

Bridges Learning Center

Student Handbook 2026-2027



Akron Public Schools®

Mission

To ensure all APS scholars are college, career, and life-ready by providing innovative educational experiences

Vision

All APS scholars will graduate as architects of their future, prepared to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Bridges Learning Center

Phone: 330.761.7979 | Fax: 330.761.1344

web address: bridges.akronschools.com

Facebook: Bridges Learning Center

Building hours: 8:00am-4:00pm

BRIDGES MISSION STATEMENT

Our purpose is to provide social, behavioral, and academic skills through high quality teaching. We achieve this by building a positive, nurturing, and supportive environment.

School Hours

7:50	Entrance for breakfast
8:00	Beginning of school day
8:15	Announcements
8:30	Tardy bell
11:30 -12:15	Lunch/Recess
2:45	Dismissal

Use this handbook in conjunction with the Akron Public Schools Website for additional or current information www.akronschools.com

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Akron Public Schools is pleased to share its 2025-2026 APS Elementary Student Handbook. Clear, precise communications with parents/guardians are of the utmost importance. This handbook contains valuable information about our district and school policies. Please keep this in a convenient place and refer to it as needed throughout the school year.

If any of our policies or practices change during the school year, students will receive that information directly at home.

Your input is important and helpful. Please send me your comments or questions at any time regarding this handbook or any information sent home. Our teachers, staff, and I look forward to working with you to make this a successful school year for your child.

Sincerely,

Michele Angelo

Principal

Bridges Learning Center

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S HOMEROOM TEACHER.

STUDENT HANDBOOK AWARENESS STATEMENT

We have received the APS Student Handbook, which includes general information, rules, and regulations. We realize that we are responsible for reading and following its contents. Parents must inform the school of any changes in residency, custody, home/work phone numbers, and emergency contact information.

Date: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Teacher Name: _____

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SCHOOL-SPECIFIC PROCEDURES

ENTRANCE TO BUILDING

STUDENTS: No children are to enter the building before 7:50 a.m. for breakfast. If students are dropped off early, they must report to breakfast or remain outside. The only exceptions are student helpers with passes from their teacher and instrumental students.

- NOW students grades K-5 will enter the building through the main door (door 1)
- NOW students grades 6-12 and SUCCESS students will enter the building through door 4
- Staff members will be in their classroom and in the hallways at 7:55 actively monitoring student entry.

CLASSROOM BIRTHDAY/HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Please contact your child's classroom teacher.

DETENTION POLICY

Students may be assigned a lunchtime detention or an after school detention by a staff member for behavior infractions that violate our classroom and school rules. Lunch detentions are for fifteen minutes during the school day. After school detentions are held until 3:15 at which point students will be dismissed to the detention van. Parents/guardians are asked to provide consent for after school detentions at the time of enrollment. School staff will notify parents/guardians in a timely manner if an after school detention has been issued. Please contact your child's classroom teacher for more information.

LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found is located in the Main Office. Unclaimed items will be donated during Winter Break and again at the end of the school year in May.

MEALS

Breakfast time: All students are offered a free breakfast between 7:50am-8:15am. All students eat breakfast in their classrooms.

Lunchtime: All students are offered a free lunch. The student lunch period begins at 11:30am. K-5 students eat lunch in the cafeteria and 6-12 and SUCCESS students eat lunch in their respective classrooms.

Lunch Room Rules

All students are expected to eat lunch at school. Parents may sign their child out in the school office and take them to lunch during the provided school lunchtime. Students are tardy if their parent/guardian does not sign back into school at the appropriate time.

Hot lunches will be available at school and are free to all students.

- Students may not share food during lunch. The items a student brings in a packed lunch are intended for the student who brought the lunch, and the items in the school-provided lunch are intended for the student who received the lunch.
- Students are to remain seated at the lunch tables until formally dismissed. Student questions and concerns are addressed individually. To gain the attention of an adult, a student needs only to raise a hand.
- Lunchtime should be a stress-free time for students to eat.
- Students who bring their lunch may receive milk by choosing at least two other items, including a fruit or vegetable, from the lunch service line. Students are never to bring pop to school for their lunch beverage.

TECHNOLOGY USAGE POLICY

Akron Public Schools' goal is to provide your child with access to various types of technology throughout the school day.

Considering the privileges of using the Akron Public Schools technology and telecommunication resources and having access to the information on computer networks, parents and students must sign an internet/network consent form. The form states that parents and students release the Akron Public Schools, its computer networks, and their operators and administration from any and all claims arising from the use, or inability to use, the Akron Public Schools' network technology and telecommunication resources.

