

WE are Lakota



April 27, 2021 Edition

FEATURED In This Issue



WE Walk 4 Hope: District Pauses for Mental Health

A district-wide "Walk 4 Hope" on April 19 underscored the importance of mental health and wellness at all ages.

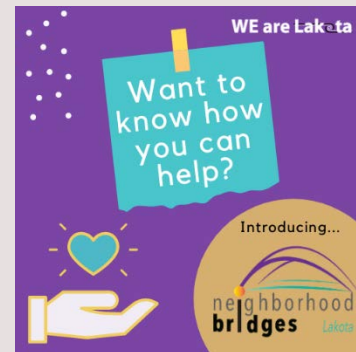
Lakota West's Hope Squad - a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program focused on spreading positivity and building awareness around



Military Commitment Honors 26 Seniors on April 28

We invite our community to join us on Wednesday, April 28 at 7 p.m. as we celebrate our 26 seniors who have made a commitment to enter a branch of service after graduation.

Due to COVID restrictions, the in-person ceremony will be exclusive to Lakota's



Lakota Launches Neighborhood Bridges

Last week, Lakota Local Schools announced the launch of neighborhood bridges' "Gateway for Kindness" program - a resource to facilitate community support of students and families in need within the Lakota school system.

mental health - encouraged all Lakota students and staff to “pause” in the form of a midday lap around their building.

[Full story](#)

senior honorees and their families, but the district will live stream the program on [West Chester Township's YouTube channel](#) for the larger community to enjoy.

[Full story](#)

As a tool for teachers, counselors and social workers, neighborhood bridges Lakota will involve the surrounding community to aid in meeting the essential needs of at-risk and underprivileged students as a way of removing barriers to learning.

[Full story](#)

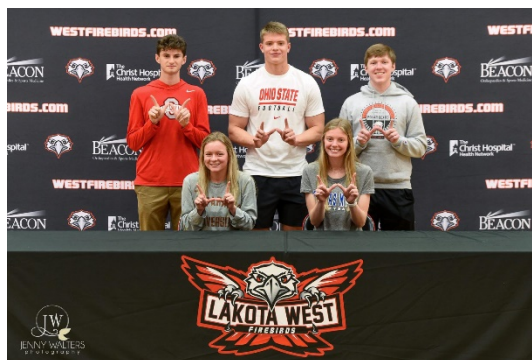
Around Lakota Features

- [Super in 60: April Edition](#)
- [District Expands 1:1 Device Initiative to Grades 3-5](#)
- [Honoring the Class of 2021](#)
- [East Seniors' Legacy: Outdoor Classroom](#)
- [Junior High Classes Share Memorable VLO Experience](#)

New Business

- [East Jazz Fest on May 15](#)
- [May 5: Next Coffee Chat](#)

SHOUT-OUTS



West Holds Athletic Signing Day

Lakota West hosted an athletic signing event on April 14 on the first day of the NCAA basketball regular signing period. Five senior Firebirds

Lakota Excels in National Cyber Competitions

The National Cyber League's spring competition brought more than 1,400 high school students to their computers to defend organizations against simulated cyber attacks. **Matt Price**, a senior at Lakota East, qualified for the gold level by finishing in the top 10% nationally.

Congratulations to Lakota's silver level finalists, who finished in the top 30% nationally:

Lakota East
Alexander Chen
Adian Ethier

Lakota West
Ryan Sippy
Brendan McCormick

With more than 4,700 competitors, Cyberstart America also challenges students as they master their cybersecurity skills. Finishing in the top 10% from Lakota East are **Ian Balfour, Aidan Ethier, Ilyas Malik** and **Matt Price**.

Finishing in the top 600 nationally are:

Lakota East
Max Ackerman
Nathan Adelhardt
Ahmad Awad
Charlie Cowdery
Srihari Das
Sam Dominguez
Nate Doherty
Aiden Frank
John Lemma
Marshall Novean
Morgan Novean
Diego Rooney
Sara Schnetzer
Megan Sheth
Cameron Uhl
Mackenzie Worthington
Jeffrey Zhu
Tiffany Zhu

Lakota West
Gavin Detherage
Ryan Sippy

signed their commitment letters to continue their academic and athletic careers at their respective schools.

