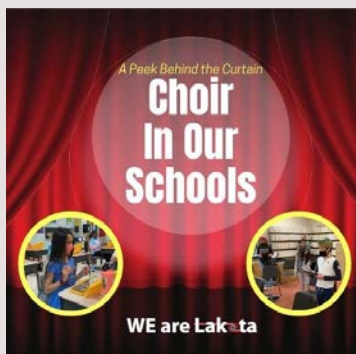




March 23, 2021 Edition

## FEATURED In This Issue



### Behind the Curtain: Choir in Our Schools

It's National Music In Our Schools month!

In this edition of "A Peek Behind the Curtain," you'll get an inside look on how music and choir class is still very much a part of Lakota Local Schools - even during a pandemic.

[Watch video](#)



### Super in 60: Lakota's Latest in 60 Seconds

In each month's edition of "Super in 60," Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller provides the latest district highlights in just 60 seconds. Get the scoop on year-end senior traditions like prom, graduation and Parade of Graduates, two state champions, the continuation of Lakota's Master Facilities Planning process and all things registration season.



### COVID-19 & Spring Break

While the number of positive COVID-19 cases across the district have been much lower since the return from winter break, it is important to remember that [our policies regarding students and staff who are symptomatic, have been in contact with a positive COVID-19 case or are awaiting test results have not changed.](#)

[Watch video](#)

[Full story](#)

## Around Lakota

[Educational Visioning Process Puts Lakota One Step Closer to Master Facilities Plan](#)

[Words of Wisdom: Why are You Lucky to be in Lakota?](#)

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## SHOUT-OUT

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### Lakota Artists Win National Awards

How many students can say they have a national award? Eight Lakota artists can now make that claim.

They entered the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Competition last October but have been preparing for it long before that, spending years developing their skills and working countless hours to create and enter a wide variety of art competitions. Their hard work has paid off and the students below will be honored at a star-studded event at Carnegie Hall on June 9.

The Scholastic competition was founded in 1923 and, for nearly a century, has inspired bold ideas in creative teens throughout the country. The winners represent the best in the nation,



### Governor's Art Exhibition Features Lakota Artwork

The final results are in for the 2021 Ohio Governor's Youth Juried Art Exhibition and 12 art pieces from Lakota students were selected! Over 6,000 pieces were entered across the state and only 283 works were chosen for the exhibition.

Congratulations to Lakota East's **Ream Awad, Blake Scherer, Audrey Williams & Alexander Wilson**, as well as Lakota West's **Katie Evert, Sydney Luebbe, Audrey Nunley, Marialinda Roblero, Jasmine Walker** (2 artworks), and **Taylor Keen** (2 artworks). They represent the best of the best in Ohio!

and include these national medalists from Lakota.

**Meredyth Blake** (East) -- Silver Medal,  
Photography

**Ashley Fryer** (West) – Silver Medal, Drawing &  
Illustration

**Sydney Jones** (West) – Gold Medal,  
Photography

**Daniel Moore** (West) – Silver Medal,  
Photography

**Marialinda Roblero** (West) – Gold Medal,  
Painting

**Brianna Rosato** (West) – 1 Gold Medal & 2  
Silver Medals, Photography

**Zara Silvis** (West) – Silver Medal, Photography

**Coniah Zoogah** (West) – Gold Medal, Painting



### **West's Luebbe Takes Top Cincinnati Overture Art Award**

A big congratulations to Lakota West's **Sydney Luebbe** who was recently named the 2021 Cincinnati Overture Award Winner for Visual Arts.

The Overture Awards Competition is the area's largest solo arts competition. To enter, Sydney submitted a portfolio of six paintings and drawings and competed in a total of three different levels of the competition. As the winner, Sydney was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship and is the fourth Lakota West Overture winner for visual arts.

Congratulations also to **Marialinda Roblero** for being selected as a finalist in the competition and winning a \$500 scholarship.



### **West Dance Team State Champions for Hip Hop**

The Lakota West High School Dance Team came out on top at the 2021 Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators Virtual State Cheer & Dance Championships on March 13. The team secured the highest overall score in the "Large School Hip Hop" division and were crowned State Champions. Congratulations Firebirds!

## Master Facilities:

# Educational Visioning Community Update



How can our  
facilities best  
support the future  
vision of teaching  
& learning at  
Lakota?



## WE are Building Our Future

### Educational Visioning Process Puts Lakota One Step Closer to Master Facilities Plan

The most recent series of [community listening sessions](#), focus groups and a [ThoughtExchange](#) reinvigorated Lakota's Master Facilities Planning (MFP) process, which was paused in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through all these opportunities, participants were asked to reflect on lessons learned from the pandemic that might alter Lakota's original visioning exercise completed over a year ago.

On March 16, a summary of that feedback gathered from students, parents and staff was shared during the first community update since Lakota's MFP committee began reconvening in November 2020.