The terms and conditions of the agreement and usage are outlined on the form that must be signed and kept on file in the school office.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are an essential extension of our school curriculum. Appropriate behavior from all students is necessary for your child to benefit from these activities. The principal and/or assistant principal reserve the right to prohibit students from attending field trips because of disruptive behavior.

The APS parent permission slips must be signed in advance. Siblings are not permitted to attend field trips with chaperones.

HOMEWORK

Homework allows parents to become partners in their students' learning process.

Homework is assigned to give students extra time to practice skills learned in class. This helps them to be prepared for the next day's work. The amount of homework should increase as a child moves through the elementary grades. If your child is routinely spending more than an hour on homework at any grade level, please discuss it with your child's teacher. Since the needs of each child are different, homework assignments may vary from child to child within each classroom.

CHILD FIND

Child Find is the process of identifying, locating, and evaluating children with disabilities who may need special education and related services. Federal and state laws obligate both state and local educational agencies to conduct child find activities so that children who need special services have the opportunity to receive those services.

For ages 3 through 21 – Identification of one or more of the following conditions: autism, developmental disability, deaf-blindness, hearing impairment, including deafness, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, and/or visual impairment including blindness.

The child can begin receiving the appropriate special education and related services if a need is identified. In addition, though a child may not be eligible for special education or related services under IDEIA, he or she may qualify for Section 504 services, accommodations, and/or modifications if he or she has a physical or mental impairment that currently substantially limits some significant life activity which causes the student's ability to access the school environment or school activities to be substantially limited. Free assessments are available to families to determine whether or not a disability exists. Please contact your principal for further information.

The Intervention Assistance Team (IAT) is a school-based group of people whose purpose is to provide support to students who are experiencing academic and/or behavioral difficulties, preventing them from fully benefiting and accessing their education because they are performing below expectations. By supporting these students, the IAT may not only help the student be able to remain and succeed in the general education program, but also reduce unnecessary referrals to special education. The IAT is responsible for monitoring the progress of students and intervention programs. While the IAT is a general education initiative, the IAT may make referrals to special education and other programs if it is in the best interest of the child.

ACADEMICS

GRADING SCALES -

Letter Grade / Percentage / GPA Points

A	93 – 100	4.0
A-	90 – 92	3.8
B+	87 – 89	3.2
B	83 – 86	3.0
B-	80 – 82	2.8
C+	77 – 79	2.2
C	73 – 76	2.0
C-	70 – 72	1.8
D+	67 – 69	1.2
D	63 – 66	1.0
D-	60 – 62	0.8
F	0 – 59	0.0

Primary Progress Marks:

P = Work meets a standard of excellence.

S = Work meets the acceptable standard.

N = Work needs improvement.

H = Work does not meet the acceptable standard.

ADMISSION/ENROLLMENT

ADMISSION

We welcome new students to the Akron Public Schools family at any time of the year. Parents of new students should call 330.761.2810 for support and a possible appointment at the David W. James Engagement Center at 10 N. Main Street downtown to complete registration, or they may contact the school office to schedule an appointment. You may also visit [Akronschools.com](https://www.akronschools.com/enrollment) and visit the enrollment page: <https://www.akronschools.com/enrollment> to view our new online registration guide.

The Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) states that children should attend public school in the district where their parents or legal guardians reside. To register for kindergarten in the Akron Public Schools, children must be five years of age on or before September 30.

Students transferring from another school will usually be placed in the grade level recommended by the previous school. We will request that official records be sent to us to meet each child's needs as quickly as possible. If you are enrolling a child in 4th grade, please ensure you have documentation that your child has met the Third Grade Reading Guarantee criteria.

New students at all grade levels will be required to present, at the time of enrollment, an official birth certificate or other evidence of birth, proof of having received or being in the process of receiving required immunizations, two proofs of residency, custody, and I.E.P. information, if applicable.

Nothing in this policy is intended to supersede state laws. In areas of conflict between this policy and state law, state law shall control all aspects.

Language interpreters are available to support Limited English-proficient parents as needed. Please contact your building principal if you need an interpreter.

ACCELERATION AND EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN

All children learn and experience success given time and opportunity. Still, the degree to which academic content standards are met and the time it takes to reach them will vary from student to student. The Akron Public Schools Board of Education believes that all students, including advanced learners, should be challenged and supported to reach their full potential. This can best be achieved for many advanced learners by affording them access to curriculum, learning environments, and instructional interventions more commonly provided to older peers.

