

A Look Around Lakota: E-News Edition

October 18, 2019



CROSSTOWN STUFF THE BUS FOOD DRIVE

October 18 - November 1



**WE ARE
IN THIS
TOGETHER**



#WEareLak@ta

'Stuff the Bus' Food Drive Kicks Off Tonight

Lakota's annual district-wide food drive for Reach Out Lakota kicks, running Oct. 18 through Nov. 1, continues to make an impact beyond West Chester and Liberty townships. The district has again invited neighboring districts to join the cause, this year teaming up with Middletown City Schools and Hamilton City Schools for the friendly crosstown competition.

"We're each working to pack a school bus with the most canned goods and other needed items, but in the end, the real winners will be all three of our communities," said Lakota Superintendent **Matthew Miller**, noting that each district's final collection will go to a local relief organization serving their communities.

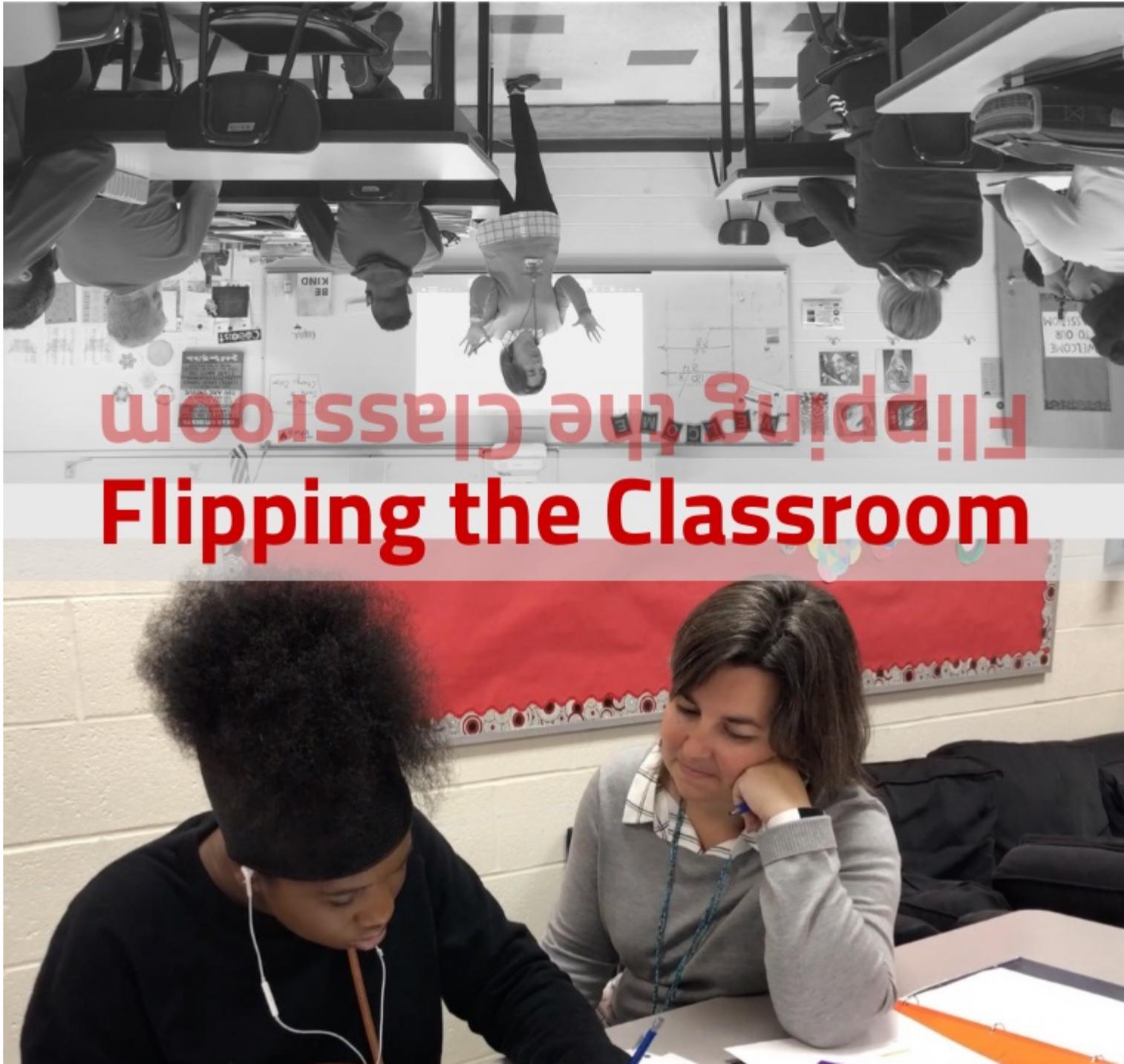
Once again, the food drive overlaps with National Make a Difference Day on October 26. "This year's theme and one of our four vision statements, "WE are In This Together," applies to the food drive, too. We can make a far bigger difference together than we can individually," Miller said.

