale Ave., Akron, NY 14001, (716)542-5020, or ctretter@akronk12.org.**
11. **MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN?** Yes. You, your child(ren), or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced price meals.
12. **WHO SHOULD I INCLUDE AS MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD?** You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children living with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.
13. **WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?** List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
14. **WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY?** Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
15. **MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?** To find out how to apply for SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call **1-800-342-3009**.

How to Apply: To get free or reduced price meals for your children, carefully complete one Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals/Milk, following the instructions on the form, for your household and **return it to the designated office listed on the application**. All household members and children should be listed on one application.

- If you receive SNAP or TANF benefits or participate in the FDIPIR, the application must include the children's names, the household SNAP, TANF or FDIPIR case number and the signature of an adult household member.
 - Contact your local Department of Social Services for your SNAP or TANF case number, if necessary.
 - No application is necessary if the household was notified by the School Food Authority that their children have been directly certified based on Assistance Program participation. If the household is not sure if their children have been directly certified, the household should contact the school.
- If you do not list a SNAP, TANF or FDIPIR case number for any household member, the application must include the names of everyone in the household, the amount of income for each household member, how often it is received and where it comes from. It must include the signature of an adult household member and the last four digits of that adult's social security number or check the box if the adult does not have a social security number.
- An application for free and reduced price benefits cannot be approved unless complete eligibility information is submitted, as indicated on the application and in the instructions. We will let you know when your application is approved or denied.

Reporting Changes: The benefits that you are approved for at the time of application are effective for the entire school year and up to 30 operating days into the new school year (or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first). You no longer need to report changes for an increase in income or decrease in household size, or if you no longer receive SNAP.

Meal Service to Children with Disabilities: Federal regulations require schools and institutions to serve meals at no extra charge to children with a disability which may restrict their diet. A student with a disability is defined in 7CFR Part 15b.3 of Federal regulations, as one who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual, a record of such an impairment or being regarded as having such an impairment. Major life activities include but are not limited to: functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working. You must request meal modifications from the school and provide the school with medical statement from a State licensed healthcare professional. If you believe your child needs substitutions because of a disability, please get in touch with us for further information, as there is specific information that the medical statement must contain.

Confidentiality: The United States Department of Agriculture has approved the release of students names and eligibility status, without parent/guardian consent, to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of federal education programs such as Title I and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which are United States Department of Education programs used to determine areas such as the allocation of funds to schools, to evaluate socioeconomic status of the school's attendance area, and to assess educational progress. Information may also be released to State health or State education programs administered by the State agency or local education agency, provided the State or local education agency administers the program, and federal State or local nutrition programs similar to the National School Lunch Program. Additionally, all information contained in the free and reduced price application may be released to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of programs authorized under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) or Child Nutrition Act (CNA); including the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, the Special Milk Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC); the Comptroller General of the United States for audit purposes, and federal, State or local law enforcement officials investigating alleged violation of the programs under the NSLA or CNA. **The disclosure of eligibility information not specifically authorized by the NSLA requires a written consent statement from the parent/guardian.**

In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age, disability or limited English proficiency.

If you have other questions or need help, call Kathleen Rybarczyk, Cook Manager, at (716)542-5027.

Sincerely,

Akron Board of Education

Nondiscrimination Statement: Please refer to page 10 for the explanation of what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

Date Withdrew _____

Attachment Va F ____ R ____ D ____

2023-2024 Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals/Milk

To apply for free and reduced price meals for your children, read the instructions on the back, complete **only one** form for your household, sign your name and **return it to the address listed below**. Call (716)542-5027, if you need help. Additional names may be listed on a separate paper.

Return Completed Applications to: Kathleen Rybarczyk, Cook Manager, Akron Central Schools, 47 Bloomingdale Avenue, Akron, NY 14001

1. List all children in your household who attend school:

Student Name	School	Grade/Teacher	Foster Child	Homeless Migrant, Runaway
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Benefits:

If anyone in your household receives either SNAP, TANF or FDPIR benefits, list their name and CASE # here. **Skip to Part 4, and sign the application.**

Name: _____ CASE # _____

3. Report all income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered 'yes' to step 2)

All Household Members (including yourself and all children that have income).

List all Household members not listed in Step 1 (including yourself) **even if they do not receive income**. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total income for each source in whole dollars only. If they do not receive income from any other source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

Name of household member	Earnings from work before deductions <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Child Support, Alimony <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Pensions, Retirement Payments <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Other Income, Social Security <i>Amount / How Often</i>	No Income
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ ☐

Total Household Members (Children and Adults) *Last Four Digits of Social Security Number: XXX-XX- ____ - ____ I do not have a SS# ☐

*When completing section 3, an adult household member must provide the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SS#), or mark the "I do not have a SS# box" before the application can be approved.

