

March 29, 2019

WE are Lak@ta

2019 State of the Schools



#WEareLak@ta



Students Take Center Stage at 2019 State of the Schools

A new twist on Lakota's second annual "State of the Schools" address had Lakota East High School's Main Street bustling with activity on March 13.

A school showcase preceded the more formal address from Superintendent **Matthew Miller** and his guest speakers, putting on display the innovative learning happening throughout Lakota's 23 schools. From new learning spaces like a student-inspired greenhouse, a culinary center and the early childhood schools' new Wonder Labs to digital learning through video conferencing, virtual reality and video production, the K-12 Lakota learning experience came alive for hundreds of visitors.

Further amplifying the energy of the showcase was a live performance by the Liberty Junior School jazz band, directed by band teacher **Maggie Whaley**, and Lakota West vocal ensemble, directed by choir teacher **Susan Bauer**.

During the hour-long program, Miller detailed current and future efforts to support the four pillars of Lakota's new strategic plan: WE are Personalized, WE are Future Ready, WE are Fiscally Responsible and WE are In this Together. To exemplify each pillar, staff and students took center stage to share their personal Lakota experiences. "No one tells our story better than the students and staff who live it every day," Miller said.

Guest speakers included:

- **Amber Szpak** (junior, Career Readiness Academy)
- **Moriah Walker** (teacher, Liberty Junior)
- **Emily Fuller** (7th grade, Liberty Junior)
- **Alyssa Longworth** (senior, Lakota East)
- **Amitoj Kaur** (senior, Lakota West)
- **Kevin Keen** (teacher, Lakota East)
- **Lora Broz** (freshman, Lakota West)
- **Grace Phair** (senior, Lakota East)
- **Samuel Dragon** (5th grade, Endeavor)
- **Reese Anzalone** and **Brendan Murphy** (8th grade, Plains Junior)

[Click here to read the full State of the Schools article, including summaries of each presentation.](#)

Miller closed the program with a premiere of "**WE are Here for YOU**", the first installment in a new video series that showcases the strength of the teacher-student relationships around Lakota. This series will continue with grade level versions to be released every couple of weeks beginning April 5.

In case you missed it, [click here to watch a video of Lakota's 2019 State of the Schools](#) or view the [complete photo gallery from the evening on Lakota's Facebook page](#).



Lakota Earns Auditor of State Award for Fifth Time

Fiscal responsibility and transparency are top priorities for **Jenni Logan**, Lakota's treasurer/CFO. "One of the pillars of our new strategic plan states that WE are Fiscally Responsible," said Logan. "This is something that I have always taken very seriously."

Logan's commitment to fiscal responsibility has earned the district the prestigious Auditor of State Award with Distinction for the fifth consecutive year. One of the highest financial honors at the state level for outstanding financial accountability, the district has also received a clean audit report for the fifth year in a row. "This is a testament to our commitment to financial responsibility and transparency," said Logan.

Recently, the district announced more good news for local taxpayers. By refinancing its debt in order to take advantage of lower interest rates, the district has been able to lower its debt service payments. This, in turn, combined with increasing values of the residential and business properties in West Chester and Liberty townships, has allowed the amount collected from residents to be lowered.

"The bond millage has decreased by one (1) mill and the property tax bill(s) residents receive this year will reflect this change," explained Logan. "This means that our taxpayers will pay less to Lakota Local Schools annually."

Logan and her team pay close attention to aligning district resources to educational priorities. Plans to ensure sustainability of programs and the financial stability of the district are in place. Programs such as all-day kindergarten without a lottery, daily specials and the 1:1 initiative have been possible because of smarter spending and reallocation of dollars.

The district has operated with a balanced budget for six consecutive years. "Our cash balance is very strong and is predicted to remain that way throughout our most recent five-year forecast," said Logan. "With revenue growth predicted to fall below inflation, we are projecting a spending deficit in fiscal year 2023, the fifth year of our forecast," she continued. "This will require us to dip into our cash balance at that point."

