



TIGER TRACKS

AKRON MIDDLE SCHOOL

April 1, 2024

Edition 8

www.akronschools.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Greetings and Nya:wëh sgë:nö' Middle School Parents,

Spring is a time for fresh beginnings and new opportunities. Our hope is that all students return from spring break with positive intentions and feeling recharged.

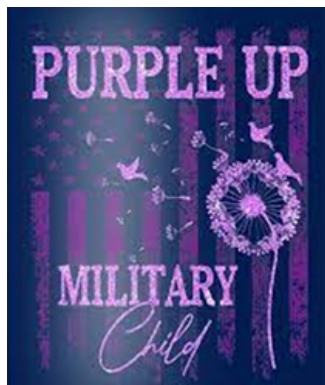
With New York State testing upon us, we are confident that our students will do well. Remember to get enough sleep the night before the test to feel refreshed and alert and stay positive! Maintain a positive mindset and remember that your hard work will pay off. Success is not just about the outcome of the test, but also about the effort you put in and the skills you develop along the way. We believe in each of our students and their ability to shine brightly!

Speaking of shining brightly, WNY is in the direct path of solar eclipse totality on Monday, April 8th. The last time our community experienced totality was in 1925!

We look forward to students and staff returning back to school on Tuesday, April 9th. Wishing you all a joyful and productive April!

Warm regards,

Mr. Caprio and Mrs. Fial



April 17, 2024 - Akron Staff and Students are asked to wear **Purple** to honor the critical role military children play and to recognize the unique challenges that they face while their service member parents serve our country.

April 8, 2024 - Solar Eclipse - Akron 2024

2 pairs of glasses have been provided for each student along with a copy of the flyer below. Click the flyer to access a full sized copy.



Student Support Services

Middle School Summer Camp
"Summer at the Center"
For Campers Entering Grades 6 through 9

Happy Spring!

Please note there are several exciting two week Summer Camp opportunities for Middle School students over the summer.

Harkness Camp

is at the Harkness Career and Technical Center, located at 99 Aero Drive in Cheektowaga. Campers participate in a series of four camps of their choosing, from Camp Culinar and Flair for Fasio to the Mini Veterinary School and Future First Responders. These camps are designed to engage students in exciting and interactive activities that make learning fun.

Calspan Camp

will be at our new Calspan Career and Technical center, located at 4411 Genesee Street in Cheektowaga (across from the Airport). Campers will complete projects that cover topics including Video Production and Recording Arts, Digital Media and Photography.

If you are interested, here is the link to find out more information, including costs, dates and registration.

<https://www.e1b.org/en/k-12-education-programs/summer-camp.aspx>



Important Dates

1-8 Spring Recess

- 9 - School Resumes
- 10 - 3:20-4:30pm MS Tech Club - M201
- 11 - NYS ELA Assessments - Day 1
- 12 - MP3 Ends
- 12 - NYS ELA Assessments - Day 2
- 15 - Spanish Club Meeting - M128
- 16 - BOCES budget/Elections
- 17 - Purple Up! For Military Kids - wear purple
- 17 - 3:20-4:30pm MS Tech Club
- 19 - MP3 Grades Due
- 19 - KEDS Field Trip
- 22-23 - Environmental Fair - LMC**
- 24 - MP3 Report Cards available online
- 24 - MP3 Ineligible List published
- 24 - 3:20-4:30pm MS Tech Club - M201
- 30 - 2:40-3:18pm Telephone Tuesday

MS LUNCH MENU - APRIL

AMS Lunch menus can be accessed each month through our school website, www.akronschools.org or click on the picture of the **April 2024** menu for the link.

If you would like a paper copy please reach out to the Middle School Office.



Please refer to our [Parent Letter for Regents/AP Review](#) for information regarding Regents Exams and AP Exams. Please reach out directly to teachers should you have a question,

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES - HS Scheduling

Hello Parents of current 8th Grade Students!

High School scheduling time is quickly approaching. During the Month of May, there will be a couple of informational sessions to help familiarize your students with the expectations of the High School and what to expect with the scheduling process.

On March 7th, during 8th period, we will hold an assembly for all 8th grade students. A presentation will be given by both Middle School and High School Administrators and School Counselors to share information about the High School transition, including but not limited to behavioral and academic expectations.

