

# WE are Lak@ta



June 2, 2020 Edition

## FEATURED In This Issue



### Celebrating Our Grads Drive-In Style & Upcoming Video Premiere

Lakota's graduation weekend was marked by seven non-traditional, yet memorable celebrations of both East's and West's Class of 2020. Read more about this year's drive-in style ceremonies, plus catch up on all the ways we're celebrating this year's seniors,

**WE want to hear from you!**

As we continue to build out options and plans for what school can look like in the fall of 2020, what considerations should we keep in mind?



[bit.ly/Lakota2021](https://bit.ly/Lakota2021)

### Share Your Thoughts: Fall 2020 Thought Exchange Closes Tomorrow

There's still time to share your thoughts about the fall by answering this question: "As we continue to build out options and plans for what school can look like in the fall of 2020, what considerations should we keep in mind?"

including our [virtual Parades of Graduates](#) and next week's live video tributes.

[Full story](#)

[Full story](#)

### Around Lakota

- [Remote Learning Survey Results Guide Preparation for 2020-2021 School Year](#)
- [Mental Health Supports Remain in Place Over Summer](#)

### New Business

- Lakota Debuts Final Class of 2020 Video Tributes June 10 & 11
- School Messenger Notifications

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## SHOUT-OUT

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### West Marching Firebirds Collect Thousands of Item for Reach Out Lakota

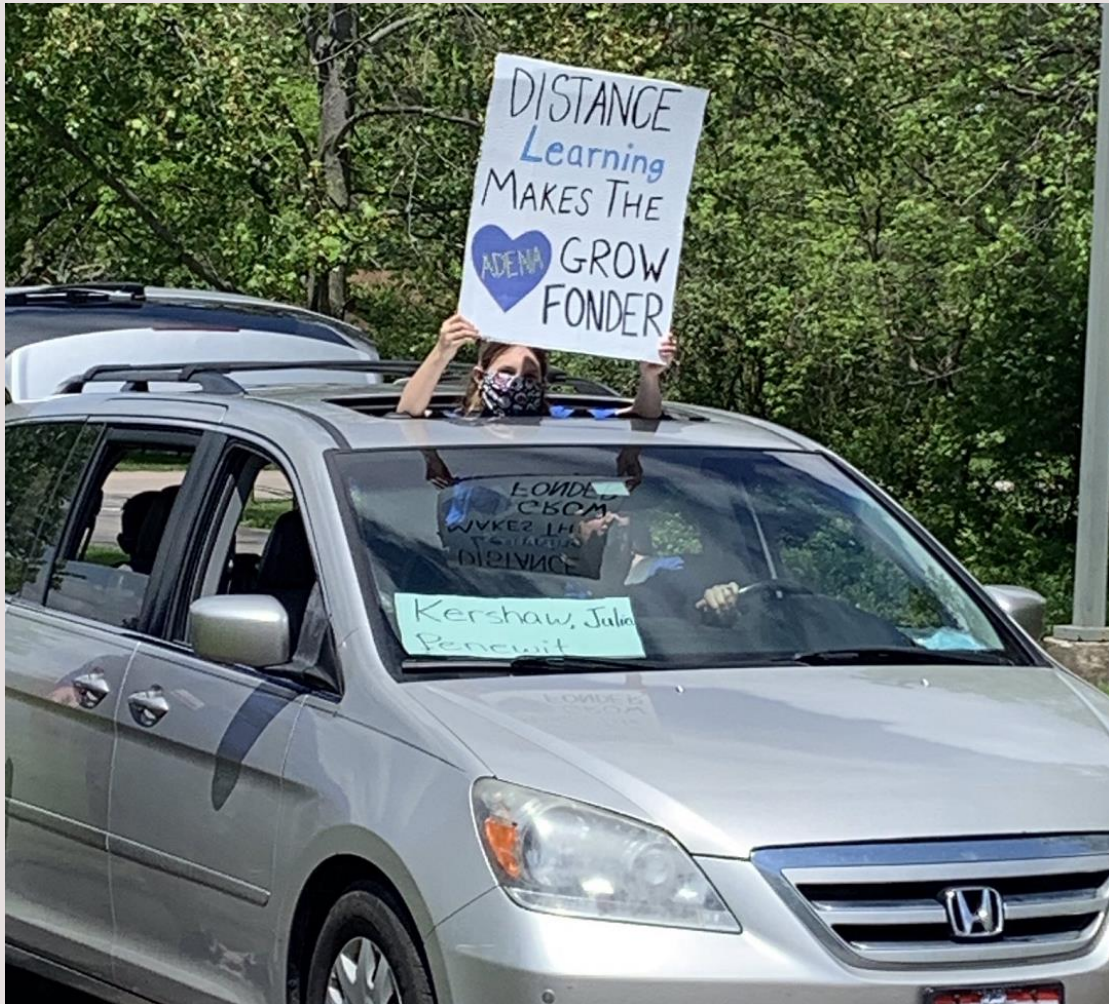
The Lakota West Marching Firebirds came together in a big way to support Reach Out Lakota. Every band member traded in their practice time to gather as many donations as possible -- and in the end, they were able to donate 2,581 items to the local food pantry.

