

# WE are Lakota



August 31, 2021 Edition

## FEATURED In This Issue



### New School Year Sends Lakota 'Back to the Future'

Celebrating the fact that "WE are Better Together," the start of the 2021-2022 year sent Lakota students and staff "back to the future." Lakota staff kicked off the year at their all-staff opening day celebration, where they enjoyed this [lighthearted parody of "Back to the Future"](#), while families



### Super in 60: August 2021

Got 60 seconds? Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller shares his first "Super in 60" of the new school year, providing the latest district highlights in just 60 seconds.

Get the latest on Lakota's gradual return to normal, what the district is doing to help keep kids in school



### Help Us Improve Lakota's District Newsletter

We'd love to hear your thoughts on how we can improve our district newsletter.

Please click below to help us make changes to better serve you.

[Take survey](#)

enjoyed a return to in-person open houses before a staggered start to the new school year.

learning and other important back-to-school updates.

[Full story](#)

[Watch video](#)

### Around Lakota Features

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## SHOUT-OUTS

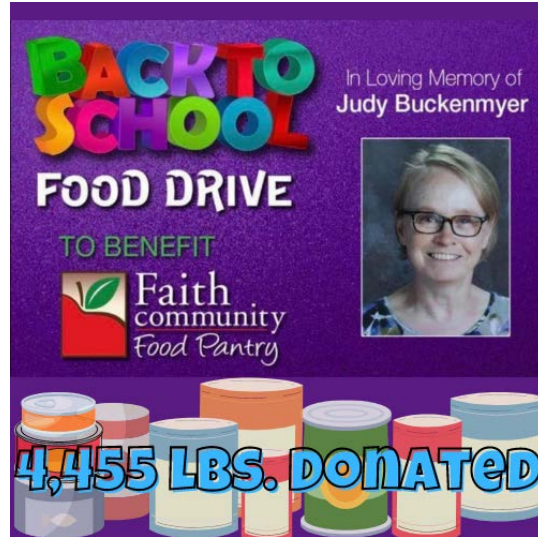
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### East Senior National Finalist in Rocket Competition

Lakota East and Butler Tech senior **Ryan Cheng** was part of the Ohio 4H rocket team that competed as a national finalist in The American Rocketry Challenge. More than 5,000 students and 625 teams vied for a spot as a national finalist.

Cheng's team was just one of 100 teams from across the United States to qualify in the competition offering over \$100,000 in prizes. Although the team did not place in the event held in June at the U.S. Air Force Museum in Dayton, Cheng is looking forward to working with his teammates to do even better next year. He also enjoys sharing his rocketry experience by assisting with STEM summer camps at the Boys and Girls Club of West Chester/Liberty.



### Judy Buckenmyer Memorial Food Drive a Huge Success

A big thank you to the Lakota East community for coming together for Saturday's second annual food drive in memory of beloved math teacher Judy Buckenmyer.

Special thanks go out to the many clubs and sports teams for their collections, to the National Honor Society and Hawk Student Ambassadors for loading and sorting items, and all of the other adults who volunteered on a very hot day.

East staff and students contributed over 1,500 lbs. of food and personal care items, one-third of the total collected for the community drive. The drive total was 4,455 lbs. and \$2,080 in cash and gift cards.



### Stay Informed: COVID-19 Update

While the new school year has once again begun with COVID protocols in place, many experiences during the school day, including the use of collaboration spaces and daily specials, are closer to normal. Families and staff are encouraged to visit [Lakota's COVID hub](#) to stay up to date on the latest information. Documents related to COVID and the district, including its protocols and Spanish translations, [can be found here](#).

[Read more](#)



**SEL SPECIAL  
BUILDS STRONG  
FOUNDATION FOR  
SUCCESS**

### New K-6 Special Provides Strong Foundation for Success



Students in grades K-2 started off the school year greeted by positive messages like these.

I can solve problems.  
I can accept new challenges.  
I can reach my goals.  
I can keep going when things get tough.  
I can learn new things.

They are important lessons to learn; ones that give students a strong foundation for academic achievement as well as success in life.

Teaching these skills is not new at Lakota – for years, they have been embedded in all classrooms in some way, shape, or form. They have also been a part of the health curriculum taught by the classroom teacher and by school counselors. They have been integrated into Lakota's Portrait of a Graduate, a "north star" that clearly defines the skills, characteristics and attributes that every Lakota graduate should possess.