On Tuesday, March 19th, the High School Counselors and myself will be pushing into English classes to answer more specific questions about High School, the scheduling process and electives. About a week before this, each 8th grade student will be emailed a GoogleForm titled, "Heading to High School". Each student should fill out this form and ask any specific questions they may want answered during this informational session.

On March 25th, a Robo call will be sent to Parents of 8th graders, alerting them to an email that was sent to their students' school Gmail account. This email will contain a link to their Scheduling Portal and a full set of detailed instructions of how to go about choosing their elective(s). This Scheduling Portal will be open between March 25-28, and then again between April 9-12. All elective choices for next school year should be made no later than April 12th.

Please feel free to call or email me at 716-542-5044/hmann@akronk12.org with any questions or concerns.

Heather Mann

Grade 9 Electives 24-25

Band, Strings and Varsity Chorus (will be added automatically if currently enrolled)-Full Year page 84-87

Studio in Art-Full Year page 23

Design and Drawing for Production (DDP)-Full Year page 136

Intro to Business I & II -Semester Each page 31

Media Production-Semester *

Computer Programming: Coding 1 & 2 (Algebra 1R prerequisite or permission of teacher)-Semester Each page 136

Library STEAM Studies (Teacher interview and approval required)-Full Year page 140

Wellness Center-Semester page 60

Woodshop (Teacher approval required)-Semester page 142-143

Please access the 2023-2024 Curriculum Guide for complete details on the Electives above. In addition, we are also offering the following elective:

* MEDIA PRODUCTION

Subject Area: Technology

Student Grade Level(s): 9-12

Length of Course: 20 weeks

Credit Assigned: 0.5 credit

Overview:

This course is designed to help students learn to engage in an ever changing digital world. The curriculum will cover a wide range of topics including: video production, podcasting, storytelling/journalism, and graphic design. This course is cross-curricular and will supplement students in English Language Arts while building literacy, media, and technology skills that can be used throughout their education.

Additionally, as a class students will work together to produce journalism pieces for activities going on in the district which may include:

- Content about school events like homecoming, athletics, the musical, and spirit weeks
- District update videos to showcase the work going on throughout the schools
- Work in association with the Athletics Department
- Other student ideas or teacher suggestions

Course Objectives:

- Students will develop critical thinking and literacy skills in analysis of text and visual media
 - Students will engage in hands-on work in development of original ideas in video, podcasting, and journalism
 - Students will collaborate as a class in development of original concepts to production of various pieces of media
- Students will gain an understanding of the concepts of bias and reliability in the current news landscape.



Congratulations

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Computer Science 6 - Baiionne Smith
 ELA 6 - Brady Harrington
 Math 6 - Carissa Martek
 Reading/Writing 6 - Noelle gerstung
 Science 6 - Alexis Kelley
 Social Studies 6 - Liam Reigle

ELA 7 - Kendel Murray
 Math - Eliza Koopman
 Math 7H - Declan Jelson
 Robotics 7 - Brian Stempniak
 Science 7 - Camryn Snyder & Teah Wilson
 Seneca 7 - Lexie Ground
 Social Studies 7 - Thomas Schurr
 Spanish 7 - Jordyn Rosenberg

Academic Achievement - Reese Addesa, Drew Borden,
 Nick Grier, Mac Jonathan,
 Alexis Kelley, Sunny Stafford,
 Gabby Wilson & Jenny Yang

ELA 8 - Michael McDonald
 Math 8 - Lilyana Dean
 Science 8 - Brooke Ground
 Seneca 8 - Leighton Ground
 Social Studies 8 - Hannah Liss
 Spanish 8 - Gabe King

ALC - Penelope Ellsworth
 Art 7 - Brooke Warren
 Band - Jesse Madden
 Chorus - MJ Gehl
 Health 7/8 - Nathaniel Gehl
 MLL - Grace Lotz
 Music 7 - Lexie Ground
 Orchestra - Reese Addesa
 PE 6/7/8 - Jesse Madden
 Reading AIS -
 SRO 8 - Hunter Bilicki, Jacob Stewart &
 Brynleigh Waterbury

CHARACTER COUNTS *Darian Papia - Advisor*



For the month of April, Akron Middle School is focusing on the CC! Pillars: Respect & Trustworthiness. Students can earn Tiger Tickets by displaying the following behaviors:

Trustworthiness: be loyal and stand by your values. Have integrity and do what you say you'll do.

Respect: be accepting of differences. Be courteous to others.



