



Ohio Educational Television Stations

For Immediate Release
March 26, 2020

Ohio PBS Stations Unite to Air At-Home Learning Service to Help Bridge Digital Divide

When Governor DeWine ordered a statewide school-building closure of the nation's sixth largest public school system on March 16, Ohio's public broadcasters stepped up to offer their assistance. As school buildings closed in an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus, public broadcasting station leaders rapidly developed a new on-air schedule of at-home programming to help students and teachers who may have limited broadband internet access. The Ohio 'At Home Learning' initiative will include a full schedule of daily programming geared toward students in prekindergarten through grade 12 on Ohio PBS channels in every community starting on most stations Monday, March 30.

"In this unprecedented time, Ohio's educators, parents and caregivers are doing their best to keep learning going for students in the midst of the coronavirus crisis. I am humbled and grateful that all eight of Ohio's public broadcasting stations have stepped up as major partners committed to delivering high-quality, grade-appropriate learning to students, complementing the amazing effort being made by Ohio's schools and districts," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria. "This 'At Home Learning' initiative crosses the digital divide and provides yet another tool in the toolbox, ensuring learning doesn't stop just because school buildings are closed."

"All the Ohio public stations united quickly and within a few days built this project in collaboration with the Department of Education, regional educators, and the state Broadcast Educational Media Commission. Every public station was enthusiastic about opening their broadcast schedules to help Ohio's teachers and students," said WOSU General Manager Tom Rieland, who assisted in coordinating the initiative.

Daily weekday programming will range from the PBS Kids series "Peg+Cat" and "Cyberchase" focused on math skills for early elementary kids to "NOVA" and "American Experience" programming for older students. The schedule will provide age and grade-level appropriate, standards-based programs so Ohio students can continue to learn with limited or no internet access. The educational teams at each station will provide additional teacher resources related to the new programming schedule. Teachers and students also have access to PBS Learning Media to support the programming with free online resources at <https://pbslearningmedia.org/>

The new broadcast schedules will generally air up to ten hours each weekday and will be updated weekly until further notice. Viewers should consult their local PBS station schedule for specific channel information.

Governor Mike DeWine's daily live press conferences will continue to be broadcast on all of Ohio's public television stations at 2 pm so Ohio citizens can receive the latest information on the coronavirus.

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