

A Look Around Lakota: E-News Edition

February 8, 2019



WE are Lakota

More Flexibility Next Year



Select A Course

Department :
Requested Credits : 0.0000
Alternate Credits : 0.0000

School Day Options

Course Status Key : Required Suggested Locked

Request

DESCRIPTION

☐

6 Bell Day: 8:10 - 2:45

☐

7 Bell AM: 7:10 - 2:45

☐

7 Bell PM: 8:10 - 3:40

☐

Senior Flex (Bells 1-6 only)

New High School Schedule Adds Seventh Bell, Gives Students More Flexibility

More opportunities for Lakota high school students is on the horizon. As registration season opened at the end of January, the district announced expanded options for its seventh class period.

Beginning in the fall, students in grades 10-12 will have the option to take advantage of Lakota's expanding course offerings by extending their school day by one period. Traditionally, students at the main high school campuses may enroll in six courses, with an option to take zero bell for a seventh. Through zero bell, students have only been able to choose between an English or social studies course, severely limiting their options. Now, classes will be offered based on student request and district resources.

In addition to the traditional early start schedule through zero bell, both Lakota West and East high schools will introduce an alternative seventh bell for students who prefer to extend their school day. Students choosing this option would start their day at first bell and finish at 3:40 p.m.

"It's a really good thing that we'll have next year," said Lakota West junior **Kati Zepahua**, who plans to take advantage of senior flex in the fall to allow more time for extracurricular activities and her job. While senior flex is not new this year, being able to schedule it during the online registration process is. With regards to an expanded seven bell day, Zepahua hopes her fellow students will recognize the benefits. "It's really going to help people if they take advantage of it."

Donnie Vossler, a sophomore at Lakota East, is taking advantage of the expanded opportunities by registering for Latin in the fall. "I think this is a great idea," he said. "It gives a lot more broad options for what you want to learn and experience."

Since last spring, district leaders, staff and students have been working together to reimagine the high school experience. Teachers and students collaborated during a three-day LakotaNEXT design challenge in November, working to answer the question: How might we design a prototype of a high school master schedule that fosters the core principles of personalized learning?

"At Lakota, we offer a student-centered approach to learning," said **Keith Koehne**, executive director of curriculum and instruction. "We are listening to students and what they want in their education," he continued. "Not only will it give students a more flexible schedule and more choice in taking a seven period day," he continued, "but it opens up opportunities for us, as a district, to continue to grow our course offerings."

One such example is the new [Lakota Cyber Academy](#), which will start in the fall. A small pilot is taking place now. This new pathway, which is made possible through a partnership with Cincinnati-based Belcan LLC, will enable students to not only learn about cyber security, but also earn industry certifications. "This program will open doors to our students after graduation, should they choose to continue their studies in higher education, enlist in the military or enter the workforce," noted Koehne.

Colin McQueen, a junior at Lakota East this year, is looking forward to the Cyber Sprint class for next year's seniors. "I'm really interested in computer science," he said. "Cyber security is a good place to start." McQueen plans to open his own video gaming company eventually and will use a career in cyber security as a stepping stone on that path.

"We're excited to offer more flexibility to our students," said Superintendent **Matthew Miller**. "This is another example of listening to our stakeholders," he continued, noting that parents, students and staff have requested more opportunities and flexibility. "The new structure also opens the doors to allow for real-world learning such as our internship program," he continued. "It's another example of personalizing learning to meet the needs of our students."



Spontaneous Food Drive a Glimpse into LODI's Year-Long Efforts

Lakota schools may have been closed last Friday for inclement weather, but Central Office was bustling with volunteers - and mounds of canned goods.

After three consecutive days of no school, including school-provided breakfasts and lunches, Lakota's Outreach Diversity and Inclusion (LODI) department organized a spontaneous food drive to provide emergency relief to 55 area families. Using staff email and the viral power of social media, the district put out a call for support and within just two hours, the front lobby at Central Office was overflowing with donations.

Several students, parents and community members answered the call differently, showing up to help box up the donations and personally deliver them to families.

"When I think about 'WE are Lakota,' this is what we get," said **Angie Brown**, LODI's coordinator of parent and family engagement and community outreach. "We put a call to action out and in just two hours, we got this show of support for our families and I just want to say thank you."

Established last January, [LODI was formed](#) to enhance the district's ongoing efforts to consistently provide all students with a safe, secure and supportive learning environment free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, and intimidation. The new group formalized and combined efforts of inclusion already underway at Lakota, including the the [Champions for Change program](#) led by **Aisha Moore**.

Lakota champions representing every Lakota school have dedicated their work over the last three years to promoting a culture of empathy and understanding in their building communities. The group convenes on a quarterly basis now to participate in cultural competency training delivered through guest speakers, coffee chats and even book studies. They then find way to infuse strategies that proactively celebrate diversity and promote inclusion in their own school communities.

The group is launching into a new phase that involves each champion leading regular professional development and training of *all* the staff at their respective schools. "We've essentially been following a train the trainer model. All of our work up to this point has been about equipping our champions with the knowledge to replicate the training they've received with all of their peers," Moore said. "This is how we'll literally multiply the impact of our work so far."

The footprint of the Champions is growing even bigger thanks to a new "Culturally Responsive Teacher" endorsement designed by LODI. Twenty-six additional Lakota staff members signed up to complete the intense coursework spanning eight months. The endorsement concludes with a hands-on project in which they will apply their learning to actually redesign their instructional practices or learning environment to be more culturally responsive and an example to their peers.

