

# WE are Lakota



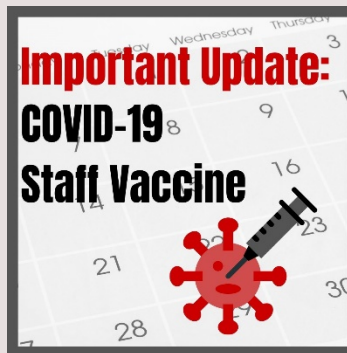
February 9, 2021 Edition

## FEATURED In This Issue



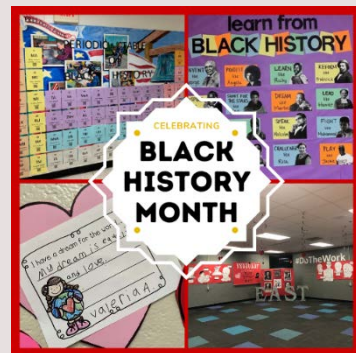
### A Peek Behind the Curtain: Lakota School Resource Officers

From opening up milks at lunch and teaching classroom lessons to leading safety drills and making connections with students, being a school resource officer is a lot more than meets the eye. In this edition of "A Peek Behind the Curtain," you'll get an inside look at the unique role of Lakota's SROs. While everything they do has student safety at its core,



### Staff COVID-19 Vaccine Update: School Schedule Change

Lakota staff members will have the option to receive their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination on Wednesday, Feb. 24. As we announced on Jan. 26, all Lakota students will not have school on this day to allow all staff to take advantage of this opportunity.



### Black History Month

The theme throughout Lakota this month is clear - and it's more than just Valentine's Day. From bulletin board displays, book studies and trivia to Spotify playlists, slideshows and read-alouds, Lakota students and staff are finding creative ways to celebrate Black History Month.

some of the responsibilities that fill their daily workload might surprise you.

[Watch the complete "Peek Behind the Curtain" video series.](#)

[Watch the video](#)

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. This reality has the potential to severely impact our staff attendance on the days following the vaccination. This possibility paired with a substitute shortage this year makes it critical to adjust our schedule for Thursday and Friday, Feb. 25-26.

[Full story](#)

[Full story](#)

#### Around Lakota Features

- [Endeavor Sixth-Graders Create Kindness Crew](#)
- [New Student Groups Focus on Diversity](#)
- [P&G Partners with Lakota on Te Da La Mano Program](#)

#### New Business

- [Feb. 23: Remote Learning Meal Distribution for In-Person Learners](#)
- [Master Facilities Planning Resumes](#)
- [Lakota to Host Community Vaccination Clinics](#)
- [#WEloveLakota Social Media Contest](#)

---

## SHOUT-OUTS

---



## Six Lakota Students Selected as Overture Award Semi-Finalists

The Cincinnati Arts Association recently announced the semi-finalists in its 2021 Overture Awards program. The Overture Awards recognize and reward excellence in the arts among Greater Cincinnati students in grades 9-12.

The competition is the area's largest solo arts competition and offers awards in six artistic disciplines: creative writing, dance, instrumental music, theatre, visual art, and vocal music. The awards finals will take place on March 6; good luck to these talented Lakota West students:

### Instrumental Music

**Alexander Merk** (senior)

### Visual Art

**Ella Chaffee** (senior)

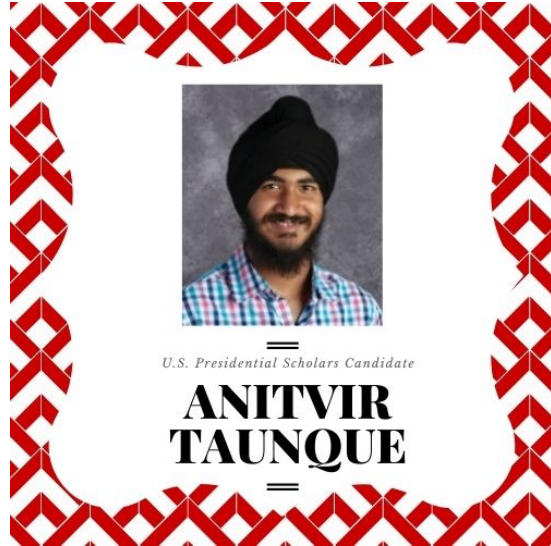
**Sydney Luebbe** (senior)

**Marialinda Roblero** (senior)

**Brian Usrey** (senior)

### Vocal Music

**Kassie Martin** (junior)



## West Senior Named Presidential Scholar

Lakota West senior **Anitvir Taunque** has been named as a candidate of the 2021 United States Presidential Scholars Program.

