

May 23, 2019

# WE are Lakota



**VIDEO: Lakota Looks Back at 2018-19 School Year**

From daily specials and all-day kindergarten to a surge in digital learning and student voice - and everything in between - WE made a lot of progress and memories this past school year. We invite you to take a trip down memory lane and relive just some of the highlights that made the 2018-19 school year one to remember.

[Click here to watch the 2018-19 edition of "Lakota Looks Back."](#) Have a great summer!

## AROUND LAKOTA

A graphic with a red background and a white diagonal band. A large yellow sun with triangular rays is centered on the right. The text "SUMMER UPDATES" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font across the white band, with "SUMMER" on the left and "UPDATES" on the right, partially overlapping the sun.

# SUMMER UPDATES

HAVE A FUN AND SAFE SUMMER, LAKOTA

## Summer Break Information

Today marked the last day of the school year for all Lakota students. Area residents are reminded that many more children will now be outside playing during the day and to use caution, especially in residential neighborhoods.

The first day of school for the 2019-2020 school year is Thursday, Aug. 15. Open houses for grades K-6 will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 13.

Check the district and school websites, along with social media accounts, throughout the summer for additional information and general Lakota news. A back-to-school FAQ will be posted in July. All school supply lists will be posted on Lakota's website by mid-June. [Click here to view those supply lists currently available.](#)

## Lakota Welcome Center Open through Summer

The Lakota Welcome Center will remain open throughout the summer to welcome families new to the district for the 2019-20 school year. Families may also visit the Center over the summer to make address, as well as custody and/or guardianship, updates. The Welcome Center is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day.

Visit [www.lakotaonline.com/enroll](http://www.lakotaonline.com/enroll) for more information about the enrollment process. Questions may be directed to [enroll@lakotaonline.com](mailto:enroll@lakotaonline.com) or 513-682-4120.

## Summer School Begins May 28

Lakota's secondary Summer School program is being held May 28 through July 3 at the Lakota East Freshman School.

Lakota's Summer School program provides an opportunity for students in grades 7-12 to earn original and recovery credit. Students may also participate in summer sessions to help prepare them to retake any one of the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) or End-of-Course (EOC) assessments or to participate in select math courses to qualify for advanced math placement the following school year.

Registration is now closed, except for students needing credit recovery courses, OGT prep or EOC testing only. [Click here for more information about Lakota's Summer School program.](#) For questions, please contact [summerschool@lakotaonline.com](mailto:summerschool@lakotaonline.com).

## **School Messenger Notification Accounts Set to Update May 31**

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 2019-20 school year on May 31.** 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.

## **School Offices Closed June 24-July 5**

School building offices will be closed to the public for two weeks this summer, from June 24 through July 5. The Summer School office (Lakota East Freshman School) will be open during that time and can process requests for summer work permits.

The Central Office will remain open during normal operating hours throughout the summer.

## **Summer Food Program Uses Food Bus to Deliver Free Meals to Children**

The Lakota Local School District is participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all children (ages 1-18 and individuals with disabilities through age 21), free of charge, beginning May 29 through August 2 (no service on July 4 or 5).

Meals will be delivered to each of the following locations participating in the Summer Food Service Program via our food bus:

**Countryside Village**

5126 Hamilton Middletown Rd., Liberty Twp.

11:00 - 11:30 (Monday - Friday)

**Deer Run/Mill Creek Apartments**

7846 Mill Creek Cr., West Chester

12:20 - 12:40 (Monday - Friday)

**Lakota Pointe Apartments**

6840 Lakota Pointe Ln., Middletown

1:00 - 1:25 (Monday - Friday)

**Meadow Ridge Apartments**

5270 Aster Park Dr., West Chester

11:40 - 12:10 (Monday - Friday)

**Princeton Village**

8953 Princeton Glendale Rd., West Chester

11:50 - 12:10 (Monday - Friday)

**North Pointe Apartments**

5215 Westwind Ave., Hamilton

11:00 - 11:30 (Monday - Friday)

**Boys & Girls Club**

8749 Cin-Day Rd., West Chester Rd.

12:30 - 1:00 (Monday - Friday)

[Click here to view a flyer with more details, including sign-up instructions.](#) For any questions regarding the program, please call the Lakota Child Nutrition Department at 513-644-1163.

## **Summer Mental Health Services**

Many of our MindPeace partners will be offering mental health services at Lakota school buildings this summer. Please see the list below for details.