Logan is watchful, but notes that more than 95 percent of schools in Ohio are showing a spending deficit in year five or before. She explains that a financial forecast is based on assumptions for the present and future. "We will remain vigilant and have already begun to review Board policy with our finance committee, including policies to address: fiscal budget stabilization reserve (rainy day policy); minimum cash balance; and a structurally balanced budget." [Click here to read Logan's recent article in *Today's Pulse*.](#)

SHOUT-OUTS



Clockwise from top right:
Nguyen Wins Essay Contest; Miller Receives National Award; West Grad Named All-American Swimmer;
and Phair Named Outstanding Woman of Achievement

East's Grace Phair a YWCA 'Outstanding Woman of Achievement'

Lakota East senior **Grace Phair** was among just six honorees selected by the YWCA Hamilton for its “Outstanding Women of Achievement”. She received the “Emerging Leader” award at an awards banquet held on March 20.

For 34 years, YWCA Hamilton has been honoring women who have raised their voices to empower others. They are recognized for being leaders and symbols of courage and determination. They are decision-makers and change-makers in our community who have made extraordinary contributions through career success, community service and leadership.

Cherokee's Conner Nguyen Wins VFW Essay Contest

Conner Nguyen, a sixth grader at Cherokee Elementary School has written the winning essay in this year's Patriot's Pen youth writing contest through local VFW Post 1069. The theme for this year's contest was "Why I Honor the American Flag." Connor was recognized at Cherokee's monthly recognition assembly.

West Graduate Named All-American Swimmer

2018 Lakota West graduate **Griffin Manning** achieved All-American status by the National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association (NISCA). With a time of 55.92 seconds, Griffin was ranked 57th in the 100 yard breaststroke.

The NISCA recognizes the top 100 athletes, based on times, in individual and relay events. Griffin had a stellar high school swimming career, setting records in the 100 yard breaststroke and 200 yard individual medley.

Miller Wins National Communication Technology Award

Lakota Superintendent **Matthew Miller** was selected to receive the 2019 Communication Technology Award for Superintendents from the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) and Blackboard.

The award recognizes a superintendent for leadership in redefining, upgrading, and integrating cutting-edge communication technology to improve and expand outreach and engagement with education stakeholders — both internal and external. Since his start at Lakota in 2017, Miller has encouraged the use of technology, including social media, monthly video updates, a learning blog and more. Miller will be recognized at NSPRA's annual seminar in July. [You can read more about the award here.](#)

AROUND LAKOTA



Photos of heart-shaped artwork and the student-artists are displayed on the walls of Heritage Early Childhood School.

Art and Technology Combine to Show how Heritage has HEART

Every student at Heritage Early Childhood School recently created a heart-themed art project. Not for Valentine's Day, but to echo the school's positive behavior initiative, Heritage has HEART. Students earn hearts, either individually or as a class, by demonstrating the aspects of the school's motto.

HEART stands for:

- **H**elpful and Kind;
- **E**xpert Problem Solvers;
- **A**lways Safe;

- **Respectful and Responsible;** and
- **Teamwork.**

Art teacher **Laura Siambekos** regularly encourages her students to respond to the art they create, but this time she incorporated technology. After completing a heart-themed project, students asked themselves how they have earned a heart for themselves or their class. Instead of just writing a response to the question, Siambekos recorded the students using iPads.

Knowing that the students would want to take their masterpieces home, Siambekos photographed students holding their artwork and then added a QR code to the picture. The result is an interactive display lining the halls of the school. "This is the first time we've used QR codes to record their responses," she said.

The students have enjoyed this project, with kindergartners using tissue paper to create heart shapes, first graders drawing a heart and second graders using pieces of clay to create the shape. First grader **Mia Riddle** loved the project. "The tissue paper changed color when we used water on the paint brush," she excitedly explained.

Second grader **Zane Mathes** loved using oil pastels on his clay heart. "It made it look better and cleaner," he noted. Second graders were also given the opportunity to take a museum walk through the hallways. Armed with iPads and headphones, they scanned the QR codes and were able to listen to their fellow artists explain how they have HEART.

"The kids have loved seeing what other kids have made," said Siambekos. Parents have also been invited to visit. Siambekos posted the display on See Saw, an interactive program teachers use to share student work with parents. Parents who are unable to visit school are still able to experience the project and can also comment on the posts. "The project grew from what it was originally going to be," Siambekos reflected. "I'm really pleased with the way it turned out."



Lakota East seniors (left to right) Sam Billisits, Logan Spille, Ben Roth and Cali Hoffman have dedicated their capstone engineering project to creating a custom and fully functional prosthetic hand for a Shawnee ECS preschooler.

