

December 14, 2018



**WE are Lakota**



2019-2021

# STRATEGIC PLAN

Hopewell Freedom Liberty Jr. Lakota West Freshman Lakota East Freshman Plains Jr.  
Heritage Wyandot **#WEareLakota** Ridge Jr. Adena  
Shawnee Endeavor VanGorden Woodland Union Hopewell Jr. Liberty  
Cherokee Lakota East High School Lakota West High School Independence Creekside

## Lakota School Board Approves New Strategic Plan

At its Dec. 10 meeting, the Lakota Board of Education unanimously approved a new three-year strategic plan for the district. “This new strategic plan has been designed to be a blueprint for Lakota’s future,” said Superintendent **Matthew Miller**. “It reflects where we are now and where we want to go.”

The district began the process in February, collecting feedback from stakeholders through online surveys and focus groups. More than 2,300 students, staff, parents and community members completed the surveys and 11 focus groups were held. The feedback showed the district’s strengths as well as opportunities for growth. “Listening to our stakeholders is a vital piece of the process,” said Miller. “We need to make sure that the direction we are heading is the right one for them, and for our students.”

Along with a new strategic plan comes a new mission and vision. Lakota’s new mission statement says: “Everything **WE** do is designed to provide a future ready, student-centered learning experience for every single child.”

How the district will achieve this is built into the four pillars of the vision:

- WE are Personalized;
- WE are Future Ready;
- WE are Fiscally Responsible; and
- WE are In This Together.

Each of the vision statements has action steps embedded in the plan. For example, improving structures and systems to align to the vision for personalized learning, as well as establishing professional development and training plans for all tiers of student support.

Being future ready aligns with the district’s emphasis on the four Es: upon graduation, students should be prepared for enrollment in higher education, enlistment in the military, employment or entrepreneurship. Real-world learning opportunities and the development of instructional strategies that include project-based learning are included in the action plan.

The district will continue to be good financial stewards by aligning its resources to its educational priorities while ensuring financial stability. “Fiscal responsibility is one of the pillars of our new strategic plan and it is something that I take very seriously,” said Treasurer/CFO **Jenni Logan**. “Our financial outlook is strong and we intend to keep our promise to our residents by maintaining an efficient and effective budget.”

WE are in this together refers to the strong partnership between students, staff, parents and community members. Through an action plan that includes the development of non-traditional programs to engage parents and community members, strengthening two-way communication with stakeholders and continuing to encourage staff and student voice, the district embraces this partnership to achieve student success.

Miller told the board members that he intends for this new plan to be a living document that applies to every staff member in the district. “We wanted to create a document that would become a part of our culture, embraced by our staff and applied to our students every single day. I believe we have achieved this.”



# #LakotaGivesBack



## Students Lead Way in Giving Back this Holiday Season

Learning through service is a year-round occurrence in Lakota classrooms. But during the holiday season, it takes a front row seat in many of our schools.

At Adena Elementary, a recent recycling unit in **Melissa Doll's** and **Tonya Dull's** fifth grade science classes gave way to a unique hands-on service learning project. The entire fifth grade launched a school-wide campaign to fill their classrooms with recyclable plastic bags. Organizing themselves in assembly line fashion, it took just one afternoon to transform the mound of bags into 10 "plyarn" balls that they donated to a local church. The balls will be weaved into eight waterproof mats and gifted to local homeless people giving them a more comfortable place to sleep.

"It helps someone and to know that it makes someone else happy makes me happy," reflected **Sofia Chiaramont**.

For students like **Alexa Silvas**, the project gave her a new appreciation for simple necessities like a house and food that she sometimes takes for granted. **Tegan Thiery** appreciated the added benefit of open conversation with classmates he doesn't always interact with. "When we get these breaks for a whole entire period, we get to know each other a lot better and learn things about each other that we didn't even know," he said.

Lakota East Freshman students in **Amy Mahaffey's** language arts class had the opportunity to give back by volunteering at a local non-profit of their choice. It was part of a project based learning experience in which they ultimately shared with their classmates what they learned about not only the organization, but also themselves.

Over at Cherokee Elementary, students took the lead on two other service projects. A passion for origami inspired two sixth-graders, **Brianna Dickson** and **Ishanvi Karthikeyan**, to rally behind a common cause - and bring their classmates along with them.