Under LODI falls a range of other formal district-wide programs proactively building community and promoting inclusion and cultural understanding among students, staff, parents and community members. These include the monthly [CommUnity University sessions](#), [Earth Day Celebration](#), Fellas & Fiction, [Story Time with the Superintendent](#), [Parade of Graduates](#), back-to-school summer bus tours and ice cream social for new families, just to name a few.

More difficult to measure is LODI's reach into each of Lakota's 23 schools, inspiring and supporting proactive community-building programs, both big and small. At Lakota West, for example, LODI has been the impetus behind a group of ESL students tasked with personally calling Lakota's Spanish-speaking families to provide an update about Lakota, in their native language.

"The connection is the most important part of this work," Brown said. "For once, they feel like part of their school community and can actually provide feedback. Plus, the kids feel like they're serving a bigger purpose and like they're part of the district. It's really a win-win."

At Independence Elementary, LODI facilitated a lesson around Black History Month with all students. They are also working on a model for welcoming families who join Independence throughout the school year. Similar to many of the multicultural nights they've helped get off the ground around Lakota, the group is helping coordinate a first-ever multicultural event spanning multiple West feeder schools.

At Shawnee, LODI is partnering with staff to create a more culturally responsive environment. "We are really focusing on more than just celebrating our diversity," said Shawnee Principal **Theresa Brock**. "Teachers are looking more closely at what motivates and engages students through activities that are relevant and meaningful in their lives. This all begins with building relationships and getting out of our comfort zones!"

Oftentimes, the bulk of LODI's work involves dropping into schools to simply help students, staff and parents navigate through sensitive situations and in the process, bridge cultural gaps and build stronger relationships. While it may be spontaneous or on an "as requested" basis, principals are noticing the results of their partnership with LODI.

"I feel so strongly about knocking down the invisible barriers, leveling the playing field for our students, and educating the whole child," said Adena Elementary Principal **John Mattingly**. "The LODI team has connected us with many different and practical resources to support *all* of our kids. They've offered us an opportunity to look inward and reflect as educators, increase our empathy, and take risks."

"LODI has been instrumental in helping us to bring multiple cultures, schools, and neighborhoods together," said Woodland Elementary Principal **John Wise**. "LODI is a part of Woodland in so many ways and has been at the center of so many programs that ease student and parent access to our school. However, their willingness to listen and problem solve with our staff has been invaluable in helping to build a truly supportive culture."

"At the building level, we work hard to reach out to our parents and be as accessible as possible," said Hopewell Junior School Principal **Jeff Rouff**. "While we worked hard at doing so, it was the work of our LODI office that moved our efforts into very tangible results. The LODI teams cares about one thing: that the experience of *all* of our children is a positive and enriching one. Their support puts teeth to our efforts that every child and their family has a voice in their experience in Lakota."

SHOUT OUTS



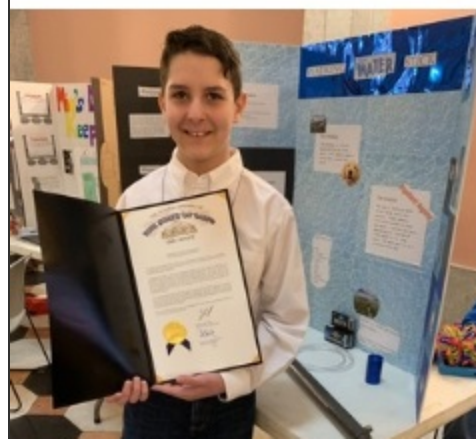
Sella
Wins C
Wrest
Titl



East Students Selected to All State Ensembles



West Students Selected to
OMEA All State Ensembles



Tyler Wethington
Headed to
National
Competition

WE are



Lakota West AP Art Class Hosted #LakotaEdChat

Students in **Stephanie Gauer**'s AP Drawing class at Lakota West put a unique spin on the Jan. 31 #LakotaEdChat on Twitter. The group decided to dedicate the district chat to a community critique of their most recent work.

"Feedback is so critical to a young artist's growth and the wider the perspective, the more valuable it is," said Gauer, who helps facilitate a weekly peer critique in her class. Each of Gauer's students selected a piece to put on public display during the hour-long Twitter chat hosted by senior **Lauren Mauro**, asking participants to provide feedback in 240 characters or less.

Ed chats have become a twice-a-month Lakota tradition, each chat hosted by a member of the community and drawing participation among students, staff, parents and community members, alike. The chat takes place on the second and last Wednesday of the month from 8-9 p.m., but you can catch up on any of the latest chats by searching for #LakotaEdChat on Twitter.

Lakota East, West Celebrate Five Overture Awards Visual Art Semi-Finalists

Five Lakota East and West art students advanced to the semi-final competition for the Cincinnati Arts Association's Overture Awards. Lakota West's **Jenna Mauro, Karol Perez, Alyson Power**, and **Trey Small** and Lakota East's **Ryan Kmieske** will have their work displayed at the Aronoff Center for the Arts Weston Gallery Feb. 7-9.

The Overture Awards is a program that recognizes, encourages and rewards excellence in the arts among Greater Cincinnati students in grades 9-12. The competition is the area's largest solo arts competition and offers awards in six artistic disciplines: creative writing, dance, instrumental music, theatre, visual art, and vocal music. Students in the visual arts category had to submit 6-8 pieces in their portfolio. Four semi-finalists in each discipline will be selected to compete at the final competition in March.

Artwork shown in collage: top row, left to right - 'Another One Gone' by Trey Small, 'Contemplating Sister' by Karol Perez; bottom row, left to right - 'The Grablin' by Ryan Kmieske, 'Unveiled' by Jenna Mauro and 'Sleepy Head' by Alyson Power.