East Students Engineer Solutions to Change Lives

How does Lakota East and Butler Tech engineering teacher **Ken Kinch** motivate his students? He hands them a project that has the potential to change someone's life.

For East senior **Cali Hoffman** and the rest of her team, that someone is a four-year-old at Shawnee Early Childhood School who was born without a hand. Since the beginning of the school year, they have dedicated every minute of class - and then some - to create a fully customized and functional prosthetic hand for her.

"Our driving force has been that we can't let this four-year-old down," said Hoffman, pointing out the poster that has been hanging above their work table for months as a reminder of their mission and the special relationship they've built with her. It details their individual responsibilities, deadlines and these words: #DotheWork #theEastWay #WEareLakota.

The project is the culminating point of a four-year journey that some Lakota high-schoolers take to pursue their interest in engineering. Kinch requires just three things of the senior year capstone class project before he sets his students loose for the year. "I tell them it has to use the skills you've learned, relate to something you're interested in and help our community in some way. The rest is up to them," he said.

Students can choose to work individually or in teams. They have full access to the suite of tools and machinery available in their classroom, but are also encouraged to lean on industry experts for guidance and resources that go beyond the scope of their classroom. It's a move that has paid off tremendously for one group that is creating a custom mobile stool to help another Lakota student with dwarfism overcome some of his daily challenges.

The group struck up an early partnership with a global design and engineering firm called Kinetic Vision. Besides gaining a direct communication line for, at times, daily problem-solving, the group has been able to use industry-grade 3D printers to print a more durable prototype and eventually, the finished product.

"I'm formally talking to or emailing a professional almost every day. It's very cool to have that experience," said senior **Emma Krabbe**.

“The cool part is the freedom and the fact that they’re working with experts,” Kinch said. “They’re sitting across the table from real engineers and problem-solving alongside them. That’s real-world learning.”

Although the premise is ultimately up to his students, Kinch did put an emphasis on adaptive technology this year, partnering with East special education teachers **Ellen Bowmann** and **Stacey Walsh**. He leaned on their network of Lakota's physical and occupational therapists to help identify their students’ most common daily challenges and then share them with his students as potential problems to solve.

One group learned that board games are commonly used to encourage socialization in East’s multiple disabilities classrooms, but come with the physical obstacle of being able to reach the pawns. The group latched on to the idea and created a game that used laser beams in place of pawns and a button to move them around the board.

All together, the two classes will turn out 16 different innovations, most of them not matching anything currently on the market. And while the finished products may be the most impressive part of it all, it’s the process that the students have appreciated.

“You have to work as a team and figure out what people like and what they’re best at,” said senior **Ben Roth**.

“It’s really prepared us for what’s to come,” Hoffman said. “You’re not always going to be 100 percent successful the first time and you just have to bounce back and keep experimenting until you get it right.”



Union fifth graders (pictured from left) Victoria Rodriguez, Maggie Todd, Sydney Alderman and Noelle Shalash created a documentary about depression to inform their fellow students.

Union Students Using Technology to Educate Fellow Classmates

Students became the teachers at Union Elementary School thanks to a fifth grade project. **Olivia Overberg's** tutorial and enrichment (T & E) students were able to choose a topic of interest that they would then teach to their peers.

Working in groups, student choice was at play as they chose a subject to study and then create a documentary to share their results. "The students did a lot of research on their topics and created storyboards, skits and/or scripts to collect their information," Overberg explained. "They worked on collaboration and also created roles within their group."

How to save manatees, combatting the world's plastic problem and the evolution of technology are just some examples of topics covered. **Maggie Todd, Noelle Shalash, Sydney Alderman** and **Victoria Rodriguez** researched depression. "We wanted to do something that would speak to the people watching the documentary," said Rodriguez. With Todd adding that the topic was personal to the group.

The students researched triggers along with ways to cope with depression. They were shocked to learn that 828,000 people die from suicide each year. For their documentary, the group took what they learned and applied it to skits used in their film. Some of the biggest takeaways for the girls include how processed food can affect a person's mood, the pressure of Instagram and Snapchat on cyberbullying and how antidepressants can actually increase depression in some people.

The documentary stressed the importance of speaking to someone if they were experiencing signs of depression. "If you don't want to talk to a psychologist, talk to someone you trust," Rodriguez told the viewers.