### **Ridge Jr./Hopewell Jr.**

Stephanie Vanyo

[stephanie.vanyo@cchmc.org](mailto:stephanie.vanyo@cchmc.org)

513-835-4114

Tues-Thurs by appointment at Ridge Jr.

### **Plains Jr.**

Ashley Campbell

[ashleycampbell@catalystcounselingllc.org](mailto:ashleycampbell@catalystcounselingllc.org)

513-486-6170

By appointment at Plains Jr

### **West High, West Freshman, Career Readiness Academy**

Gail Rizzo

[gail.rizzo@cchmc.org](mailto:gail.rizzo@cchmc.org)

513-203-0989

By appointment at West Main High school



**East High, East Freshman**

Michelle Quarry

[michelle.quarry@cchmc.org](mailto:michelle.quarry@cchmc.org)

513-313-1803

Tues 8-3; Wed 8-3; Thurs 9-3, by appointment at East Main High school

**Liberty Jr.**

Michelle Williamson

[mwilliamson@solutionsccrc.org](mailto:mwilliamson@solutionsccrc.org)

937-481-3036

By appointment at Liberty Jr.

**Adena Elementary**

Kim Perros

[kimperros@catalystcounselingllc.org](mailto:kimperros@catalystcounselingllc.org)

513-696-6077

Varied days; 9-3 by appointment at Adena Elementary

**Creekside ECS**

Candy Ulitzsch

[candy.ulitzsch@lakotaonline.com](mailto:candy.ulitzsch@lakotaonline.com)

513-428-2035

M, T, W 9-2, by appointment at Creekside ECS

**Summer Assignment/ Reading Lists**

Lakota's Curriculum Department has compiled the summer reading lists and information for Lakota's junior high and high schools. [Click here](#) to view the lists.





HERITAGE ECS

Art Show

## **Art Develops Writers in Heritage Kindergarten Class**

Art may be considered one of Lakota's six daily specials, but it's finding its way into early learners' routine far more frequently than every sixth day of the school week. Take, for example, **Julie Meno's** kindergarteners at Heritage Early Childhood School.

Her class hosted a year-end art show to showcase the 20-plus art projects they'd completed all year long as an extension of their core curriculum. From turkeys, poinsettias and self-portraits to "Cat in the Hat" interpretations, snowflakes and even a cityscape mural, every display tied back to a book they'd read or a concept they'd learned, like seasons, shapes and colors.

"Kids learn through the arts and I love integration because it's a great way to learn otherwise vague concepts," Meno said. "Drawing and writing go hand in hand, so as they develop as artists, they also develop as writers."

With each art project, Meno gave her students a lot of creative latitude when it came to creating their final piece. Every student kept a portfolio of their artwork, with the final show representing each student's favorite monthly pick from the beginning to the end of the school year.

Four of Meno's students - **Abby Dakin, Harper Blair, Owen Mumaw** and **Reese Wilkens** - bounced down the hall after being asked to lead a personal tour of the class's show the day after they'd done the same routine for their parents and families. They introduced themselves when they reached a door displaying their individual photos before entering the media center. Their enthusiasm and pride was evident by the energy with which they talked about each exhibit.

"I learned that things don't look the same," Abby said. "Every single thing looks different."

When asked if they wanted to be artists when they grow up, all but one of their hands shot up in the air. "I don't want to be an artist," Reese beamed. "I'm already an artist."





## **Adena Time Capsule Sends Graduates Back to Sixth Grade**

The end of the school year has many students celebrating the start of summer vacation, but for seniors, they're also looking ahead to what comes next after graduation...and some are even looking back.

Adena Elementary School welcomed back 143 seniors from the class of 2019 to take a walk down memory lane. Six years ago, these seniors filled time capsules while in their final year at Adena and, on May 15, had the opportunity to open them for the first time.

The cafeteria was filled with laughter, hugs and stories as students gathered around to open their capsules, made from empty Pringles' cans. Most didn't remember what they had included and many questions such as, "Why do we have yellow yarn?" (it was their height in sixth grade) while squeals of, "Do you remember this?" could be heard throughout the room.

**Michelle Thomann** and **Isabel Steen** are both headed to Miami University in the fall. While Steen couldn't remember exactly what she put in hers, Thomann did remember a necklace she included. Her biggest surprise? The amount of trinkets she included. "I remember having a lot of this stuff, but I don't remember putting it in (the time capsule)," Thomann said.

The time capsule project has been around for over 20 years at Adena. Originally led by retired teacher Lori Combs, the school's PTO is now coordinating for Adena's sixth-graders. This year's class answered a Q&A that included fun facts and information about themselves such as their favorite book and color. Current events, such as the price of gasoline, were also included.

**Eli Knollman**, **Brendan Reedy** and **Nick Heaton** were all surprised at the content of their time capsules. Knollman, who's headed to Miami, packed his cub scout neckerchief. Reedy and Heaton, both future Bearcats, laughed as they read the letters they wrote to themselves explaining what was in their time capsules and why. Reedy included a picture of his dog while Heaton pulled out his sixth grade football jersey.

While seniors were the largest group there, parents, along with current and former Adena teachers also joined in the fun reminiscing with the class of 2019. "It was so nice to see so many current and former Adena staff members and families celebrating their All-Star memories with this year's Lakota graduates-to-be," said Adena Principal **John Mattingly**. "I love the legacy and the energy around this event!"





## **Hopewell Students Learn Math through Food Trucks**

Whoever thought food trucks had nothing to do with math hasn't met Hopewell Junior teachers **Matthew Dollard** and **Kyle Schlensker**.

Earlier this year, the duo invited a local food truck, East Coast Eatz, to visit their seventh-graders and serve them lunch. But their visit provided far more value than lunch. The owner shared his success story, giving students a lot of food for thought as they began formulating their own mobile restaurants.

"We spent time looking for a real-world project that would cover many of the seventh grade math standards," Schlensker explained. "Food trucks are increasing in popularity, so we thought it would be a great experience for the students to take ownership and show their creativity while still covering our standards."

Students had to come up with their own menu, business name, logo and even a marketing piece like a radio or TV commercial. The math came in when they were tasked with calculating their total costs and projected profit over the course of four different events. But for some, the lessons went beyond math, even sparking an entrepreneurial conversation.

"I learned how much work it is to create a truck, or really any business, that is sustainable," said **Tea Robbins**.

"We got to start from scratch and make it our own. That was really cool," said **Sarah Biggane**.

The only thing missing from the food truck rally hosted by students on May 13 was the actual food. "We decided that was a lot to take on this first year, but we'll see about next year," Schlensker said.





*When challenged to research and take action on an issue for their fourth quarter language arts project, Lakota West Freshman students Shriya Kappagantula (pictured left) and Dana Shi (pictured right) tackled plastic waste. They hosted a plastic bag drive to help bring awareness to the issue and provide resources for making pillows and blankets out of "plarn." Projects like this filled the school's Innovation Hub during a public showcase of project-based learning happening across the building.*

## **Project-Based Learning Takes Many Forms at West Freshman**

The energy in Lakota West Freshman's Innovation Hub after school last week spilled into the hallway as students showcased their last quarter's work. Their projects may have stemmed from three different classrooms and two different subject areas, but they all had one thing in common: a move toward more personalized and project-based learning.

Language arts teachers **Cathy Bella** and **Jessica Jurowski** both challenged their students to not only research, but also tackle one problem in our world. The assignment was purposefully vague and open to interpretation so as to push them toward something they felt



passionate about. Used widely across Lakota, the project-based approach has been called everything from a Passion Project to Genius Hour to 20 Time.

“I encouraged them to think of something that breaks their heart or simply could be better,” said Bella, noting the requirements of a research paper and most importantly, an *active* response.

Jurowski’s students received the same assignment, but first had to read a novel that would set up their topic. One of her students read about anti-semitism and felt compelled enough to request a meeting with the district’s curriculum department to discuss options for increased curricular exposure to the Jewish religion.

“What I loved about it was that it forced students to step out of their bubble and communicate in a professional manner. This was a big step for some of my students,” Jurowski said.

One of Bella’s groups focused their attention on the over-consumption of plastic. Wanting to catch the attention of their peers and help two causes at once, they hosted a plastic bag drive, using all their collections to create “plarn” for the making of mats and pillows oftentimes used by homeless people.

“You don’t have to go down in our history books to contribute to society,” said freshman **Dana Shi**. “Change can be as simple and easy as not using straws or water bottles or using reusable bags and that’s the message we were trying to send.”

Another group made a compelling argument for integrating qualities of the Finish education system into American schools. They provided evidence of successful strategies and even went as far as to conduct a survey of their peers as the first step for bringing their ideas to decision-makers. One group member, **Natalie Byers**, noted two West Freshman teachers’ move to team teaching next school year, saying, “It’s so difficult to connect the dots between overlapping concepts in different classes, so it makes a lot of sense to pair something like social studies and language arts together. It shows that people are listening and willing to change.”