This is the 12th year for the district-wide food drive for Reach Out Lakota, which is sponsored by the Lakota Board of Education.

Lakota will kick off its drive at the Oct. 18 East vs. West football game (7 p.m. at West), where the community will be invited to bring their donations to the game. [Click here to view a flyer](#), including a list of items most needed by Reach Out Lakota.

The drive will continue through Nov. 1 with donation bins available in every Lakota school. The food drive bus will make stops at each school over the duration of the drive to collect donations. The final collection points will be Nov. 1 at the last home games of the year (East vs. Hamilton and West vs. Middletown, both at 7 p.m.)

[READ MORE](#)



Flipping the Classroom

'Flipping' the Classroom: Math 'On Demand' Empowers West Students

What happens when you “flip” a classroom? Lakota West math teacher **Jenny Circello** can attest to the benefits of this more personalized approach to learning that puts students in the driver’s seat.

For starters, 100 percent of her students have passed the quizzes and tests they’ve taken so far this year - up from about 60 to 70 percent in previous years. And to think she’s getting those results in a class that traditionally struggles with math.

“The great thing about personalized learning is that it works for all learners...because it’s personal,” Circello says.

But the results go far deeper than just higher test passage rates.

“Our students are actually taking ownership of their learning,” said **Scott Rooks**, an intervention specialist at Lakota West who co-teaches with Circello to assist students with special needs. “They are responsible for staying on track. They know their weekly goals and it’s on them to say when they’re ready to take a test.”

A flipped classroom, Circello explains, stands in stark contrast to the “traditional” lecture style she used to use with her students. As part of Lakota’s commitment to more personalized learning, it’s one of four models that all Lakota teachers are being encouraged to integrate into their classroom this school year.

[READ MORE](#)

SHOUT OUTS



**East Golf Teams
Headed to State
(left)**

**East Jr High
Cross Country
Wins GMC
(right)**



**West Girls Soccer
Wins Title (below)**

**Liberty Jr. Golf
Takes GMC
(lower left)**



**Lakota Receives Regional
Technology & Innovation Award
(left)**

**East Girls Cross Country Wins
(below)**



Lakota Schools Win Regional Technology & Innovation Award

Lakota Local Schools has been named a 2019 winner of ComSpark's Corporate Tech & Innovation Award. The award, now in its sixth year, honors the region's leading corporations and executives who encourage innovation through technology. "Lakota Schools is committed to furthering education by utilizing technology as a tool for our students," said Superintendent **Matthew Miller**. "To be recognized by ComSpark for this work is a great honor."

The district, which launched the [Lakota Cyber Academy](#) this fall, has implemented a 1:1 technology program for all secondary students, as well as a modified program for sixth graders. [Innovation Hubs](#) at its eight elementary schools and eight secondary buildings facilitate authentic future-ready learning for students through green screen technology, virtual reality, collaboration stations and more.

Liberty Junior Boys Golf Takes GMC Championship

Congratulations to the Liberty Junior School boys golf team on their Greater Miami Conference championship. The boys clinched the title with an 11 stroke lead over Sycamore. This is the fourth time the team has brought home the championship since 2013.

The team had an undefeated season, only the second time in recent years. **Connor Schulte** and **Walker Wood** placed third overall in the tournament.

West Girls Soccer Clinches Conference Championship, First Undefeated Season

The Firebirds clinched the Greater Miami Conference girls soccer championship, becoming the first team in Lakota West history to finish a season undefeated. The team celebrated their win over the Oak Hills Highlanders at their last regular season game, which doubled as Senior Night.

The team is entering its "second" season, a potential one and done eight-game trek to the Ohio State Girls Soccer Championship.