[Click here to see WLWT Channel 5's recent coverage on how the band is making a difference in the community.](#)

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## FEATURED PHOTOS

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### Special Moments Cap Off the School Year

Families across the district visited their schools one last time for item pick-up day. Shown above is an Adena family showing just how much their students missed being in school with teachers and friends, a sentiment shared by so many of our youngest learners up through our 2020 graduates.





### Special Sendoff for Plains Music Teacher

Plains Junior School students and staff prepared a very special send off for music teacher **Phil Chumley**, who retired at the end of the school year. Congratulations to Phil and all of our [2020 Lakota retirees](#) -- we'll miss you!



### Graduation for the Class of 2033

In their end-of-the-year packets, Lakota's Class of 2033 received a cap and diploma marking the completion of preschool. Way to go to our youngest graduates!

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## AROUND LAKOTA

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### Celebrating the Class of 2020 Drive-In Style

Lakota's graduation weekend was marked by seven non-traditional, yet memorable celebrations of both East's and West's Class of 2020.

Over the course of two days and seven separate ceremonies, nearly 1,100 graduates celebrated the important milestone among their family and friends from the comfort of their vehicles (or parking spaces). A sea of cheers, and car horns, commended each name that was called as graduates were invited to process up to the median to the stage one row at a time.

Each drive-in style ceremony, held on May 30 at Lakota East and May 31 at Lakota West, welcomed graduates and their guests by the carload. Cars were escorted by staff to their pre-assigned parking spots, each adequately spaced to respect social distancing guidelines set forth by the Butler County Department of Health. The ceremony was marked by most of the same traditions recent graduates have enjoyed at Cintas Center - but with their school as the backdrop instead.

The ceremonies followed [a series of virtual Parade of Graduates videos](#) that debuted during the days leading up to East's and West's original graduation dates. Now, the Class of 2020 awaits a final live video presentation, dedicated to Lakota West on June 10 and Lakota East on June 11, both at 7 p.m. on Lakota's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

[Read more](#)



### **Fall 2020 Thought Exchange Closes June 3**

How school looks in the fall will depend largely on requirements and guidance from Gov. DeWine, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Education and the Butler County Health Department. While we understand that guidance may be released early, we also anticipate that it will most likely change between now and August. Keeping this in mind, district leaders are building out possible scenarios for our students' safe return to school this fall.

Ideally, we would prefer to have all of our students physically in school every day. But we must also be prepared with alternative solutions that include a remote option and a blended scenario that combines in-person and virtual learning. We are asking our parents, students, staff and community members for input as we shape these plans.

[Read more](#)



## Remote Learning Parent & Student Survey Results

WE are Lakota

## Final Remote Learning Survey Results Guide Preparations for the 2020-2021 School Year

Ongoing feedback from Lakota parents and secondary students has played an important role in shaping Lakota's fourth quarter remote learning experience. Surveys went out to parents at the start, middle and end of remote learning. The final survey recently closed, and results will help Lakota prepare for the 2020-21 school year.

The number of respondents increased dramatically with each survey, with 5,265 responses logged for the final survey. About 79% of those responding to the May 15 survey were parents, with 21% being students in grades 7-12.

According to the final survey, missing the personal connection between classmates and staff continued to grow as the top two challenges for students. Several questions were also posed about the possible re-opening of schools in the fall.

[Read more](#)



## Mental Health Supports Remain In Place Over Summer

We all know that mental health needs don't take a summer break and that our students continue to need support even when they are not at school.

That is why our [MindPeace](#) partners and therapists are still available to support Lakota students via telehealth (either through a virtual or phone appointment). If your child isn't currently seeing one of our therapists, but you have concerns, please feel free to reach out to your school's therapist to discuss appropriate next steps for your child. If your school does not yet have a therapist identified, you can find

resources, look for community providers or other school partners by visiting [www.MindPeaceCincinnati.com](http://www.MindPeaceCincinnati.com).

[Read more](#)

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## NEW BUSINESS

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### Lakota Debuts Final Class of 2020 Video Tributes June 10 & 11

On the heels of this weekend's drive-in graduation ceremonies, Lakota will premiere a live video tribute to celebrate the Class of 2020 next week.

