

A Look Around Lakota - E-News Edition

August 9, 2019



Welcome Back, Lakota!

Please enjoy this back-to-school edition of our bi-weekly district e-newsletter and watch for our first regular edition on Friday, Aug. 23.



Back-to-School Guide: Frequently Asked Questions

Beginning Thursday, August 15, Lakota teachers, administrators and support staff will begin welcoming new and returning students for the start of the 2019-2020 school year. As you and your family gear up for the new school year, we answer all your questions in our annual [back-to-school FAQ](#).

Here are a few important reminders and a sampling of what you'll find in our FAQ:

How do I log into Home Access Center?

[Home Access Center](#) (HAC) is a communications tool to help keep students and parents up-to-date and in contact with their teachers throughout the year. All HAC accounts for the 2019-20 school year are now accessible. Families new to the district should have received their usernames and passwords by mail from their schools. Families registering after Aug. 1 will receive their HAC information at the Lakota Welcome Center. Returning families who lost their login information should contact the technology department at 644-1200 option 3.

How do I look up my student's bus route and teacher assignment?

Beginning today, students in grades PreK-8 are able to view their bus information on the registration page of **Home Access Center (HAC)**. ECS/elementary teacher assignments and junior/high school schedules can be found in the same location on HAC.

How do I communicate my child's transportation arrangements?

Transportation for all students is based on the home address listed in our student database. If your child will be opting out of bus services or 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. *All ECS students (grades K-2) must complete a 2019-2020 transportation form.*

The deadline to receive transportation on the first day of school was July 22. **Submit your form by Aug. 14 to receive transportation to/from your alternate address beginning Aug. 26.**

How can I update my preferences for receiving mass communications from Lakota?

Lakota is proud to offer a powerful mass notification system for delivering important school and district news and announcements via email, phone and text message. If you are the official parent or guardian of a current Lakota student or a current employee with a valid Lakota email address, [please log into School Messenger](#) to make sure the phone numbers and email addresses being automatically pulled from Home Access Center (parents) and active directory (staff) are accurate and up-to-date. [Click here for more information about signing up, viewing or changing your communication preferences.](#)

How do I find my student's school supply list?

Early childhood, elementary and junior high school supply lists can be found on the district's **school supply list webpage**. Preschool school supplies are not required, but donations are accepted. High school students will receive supply lists from their teachers on the first day of school.

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Lakota Students Win National Technology Awards

Several Lakota students walked away with top awards at the Technology Student Association's (TSA) national conference in Washington, DC this summer. The team from Ridge Junior/Butler Tech took first place in the "Off the Grid" competition, while Ashley Reed (Ridge Junior/Butler Tech) placed sixth in the "Flight" category and Lakota West/Butler Tech senior James Wright placed sixth in the "CAD-Engineering" category.

East Track & Field, Softball Teams Celebrated

A community celebration was held in June to honor the Lakota East track & field State Champions and East softball State Runner-up for ending their seasons on such a high note. Congratulations again to these student-athletes and their coaches!

Lakota Video Wins International Telly Award

[Somos Lakota](#) was one of just seven videos in the "Branded Content General Education" category to win an international bronze Telly Award. The video, produced in partnership with SpotOn Productions, portrayed the personal experiences of Lakota students in the ESL program to help staff adopt more culturally responsive teaching practices.

Lakota's Technology Department in the Spotlight

Lakota's continued work with the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) fast tracked the district to become one of just eight districts worldwide to pilot the new ISTE District Partnership. Chief Technology Officer Todd Wesley and his team were recognized for their district-wide roll-out of the partnership at the ISTE conference in June.

Lakota's WEareEMPOWERED initiative was also the featured cover story in a recent *K-12 TechDirector* magazine. [View the magazine article](#) that shows how Lakota is empowering student learning with technology.

A big thank you to Lakota's technology team for their work in helping to roll out 3,126 #WEareEMPOWERED student devices to Lakota's seventh- and ninth-graders, all in support of personalized learning!

Superintendent Miller Presented with National Communication Technology Award

At its annual conference last month, the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) presented Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller with the 2019 Communication Technology Award for Superintendents. The award recognizes a superintendent for leadership in redefining, upgrading and integrating cutting-edge communication technology to expand outreach and engagement with stakeholders. [Click here to view a video](#) spotlighting how Superintendent Miller uses technology to share the Lakota story.

District Receives National Award for Personalized Learning

Lakota was honored as one of Ed Elements' national award recipients at the 2019 Personalized Learning Summit in May. The "Team Habits for Team Success Award: For Building a Responsive Team" recognized the district for its swift action in establishing a structure that promotes organization-wide leadership in support of personalized learning.