East, West Musicians Land Spots on OMEA All State Ensembles

These Lakota East and Lakota West musicians were selected to perform at the Ohio Music Educators Association's (OMEA) convention in Cleveland Jan. 31 through Feb. 2. They competed against musicians throughout Ohio to earn a spot on the OMEA's prestigious All State ensembles.

Lakota West

Evelyn Best, Bass Clarinet

Alexander Evert, Clarinet

Jack Greenlee, French Horn

Anna Lavin, Trumpet

Alex Merk, Piano

Charlie Merk, Brass

Ben Seamon, Trumpet

Jared Sippy, Tuba

Emilee Warne, Flute

Isaac Yoby, Trumpet

Lakota East

Hannah Everding, Flute

Henry Stiefel, Trombone

Katie Frazier, Flute

Zach Timmons, Trombone

Rueben Allan, Clarinet
AJ Hanmer, Percussion
Joe Ulmer, Saxophone
McKenna Walters, Trumpet
Erich Corfman, Trombone
Abby Pieratt, Trumpet
Paul Briggs, Bass
Russell Specht, Saxophone

Woodland Student's Invention Headed to National Competition

Woodland Elementary sixth-grader **Tyler Wethington** was one of just 20 Ohio students selected to present their inventions at the statehouse in Columbus. He will represent Lakota at the National Invention League Competition to be held this May in Michigan.

While in Columbus, he received a “Certificate of Honor for Tremendous Attainment” from The President of the Senate, Larry Obhof, and District 4 Senator Bill Coley at the Columbus statehouse. He spent three hours talking with politicians, their staff, and other guests at a table where he had his invention and an information board displayed.

East Diver Breaks GMC Record

Lakota East senior **Lindsey Jones** broke a seven year old record at the 2019 GMC Championships, shattering the previous mark for a six dive meet. Lindsey has had an exceptional senior campaign. She placed fifth out of 57 divers in the sectional meet and will compete in the district meet next week.

Ridge Student Wins GMC Wrestling Championship

Eighth grader **Preston Sellers** finished the season with a record of 27-1 and a GMC championship. Preston has had an impressive season, earning 26 wins by pin, as well as having pinned all three opponents at the GMC meet. Wrestling since he was seven years old, Preston will try to qualify for the state tournament this weekend.

AROUND LAKOTA



Students at Cherokee Elementary and Creekside Early Childhood schools learned about many different cultures during A Taste of Cherokee and Tour Our World.

Students Tour the World With Multicultural Events

Students at Cherokee Elementary and Creekside Early Childhood schools went on a world tour recently. Events at both schools were an opportunity to celebrate the different heritages of their students and learn about different cultures.

“The Taste of Cherokee is a popular event among (our) families because it shines a spotlight on our families and celebrates the diversity of our community,” said PTA co-chair **Lisa Phair**. After a break for a few years, A Taste of Cherokee returned to the school last year. “Visitors

come for a multicultural experience which includes food, student art, entertainment and the opportunity to learn about the heritage and nationalities of Cherokee families,” Phair noted.

Families attending A Taste of Cherokee and Art Showcase were able to visit with 19 families from 16 different countries. Visitors could peruse books, music, artifacts and more at each of the booths. Upon entering, each family received a passport to fill with stickers as they visited the different countries. Visitors were also able to tour an art exhibit featuring the works of students.

The Cherokee PTA enlisted art teacher **Andrea Menchhofer** to help bring this year’s event to life. “(Mrs.) Menchhofer was integral in this year’s Taste,” said **Stephanie Patterson**, co-chair of the event. “She worked with classes in various grade levels on art work, posters, table settings, flags, etcetera, which was wonderful to give that extra jazz to the school cafeteria.”

Countries represented included Mexico, Italy, Palestine, Brazil, Ireland and more. “This year we were lucky to host a Zumba/Latin Dancing demonstration, an Irish Dancing duo, a traditional Palestinian dance, and a Taekwondo demonstration,” noted Patterson, with Cherokee students performing the Irish and Palestinian dances.

Over at Creekside Early Childhood School, the fourth annual Travel Our World event took a slightly different route this year. Instead of one evening, students visited different countries during each of their specials classes throughout the weeklong event.

Teachers **Sarah Kennedy** and **Gabrielle Harms** are the masterminds behind the event. “It’s something we love,” said Harms. “It’s a way for kids to learn and celebrate our world, and diversity in general.”

During morning announcements, different students shared information about their families’ countries. **Motoki Tokunga**, a second-grader, shared about origami from Japan, bringing in a swan to show to classmates. “It is made out of paper which is really light and can rip easily,” he said. **Daman Thind**, a fellow second-grader, wore an outfit and jewelry that would be worn to a wedding in India. She enjoyed experiencing Mexico during Wonder Lab, where they made musical instruments.

Students had their passports stamped before entering their daily specials to travel to new countries. They visited China, Kuwait, Vietnam and Jordan in health class, Africa in music and Japan in art, to name a few. Each experience began with a Powerpoint presentation that Harms and Kennedy created for the teachers to introduce the countries, as well as the craft that went along with the lesson. They also included links to further learning.

In China, the students made special hats that are used to block the sun and rain and also learned how to use chopsticks. **Elyse Gruber**, a first grader, enjoyed learning about Jordan. “We got to write Creekside in Arabic,” she explained. In physical education, students learned to square dance when they visited the United States of America. Elyse described the experience as amazing. “We had partners and did a lot of stuff that was exciting.”

When asked how the students have enjoyed traveling, Harms exclaimed, "Oh my goodness! They've had so much fun!" She has enjoyed watching the students' reactions to each of the different activities. "Some are more hands on. Some are more science-based and some are more art-based," she explained. "Each kid has a special center made for them."

A common theme between both schools is the celebration of the diversity of the students. "From a personal aspect," Patterson said, "cultural events, such as Cherokee's Taste of Cherokee, are near and dear to my heart. I love the opportunity to welcome families with different backgrounds, cultures, and diversity and to share that with others."



Ridge Media Design students created videos to welcome new students. Ashley Reed, Olivia Jackson, Joe Fisher and Dakota Dixon created the winning video (click on the photo above).

Student Videos Welcome Sixth-Graders to Ridge

The transition from sixth to seventh grade can be daunting. Ridge Junior School teacher **Alexandra Cook** tasked her students to help ease the way.

Cook used the video production unit in her Media Design and Communications class as an opportunity to get her students involved. The project: create a video to welcome incoming seventh graders to Ridge. She also used the project as an opportunity to encourage students to work with others with whom they may not typically interact. “I assigned them to groups and was very particular about mixing them up so that they worked with students they might not know as well,” she explained.

After Cook explained the project, the students worked with their partners to come up with any concept they liked, so long as certain parameters were met: highlighting what is different at Ridge versus an elementary school; showing something that is great about Ridge; and naming and describing the different elective options.

After developing their concepts, the students wrote scripts and storyboards to map out their projects. **Ashley Reed**, an eighth grader in the class, brainstormed with her group. “We thought it would be kind of cool for a sixth grader to see what it was like to go to school here,” she said. “We started with a storyboard to plan out (our idea). (We wanted to show) the Innovation Hub and all of the new and improved things you don’t get at the elementary schools,” she explained.

Many different styles were submitted, such as a newscast format with student interviews or a day-in-the-life concept. “They made it more personal to their experience at Ridge,” said Cook.

Once completed, each class viewed the videos and voted to narrow it down to the top eight. Cook created a Google form for students, staff, parents and community members to vote for their favorite. Reed’s video, co-created with **Olivia Jackson**, **Joe Fisher** and **Dakota Dixon**, was the ultimate winner. [Click here to watch their video here](#). The video was shared with Ridge teachers and students during Pride Time. It will also be incorporated in the open house at the school on Feb. 11.

Reed is very happy she took the semester long class. “I’m very hands-on (and) it was very interactive,” she said. “You don’t sit, watch a presentation and take notes. It’s all projects.” Reed appreciated that while Cook gave the students an outline for each project, the students were empowered to take the concepts further and experiment if desired.

While voting is closed, you can still [click here to watch the top videos created by the students](#).



Using their Chromebooks to scan the QR codes displayed throughout the building, Plains language arts students took a virtual tour of the Holocaust Museum, digitally exploring such topics as Adolf Hitler, euthanasia and children of the Holocaust.

Plains Puts Digital Spin on Traditional Language Arts Unit

A digital spin on a traditional language arts unit got Plains Junior School students outside of the four walls of their classroom in more ways than one.

As a way to give their eighth-graders an historical framework for the upcoming study of “The Diary of Anne Frank,” language arts teachers **Lisa Silverglade** and **Becky Falato** wanted to arm their students with factual information about the Holocaust. “They don’t study World War II until freshman year, so it was important to us that they had some context before we jumped into this unit,” Silverglade said.

The teachers looked no further than the Chromebooks that every student received as part of the 1-to-1 rollout in Lakota’s junior schools last fall. Students were challenged to a scavenger hunt throughout the school that not only got them out of their classroom, but also threw them back in time almost 75 years.

Using their Chromebooks to scan the QR codes displayed throughout the building, students took a virtual tour of the Holocaust Museum, digitally exploring such topics as Adolf Hitler, euthanasia and children of the Holocaust.

“Being outside of the classroom is really cool. It’s just different,” said Plains eighth-grader **Winnie Lin**.

According to Falato, the digital component of the project was nothing more than a gateway for more engaged learning. “They’re talking and moving around and learning together,” Falato said. “That’s the key to it all.”



Freaky Friday

**Once on This
Island JR.**

**The Addams
Family**

Guys & Dolls JR.

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Theater Productions

It's time to mark your calendars to see Lakota's talented students in their upcoming theater productions. This year's spring lineup includes something for everyone.

Freaky Friday

Lakota West High School

Feb. 28 – March 2

7:30 p.m.

March 3

3 p.m.

Tickets are now on sale for Lakota West's *Freaky Friday*. When an overworked mother and her teenage daughter magically swap bodies, they have just one day to put things right again. *Freaky Friday*, a new musical based on the celebrated novel by Mary Rodgers and the hit Disney films, is a heartfelt, comedic and unexpectedly emotional update on an American classic. Tickets are \$14 in advance and \$17 at the door. [Click here to purchase tickets.](#)

Once on This Island JR.

Plains Junior School

March 8

7:30 p.m.

March 9

3 and 7:30 p.m.

March 10

3 p.m.

With its poignant story and catchy Caribbean-flavored score, *Once on This Island JR.* is a highly original theatrical adaptation of the popular fairy tale, *The Little Mermaid*. Through almost non-stop song and dance, this full-hearted musical tells the story of Ti Moune, a peasant girl who rescues and falls in love with Daniel, a wealthy boy from the other side of her island. Preferred tickets are \$10 and general admission tickets are \$6. Tickets are on sale now at ticketpeak.com/res/plainsisland.

The Addams Family

Lakota East High School

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 will be 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**.



East, West Go Orange and Gold for Dragonfly, Raise More Than \$10K

The student sections at two crosstown basketball games on Jan. 25 may have been painted two different colors, but their mission was the same.

“Go Gold for Dragonfly” at Lakota West and “Orange Out” at Lakota East were community-wide shows of support for the Cincinnati division of the Dragonfly Foundation, an organization that helps pediatric cancer patients and their families find strength, courage and joy. When all was said and done, both high schools have raised more than \$10,000, and counting, for the local cause.

“I personally know a Dragonfly family, so I’ve seen first-hand the work that they’re doing,” said Lakota West senior **Megan Shaffer**, who led the second annual event alongside three other students, **Tony Amsbaugh**, **Faith Martin** and **Alex Meyers**. “I really wanted to help in my own way because I really admire what they’re doing.”

At West, that work involved a week-long campaign to sell custom “Be a Hero” t-shirts - all leading up to a home basketball game packed with more fundraising and awareness-building activities. Athletic Director **Scott Kaufman** made good on a promise to shave his head during halftime, while West teacher **Ian Avery** received the most student donations in his name, doubling as nominations to shave his beard at the game.

That spirited display was followed by an emotional address from two individuals served by Dragonfly. “There was a hush that fell over the crowd,” said Shaffer, noting that the fundraiser was just as much about raising money as it was about creating awareness and building empathy.

At East, the fundraiser spanned two months, going beyond the fourth annual “Orange Out”. The group, led by East senior Lauren **Rader**, also hosted a hair donation event in December, where several students showed their support by shaving or cutting their hair and then donating it. The first wave of East’s fundraiser was complete with a split-the-pot and raffle baskets.

To gain even more attention and support from the student body, Rader also helped organize “Take a Pie for Dragonfly.” Seven East teachers were nominated to take a pie to the face during the school’s pep rally leading up to the Jan. 25 game.

“Jessica Elam was a student at LEHS a few years ago who passed away after a long battle with cancer,” said East teacher and Dragonfly staff ambassador **Amanda DiVito**. “By helping the Dragonfly Foundation, I am honoring Jessica’s memory as well as helping current families who need support.”

“The students, staff and athletic department and both Lakota East and Lakota West have been phenomenal in their dedication and support of Dragonfly,” said **Maureen Scahill**, student outreach program manager for Dragonfly. “We are grateful for all of the support that the Lakota schools and community have shown our families over the years!”

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS APPLY NOW

Spring & Summer Internships



Apply Now for Spring/Summer Student Internships

There's still time for high school juniors and seniors to apply for spring internships in healthcare at West Chester Hospital and in marketing/marketing research at Various Views – **applications for both are due by Feb. 15.**

West Chester Hospital Spring Internship

Various View Spring Internship

Applications are also now open for the summer internships listed below. More summer internships will be added soon. [Visit Lakota's internship page](#) for applications and due dates.

Supply Chain/Logistics Internship at SanMar Corp.

Current juniors are welcome to apply for an 8-week, paid summer internship in the supply chain field at SanMar Corp. in West Chester. SanMar supplies wholesale apparel for the promotional products, imprinted sportswear and advertising specialty markets. March 31 is the deadline to apply.

SanMar Paid Summer Internship

Necessary and Proper Consulting Campaign Internship

This 10-week summer internship will engage students in the political process through hands-on campaign experiences in the field and behind the scenes.

Interns will also learn the basic principles of campaigns, politics, business, and leadership. Up to 12 interns will be selected; applications due April 19.

Necessary and Proper Consulting Campaign Summer Internship



High Schools Celebrate Student-Athletes at Signing Events

Standout Lakota East Thunderhawks, who signed early commitments to continue their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level, were recognized in a special ceremony at the high school on Feb. 6.

Brandon Clark: Lacrosse (Trine University)

Andrew Douglas: Lacrosse (Trine University)

Megan Hatfield: Basketball (Ohio Wesleyan)

KayIn Heath: Track & Field (Ohio State University)

Ethan Hubbard: Volleyball (Lincoln Memorial University)

Trey Jesse: Football (Capitol University)

Andrew Macedo: Soccer (University of Cincinnati, Clermont)

Quinton Moss: Soccer (Centre College)

Dylan Newman: Baseball (Wilmington College)

Ali Neumeier: Cross Country/Track & Field (Wright State University)

Luke Shelby: Soccer (Tiffin University)

Kaitlin Smith: Cross Country/Track & Field (Indiana Wesleyan)

Jake Ware: Lacrosse (Otterbein University)

Tyler Wilkerson: Football (Otterbein University)

Bree Wilson: Golf (Rhodes College)

Lakota West Athletic Department also hosted an athletic signing event on Feb. 6 for football players who signed commitment letters to continue their academic and athletic at the next level. The next Lakota West signing event will occur on April 17 for all remaining athletes regardless of sport.

Ryan Francisco: Football (Marian University)

LaDonnis Griffin: Football (Tiffin University)