Less than one percent of high school seniors receive this invitation. The program dates back to 1964 when it was created by Executive Order of President Lyndon B. Johnson to recognize distinguished seniors for their accomplishments.



### East Holds Athletic Signing Day Event

The Lakota East Athletic Department hosted a National Letter of Intent Signing Day event on Feb. 3 to recognize Thunderhawk student-athletes who will take their talents to the collegiate level next fall. Below is the list of ten Lakota East young men and women, through hard work and many sacrifices, who have earned the opportunity to continue to play their sport while receiving a college education.

- Will Edkins:** Ohio Northern University (lacrosse)
- Jack Hartmann:** Ashland University (football)
- Justin Katona:** Wittenburg University (lacrosse)
- Dillon Lacey:** Wright State University Lake Campus (baseball)
- Luca Larubbio:** Thomas More University (football)
- Nicholas Leman:** University of Vermont (soccer)
- Rachel Moore:** Heidelberg University (soccer)
- Adam Murphy:** Capital University (golf)
- Ryan Murphy:** Capital University (golf)
- Owen Opp:** Otterbein University (lacrosse)



### Signing Day for West Football Scholar-Athletes

The Lakota West Athletic Department hosted its football signing day event on Feb. 3, the first day of the NCAA's "regular" football signing period. Eight senior football players signed their commitment letters to continue their academic and athletic careers at their respective schools (seniors Andre Proffitt and Aneesh Vyas signed their commitments during the "early" signing period on Dec. 16).

Lakota West will host an additional spring signing event on April 14 for any student-athlete who has not yet participated in a signing event. *Photo credit: Jenny Walters Photography*

- William Barber:** Robert Morris (football)
- Ed Bolden:** Wittenburg University (football)
- Champ Gillespie:** University of Charleston (football)
- Kweisi Jones:** Tiffin University (football)
- Max Owsley:** Ashland University (football)
- Andre Proffitt:** University of Akron (football)
- Caleb Rao:** Valparaiso University (football)
- Kameron Vargas:** West Virginia State University (football)
- Anneesh Vyas:** Bucknell University (football)
- Si Walters:** Miami University (football)



## Endeavor Sixth-Graders Create Kindness Crew

It all started with an idea. And now two Endeavor sixth graders are bringing that idea to life by forming a new school club called the Kindness Crew.

"We wanted to stop bullying and wanted to put more kindness in school," said student **Elle Hensley**. **Lyla Gully** and Elle set up a meeting with Counselor **Kathy Wiseman** and Principal **LeAnna Webber** to discuss their plan. "It was important to us that people don't feel left out, so they feel like they want to come to school," said Lyla.

[Read more](#)



## New Student Groups Focus on Diversity

When **Elgin Card** joined the Lakota Outreach, Diversity and Inclusion (LODI) department as senior director in August, one of his first actions was the creation of student diversity groups at each of the district's eight secondary schools. "I think it's important to hear from the students' mouths," said Card. "They know what's good and what's bad. I want to know how they think we can improve and how we can amplify the good things we do."

Card tapped into the knowledge of school administrators, counselors and teachers to invite students to be a part of the program. "I want students from all walks of life to be a part of this." Currently, there are between 10-20 students in each group.

[Read more](#)



## P&G Partners with Lakota on Te Da La Mano Program

“As I have moved through my journey, people gave me guidance and help,” said P&G’s **Hector Brignoni**. “I learned that they were giving me a hand to help and that is exactly what I would like to do.”

A new program called P&G Te Da La Mano (“P&G Gives You A Hand”) is designed to do just that. This new partnership between P&G and Lakota is aimed at providing Hispanic students with technical knowledge and mentoring to help make decisions to shape their futures.

[Read more](#)

---

## FEATURED PHOTOS

---

# CELEBRATING 100 DAYS OF SCHOOL



## Marking the 100th Day of School

All over the district, students and staff marked the 100th day of school with fun activities. Students counted 100 pennies, stacked 100 cups, made 100 day hats and, of course, wore their 100th day of school shirts (see some examples above from **Laura Elam's** kindergarten class at Wyandot Early Childhood School). Congratulations to our students for also being 100 days smarter!



### Lakota Staff Members Receive COVID-19 Vaccine

Cherokee teacher **Dave Fugate** (shown here) was one of the over 1900 Lakota & BCESC employees who received their first COVID-19 vaccine shot on Feb. 3 at Lakota West High School. Second doses will be administered at West on Feb. 24.