During the month of March, students, faculty and staff focused on the Pillar: Responsibility. The following students were selected and enjoyed a CC! Ice Cream Celebration on Thursday, March 28, 2024.

8 th Grade	7 th Grade	6 th Grade
Avery Haak Hannah Liss Annabelle Rumenapp Rieley Stuber Gavin Witt	Shannon Esmond Mitch Krieger Eliza Koopman Kendel Murray Peter Noreika Brooke Wood	Brady Harrington Waylon Palizay Blakelyn Pawlick Baiionne Smith Aurora VanDusen Misty Wideman

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICE (SRO)

April already? This year is flying by! We have all heard about the big event happening on April 8th, and if the weather is right for it, Akron will be able to experience the Solar Eclipse. This is literally a once in a lifetime event!

There are a lot of tips that are required, helpful, and useful for the day of the eclipse:

- ☀️ One important thing that the District has already done is close school that day. One reason is because of the timing of the eclipse, the main event is around the time of school dismissal, and buses dropping kiddos off.
- ☀️ Another important thing is that the District is providing each kiddo with two pairs of certified eclipse glasses. (You should have received them, along with a letter on the event).
- ☀️ Know if the glasses are safe, and how to use them properly: (if they are scratched or damaged, they are compromised and unsafe). They should be labeled: ISO 12312-2:2015 (these are certified as safe).

There is a three part test to make sure they are safe:

1. Try them indoors, you should not be able to see anything, not even shadows of objects. If you do, they are considered unsafe. Very bright lights may be seen, but will be faint.
2. Try them outside on a sunny day, but don't look at the sun. You still should not be able to see anything, except a faint reflection of the sun on a shiny surface or puddle.
3. Lastly, glance at the sun with the glasses on for less than a second. You should see a sharp edge round disk that is comfortably bright. It may appear white, bluish white, yellow or orange depending on the glasses filter.

- ☀️ **NEVER** look at the eclipse without the proper glasses or another safe way, it can permanently damage your retina and even cause blindness.
- ☀️ **KNOW** where your kiddos are at all times, and supervise them during the eclipse viewing.
- ☀️ Have a **PLAN** in place for meeting spots and times, as there may be heavy cell usage and interruptions that can overwhelm cell towers.
- ☀️ **ANTICIPATE** heavy traffic, before and after the eclipse. As this is a main viewing stop, there will be a lot of outside visitors. Stay home if you can.
- ☀️ **KEEP** roads passable if you do venture out, First Responders will need to be able to make it down any roadway if needed.

STAY SAFE AND ENJOY THIS ONCE IN A LIFETIME EVENT!

GO TIGERS! 🐾

Hello Akron Middle School Parents,

It's that time of year again. Be sure to capture your students' middle school memories with this year's Akron Middle School yearbook from Varsity. Orders are due by May 18th and can only be made online. You can find a link to the order page on the Akron website akronschools.org under the quick link "Order Your Yearbook." The middle school code is #21939. It is a hardcover book with a cost of \$24. Thank you for your support.

Kimberly Northem
ES/MS Yearbook Advisor

Order your
YEARBOOK
Here



The students at the Tiger's Den would like to thank everyone who supported us in last month's March Madness promotional campaign!

We would also like to give a huge thank you to everyone who came out and supported us at our Elementary Easter Pop-Up event! There was a great turn out and we appreciate all of the support!

This month the Tiger's Den will be closed the first two weeks of April but we will be back up and running for April 16 and 17th. We're excited to keep moving along in the school year and look forward to the next upcoming months. Be sure to come visit us to kick off the spring season with a new short sleeve shirt!

We appreciate all of your support throughout the course of this school year! Your support will help us reward Class of 2024 senior(s) who are pursuing a business related field with \$2000 in scholarship funds.

The Tiger's Den school store takes debit/credit cards and Apple Pay!

Follow us @akronschoolstore on Instagram! We post updates on promotions, sampling, and everything the school store has to offer.



The winner of the 2024 annual Akron Middle School Creative Design & Engineering Skimmer Car design challenge is Mackenzie Tomporowski. Eighth-grade students applied their knowledge of forces of motion, computer-aided drawing, and 3D printing to design and construct aerodynamic cars. Mackenzie's car traveled 129 feet down the middle school hallway!

The yearly challenge is sponsored by Akron Mayor Brian Perry and his wife, Jayne. \$100 will be donated to Hearts & Hands of Akron in Mackenzie's name. She chose this charity because she wants to support the elderly in her community.