After reading a newspaper article in social studies class about overcrowded homeless shelters, they decided to turn a profit with their origami creations and donate all their proceeds to a local homeless shelter. Given that they've named their growing group "Save the World Club," it comes as no surprise that they've set big goals for their sales at the school's Cheetah Fest this spring.

"I just realized how hard it would be to be in the cold and have nothing," said Brianna, who is also inspired by a great aunt struggling with homelessness. "We want to do our part to help expand local shelters so that they can bring more people in and then help provide them with the comforts of home."

Another goal is to teach more of their classmates how to do origami, in hopes that it will help others discover a passion like they did. "Both Brianna and Ishanvi are leaders in the Cheetah community. They really are ready to tackle the world and help other people and I could not be more proud of them," said Cherokee Principal **Valerie Montgomery**.

Seven other Cherokee students, largely led by fourth-graders **Amira Scherzinger** and **Evelynn Roesel**, put their entrepreneurial idea into action, selling homemade stress balls, slime and glitter globes. In the end, they raised enough money to claim three tags on their school's giving tree. "There are people who need more than we need," said Evelyn of the necessities they purchased for three of their classmates.

The Lakota West girls basketball team used their Thanksgiving break to shop for a family they adopted through Reach Out Lakota, while Lakota East High School is leveraging the East vs. West basketball games for a "Toys for Tots" collection.

“This isn’t a competition between East and West but rather a way to support the WE are Lakota motto and give back to the community,” said East senior **Grace Silverberg**. “We hope in the spirit of giving back, you support us in this mission to help the children in our county that need us.” [View the Toys for Tots flyer for more details about this giving opportunity.](#)

All throughout Lakota, the examples of student generosity are plentiful. See even more ways the Lakota community is giving back this season by searching #LakotaGivesBack on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

## SHOUT-OUTS





**Sport Stacking Guinness World Record**



**East Junior Alex Fernholz**



**West Volley for the Cure**

## Shawnee, Hopewell Help Set New Guinness World Record

Shawnee and Hopewell early childhood schools were two of more than 2,800 schools and organizations from 25 countries that contributed to a new Guinness World Record: the most people sport stacking in multiple locations in one day. Kindergartners who met with gym teacher Tracy Henderson on Guinness World Records Day last month participated in the worldwide event, exercising both their bodies and their brains. [Read more about both schools' participation in this special sport stacking activity.](#)

## East's Fernholz Published in Journalism Textbook

Lakota East junior and Spark News Editor **Alex Fernholz**'s editorial cartoon work has been selected to appear in the second edition of Journalism: Publishing Across Media, a high school textbook published by Goodheart-Willcox. According to the textbook author Mallory Duflek, "One of our goals is to incorporate as many examples of strong student journalism as possible into the text." Alex has won numerous writing and art awards as well in her journalism work for Spark.

## East, West Susan G. Komen Events Raise Almost \$40K

Lakota West's girls volleyball team announced its grant total for this year's "Volley for the Cure" event: \$19,802 in support of the Susan G. Komen Fund for breast cancer awareness and research. Lakota East is still tallying its total proceeds from this year's "Hawks for the Cure" events, but reported nearly \$18,000 so far. That brings both programs' collective lifetime donations to about \$212,000. Congratulations too all involved and a special thank you to our community for their support!

**AROUND LAKOTA**





*The Big PAWS/Little PAWS mentoring program pairs Lakota East students with Liberty ECS students. Shown here are Isabella Curcio & Isaiah Givens (left), Kinsley McNay & Maddie Earl (top right) and Jada Brewer & Hunter Miller (lower right).*

## Lakota's Youngest and Oldest Students Build Special Bonds

Liberty ECS second-grader **Isaiah Givens** greets Assistant Principal **Caryn Gross** each day with a hug and a countdown that goes something like this: “Seven more days until Big PAWS! I wish we had it every single day!”

Even though the Big PAWS/Little PAWS mentoring program just launched in October, students in the program just can’t say enough about it. **Hunter Miller**, another second-grader, enjoys the program as much as Isaiah does. “I like it so much, I never want to leave. I really like Jada. She’s really nice! We play a bunch of games and color. Sometimes we talk.”

Big PAWS/Little PAWS matches students from Liberty Early Childhood School with Lakota East High School students (from the LINKS Leaders and People of All Cultures organizations) in a 1:1 mentoring relationship. The Big PAWS and Little PAWS meet two times per month (every other Wednesday) at Liberty ECS in a relaxed setting to enjoy easy conversation, laughter, and activities such as board games, craft projects, sketching/drawing, and reading/writing together. It’s a year-long program, allowing students to build positive relationships through mentoring.

