

WE are Lak~~o~~ta

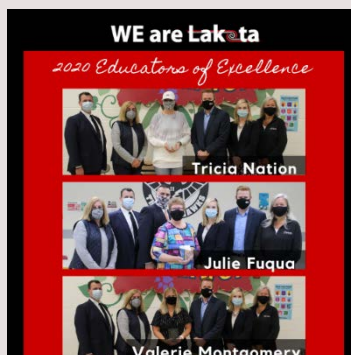


A Look Around Lakota

District E-Newsletter

October 20, 2020 Edition

FEATURED In This Issue



Congratulations to our 2020 Educators of Excellence

The Community Foundation and Lakota Schools honor the three special recipients of this award.

[Read more](#)



Meet Our School Board: Michael Pearl

Meet our newest board member, **Michael Pearl**, in this new video series.

[Watch video](#)



Super in 60

Take 60 seconds to get the latest on Lakota's Educators of Excellence, the district-wide food drive and recent changes to the academic calendar.

[Watch video](#)

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SHOUT-OUTS



Keep It Up, Lakota!

Thank you to all of Lakota's families, students and staff for following the safety protocols! We've made it to not only week 10 of in-person learning, but the second quarter. As a reminder, WE need everyone to continue being safe both in and out of school. Please continue to:

- Wear your mask;
- Wash your hands for 20 seconds;
- Practice social distancing of at least six feet; and
- Stay home when you are sick.



East Men's Golf Heads to State

Congratulations to the Lakota East men's golf team. The golfers placed third overall in the district championship earning them a trip to the State Championships. This will be the team's sixth time, fifth consecutive, to Columbus. The tournament takes place on Oct. 23-24. Good luck!

THANK YOU

LEADERSHIP 21!



A Big Thank You to Leadership 21

Each year, the West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance's Leadership 21 class completes a project designed to give back to the community.

This year, the Class of 2020 chose to start a fund called 'Leadership 21: Simply Serve through the Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty'. While this was the focus of their fundraising efforts, the class decided that any amount over the required money to start the fund would be donated to Lakota Local Schools in order to help offset some of the additional costs the district has incurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the Class generously donated a check for \$5,000 to Lakota at the Oct. 12 Board of Education meeting.

FEATURED PHOTOS



Reading Parade at Hopewell ECS

Hopewell ECS kindergartners recently took to the hallways to celebrate their success as readers. Congratulations and keep on reading!



Trip to the Fossil Park for Indy Fourth Graders

The learning doesn't stop on the weekends for Independence fourth graders! Students in **Staci Becker's** class had a fun time on Saturday and Sunday at Trammel Fossil Park as part of their science unit. [LRI](#)

WE are Lakota

2020 Educators of Excellence



Honoring Lakota's 2020 Educators of Excellence

The Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty, in partnership with Lakota Local Schools, are proud to announce the three recipients of the 2020 Lakota Educator of Excellence Awards.

The 2020 honorees include:

Elementary (PreK-6) Winner: **Tricia Nation**
Reading Intervention Specialist – Cherokee Elementary School

Secondary (7-12) Winner: **Julie Fuqua**
Band Director – Hopewell Junior School

Administrator Winner: **Valerie Montgomery**
Principal – Cherokee Elementary

"We are grateful to have the support of the Community Foundation in regularly recognizing some of our most dedicated and impactful educators," said Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller.

"The Educator of Excellence award never fails to uncover thoughtful stories about the impact our staff have on their students and our families on a daily basis. We are especially proud of this year's winners and so grateful for all that they do."

[Read more](#)

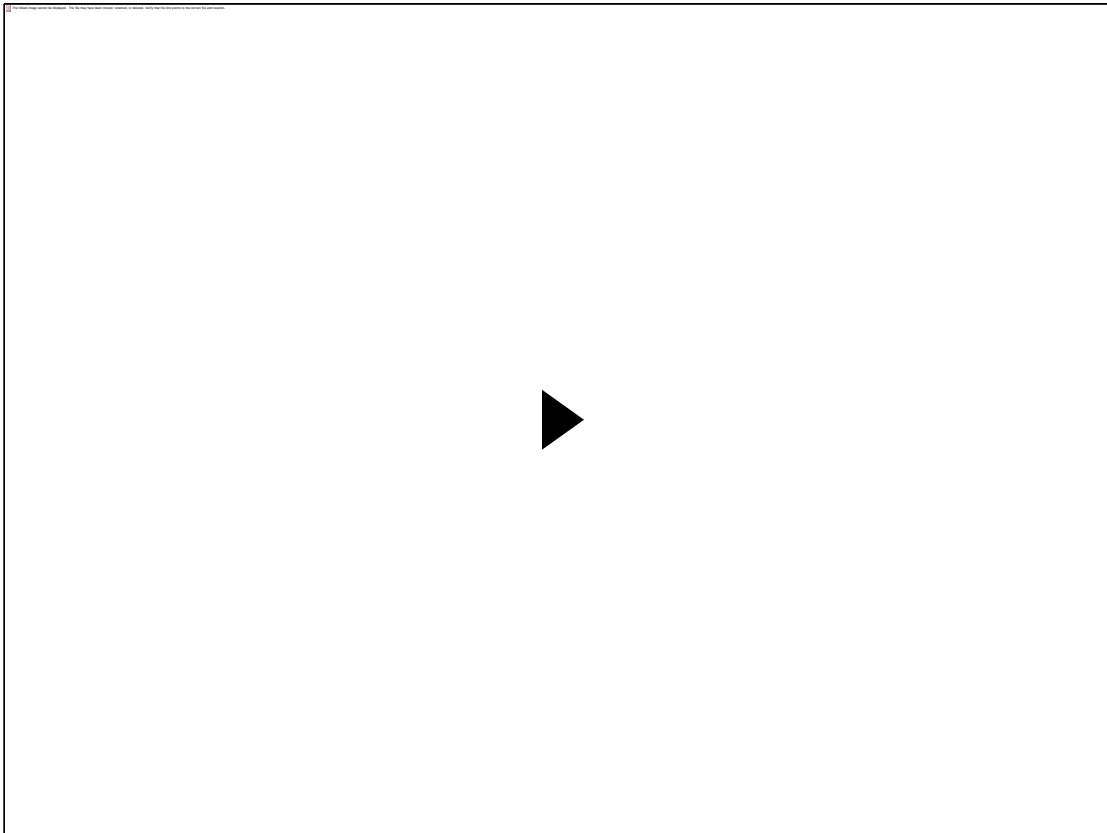


Meet Our School Board: Michael Pearl

Lakota Local Schools is excited to introduce our community to the members of the Board of Education. Through December, you'll get to know more about each of the five members.

First up, meet **Michael Pearl**, the newest member of the Board. A Lakota parent and resident of Liberty Township, Pearl has been the Recreation Center Director for the St. Monica's Recreation Center through the Sisters of Transfiguration since 2011. He is also the pastor at the New Day Baptist Church in Lincoln Heights. He and his wife, Bridgette, have been married for 23 years and have two children, Jasmyn and MJ, both graduates of Lakota East High School.

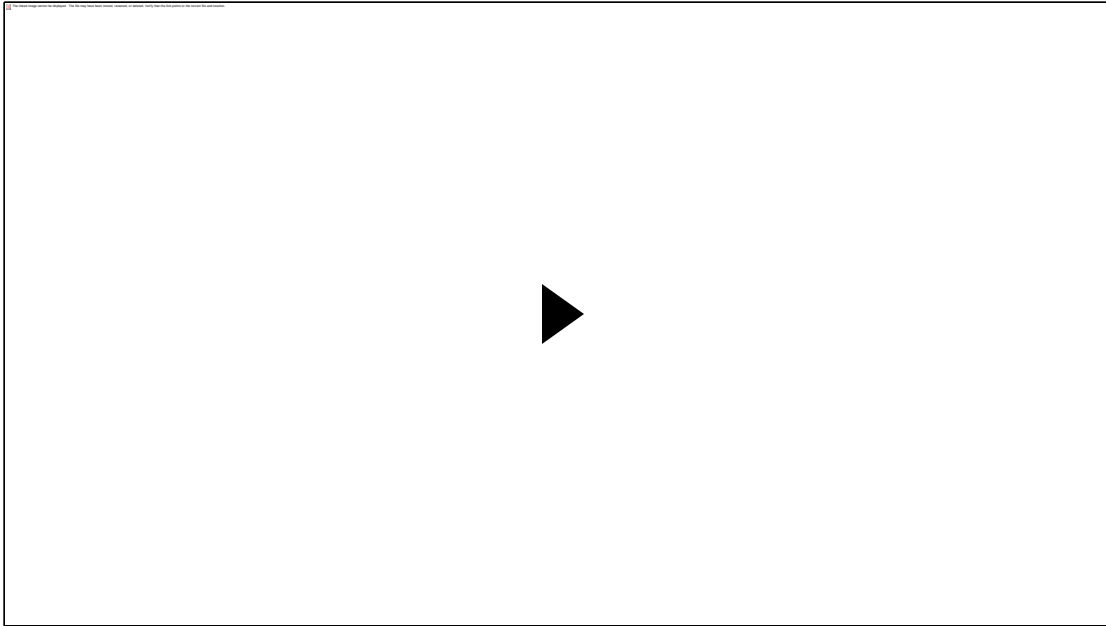
[Watch video](#)



'Super in 60' October 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 Lakota's Educators of Excellence, the district-wide food drive and recent changes to the academic calendar.

[Watch the video](#)



'WE Can' Stuff the Bus Food Drive Ends Friday

The Lakota Board of Education's annual district-wide food drive for Reach Out Lakota ends this Friday, Oct. 23, leading right up to National Make a Difference Day on Oct. 24. In true "WE are Lakota" fashion, the district is challenging families, staff and community members to "stuff the bus" with canned goods and other non-perishables needed by our community's local relief organization.

The district-wide food drive and other collections held at Lakota schools account for a majority of the annual food donations stocking the shelves at Reach Out Lakota. In 2019, the organization gave out over 127,000 meals to more than 8,000 people. That's the equivalent of more than 152,000 pounds of food valued at over \$250,000.

Donation bins are available at every Lakota building for the duration of the drive. [Click here to view a flyer](#), including a list of items most needed by Reach Out Lakota.

[Watch the Promo video](#)



Lakota Board of Education Recognizes OSBA Business Honor Roll

The Lakota Local Schools Board of Education announced four outstanding business partners as recipients of the Ohio School Boards Association's (OSBA) Business Honor Roll at last week's school board meeting.

[Read more](#)



Lakota Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month took place from Sept. 15 – Oct. 15, and schools around the district held their own unique programs to honor the histories, cultures and contributions of those from Latin American countries. Lakota students represent 14 of those Hispanic countries and they make up 9.6% of the student population.

“Hispanic Heritage Month gives us an opportunity to highlight the rich diversity not only in our schools, but in our community and in our country at large,” said **Leah Aguilar**, the parent engagement and community outreach coordinator for Lakota's Outreach Diversity and Inclusion (LODI) department. “It allows our staff, students and families to see their ethnicity and culture as one of the many strengths that we embrace.”

[Read more](#)



Words of Wisdom Video: What Do You Like about Fall?

What do you love about fall? That's what we asked students around Lakota for this month's Words of Wisdom. You can join in by posting a picture on social media, tagging Lakota and using the hashtag #LakotaLovesFall.

[Watch the video](#)

COVID-19 Update

- *When should you stay home?*
- *Are vent masks ok to wear?*
- *Where can I find more information?*



COVID-19 Update

This week marks the start of the second quarter. Lakota's staff, students and families have proven that they are following the guidelines, wearing face coverings, washing their hands and staying home when they are sick. While the district has seen positive cases of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the numbers remain relatively low when you consider that approximately 13,000 students and 1,400 staff members are in our buildings every day.

This week's COVID-19 update will focus on some reminders so that in-person learning can continue.

[Read more](#)

WE are Listening

*Results
from the October*

**IN-PERSON
LEARNING
SURVEY**

#WEareLakota

In-Person Learning Survey: The Results are In

Lakota Local Schools could not have completed its first quarter, offering both in-person and virtual learning options, without valuable feedback from parents, staff and students.

There were 4,180 responses to Lakota's in-person learning survey that closed on Oct. 12. "We appreciate the continued high number of responses from our in-person learning community. We are in unprecedented times and it is important that all of us work together to make any needed adjustments," said Superintendent **Matthew Miller**. He noted that a second semester commitment form for VLO is also now underway.

Questions have remained fairly consistent over the first three surveys to allow for comparisons over time, but a new question was added in the latest questionnaire about the effectiveness of Lakota's communication about COVID-19. Results showed that 79.5 percent felt that communications were "very effective" or "effective." Lakota is continually looking at ways to make sure the community is informed; [click here to let us know how we can best keep you informed about COVID-19 updates, guidelines and practices.](#)

[Read more](#)

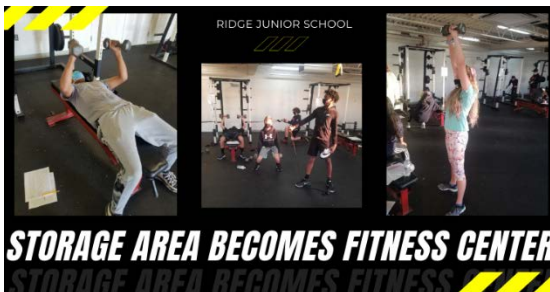


Liberty ECS Detectives Look for Clues

What do police detectives have in common with first-graders? They look for clues. This is what **Janet Alsip**'s class at Liberty Early Childhood School learned during a recent lesson in reading.

When introducing a unit called "Word Detectives," Alsip explained that when you're not sure how to say a word, you need to stop and look for clues. Just like detectives do when solving a mystery. "You want kids to take apart words and learn how to sound them out," she said. Each student even received their own magnifying glass to aid them in this endeavor.

[Read more](#)



Ridge Junior Storage Area Transformed into Fitness Center

An old storage area at Ridge Junior School is now a place where students and staff can go to improve their physical, social and emotional health.

It all started last year when **Scott Laman** (who was the school's Athletic Director) proposed turning the area into a fitness center. He thought it could be something that athletes could benefit from, but more importantly, all physical education students could use. The Ridge fitness center could offer students a fresh, modern day approach to physical education by teaching life-long skills to keep fit, increase strength and agility, and burn calories through cardio and weight exercises.

[Read more](#)



East LEAF Club Reforestation Project Takes Root

A once wide-open plot of land between Lakota East High School's baseball fields and Interstate-75 now dawns about 60 trees - all thanks to the advocacy of the school's LEAF Club and two critical community partners, Cincinnati's Taking Root and Delhi Nursery.

Since 2016, when the club deemed the one-acre plot a reforestation area, students have been finding a way to add more trees each year. It's all being done in an effort to reduce noise and air pollution from the neighboring highway, while also increasing oxygen levels and providing more natural habitat for animals.

[Read more](#)



WOW Gives 'Women of West' Social Emotional Boost

"I was in one of the most accelerated career paths for P&G, yet I couldn't look myself in the mirror," shared Helena Alsbury, a chemical engineer and senior director of product supply at P&G. "What I had two years ago was a self-esteem issue."

"Why am I telling you this?" she continued. "Because I don't want you to wait until you're 37 years old to recognize it."

Alsbury is one of more than a dozen female speakers lined up to speak with members of a new student group at Lakota West Freshman called WOW, short for "Women of West."

[Read more](#)

NEW BUSINESS



LODI Introduces Kinship Connections to Link Lakota Caregivers

Lakota's Outreach Diversity & Inclusion (LODI) Department is introducing a monthly program called "Kinship Connections." Designed for our grandparents and other kinship caregivers of Lakota students, the program is being introduced in response to the feedback district leaders received at a Community Conversation earlier this year.

"We heard loud and clear the unique challenges and needs of families facing these circumstances," said **Leah Aguilar**, LODI's parent engagement and community outreach coordinator. "This is just one way we hope Lakota can better support our families who are doing their best to guide some of our learners through school despite some very difficult challenges for some."

[Learn more](#)



VLO Families: Second Semester Commitment

The first quarter of learning has concluded, and Lakota has already begun planning for the second semester. In order to prepare for both virtual and in-person learning, Lakota needs to confirm VLO enrollment for the second semester.

All VLO families need to [complete this form](#) to indicate formal commitment to VLO or in-person learning for the second semester. The form is due no later than 8 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 26.

While this may seem early to make this kind of commitment, planning for both in-person and VLO learning is a very complicated process. This is truly the latest that Lakota can wait and still be prepared for January to make the smoothest possible transition for all who will be impacted.

All VLO families should have already received a separate communication with more details.

Lakota hopes that our VLO families have found success within the virtual learning community, and appreciates all you have done to support the in-home learning your families have taken on during this unprecedented time.

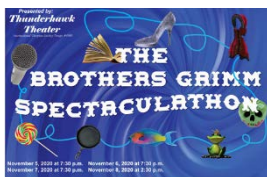


Nov. 4 Coffee Chat with the Superintendent

Our next monthly Coffee Chat with the Superintendent is coming up on Nov. 4 at 8 a.m. We hope you will join Superintendent Miller on Facebook Live ([@LakotaSuper](#)) for an update on the school year and to share your questions and concerns.

These virtual coffee chats have been very well attended, and to help 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.



Thunderhawk Theater Presents: The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon

The Thunderhawk Theater program will be presenting 'The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon' this November. Whether we are sitting home on our couches or in the theater to watch, Thunderhawk Theater actors will be presenting this action-packed romp through the Grimm brothers famous stories.

Due to the current situation we are offering 2 viewing options for this show. You may purchase individual tickets to our LIVE performances online for \$10 + \$0.50 per ticket fee OR you may purchase an access code to our virtual performances for \$15 + \$0.50 per code. Tickets and access codes may be purchased at: <http://bit.ly/LEHSBGS2020>. Live performances will be November 5-7 at 7:30 p.m. and November 8 at 2:30 p.m. There will be NO WALK UP TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR THESE PERFORMANCES.



Nov. 2-4 Lunch Pick Up for In-Person Learners

While Lakota school buildings will be closed to students on Nov. 2-4, we will still offer a pre-ordered breakfast and lunch option for our in-person learning families. (VLO families will continue to be eligible for the [VLO meal program](#) on these days.) An extension of the USDA meal waiver program, all meals will be free and at no cost to the district.

- Families may order a meal for children ages 1-18;
- Each order will include three (3) breakfasts and three (3) lunches;
- Meals may be picked up at one of four locations on Monday, Nov. 2:
 - 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
 - Hopewell Junior School at kitchen door in the back of the building
 - Plains Junior School at kitchen door at the side of the building
- Pick up will take place between noon and 1 p.m.

Families must RSVP by Thursday, Oct. 22 at 11:59 p.m. [Click here to access the RSVP form.](#)

ON THE RADAR

USDA Waiver: Free Meals for All Students

In response to the financial hardship felt nationwide as a result of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced an opportunity to provide free meals to all students through the end of the 2020-2021 school year at no cost to the district. This applies to students learning both in-person and through the district's Virtual Learning Option (VLO).

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 to read more about the new USDA waiver providing free meals to all students.](#)

October Social Media Contest: Fall Favorites

Is it jumping into a big pile of leaves? Warm apple cider? Trick or treat fun? Family and friends sitting around a fire pit? We want to know your favorite thing about fall.

Lakota's October social media contest is all about fall fun. Share a photo showing what you like most about fall, and you just might win a prize basket full of Lakota spirit items.

Participate all month long on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram by tagging Lakota's account and #LakotaLovesFall. At the end of the month, the posts with the most "likes" will be declared our winners.

Weekly Technology Zoom Sessions for Parents

How can I help my child who uses Seesaw? How do I navigate Canvas? What are some tips and tricks to make all of this technology easier to use?

Each week through October, Lakota's innovation specialists are hosting zoom sessions covering the most-requested topics for grades K-2, 3-6, 7-8 and 9-12. [Click here for a complete schedule of help sessions, links and forms for submitting future help topics.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

'WE Can' Stuff the Bus Food Drive for Reach Out Lakota

October 12-23
All Lakota Schools

'Kinship Connections': Introduction to Kinship Navigator

October 21
7 - 8 p.m.
Via Zoom

Board of Education Work Session

October 26
6:30 p.m.
Plains Jr. & via Zoom

No School for Students: Professional Development Day for Staff

November 2

Election Day: Remote Learning for In-Person Students; VLO Continues as Normal

November 3

Remote Learning for In-Person Students; VLO Continues as Normal

November 4

Coffee Chat with the Superintendent

November 4
8 a.m.
Facebook Live

[District Calendar](#)

2021 MLK Day Contest Challenges Students to 'Reinvent Reforms'

In preparation for our community's annual celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, all Lakota students are invited to participate in a contest that promotes self-reflection about diversity and inclusion in our community and nationwide.

This year's "Reinventing Reforms" theme challenges students to reflect on what they can do personally, using the resources of this era, to carry on the work started by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The contest is part of the community-wide observance of MLK Day, known as the "Live the Dream: Our Declaration of Unity" celebration. [Click for more information.](#)

Mental Wellness Routines

An informative presentation about the importance of mental wellness routines was created by Dr. Ann-Louise Lockhart in collaboration with our MindPeace partners and 1N5. Routines and daily practices are a large part of maintaining positive mental well-being.

This webinar will talk about right size expectations during this time, re-evaluating health and wellness goals, creating new habits for well-being, and adjusting and maintaining routines for both individual family members and as a family unit.

[Click here to watch a recorded presentation](#); you can also [register for a live webinar for the remaining 11/12/2020 date.](#)

Lakota, C3 Social Media Series Continues Until Nov. 5

Lakota and the Caring Community Collaborative (C3) are hosting a virtual mental health conference exploring the impact of social media and technology on youth, with weekly sessions on Thursdays at 4 p.m., from Oct. 1 through Nov. 5.

There's no cost to attend, and both mental health professionals and the public are welcome.

To see the full schedule of speakers and topics, and to register, visit the events page on C3's website at www.caringcommunitycollaborative.com. For more information, email contact@C3Ohio.org or call 513-939-9255.

WE are Lakota

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