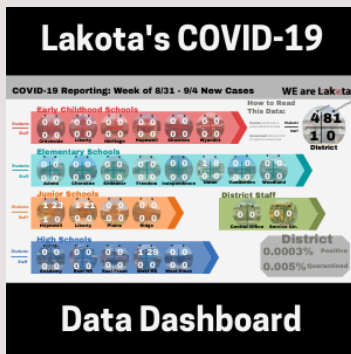


WE are Lakota



September 8, 2020 Edition

FEATURED In This Issue



Lakota's COVID-19 Communication Procedures

With the return to in-person learning, Lakota is committed to responsibly tracking positive cases of COVID-19, as well as quarantine counts in response to those cases.



We Are Prepared: FAQ Updates

Have you visited Lakota's Back-to-School webpage recently? The list of frequently asked questions is updated regularly, as information regarding the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) remains fluid.



VIDEO: Student Words of Wisdom for the Year Ahead

In spite of this year's unique challenges, our students have some pretty good ideas for how to make it a great school year. Our monthly video series featuring student voice, "Words of Wisdom," continues this year.

Full story

Full story

Watch the video

Around Lakota

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SHOUT-OUTS



West 2011 Grad Ryan Kelly Signs Big Contract

The Indianapolis Colts have signed starting center **Ryan Kelly**, a Lakota West High School graduate, to a four-year contract extension.

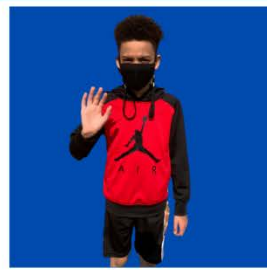
Financial terms of the deal were not immediately available but ESPN reported the deal was for \$50 million and included \$34 million in guaranteed money, making Kelly the highest-paid center in the league. Congratulations, Ryan!

FEATURED PHOTOS

Say Hi to Your Friends From a Safe Distance



Dab



Wave



Wink



Bow



Curtsy



Peace Sign



Air Hug



Thumbs Up



Foot Bump

#WEareLak^ota

Students Featured on New Social Distancing Poster

One of our latest kid-friendly public service announcements for COVID-19 will appear in the form of this poster in our early childhood and elementary halls soon. We asked

our youngest learners to demonstrate all the different ways they can say hi to their friends from a safe distance.



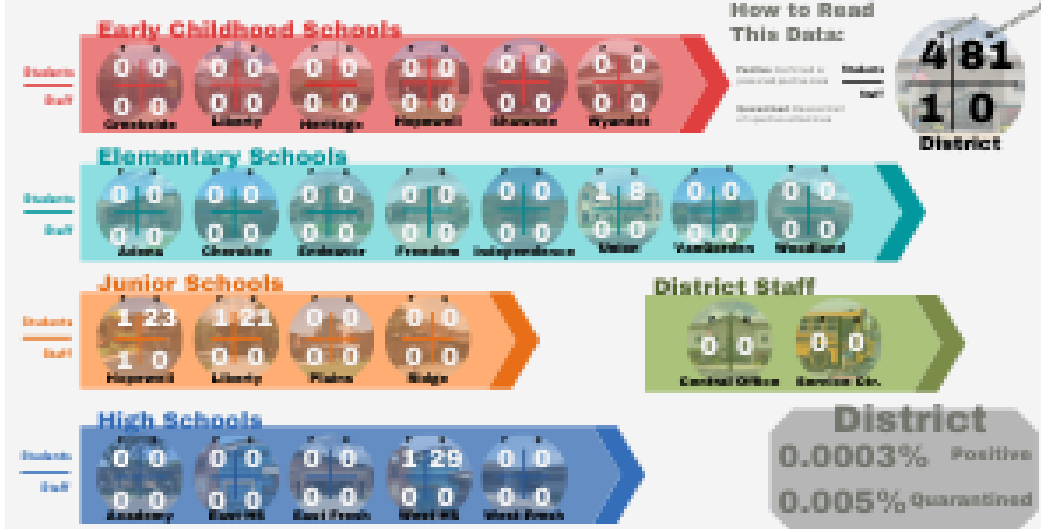
Welcome Back!

Ridge Junior School recently welcomed back Mr. Willis, their Design & Modeling and Automation & Robotics teacher. He just returned from serving our country for six months in the Middle East. Thank you for your service!