The Academic Acceleration Policy, required by Section 3324.10 of the Revised Code, enacted in HB 66, describes the process for evaluating students for possible accelerated placement and identifying students who should be granted early admission to kindergarten, accelerated in one or more individual subject areas, promoted to a higher grade level than their same-age peers, and granted early graduation from high school. Parents may submit a written appeal of results.

Request for Acceleration Review forms are available on the Gifted and Talented Education web page:

https://www.akronschools.com/departments/special_education/gifted_and_talented

or by calling Diane Gearhart, Coordinator of Gifted Programs, at 330-761-3108.

IDENTIFICATION OF GIFTED STUDENTS

Akron Public Schools believes in challenging our gifted students. We screen and identify gifted students in grades K-12 (3324.03 O.R.C.). Research related to young gifted children documents the need for early identification to help prevent underachievement. Students can be identified in four areas: superior cognitive, specific academic (reading/writing, mathematics, social studies, and science), creative thinking and the visual and performing arts (art, music, dance and drama).

All students in grades 2 and 4 will take the CoGat-7 and iReady assessments in the fall to identify cognitive, academic and creatively gifted students. The visual and performing arts identification will take place by audition in the fall or spring for all grade levels. All testing and audition results must be sent to parents within 30 days. Parents may submit a written appeal of the identification results.

Anyone may recommend a student for testing. Referral forms are available on the Gifted and Talented Education web page (https://www.akronschools.com/departments/special_education/gifted_and_talented) or by calling 330-761-3108.

All students in elementary schools who have been identified as gifted, will be provided gifted services through a variety of methods, such as consultation, co-teaching, push-in or pull-out services from the gifted intervention specialist per the established building level service delivery plan.

SECTION 504

If you have any questions concerning your child's eligibility under Section 504, or wish to discuss the actions of your child's Section 504 team in regards to your child's eligibility, accommodations or provision of a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), please contact Dr. Robert Kubick, Section 504/Civil Rights Compliance Officer, at 330-761-3151.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Akron Public Schools support parent choice whenever possible. Board policies regarding inter-district (between districts) and intra-district (within the district) are board policies 5113 and 5113.01. The complete policy is available on our web page, www.akronschools.com, or through the APS Open Enrollment Office, 330-761-2816.

WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENTS

If you are withdrawing your child, you must provide the new school's address and your forwarding address. When the receiving school forwards a request for records, the records will be mailed or electronically sent to the new school. Students will not be withdrawn from our school before the request for records is sent from the new school. Please

contact the Engagement Center at 330-761-2810 for information.

ATTENDANCE

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT ATTENDANCE

School attendance is essential and integral to student achievement and growth. No student shall fail to comply with state attendance laws, including truancy or tardiness from a specific class or school. No student shall leave school property or an assigned education location once he or she has come under the supervision of a school employee, before dismissal times, without official permission.

GENERAL ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

TARDINESS

Students shall arrive at school and be in the classroom for each assigned class at the scheduled time. Students must be in the classroom, seated, at that time or may be marked tardy.

TRUANCY

Unexcused absence from school (truancy) is unacceptable and detrimental to student achievement and growth. Truant students will receive no credit for missed schoolwork. Students who accumulate 30 consecutive hours, 42 hours in a month, and or 72 hours in a school year of unexcused absence will be considered habitually truant and be placed on an APS Attendance Plan to be addressed at the school through the APS Attendance Intervention Team to find the root cause of unexcused absences and develop interventions the student, guardian and school can work on to end absences from school. Failure to improve attendance may lead to a referral to juvenile court.

If a student is habitually truant and the parent fails to ensure the student's attendance, a complaint may be filed with the Summit County Juvenile Court judge in compliance with state law and board policy 5200.

EARLY DISMISSAL OF STUDENTS

No student may leave school before dismissal without the parent or guardian coming to the school office to request the release. No student will be released to someone other than the custodial parent(s) or guardian without a written permission note signed by the custodial parent(s) or guardian.

Anyone picking a child up early from school should expect to show a photo identification to the office staff before the child is released. Please refrain from requesting your child be dismissed early.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

The following conditions may excuse a student from school attendance if the parent/guardian calls the school before 9:30 a.m. to notify the office of the absence:

- Personal illness or injury (a medical verification, the school principal may require a note)
- Family illness (an emergency requiring the student to be absent from school)
- Quarantine of the home (by local health officials)
- Death of a relative (limited to three days, unless reasonable cause can be shown for a longer absence)
- Observance of a religious holiday (consistent with the student's established creed or belief)

Ohio law requires that students returning to school after all absences bring a written note from their parent or guardian stating the date(s) of absence(s), reason for absence, parent signature, and parent phone number.

