

WE are Lakota



A Look Around Lakota

District E-Newsletter

February 23, 2021 Edition

FEATURED In This Issue



Join Us for Summer Fun Fair on March 3

Let's put the snow behind us and start looking forward to fun summer activities! Lakota's annual Summer Fun Fair is set for March 3 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. -- with a new twist.

This year's virtual format will allow families to meet 'face-to-face' with local organizations offering youth summer



Super in 60: February Edition

Got 60 seconds to spare? In each month's edition of "Super in 60", Lakota Superintendent **Matthew Miller** provides the latest district highlights in 60 seconds flat.

Get the latest on Lakota's staff COVID-19 vaccinations, Black History Month activities, Master Facilities



K-12 Registration Continues, Kindergarten Information Nights Coming Soon

"What are you waiting for?" says this Hopewell ECS Hero, as part of an [ongoing video series about kindergarten registration](#) for next school year.

Registration for grades K-12, including Lakota's all-day kindergarten program, is now open for the 2021-2022 school

programming, all from the comfort of your home.

Almost 70 exhibitors ranging from summer camps, learning centers and childcare facilities to athletic leagues, art programs and local parks and recreation will be on hand to share information and answer your questions about their summer offerings.

How to Attend

Planning and important upcoming events like Summer Fun Fair, Community Conversations and registration for next school year.

Watch Now

year. Early kindergarten registration extends through April 1. Parents of incoming kindergartners are encouraged to attend one of the virtual Kindergarten Information Nights at the early childhood school in their [attendance zone](#).

March 10 @ 7 p.m.
Creekside, Heritage & Wyandot

March 11 @ 7 p.m.
Hopewell & Shawnee

March 16 @ 7 p.m.
Liberty

Register Online

Around Lakota

- [Master Facilities Plan February Update](#)
- [Words of Wisdom: What Do You Love about Lakota?](#)
- [Lakota Receives \\$145K BroadbandOhio Grant](#)
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SHOUT-OUTS



West Girls Soccer Coach Selected to Lead All-American Game

Congratulations to Lakota West girls soccer head coach **Brigit Reder**, one of just six coaches nationwide selected to lead this year's High School All-American Game. Reder joins two others to coach the West All-American girls team competing March 29 in St. Louis, MO.

The Lakota West graduate led the Firebird team to the school's first-ever undefeated season and a state championship title in 2019.

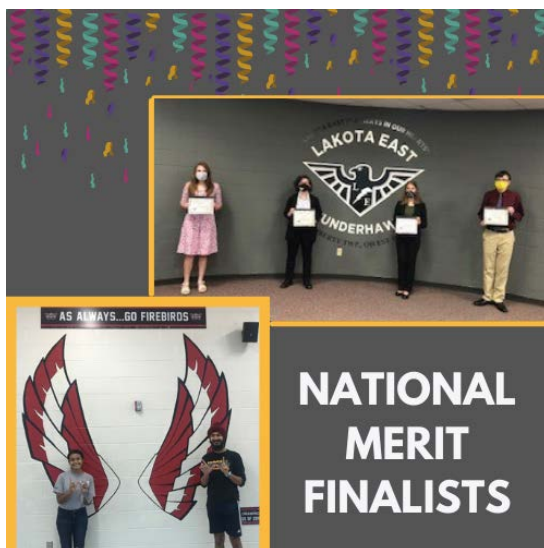
Congratulations on this prestigious honor Brigit!



West Artists Move on in the Cincinnati Overture Award Competition

Marialinda Roblero and **Sydney Luebbe** are two of the four Visual Arts finalists in the 2021 Cincinnati Overture Award Competition. This is a portfolio competition where each student submitted a collection of their work along with written descriptions of each piece. As a finalist they have already won a \$500 scholarship.

Cincinnati Overture winners in all six categories will be announced March 16 and each will win a \$2,000 scholarship. This is the third time Lakota West has had 2 finalists in this category.



Lakota Seniors Named National Merit Finalists

Congratulations to these Lakota seniors who have moved on as finalists in the annual National Merit Scholarship Program, recognizing the nation's most academically talented high school seniors.