Lakota's COVID-19

COVID-19 Reporting: Week of 8/31 - 9/4 New Cases

WE are Lakota



Data Dashboard

Lakota's COVID-19 Communication Procedures

With the return to in-person learning, Lakota is committed to responsibly tracking positive cases of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) among our students and staff, as well as current quarantine counts in response to such cases.

“Every decision we’ve made in response to this pandemic has come back to the safety of our students and staff and their families,” said Lakota Superintendent **Matthew Miller**. “We continue to take that same approach where it involves reporting positive cases. It is our duty and responsibility to inform our families of any level of potential exposure to a case in their home building.”

Prior to the start of school, Lakota’s COVID-19 Response Team formulated a very prescriptive process for district administrators and nurses to follow when reporting confirmed positive cases, required quarantines and even symptomatic instances that require isolation.

In compliance with Gov. DeWine's recent case reporting order for K-12 schools, Lakota is also making available every Monday a community report of the newly reported positive cases and quarantines, by building and district-wide, for the prior week. [Please click here to view Lakota's data from the week of Aug. 31 through Sept. 4.](#)

[Read more](#)



Back-to-School and COVID-19 Updates

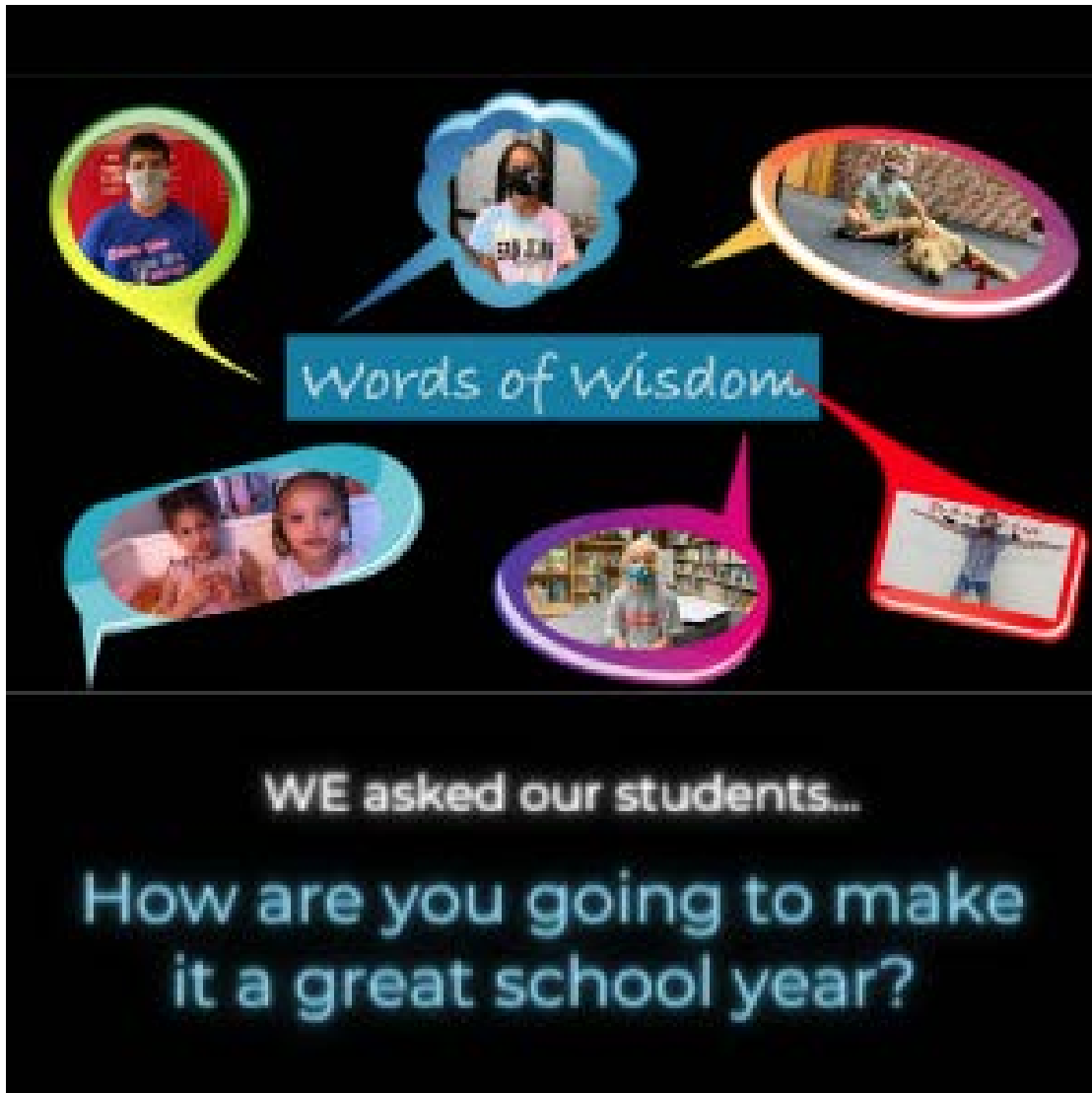
Have you visited Lakota's [Back-to-School webpage](#) recently? The list of [frequently asked questions](#) is updated regularly, as information regarding the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) remains fluid.