OAC (Ohio Administrative Code) 3321.19 requires a school district to examine all truancy cases, notify parents of the penalties if a child is truant, and file a complaint with the appropriate court if the child does not cease being truant. Students may be required to repeat a grade when unexcused absences exceed 10% of the school year.

LATE PICK-UP

All students are expected to be picked up at dismissal time. After-school care is provided at various sites. The cost varies among the providers. Please contact the school office for a list of APS After-School care providers. Children's

services may be contacted in cases where a guardian demonstrates a pattern of late pick-up of their child.

SUSPENSION DAYS

When school is closed due to inclement weather, all activities are canceled. Suspension days will be forwarded and must be served when school reopens.

CODE OF CONDUCT/ DISCIPLINE/SAFETY

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Akron Public Schools Code of Conduct and Discipline is included in the board's opening school packet mailed to homes, posted in all school buildings and offices, reviewed with students twice a year, and available on the web site, www.akronschools.com. You may request a copy from any school office.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Administrators may search a student or his/her property (including vehicles, purses, book bags, gym bags, etc.) with or without the student's consent, whenever they reasonably suspect that a search will lead to the discovery of evidence of a violation of the law, the district's code of student behavior, or breach of a school rule. The extent of the search will be governed by the seriousness of the alleged infraction and the student's age. General housekeeping inspection of school property may be conducted with reasonable notice. Student lockers are the district's property, and students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in their contents or in the contents of any other district property, including desks or other containers.

Additionally, students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in their actions in public areas, including, but not limited to, common areas, hallways, cafeterias, classrooms, and gymnasiums. The district may use video cameras in such areas and on all school vehicles when transporting students.

Anything found during a search may be used as evidence of a violation of the law, the APS Code of Student Behavior, or a school rule and may be taken, held, or turned over to the police. The school reserves the right not to return items that have been confiscated.

HAZING AND BULLYING

The Akron Public Schools Board of Education is committed to providing all its students a safe, positive, productive, and nurturing educational environment. The board prohibits bullying, harassment, and intimidation.

Administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior, treat others with civility and respect, and refuse to tolerate bullying, harassment, or intimidation to provide examples for student behavior.

"Bullying, harassment or intimidation" means any intentional written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s); or violence within a dating relationship.

If a student believes he or she is a victim of conduct prohibited under this policy, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it to the building principal or assistant principal and allow the administration to investigate and determine the appropriate course of action. A complaint should be completed through the district's bullying, harassment, or intimidation form.

The principal or assistant principal shall promptly investigate all complaints of behavior that may violate this policy. If the investigation finds the instance of the behavior prohibited by this policy has been substantiated, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial and/or disciplinary action, pursuant to the student code of conduct. This may include (but is not limited to) mediation (if appropriate), counseling session(s), participation in an anti-bullying program or suspension up to and including expulsion. Perpetrators may also be referred to law enforcement officials.

The complete policy and procedures for reporting suspected bullying incidents are available on the district website, are mailed home at the beginning of the school year and are also available in every school office.

PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports)

Bridges Learning Center is proud to be a PBIS school, and we are recognized with the Silver Award for our excellent implementation for positive behavior and expectations in our school.

As a PBIS school, you will hear the following from your child: **Bulldog Respect, Bulldog Safety.** These expectations are followed in our common areas: Hallway, Restroom, Cafeteria, at Recess, at Dismissal and on the Bus..

	BULLDOG RESPECT.	BULLDOG SAFETY.
Hallway	Silent line	Hands and feet to self Straight line on the right side of the hall
Restroom	Silent Line One at a time	Wash Hands
Cafeteria	Silent line Use good manners	Hands and feet to self
Recess	Use respectful words	Hands and feet to self Down slides
Arrival/Dismissal	Enter/Exit silently	Walk on the right side of the hall Go straight to your destination.
Van	Follow driver directions	Buckle seat belt Hands and feet to self
Specials	Stop at the door	Wait to be invited in Clear off desk
Classroom	Complete assignments on time Follow Directions	Stay in area
Metal Detector	Silent line Place all items on table	Walk through arms at sides.

BUS & VAN RULES

It is our privilege and pleasure to furnish eligible students with the safest transportation possible as they travel between home and school and on school-related trips.

