



# AKRON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Making a Difference. Each and Every Day*

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April 15, 2020

Dear Akron Elementary Families:

As we write this update, please know that our hearts are filled with a longing to return to “normal” for our students, staff, and families. This unprecedented time of COVID-19 has proven to be the most significant challenge of our time, impacting all of us in ways not imaginable five weeks ago. By observing social distancing, many are enduring the isolation that comes with these stay-at-home practices, along with the anxiety of dealing with possible financial instability, and concerns for personal health or the health of loved one.

We want to encourage parents, educators, and students in the Akron Elementary Family to remember the big picture. Our primary concern is the health and safety of all of you. This is a time to focus on and be grateful for your family’s safety, health, and well-being. We encourage you to spend time with your families, safely check in with neighbors, friends, and others in your community, offer support, or connect virtually. Through doing that, we will all get through this together.

We want to take this time to provide you an update on our current status along with some changes forthcoming as we evolve to best meet the needs of our students:

- Students have been provided work material and assignments up through Friday, April 24.
- Up to this point, the vast majority of virtual learning has focused on review of previously taught skills and content. Beginning the week of April 27<sup>th</sup> we will begin a shift to teaching “new learning” as a primary focus. Teachers will be providing opportunities for virtual instruction to take place using various online formats. We know that this will be an adjustment period for some of us, but our teachers and technology staff are here to support you at any time.
  - Any students or families without internet access will be provided paper copies. We will be providing additional information next week regarding the delivery of these materials on our Akron webpage and through Power Announcements.
- We would like to encourage parents and students to access their Akron e-mail accounts. In most cases, there is a label on their Chromebooks with their e-mail addresses on them. If there is not a label, the students’ email addresses are their last name and first initial @akronk12.org. If you have any issues accessing their e-mail accounts please contact our Technology Office at 542-5045 or 542-5055.
- We have asked all teachers to establish a period of time each day (“office hours”) that will be dedicated to responding to questions or contacts made by students and our parents over the previous 24 hours. We are trying to respect the fact that each household is dealing with varying responsibilities and needs. Your child’s teacher will communicate those times with you.

- Our Specials teachers will be preparing weekly activities which will be posted on each classroom's SeeSaw or Google Classroom page. These are suggestions for families to stay engaged in art, music, physical education, and library activities while at home. We also post a weekly activity for each special's course on the Akron Elementary Family Facebook page.
- The Akron Elementary website and our "Akron Elementary Family" Facebook group are awesome resources to engage in activities and keep our school community connected.

We also would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience and perseverance as we seek to find balance to our new reality. We could not be more proud of our staff for their willingness to always go the extra mile and put their students first. We look forward to the day when our school community is reunited. Until that day comes, know that we are in this together as a community, district, and school. **We are AKRON STRONG!**

Please feel free to reach out to us at any time by calling the Elementary Office at 542-5050 as those messages are forwarded to us or e-mailing either of us at any time at [tesposito@akronk12.org](mailto:tesposito@akronk12.org) or [ckos@akronk12.org](mailto:ckos@akronk12.org)  
**We are here to support you through this.**

Stay Healthy and Stay Safe!

Mr. Todd Esposito      Mrs. Caroline Kos