Abby's Original Design



BEFORE



AFTER

Ridge Art Club Opens Doors to Cincinnati Zoo Project

Without time in her schedule to take an art class this year, Ridge Junior School's Art Club has given eighth-grader **Abby Wilson** an alternative outlet for pursuing her passion. It's also helped her land a spot at the Cincinnati Zoo to showcase her work.

Wilson was among just 40 Cincinnati-area youth artists - including very few junior high school honorees - selected to hand-paint a rain barrel with her original winning design. The accent pieces will be part of a silent art auction at the zoo's Party for the Planet Celebration, helping bring awareness to its storm water conservation efforts and motivate local homeowners to do their part, too. After all, rain barrels are an easy and inexpensive way to conserve water and save money.

Ridge art teacher **Amy Panfalone** makes it a goal to integrate at least one community service project into Art Club every year.

"I've always thought it's a great way to get them involved in their community using their talents and with the opportunity to be recognized outside of Ridge Junior," Panfalone said.

Given a blank canvas and very few requirements, Wilson chose to depict the extremes of the zoo's terrain, using the contrast of cold colors to represent arctic habitats and warm colors to represent desert wildlife. Once selected, she was faced with the daunting task of converting her paper drawing into an oil-based painting on a much larger and contoured surfaced.

Luckily, she was invited to a workshop at the zoo, where she was given some professional tips for sanding, priming, painting and finishing the barrel in a way that would help prevent water and sun damage.

For about a month, Wilson spent her study hall in the art room working on her barrel and then dedicated a couple hours every day over spring break to meet her deadline.

"It's definitely going to be sad to give it away, but it's for a good cause," she said.

Wilson's barrel will be on display in the zoo's Education Center and Go Green Garden April 1 through April 25, when they will be sold in a silent auction at the zoo's Earth Day celebration. Proceeds from the auction will be used to further environmental education and awareness.



Some Independence fourth-graders chose to dress in the same native attire as the dolls they created for their Family Heritage Festival on March 14.

Family Heritage Festival an Independence Tradition

A special tradition at Independence Elementary School has family tradition at its core.

For more than 15 years, the school's Family Heritage Festival has followed a social studies unit on immigration, challenging fourth-graders to explore their own family history. The culmination of the students' research and creativity is a worldwide culture fair spread across five different classrooms complete with native dress, food and, in some cases, artifacts. Students, staff and even parents moved from station to station on March 14 to soak in what the students had prepared.

"So many families don't always know or share their family heritage, so this quickly becomes a project that our families take a vested interest in," said teacher **Anna Piontek**. "It gives them an identity to know where they came from."

Student **Brody Goass** discovered one of his ancestors was 100 percent Native American. "I thought it was fun because I didn't know any of that before this project," he said.

Student **Trevor Ernst** was excited to have a trip to New York City already planned over spring break. He had plans to visit Ellis Island, where he learned many of his Scottish ancestors passed through.

Teacher **Staci Becker**, new to the fourth grade Independence team this year, helped introduce some digital elements into this year's project. In addition to creating a doll that embodies the traditional dress of your family's native country, students were encouraged to create their country's brochure digitally. Students also enjoyed some fun with the green screen, digitally placing themselves in an iconic location within their country.

Besides the academic connections the project encourages, Becker noted the social connections it made possible.

"I had students really excited to learn that there were other students in their grade who had ancestors from the same country as them," Becker said. "I think making these connections was really good for the kids socially and mentally."



Destination Imagination



Among Lakota's Destination Imagination teams was "The Space Oddities" (pictured bottom left), which earned a ticket to the state tournament. Team members include: (top row, left to right) Hayes Megee (3rd grade, Adena), Cohen Pollack (4th grade, Freedom) and Anna Leitsch (3rd grade, Freedom); (bottom row, left to right) Lydia Miller (4th grade, Adena), Cora Westendorf (4th grade, Freedom) and Sydney Oliver (4th grade, Adena).

Destination Imagination is Hands-on, Collaborative and Fun

Lakota's Destination Imagination program is thriving and has grown to 10 teams over the last four years.

And while you can measure the program's success by regional awards won or the number of teams that go on to compete at the state level, the program's impact on participants goes well beyond competitions.