Safety precautions are necessary to protect all students riding Akron Public Schools buses. Your help is needed because safety is everyone's responsibility. A violation of the bus rules may result in the student being suspended from the bus. Before suspension, the student will be allowed to address the basis for the proposed suspension at an Informal hearing with the principal, assistant principal, or other administrator who will decide whether or not to suspend his/her bus riding/transportation privileges for all or part of the school year. If a student's bus riding/transportation privileges are suspended, s/he and his/her parents will be notified in writing within one day, of

the reason for and the length of the suspension.

Notice: Video surveillance equipment may be used to investigate violations of the APS Code of Conduct. Students may receive discipline based on what is recorded.

All students must understand that the bus driver is in charge of the bus at all times. Any student who repeatedly violates the safety precautions and/or bus rules may be denied the privilege of riding the bus and is subject to other disciplinary action to be determined by the principal. To that end, the following conduct rules are called to your attention:

(OAC is Ohio Administrative Code)

The bus driver's first concern is the safety of the students. Students **MUST** obey the driver's instructions at ALL times.

1. Students must arrive at the bus stop five minutes before the bus arrives. The bus will not wait. (OAC 3301-83-08)
2. Students must wait quietly in a location precise of traffic and at least 10 feet from where the bus will stop. (OAC 3301-83-08)
3. Student behavior at bus stops must not threaten the life, limb, or property of any individual. (OAC 3301-83-08)
4. Students must go directly to an available or assigned seat. (OAC 3301-83-08)
5. Students must remain seated, keeping aisles and exits clear. (OAC 3301-83-08)
6. Students must observe classroom conduct. All school rules apply on the bus. Obey the driver promptly and respectfully. (OAC 3301-83-08)
7. Students must be courteous and respectful to fellow students and to the bus driver. (Code of Student Behavior)
8. Students must not engage in loud talking or laughing, excessive horseplay or fighting. (Board Policy 8630)
9. Unnecessary confusion diverts the driver's attention and could result in a serious accident. (Board Policy 8630)
10. Students must not use profane or abusive language. (OAC 3301-83-08 and Code of Student Behavior)
11. Students must refrain from chewing gum, eating, and drinking on the bus except as required for medical reasons. (OAC 3301-83-08)
12. Students must not use tobacco or related products on the bus. (OAC 3301-83-08)
13. Students must not have alcohol or drugs on the bus except for prescription medication (e.g. asthma inhalers/EpiPens) required for a student as ordered by the prescribing physician. (OAC 3301-83-08)
14. Students must not throw or pass objects on, from or into the bus. (OAC 3301-83-08)
15. Students may carry only objects on the bus to be held in their laps. No living creatures are permitted. (OAC 3301-83-08)
16. Students must treat bus equipment with respect. Vandalism will not be tolerated. Keep the bus clean and sanitary. (OAC 3301-83-08; Student Code of Behavior; Board Policy 8630)
17. Students must not extend any part of their bodies out of the bus windows. (OAC 3301-83-08)
18. Students must remain quiet at railroad crossings until the bus has completely crossed and the driver says it is okay to talk. (OAC 3301-83-08)
19. Students must leave or board the bus at their assigned locations unless they have written parental and administrative authorization to do otherwise. (OAC 3301-83-08)
20. **Parents/guardians at bus stops are not permitted to board the bus for the safety of students riding the bus.**

ART AND SCIENCE SAFETY

Parents and students must sign the APS Safety Release Form for students to participate in science and art lessons.

SAFETY DRILLS

Each school is required to conduct safety drills during the school year. Fire drills, tornado drills, and lockdown drills will be conducted according to the Ohio Department of Education and local law enforcement. During a safety drill, all visitors must follow the staff's directions. During the drills, parents and visitors will not be admitted to the school building.

CAFETERIA RULES

Akron Public Schools offers breakfast and lunch meals to all elementary school students at no cost. Current menus are on the district web page, under *Child Nutrition Services*.

DRESS CODE

NOTE: For 2026-2027 school year uniforms are not required.

Akron Public Schools believes that student dress and grooming should support a safe, respectful, and productive learning environment. Students are expected to arrive at school clean, neat, and appropriately dressed for learning.

The District-wide Student Dress Code applies to all students in grades K–12. Schools may not implement dress requirements that are more restrictive than Board policy. Exceptions may be made for religious, medical, or other special circumstances, as well as for approved school activities.

General Expectations

Students may not wear clothing, accessories, or items that:

- Promote or advertise gangs, violence, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, sexual activity, or illegal activities.
- Create a disruption to the educational environment.
- Present a health or safety concern.