[Read more](#)



### Words of Wisdom: Lucky to be in Lakota

In this month's Words of Wisdom, students from across the district share why they feel lucky to be in Lakota. You can join in the conversation on social media using the #Lucky2BNLakota.

[Watch video](#)



### Symphonic Winds Share Music with Kindergartners

Some of Lakota's oldest and youngest learners shared a unique learning experience last week when Lakota West's Symphonic Winds zoomed into Alyssa Carr's Liberty Early Childhood kindergarten class. While COVID has posed many challenges over the past year, it has also resulted in many creative and fun collaborations like this one.

Alyssa and her husband Andrew Carr (West's band director) were discussing how it would be fun for the band to play for her kindergarten students, so they decided to test it out using Zoom. And, if they could get the technology to work well, Mr. Carr could bring a live Zoom to other schools in the district so students could understand what band class looks like, what band students do, and how much fun it is to play an instrument at the high school level.

[Read more](#)



## Plains Production Just What the Students Ordered

This year's theater production at Plains Junior may have stood in stark contrast to the musical spectacle the school normally stages, but it was just what students needed.

"I turn to music, dancing and acting to relax and unwind," said eighth-grader **Mackenzie Nitz**. "I needed that more than ever with the pandemic this year."

Plains choral teacher and theater advisor **Abbie Miller** said it was her students' initial suggestion and persistence that ultimately pushed her and co-advisor **Aaron Nunley** to find a way to make the show go on in spite of the year's challenges.

[Read more](#)



## East Students Spread Positivity During Hope Week

"Kindness should be free."

"Smiles are free."

These two statements, made by Lakota East sophomore **Caitlyn Spaulding** and junior **E.J. Upton**, succinctly describe the Hope Week celebrations at both main campus and East Freshman.

"This week, as always, our goal is to spread hope/ and positivity, and to increase suicide prevention awareness and decrease the stigma around mental health issues," explained **Erin Schneider**, co-advisor to the Lakota East Hope Squad. "We believe the little things can mean so much to people," she continued. "Even though in-person learning has been a positive overall this year, it's still been a challenging year. As much as we all try to smile with our

eyes, it's just not the same, so we're trying to find little ways to brighten people's days."

[Read more](#)

## FEATURED PHOTOS



### Independence Applauded for Recent 'Operation Overseas' Effort

As a token of appreciation for Independence Elementary School's student-led [Operation Overseas: Treats for Troops](#), the school received a special letter, Certificate of Authenticity and U.S. Flag from the U.S. Air Force's 455th Expeditionary Medical Group. Sixth-grader **Trevor Earnest** drew his inspiration for the school's recent food drive he organized from his dad, a surgeon in the U.S. Air Force currently deployed in Afghanistan.

The letter stated, "We are grateful for your thoughtfulness and hard work remembering us in this uncertain time. It is truly an honor serving our country, knowing there are people like the students, staff and parents of Independence Elementary supporting us back home." Independence will proudly display the U.S. flag, which was recently flown in combat onboard an HH-60M blackhawk helicopter in Afghanistan.

## NEW BUSINESS



## April Kindergarten Readiness Series for Early Registrants

Parents of incoming kindergartners who are enrolled for the 2021-2022 school year by the April 1 early registration deadline are invited to join one or more sessions in this special four-part "Kindergarten Readiness" virtual series. A different topic will be tackled weekly throughout April, helping new Lakota parents navigate all the tools and resources available to them as parents of a school-age child.

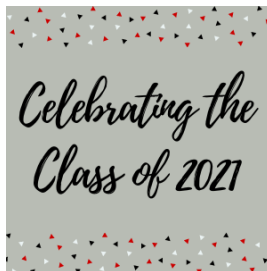
Session #1: Lunch, Transportation, Clinic, Oh My!  
Wednesday, April 7 - 7 p.m.

Session #2: Skill Readiness & Preparation  
Wednesday, April 14 - 7 p.m.

Session #3: Social & Emotional Readiness  
Wednesday, April 21 - 7 p.m.

Session #4: Questions & Answers  
Wednesday, April 28 - 7 p.m.

Families who have registered by April 1 will receive an email with links to the sessions. An email will be sent out weekly to reach families who continue to register after April 1. [See the event listing for complete session descriptions. Visit the kindergarten registration website to learn more and enroll.](#)



## Celebrating the Class of 2021

Lakota is excited to announce our plans to celebrate the Class of 2021.

### Senior Prom

Lakota West: April 24 at the Savannah Center  
Lakota East: May 8 at the Sharonville Convention Center  
There will be no after prom events this year.

### Parade of Graduates

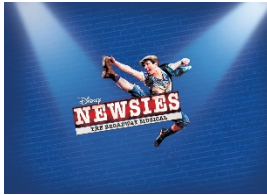
(Outside at each elementary school)  
May 17 at 10 a.m.; May 18 rain date

### Graduation at Xavier University's Cintas Center

(Graduation will be live streamed, courtesy of Cintas Center)  
Lakota East: May 19  
Lakota West: May 21

All of these events will be held with safety protocols in place. Our schools will be sharing more details with students and parents. While we know that these events will look different than in years past, we are excited to be able to continue these traditions for our seniors.