Junior High Thunderhawk Cross Country Team Wins First GMC Title, Accounts for Top Six Individual Spots

For the first time, Lakota East's seventh grade junior high cross country team, represented by runners from both Liberty and Hopewell junior schools, earned the top spot in the Greater Miami Conference. It was also the first time in a GMC Championship that the top six finishers were all from Lakota: **Evelyn Prodoehl**, **Taylor Bacher**, **Brooke Asher**, **Lauren Matlack**, **Kaitlin Kaszubski** and **Brooke Hermann**.

In the spirit of "WE are Lakota," the Westside and Eastside junior high teams all train together, rotating between both high schools. Both teams will compete in the junior high state competition this Sunday, Oct. 20 at Dublin Jerome High School.

East Girls Cross Country Wins Back-to-Back GMC Titles

For the second consecutive year, the Lakota East girls cross country team was crowned Greater Miami Conference team champions. All seven Thunderhawks earned all-conference honors, with five receiving first-team and two second team. Congratulations to Head Coach **Adam Thomas**, who was named GMC Cross Country Coach of the Year for the girls sport.

The varsity team's next stop is District Championships at Voice of America Metropark this Saturday, Oct. 19, where the top five girls teams, and top 20 individuals in each race, will qualify for Regional Championships.

Both East Golf Teams Get Special State Send-Off

Both of Lakota East's golf teams earned titles as GMC Champions and then southwest District Champions. The district win was the first for the girls team, and the third for the boys team, whose GMC win represented their sixth consecutive title.

The girls will be making their third consecutive appearance at the state championship this Friday and Saturday, Oct. 18-19 at Ohio State University's Gray Course. The boys team began their fourth consecutive attempt for the state title on Thursday, Oct. 17 and will compete

through today, Friday, Oct. 18. Lakota East continued its state send-off tradition with a parade down Main Street for both teams on Wednesday morning (pictured above).

AROUND LAKOTA



Learning through
PERSONALIZED PLAY

Kindergartners in Elizabeth Farris' class at Hopewell ECS brought their ice cream shop idea to reality. The project was entirely student-led and is a perfect example of the advantages of personalized learning.

Beneath the Surface of New Ice Cream Shop at Hopewell ECS

A new ice cream shop opened its doors at Hopewell Early Childhood School - and everything from the money and ice cream to the menu and drive-thru window was created by the students who dreamt it up in the first place.

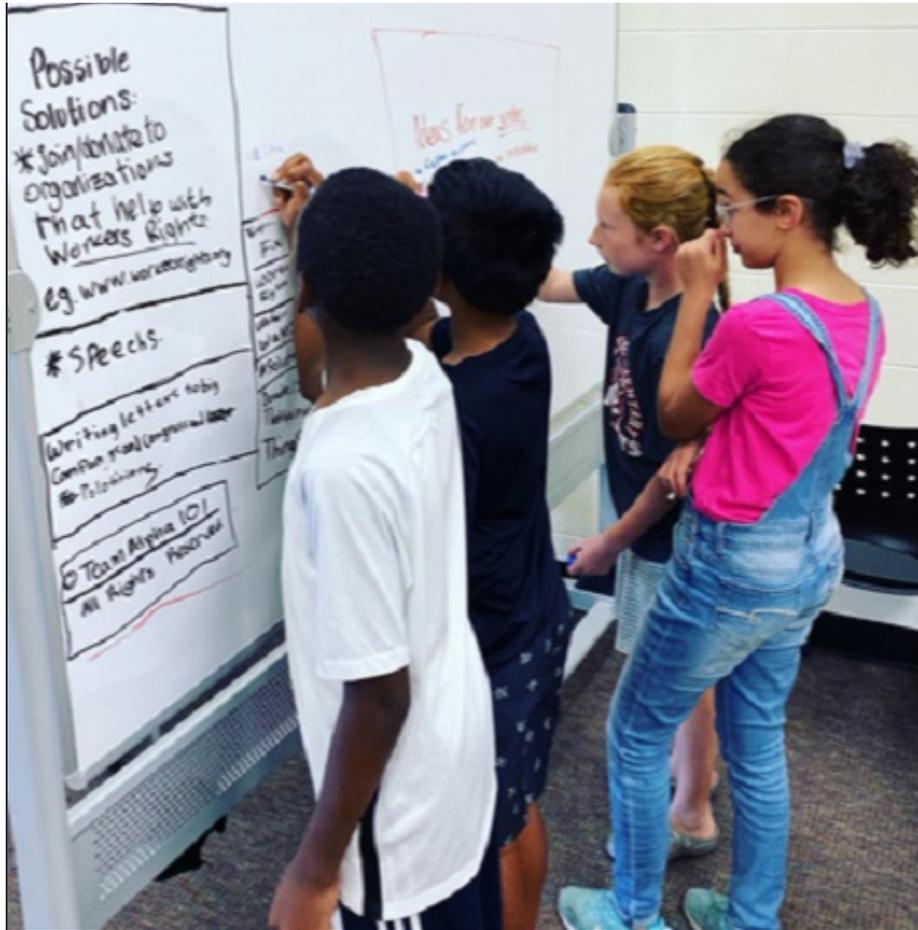
It all started with a simple question teacher **Elizabeth Farris** posed to her kindergartners: What could we add to our learning space to use during play workshop? From there, students took the lead on suggesting different options, voting on them, coming up with a list of required materials and problem-solving how they would obtain them.

Eventually, they broke into expert groups, each one tackling a different aspect for making their shop a reality - the menu, the storefront sign, the treats and the drive-thru, for example. Students had the opportunity to choose how they wanted to use their talents to contribute to the end product.

"This project was 100 percent student-led," said Farris, who decided to tie it to her students' daily Play Workshop. This time was added to the kindergarten curriculum when Lakota began offering all-day kindergarten to all students without the lottery system. "Play has often

been called the work of children because they learn naturally through play and discovery. Projects like these allow children to take ownership over their learning and allow them to learn in an engaging and authentic way."

[READ MORE](#)



A recent exercise brought Tanya Hoeting's sixth-graders down to Endeavor's Innovation Hub on a daily basis. One group makes use of a collaboration station to work together on their final video project (right), while another uses the whiteboard to brainstorm their ideas (left).

Innovation Hubs Facilitate Good Old Fashioned Collaboration

Collaboration through technology doesn't have to mean hiding behind a screen. In fact, a recent exercise led by Endeavor teacher **Tanya Hoeting** proved it can actually enhance interpersonal skills.

Among all the gadgets in Lakota's refurbished Innovation Hubs, the collaboration stations are among the most popular tools with student visitors. In these spaces, students can simply project their device on to a larger screen to share information with their peers and help facilitate group discussion. They also include a good old fashioned whiteboard.

For the last month, Hoeting's sixth-graders have been using their daily Personalized Learning Time (PLT) scribbling their ideas on the whiteboards and huddled around their Chromebooks at these stations - not lost in their own individual research, but collaborating in teams and exchanging ideas.

"I started the lesson in my classroom," Hoeting said, "but the moment we started visiting the Hub and making use of the collaboration spaces, I couldn't believe how much the level of engagement ramped up."

[READ MORE](#)



The Little Mermaid Jr.



Lakota East's upcoming theater production, The Little Mermaid Jr., features sets made out of recycled materials. Theater students visited VanGorden Elementary to talk about recycling and fourth-graders helped make props out of bottle caps and straws.

East's 'The Little Mermaid Jr.' Reaches Beyond the Stage

Teaching Lessons in Community Service, Recycling and Art

Who knew that pool noodles, straws and bottle caps could be transformed into seahorses and colorful underwater plants?

The beautiful sets in Lakota East's upcoming 'The Little Mermaid Jr.' were created from these seemingly ordinary recycled materials.

"We always try to tie in community service with our first show of the year," said East theater director **Kristen Hoch**. 'The Little Mermaid Jr.' is entirely student-produced, with over 100 students involved in the play, both on and off stage."

"To make a statement about ocean cleanup, we decided to make a bunch of our sets and props out of recycled materials," said East's **Kelly Croy**, one of the service project directors. "We've run collections around the community to collect bottle caps, pool noodles, cardboard and plastic bags." Out of these recyclable materials, the theater students created works of art for their underwater scenery.

East's Acting III class even took the recycling message on the road, making a field trip to VanGorden Elementary to speak with fourth grade classes studying recycling.

[READ MORE](#)



A SPLASH OF COLOR MAKES RUNNING SO MUCH FUN

LAKOTA JUNIOR SCHOOLS' FALL RUNS

All four Lakota junior schools held fall runs to raise money for programming and activities. More than 700 students participated and the schools raised over \$50,000 from individual and corporate donations.

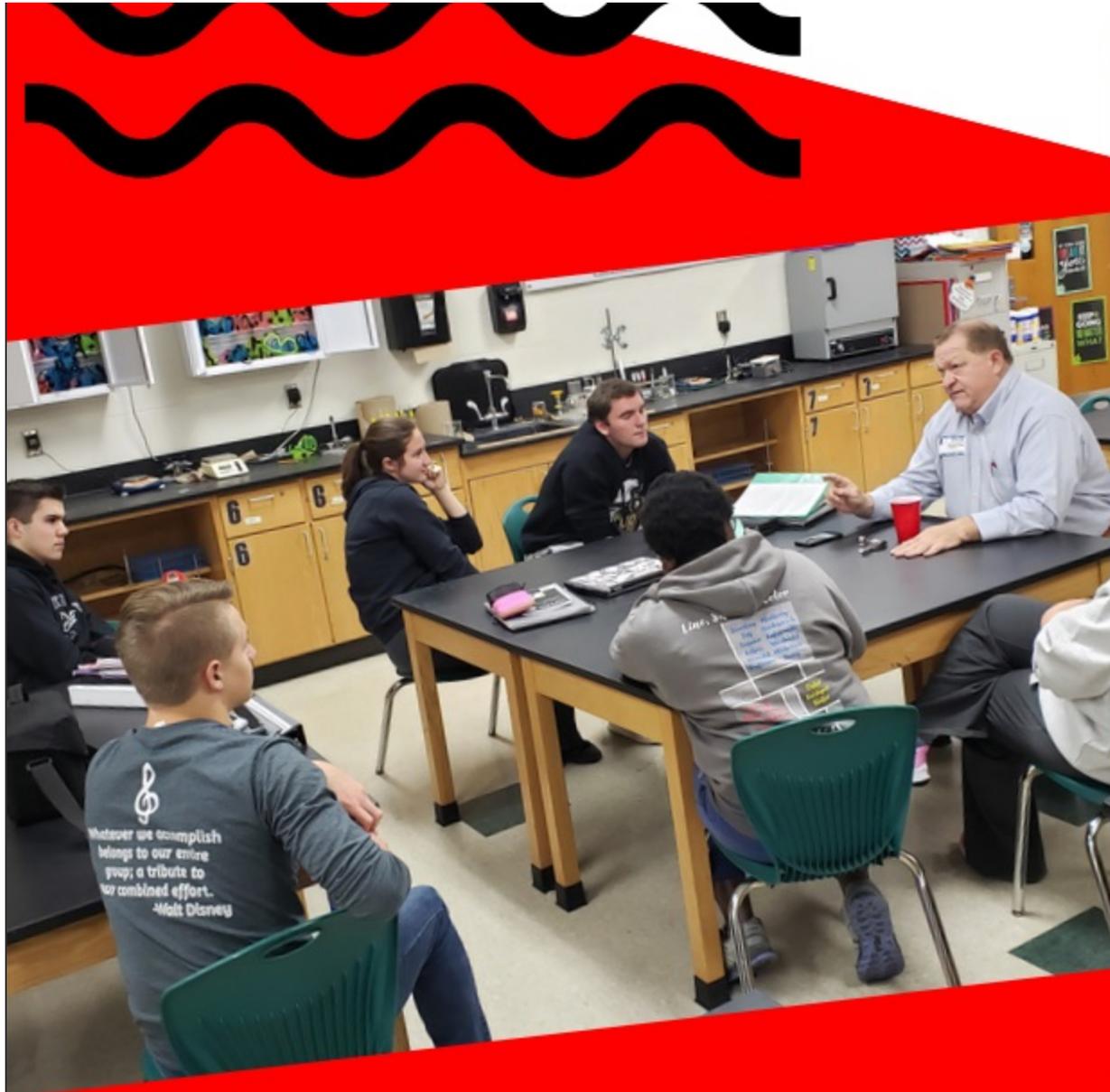
Fall Runs with a Splash of Color

Is it possible to combine health, fundraising and fun? The answer is yes if you're a Lakota junior school student. Students throwing colored powder and running

Parent-teacher organizations at each of the district's four junior schools used fall runs as not only a fun activity for students, but a fundraiser for their schools. "The run has become far beyond a money maker for our PTSO," said **Jeff Rouff**, principal at Hopewell Junior School. "It has become an opportunity for our community to come together and celebrate junior high style." More than 700 students participated in runs across the district.

While this was the second year for Hopewell, Liberty, Plains and Ridge were all in for the event this year. "We wanted to do something that would be fun for the kids because we understand that parents would rather spend money on their kids to do an activity rather than purchase something," said **Jennifer Collier** from the Plains PTO. After hearing about last year's success at Hopewell Junior, they decided to give it a try. "It went great. It was very memorable and everyone had fun despite the rain." [Click here to watch a video featuring all four Color Run events.](#)

[READ MORE](#)



The Game of Life



A new XH sprint course called the 'Game of Life' is teaching skills ranging from changing a tire to tips on signing a lease.

The 'Game of Life' Teaches East Seniors Valuable Life Skills

Do you know how to change a tire? Manage a budget? Write a resume?

Lakota East seniors are getting the chance to learn these and many other important skills in a new course called the 'Game of Life'.

For 12 weeks during XH (extra help period), students can participate in this inaugural sprint course.

The idea to start XH sprint courses was initiated by East Chemistry teacher **Liz Gosky**. "I wanted to bring ideas/issues/cross curricular activities to students that we don't get to teach in our regular classes due to time constraints." She sat down with her colleague **Kate Joseph** to collaborate on a sprint course about the 'Chemistry of World War 2'.

"As we began brainstorming on the idea of sprint courses, we decided to start small with the senior class," said Gosky. "We came up with the Game of Life to try to incorporate life skills that we all know that our seniors need to know when they walk out of our doors at East into the real world."

Gosky then pitched the idea to Lakota's Strategic Partnerships Coordinator, **Katie Bauer**, who helped find contacts in the community to teach the classes.

[READ MORE](#)

[View All
District News](#)

FEATURED PHOTOS



When Jim and Amanda from Warm98 paid a surprise visit to Lisa Smallwood's class at Creekside Early Childhood School last week, they asked her kindergartners the qualities of a great teacher. Their response: "Love." Mrs. Smallwood must have a lot of love to give because she was named Warm98's "Teacher of the Week." Congratulations Mrs. Smallwood and thank you for dedicating the last 32 years of your career to Lakota!



'Tis the season for Halloween fun! Schools across the district will be holding Trunk or Treats (photo above from Cherokee's event). Kids of all ages are also invited to attend The Monster Mash sponsored by East's National Honor Society. It will be held at East's Main Campus on Sunday, Oct. 20 from 4-7 p.m.
[*Click here for details.*](#)



As part of Lakota's commitment to real world learning, about 30 students from Lakota West High School had the opportunity to experience "Manufacturing Day" at AstraZeneca on Oct. 4. Students received an introduction to potential careers in manufacturing, learning from professionals and participating in hands-on breakout sessions.

NEW BUSINESS

Real-World Learning: Apply Now for Internships, Apprenticeships & Volunteering Opportunities

Lakota now offers a number of new internships, apprenticeships and volunteering opportunities to help students prepare for their future beyond high school.

These real-world learning experiences range from HVAC apprenticeships to a marketing internship to volunteering in a hospital environment.

Here is a list of current options for Lakota high school students. [Please visit Lakota's Internship, Apprenticeship and Volunteering webpage for more information.](#)

Current Internship Opportunities

CleanCut Bath Marketing Intern (paid)
[CleanCut Bath Marketing Internship Description](#)

Kinetic Vision Engineering/Design Internship (paid)
[Kinetic Internship Description](#)

[Open House Flyer](#)
[Link to Apply](#)

SpotOn Video Production Internship
[SpotOn Internship Description](#)

Apprenticeship Opportunities

P&G Business Apprenticeship
<https://www.pgcareers.com/job/cincinnati/cibi-careers-in-business-initiative/936/13392094>

Trilogy Health Services Health Care & Culinary Apprenticeship Program
<https://trilogyfasttrack.com/>

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Students of the Year Philanthropy Internship
<https://studentsoftheyear.org/>

Apollo Home HVAC, Plumbing & Electrical Industries Apprenticeship Program
<https://apollohome.com/paid-training-apprenticeship-program/>

Volunteer Opportunities in Industry Settings

West Chester Hospital High School Student Volunteer Program

<https://www.uchealth.com/westchesterhospital/high-school-student-volunteer-program/>

ABC Pediatric Therapy Observation Opportunities

<https://www.abcpediatrictherapy.com/about-us/observation-opportunities/>

Cincinnati Children's High School Student Volunteer Opportunities

<https://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/giving/volunteer/opportunities/high-school-students>

October 'Listen Up Lakota' Features Real World Learning Efforts

This month's edition of "Listen Up Lakota," a monthly radio program powered by 89.3FM WMKV, will feature special guests Lakota West Innovation Specialist **Lindsay Ellis**, Coordinator of Strategic Business Partnerships **Katie Bauer** and **Moriah Walker**, the media design and communication teacher at Liberty Junior School.

Lakota was one of just five districts nationally to be selected to participate in Digital Promise's Real World Learning Challenge Collaborative. The work yielded a roadmap that will serve as a tool to help teachers nationally bring real world learning into their classrooms. Learn how Lakota teachers like Mrs. Walker are immersing students in experiences to help them connect what they're learning in the classroom to life after school.

Tune in at 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18 or 1 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 24 on 89.9FM WLHS or 89.3FM WMKV. You can also stream it live at WMKVFM.org or download the WMKV app. The interview will be available as a podcast on the station's website after the first air date. WLHS/WMKV is a member-supported public radio with its studios located at Maple Knoll Village in Springdale.

Lakota Pi Day Planning Committee Seeks Volunteers

Lakota LEADS, the district's parent support group for gifted education, is seeking volunteers to help plan Pi Day, scheduled for March 6 at Lakota East High School. LEADS is in need of volunteers to join the Pi Day Committee to ensure another fun and successful event for all Lakota families.

You do not need to be a LEADS member to serve on the committee. If you are interested in helping plan this year's and would like more information, please email LakotaPiDay@gmail.com.

Report Cards on HAC

Today marks the end of the first quarter for students in grades 3-12. Report cards will be posted on Home Access Center (HAC) after 3 p.m. on Oct. 25. The first trimester for K-2 students ends on Nov. 11, with grades posted to HAC after 3 p.m. on Nov. 15.

Lakota Partners with YouthTruth to Survey Students

Lakota has partnered with YouthTruth, a non-profit organization, to gather information from our students in grades 3-12 about their experience in our schools. Between Oct. 28 - Nov. 8, students will take a short survey to help us better understand their views on a variety of topics. The survey, which will take between 10-17 minutes, will ask questions about engagement, academic rigor, relationships, peer collaboration, culture, college and career readiness, academic supports, and areas of strength and improvement.

If you would like to see a copy of the survey prior to it being administered, or if you would like to have your student opt out of the survey, please contact your child's school.

Lakota LEADS Hosts Math Night Oct. 23

Lakota LEADS is hosting a Math Night event in partnership with Mathnasium at Union Elementary on Oct. 23. Games will be geared toward students in grades K-6, and each student will receive a goody bag at the end of the night. A raffle drawing includes a tablet, gift cards and much more! LEADS members can also participate in a raffle for an Amazon gift card. Dessert will be provided.

This event is open to all Lakota families. Please join LEADS from 6:30 - 8 p.m. for a fun night of interactive math games! [Click here to view the event flyer](#). For more information visit www.lakotaleads.org.

Lakota Gifted Services Hosts ACT/SAT Workshop

Lakota Gifted Services will also host an ACT-SAT planning workshop in the Lakota West community room on Oct. 24 from 7-8:30 p.m. In partnership with LEAP, the workshop is designed to help guide families on creating an individualized testing timeline to maximize scores and increase college options and scholarships. Attendees will learn about the tests, answer frequently asked college entrance testing questions and receive expert guidance from LEAP representatives. For more information visit www.leaprogram.com.

High School Transportation: Projected Ridership Survey

The Lakota Local Schools Board of Education is gathering data from all families about the future of high school transportation in our district. The feedback will be used in conjunction with other information to discuss possible high school busing options for the 2020-21 school year.

[All current and future parents and guardians of students living within Lakota's boundaries are invited to complete this brief survey.](#) The survey will close at midnight on Sunday, Oct. 20.

LATEST E-FLYERS

E-Flyers is Lakota's convenient and eco-friendly way to distribute information about programs, classes, events and opportunities happening in our schools and around the community.