What is new is that skills like these have been grouped together and are now called social emotional learning (SEL) and are being taught in their entirety by dedicated SEL teachers.

[Read more](#)



### Lakota Welcomes New Administrators for the 2021-2022 School Year

As Lakota Local Schools begin the start of the 2021-2022 school year, the district is pleased to announce several new administrators. The changes come as a result of both movement throughout the district and expanded support programs to meet the needs of Lakota's 17,000 students.

"We have an incredibly strong administrative team throughout our district," said Superintendent **Matthew Miller**. "I'm excited to add new members to the team, and welcome some back to Lakota."

[Read more](#)



### DPC Hosts 'Meet the Candidates'

Election season will soon be upon us and the Lakota District Parent Council (DPC) has partnered with the West Chester/Liberty Chamber Alliance and Miami University to host a forum to meet the candidates running for the Lakota Board of Education. This virtual event will take place via a Zoom webinar on Sept. 29, at 6:30 p.m.

This will be the second time DPC has hosted the event. "This is an opportunity for Lakota community members, parents, students and staff to learn more about each candidate and why they are running for the Lakota Board of Education," said DPC President Lisa Phair.

[Read more](#)

### FEATURED PHOTOS



## Creekside Hosts Clap Off for Custodian Cantilli

Creekside Early Childhood School hosted a school-wide farewell for their head custodian, **Edward Cantilli**, who received stars on his hero cape as he paraded the halls. The surprise "clap off" ended with a lively chant for "Mr. Skip", who is retiring after 16 years serving the Creekside community. Farewell Mr. Skip and thank you for your service!



## Congratulations to Our First Day Photo Contest Winners

Lakota's annual Back-to-School Photo Contest did not disappoint. Hundreds of posts across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter shared those special first day moments. We are excited to announce this year's winners, based on the posts with the most votes (or "likes"). Pictured left to right:

**Rob Burnside's** Twitter post:

24 years ago today... I walked into this classroom. I cannot overstate the excitement of standing outside this room today as the @EAST\_HAWKS principal.

Hopewell ECS Principal **Mary Brophy's** Facebook post:

Here we go! Year 34... ready to greet our Hopewell ECS Heroes.

**Maddie Thompson's** Instagram post summed up the feelings of many parents across Lakota:

SECOND GRADE. WHAT!?!? Part of my heart left on a school bus this morning. I teared up because she seemed so big and confident and sure of herself. She knew exactly what she wanted to wear, how she wanted her hair, what she wanted in her lunch box, and most importantly what kind of friend she wants to be.

Our winners will be receiving some special "WE are Lakota" spirit prizes in the coming days. Thank you to everyone who shared their first day moments. Search #WEareLakota and #WEareBetterTogether on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to see all entries.





### Endeavor Staff Celebrates Junior Olympians

Even amid the preparations for the new school year, staff at Endeavor Elementary School found time on the last day of summer break to celebrate three very special Rocket students. Fourth-graders **Levi King**, **Samuel McAfee** and **Jason Wilkerson** qualified for the Junior Olympics in track and field after placing in the top six in their region (Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and New York).

The trio traveled to Houston, Texas to compete in the 400-meter race; King and McAfee both participated in the 200-meter race, while McAfee also competed in the 800-meter and triathlon. McAfee ultimately placed seventh in the nation in the 10-year-old boys division for the triathlon.

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## NEW BUSINESS

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### WE are Better Together: Fall 2021 Community Mailer

The latest edition of Lakota's community newsletter, titled "WE are Better Together", shares an inside look at how Lakota is getting "back to the future," where collaboration is at the center of everything we do. The issue reflects on all the lessons and successes wrapped up in last school year before looking forward to new and expanded programs showing up in the school year ahead. It also details how the district fared financially amid the unforeseen expenses and how Lakota is putting federal relief funds to use in the years ahead.

[Read the e-edition](#)





### Sept. 3: Last Day to Nominate a Lakota Educator of Excellence

The Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty, in partnership with Lakota Local Schools, is currently accepting nominations for the 2021 Lakota Educator of Excellence Awards. The nomination deadline is Friday, Sept. 3 and all honorees will be honored this fall.

[Click here for additional details about the Educator of Excellence awards](#) and [submit your nominations here](#).

[Learn more](#)



### REQUIRED: Visit Back-to-School Gateway by Sept. 10

As a convenience to all our K-12 families, Lakota is excited to introduce Back-to-School Gateway, a new platform powered by Registration Gateway for managing your REQUIRED district-level back-to-school forms electronically.