Zach Plotkin: Track/Cross Country (Ohio State University)

Syd Hilderbran: Volleyball (Thomas More University)

Morgan Allison: Swimming (Valparaiso University)

Jackson Kuwatch: Football (Ohio State University)

Matthew Howard: Football (Ohio Northern University)

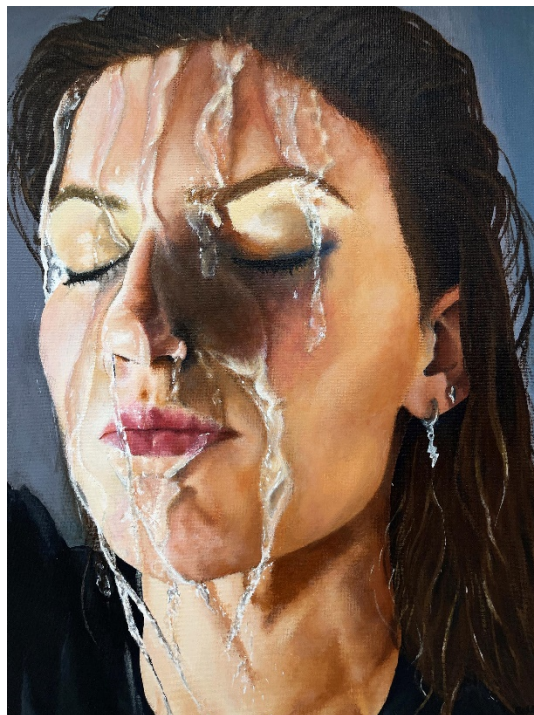
The Firebirds also saw 12 athletes sign in the fall signing ceremony, bringing the total number of signed athletes to 27 for the Class of 2021. Congratulations to all of our student-athletes!
(Photo courtesy of Jenny Walters Photography)



Congratulations to Lakota's Barb Bossu Volunteer Spirit Award Winners

On April 21, Lakota honored this year's District Parent Council Barb Bossu winners in a virtual ceremony. Even with restrictions in place due to the Coronavirus, these individuals have found a way to continue volunteering in order to help their schools and Lakota. [Click here to watch the recorded event.](#)

District: **Jen Smith-Bui**
 Creekside ECS: **Jennifer Ablordeppey**
 Heritage ECS: **Alicia Temmesfeld**
 Hopewell ECS: **Jen Kret**
 Liberty ECS: **Sarah Chambers**
 Shawnee ECS: **Wendy Buhrlage**
 Wyandot ECS: **Misty Griesinger**
 Adena Elementary: **Tricia Wade**
 Cherokee Elementary: **Heidi Leatherwood**
 Endeavor Elementary: **Maggie Pasternak**
 Freedom Elementary: **Emma Hurt**
 Independence Elementary: **Ashley Crocus**
 Union Elementary: **Jen Feldmeyer**
 VanGorden Elementary: **Emily Brunt**
 Woodland Elementary: **Nina Minic-Earl**
 Hopewell Junior: **Jennifer Kegg**
 Liberty Junior: **Amy Landers**
 Plains Junior: **Ali Boger**
 Ridge Junior: **Emily Jackson**
 East Freshman: **Jennifer Greenwell-Berry**
 West Freshman: **Ron Stratman**
 Lakota East: **Erin Short**
 Lakota West: **Cheri Webber**



West Represents in 8th District Congressional Art Competition

Out of the more 260 pieces submitted to this year's 8th District Congressional Art Competition, twenty from Lakota West artists came out on top. Among them was grand prize winner **Ashley Fryer**, whose artwork (pictured above) will hang in the U.S. Capitol as part of a year-long exhibit. All student awardees include:

Painting, Drawing & Digital Art

Ashley Fryer - 1st Place & Grand Prize
Emily Daiker - 2nd Place
Amy Albert - 3rd Place
Taylor Hamilton - Honorable Mention
Taylor Keen - Honorable Mention
Audrey Nunley - Honorable Mention
Marialinda Roblero - Honorable Mention
Jasmine Walker - Honorable Mention

Photography

Martin Philip - 1st Place
Maria Hajjar - 2nd Place
Ashlynn Sapp - 3rd Place
Gabrielle Monsalve - Honorable Mention

Art in the Time of COVID

Annika Kinley, Chris Price, Holly Garver, Taylor Hamilton, Nicholas Helm, Zoe Morin, Micah Diaz, and Erica Shah.

**Winning entries in this category will be displayed in Congressman Warren Davidson's offices.*



Lakota Students Take Honors in State HOSA Competition

Students from both Lakota East and Lakota West high schools recently competed against 108 HOSA chapters in the virtual statewide competition. HOSA is a global organization for students who have an interest in exploring a future career in health sciences.