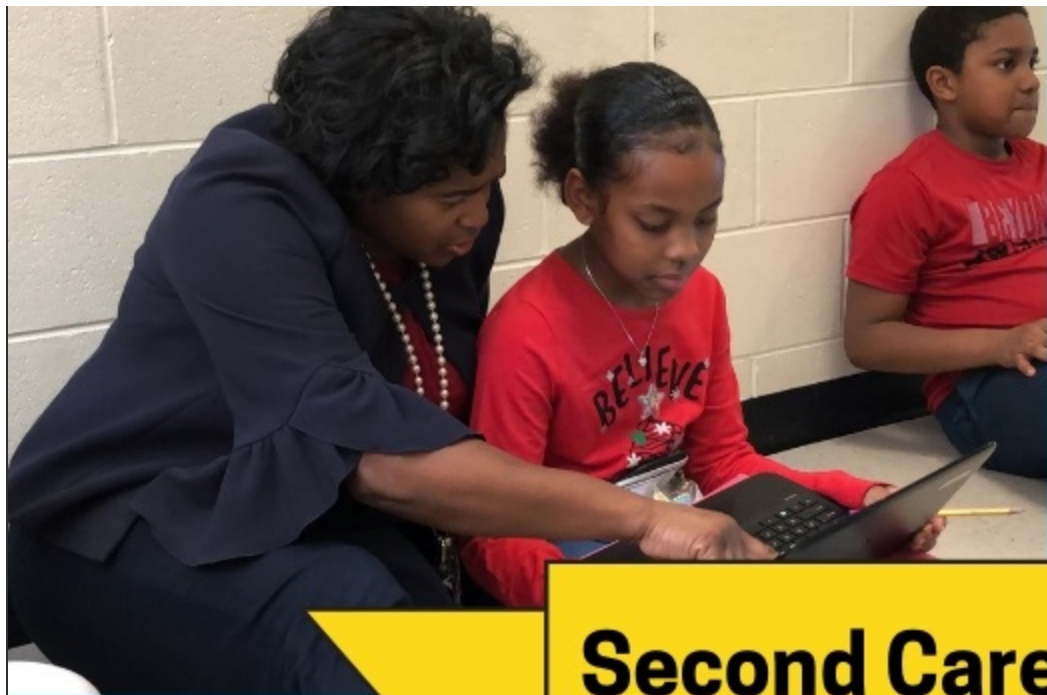
Nick Hjort: Football (Ohio Dominican)

Terrance Owensby: Football (University of Bluffton)

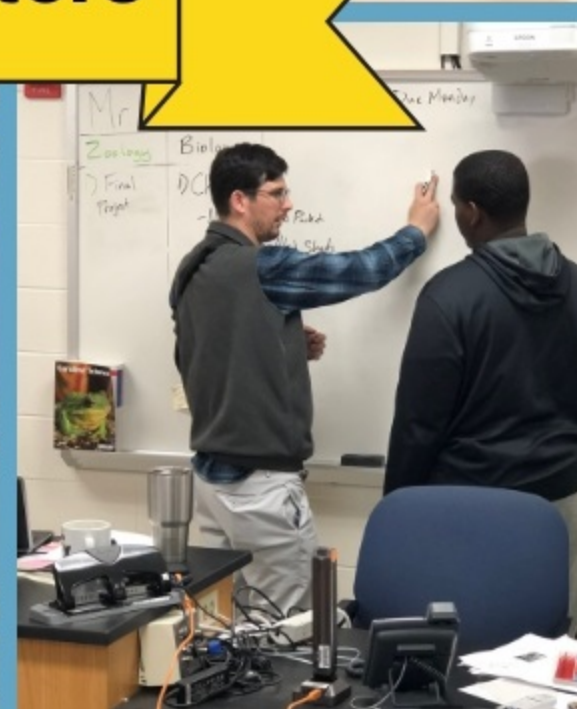
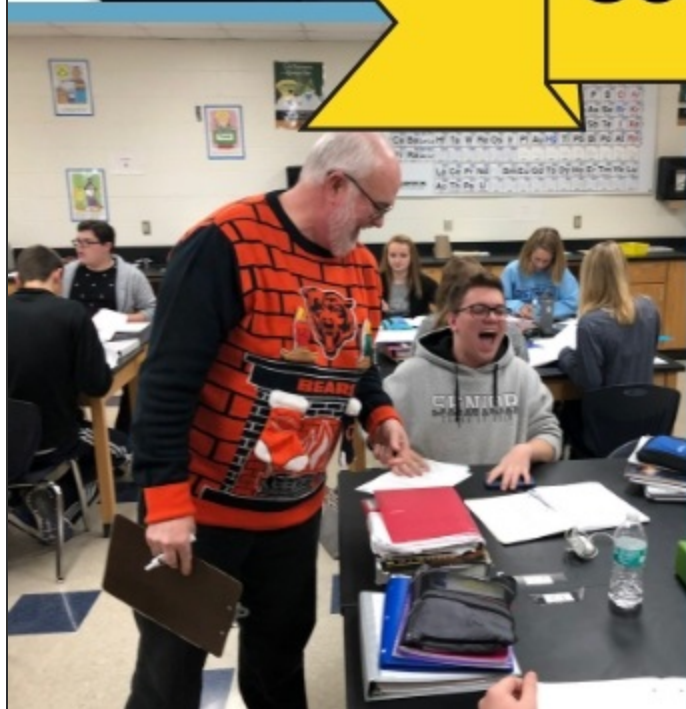
Jalen Swanson: Football (Morehead State University)

Steven Faucheux: Football (Purdue University)

Dylan Jones: Football (Naval Academy)



Second Career Educators



Pictured are some of Lakota's second career teachers: Tiffani Wills (top left) Ken Jones (top right), John Severns (bottom left), Laura Elam (bottom middle) and Ian Brown (bottom right).

Q&A with Lakota's Second Career Educators

The Lakota experience is ripe with opportunities that encourage exploration of future career options and pathways. By focusing on the 4Es - Employment, Enrollment, Enlistment and Entrepreneurship - teachers and staff are committed to exposing students to the many different possibilities of their future.

Some teachers and staff can personally attest to one of the lessons wrapped up in this message: The path to discovering your life's work and passion can be a windy one. For these five individuals, for example, K-12 education was a second or third stop in their career paths. But in the end, the decision to push their own professional boundaries has landed them in a place where they were meant to be.

Each of them took a moment to reflect on their decision to enter education. Here's what they had to say.