Honorees include:

Audrey Earnest (East)
Courtney Lyden (East)
Chris Mages (East)
Allison Pratt (East)
Antivir Taunque (West)
Vidushi Trivedi (West)

Only one percent of the 1.6 million students who took the PSAT as juniors are named finalists. In March, the National Merit Scholarship Program will begin awarding scholarships to selected finalists based on test scores, overall academic record and recommendations.

East Teacher Named Educator of the Year

Lakota East's **Dr. Tisha Grote** has been named the American Legion Department of Ohio Educator of the Year!

Jerry Nelson, Americanism Chair for Post 681, states, "Dr. Grote has certainly promoted the Americanism principles that the American Legion ascribe to and we greatly appreciate her efforts and dedication to her students. Her students have excelled in the Americanism Programs that they have participated in. She richly deserves this honor and we are very glad she will be recognized for all her qualities in educating Lakota East students."

Dr. Grote will be presented with the award on March 13 at the American Legion's Winter Conference.



West Gymnastics: Three State Qualifiers and a District Coach of the Year

Following the District qualifiers, three Lakota West senior gymnasts are headed to State: senior **Olivia Leonard** (all-around, bar, vault & floor), **Ramiah Curry** (beam, alternate on floor and all around) and **Addy Shultz**



East, West Swimmers Qualify for State Championship

Seven Lakota East and Lakota West swimmers left last weekend's District meet as State qualifiers. Congratulations and good luck to all competing in the State Championships Feb. 25-27 in Canton, Ohio:

(beam). West sophomore **Madelyn Power** and the three qualifiers were all named to the All-District Team. West gymnastics coach **Mardi Dagley** was also named "District Coach of the Year." Congratulations Firebirds and best of luck at the next level of competition!

Lakota East

Isabelle Gomez (200 & 500 Freestyle)

Evan Devine (50 Freestyle)

Adam McDonald (200 Individual Medley & 200 Breaststroke)

Lakota West

Paige Striley (100 Breaststroke & 100 Butterfly)

Ashley Fryer (200 & 500 Freestyle)

Sarah Glosson, Reagan Manning, Paige Striley & Ashley Fryer (200 & 400 Freestyle Relay)

AROUND LAKOTA



Master Facilities Planning February Update

In March 2020, the Lakota Master Facilities Plan (MFP) committee pressed pause on its work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee reconvened in November to continue this important process, as outlined in [Lakota's strategic plan](#). The last time Lakota completed a modified MFP was in 2008. The last comprehensive plan was completed in the early 2000s.

The district has planned several opportunities for the community to be involved in the facilities planning process as well. Lakota will host a [series of community conversations for parents, secondary students and staff](#) to discuss what lessons have been learned about educating students over the past 11 months. A [ThoughtExchange has also been launched](#) to gather input from the community and staff about this same topic.

[Read more](#)



Words of Wisdom: What Do You Love about Lakota?

What do you love about Lakota? That's what we asked students around the district in this month's Words of Wisdom. [Click here to watch the video.](#) Join the conversation on social media by using #WEloveLakota and tagging the district in your posts on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

[Watch video](#)



\$145K Grant Aids Virtual Students with Internet Connectivity, Provides District Savings

Lakota Local Schools was proud to put to work a recent grant that covered the entire cost of 180 new Chromebooks complete with integrated Internet capability. Most of the devices have already been deployed to Lakota's fourteen K-6 schools for students lacking a device and Internet connectivity to access digital resources while learning at home.

"This school year has brought about many challenges for our families without devices or access to the Internet in their homes," said Lakota's Chief Operating Officer **Todd Wesley**. "By way of mobile hotspots, we've been committed to getting those students the access they need, but this grant has allowed us to expand our offering and provide devices complete with integrated Internet to better meet student needs."

The district was awarded almost \$145,000 through the BroadbandOhio Connectivity grant.

[Read more](#)



West Students Engineer Solutions to COVID Challenges

When given the chance to find a problem and solve it, students in **Jim McClure's** Engineering Design & Development capstone class looked no further than the halls of Lakota West High School. In the end, their work in the Butler Tech satellite course yielded industry-recognized certifications and viable solutions to two different challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic this school year.

