

WE are Lakota



A Look Around Lakota

District E-Newsletter

April 21, 2020 Edition

FEATURED In This Issue



Latest Remote Learning Update

Superintendent Miller covers important topics following the announcement that remote learning will continue through the end of the academic year.

[Full story](#)



Specials Find Special Place in Remote Learning

Art, music, technology, exercise and creativity are a daily outlet to help offset the emotional toll of quarantine. Lakota's "specials" teams are rallying to provide families with options.

[Full story](#)



Mask-Making: Lakota Gives Back

Read about some examples of those making face masks to help others -- from a Freedom fourth-grader to the East theater program.

[Full story](#)

School Features

New Business

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- [Virtual Coffee Cart at East Keeps Learning Going](#)
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- Food Drive for Reach Out Lakota

SHOUT-OUTS



Lakota LEADS Announces 2020 Write Challenge Winners

Lakota LEADS announced the winners of its annual Write Challenge, a district-wide writing contest open to students in grades K-12.

Participants submitted a poem, narrative or essay responding to this year's theme of "progress."

Congratulations to all of this year's grade level and category contest winners.



Lakota Heroes to Thank for Mobile Student Meal Program

During the state-mandated shutdown, Lakota has served approximately 30,400 student breakfasts and lunches over the last four weeks. The mobile meal program, which visits 11 locations three times a week, has reached an average of 742 students each day.

We are grateful for the personal sacrifice and leadership of our Child Nutrition employees, as well as Lakota's school resource officers and bus

drivers, who have volunteered to see through this mission. Thank you for your service!



Perfect ACT Score Correction

Lakota West's **Andrew Himelstein**, **Jessica Lane** and **Anitvir Taunque** all scored a perfect 36 on the ACT tests they took in February. Just one half of one percent of all 1.8 million test takers earn a perfect score. A big congratulations to these three Lakota West Firebirds!

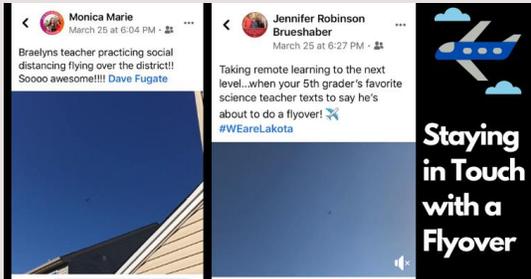
Editor's Note: This story ran in the last newsletter with the incorrect photo of Anitvir Taunque; we apologize for the error.

FEATURED PHOTOS



East, West Stadium Lights Shine Bright for Class of 2020

Both Lakota East and Lakota West high schools let their stadium lights shine bright Monday night as a way to honor both Classes of 2020.



Cherokee Teacher Finds Unique Way to Engage with Students

Cherokee teacher **Dave Fugate** came up with a unique way to stay in touch with students, and practice social distancing!

After his first full day of remote teaching, it was a beautiful day -- so he decided to take to the air (Fugate has a plane he flies out of the Middletown airport). He sent out a message to parents and students letting them know he'd be flying over Cherokee and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Everyone had fun with it, and he was even able to see some kids out on their patios waving at him.



Sisters, Teachers Celebrate 'C Day'

Twin sisters **Tara McDonell** and **Tracy Henderson**, one a Wonderlab teacher and the other a gym teacher (both at Shawnee and Wyandot ECS), celebrated Wyandot's "Chalk Day" and Shawnee's "Color Day" with this special message to their students.

Kindergartners district-wide kicked off their year-end ABC countdown last week, celebrating a different letter every day leading up to the last day of the school year.

REMOTE LEARNING UPDATE



#WEareLakota

Remote Learning Through End of the School Year

On Monday, April 20, Gov. DeWine announced that remote learning will continue for all Ohio schools through the end of the 2019-20 academic year. Superintendent Matthew Miller covered the following topics in an email to all parents. [Click here to watch a Facebook Live video about the announcement.](#)

- Remote Learning to Continue
- Staff Availability
- What about services to students with disabilities?
- Mental Health Support
- Central Office Hours
- Meal Distribution
- Kindergarten Registration and Enrollment for 2020-2021
- School Board Meetings
- School Facilities/Grounds Remain Closed

- Scheduled Spring/Summer Events
- Graduation
- Summer School
- Summer Sports Camps/Programs
- Retrieving Personal Items from Schools
- Status of 2020-21 School Year
- Work Permits for Minors
- For More Information

[Read more](#)



Specials Find Special Place in Remote Learning

At a time when art, music, technology, exercise and creativity are a daily outlet to help offset the emotional toll of quarantine, Lakota's "specials" teams are rallying to fuel their families' idea banks. Called choice boards, flexible playlists or menu boards, their guiding purpose is all the same.