Building and Grounds Crew Tackled Big Projects this Summer

Lakota's building and grounds crew took on all of the usual projects to get the buildings ready for the first day of school, but went and above and beyond transforming all of the elementary media centers into Innovation Hubs. Equipped with cutting-edge digital tools, these hubs will serve as an extension to our classrooms and will continue to provide students with access to books and other online resources. The team was also busy getting preschool classrooms ready at VanGorden for our youngest learners.

WELCOME
TO LAKOTA



Lakota Welcomes New Administrators

As the district prepares to welcome back students for the 2019-20 school year, Lakota welcomes new administrators at several schools, as well as in four key district positions. The majority of these positions are a result of administrators having the opportunity to advance their careers outside of Lakota, while a few have moved to their home district.

“In looking ahead to the next school year, I’m excited to welcome this group of administrators to Lakota. While some are brand new to us, others are embracing a new role in the district,” said Superintendent **Matthew Miller**. “I’m looking forward to seeing how our students will benefit from their leadership and the fresh ideas they will bring from their former positions and districts.”

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WE are
EMPOWERED

Starting this school year, sixth graders will be part of a modified 1:1 program. Lakota West high school students are shown above after they began their 1:1 Chromebook program in January.

Lakota Sixth-Graders Join 1:1 Technology Program

When students return to school this fall, sixth-graders throughout Lakota Local Schools will have a new tool to enhance their learning: the "WE are Empowered" initiative, introduced to secondary students during the 2018-19 school year, will encompass a new grade of students.

"We are excited to be able to provide district-owned Chromebooks to our sixth grade students this year," said Lakota's Chief Technology Officer **Todd Wesley**. "This new group of students will have access to enhance their learning in a manner similar to their older counterparts." In this modified program, the Chromebooks will only be used at school while seventh- through twelfth-grade students are able to take their devices home.

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Digital Accelerator

Lakota Continues to See Benefits of Real World Learning Challenge

District plans to continue expanding Real World Learning opportunities for students.

One year after being selected as one of five districts nationwide to lead the Real World Learning Challenge Collaborative, Lakota Local Schools is poised to not only be an example for other districts, but continue to expand learning opportunities for its students. The Challenge Collaborative, through Digital Promise's League of Innovative Schools, is funded by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI).

Member districts were tasked with determining how schools can bring authentic, life-relevant opportunities to secondary education. For the past year, Lakota has worked to develop a platform that will give teachers, administrators and strategic partnership coordinators an avenue to make Real World Learning connections more easily. "Our district leadership had already begun working on a plan to re-imagine the high school experience for our students," said Lakota Superintendent Matthew J. Miller. "Having been selected as a Core District in the Challenge Collaborative reiterates the importance of this work." Miller was also chosen to be one of two team leaders for the Challenge Collaborative.

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WE ARE IN THIS



TOGETHER



BACK TO SCHOOL

PHOTO CONTEST

First Day Photo Contest: Celebrate the New School Year

The new school year begins Thursday, August 15. So get ready to capture those special first day moments at the front stoop, at your bus stop, with your carpool group, or in your classroom.

Lakota staff, students and parents are invited to help celebrate a new school year by participating in our #WEareLakota First Day Photo Contest. Participating is as easy as posting your first day photos to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram using #WEareLakota and #WEareInThisTogether, and also tagging Lakota's account.

The owners of the three photos with the most votes, or "likes," after a full week of school (Aug. 23 at noon) will receive a #WEareLakota spirit basket. Plus, we'll share the winning photos with the Lakota community through social media, Lakota Online and other district communications.

It's Easy to Participate:

1. Whether you're a student, a parent or a staff member, determine what part of your first day you want to capture and share with others.
2. Post your photo to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram using the hashtags #WEareLakota and #WEareInThisTogether. Be sure to also tag the Lakota Facebook page ([@LakotaSchools](#)), Twitter account ([@LakotaDistrict](#)) or Instagram account ([@lakota_district](#)).
3. Share it with your friends to rack up the most "likes," or votes.
4. Search for #WEareLakota on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram to see the full gallery of entries and cast your votes.

Here's to a great new school year - and lots of your photos to help document the first day back!



This was the second year Camp Potential offered unique learning opportunities to gifted elementary students -- and the first time it provided high school students with education and counseling internship experiences.

Elementary Students, High School Interns Benefit from Camp Potential

A free two-week summer camp doubled as a learning opportunity for nearly 40 Lakota elementary students and an internship experience for 10 high-schoolers.