"I was in Destination Imagination (DI) while I was in school and I know firsthand what a valuable asset it was to my overall education," said **Christine Westendorf**, who re-instated the program at Lakota and serves as district coordinator, a team coach, and a DI board member.

Students learn how to think on their feet and work as a team, all while developing creativity and confidence," said Westendorf. "And they have fun doing it, making friends along the way." She added that for about \$65, her daughter Cora participates in this program September through March.

That's because the program relies on volunteers; Lakota's teams also have support from Lakota LEADS to pay for their competition fees.

DI is a global educational nonprofit that aims to inspire the next generation of innovators, leaders and creative problem solvers. Over 150,000 students in pre-K through college participate in the program each year worldwide.

Students are empowered to take their learning to the next level through project-based challenges that are hands-on, collaborative and fun. Each year, DI teams can select from seven different challenges that range from designing an aircraft to exploring medical mysteries to bringing a game to life. Components of the challenges include structural engineering, technical design, service learning, effective storytelling, theatre, arts and more.

Teams generally meet once a week to work on their project, and more often as the regional tournament approaches in March.

During the competition, teams present their project as well as take part in an "instant challenge." Team members don't know what this challenge is until they walk into the room; it can be anything from creating a commercial to building something out of toothpicks.

At the March 16 regional competition, Lakota brought home a number of awards. The "Space Oddities" team won their division and are headed to the state tournament; they also won the Renaissance Award for Outstanding Performance. The "Chocolate Milkshake Kids" team won the Spirit of DI Award, and "Team Backup Plan" and "The Fortnite Flossers" each placed second in their instant challenges.

When Space Oddities team members **Anna Leitsch** and **Cora Westendorf** talk about DI, their enthusiasm is contagious.

"One of my favorite parts of DI is building and putting things together," said Cora, a fourth-grade student at Freedom Elementary. "We got to build a giant spaceship with wheels to hold all of our props. We even learned how to use a power drill (under parental supervision)!"

Space Oddities chose the fine arts challenge called Game On. The team had to research and choose a game with specified rules, and then create and present a mini skit about its history. The challenge also required that the team create a container that housed everything for the skit.

"I really liked writing a script," said Anna, a Freedom third-grader. The girls say they switch around tasks so everyone gets a chance to try everything (building, scripts, making costumes).

"I also like the social part," said Anna. "Cora and I have become good friends because of DI." They met each other four years ago in DI and have been on the same team every year since.

For more information or to get involved, contact Christine Westendorf at lakotadi@yahoo.com.

[View All
District News](#)

FEATURED PHOTOS

Lakota Athletic Hall of Fame



Matt Bahner



Jimmy Brenneman



Colton Cattani



Caitlin (Dombart) Ba



Stu Eversole



Ryan Fields



Amber Gray



Rachel (Nelson) Amb

2019 Inductees

Lakota was proud to welcome eight new inductees into the Athletic Hall of Fame at the district's 21st annual awards ceremony on March 28. Congratulations to these eight outstanding student-athletes on their past and present accomplishments!



Students from Union Elementary school shared about opportunities they have during enrichment times at the School Showcase, held prior to the second annual State of the Schools community event.



Heritage ECS students were welcomed back from spring break with a fanfare.

NEW BUSINESS

Lakota Seeking Community Input on 2020-2021 Academic Calendar

The Lakota Calendar Committee is preparing a 2020-2021 district calendar recommendation for the Board of Education. But first, the group is soliciting community input. Lakota staff, students, parents and community members are invited to review the current draft before any final recommendation is presented to the school board in May 2019.

The committee considers many different factors when drafting the district calendar, including everything from scheduled state assessments and other state mandates to observed holidays and staff training days. When comparing the 2019-2020 calendar to the proposed calendar, the committee does not note any major changes.

We value any input you have regarding possible changes to the calendar. [Please provide your feedback by completing and submitting this form by Friday, April 12.](#) Feedback will be reviewed and adjustments made, as appropriate.

NEW Summer Internships: Deadlines Fast Approaching

Lakota is proud to offer a host of summer internship opportunities for high school students. In partnership with our local business community, current opportunities range from business, education and engineering to government, healthcare and marketing/communications.

