



Akron Central School District

In Pursuit of Excellence

*Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools*

May 1, 2020

Dear Families of the Akron Central School District:

By now, you have probably seen the AKRON STRONG signs that are proudly displayed throughout our community and in front of the school. As I drive by these signs, I am filled with appreciation for our local healthcare providers, police officers, fire fighters, emergency responders, and grocery store workers. I am grateful for people that show up to work in local banks, restaurants, businesses, and public services as their commitment serves us all. Finally, I think about our teachers, students and families that are working so hard, under challenging conditions, to fulfill their own personal and professional obligations and while also committing themselves to full participation in distance learning. You may not think that one small sign could hold so much meaning but it truly does. AKRON STRONG - indeed!

Please be assured that the Governor's decision to close schools for the remainder of the year has not changed our commitment to supporting your children and families through this unprecedented challenge. Our distance-learning program, meal distribution, and childcare support will continue for the remainder of the school year. Students should remain engaged with their teachers and continue to complete assigned academic work. The educational opportunities that they have now will serve as a foundation for future learning in the new school year.

At this time, we are seeking guidance from the New York State Education Department (NYSED) on when the current school year and distance learning will end. The Governor also shared that a decision on summer school programming will be made at the end of May. Information on these timelines will be provided to you as soon as they are determined.

Today's announcement represents a sobering reminder of the seriousness of our present situation. However, it will not deter us from fulfilling our commitment to our students. We miss being with them every day and they remain at the forefront of our thoughts and efforts. We have learned a great deal about distance learning and will continue to incorporate new and innovative ways for students to engage in relevant and meaningful learning. On behalf of the Board of Education and all of our staff, thank you for continuing to partner with us while supporting learning in your homes.

District administrators have already begun examining issues and safety protocols associated with the reopening of school. We will work in collaboration with the Erie County Department of Health as well as state and local agencies to develop practices that are focused on protecting our students, staff, and visitors while ensuring public health and safety.

We recognize that today's announcement only prompts more questions. Information and updates on topics such as learning plans, counseling and mental health resources, athletics, graduation, report cards, transcripts, etc., will be posted on our website at [Akron Central Schools COVID-19 Information](#).

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

- Franklin Delano Roosevelt

From all of us here at ACS, we wish you and your loved ones good health and happiness and hope that you remain AKRON STRONG!

Sincerely,

Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools