

WE are Lakota



May 6, 2020 Edition

FEATURED In This Issue



WE are In This Together Karaoke Take 2: Remote Learning Edition

Lakota's famous school bus karaoke strikes again! Lakota kicked off the school year with a special school bus karaoke tribute to this year's theme: WE are In This Together.

The stars of our first karaoke hit return in this



YEAR END UPDATES

Lighting the path for seniors,
remote learning, personal
belongings pick-up and more

Year End Updates

As we enter the last few weeks of school, get the latest updates regarding assignments, the pick-up of personal belongings, Chromebook drop-off, refunds and celebrating our graduates.

special remake dedicated to Lakota's journey through remote learning.

[Full story](#)

[Watch video](#)

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SHOUT-OUTS



Recognizing Special Volunteers

End-of-the-year recognitions are looking a little different this year, including the annual Barb Bossu Volunteer Spirit Awards sponsored by Lakota's District Parent Council (DPC). The annual ceremony honors a special volunteer from each school, as well as a volunteer who has made a big impact across the district. The ceremony was originally planned to take place in April.

"While it's disappointing that we cannot come together to celebrate our amazing volunteers, we know that the most important thing we can do for our schools and community right now is to stay at home," said **Lisa Phair**, Lakota DPC Chair. "We look forward to when we can come together to honor those who give unselfishly to our students and our schools."

[Click here for the list of winners and the reasons why they won.](#)

#WLWTcommunity Day of Giving

Partnering with WLWT, Lakota Local Schools encouraged the community to participate in the television station's CommUNITY Day of Giving on April 23. The district encouraged community members to support its partner, Reach Out Lakota.

In one day, Reach Out Lakota received 1,425 pounds of food as well as gift cards and monetary donations. Thank you to our community for your generosity!



Firebird Earns President's Volunteer Service Gold Award

Lakota West sophomore **Shriya Kappagantula** received the President's Volunteer Service Gold Award for completing 238.5 hours of volunteer service during the 2018-2019 school year.

"Over the past year, you have served as a model of the American spirit," read a letter Shriya received from President Trump. "Your many hours of service have strengthened the bonds of cooperation and trust that bring people together, while helping to address some of the greatest challenges of our time."

Congratulations to Shriya on this incredible recognition!

East Freshman Ranks High in Ohio Boys & Girls Club 'Youth of the Year' Competition

Lakota East freshman **Kaitlin Dwomoh** placed third in Ohio's Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year competition, representing the Boys & Girls Club of West Chester/Liberty. Additionally, she received a \$1,000 scholarship for higher education.

Each year, one exceptional Club member is selected to be the National Youth of the Year, serving as an ambassador for Boys & Girls Club youth as well as a voice for all of our nation's young people. Congratulations Kaitlin!

FEATURED PHOTOS



It's Staff Appreciation Week!

Students and parents have been reaching out this week to thank educators across the district. **LeAnn Sabatani** kicked off the week with this post on Twitter (photo above): "Thank you @LakotaUnionElem teachers, staff, and administrators for being amazing. With five kids in this family, Union will be educating our children from 2016-2031. Our appreciation for you runs deep. From the Sabatani family, thank you so much."



Plains Football Shares 'Stay at Home' Message

As a way of advocating for Ohio's "stay-at-home" order for the return of student sports, select members of the Plains Junior School football team shared this message: "Stay home so our moms can start yelling touchdown again! Go Firebirds!"



Remote learning: Going to the Dogs with Bendi & Zooey

Bendi and Zooey Doing Their Part in Remote Learning

Lakota's therapy dogs, Bendi and Zooey, have been working hard just like the rest of us during remote learning. Students especially love when they join in on Zoom calls!



Thank You to Our Parents

Remote learning couldn't work without our wonderful parents! A big THANK YOU goes out to our parents for the support that you continue to show us, and all of the time and effort you are putting in to help your students be successful.

AROUND LAKOTA



WE are In This Together Karaoke Returns: Remote Learning Edition

Lakota's famous school bus karaoke strikes again! Lakota kicked off the school year with [a special school bus karaoke tribute](#) to this year's theme: WE are In This Together. With the unexpected turn of events and our shift to remote learning, that theme has become more relevant than ever.

The stars of our first karaoke hit return in this special remake dedicated to Lakota's journey through remote learning and everyone who has worked together to do what's best for our students. WE truly are in this together!

[Watch the video](#)



YEAR END UPDATES

Lighting the path for seniors,
remote learning, personal
belongings pick-up and more

Year End Remote Learning Update

As we enter the last few weeks of school, below are updates regarding assignments, the pick-up of personal belongings, Chromebook drop-off, refunds and celebrating our graduates.

Last Day of School

While the last day of school remains May 21 for Lakota students, the final week will be used to complete classwork and make-up assignments. The last day for seniors to receive new assignments will be May 8. For students in grades kindergarten through 11, the last day for new assignments will be May 15.

Graduation

On May 1, the district announced that, due to directives from Gov. DeWine and the Ohio Department of Education, the class of 2020 will be celebrated virtually with a special video that will be shared the first week of June, in addition to a personal graduation experience for each graduate. The community will be able to celebrate our graduates through a Facebook live watch party. More information will be shared in the near future.

Read more for details about "Light the Path for the Class of 2020", returning personal belongings and Chromebooks and refunds from the district.

[Read more](#)



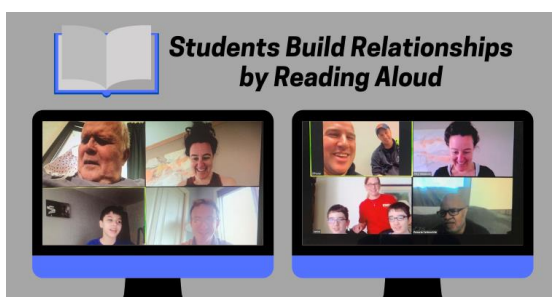
State Government Unit Goes Virtual

Senator Coley Brings Fourth Grade State Government Unit to Life

"Teachers know a lot, but the senator has actually experienced it," said Endeavor Elementary fourth-grader **Patrick Bramlage**, reflecting on his recent lesson about how a bill becomes a law. He and his classmates went straight to the source: Senator Bill Coley. "No offense, Mrs. Veneman," he added with a laugh.

This reasoning was exactly why Endeavor teacher **Julie Veneman**, in collaboration with a handful of other fourth grade teachers across the district, invited a special guest into their virtual classroom last week.

[Read more](#)



Students Build Relationships by Reading Aloud

Students Read to Nursing Home Residents, Firefighters

Staying at home hasn't stopped the students in **Amy Weisbrot's** class from forging new friendships with members of the community.

Once or twice a week, her students hop on Zoom to read aloud to nursing home residents and firefighters. Those calls are full of conversation, games, virtual fist bumps, and lots and lots of laughs. The program is quickly growing to include even more students and community members.

[Read more](#)



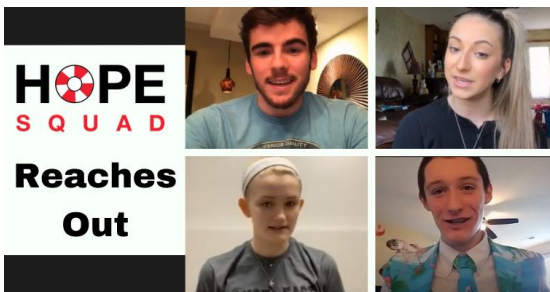
The Show Must Go On (even with remote learning)

Remote learning hasn't stopped Lakota West's Acting 2/3 class from finishing a project they started back in January.

They just completed "[Keeping Up with the King](#)," a video performance for the annual Project 38 festival hosted by the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company. Schools throughout the area were given one of Shakespeare's 38 plays to adapt; West received Richard II, a story about a corrupt king being overturned. The class decided to create a reality TV show where they would take the basics of the three-hour play and condense it to just 12 minutes.

Kim Eldridge's Acting 2/3 class had written the script together, auditions had been held, and filming had just begun – then the COVID-19 pandemic struck.

[Read more](#)



Hope Squad Video Shares Tips for Positivity

The Lakota East and West Hope Squads play an important role in creating a school culture of positivity and hope – whether students are learning at school or learning at home.

At this time of year, the Hope Squads typically visit the junior high schools and share what Hope Squads are all about. In May, eighth-graders nominate and vote for their peers to become freshman Hope Squad members.

"Obviously those in-person visits were not possible, so the squads came up with the next best thing: a video," said Assistant Director of Gifted Services **Lauren Webb**, who helped coordinate the effort. "The squads also wanted

to use this opportunity to help students during quarantine."

[Read more](#)



Military Commitment Ceremony Premiere May 7

Join us as WE celebrate our seniors who have made a commitment to enter either a military academy or branch of service after graduation. Lakota Local Schools will host a Facebook video premiere on Thursday, May 7 at 7 p.m. to recognize this group of 22 seniors.

This will be the district's third annual Military Commitment Ceremony, although the first that has been celebrated virtually. "It was very important that we figure out a way to recognize our seniors who are putting service before self after graduation," said Superintendent **Matthew Miller**. The ceremony will begin with members of the Lakota East and West choirs performing the National Anthem.

[Read more](#)



April Words of Wisdom: Remote Learning

Remote learning isn't perfect, but our students have discovered some positives along the way. We dedicate this month's "[Words of Wisdom](#)" [video](#) to sharing some of their favorite parts of learning at home. This continuing video series is our way of continuously spotlighting student voice.

[Watch video](#)

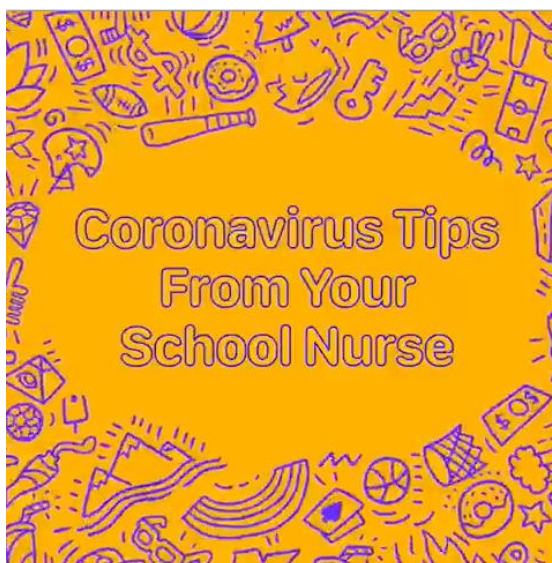


Mental Health Video Series: Talking About COVID-19

Lakota's emphasis on social, emotional and mental health has become even more pronounced as students, staff and our families start to feel the toll of our recent break in routine. Throughout this pandemic, Lakota is sharing brief video messages from our mental health experts on what small actions can help support our children and teenagers and keep their minds healthy and happy during these uncertain times.

In the latest installment of this video series, Lakota's Student Wellness Coordinator **Megan Cameron** shares some tips for talking about COVID-19 with your children. In this minute-long watch, she provides a list of questions to help guide the discussion. [Watch the latest mental health video all about discussing COVID-19.](#)

[Watch the complete video series](#)



COVID-19 Health Tips from Your School Nurse

Adena Elementary school nurse **Karen Fogel** recently produced [this simple and kid-friendly video](#) (in English and Spanish) as a way of sharing tips for staying healthy during the COVID-19 outbreak.

She partnered with her daughter, who works in Ohio State University's distance education program, to shape the content of the video, a compilation of recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Ohio Department of Health.

[Read more](#)



Remote Learning Survey Results

Three weeks into remote learning, Lakota Local Schools asked its parents and secondary students to complete a short survey about the experience. The survey was similar to one sent after the remote learning practice day on March 13.

"Remote learning at this level is new for all of us," said Superintendent **Matthew Miller**. "It's critical that we gather feedback throughout the process so that we can continue to improve and meet the needs of our students."

[Read more](#)

NEW BUSINESS



Summer School Update

Following guidelines from Gov. DeWine on Monday, April 20, Lakota's summer school program will be taught through remote learning this year.

Those who have already registered should have received an email with updated information. As we get closer to the start date of May 26, parents and students will receive more details and communication from your teacher(s).

At this time, only credit recovery courses and End-of-Course Assessments for the summer testing window (pending state approval) remain open for registration.

Please visit www.lakotaonline.com/summerschool for registration information and for regular updates. If you have any additional questions, please send an email to summerschool@lakotaonline.com.

[Learn more](#)



Early Entrance to Kindergarten Testing Delayed

Lakota's testing for early entrance to Kindergarten, originally scheduled in May, has been postponed, pending guidance related to the COVID-19 response. We hope to have more guidance after June 1. [Updates will be available on Lakota's Gifted Services website.](#)

[Learn more](#)



2021-2021 Open Enrollment, Applications due May 29

Each school year, the Lakota Board of Education re-evaluates the district's open enrollment policy and votes on whether or not to approve its renewal. If renewed, under [Board Policy 5113](#), students residing in other Ohio school districts can apply to attend Lakota.

