

WE are Lakota



January 12, 2021 Edition

FEATURED In This Issue



Lakota Releases 2019-20 Quality Profile

This annual publication provides highlights from the previous school year in light of major priorities and areas of focus driving our daily work.

The Quality Profile is organized around the four pillars of Lakota's strategic plan, including: WE are



COVID-19: New Quarantine Guidelines, Revised Dashboard

New quarantine guidelines and an update to Lakota's COVID-19 reporting dashboard mark the start of second semester in this most unusual school year.

In accordance with Gov. DeWine's Dec. 30 announcement, in-



Jan 18: Community Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Student Winners

The entire West Chester Liberty community is invited to attend a virtual edition of the 22nd annual celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, Jan. 18 at 10 a.m.

This year's student contest, themed "Reinventing Reforms," challenged

Personalized; WE are Future Ready; WE are Fiscally Responsible; and WE are In This Together. Content focuses on the previous year's accomplishments, but also hints at what is "coming up" this school year.

[Click here to view the electronic version of the 2019-2020 Quality Profile.](#)

[Full story](#)

person learners identified as a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case in a traditional classroom setting will no longer be required to quarantine during the school day (contingent on both parties wearing face masks and does not apply to close contacts identified outside of school). Quarantine guidelines should be followed outside of the school day. This includes not participating in extracurricular activities such as athletics.

students to reflect on what they can do personally, using the resources of this era, to carry on the work started by MLK. All 18 winning essays, skits, songs, artwork or video will be shared during the virtual program, also complete with a keynote address, music and other elements from the traditional in-person celebration.

[Full story](#)

A new dashboard giving the community a better understanding of the impact COVID-19 and other illnesses are having on our schools will be available on Lakota's website beginning Jan. 13.

[Full story](#)

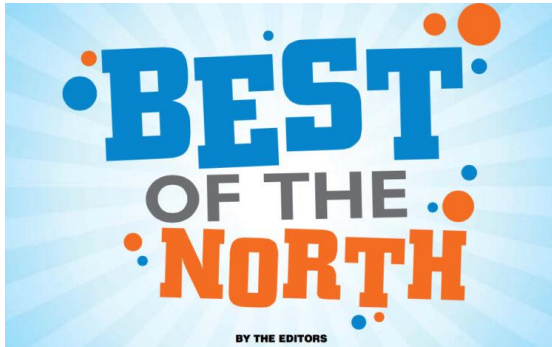
Around Lakota

- [Board of Education Holds Annual Organizational Meeting](#)

New Business

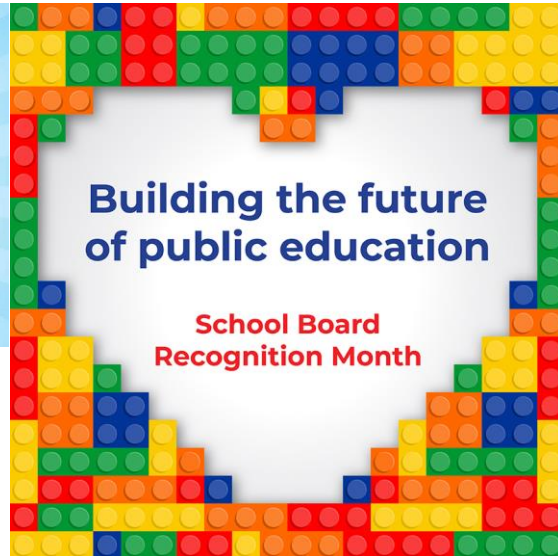
- [USDA Meals Program Extends through May](#)
- [Social Media Challenge: What are You Looking Forward to in 2021?](#)
- [Call for Exhibitors: Lakota Summer Fun Fair](#)
- Alternative Credit Options Information

SHOUT-OUTS



Lakota Earns 'Best Education' in Cincy Magazine's 'Best of the North'

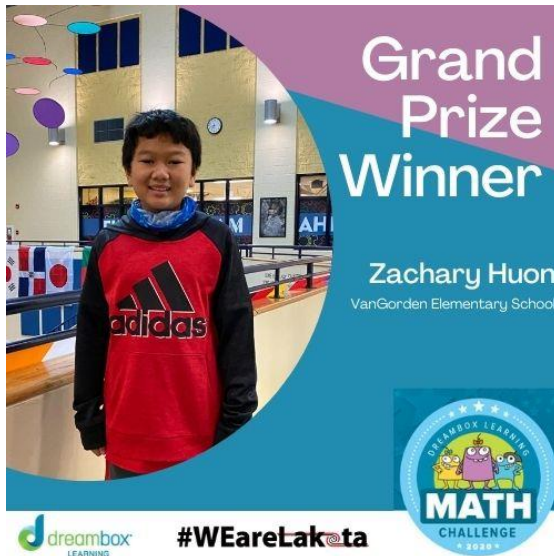
Lakota Local Schools is proud to earn the distinction of "Best Education" in Cincy Magazine's 2020 "Best of the North" awards. For the past eight years, the "Best of the North" has celebrated all that Cincinnati's northern suburbs have to offer. Thousands of people voted for their favorites in 133 different categories. [Click here to see this year's complete Best of the North edition.](#)



WE Celebrate National School Board Recognition Month

In celebration of National School Board Recognition Month, we honor Lakota's five current school board members who serve our school community: **Kelley Casper, Brad Lovell, Lynda O'Connor, Michael Pearl** and **Julie Shaffer**. "This month and always, we are grateful for these five individuals and the selflessness with which they serve our schools and do what's in the best interest of our students and staff," said Lakota Superintendent **Matthew Miller**. "Please take a moment to personally thank each of them for all that they do this month."