Here are some recent updates that you should know:

Face Coverings: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently announced that [face masks with exhalation valves or vents are not recommended](#). Per its website, the CDC notes that "this type of mask does not prevent the person wearing the mask from transmitting COVID-19 to others." We ask that students and staff do not wear this type of face covering in order to help protect others from the spread of COVID-19.

Click on the link below for updated information about quarantine requirements and more.

[Read more](#)



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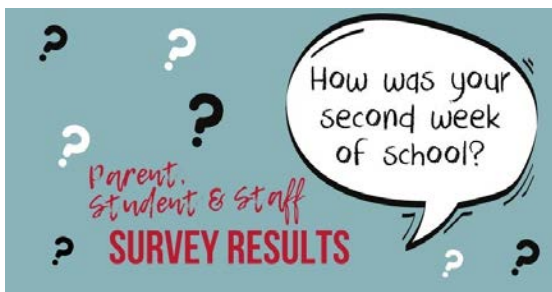


Applications Now Accepted for Board Vacancy

The Lakota Local Schools Board of Education seeks applicants to fill the unexpired term of board member Todd Parnell, who resigned on Aug. 27, 2020. The board will interview candidates on Sept. 12 and 13.

Those interested in serving on the Lakota Board of Education should [complete this application](#) no later than Sept. 10, 2020. Community members are encouraged to share the qualifications they wish the board to consider when filling the vacancy by [completing this ThoughtExchange survey](#) by Sept. 10.

[Read more](#)



Lakota Gets Feedback from Parents, Students and Staff

Lakota Local School continues to gather feedback from its parents, staff and students regarding the 2020-2021 school year. "This is new to all of us," said Superintendent **Matthew Miller** about the reopening of the district amid the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Since the mandatory closing in March, the district has invited feedback as it navigated through uncharted territory. "Everything about this year is fluid and it's imperative that we continue to listen and make adjustments as needed." According to Miller, the district will continue to send surveys for the foreseeable future, but will move to monthly instead of weekly.

[In-person & VLO survey results](#)



Virtual Learning Students Staying Connected to Home Schools

While about a quarter of Lakota students might be learning virtually from their own homes, the goal is to keep them as connected to their home school as possible.

A partnership between the Virtual Learning Option (VLO) and school principals is focused on ways to maintain this connection. Students receive communications from their home school, can participate in extracurriculars, and can even get their school pictures taken and be part of the yearbook. Whenever possible, students have a VLO teacher from their home school.

[Read more](#)



Masks Don't Stop Students & Staff from Making Connections

We may be starting the school year wearing masks, but that hasn't stopped Lakota students and staff from making important connections with each other.

Challenges associated with wearing masks have brought about creative solutions across the district.

For example, Adena Media Aide **Kim Gaffney** helped provide every staff member with a photo button to wear every day, featuring the staff member smiling – without a mask.

[Read more](#)



TACKLING COVID-19 CHALLENGES

Liberty Junior Student Engineers at Work

Liberty Junior Student Engineers Tackle Football Team's COVID-19 Challenge

The Liberty Junior School football team had a problem - one that **Doug Noxsel's** Design & Modeling students weren't afraid to tackle, even if it was just their first full week in the new class.

Despite his best efforts to make the team water cooler completely touchless in light of current COVID-19 precautions, Coach Hamilton still had no way for his student-athletes to refill their bottles during practice. The alternate valve that he purchased may have kept students from touching the same release button, but still required each water bottle to repeatedly touch the same surface.

[Read more](#)



West's Student Athlete Advisory Board: More than Meets the Eye

What does a practice look like when it combines student-athletes from 27 different sports? It looks like Lakota West High School's Student Athlete Advisory Board, better known as SAAB.