All clothing must be appropriately sized, in good repair, and worn as intended.

Headwear and Hair

- Hats, caps, and other head coverings are not permitted unless approved for religious, medical, or school-related purposes.
- Hoods must remain down while inside all APS facilities.
- Hair and hair accessories must not create a safety concern or substantially disrupt the educational environment.

Shirts and Tops

- Shirts must be properly sized and worn in a manner that covers the chest, back, shoulders, midsection, and undergarments.
- Oversized shirts extending below wrist level must be tucked in.

Pants, Shorts, Skirts, and Other Bottoms

- Bottom garments must be worn at the natural waist and may not drag on the ground.
- Clothing that is excessively tight, oversized, sagging, or exposes more than mid-thigh is not permitted.

Footwear

- Shoes must be worn at all times and must be secure on the foot.
- Slippers, flip-flops, shower shoes, and footwear that presents a safety hazard are prohibited.
- Foam or rubber clogs with heel straps are permitted when the strap is worn behind the heel.

Accessories

- Sunglasses may not be worn inside school buildings unless approved for medical reasons.
- Jewelry and accessories must not create a safety hazard or substantially disrupt the learning environment.

Outerwear

- Coats, jackets, and other clothing designed as outerwear are not to be worn during the regular school day unless approved by school staff.
- Sleepwear is not permitted.

Students who do not comply with the District Dress Code may be required to correct the violation and may be subject to school disciplinary procedures in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

For complete details, please refer to the Akron Public Schools Board Policy on Student Dress and Grooming.

Note: Each school will have its own regulations and procedures regarding appropriate dress on spirit days and special occasions.

PLAYGROUND SAFETY AND ACCEPTABLE TEMPERATURE

Equipment is checked on a monthly basis by the APS Maintenance Department. Unsafe equipment will be closed or removed.

Children should be properly clothed for daily outside play. Children are sent outside for recess when the temperature is 20° Fahrenheit or above (wind chill is considered) and playground conditions permit safe play.

If your child needs to stay inside during recess, a note from the doctor indicating the reason and length of time to stay in for recess is required.

HEALTH/MEDICAL

EMERGENCY MEDICAL FORMS

State law requires parents to fill out an APS Emergency Medical Authorization Form, and we now have an online process for this. We call it the APS *Returning Student* Information process. This will allow you to verify your student's demographic, emergency, and medical information. This process will replace the paper forms sent home at the beginning of each school year. You can also visit <https://akronschools.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=409163&pageId=8920275> to view the APS Returning Student Information Guide.

To return to school following a COVID19 condition, students must have proper written authorization to return to school from the physician or assigned health care provider.

HAND WASHING PROTOCOL

Handwashing with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds is very important to prevent illness and communicable diseases. When soap and water are not available, disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used in place of handwashing on most occasions.

HEALTH REGULATIONS

Your child must meet county and state health regulations for school entrance. Health records are checked each year, and the school will send you a reminder of the required immunizations your child still needs.

Students will be excluded from school if the immunization schedule is not completed within fourteen calendar days after the student's first day of school. Written statements of objection to immunizations due to parents' or guardians' philosophical or religious reasons are required. A medical exemption for immunization must be signed by the child's physician.

State law requires parents to fill out an APS Emergency Medical Authorization form. These forms are kept on file in the office and used in emergencies.

It is preferred that medications be administered to students at home; however, it is also recognized that certain circumstances may necessitate administering medications during school hours.

Guidelines have been established to control authorized drugs within schools and ensure the health and welfare of students. All medications must be locked in a cabinet and administered by school personnel or health aides.

A physician's medication procedure request form must be completed, signed, and on file in the office before the clinic staff can give any medication. Children are NOT permitted to transport medication to schools. All medications must be brought to school by a parent or guardian. This is critical to the health and safety of all children.

If the physician indicates it is medically necessary for the student to carry medication with him/her, the proper form must be signed to authorize the student to keep that in his/her possession. A physician's written order is required if students need to carry prescribed medication during bus transportation.

Students are not permitted to carry or self-administer non-prescription medication (this includes cough drops, eye drops, or any over-the-counter medication).

Medication forms for nonprescription and prescription medication are available in the school office and expire at the end of each school year.

Occasionally, school personnel may need to send a child home from school due to the possibility of a communicable disease. The child will be permitted to return to school when the condition has cleared or, if the student is under a physician's care, when the physician authorizes the child to return.