Ian Brown

Biology & Zoology Teacher, Lakota West High School

Former Careers: Zookeeper, marine animal trainer, outdoor education, cruise ship teen counselor

Years in Education: First year

What attracted you most to the teaching profession? I love the conversations with teenagers and having them be excited about the world that surrounds them. I enjoy learning about my students' interests and using it as a springboard to teach them about mine.

How has the transition pushed you out of your comfort zone? I am used to always being outside and having nature, culture, and animals to use as teaching tools and create teaching moments. I am in the process of creating more of these experiences for my students.

Laura Elam

Teacher, Wyandot Early Childhood School

Former Career: Life insurance and financial services

Years in Education: 8

What do you enjoy most about being a teacher? The hugs! I love the joy children bring to the classroom every single day.

What would surprise your former colleagues most about your new profession? That I spent 2 years away from work to pursue my Master's degree and start a new career working with 5 and 6 year olds!

Kenneth Jones

Intervention Specialist, Ridge Junior School

Former Career: Banking & financial services (fiscal office specialist for Lakota's payroll department)

Years in Education: First year

How has the transition pushed you out of your comfort zone? I have gone from working behind a desk, in a cube, to being front and center in a classroom. Being a teacher means never having down time, always having to be on my game and ready. Every day, I have to make sure that I am prepared to guide, motivate and challenge my students.

What attracted you most to the teaching profession? As a coach in the district for the last four years, I realized the influence and impact that I could have on a young person's life. The more that I came to this realization, the more that I wanted to be a positive influence on a greater number of students. Teaching offered the greatest opportunity.

Tiffani Wills

Assistant Principal, Woodland Elementary School

Former Career: Adhesives industry (packaging)

Years in Education: 6

What attracted you most to the field of education? I believe that all students, regardless of life circumstance, can be successful. I believe that I can best serve my community and make a greater impact by being a passionate instructional leader and a catalyst for positive change.

How has the transition pushed you out of your comfort zone? When one believes that there is not a solution, part of my job is to spark the discovery of a solution-even if/when the effort takes me out of my comfort zone.

John Severns

Chemistry & physics teacher, Lakota East High School

Former Career: Chemist (Research & Development)

Years in Education: 18

What do you enjoy most about being a teacher? Developing relationships with students and having an impact on their lives is extremely rewarding. My high school chem teacher changed the educational and professional arc of my life. I hope that I can be that impactful to some of my students. I love the autonomy of the classroom. Unlike P&G where someone was always watching what I was doing, teaching is much more entrepreneurial.

How has the transition pushed you out of your comfort zone? The day I left P&G, I felt like I was jumping off a cliff – leaving a very comfortable and secure career for something that I might not be good at. Just a few days into my new career, 9/11 happened. I vividly recall watching the second tower fall live with my students. They were all looking to me to make sense of what was happening. I learned that day that the role of “teacher” encompasses so much more than the content of the course. Nothing could have prepared me for that. It obliterated my comfort zone.

[View All
District News](#)

FEATURED PHOTOS



Wyandot kindergartners celebrated the 100th day of school with all things 100 - including crowns.



Heritage ECS teachers dressed up as centenarians to celebrate the 100th day of school.

101 DAY



SMARTER

NEW BUSINESS

WE are Pushing Boundaries: Winter 2019 Community Newsletter

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 winter 2019 edition, titled "WE are Pushing Boundaries", was mailed to all residents this 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.

This issue celebrates many different examples of how Lakota is pushing the boundaries on the traditional K-12 experience. The team teaching approach is spotlighted through the eyes of two teachers at Freedom Elementary who took a leap of faith and are seeing great results so far. Get an inside look at the process Lakota is taking to reimagine the high school experience and see new digital learning tools at work. Plus, Superintendent Matthew Miller describes the framework of Lakota's new strategic plan and Treasurer/CFO Jenni Logan provides an update on Lakota's financial health.

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

Share Your #WEloveLakota Contest Photos

In celebration of Valentine's Day this month, we're asking you to tell us what makes you love Lakota – with a photo! Is it a specific teacher, your principal, a favorite class, your entire school, your high school sweetheart, an extra-curricular program or maybe even the cafeteria's chicken nuggets?

Whatever it might be, GET CREATIVE and share a photo that illustrates that one thing or person that gives you a reason to love Lakota.

Participate all month long on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram by tagging Lakota's account and #WEloveLakota. At the end of the month, the top photo on each site with the most "likes" will be declared our "most loved" Lakota people, places or programs.

In return, Lakota's Media & Community Relations department will deliver a special valentine surprise to those three most loved people, places or programs on your behalf. Others around Lakota will learn more about the top winner through a story about them to be featured on Lakota's website, on Lakota's social media accounts and in the district's "A Look Around Lakota E-News."

A Look Around Lakota: January Video Update

The January edition of 'A Look Around Lakota' takes you into our schools to highlight some of the many happenings in our district, including:

- Personalized Learning;
- The 1:1 rollout at our high schools;
- Student voice; and
- #HeritageHasHeart.

[Click here to watch this month's edition](#) and stay tuned for more updates as the year continues.

Nominations Sought for Barb Bossu Volunteer Spirit Award

Nominations are being accepted now through March 22 for the 2019 district Barb Bossu Volunteer Spirit award.

Everyone is encouraged to take a moment to consider nominating a volunteer who is making positive things happen in the district. It is your opportunity to demonstrate your appreciation for the volunteers that truly make Lakota a special place to educate children.

Barb Bossu was an enthusiastic parent volunteer and the Union Elementary PTA president at the time of her death. The Volunteer Spirit Award was established in 1990 to commemorate her very special dedication to public education by honoring a volunteer each year from every school as well as a district volunteer in the Lakota district. The recipient should represent a positive spirit of dedication toward the betterment of our children.