Due to the high volume of returning open enrolled students, at this time we are not accepting first-time applicants for the 2020-2021 school year. Per Board Policy 5113 and Administrative Guidelines, we will only be accepting applications from current Lakota staff, returning open enrolled students and siblings of returning open enrolled students.

[To apply, please complete the open enrollment application.](#) All applications must be submitted to enroll@lakotaonline.com by close of business on Friday, May 29, 2020. Please complete a separate application for each student. Applicants may not always receive their first school of choice, depending on the school's base enrollment for students residing within its attendance zone.

[Learn more](#)



Kindergarten Welcome Video

The principals at our early childhood schools have been very disappointed that the annual kindergarten information night was canceled due to the stay at home order by our state. However, they have a very special message to our newest students: WE can't wait to meet YOU! Click below to view this video message.

[Watch video](#)



East Relay for Life Goes Virtual May 15

Lakota East's "Relay for Life" committee has been working hard to transform this year's 10th annual event into a virtual celebration. The event will take place on May 15 on Twitter and Instagram (@lehsrelay4life) as well as Zoom.

From 4 to 6 p.m. will be a virtual survivor walk to "Honor Our Fighters" by showing support to all individuals affected by cancer. A fundraising hour will raise money for the American Cancer Society. Beginning at 10 p.m., participants will "light the way together" through a luminaria ceremony, followed by other traditions like a Ms. Relay pageant show and a Zumba Livestream hosted by a Lakota East student.

Visit [Lakota East's Relay for Life website](#) or follow @lehsrelay4life for more updates. If any cancer survivors or families affected by cancer would like to get involved, please contact [Lauren Rader](#) or [Kennedy Chenault](#).



Facebook Live: Coffee Chat with the Superintendent May 6

Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller will still host his final Coffee Chat of the school year, but in a virtual format via Facebook Live. Please plan to join Mr. Miller on Wednesday, May 6 from 7-8 p.m. on his [Lakota Superintendent Facebook account](#). He will be sharing a brief update before taking questions from those tuning in to the live event.

Coffee Chats are traditionally held on the first Wednesday every month (with some exceptions), rotating between West Chester and Liberty Township locations. The times vary to accommodate different schedules.



Meal Distribution Updates

While meal distribution for our families will continue through May 20, a slightly altered schedule will go into effect next week. Beginning May 11, pick up locations will be available at West Freshman, Liberty Junior and Hopewell Early Childhood schools. The Child Nutrition buses will continue to stop at six locations throughout the community. Please check the graphic detailing the schedule as some times have been slightly adjusted.

The last day of the school year meal distribution will be on May 20. Students will receive meals for Wednesday through Friday of that week.

The district's summer meal program will begin on May 27 and will follow a similar schedule. Meals will be delivered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at nine locations throughout the community.

[Learn more](#)

ON THE RADAR

Managing Your Notifications Settings in Canvas

The onset of remote learning has likely increased your notifications from Lakota's learning management system, Canvas. Please be reminded that you can manage your notification settings in Canvas by following these steps:

- In your Canvas account, click on Account in the right navigation panel.
- Click Notifications.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Military Commitment Ceremony Premiere](#)

May 7
7 p.m.
Facebook

[Board of Education Meeting via Zoom](#)

May 11
6:30 p.m.

- For each item shown, set your notifications to your personal preference.

If you're not sure how to access your Canvas account, [please visit the Parent Digital Resource page on Lakota's website.](#)

K-12 Online Registration for 2020-2021

Despite Lakota's building closures, 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.](#)

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.](#)

Submit Alternative Transportation Requests 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.

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

Last Day of Assignments for Seniors

May 8

Last Day of Assignments for K-11

May 15

Light the Path for Lakota West Seniors

May 20

8:20 p.m.

Students Last Day of School

May 21

Staff Last Day of School

May 22

Light the Path for Lakota East Seniors

May 22

8:20 p.m.

Board of Education Work Session via Zoom

May 26

6:30 p.m.

[District Calendar](#)

have on file, regardless of where they will require transportation.

WE are Lak@ta



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