ILLNESS AT SCHOOL

Students mustn't be sent to school if they experience a fever (100°F or above), vomiting, diarrhea and/or a persistent cough within the last 24 hours or demonstrate symptoms of the COVID-19 virus. Students/families should perform a daily health check prior to reporting to school. Please keep a child home until he/she is symptom-free for 24 hours without benefit of any medication and/or follow the specific COVID-19 guidelines for possible return to school. Students who display the above symptoms while at school will be sent home. When notification of student illness at school does occur, the students are expected to leave the school within 60 minutes/1 hour with their parents/guardians or an authorized individual assigned by the parents/guardians.

IMMUNIZATION POLICY

Ohio law requires all students enrolled in public, charter, or private schools to be properly immunized unless otherwise exempt. The student immunization record must be on file at the student's assigned school, and the full dose must be received at the proper intervals.

Enrollment is not denied due to improper immunization; however, students who are not adequately immunized will be excluded from their assigned school for fourteen calendar days from the start of the school year unless their immunizations are "in progress."

The list of current required immunizations is printed each year in the Back to School packet mailed to each home. It is also available in the school office or the Office of Student Services at 330-761-2825.

LICE POLICY

Please notify the school health aide if you have treated your child for head lice. If your child has lice, the school health aide will give you information regarding treatment and procedures for coming back to school. Students with head lice will be checked 7-10 days later when returning to school.

MEDICAL CONCERNS – ALLERGIES

All school personnel must know of any type of allergy your child has, such as bee stings or foods. The school health aide should be provided with this information on the student emergency card form.

Food service staff must have a statement from your physician documenting the specific food allergy and acceptable substitutes to make accommodations within the National School Breakfast and/or Lunch Program.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING AND DELAYS

In inclement weather, school delays and closings will be communicated to each household using the district's automated phone system.

In addition, they will be posted online at www.akronschools.com.

Delay and closing information will also be reported to local television and radio stations.

There may be times when school must be dismissed during the day because of an emergency. In such instances,

parents will be contacted using the district's automated phone system.

Each family will be mailed information about the school year during the summer, including your emergency medical authorization form. Please complete it and return it to the school on the first day. Be sure to update phone numbers throughout the year as necessary.

FOOD SERVICE

Student breakfast and lunch is served at no cost in our elementary schools. Students bringing lunch from home may receive milk if they select at least two other items from the lunch service line including one fruit or vegetable.. The daily menu, which is subject to change, is available on our website – under *Child Nutrition Services*.

MULTI-CULTURAL AWARENESS

Akron Public Schools is committed to increasing awareness of and sensitivity to cultural diversity in our school community.

Equity Policy (2260.40)

The board of education in the Akron Public Schools is committed to preparing each child for success. We believe that every student, parent/guardian, and staff member brings his/her own personal background and experience into our schools and we are richer for it. Each has a legitimate expectation to have a barrier-free learning environment counteracting the contemporary and historical impact of bias, prejudice and discrimination which for generations has produced a predictability of learning outcomes based on race, ethnicity, class, socioeconomics, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, diverse language fluency, religion, and cognitive/physical ability.

The board believes that the responsibility for student success is broadly shared by district staff, families, our community, and our student's own efforts. It is the obligation of the district to embrace the diversity within our district while actively eliminating practices that perpetuate the disparities among our students so that all students have the opportunity to benefit equally.

Parent Involvement

There are many ways to be engaged in your child's education.

The PTO at Bridges provides valuable support services to many aspects of the school's operation. For more information, please contact Principal Michele Angelo at 330-761-7979.

For other opportunities to be involved at your school, please visit the Community Relations website at www.akronschools.com

COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

The district desires to rectify any misunderstandings between the public and the district by directly discussing them in an informal, timely manner among the interested parties. The APS district procedure for resolving any oral or written misunderstandings or complaints from parents and/or stakeholders concerned with the appropriate delivery of services to children is simple and straightforward. All complainants should first contact the child's teacher, if applicable, to attempt to resolve any issues. If not resolved, the appropriate procedure is to contact the dean of students and/or assistant principal (if applicable), then the building principal. In most cases, problems can be quickly resolved at the building level. If not resolved at the building, contact the executive director of elementary education (330) 761-3077. (General Provisions Regulations, at 34 CFR Sections 299.10-299.12)

RELEASE OF STUDENT PHOTO/MEDIA INTERVIEW

Parent/guardian must sign a media consent form to grant permission for a child's name, writing, photograph, video, art, or quote without limit, reservation, or remuneration by the media and/or Akron Public Schools. The release form is available online to be completed upon enrollment or can be revised using the online portal for students already enrolled in the district..