Every other Sunday, August through May, nearly 60 of Lakota West's finest student-athletes gather for two to three hours to practice a skill shared across all their sports: leadership. Senior members, or "veteran leaders," organize and lead each meeting for their junior member counterparts, or "emerging leaders." Following Jeff Janssen's "The Team Captain's Leadership Manual," every

meeting zooms in on a new chapter and theme, combining small group discussion with a former Lakota athlete as their guest speaker.

[Read more](#)



West's Volley for the Cure Goes Virtual Sept. 8-25

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

The volleyball team is asking fans to put on an old "Volley for the Cure" T-shirt and tune into its full line-up of official "Volley for the Cure" games virtually on Tuesday, Sept. 8, beginning with the freshman game at 4:30 p.m. The junior varsity and varsity games will follow at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m., respectively. The games will broadcast live [via Chatterbox Sports](#) and will also be available beginning at 9 p.m. via West Chester TV or West Chester's [Vimeo](#) and [YouTube](#) channels.

[Read more](#)



Lakota Teams up with C3 for Conference on Impact of Social Media & Technology

Lakota Local Schools 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.

"That's really what makes our conferences different," said C3 President Lynda O'Connor. "We're partnered with the schools for several

years now and we're able to bring mental health professionals, educators, parents and students all together in one place. This year that place will be a virtual room, in recognition of current health concerns."

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.

NEW BUSINESS

**WE are
Lak@ta**

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. Limited capacity will also be required at other non-athletic events where passes might typically be accepted, but those details are still being determined.

**WE are
Lak@ta**

Free & Reduced Lunch Applications Due Sept. 9, VLO Food Program Kicks off Sept. 10

Free and reduced price meals through the USDA's National School Lunch & School Breakfast Programs are available to families who qualify. If your family chooses to apply (a new application is required every year), please [complete the application](#) by Sept. 9 to be eligible this school year. You will be notified by mail of your child's status. Until notification you must provide your child with a lunch or lunch money.

Beginning Thursday, Sept. 10, our virtual learners will be able to pick up breakfast and lunch via our new drive-through bagged meal service. Meals will be available for pickup at four locations on Mondays and Thursdays.

As we begin the program, we are asking that parents complete the RSVP form so that we can better anticipate the number of students who will be buying the meals. [Please complete this form no later than Sept. 7 for](#)

[meal pick up on Sept. 10, 14 and 17](#). You may choose to purchase meals on one or more days. More specific information is being emailed directly to VLO families.

Envision Partnerships Hosts Virtual Parent Workshop Series

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

- **Handling Stress & Anxiety**
Wednesday, Sept. 9, 10-11 a.m.
- **Building Confidence**
Wednesday, Sept., 10-11 a.m.
- **Becoming Resilient**
Wednesday, Sept. 23, 10-11 a.m.
- **Interactive Practice - Stress Buster Practice**
Wednesday, Sept. 30, 10-11 a.m.

Click here to register for one or more sessions. 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.

ON THE RADAR

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Board of Education Meeting](#)

September 14
6:30 p.m.
Plains Jr. & via Zoom

[Board of Education Work Session](#)

September 28
6:30 p.m.
Plains Jr. & via Zoom

[Coffee Chat with the Superintendent](#)

October 7
7 p.m.
Facebook Live

[Click here to watch a recorded presentation](#); you can also register for a Live Webinar (choose the date you want to 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](#).

Check Your Lakota Communication Preferences

Timely and transparent communication is critically important to Lakota Schools. The district's mass notification system, School Messenger, delivers important school and district news and announcements via email, phone and text message to parents, staff, students and community members (opt-in only). We will be using this same platform to communicate with our Virtual Learning Option families as well.

While contact information is updated in accordance with our information systems, we encourage parents, employees and community members to [log into School Messenger](#) to check their information and preferences. [Watch this new video tutorial about how to log into and navigate your School Messenger account.](#)

Still Have Back-to-School Questions?

Lakota has compiled a comprehensive FAQ with everything you need to know to have a great start to the 2020-2021 school year.

[Click for Lakota's Back-to-School FAQ.](#)

COVID-19 Safety Resource Manual

In accordance with guidance from the Butler County Health Department, Lakota Local Schools has compiled a comprehensive resource manual outlining the district's safety protocols and guidelines for its responsible reopening this school year. The district is requiring all staff to carefully review this document and is encouraging families to familiarize themselves with its contents as well.

[Click to view the COVID-19 safety resource manual.](#)

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 12
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](#)

WE are Lak@ta

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