Instead of completing the traditional paper forms required of all K-12 students, log into your [parent OneLogin account](#) to visit the Gateway and verify or correct information the district currently has on file for you and your child: emergency contacts, medical information, internet authorizations and contact information.

This is especially important as Lakota transitions to a new notification system. The changes you make in the Gateway will also update your Home Access Center account, the primary data source for all parent/guardian contact information moving forward. The parent portal powered by School Messenger will no longer be used after Sept. 10.

**For the 2021-2022 school year, it is critically important to log in and complete this process no later than Friday, Sept. 10.** The Gateway will not be available after this date. [Click here for more detailed instructions about Back-to-School Gateway.](#)

[Learn more](#)



### Future Hawks & Firebirds Nights

Future Hawks Night (Sept. 3) and Future Firebirds Night (Sept. 10) are a must for all Lakota K-6 students!

Watch your school newsletter for details on how you can show your Eastside and Westside pride at an upcoming varsity football game. Special pre-game celebrations add to the fun and include games, giveaways and a parade. Don't miss it!



## Lakota LEADS Science & Engineering Fair Now Open to Grades 5-12

Registration is open for the 3rd Annual Lakota Science & Engineering Fair, hosted by Lakota LEADS! This event is open to all Lakota fifth- through twelfth-graders. Students can enter individual or team projects. The fair will be held at Hopewell Junior School on January 21, 2022. [Learn more on the Lakota LEADS website](#) and complete the [fair application](#) by the November 30 deadline. Email [lakotasciencefair@gmail.com](mailto:lakotasciencefair@gmail.com) to sign up for the science fair newsletter.

[Learn more](#)



## Destination Imagination Now Open to All Grade Levels

Does your student love crafting, inventing, building, storytelling and all things STEAM? Destination Imagination (DI) is designed to foster your student's creativity, problem-solving skills and teamwork through a project-based learning experience and competition.

Lakota is creating teams for this year's program now. Registration is open to all grade levels. [Click here to register your child for DI](#) by the Sept. 15 deadline. Learn more at [DestinationImagination.org](http://DestinationImagination.org) or by watching this ["Why Parents Choose DI" video](#). [A complete FAQ about DI](#) is also available. Contact [LakotaDI@yahoo.com](mailto:LakotaDI@yahoo.com) with questions.

[Learn more](#)



## Sept. 22: Cyber Academy Kick-off Event

The Lakota Cyber Academy is thrilled to kick-off another year of learning in the industry-driven program at both Lakota East and West. To launch this academic year, the Cyber program will host an evening event on Sept. 22 from 6 - 8:30 p.m. at Lakota East that includes a parent information session, mentor connecting sessions for Cyber 2 and 3 students, as well as an industry keynote presentation.

**All current and potential future students and their families are welcome to attend.** Chaos Specialist, Matt Linton, will share remarks on the dynamic cyber industry our students are entering upon graduation from the program. Matt's role as a Chaos Specialist for a giant in the tech world gives him a unique perspective on the current and future state of cyber security.

[Click here for more information and registration](#) or contact Katie Bauer at [Kathryn.bauer@lakotaonline.com](mailto:Kathryn.bauer@lakotaonline.com). This event is open to the public with appropriate registration required. District mask requirements are expected to be followed by all students, parents, and industry guests.

[Learn more](#)

## ON THE RADAR

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### Back-to-School Hub

Be sure to visit [Lakota's 2021-2022 Back-to-School Hub](#) for answers to questions about the new school year, including the latest updates on our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### [In the Loop with the Supe](#)

Sept. 1  
4 p.m.  
Shooters Sports Grill

### [Creekside Fanfare for Students](#)

Sept. 3  
8:45 a.m.  
Creekside ECS

### [No School \(Labor Day\)](#)

Sept. 6

### [VanGorden Fanfare for Students](#)

Sept. 10  
8 a.m.  
VanGorden Elementary

### [Board of Education Meeting](#)

Sept. 13  
6:30 p.m.  
Plains Jr. Media Center & Zoom

### [Heritage Fanfare for Students](#)

Sept. 17  
8:45 a.m.  
Heritage ECS

### [Lakota Cyber Academy Kick-Off Event](#)

Sept. 22  
6 - 8:30 p.m.  
Lakota East Main Campus

[District Calendar](#)

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# WE are Lakota



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