WELCOME TO THE I PROMISE SCHOOL
Welcome to the I Promise School

The I Promise School (IPS) is a new public school in Akron established by the LeBron James Family Foundation and Akron Public Schools. Taking an innovative approach to urban public education, the I Promise School provides a nurturing and supportive environment that fosters a STEM-focused and trauma-informed curriculum infused with LeBron’s “We Are Family” philosophy to assist the students and families in Akron who need it most. The school also provides complete wraparound services for its families including career, academic, and emotional support.

I PROMISE SCHOOL QUICK FACTS

THE OVERVIEW • The I Promise School officially opened its doors on July 30th, 2018 to its inaugural class of 240 3rd and 4th grade students and their families. These students are identified by Akron Public Schools as behind in critical academic areas and other factors and were selected through a random drawing of all students meeting those criteria. The school will gradually expand to a 3rd through 8th grade school by 2022.

THE INNOVATIVE CALENDAR • The I Promise School operates on a non-traditional schedule and provides year-round programming to increase learning opportunities and eliminate the “summer slide” months. The IPS school year runs from July through May, followed by several weeks of specialized summer camp programming. The school also maintains longer learning days for additional extracurricular activities with the day starting at 9:00am and ending at 5:00pm.

THE CURRICULUM • IPS has implemented a STEM-focused and standards-based curriculum aligned to the Ohio Content Standards. The hands-on education includes problem based learning (PBL) that is real, engaging and fun for the students as well as Mastery learning that measures student growth based on mastery of grade level standards.

EDUCATING THE WHOLE CHILD THROUGH A TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH • The I Promise School is committed to educating its students both academically and social-emotionally, making a strategic effort to engage its students beyond their studies. The school and staff take advanced measures to create a safe and supportive environment conducive to personal and academic growth.
THE I PROMISE SCHOOL OFFERS ALL OF ITS STUDENTS

- Daily breakfast in the classroom with teachers and students to promote belonging and We are Family philosophy

- Total infusion of the Habits of Promise into both academics and community expectations (Perseverance, Perpetual Learner, Problem Solver, Partner, and Perspective); all developed around the Habits of Mind approach

- Focus on social emotional learning through daily engagement in I PROMISE Circles focusing on communication, habits of promise, belonging, and sense of community. These supportive gatherings also help students unpack many of the external challenges they face as well as share in their triumphs as a group. The I PROMISE Circles are repeated throughout the day after lunch and recess to help students re-center and re-focus for the remainder of the day.

ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO LEARNING • Knowing that students cannot learn if they are struggling with issues such as hunger, trauma, or other logistical or emotional challenges, IPS provides supports to help eliminate those barriers and prepare the child physically and emotionally for learning.

- To help get its student to class every day on time, students living more than two miles away from campus are provided with daily bus transportation

- Students also receive free breakfast, lunch and snack daily

FAMILY WRAP-AROUND SUPPORTS & FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER • Believing that education starts at home, IPS places an intentional focus on family engagement and dedicates extensive resources to support the students’ whole families through career, academic, and emotional support. The school has an entire wing dedicated to a Family Resource Center that provides resources and amenities for every family including an individualized I Promise Family Care Plan that helps them navigate daily challenges and facilitate long-term planning. IPS also incorporates resources from its community partners, local businesses and agencies to support our families including job and career services, legal aid, medical and vision care, financial literacy programming, mental health assistance, GED opportunities and a fully stocked I PROMISE pantry filled with food and other basic essentials to create a one-stop shop for all families.
FAMILY WRAP-AROUND SUPPORTS

AKRON CANTON REGIONAL FOODBANK • PROMISE PANTRY
The I PROMISE Pantry provides a large variety of food, snacks and fresh produce as well as other essentials for all IPS families. Families are able to come and take what they need with no limits and no restrictions.

HAPPY HAPPY MARKET •
This Foundation-provided resource room is fully stocked with basic necessities and brand new items including mittens and scarves, coats, socks, underwear, pants and toiletries. Families can access the market any time through the Family Resource Center.

COMMUNITY LEGAL AID •
Lawyers are available to provide a wide range of legal services which may include expungement, custody issues, contracts, landlord issues and many other cases.

FAITHFUL SERVANTS •
Certified doctors are available to provide non-urgent medical care which may include common cold, sore throat, sprains, sports physicals and more.

NORTHEAST OHIO EYE SURGEONS
Certified eye doctors are available to provide eye exams and other eye care for our families annually.

PROJECT LEARN OF SUMMIT COUNTY • I PROMISE TOO
Any IPS family member can work towards achieving their educational goals by working on their GED. All classes are offered on-site at the I PROMISE School.

SUMMIT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES •
This local resource is housed within the Family Resource Center to oversee services including Eligibility, Recertification, Interim Reports, Cash Assistance, Food Assistance, Medical Benefits, and Job Opportunities.

CHASE BANK FINANCIAL LITERACY & MENTORSHIP •
JP Morgan Chase is a longtime Foundation partner that provides support and financial literacy assistance for all families as well as mentoring for adult students in the I PROMISE Too program.

PEG’S FOUNDATION & MENTAL HEALTH •
The Peg’s Foundation provides support and resources related to trauma with an on-site Pediatric Psychologist available to advise on mental health best practices.