4. Signature: An adult household member must sign this application before it can be approved.

I certify (promise) that all the information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the information is being given so the school will get federal funds; the school officials may verify the information and if I purposely give false information, I may be prosecuted under applicable State and federal laws, and my children may lose meal benefits.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Home Address: _____

5. Ethnicity and Race are optional; responding to this section does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

Ethnicity: ☐ Hispanic or Latino ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino

Race (Check one or more): ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Island ☐ White

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE – FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY

Annual Income Conversion (Only convert when multiple income frequencies are reported on application)
Weekly X 52; Every Two Weeks (bi-weekly) X 26; Twice Per Month X 24; Monthly X 12

- ☐ SNAP/TANF/Foster
☐ Income Household: Total Household Income/How Often: _____ / _____ Household Size: _____
☐ Free Meals ☐ Reduced Price Meals ☐ Denied/Paid _____

Signature of Reviewing Official _____ Date Notice Sent: _____

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To apply for free and reduced price meals, complete only one application for your household using the instructions below. Sign the application and return the application to **Kathleen Rybarczyk, Cook Manager, Akron Schools, 47 Bloomingdale Ave., Akron, NY 14001**. If you have a foster child in your household, you may include them on your application. A separate application is not needed. Call the school if you need help: **(716)542-5027**. Ensure that all information is provided. Failure to do so may result in denial of benefits for your child or unnecessary delay in approving your application.

PART 1 ALL HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE STUDENT INFORMATION. DO NOT FILL OUT MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD.

- (1) Print the names of the children, including foster children, for whom you are applying on one application.
- (2) List their grade and school.
- (3) Check the box to indicate a foster child living in your household, or if you believe any child meets the description for homeless, migrant, runaway (a school staff will confirm this eligibility).

PART 2 HOUSEHOLDS GETTING SNAP, TANF OR FDPIR SHOULD COMPLETE PART 2 AND SIGN PART 4.

- (1) List a current SNAP, TANF or FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) case number of anyone living in your household. The case number is provided on your benefit letter.
- (2) An adult household member must sign the application in PART 4. SKIP PART 3. Do not list names of household members or income if you list a SNAP case number, TANF or FDPIR number.

PART 3 ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE THESE PARTS AND ALL OF PART 4.

- (1) Write the names of everyone in your household, whether or not they get income. Include yourself, the children you are applying for, all other children, your spouse, grandparents, and other related and unrelated people in your household. Use another piece of paper if you need more space.
- (2) Write the amount of current income each household member receives, before taxes or anything else is taken out, and indicate where it came from, such as earnings, welfare, pensions and other income. If the current income was more or less than usual, write that person's usual income. **Specify how often this income amount is received: weekly, every other week (bi-weekly), 2 x per month, monthly. If no income, check the box.** The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care and Development Block Grant, TANF and At Risk Child Care Programs should not be considered as income for this program.
- (3) Enter the total number of household members in the box provided. This number should include all adults and children in the household and should reflect the members listed in PART 1 and PART 3.
- (4) The application must include the last four digits only of the social security number of the adult who signs **PART 4** if Part 3 is completed. If the adult does not have a social security number, check the box. **If you listed a SNAP, TANF or FDPIR number, a social security number is not needed.**
- (5) **An adult household member must sign the application in PART 4.**

OTHER BENEFITS: Your child may be eligible for benefits such as Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). To determine if your child is eligible, program officials need information from your free and reduced price meal application. Your written consent is required before any information may be released. Please refer to the attached parent Disclosure Letter and Consent Statement for information about other benefits.

USE OF INFORMATION STATEMENT

Use of Information Statement: The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not submit all needed information, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the primary wage earner or other adult household member who signs the application. The social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs.