Anieka Forrestel and Rieley Stuber tied for second place with their cars traveling 125.5 feet and Alexander Shpakovsky earned third place when his car went 125 feet.



ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT CLIPBOARD



After falling behind by 9 runs in the first inning, the Varsity softball team battled back into the game against Maryvale to take the win 18-13. Shannon Esmond drove in seven runs on four hits to lead the Varsity softball team. Esmond hit an inside the park home run in the sixth scoring three, tripled in the third scoring two, singled in the fourth, scoring one, and singled in the fifth scoring one. Ashlee Henning homered in the top of the third to score two runs. Olivia Novak singled in the top of the sixth to score one run. Patience Hill pitched 6 and two thirds innings in relief. She surrendered 9 hits and 6 earned runs while striking out 10. Shanna Thomas started in the circle for the Akron Tigers.

Congratulations team!

NATIVE AMERICAN NEWS

Happy April!

I can't believe the school year is almost over! Time is flying! As we head into the 4th and final marking period of the year, I want to encourage all students to finish the school year strong! My last day in the building will be April 29th, as I am going out on maternity leave. If parents/guardians need to contact the NAO, I ask that you get in touch with either Jodi Patterson (716) 542-5013 or Antoinette Abrams-Hill (716) 542-5050 x3119. They will be able to assist you with whatever you may need.

Nya:wëh!!



Mrs. Brittany Smoke
MS Native American Home-School Counselor
716-542-5040 x6226

6th Grade Greek Olympic Day 2024

On March 27, 2024, Akron Middle School sixth-grade students wrapped up their cross-curricular unit on Greece and Greek mythology with Greek Olympic Day! Classroom teams from the city-states of Argos, Athens, Megara, Corinth, and Sparta, competed in a pool noodle javelin throw and reinforced tortilla discus throw to show their strength and agility, a vocabulary relay to demonstrate knowledge and recall, a boxing game for strength and power, a tongue twister game for agility and articulation, and a humming contest to show their appreciation for culture and literature. It was very close, but the team members from Sparta were each crowned with wreaths of flowers following their overall win.



[#OneAkron](#)



The next Spanish Club meeting will be held on **Monday, April 15, from 3:30-4:23 pm in Mrs. Bergman's classroom (M128)**. Join us to broaden your horizons, learning about the culture and customs of Spanish-speaking people and places. We would love to see you there to share fun, food, and friendship!

Mobile Planetarium comes to Akron Central Schools:

On Thursday, February 29th Mrs. Class' Science classes had the pleasure of visiting the mobile Planetarium. Students were engaged and entertained while learning about the upcoming Eclipse on April 8th. Many students expressed how much they enjoyed the experience the following day in class and were appreciative of the opportunity provided by the Challenger Learning Center of Lockport.


"I learned how a solar eclipse happened the stars can be different colors. The moon rises at a different time each night." Makayla P.

"From the mobile planetarium I learned that the solar eclipse takes multiple hours and that the middle of the eclipse has complete darkness. During the eclipse there are some planets that you can see, but you can't see all of them." Kennedy K.



**Just Tell
ONE**
An MHA Program

TEEN
CHAT LINE



Monday through Friday
from 2pm to 8pm EST

Youth Peer Advocates (YPAs)
operate this **anonymous and
confidential warmline** to provide
support **for youth experiencing
emotional concerns or stress**
in non-crisis situations.

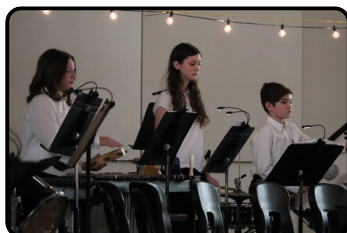
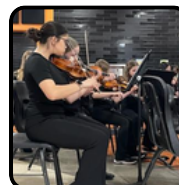
**WE CAN
RELATE**

YPAs are between the ages of 18 and 30
with their own identified lived experience
with mental health (or other) systems.

For more information visit JustTellOne.org

Mental Health Advocate's (MHA) Youth Peer Advocates (YPA) operate a free, anonymous and confidential warmline to provide peer support for young people dealing with emotional concerns or stress in non-crisis situations. Connect with a YPA Monday through Friday from 2 PM to 8 PM.

The MS Orchestra held their annual Music and Munchies Concert on Tuesday, March 19, 2024



The MS Cabaret Concert was held on Saturday, March 23rd.