The projects on display by social studies teacher **Jennifer Parrett**’s students were a reminder that any exercise with an “authentic audience” (i.e. real people to view and interact with the project) qualifies as project-based learning. “PBL doesn’t always have to solve a world problem,” Parrett said.

One of her class sections worked individually to research their “Greatest American” based on criteria they designed together, before going head to head with their peers for a bracket-style competition. In the end, each class would form groups to present a case for one of the four winning “Great Americans” to come up with a top pick.

Another class section educated each other and then visitors to the PBL Showcase about the different countries making up Africa. “As Americans, we don’t hear much about Africa,” Parrett said. “It’s a part of the modern world that oftentimes gets skipped, so I thought it was important to cover.”



## Work Study Breakfast

*Amelia Murphy and Matthew Harrison, along with 72 other students, received medals and baseball hats when they were recognized at the annual Work Study Student Appreciation Breakfast.*

## Annual Breakfast Celebrates Hard Working Students

Seventy-four students were recognized for their hard work and dedication to their jobs through Lakota's Work Study program on May 16 at Wetherington Country Club. The students were celebrated by their families, job coaches, instructional aides and district staff.

The program, which has been in place for over 30 years, continues to grow each year.

**Donna Haury** has been leading Work Study through Lakota's Special Services department since 1991. "I started with 14 students working at three job sites and now have about 110 (students)," Haury shared. The students work at 42 job sites throughout West Chester and Liberty townships, some for just a few hours and others for longer periods. "We focus on the employability skills that will help a student as he or she transitions towards competitive paid employment," she explained.

"We are able to watch our students grow into young adults through Work Study and we are grateful to our community partners who support this program," said **Andrea Longworth**, Executive Director of Special Services. "Many of our students have found permanent job placement as result of this program."

Jay Harrison is pleased that his son is part of Work Study. "He is learning social skills and a work environment," he said. **Matthew Harrison**, a sophomore at West, has worked at two job sites this school year: the Lakota West candy store and TJ Maxx. The skills students learn include following directions, social interaction, working at a competitive pace and producing quality work. While most students enter Work Study in 10th grade, some begin as early as junior school. "This program helps prepare students for life after high school and what that may look like," said Harrison.

**Amelia Murphy**, a senior at Lakota East, has been part of the program throughout high school. While she has worked at a few different locations during her tenure, her favorite assignment has been working at Lakota's Central Office.

In addition to honoring Lakota's students for their achievements in the Work Study program this year, a representative from the Cincinnati-based Lovis Foundation was on hand to recognize a special Lakota student. **Jeremiah Collins**, a student at Lakota East, was honored as this year's recipient of the Lovis Foundation Hero Award. Nominations are received from throughout greater-Cincinnati about students who

have the heart of a hero. “(Jeremiah) always has a ready smile and loves to work!” said Haury. “He has an excellent work ethic and tries his best to always get his work done.” Jeremiah spends his mornings working in the cafeteria at Independence Elementary School. During the afternoons, he is a greeter at FitWorks. Although he was unable to attend the breakfast, he received a resounding round of applause by the attendees.

This is one of Longworth’s favorite events each year. “This breakfast is a celebration of all of the personal growth and maturity of our young adult students with disabilities.”

[View All  
District News](#)

## FEATURED PHOTOS





Cherokee Elementary teacher Alicia Bowman embraces two of her former students during this year's Parade of Graduates, a Lakota tradition that sends graduates to one of Lakota's elementary schools for a fanfare welcome. On May 21, many graduates returned to their former elementary school, where they are showered with letters of congratulations and well wishes from their younger counterparts. [Click here to view a complete gallery of Parade of Graduates photos](#) and [view a video featuring some student reactions to the event](#).





*Two Liberty ECS students relish in the excitement of Tuesday morning's fanfare. A later Facebook comment revealed the story behind this photo, indicating that one of them was so overwhelmed by the line of people that he was brought to tears. The other said hello, grabbed his hand and started walking alongside him. "That small gesture gave my son the confidence to go and melted my heart," read the Facebook comment. "This picture was so wonderful to see because they held hands all the way into school."*





*A record 32 teams competed in Lakota East's annual Canoe Regatta. Freshman and sophomores enrolled in the introduction to engineering design course through Butler Tech spend weeks building a canoe out of cardboard and duct tape that will not only float in a pool, but will also hold two students as the race against another team for two lengths of the Lakota Family YMCA's swimming pool. Congratulations to (pictured from left) Ryan Hartinger, Alex Hunkler and Anthony Walsh, builders of "A Boat," this year's winner.*

## NEW BUSINESS

### 'WE are Here for You' Video Series Wraps Up, Bloopers Coming Soon

Our special video series, "WE are Here for You" wraps up with a visit to our high schools and freshman buildings. "Our WHY is You" is a simple statement that sums up how WE feel about our students. Join us as teachers surprise their students with heartfelt messages about how they are inspired by them.