"During the time of this global pandemic, think about many of the viral videos you see on the news and social media," said **Delaney Roberts**, the music teacher at both Cherokee and VanGorden elementary schools. "From people quarantined in Italy making music on their balconies, to the Hamilton musical cast Zoom call, to beautiful sidewalk chalk covering communities, the Arts are what people are turning to for comfort during this time."

[Read full story](#)



Giving Back LAKOTA MAKES MASKS

Mask-Making: Lakota Gives Back

"Don your mask, don your cape". It's a phrase we hear often from Dr. Amy Acton, Director of the Ohio Department of Health, about the heroic behavior of physical distancing. Masks can be hard to come by, but the Lakota community is stepping up in a big way to get face masks to those who need them.

Grace Russell, a fourth-grader at Freedom Elementary, is using her sewing skills to make face masks during the COVID-19 crisis.

She has made almost 50 masks to date, with a goal to make 100-150 in all. "The virus will go away quicker if you have the right gear," said Grace, who started sewing when she was just seven years old. She likes making the masks to help others, and added with a laugh, "it also keeps me from going quarantine-crazy!"

[Read full story](#)



Real World Engineering at East Freshman Via Remote Learning

How do you make the jump from teaching about 130 students in a class that heavily relies on hands-on learning to remote learning? **Joe Schorr**, a Butler Tech teacher at the Lakota East Freshman building, has figured it out.

"I was a little nervous," admits Schorr who teaches Introduction to Engineering Design. "My classroom is usually a very hands on classroom. Students are either working on building things or they are working on a CAD (Computer Aided Design) program that we have on our PCs in the classroom." Knowing that this would not be a possibility during remote learning, Schorr set about coming up with an alternative plan.

[Read more](#)



East Virtual Coffee Cart Keeps Learning Going

Before remote learning **Brianna**, a freshman at Lakota East, would work on vocational skills by taking a coffee cart around to staff throughout the school building.

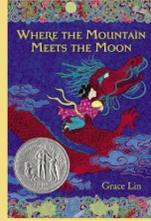
Creative new ways to deliver instruction are emerging and now, just like so much other learning, the coffee cart that Brianna and her regular customers looked forward to each morning has gone virtual.

When East Principal Suzanna Davis saw a tweet that showed Brianna enjoying an online morning meeting with her teacher and classmates, she replied and mentioned doing a virtual coffee cart.

The idea caught on, with other customers asking to be part of the virtual coffee cart because they missed more than just the coffee Brianna delivered.

[Read more](#)

Real World Learning Meets



REMOTE LEARNING

Virtual Author Visit Adds Real World Learning to Novel Study

When Independence Elementary fourth grade teacher **Jenny Garwood** realized she and her students would miss out on completing their latest class novel together, she resorted to the next best thing: Zoom. But the virtual class meeting doubled as real world learning when it included one more visitor than can be found on most online book discussions happening these days - the book's author herself.

"Connecting with an author is always a gift," Garwood said, "but my students loved getting to ask her questions face-to-face over Zoom."

[Read more](#)



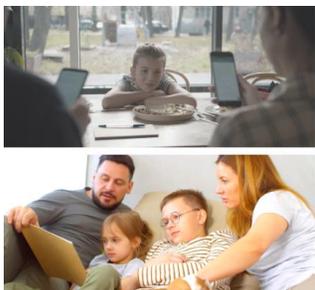
**HOPEWELL JUNIOR
NHS SERVICE CHALLENGE**

Hopewell Junior NHS Challenged to Continue Spirit of Service

Hopewell Junior Honor Society members are coming up with creative ways to continue their spirit of service – despite restrictions imposed by the pandemic. Their advisor, science teacher **Mark Bauer**, challenged them to share their good deeds with each other in a Google Drive folder.