New opportunities are continuously being added and applications are still being accepted for the following experiences:

- Lakota LEADS Camp Potential
- Camp Invention
- Necessary & Proper Consulting
- West Chester Township
- UC Health West Chester Hospital
- Cincinnati Children's Liberty
- WLHS 89.9 / WMKV 89.3 FM Radio
- Butler County Visitors Bureau
- Various Views Research

Deadlines vary and run through May. [Visit Lakota's internship webpage for more details and to apply.](#)

March Video Update: A Look Around Lakota

Superintendent Matthew Miller shares just a few highlights of the happenings throughout Lakota Local Schools in this month's video update, including:

- The second annual State of the Schools;
- Pi Day celebration at Plains Junior;
- Bringing history to life at Woodland Elementary; and
- Combining art and technology at Heritage Early Childhood School.

[Click here to watch this month's edition.](#)

Lakota NEXT in the Spotlight on Listen Up Lakota

The March edition of “Listen Up Lakota,” a monthly radio program powered by WMKV 89.3FM, featured an interview with **Keith Koehne**, executive director of curriculum & instruction, Lakota West ASL teacher **Jessica Frye** and Lakota West junior **Alyssa Phelan**.

The trio discussed the recent work of the Lakota NEXT committee and all its efforts to reimagine the high school experience for Lakota students. This includes the recent revision to next year’s high school bell schedule, a plan designed by students, teachers and staff to give high-schoolers a more flexible and personalized educational experience.

The interview originally aired on March 22, but is available as a podcast on the [WMKV website](#). WLHS/WMKV is a member-supported public radio with its studios located at Maple Knoll Village in Springdale.

West Symphonic Winds to Perform at Music Hall April 1

The Lakota West Symphonic Winds are performing at Music Hall as part of WindFest 2019 on April 1 at 7 p.m. This is the second time they have been invited to perform at this incredible venue. They will be performing with the Mason Wind Symphony and the Fillmore Wind Band, Cincinnati’s premier Wind Band.

Tickets are available online or at the door for \$11 each. Student group discounted tickets are available, by contacting communications@lakotawestbands.org. [Purchase online tickets here](#).

Lakota Culture Fest at IKEA April 6

Join Lakota students as they present their cultural talents through displays, poetry, art, fashion and much more. The event will take place on Saturday, April 6 from 12 - 4 p.m. at IKEA West Chester. IKEA is located at 9500 Ikea Way.

Lakota Gifted Services Hosts April 10 Movie Showing

Lakota Gifted Services will host a special showing of the movie “Angst” on Wednesday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lakota East High School theater.

The new film was created to help open up the conversation about anxiety and provide tools, resources and hope for those struggling with it. The movie is deemed appropriate for ages 10 and up. [Click here to view the trailer](#) and [register for the event here](#).

April 15 Community Conversation: Social-Emotional Learning Standards

Lakota's next Community Conversation, scheduled for April 15 at 6:30 p.m. in Lakota East's community room, will focus on social-emotional learning. Attendees will discuss the new social-emotional learning standards and how Lakota will include them in their educational program. Lakota Behavior Specialist Tina Pratt, who helped draft the standards, will lead the session with a brief overview.

The Community Conversation program, now in its seventh year, allows school board members, the superintendent and other school district leaders to get input about Lakota schools and their operation from all our stakeholder groups.

The sessions are engaging and energizing and help guide school leaders in making decisions. All are welcome to attend.

May 11: Lakota Spirit Day at FC Cincinnati

Lakota is excited to announce a Lakota Spirit Day with FC Cincinnati!

Lakota families and staff are invited to take advantage of special ticket pricing for the May 11 game. FC Cincinnati will take on Montreal at 1:00 p.m. at the University of Cincinnati's Nippert Stadium. Special activities are being planned to celebrate Lakota's presence at the game, including a halftime standoff and a post-game group photo, so come and show your Lakota spirit.

Visit www.fccincinnati.com/group-portal and enter promo code LAKOTA19 to call 513-977-KICK to claim your tickets.

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

- Saturday, March 30
CommUnity University: "What's Next? How to Achieve the 4E's"
at Miami VOA Learning Center
8 a.m. - noon
- Saturday, March 30
Jazz 'n Cakes
at Lakota West High School
8 a.m. - noon
- Tuesday, April 2
Fellas & Fiction
at X-Quisite Cutz
6 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 3
Coffee Chat with the Superintendent
at Einstein Bagel Bros.
1 - 2 p.m.
- Saturday, April 6
Lakota Culture Fest
at IKEA West Chester
4 - 6 p.m.