## West Theater Brings 'Newsies' to the Stage

In April, Lakota West theatre will present Newsies, a production that is perfect for the whole family and every audience.

Set in turn-of-the-century New York City, Newsies is the rousing tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy and leader of a band of teenaged "newsies." When titans of publishing raise distribution prices at the newsboys' expense, Jack rallies newsies from across the city to strike against the unfair conditions and fight for what's right.

Packed with non-stop thrills and a timeless message, Newsies features the now classic songs "Carrying the Banner," "Seize the Day," and "Santa Fe." Following with state performing arts restrictions for COVID-19, only 170 tickets will be sold to each performance. All parties will be socially distanced and face coverings are required. The show will also be streamed.

### Performance Times

April 9, 10, 16, 17 at 7:30 p.m.

April 11 & 18 at 3 p.m.

Regular price tickets go on sale March 26 at [Lakota West Theatre](#). Tickets will be available for streaming at a later date.

[Get tickets](#)



## April 22: Community Conversation on Resiliency

Resiliency is an important topic for discussion, especially during a pandemic in which we have collectively experienced loss, toxic stress, and trauma. Children and adults have all been impacted in some way. How do we strengthen our ability to recover more quickly from life events, and how do we help our children?

Caring Community Collaborative (C3), the Butler County Family & Children First Council and Lakota Local Schools are excited to provide a free virtual movie screening and host a community conversation. Join us and watch RESILIENCE: BIOLOGY OF STRESS & SCIENCE OF HOPE.

[Learn more](#)

## ON THE RADAR

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**April 7: Coffee Chat with the Superintendent**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Join Superintendent Miller on Facebook Live (@LakotaSuper) for his monthly coffee chat on April 7 at 3 p.m. for an update on the school year and 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 timeframe.

## 2021-22 Registration: General, VLO, Preschool

Registration is now underway for in-school PreK-12 as well as the Virtual Learning Option.

### Virtual Learning Option

[Click here](#) to complete the enrollment form by the April 9 deadline. The fully-online curriculum is designed, taught and led by Lakota teachers and administrators. Information regarding the next iteration of the program, including enrollment, informational videos and links for the Q&A sessions, are available at [www.lakotaonline.com/vlo](http://www.lakotaonline.com/vlo).

### Preschool

The 2021-2022 lottery application for Lakota's tuition-based preschool will be open through March 29. [Click here](#) to complete and submit the 2021-2022 Lakota preschool application. [Visit the Lakota Preschool website](#) to learn more about the program. Please direct any questions to the preschool office at (513) 870-5378.

### In-Person Grades K-12

Early kindergarten registration extends through April 1. [Visit the Welcome Center website](#) for more information and to register online for grades K-12 for the 2021-22 school year. All questions can be directed to the Welcome Center at [enroll@lakotaonline.com](mailto:enroll@lakotaonline.com), or (513) 682-4120.

## #Lucky2BNLakota Social Media Contest

Why do you feel lucky to be in Lakota? Take this month's social media challenge and you could win a pot of gold in the form of Lakota spirit gear.

Share what makes you #Lucky2BNLakota on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or all three, to let the Lakota community in on the best part of being a Lakota student, parent or staff member. Be sure to include #Lucky2BNLakota and tag Lakota for a chance to win. The post with the most votes (or "likes") will be named this month's lucky winner.

### [VLO Q&A Session for 2021-22 School Year \(K-6 Families\)](#)

March 23  
7 p.m.  
Zoom

### [VLO Q&A Session for 2021-22 School Year \(7-12 Families\)](#)

March 24  
7 p.m.  
Zoom

### [Lakota Board of Education Work Session](#)

March 25  
6:30 p.m.  
Plains Jr. & Zoom

### [No School: Spring Break for Pre-12](#)

March 29-April 5

### [Preschool Registration Ends](#)

March 29

### [Early Kindergarten Registration Ends](#)

April 1

### [Coffee Chat with the Superintendent](#)

April 7  
3 p.m.  
Facebook Live

### [Summer School Registration Closes](#)

April 9  
4 p.m.

### [VLO 2021-22 Enrollment Ends](#)

April 9  
4 p.m.

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

April 12  
6:30 p.m.  
Plains Jr. & Zoom

[District Calendar](#)

## Register for Summer School through April 9

Lakota's Secondary Summer School program provides an opportunity for students who will be in grades 7-12 for the 2021-2022 school-year to earn original and recovery credit. Students may also participate in summer sessions for select math courses to qualify for advanced math placement the following school year (upcoming seventh- and eighth-graders).

All summer classes will be held remotely May 24 through July 2.

More information can be found at [www.lakotaonline.com/summerschool](http://www.lakotaonline.com/summerschool).

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# WE are Lak@ta



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SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.