Read on to take a look at some of the things students are doing to give back to the community.

[Read more](#)



*Mental
Health Tips
Video Series*

2

**MODELING
BEHAVIORS**

Mental Health Video Series: Modeling Behaviors

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 modeling behaviors to help control anxiety. From modeling different coping strategies to limiting social media use, she packs a lot of good information into just a minute-long watch. [Watch the latest mental health video all about modeling behaviors.](#)

Watch the complete video series

NEW BUSINESS



How to Adjust Notification 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. 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.](#)



Last Call for Student 'Words of Wisdom' Videos

Like everything else, Lakota's "Words of Wisdom" video series, featuring student voice, is also shifting to remote learning! Share a sneak peek inside your remote learning environment to be part of this month's "Words of Wisdom" video.

Students of all ages are invited to submit a "show and tell" video that answers this question: What's your favorite part of learning at home? Submit the video no later than April 24.

Submit Your Video



Try Our New 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.](#)



Lakota Reschedules, Relocates Graduation Ceremonies

After learning that Xavier University has cancelled all events until August, we have identified an alternative location to recognize our graduates. We are pleased to announce that the graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2020 will be held at Lakota East and West high schools.

Not knowing when Governor DeWine will lift the stay at home order and allow large group gatherings, we have scheduled two sets of dates, each with a rain date included.

[Learn more](#)



Parade of Graduates - Call for Photo Submissions

Besides graduation, another important right of passage for Lakota's seniors is the "Parade of Graduates," which has traditionally brought many of our graduates back to the elementary school where their schooling started.

While we are making plans to reschedule some of the other traditional senior milestones closer to the new graduation dates, this is one event that we have decided to reimagine in a virtual format. This ensures that we don't miss the opportunity to celebrate our Class of 2020 in some way closer to their original graduation date.

Next month, we will be releasing virtual parades in the form of separate videos dedicated to each of the elementary schools our graduates may have attended. Our hope is that this alternative format will open up to our entire community a platform through which they can share their personal messages and well wishes with our graduates.

Just like the traditional parade, participation is completely optional. All Lakota East and West graduates are invited to submit a photo for inclusion in their respective video no later than Monday, April 27.

[Submit a Graduate Photo](#)



Kindergarten Information Night Postponed

In light of Governor DeWine's former extension of Ohio's stay-at-home order through May 1, we wanted to clarify that Lakota's rescheduled Kindergarten Information Night, originally announced for tomorrow evening, will not be occurring as planned.

As you can imagine, our team of early childhood school principals remains focused on supporting our students and staff finishing out the current school year in light of the challenges of remote learning. Once we receive a more definitive timeline on the rules surrounding large gatherings in Ohio, we will be sharing yet another alternative date and/or format for this event, which will likely take place over the summer months.



Virtual Military Commitment Ceremony in May

With remote learning in place through the end of the school year, Lakota Local Schools has moved its Military Commitment Ceremony to a virtual celebration. The annual event recognizes seniors from Lakota East and West high schools who will commit to serve their country after graduation. This special video presentation will be shared with the community in May.



'Day of Giving' Food Drive for Reach Out Lakota

On Thursday, April 23, WLWT is leading a "Day of Giving" to help families in need. Join in the #WLWTcommunity Day of Giving by supporting our partner, Reach Out Lakota. Donations can be dropped off behind the building throughout the day. Prior to noon, please leave your donations in the shed marked "food." Monetary donations can also be given via their website, www.reachoutlakota.org.

ON THE RADAR

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kindergarten Info Night: Postponed
Original Date: April 21

Barb Bossu Awards Ceremony: Postponed
Original Date: April 22

LEADS Write Challenge Awards Ceremony: Cancelled
Original Date: April 27

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.

[Continue reading for complete details about this announcement.](#)

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.

[Continue reading for complete details about this announcement.](#)

Coffee Chat with the Superintendent via Facebook LIVE

May 6
7-8 p.m.

Board of Education Meeting via Zoom

May 11
6:30 p.m.

Lakota East Graduation

July 9 or 11 (rain date)
8 p.m.

If large group gatherings allowed by June 25

Lakota West Graduation

July 8 or 10 (rain date)
8 p.m.

If large group gatherings allowed by June 25

[District Calendar](#)

WE are Lakota



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