The top four teams at the state level in each category move on to the international competition. Lakota students will represent 12 of the teams from Ohio competing in June, including four first place wins.

First Place:

Julian Groseclose (East), Behavioral Health Knowledge Test

Julieta Ramirez, Allison Reed, Anitvir Taunque and **Anesh Vyas** (West), Biomed Anatomage

Sydney Guerin (East), Medical Reading

Karina Aslanyan, Mehek Bakali, Zeena Bayyari, Amisha Kejriwal, Natasha Kejriwal and Zoha Khan (East), Public Health

Second Place:

Bella Gallo, Maddie Saylor Ethan Vaught and Gracie West (West), Anatomy

Third Place:

Macy Collins, Madelyn Cox, Kirsten Kusel, Ryder Parcell and Abbie Theobald (East), Public Service Announcement

Brianna Harris (East), Research and Persuasive Speaking

Fourth Place:

Rachel Caulfield, Hailey Rottenberger, Isabelle Wright and Malachi Wood (East), Community Awareness

Peinda Bal, Amy Luong and Essence Sinclair (East), Creative Problem Solving

Emily Fuller and Chloe Kime (East), EMT

Pratickchhya Rimal (East), Human Growth and Development

Nisso Sacha (East), Researched Persuasive Writing and Speaking

AROUND LAKOTA



Super in 60: April Edition

In each month's edition of "Super in 60", Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller provides the latest district highlights in just 60 seconds. Get the latest on a district-wide Walk 4 Hope; a new partnership with neighborhood bridges to facilitate community support of students in need; the expansion of Lakota's one-to-one technology program; and an opportunity to celebrate Lakota's graduates who have committed to serving our country.

[Watch the Video](#)

District Expands 1:1 Device Initiative to Grades 3-5

Lakota's WE are Empowered program continues to grow for the 2021-2022 school year with one-to-one (1:1) access to learning devices expanding to all students in grades three through five.

"The goal of this initiative is to empower our students through personalized learning approaches purposefully supported by technology," said Lakota's Chief Technology Officer, **Todd Wesley**. Now, all elementary-aged students will have access to a district-owned Chromebook during the school day. Similar to sixth-graders, who began participating in the program in 2019, students will leave their devices at school at the end of the day.

[Read more](#)



Honoring the Class of 2021: Parade, Graduation & Light the Path

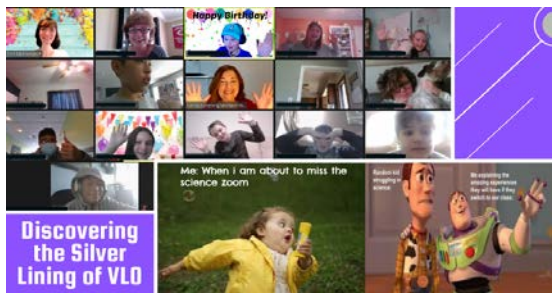
With May right around the corner, celebrations to honor the Lakota East and Lakota West Class of 2021 are set to have a more traditional look and feel, albeit with some modifications due to the coronavirus.

Seniors will again have the opportunity to return to their elementary schools for the Parade of Graduates on May 17. To follow safety guidelines, the event will take place outside each building, with seniors in their caps and gowns, carrying signs depicting their future plans. The annual event, which started in 2017, not only gives seniors a unique sendoff, but gives elementary-aged students a chance to see all of the opportunities that could await them.

Graduation returns to Xavier University's Cintas Center this year; in order to follow social distancing protocols and allow up to four guests per graduate, each school will hold two ceremonies. For those that cannot attend in person, the events will be live streamed courtesy of the Cintas Center.

Once again, the community is invited to "light the path" for the Class of 2021 by tying a ribbon around a tree or porch light in their high school's colors. At 8:21 p.m. on the night of graduation, 2021 in military time, neighbors can turn on their front porch lights in honor of Lakota's graduates.

[Read more](#)



Junior High Classes Share Memorable Virtual Learning Experience

Virtual learning teachers faced big challenges at the beginning of the school year.

"Building relationships with students has always been a cornerstone of my in-person classes, so

creating a comfortable, positive, encouraging online environment was extremely important to me as I began the school year,” said Plains Junior science teacher **Erin Middendorf**. “I was worried it was going to be especially difficult for the new seventh-graders, who were not only new to virtual learning, but also to junior high.”