ON THE RADAR

Announcements & Opportunities

March 30 CommUnity University: Tackling the 4Es after Graduation

Lakota's monthly learning series, Family & Parent CommUnity University in partnership with Miami University Voice of America, continues Saturday, March 30 from 8 a.m. to noon with a session titled, "You've Graduated! What's Next?"

Whether your post-graduation plans include enrollment, employment, enlistment or entrepreneurship - coined the "4 Es" at Lakota - get helpful tips and advice for that next step. Participate in breakout sessions led by guest speakers whose path also followed one of the 4Es.

Hosted by Lakota's Outreach Diversity and Inclusion Department, each monthly session is led by expert Lakota staff and community partners and is designed to provide training and resources to parents, relatives, staff, community members and others who play a role in helping educate our youth. Each session is live streamed and includes breakfast, compliments of Overhead Doors, and free childcare provided by student volunteers. The sessions are free and open to the public, but registration is encouraged.

Kindergarten & Summer School Registration Ends April 5

- Monday, April 8
Board of Education Meeting
at Plains Media Center
6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 10
Movie Screening: "Angst" (Raising Awareness about Anxiety)
at Lakota East Theatre
6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 18
Storytime with the Superintendent
at IKEA West Chester
6:30 p.m.
- Friday, April 19 - Monday, April 22
No School: Easter Break
- Monday, April 22
Board of Education Work Session
at Plains Media Center
6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 30
Military Commitment Ceremony
at Lakota East Freshman School
7 p.m.

Open registration for Lakota's secondary summer school and all-day kindergarten programs runs through April 5.

All students are eligible for the all-day kindergarten option, with the option to enroll in the half-day program, if desired. Please note that students must be five years old on or before Aug. 1 in order to enroll in kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year. [Visit the kindergarten registration site for more details and to register online.](#)

Lakota's Secondary 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 the End-of-Course assessments or to participate in select math courses to qualify for advanced math placement the following school year.

Summer classes will be held at Lakota East Freshman Campus from May 28 through July 3. Registration for Lakota students is completed on [EZPay](#) and the registration deadline is April 5. More information can be found on the [Lakota Secondary Summer School website.](#)

April 30: Military Commitment Ceremony

Lakota is inviting the community on April 30 to help honor this year's Lakota East and Lakota West graduates who have committed to serve our country through any branch of the U.S. Military.

The ceremony will take place at the Lakota East Freshman Campus from 7 to 8 p.m. Attendees are invited to meet our honorary students during an informal reception immediately following the program. Honorary students and their families will receive an invitation closer to the event date.

Get Your Tickets for Upcoming Plays

The Addams Family
Lakota East High School

[See Full Calendar](#)

March 29-30; April 4-6
7:30 p.m.

March 31
2:30 p.m.

America's darkest family comes to life in this original musical about love and family. The Addams Family features every father's nightmare. Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family—a man her parents have never met. Tickets are available at SeatYourself.biz/LakotaEastHigh.

Guys and Dolls JR.
Hopewell Junior School

April 12-13

Hopewell Junior will be presenting Guys and Dolls JR., an adaptation of the show considered by many to be the perfect musical comedy. Its namesake ran for 1,200 performances when it opened on Broadway in 1950 and won numerous Tony Awards. *Guys and Dolls JR.* is a musical comedy classic about rolling the dice and falling in love under the lights of Broadway. Ticket information will be posted at HopewellJr.LakotaOnline.com.

Last Call for Educator of Excellence Nominations

Following with tradition, the Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty, in partnership with Lakota Local Schools, is currently accepting nominations for the 2019 Lakota Educator of Excellence Awards.

The award is made possible through a generous sponsorship from Phelan Insurance Agency. Two monetary awards will be presented: one to a recipient from the elementary level (PreK-6) and another from the secondary level (7-12). The winners will receive a \$1,000 grant to be used for a special project at their school. The third, non-monetary award, will be presented to a Lakota administrator who has

shown extraordinary commitment to the students and teachers of Lakota Local Schools as well as the community. [Click here for more details about the Educator of Excellence awards.](#)

Nominations are due Friday, April 5. [Click here to download and complete the 2019 Educator of Excellence nomination form.](#)



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

(513) 874-5505

lakota@lakotaonline.com