



Akron Central School District

In Pursuit of Excellence

*Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools*

April 15, 2020

Dear Families of the Akron Central School District:

The challenges that COVID-19 has brought to families is beyond what any of us could have imagined when schools were closed five weeks ago. I appreciate your on-going commitment to education and your support of the learning that is taking place in your homes. I also hope that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. The intent of this brief correspondence is to provide you with an update on a few of the important issues that we are working on. For additional information on matters related to the District's response to COVID-19, [please visit the dedicated page on our website at https://www.akronschools.org/covid19](https://www.akronschools.org/covid19).

School Closure:

- As you know, the Governor's latest executive order has closed schools until April 29. Based on current information from health officials, it seems probable that the closure could be extended beyond that date. All decisions related to timing and manner in which schools reopen will be determined by the Governor.

Course Credit, Grades and Assigned Work:

- Regents exams are cancelled and the guidance, which accompanied this decision, affects how students will earn course credit. In order to stay on track to graduate on time, it's crucial that your child continues to work through the school closure as course credit depends on their engagement.
- We are in the process of analyzing the academic data of all students K-12 in order to make informed decisions on both course credit and report cards. You can expect more information on this from the building principals in the near future.
- While students are expected to continue to engage in learning from home, we also recognize that a student's grades should not be adversely affected by situations that are beyond their control. Thus, we are exploring options for assigning grades for the third trimester at the elementary level and the fourth quarter at the Middle and High School levels.
- Building principals and teachers are meeting regularly to make instructional decisions that are intended to help your child and prepare them for when school resumes. This includes adjusting the type and amount of work assigned. Please contact your child's teacher and/or counselor if your child needs academic or emotional support.

Other Items of Note:

- We are considering options for high school graduation and other important end of year events, recognitions and celebrations for all students UPK-12. We recognize that these

events are an important part of our students' lives and we want them to be both meaningful and safe.

- Elections for the Board of Education and the School Budget Vote remain postponed until at least June 1. The Governor has expressed that he understands that the budget is a time sensitive issue and it is expected that he will issue a revised Executive Order on this topic in the future.
- We were so pleased with the positive media attention that our meal distribution program has received. The connection between the District and community of Akron is a very special thing. To have an aspect of that connection highlighted was a nice surprise for everyone involved. Information on the meal distribution plans and the FeedMoreWNY food pantry is available on the website.

Please know that every decision we make is in the best interest of your children. Our teachers and administrators remain committed to providing the best educational experience possible given the challenges of distance learning. As you can imagine, many of our teachers and staff members have families of their own and are setting up “classrooms” and “offices” on the kitchen table right next to where their kids are working! Truly we are in this together. We miss our students and are eager to have them back here at ACS when it is safe to do so. Again, thank you for all that you are doing to help your children continue to learn.

Be well, enjoy the sunshine and most importantly, enjoy your family.

Sincerely,

Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools