

# WE are Lakota



September 22, 2020 Edition

## FEATURED In This Issue



### NEW! Super in 60 Video Series

Superintendent Matthew Miller gives a 60-second overview of what's happening around Lakota.

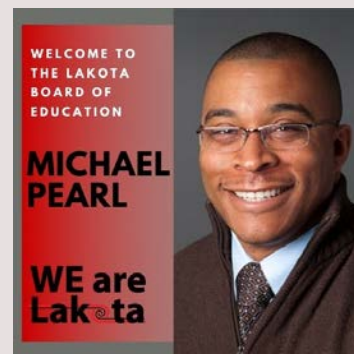
[Watch Video](#)



### All Students Eligible for Free Meals

Thanks to a new USDA waiver, all Lakota students (both in-person and those learning virtually) are eligible for free meals through an anticipated date of Dec. 31, 2020 at no cost to the district.

[Full story](#)



### Michael Pearl Joins Lakota Board of Education

The Lakota Board of Education unanimously appointed Michael Pearl to the school board at its Sept. 14 meeting.

[Full story](#)

## School Features

- [WE are Prepared: Lakota Expands COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- [Lakota Receives Prestigious 'Auditor of State' Award Six Years in a Row](#)
- [Technology Zoom Sessions Help Parents Support Student Learning](#)
- [Mask Breaks Reinvent Outdoor Learning](#)
- [Whole-Student Activities Prepare Students for the Future](#)
- [INCubatoredu@Lakota Cultivates 100 Future Entrepreneurs](#)

## New Business

- Oct. 7: Coffee Chat with the Superintendent
- [2021 MLK Day Contest Challenges Students to 'Reinvent Reforms'](#)
- District's 'Stuff the Bus' Food Drive Kicks Off Oct. 12
- Free ACT/SAT Planning Workshop
- Lakota Science and Engineering Fair
- 'Day of Giving' to Support Reach Out Lakota

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## SHOUT-OUT

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### Lakota Seniors Named National Merit Semifinalists

Congratulations to these Lakota seniors who have earned positions as semifinalists in the 66th 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)

These students received the honor by scoring in the top 1% of the 1.5 million juniors who took the Preliminary SAT (PSAT). We're proud of you!

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## FEATURED PHOTO

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### Lakota West Stadium Receives Facelift

Over the summer, the Lakota West High School stadium saw significant improvements, thanks in large part to private donations. In addition to replacing the 12-year-old artificial turf, which lasted four seasons longer than the average, the school reconstructed its stadium entrance and ticket booth. The adjacent tennis courts also received a refurbished surface. The project was made possible by \$64,000 in private donations from the West Athletic Boosters and the Marching Band Upbeat Club, as well as other individual donations.

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## AROUND LAKOTA

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### **New 'Super in 60' Video Series Presents 60-Second Highlights**

Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller's newest video series, "Super in 60", gives parents, staff and community members a 60-second overview of what's happening around Lakota. Don't miss the inaugural edition!

[Watch Video](#)

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**WE are  
Lakota**



**USDA Waiver:**

# **Free School Meals for All Lakota Students**

**Program Begins Sept. 16**

## **All Lakota Students Eligible for Free Meal Program**

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 opportunity to provide free meals to all students through an anticipated date of Dec. 31, 2020 at no cost to the district. This applies to students learning both in-person and through the district's Virtual Learning Option (VLO).

[Learn more](#)





### **Michael Pearl Appointed to Lakota Board of Education**

The Lakota Board of Education unanimously appointed **Michael Pearl** to the school board at its Sept. 14 meeting.

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.

Pearl believes that serving on the Board is "a great way for me to give back to a community and district that's given so much to me and my family...This is a way to serve the community in an even bigger capacity."

[Read more](#)

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## WE are Prepared: COVID-19 Update

Beginning Monday, Sept. 21, Lakota Local Schools expanded the information displayed on its novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) dashboard. The dashboard, which launched on Sept. 8, initially presented the number of staff and students who have tested positive for COVID-19, or are presumed positive by the Butler County Health Department (BCHD) or their doctors. The number of quarantined individuals related to in-school cases is also displayed. The data provides a weekly snapshot of new cases by school.

The updated dashboard has expanded to show all students and staff who are quarantined regardless of whether it is related to a positive case in-school or out. The BCHD quarantines those individuals classified as high-risk for the spread of the virus. High risk means a person has been named a close contact of a positive case either in-school or out-of-school. Close contact is defined as being within six feet of the person who has tested positive for a total of 15 minutes or more.

[Read more](#)

[COVID-19 Dashboard](#)



## Lakota Receives Prestigious Auditor of State Award Six Years in a Row

Fewer than 5% of all entities that are audited annually earn the Auditor of State Award with Distinction – and Lakota has received the honor six years in a row.

Treasurer **Jenni Logan** was virtually presented with the award for the district's clean audit and excellent record keeping at the Sept. 14 Board of Education meeting. The award recognizes the district's commitment to fiscal responsibility and transparency.

[Read more](#)



## Technology Zoom Sessions Help Parents Support Student Learning

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?

Whether students are learning virtually or in-person, parents across the district are asking these questions. Parents need to know how to use technology platforms and resources like these to be able to support their students, and Lakota is making that much easier with the launch of its Parent Technology Zoom Sessions.

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.

[Read more](#)



## Mask Breaks Reinvent Outdoor Learning

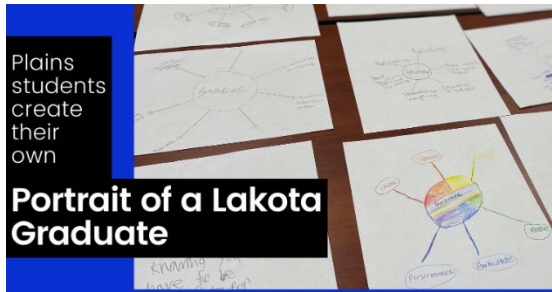
If it weren't for "mask breaks," Wyandot ECS teacher **Alison Brunk** may have never discovered just what a "treasure trove" of learning opportunities her school's outdoor classroom has to offer her first-graders.

Finding ways to fit in mask breaks this year without too dramatically interrupting the daily flow is a challenge that Brunk and many others across Lakota share, but have overcome with more outdoor learning. Brunk admits that before COVID-19, she was always very intentional about using Wyandot's outdoor learning space for mostly science-related lessons. But these days, she and her students can be found in the same space multiple times a day and oftentimes during reading and writing time.

[Read more](#)

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## Whole-Student Activities Prepare Students for the Future

Each day, Plains Junior students spend ninety minutes in 'advisory period.' But what actually is advisory period?

Sixty minutes is set aside for typical academic assistance from teachers and continued academic practice, while thirty minutes is devoted to whole-student skill development.

"The whole-student activities are so valuable to our students because they give opportunities for reflection, exploration, and skill building in so many areas," said Plains Assistant Principal **Justin Frost**. "Students work on social/emotional learning, post-secondary education and/or career planning, skill development surrounding mental health and other areas that will benefit students both now and in their futures."

[Read more](#)



## INCubatoredu@Lakota Cultivates 100 Future Entrepreneurs

**Kevin Keen** can recall several good answers he received after asking his 100 students what they hoped to get out of Lakota's newest course for budding entrepreneurs. But his favorite was the student who said that she wanted to use the class to "make as many mistakes as possible while there are no real stakes involved."

"I couldn't have said it better myself," Keen said. "This whole experience is about creating opportunities for [students] to make mistakes and learn from them."

Lakota is only the second school district in Ohio - and one of just 125 nationwide - to make "Shark Tank" a class for its juniors and seniors at both Lakota East and Lakota West this school year.

[Read more](#)



## Oct. 7: Coffee Chat with the Superintendent

Our next monthly Coffee Chat with the Superintendent is coming up on Oct. 7 at 7 p.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. [Click here to view other upcoming Coffee Chats.](#)



## 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.

[Learn more](#)

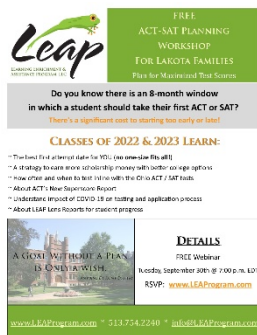


## District-wide 'Stuff the Bus' Food Drive Kicks Off Oct. 12

The Lakota Board of Education's annual district-wide food drive for Reach Out Lakota will run Oct. 12 through Oct. 23, leading right up to National Make a Difference Day. 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.

Donation bins will be available in every Lakota building for the duration of the drive.

The district-wide food drive and other collections held at Lakota schools account for 75 percent of the annual food donations stocking the shelves at Reach Out Lakota. Last year's district-wide drive brought in nearly 12,000 pounds of food and other supplies, enough to stuff two school buses.



## Free ACT/SAT Planning Workshop for Lakota Families

Confused about whether students in the class of 2022 (and beyond) need to take the ACT and/or SAT tests in the season of Covid? Join us for an essential webinar on Wednesday, September 30 at 7:00 p.m. to learn if test optional applies to students in the class of 2022 and beyond (spoiler alert – not typically!), how to choose testing sites, what is the new ACT Superscore Report, how to plan an effective testing timeline for your child and more!

[Click here to register for this free event](#), hosted by Learning Enrichment and Assistance Program (LEAD) in partnership with Lakota.

[View Flyer](#)



## Be Part of Lakota's Science and Engineering Fair

Register now for Lakota's Science and Engineering Fair! Students in grades 5-12 can enter individual or team projects in the fair that will be held on Friday, Jan. 29 from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. The projects will be exhibited either in-person at Hopewell Junior School or virtually, based on district requirements at the time of the event.

Registration fees are \$5 for an individual project and \$8 for a team project (up to three team members); registration closes on Thursday, Dec. 31.

Please email [LakotaScienceFair@gmail.com](mailto:LakotaScienceFair@gmail.com) with questions/comments, or if you need a Student Information Packet.

[View Flyer](#)



## 'Day of Giving' to Support Reach Out Lakota

On Thursday, Oct. 8, WE are asking our community to join the WLWT "Day of Giving" to help families in need. Join in the #WLWTcommunity Day of Giving by supporting our partner, Reach Out Lakota.

Since 1992, Reach Out Lakota has served the communities of West Chester and Liberty townships. In addition to its food and clothing pantries, Reach Out Lakota's support programs also include financial and computer literacy programs.

Non-perishable food items, paper goods, personal hygiene, infant care products and cleaning supplies can be dropped off behind the building throughout the day. Clothing donations are also accepted. Monetary donations can be given via their website, [www.reachoutlakota.org](http://www.reachoutlakota.org).

ON THE RADAR

UPCOMING

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## Lakota Limits Spectators at All Athletic Events

Per Gov. DeWine's most recent sports health order, as well as guidance from the Ohio High School Athletic Association, Lakota is significantly limiting attendance at all athletic events until further notice.

The order limits the maximum number of spectators gathered at an indoor or outdoor sports venue to the lesser of 1,500 people outdoors (300 people indoors) or 15 percent of the fixed seating capacity. At Lakota, for example, this translates to a crowd of no more than 370 people in each high school stadium.

As we prioritize the families of our student-athletes, we will not be accepting staff badges, Golden Lakota passes or Corporate Sponsor Passes at any sporting events for the 2020 season.

## Envision Partnerships Hosts Virtual Parent Workshop Series

Envision Partnerships presents a virtual workshop series for parents of any-aged children. Remaining sessions include:

### Becoming Resilient

Wednesday, Sept. 23, 10-11 a.m.

### Interactive Practice - Stress Buster Practice

Wednesday, Sept. 30, 10-11 a.m.

The sessions can be taken as a series or individually and can even be watched via a recording on Envision's YouTube channel. Please direct questions to [kjohnson@envisionpartnerships.com](mailto:kjohnson@envisionpartnerships.com).

## Mental Wellness Routines During Uncertain Times

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, reevaluating 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 (choose the date you want to

## EVENTS

### Board of Education Meeting

September 24  
6:30 p.m.  
Plains Jr. & via Zoom

### Coffee Chat with the Superintendent

October 7  
7 p.m.  
Facebook Live

### 'Stuff the Bus' Food Drive for Reach Out Lakota

October 12-23  
All Lakota Schools

### Board of Education Meeting

October 12  
6:30 p.m.  
Plains Jr. & via Zoom

### No School: Professional Development Day for Staff

October 19

### Board of Education Work Session

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

### Election Day: No School, Professional Development Day for Staff

November 3

### Coffee Chat with the Superintendent

November 4  
8 a.m.  
Facebook Live

[District Calendar](#)

attend; the same material will be presented on each day): 9/17/2020 @ 5pm EST; [10/8/2020 @ 5pm EST](#); or [11/12/2020 @ 5pm EST](#).

### **C3 and Lakota Focus on Impact of Social Media on Youth**

Lakota Local Schools and the Caring Community Collaborative (C3) are hosting a virtual mental health conference on the topic, 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.c3ohio.com](http://www.c3ohio.com). For more information, email [contact@C3Ohio.org](mailto:contact@C3Ohio.org) or call 513-939-9255.

### **West's Volley for a Cure Goes Virtual**

Lakota West's 14th annual Volley for the Cure event may look different this year, but still supports a great cause.

The games took place on Sept. 8 but you can support Volley for the Cure in the following ways:

- Purchase raffle tickets (\$1 each or 20 for \$25) via a Venmo payment to Coach Stu Hagglund (@stu-hagglund). Prizes include gift cards to Meijer (\$100), Stone Creek Restaurant, Dairy Queen, Skyline, UDF, Arby's and more. Additional prizes include Cleveland Cavaliers tickets, Reds Hall of Fame tickets and more.
- [Participate in the online silent auction](#), which includes a signed Ryan Kelly jersey, Jordan Hicks signed jersey, jewelry from Yelton's Fine Jewelers, a lottery ticket bouquet, movie night basket, gift card baskets and more. Donations can be accepted via PayPal or Venmo (@stu-hagglund)

The raffle and silent auction close on Sept. 25 at 5 p.m.

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# **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)