---

## NEW BUSINESS

---



### Feb. 23: Remote Learning Meal Distribution for In-Person Learners

With no school on Feb. 24 due to our staff vaccination clinic and remote learning scheduled for Feb. 25-26, we will still offer a pre-ordered breakfast and lunch option for our in-person learning families to cover these days. With the extension of the USDA meal waiver program, all meals will be free and at no cost to the district.

Families are invited to place an order for children ages 1-18 for **pickup on Tuesday, Feb. 23 from 11 a.m. to noon** at one of the following locations:

- **Lakota East High School** at kitchen door in the back of the building



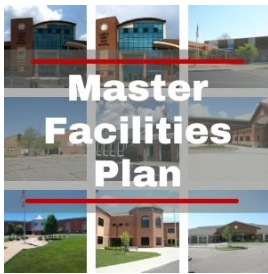
- **Lakota West High School** at kitchen door in the back of the building

All orders will receive six meals, three breakfasts and three lunches.

There will be no change to the VLO meal distribution schedule.

**To participate and place your order, families must RSVP by Monday, Feb. 15 at midnight.**

[Place Your Meal Order](#)



### Master Facilities Planning Resumes

In line with [Lakota's strategic plan](#), which calls for an in-depth assessment of our facilities, the district launched a full-scale master facilities planning process last year. The end goal was to build a plan that protects the district's most important assets - Lakota's 25 buildings valued at more than \$400 million - and supports the type of learning that will carry our schools into the future.

An extensive data gathering phase was followed by a series of community forums and surveys to help shape the future vision for Lakota's facilities. Following completion of the visioning phase in late February, the district was forced to press pause at the onset of COVID-19.

The committee has reconvened to revisit the planning process. More information, including dates and times, will be shared in the coming weeks.

[Learn more](#)



### Lakota to Host Community Vaccination Clinics

Lakota Local Schools is excited to partner with UC Health West Chester to help vaccinate our community against COVID-19. The hospital will hold the clinics at Lakota East High School when vaccines become available.

At this time, the district does not anticipate any changes to the students' schedules. The clinic would be held in the auxiliary gym with visitor access to the gym directly from the outside. "Student safety is always our first priority," said Superintendent Matthew Miller. "We are confident that the vaccination clinics will be held in a manner that is safe for our students and staff."

Dates for the clinics have not been finalized at this time. The community is encouraged to visit the [UC Health website](#) for more information.

[Learn more](#)



## #WEloveLakota February Social Media Contest

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 ????

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.

## ON THE RADAR

---

### K-12 Online Registration for 2021-2022 School Year Now Open

Online registration for grades K-12, including Lakota's all-day kindergarten program, opened Feb. 1 for the 2021-2022 school year. Early kindergarten registration extends through April 1.

Parents of incoming kindergartners are encouraged to attend the virtual Kindergarten Information Night 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](#)

All early kindergarten registrants will also receive an invitation to the district's virtual "Welcome to Kindergarten" weekly series, providing more specific information about the Lakota experience. The series will be recorded. [Visit Lakota's Welcome Center website to learn more about registering for the 2021-2022 school year.](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### [Coffee Chat with the Superintendent \(new date\)](#)

February 10  
1 p.m.  
Facebook Live

### [No School for Pre-12 \(compensatory day\)](#)

February 12

### [No School for Pre-12 \(President's Day\)](#)

February 15

### [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](#)

## Save the Date, Call for Exhibitors: Lakota Summer Fun Fair

Lakota is teaming up with the West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance to hold our annual Summer Fun Fair using a unique online event solution called Remo, where Lakota families can come 'face-to-face' with exhibitors offering summer programming activities. Summer Fun Fair will be held on Wednesday, March 3 from 6:30-8 p.m. [All attendees are invited to visit the event link to set up their personal Remo account before using it to access the fair on March 3.](#)

Like years past, any for-profit business or non-profit organization offering summer activities for youth is welcome to participate. Activities and services can be educational or recreational and should pertain to students in grades K-12.

[Please use this Google form to register as an exhibitor for this year's event no later than Monday, Feb. 22.](#) This deadline will be strictly enforced, as we need adequate time to set up the event in Remo. A complete exhibitor list and other event resources will be available at [www.lakotaonline.com/SummerFair](http://www.lakotaonline.com/SummerFair).

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](#)

[District Calendar](#)

---

# WE are Lakota



**Lakota Local Schools**  
5572 Princeton Road  
Liberty Township, OH 45011  
(513) 874-5505  
[lakota@lakotaonline.com](mailto:lakota@lakotaonline.com)  
[www.lakotaonline.com](http://www.lakotaonline.com)