We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint> and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---|
| (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; | (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or | (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov . |
|--|-----------------------------|---|

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Akron School System 2023-24 Student/Teacher Calendar



Retrieval Days/In Order-If Needed:
6/21(Full Day ES), 6/24 (Full Day
ES/MS), 4/8,5,4,3,2

SEPTEMBER 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

OCTOBER 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

NOVEMBER 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

DECEMBER 2023				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

JANUARY 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

September

1&5 Superintendent Conf. Day -Staff Only - No Students
4 Labor Day - No School
6 First Student Day
21 Elementary Open House

October

9 Indigenous Peoples' Day - No School
20 High School Staff Conference Day PM Only
High School Student Only Dismissal 11:30 am

November

10 Veterans' Day Observance - No school
21 K-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:30 pm
22 K-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences 8:00-11:30 am-
No Students

23-24 Thanksgiving Recess - No School

December

25-1/1 Winter Recess - No School

January

2 School Resumes
15 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School
23-26 Regents Exams
29 Grading/Record Keeping Day - No Students

February

15 K-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:30 pm
16 K-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences 8:00-11:30 am-
No Students

19-23 Mid-Winter Recess - No School

March

15 Superintendent Conf. Day -Staff Only - No Students
29 Spring Recess -No School

April

1-8 Spring Recess -No School

May

27 Memorial Day - No School

June

14-25 High School Regents
19 Juneteenth - No School
21 Last Day of Attendance for Elementary-
Elementary Students Only Dismissal 11:30 am
25 Last Day of Attendance for MS/HS School
26 Rating Day - No Students
28 Graduation

BOE Approval 4/18/23

FEBRUARY 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	

MARCH 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

APRIL 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

MAY 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

JUNE 2024				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

Legend

	Holiday/Recess - No School
	Parent Teacher Conference
	Superintendent Conf. Day-No Students
	Grading/Record Keeping Day
	Rating Day
	HS Staff Conference

Like us on Facebook!



Akron Schools now has a district Facebook page! Please visit akronschools.org and click on the Facebook icon.

Check it out! Be sure to 'Like' and 'Follow'!

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, August 29 6th Grade Orientation 6:00PM AUD

Wednesday, August 30 Mandatory Freshman & New HS Student Orientation
9:00-11:00AM AUD

Wednesday, August 30 Mandatory Parent-Freshman & New HS Student Orientation
6:00PM AUD

Wednesday, September 6 .. First Day of Attendance Gr. 1-12

Wednesday, September 6 .. Kindergarten Parent-Student Orientation - 9:00AM MPR

Thursday, September 7 UPK Parent-Student Orientation - 9:30AM MPR

Tuesday, September 12 Fall Parent-Athlete Meeting - 7:00PM AUD

Thursday, September 21 ... Elementary Open House Gr.K-2 5:30-6:30PM;
Gr. 3-5 6:00-7:00PM

Single Point of Entry for all Visitors to ACS

The system for visitors to the district between the hours of 7:45AM and 3:30PM, as implemented by the Board of Education and the Safety Committee is as follows:

- All visitors will enter the building through the main entrance, Door #53, at the front of the school near the flagpoles.
- A School Safety Officer (SSO) will be stationed at this location to greet and admit visitors.
- A communication system allows visitors to state their name and purpose of their visit prior to entrance.
- Once permitted through the exterior set of doors, visitors must present a driver's license to the SSO for scanning to the Visitor Management System; visitors must sign in.
- The driver's license will be kept with the SSO until the visitor returns to sign out.
- A visitor identification sticker will be printed and must be worn at all times while in school or on school grounds.
- Once signed in, the SSO will direct visitors to the appropriate office to finish the sign in process before proceeding to their destination.
- When the visit is complete, all visitors must first sign out in the appropriate office before returning to the SSO at the front entrance to sign out, return the visitor identification sticker and retrieve their driver's license.

PLEASE NOTE: Vehicles must be moved from the front bus loading area by 1:45PM.

The District appreciates the cooperation and support of all visitors as we continue to use these procedures designed to improve the safety of all students, staff, and visitors.

Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to the principal or designee. Unauthorized persons will be asked to leave. All visitors are expected to abide by the rules of public conduct on school property as contained in the Code of Conduct.

Questions regarding the procedures may be directed to the Superintendent's Office at (716) 542-5006.

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Ryan Allen
Heather Cayea
Joseph Cena
Stephanie Coffta
Kristy Pingitore

Interim Superintendent of Schools

Andrea S. Kersten

www.akronschools.org

District Phone Numbers

Main District Phone - 542-5010
District Office - 542-5006
Business Office - 542-5020
High School - 542-5030
HS Student Support Services - 542-5035
HS/MS Nurse - 542-5036
Middle School - 542-5040
Elementary School - 542-5050
Elementary Nurse - 542-5056
Central Registrar - 542-5039
Curriculum & Instruction - 542-5060
Special Education - 542-5077
Athletic Office - 542-5088
Instructional Technology - 542-5045
Building & Grounds - 542-5025
Bus Garage - 542-5026
Food Service - 542-5027
District Fax - 542-5018