[Click here to catch up on one of our latest video series featuring profiles of Lakota's five school board members.](#)



Sixth-Grader Wins Grand Prize in Math Challenge

VanGorden sixth-grader **Zachary Huon** was named a grand prize winner in the Dreambox Fall Math Challenge.

Using the online math platform, students across the country were asked to complete five math lessons each week from Oct. 26 - Dec. 13. Along with weekly prizes, students who consistently completed each week's assignments were entered into a drawing for a grand prize.

Zachary's hard work has earned him a new Chromebook in addition to other prizes. His teacher, **Stacey Aten**, will also receive a giftcard to use for her classroom.

AROUND LAKOTA



Board of Education Holds Annual Organizational Meeting

The Lakota Board of Education held its annual organizational meeting on Jan. 11. All school boards in Ohio are required to hold this meeting within the first 15 days of the month.

The board members voted to unanimously approve **Kelley Casper** and **Michael Pearl** as president and vice president, respectively. "I'm excited to serve Lakota in the role of school board president," said Casper. "I'm looking forward to working with my fellow board members to support our students and staff as we start to navigate our way out of this pandemic," she continued. "As always, our focus will be supporting the administration as they continue to offer our students the quality education Lakota is known for."

[Read more](#)

FEATURED PHOTOS



Hopewell ECS VLO Students Create Community StoryWalk

At a recent morning meeting on Zoom, one of **Kristin Peoples'** second graders mentioned seeing some type of story while at Ft. Liberty playground. Her Hopewell ECS class decided they wanted to make one of these stories so their student teacher reached out to the Midpointe Library.

As soon as the class got the greenlight, they created a story by coming up with the characters, scenes and storyline over Zoom. Peoples' also invited **Lisa Stiver** and **Rita Bitzer's** classes to participate and add their own stories.

"Our Hopewell Heroes love to write," said Peoples. Be sure to check out the work of these talented young writers at the StoryWalk next time you visit Ft. Liberty. Their work will be on display until mid-March.



Lakota's 'Giving Tree' Tradition Continues Amidst Pandemic

Despite the challenges of a pandemic year, Lakota's tradition to support some of its neediest families remained intact. Sixteen schools hosted a virtual "giving tree" this year,



More than 50 Bikes, Helmets Given to Lakota Students

Local organization Bicycle Recycle recently gifted over 50 bicycles and helmets to Lakota students. "The kids' faces lit up when they got their bikes and rode them for the first time," said **Molly Jones**, a Lakota school community liaison. Special thanks to Bicycle Recycle President and Co-founder **Jamie Beringer**, and to all of the volunteers who helped --

encouraging staff and students to purchase a gift in the name of an anonymous student. More than 2,000 gifts were donated district-wide through the program this year!

especially **Rich Finley, Kathy & Brant Cook** and **Oscar, Quincy & Chance Beringer**.

NEW BUSINESS



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.](#)



January Social Media Challenge: What are YOU Looking Forward to in 2021?

Let's celebrate the new year with a new social media challenge!

Lakota, we want to hear what YOU are looking forward to in 2021. During the month of January, share your New Year's aspirations on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or all three! Be sure to tag Lakota Local Schools ("[Lakota Schools](#)" on Facebook, [@LakotaDistrict](#) on Twitter and [Lakota District](#) on Instagram) and include #LakotaLooksAhead in your posts.



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 exhibitors can come 'face-to-face' with Lakota families to share information about summer programming activities. Summer Fun Fair will be held on Wednesday, March 3 from 6:30-8 p.m.

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 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.

[Learn more](#)



Alternate Credit Options Information

While the district previously hosted presentations about these options, we are providing informational videos for you to access at your convenience. The topics are applicable for students entering grades 7-12 next year and include Summer School, Credit Flexibility, the PE Waiver and College Credit Plus.

Please click on the links below to review information about these programs:

- CCP Information - <https://youtu.be/zUXbzY0yhRo>
- Alternative Education Information - <https://youtu.be/IuVOtBIIdyM>

If you have questions about any of these options, please join us for a live Q&A session on January 27, 2021, from 6:30-7:30 PM. This session is for general questions, and all student-specific questions should be directed to the student's school counselor. You can use this Zoom link to access the Q&A session:

<https://lakotaonline.zoom.us/j/91739759190?pwd=K0dkbkJTdHJxZEplRWJ4MnpUcUUVIdz09>

Passcode: 154318

UPCOMING EVENTS

[In-Person Students Last Names M-Z Report to School; A-L Remote Learning](#)

January 13

[In-Person Students Last Names A-L Report to School; M-Z Remote Learning](#)

January 14

[In-Person Students Last Names M-Z Report to School; A-L Remote Learning](#)

January 15

[No School: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday](#)

January 18

[All In-Person Students Return to School](#)

January 19

[Lakota Board of Education Work Session](#)

January 25

6:30 p.m.

CCP, Summer School and Credit Flexibility O & A Sessions

January 27
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Kinship Connections: Love & Logic Part 2

January 27
7 p.m.

[District Calendar](#)

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