[Click here for this year's district nomination form.](#) Use this nomination form to recognize a volunteer who is making a positive impact in our district where students are impacted, and who gives their time unselfishly to the Lakota district. Nominations for school volunteer awards will be announced by each school so check school newsletters for those deadlines and submission details. The district and school volunteer award winners will be honored at a district-wide ceremony on April 24 at 9:30 a.m. at Lakota East High School.

Please email completed nominations to Lisa.Phair@cbws.com or jennifer.best27@gmail.com by March 22, 2019.

2019-2020 Kindergarten Registration Begins March 1

Open registration for Lakota's all-day kindergarten program will begin on March 1 and run 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.

Two parent information nights for Kindergarten have been scheduled as follows:

February 25

6:30 - 8 p.m.

Lakota East HS

March 7

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Lakota West HS

Lakota's kindergarten classes will be held at six K-2 early childhood schools, including Creekside, Heritage, Hopewell, Liberty, Shawnee and Wyandot. Please note that students must be five years old on or before Aug. 1 in order to enroll in kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year. Families can register for kindergarten online before visiting the Welcome Center at 5572 Princeton Road to provide required documentation.

[Visit the kindergarten registration site for more details](#) and plan to register beginning March 1. All questions can be directed to the Welcome Center at (513) 682-4120.

Lakota Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Set for March 28

The 21st annual dinner and induction ceremony to honor the newest members of the Lakota Athletic Hall of Fame will be held on Thursday, March 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the Wetherington Golf & Country Club.

This popular community event will welcome the following 2019 Inductees:

Matt Bahner – Lakota West Class of 2008: Soccer

Jimmy Brenneman – Lakota West Class of 2008: Baseball

Colton Cattani – Lakota East Class of 2008: Baseball & Football

Caitlin (Dombart) Barger – Lakota West Class of 2008: Soccer, Basketball & Track

Stu Eversole – Lakota Athletic Director, Coach & Teacher

Ryan Fields – Lakota West Class of 2008: Wrestling

Amber Gray – Lakota West Class of 2008: Basketball & Volleyball

Rachel (Nelson) Amburn – Lakota West Class of 2008: Golf

The cost to attend is \$25 per person (which includes dinner); the deadline for registration is noon on March 20. For more information on the event, view the [Lakota Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner and Induction Ceremony Flyer.](#)

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, February 11
Hopewell ECS Fanfare for Students
at Hopewell ECS
8:50 a.m.
- Monday, February 11
Board of Education Meeting

ON THE RADAR

Announcements & Opportunities

Pi Day: Are You Ready for the Challenge?

- Is it possible to inflate a balloon without touching it?
- Can you actually taste food without your sense of smell?
- Will you be able to navigate an obstacle course using a powered wheel chair?
- Are you clever enough to decode a secret message?

at Plains Junior School
6:30 p.m.

- Friday, February 15
No School for Students (in lieu of evening conferences)
- Saturday, February 16
CommUnity University
at Miami VOA Learning Center
8 a.m. - noon
- Monday, February 18
President's Day: District is Closed
- Thursday, February 21
Storytime with the Superintendent
at IKEA West Chester
6:30 p.m.
- Monday, February 25
Board of Education Work Session
at Plains Junior
6:30 p.m.
- Monday, February 25
Kindergarten Registration Information Night
at Lakota East
6:30 - 8 p.m.

**See Full
Calendar**

Put yourself to the test at Lakota Pi Day where you will use math, science, and your wits to tackle these and other exciting challenges!

The 6th annual Lakota Pi Day is on March 1 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at Lakota East High School. Feel free to email lakotapiday@gmail.com with any questions.

Over 100 Exhibitors at Summer Fun Fair March 4 & 6

Are you looking for ways to keep your kids active this summer?

Lakota Local Schools will partner with more than 100 local businesses and organizations to host its seventh annual Summer Fun Fair this March 4 and 6. The event features local organizations with programs and services to keep students in grades K-12 active this summer. Vendors range from summer camps, learning centers and childcare facilities to athletic leagues, art programs and local parks and recreation.

For convenience, families are invited to attend either of two events:

Monday, March 4
Lakota East High School
6-8 p.m.

Wednesday, March 6
Lakota West High School
6-8 p.m.

Learn more at www.lakotaonline.com/summerfair. To exhibit, contact Cindy.Zahneis@lakotaonline.com or at 513-644-1203 before Feb. 25.

Write Challenge Contest Open to Grades K-12

Lakota LEADS (Lakota Enrichment and Academic Development of Students) parent booster group is excited to announce “The Write Challenge” writing contest for *all* Lakota students in grades K-12.

This year's theme is *REFLECTION*. Students can submit an essay, narrative, poem or all three. Entries are due on March 10 and must be submitted electronically. Students and families can learn more about the Challenge and obtain entry forms on the [LEADS website](#). [View the Write Challenge flyer](#) to learn more or contact president@lakotaleads.org.

Superintendent to Deliver 'State of the Schools'

Superintendent Matthew Miller will deliver the district's second annual "State of the Schools" address on March 13. The event is open to the entire community.

Miller will cover many topics, including current examples and future plans to support the district's recently approved strategic plan. Evidence of Lakota's progress toward a personalized, future ready K-12 educational experience will be presented by Miller alongside student and staff speakers.

The event takes place at Lakota East High School on Wednesday, March 13. The 7 p.m. program will be preceded by a showcase of all 23 schools.

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.



(513) 874-5505

lakota@lakotaonline.com