[Click here to view the high school edition](#) or [view the entire series](#). Be on the lookout for a bonus video featuring bloopers we caught on tape while filming.

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### Chamber Moves July 30 Business Expo to Lakota West

The West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance's move to Lakota West High School for its annual Business Expo is just another signal of the strong partnership between our schools and the local business community. Lakota will host a booth at the July 30 Expo, which is open to the public from 1-5 p.m.

Fitting with this year's "staycation" theme, students and staff will help visitors explore the surrounding sights through both green screen and virtual reality technology. Explore all our region has to offer while experiencing the digital tools that make learning both engaging and fun for Lakota students. The Lakota West marching band will also make a special appearance at the start of the Expo.

## 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*

- Thursday, May 23  
**Lakota East Graduation**  
at Cintas Center  
8 p.m.
- Friday, May 24  
**Lakota West Graduation**  
at Cintas Center  
8 p.m.
- Monday, May 27  
**Memorial Day (District is Closed)**
- Tuesday, May 28  
**Lakota Board of Education Work Session**  
at Plains Junior  
6:30 p.m.
- Friday, May 31  
**Mental Health & Substance Abuse: Twin Challenges**

## ON THE RADAR

### *Announcements & Opportunities*

### **C3 and Lakota to Host Mental Health & Substance Abuse Program**

The Caring Community Collaborative (C3) and Lakota Schools will present “Through Our Eyes: Mental Health and Substance Abuse – Twin Challenges” on Friday, May 31 at Lakota East High School from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. It is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required.

The program will look closely at mental health, substance abuse and addiction, how they're linked, and what can be done in the local community to help people struggling with these problems. It is sponsored by the Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Services Recovery Board, Envision Partnerships, and Positive Leaps.

Multiple break-out sessions will precede a main program featuring both students and professionals in the field. The program is eligible for CEU's and Lakota professional development credit. Lunch will be provided. Pre-register online at [Eventbrite](#) or email [contact@c3ohio.org](mailto:contact@c3ohio.org) or call 513-939-9255.

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at Lakota East High School  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- Monday, June 10  
**Lakota Board of Education Meeting**  
at Plains Junior  
6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, June 27  
**Lakota Board of Education Meeting**  
at Plains Junior  
6:30 p.m.
- Monday, July 22  
**Lakota Board of Education Meeting**  
at Plains Junior  
6:30 p.m.
- Monday, August 12 - Wednesday, August 14  
**Teacher Professional Development Days**  
6:30 p.m.
- Monday, August 12  
**Lakota Board of Education Meeting**  
at Plains Junior  
6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 13  
**Open Houses (Grades K-6)**
- Thursday, August 15  
**First Day of School for Students (Grades 1-12)**
- Thursday, August 15 - Tuesday, August 20  
**Kindergarten Phase-In Days**

**See Full  
Calendar**

## Parent Resources from Community Forum on Grief & Suicide

Lakota held a Community Forum for Parents on Grief & Suicide on May 1 that included a resource fair and speakers from the district's partners at Grant Us Hope, Companions on a Journey and Solutions Community Counseling.

Based on questions posed that evening, Lakota has put together a helpful Q & A. [Click here to view this Q & A, as well as the presentations and resources from the forum.](#)

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## 2019-20 Open Enrollment Applications due May 31, No New Applicants

Due to the high volume of returning open enrolled students, at this time Lakota is not accepting new applicants for the 2019-20 school year.

Lakota will only be accepting applications from current Lakota staff, returning open enrolled students and siblings of returning open enrolled students. The [Inter-District Open Enrollment application](#) must be submitted by all returning students to the Welcome Center by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 31.

Applicants may not always receive their first school of choice, depending on the school's base enrollment for students residing within its attendance zone.

Each school year, the Lakota Board of Education can choose to approve the renewal of Lakota's open enrollment policy. Under [Board Policy 511](#), students residing in other Ohio school districts can apply to attend Lakota.



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