"This year, it's all them and that's the way the curriculum is supposed to be. Students go out and find the problem and then find the solution," said McClure, noting how this year's "no visitor" policy encouraged him to look at capstone projects a bit differently. Rather than linking groups up with local businesses seeking specific solutions, he gave students more free reign.

[Read more](#)

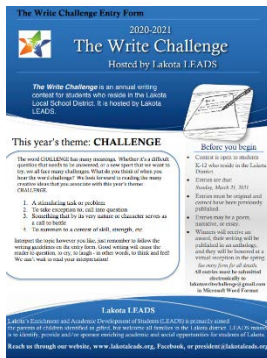
FEATURED PHOTOS



A Random Act of Kindness at Liberty ECS

Liberty ECS kindergartner **Adisyn Rice** and her family took the school's recent "Random Acts of Kindness Week" challenge to new heights. Choosing from the school's choice board of optional kindness activities, the family led a donation drive to help a local family in need.

NEW BUSINESS



Calling All Writers!

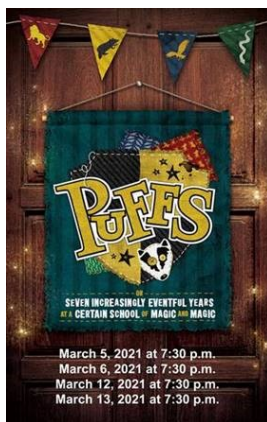
It's time for the annual Write Challenge contest for K-12 students within the Lakota Local School District. The contest is hosted by [Lakota LEADS](#), and this year's theme is CHALLENGE.

The word CHALLENGE has many meanings. Whether it's a difficult question that needs to be answered, or a new sport that you want to try, everyone faces many challenges. What do you think of when you hear the word CHALLENGE?

Entries can be a poem, narrative or essay and are due by March 21. Winners will receive an award, their writing will be published in an anthology, and they will be honored at a virtual reception in the spring.

Click for more information: [Write Challenge Entry Form/Instructions](#).

[Learn more](#)



East Theater: In Person & On Demand Viewing Options

Lakota East will be presenting a funny and inventive play called PUFFS in March.

What's it about? Through books and movies, the world followed a certain wizard through seven years of heroics at a certain wizard school. This is not his story. It is the story of the underdog who wants to be a hero. This is the story of PUFFS or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic.

There are several ways to enjoy watching East's talented theater students perform PUFFS.

First, live performance tickets are available for March 5, 6, 12 & 13 at 7:30 p.m. These tickets are very limited due to COVID restrictions; [click here to purchase these live tickets](#).

You can also purchase On Demand presale codes for the show and watch PUFFS between March 10-13 in the comfort of your own home. [Click here to preorder](#).



March 3 Community Conversation for Parents: Lessons Learned During the Pandemic

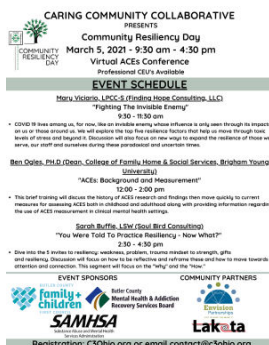
Many lessons have been learned about educating students through a global pandemic. From remote learning to the creation of the Lakota Virtual Learning Option to a safe return to the classroom for in-person learning, we want to hear from our parents.

Lakota Local Schools will be holding a virtual community conversation for parents that will focus on what we have learned from educating students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the traditional format of Lakota's Community Conversations, participants will break into small groups to exchange ideas with neighbors and school leaders, including school board members.

Join us for this virtual Community Conversation on Tuesday, March 2 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Advanced registration is required. The Zoom link will be shared with all participants the afternoon of March 2.

Parents are encouraged to [click here to complete the registration form](#). A registration form will be emailed directly to Lakota staff. Student participation will be determined at the building level.