For a second year, Camp Potential invited gifted students entering grades 4-6 to participate in eight days of summer learning and enrichment at Hopewell Junior School. Every day, campers and their student counselors jumped into a different subject area ranging from science, writing and engineering to performing arts, social studies and even community affairs. The program was offered in partnership with Lakota LEADS, the district's gifted parent support program.

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FEATURED PHOTOS



Heritage Has Heart

Helpful and kind

Expert problem solver

Always safe

Respectful, responsive

Teamwork

Many schools had staff members pack yellow buses and make stops throughout the district to welcome back students and families. There were lots of popsicles and hugs -- and many, many photos taken during these fun bus tours. Here are a few students who greeted teachers and staff with a special sign they made for the Heritage, Cherokee and Plains bus tour.



Family and friends honored the memory of Donna Bruce, a long-time volunteer at Hopewell and Woodland Elementary, who suddenly passed away in July. In lieu of flowers, the family asked for school supply donations. Donna's husband, Harry, and her two daughters, Katie and Karen, recently delivered the donations to Hopewell ECS - more than 8,000 items valued at over \$4,000. The family asked "for a mountain of school supplies. We think we got it!"



Lakota partnered with the West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance to host the region's largest Business Expo at Lakota West High School on July 30. Lakota was among more than 120 exhibitors, putting on display some dynamic examples of how technology transforms the Lakota learning experience.

*Lakota West seniors **Caden Shirk** and **Ben Simpson** (pictured above) spent their summer creating virtual reality tours of the Voice of America Museum, MidPointe Library, Liberty Center and the Boys & Girls Club of West Chester Liberty. Lakota West student **Alyssa Schaeffer** and recent graduates **Syd Spata** and **Alyson Power** captured photos of other community landmarks to be used with green screens from the school's Innovation Hub. Aligning with the Chamber's staycation theme, Expo visitors had the opportunity to "tour" their community in a creative way.*

NEW BUSINESS

Lakota Bands Tag Day Aug, 24

Lakota East and Lakota West High School band members will go door-to-door through West Chester and Liberty Township neighborhoods on Tag Day, Aug. 24, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Students will be asking for community support in the form of tax-deductible donations for their respective band booster programs.

Tag Day is the biggest annual fundraiser for Lakota East and Lakota West High School band booster programs. All proceeds benefit and go directly to all of the high school bands. The collected funds will be used for the purchase of uniforms and instruments, maintenance and other necessary items beyond what the school district supplies.

For further information on contributing a tax-deductible donation to the Lakota East and Lakota West Upbeat Clubs, please visit their websites at www.lakotaeastbands.org and www.lakotawestbands.org.

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

- Monday, August 12
Staff Professional Development Day
- Monday, August 12
Board of Education Meeting
at Plains Junior Media Center
6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 13
All-Staff Opening Day
at Lakota East High School
Doors open at 8 a.m.
- Tuesday, August 13
ECS Open House (Grades 1-2)
at all ECS Schools
5:30 - 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 13
Elementary Open House (Grades 3-6)
at all Elementary Schools
6:30 - 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 14
Preschool Open House

ON THE RADAR

Announcements & Opportunities

WE are In This Together: Back-to-School Mailer

Several times a year, Lakota produces a community newsletter to help parents and residents stay informed about important district-wide news and updates. The piece is mailed to every household and business in West Chester Township and Liberty Township for just 16 cents per piece.

The back-to-school 2019 edition, titled "WE are In This Together", was mailed to all residents last week. If you do not receive a copy at your home or if you need additional copies, please visit Lakota's Central Office or any school's main office.

Copies are also available at the administration buildings for both West Chester and Liberty townships, as well as the West Chester MidPointe Library.

[Click here to view the back-to-school 2019 edition of Lakota's community newsletter electronically.](#)

at Liberty ECS & VanGorden

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

- Thursday, August 15
Students' First Day of School (Grades 1-12)
- Thursday, August 15
Hopewell Junior Student Fanfare
at Hopewell Junior
7:15 a.m.
- Friday, August 16 -Tuesday, August 20
Kindergarten Phase-In Days
- Friday, August 16
Adena Student Fanfare
at Adena Elementary
8 a.m.
- Monday, August 19
Preschool First Day for Students
- Monday, August 26
Board of Education Work Session
at Plains Junior Media Center
6:30 p.m.
- Monday, September 2
No School: Labor Day Holiday
- Tuesday, September 3
No School for Students (Staff Professional Development Day)

[See Full
Calendar](#)



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