She wanted this school year to be a highlight that her students talked about in the future, instead of a negative experience it had become to so many people already.

[Read more](#)



East Seniors Leave Legacy: Eco-Classroom Taking Shape

A group of 120-plus Lakota East seniors are leaving a lasting mark on their soon-to-be alma mater. A new eco-classroom is beginning to take shape just outside of the school's stadium, all thanks to the leadership of the National Honor Society. When complete, the space will be a fully functional, ADA-compliant classroom with student seating, a whiteboard, Wifi connectivity, overhead shade and beautiful surrounding landscape.

“We decided to keep moving forward with the environmental aspect [started by last year's class] while still giving back to our school in some way,” said NHS President **Shelby Alderman**, referencing [last year's solar array service project](#).

[Read more](#)

FEATURED PHOTOS



Silly String for a Cause

A Silly String Spectacle at Hopewell Junior

Last month, the creativity of Hopewell Junior School's National Junior Honor Society helped raise \$2,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. A creative display at the building's entrance served as a daily reminder of the friendly competition, which ended with a silly string spectacle during lunch for the losing grade level. Assistant Principal and seventh grade team captain **Blake Cripe** took one for the team!



Independence Student Crushes Ski Chair Challenge

When Independence Elementary VLO teacher **Amy Weisbrot** told her class that she needed a place to put her old skis that were collecting dust in her basement, sixth-grader **Colton Roth** jumped into

action. Using his math and problem-solving skills, he crushed the ski chair challenge, going above and beyond with two matching ski tables and coasters. Way to go, Colton!

NEW BUSINESS



Lakota East Jazz Fest Set for May 15

Join our Lakota East musicians for an evening full of music, food and fun. The Lakota East Jazz Fest is set for Saturday, May 15 from 5:30 – 9:00 p.m. in the school's north parking lot.

Featured bands include Eastside Jazz Ensemble, 2 O'Clock Jazz Ensemble, East Freshman Jazz Ensemble, Liberty Junior School Jazz Band, and Hopewell Junior School Jazz Band.

Attendees are asked to bring a blanket or lawn chair. There will also be space available in the parking lot for spectators to view the event from their car.

Food trucks from Pizza Cicerone, Patriot Grill, Mexi-Q's Hibachi, and Kona Ice will be on hand to provide dinner and snacks. A basket raffle will also be part of the event.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions everyone will be required to wear a mask and follow social distancing protocols. Rain date is Sunday, May 16 from 3:00 - 6:30 p.m.



May 5: Next Coffee Chat with the Superintendent

Join Superintendent Miller on Facebook Live (@LakotaSuper) for his monthly coffee chat on May 5 at 8 a.m. Get an update on the end of this school year as well as a look ahead to the fall. You'll also have the opportunity to share your questions and concerns.

To help Mr. Miller efficiently prioritize questions and concerns, consider sending in your thoughts [via Thought Exchange](#). Other participants will have an opportunity to rate your thoughts (and share their own), helping us address the most pressing concerns in the allotted time frame.

We hope you'll join us!

[Learn more](#)

ON THE RADAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 28: Watch Lakota's Military Commitment Ceremony

Join us as we celebrate our seniors who have made a commitment to enter either a military academy or branch of service after graduation. Due to COVID restrictions, the in-person ceremony on Wednesday, April 28 at 7 p.m. will be exclusive to Lakota's senior honorees and their families, but the district will live stream the program on West Chester Township's YouTube channel for the larger community to enjoy.

[Visit West Chester Township's YouTube channel on April 28 at 7 p.m.](#) to recognize our student honorees as a community.

Military Commitment Ceremony

April 28
7 p.m.

Coffee Chat with the Superintendent

May 5
8 a.m.
Zoom

Lakota Board of Education Meeting

May 10
6:30 p.m.
Plains Jr. & Zoom

Preschool Last Day for Students

May 18

Preschool Teacher In-Service Day

May 19

Early Release K-12

May 19

Lakota East Graduation

May 19
5 & 8 p.m.
Cintas Center/ Live Stream

Light the Path for East Class of 2021

May 19
8:21 p.m.

K-12 Early Release/Students' Last Day

May 20

K-12 Teacher In-Service Day

May 21

Lakota West Graduation

May 21
5 & 8 p.m.
Cintas Center/ Live Stream

Light the Path for West Class of 2021

May 21
8:21 p.m.

District Calendar

WE are Lakota



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