Lakota is proud to partner with Peachjar to share these opportunities in a digital format. Look for district-approved flyers in your email inbox every Wednesday or click the button below to view all current flyers by district or school.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Event Spotlights

- October 18 - November 1
Stuff the Bus Food Drive
(collections at all schools)
- Monday, October 21
**No School for Students:
Professional Development Day for Staff**
- Tuesday, October 22
Plains Junior Student Fanfare
at Plains Junior
7:10 a.m.
- Tuesday, October 22
Meet the Candidates for Lakota's School Board
at Miami University VOA Regional Campus
7 p.m.
- Friday, October 25
East Theater: The Little Mermaid Jr.
at Lakota East Theater
7:30 p.m.

ON THE RADAR

Announcements & Opportunities

October Social Media Challenge Highlights Difference-Makers

In honor of "National Make a Difference Day" on Oct. 26 and the district-wide "Stuff the Bus" food drive, we want to know all the ways the Lakota community is making a difference. That's why we're dedicating October's social media challenge to just that.

Whatever it is that you're doing to make a difference, get creative and share a post on social media. Participate all month long on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram by tagging #LakotaMakesaDifference.

You can participate without posting anything, too! Search on your social media site of choice for #LakotaMakesaDifference to "like" and share your favorite posts.

Get Your Tickets Now for East's 'The Little Mermaid Jr.'

Journey "under the sea" with Ariel and her aquatic friends in Disney's The Little Mermaid JR., adapted from Disney's Broadway production and the motion picture. Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories, The Little Mermaid JR. staged by the Thunderhawk Theater is an enchanting look at the sacrifices we all make for love and acceptance.

- Saturday, October 26
East Theater: The Little Mermaid Jr.
at Lakota East Theater
2:30 & 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, October 27
East Theater: The Little Mermaid Jr.
at Lakota East Theater
2:30 p.m.
- Monday, October 28
VanGorden Student Fanfare
at VanGorden Elementary
8 a.m.
- Monday, October 28
Board of Education Meeting
at Plains Junior School
6:30 p.m.
- Friday, November 1
Creekside Student Fanfare
at Creekside Early Childhood School
8:50 a.m.
- Saturday, November 2
High School Open Houses

This production is entirely student-run, with over 100 Lakota East students involved in the show, on and off stage. All tickets are \$10 at www.seatyourself.biz/lakotaeasthigh.

The Little Mermaid Jr.
at Lakota East Thunderhawk Theater

Friday, Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 26 at 2:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 27 at 2:30 p.m.

Meet the Candidates Night

The Lakota District Parent Council is hosting a Meet the Lakota School Board Candidates Night on Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Miami University Regional Campus (7847 VOA Park Drive). Parents, community members and stakeholders are invited to submit questions in advance to: <https://bit.ly/2TRNaFx>.

High School Open Houses

Lakota is welcoming future and prospective students to visit its two high schools on Saturday, Nov. 2 for a community open house.

The event hours are from 10 a.m. to noon at both Lakota East's and Lakota West's main campuses. Representatives will include teaching staff and students from both high schools, along with the four junior

at Lakota East & West High Schools
10 a.m. - noon

[See Full
Calendar](#)

schools, who will be available to answer questions and share more about the student experience.

Nov. 6: Coffee Chat with the Superintendent

Lakota's next Coffee Chat is set for Wednesday, Nov. 6 from 7-8 p.m. at Coffee Beans & Brew.

Superintendent Matthew Miller will be on hand for drop-in conversation with parents and residents.

Coffee Chats are 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. [Click here to view the Coffee Chats scheduled for this school year.](#)

MLK Day K-12 Student Contest Calls for Entries: Due Dec. 2

In preparation for our community's annual celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, all K-12 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 "20-20 Vision" theme challenges students to use their hindsight vision to identify Dr. King's single most important

accomplishment. The contest is part of the community-wide observance of MLK Day, known as the "Live the Dream: Our Declaration of Unity" celebration.

All entries are due Monday, Dec. 2, 2019 at 4 p.m. All will be on display at the Jan. 20 community commemoration at Lakota West High School, where winners will share their entries with the public. [Click here to learn more about this year's MLK Day contest and download the contest guidelines and entry form.](#)



5572 Princeton Road, Liberty Township, OH. 45011-9726

(513) 874-5505

lakota@lakotaonline.com