[Learn more](#)



Community Resiliency Day Event on March 5

Caring Community Collaborative (C3) will host a major virtual event on Community Resiliency Day, focusing on adverse childhood experiences and trauma-informed care. The event takes place on March 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

C3, along with sponsors Butler County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery Board and Butler County Family & Children First Council - and community partners Lakota Local Schools and Envision Partnerships - present this free program. The full day conference is divided into three segments featuring three outstanding speakers.

For more information on each topic and the speakers, visit C3ohio.org. Professional CEU's are available. [Click here for a flyer with more details.](#)

[Click here to register.](#)

ON THE RADAR

Schedule Changes Due to COVID Vaccinations

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lakota staff will be able to receive its second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination tomorrow, Feb. 24. [The district announced the following schedule adjustment on Feb. 8.](#)

Feb. 24: No school for all Lakota students (including VLO) so that staff can receive the second dose of the vaccine, if needed (no change to original announcement).

Feb. 25: Remote learning for all schools and VLO continues as normal.

Feb. 26: Remote learning for all schools and VLO continues as normal.

March 1: In-person learning continues for all in-person Lakota students.

"While the first dose had very little impact on staff absences, we have been advised that the second dose is more likely to cause side effects that could result in staff members feeling ill for a period of 24-48 hours," said Superintendent Matthew Miller. Concern about the severe shortage in substitute teachers led to the district's decision to shift to remote learning for two days.

Remote learning for students will follow the guidelines that have been used in previous remote days this school year.

Next Coffee Chat: March 3

Join Superintendent Miller on Facebook Live (@LakotaSuper) for his next monthly coffee chat on March 3 at 8 a.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 time frame.

We hope you'll join us!

#WELoveLakota Social Media Contest Ends Soon

In celebration of Valentine's Day in February, share what you love about Lakota – with a photo!

Think about what you would put on a conversation heart about Lakota: Love My Teacher, Love My School, Love My Team, Love the Chicken Nuggets or ????

[No School for Students \(calamity day for staff vaccinations\)](#)

February 24

[Kinship Connections: Grief Support](#)

February 24

7 p.m.

Zoom

[Remote Learning for all Lakota Students](#)

February 25

[Remote Learning for all Lakota Students](#)

February 26

[In Person Learning Resumes \(for all In Person Students\)](#)

February 26

[Coffee Chat with the Superintendent](#)

March 3

8 a.m.

Facebook Live

(@LakotaSuper)

[Summer Fun Fair](#)

March 3

6:30 - 8 p.m.

[Register Online](#)

[Community Resiliency Day](#)

March 5

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Virtual

[Summer School Registration Opens](#)

March 8

[Lakota Board of Education Meeting](#)

March 8

6:30 p.m.

Plains Jr. & Zoom

[VLO Q & A for 2021-2022 \(K-6 Families\)](#)

March 9

7 p.m.

Zoom

Whatever it might be, GET CREATIVE and share a photo that illustrates that one thing or person that gives you a reason to love Lakota. Participate all month long on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram by tagging Lakota's account and #WEloveLakota.

At the end of the month, the top photo on each site with the most "likes" will be declared our "most loved" Lakota people, places or programs. In return, Lakota's School & Community Relations department will deliver a special valentine surprise to those individuals or groups on your behalf.

USDA Free Meals Program Extended through End of School Year

In response to the financial hardship felt nationwide as a result of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced an extension to its free meals program for all students announced this fall. Originally ending Dec. 31, 2020, all students learning both in-person and virtually are now eligible through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. The program is being offered at no cost to the district.

Since Sept. 16, student accounts have not been charged for any breakfast or lunch meals that meet the regular meal criteria set forth by the USDA. All students can receive one breakfast and one lunch daily at no cost. A-la-carte purchases will still be charged as usual. VLO students are able to participate in a [twice-weekly meal distribution program](#) where they can receive up to 10 meals. [Click here for complete criteria surrounding the USDA's free meals program.](#)

Kindergarten Info Night (Creekside, Heritage & Wyandot)

March 10
7 p.m.
Zoom

VLO O & A for 2021-2022 (7-12 Families)

March 10
7 p.m.
Zoom

District Calendar

WE are Lakota



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