The entire community is invited to participate in both of these special events, debuting on [Lakota's Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#). Tune in for Lakota West's tribute on Wednesday, June 10 at 7 p.m. Lakota East's video will be presented on Thursday, June 11 at 7 p.m.

### School Messenger Notification Accounts Updating June 1

Lakota uses a comprehensive mass notification system, School Messenger, for delivering important school- and district-wide messages via email, phone and text message. The platform provides parents, guardians and staff with a convenient way to manage their preferences for receiving weather-related, emergency and general notifications from Lakota and its schools.

The system integrates with current student and staff data (from Home Access Center), automatically updating your account to receive communications based on your current school(s) and/or grade level. All accounts will update to reflect new school and grade assignments for the 2020-21 school year on June 1. Please note that alternative school of choice assignments will not be reflected until early July.

[Click here for step-by-step instructions](#) on how you can view the email addresses and phone numbers being pulled into your account from Home Access Center and change your communication preferences. For easy, on-the-go access for managing your account settings, download the "SchoolMessenger" app from your app store.

## ON THE RADAR

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### Community Foundation Accepting Nominations for Educator of Excellence Awards

The Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty, in partnership with Lakota Local Schools, is currently accepting nominations for the 2020 Lakota Educator of Excellence Awards. The nomination deadline, traditionally in the spring, has been delayed until Sept. 4 due to the current health crisis.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### [Board of Education Meeting via Zoom](#)

June 8  
6:30 p.m.

### [Video Premiere Celebrating the Lakota West Class of 2020](#)

June 10



"Surprising recipients with the award in front of their students and colleagues is the best part of this process. We hope we will be able to continue with that tradition by extending the deadline to the fall," says Erin Clemons, Community Foundation president & CEO. "During this challenging time of distance learning, we are especially grateful for our Lakota educators who have stepped up and adapted to ensure their students are still getting a quality education."

[Continue reading for more information on nominations.](#)

## Summer Meal Distribution

Lakota's Summer Lunch Program kicked off on May 27 at nine locations throughout the district. In addition to six neighborhood stops, three pick-up locations are available for families. Meals are provided free of charge to children ages one through 18. [Click here for complete details about the summer lunch program.](#)

## Online Registration for K-12 Students for 2020-2021

Online registration for grades K-12, including Lakota's all-day kindergarten program, remains open for the 2020-2021 school year. Lakota's Welcome Center will not be open to the public for in-person appointments, but will still be conducting business by phone and email to obtain all required documentation.

All students are eligible for all-day kindergarten, with the option to enroll in the half-day program, if desired. Lakota's kindergarten classes will be held at six K-2 early childhood schools, including Creekside, Heritage, Hopewell, Liberty, Shawnee and Wyandot. Please note that students must be five years old on or before Aug. 1 in order to enroll in kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year. [Visit the kindergarten registration site for more details.](#)

Families can register online, after which they will be contacted by phone to provide any further required documentation. [Visit the Welcome Center website](#) for more information and to register online. All questions can be directed to the Welcome Center at [enroll@lakotaonline.com](mailto:enroll@lakotaonline.com) or (513) 682-4120.

## Submit Alternative Transportation Requests for Next School Year by July 20

To ease the transition to a new school year and honor families' requests for alternative pick-up and drop-off locations for transportation, Lakota is asking that families submit transportation forms by July 20.

7 p.m.  
YouTube & Facebook

### [Video Premiere Celebrating the Lakota East Class of 2020](#)

June 11  
7 p.m.  
YouTube & Facebook

### [Board of Education Meeting via Zoom](#)

July 20  
6:30 p.m.  
Location

### [Board of Education Meeting](#)

August 10  
6:30 p.m.

[District Calendar](#)



By default, transportation for all eligible students is based on the home address listed in our student database. If your child will be needing transportation to or from an address different than their home address, please remember to complete a new [Transportation/Child Care Form](#) with current information.

All alternative transportation plans are automatically cleared at the end of each school year, so please complete the form before each school year if you'll require transportation to or from an address different than your home address. The early childhood schools ask that all their families complete a form to have on file, regardless of where they will require transportation.

Please honor the following deadlines to receive transportation for the upcoming school year, beginning on the date indicated:

<b>Form Submission Deadline</b>	<b>Transportation Available</b>
July 20, 2020	First day of school
Aug. 12, 2020	Aug. 24, 2020
After Aug. 12, 2020	Sept. 2, 2020

After Sept. 3 all forms will be processed within 48 hours.

### Custom Facebook Frames

Show your support of our students, teachers and staff with our new photo frames on Facebook. Frames are available to celebrate our seniors at both Lakota East and West or to show that WE are in this together as a community. [Click here to visit Lakota's Facebook page](#) to try them out.

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**WE are Lakota**



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