RELEASE OF STUDENT RECORDS

Student records shall be maintained in accordance with Board of Education Policy 8330 and state and/or federal laws and regulations.

SCHOOL VISITATION -

Visitors, particularly parents, are welcome to our school. Upon entering the school, visitors must report to the office to sign in and obtain a visitor's badge. Any visitor found in the building without signing in shall be reported to the principal. Students may not bring visitors to school without prior written permission from the principal. **If you have an appointment or are expected somewhere in the building to assist a teacher, you must always wear a visitor badge.**

Parents/guardians may not sit in or visit a classroom without prior permission from the principal. Visits must be mutually agreed upon between the teacher and principal. Per the teacher contract, teachers are to be provided with 24 hours' notice of parental classroom visits.

Students and staff are expected to immediately report any suspicious behavior or situation that makes them uncomfortable to a teacher or administrator.

TELEPHONE – OFFICE PHONES

Telephones in the school are for business purposes. In emergencies only, students may obtain permission to use the phone.

CELL PHONE AND VALUABLE PROPERTY

To avoid disruption of the educational environment and protect APS students' rights of privacy, student possession of personal cellular telephones and camera phones, satellite or electronic communication devices of any kind, laser pointers and attachments, paging devices, beepers, and personal digital assistants ("Prohibited Devices") are prohibited in school facilities during school hours, at school-sponsored events, and on school transportation provided by the district, except with regards to the limited permitted exceptions expressly set forth below in this policy. Student possession of personal radios, headsets, portable compact disc players, portable DVD players, handheld computer games, and iPods ("Absolutely Prohibited Devices") are prohibited in school facilities during school hours, at school-sponsored events, on school transportation provided by the district, except with regards to the limited permitted exceptions for school-sponsored events expressly set forth below in this policy (APS board policy 5136).

Students riding bicycles to school must lock their bikes to the school bike rack.

Students should not bring valuable items to school. The school is NOT responsible for items, including cell phones, that have been lost or stolen.

CHROMEBOOKS/HOTSPOTS/TEXT/LIBRARY BOOKS/MUSIC INSTRUMENTS/SCHOOL FEES

Textbooks must be treated with care to ensure they can be used as long as possible. Parents will be assessed replacement costs for damaged or lost books. Report cards will be held in the office until all fines or replacement costs are paid.

School-owned band and orchestra instruments are also to be treated with care. Parents will be assessed for lost, stolen, or damaged instruments.

Non-payment of assessed and other school fees will result in withholding the student's grades and credits.

SPECIAL NOTICES

DISTRICT INFORMATION SOURCES

The district's web address is www.akronschools.com. This page provides access to each school's web page, district departments, child nutrition menus, and meeting information. The APS Portal provides additional resources for your student to use at home.

FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL COMPLIANCE

This district provides equal educational opportunity for all students. Any person who believes that he/she has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her race, color, disability, religion, gender, or national origin while at school or participating in school activities should immediately contact the district Compliance Officer, Dr. Robert Kubick, at 330-761-3151.

Akron Public Schools also complies with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1994 and grants parents/guardians the right to access their student's educational records and to request corrections to such records in accordance with Board Policy/Guidelines 8330.

SAFE SCHOOL HELP LINE

An anonymous, helpful way to keep your school safe:
1-800-4-1-VOICE (1-800-418-6423), extension 359.

Title IX Policy

NOTICE:

The Board of the Akron Public Schools District does not discriminate based on sex in its education program or activity. It is required by Title IX and its implementing regulations not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in its education program or activity extends to admission and employment.

The District's Title IX Coordinator(s) are:

Lead-Employee Cases
Chase Canfield
Executive Director of HR
330-761-2945
10 N Main, Akron Ohio 44308
twammes@apslearns.org

Lead-Student Cases
Wanda Lash
Director of Student and Family Services
330-761-2734
10 N Main, Akron Ohio 44308
wlash@apslearns.org

Any inquiries about the application of Title IX and its implementing regulations to the District may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator(s), the Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both.

The Board has adopted a grievance process and procedures that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints alleging any action that is prohibited by Title IX and/or its implementing regulations. The grievance process and procedures are included in Policy 2266 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities, which is available at: https://www.akronschools.com/departments/human_resources and <https://www.akronschools.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=409163&pageId=590803>

The grievance process and procedures specifically address how to report or file a complaint of sex discrimination, how to report or file a formal complaint of Sexual Harassment, and how the District will respond.