“Big PAWS/Little PAWS started as a vision for meeting some of the social and emotional needs of our K-2 students,” said Gross. “As an assistant principal, I am working with students each day to develop skills across social, emotional, behavioral, and academic areas. Some of our littlest learners have the greatest needs in these areas.”

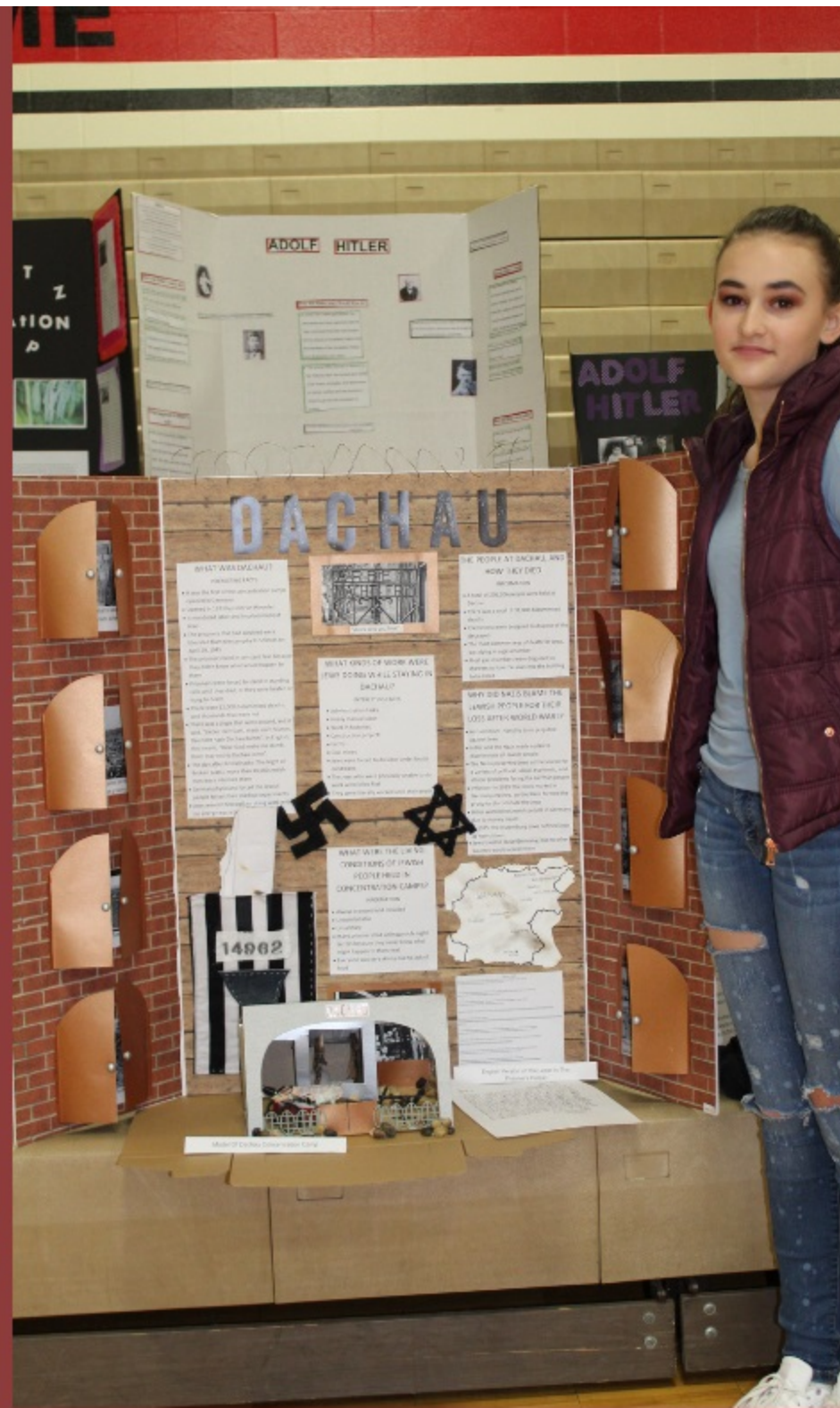
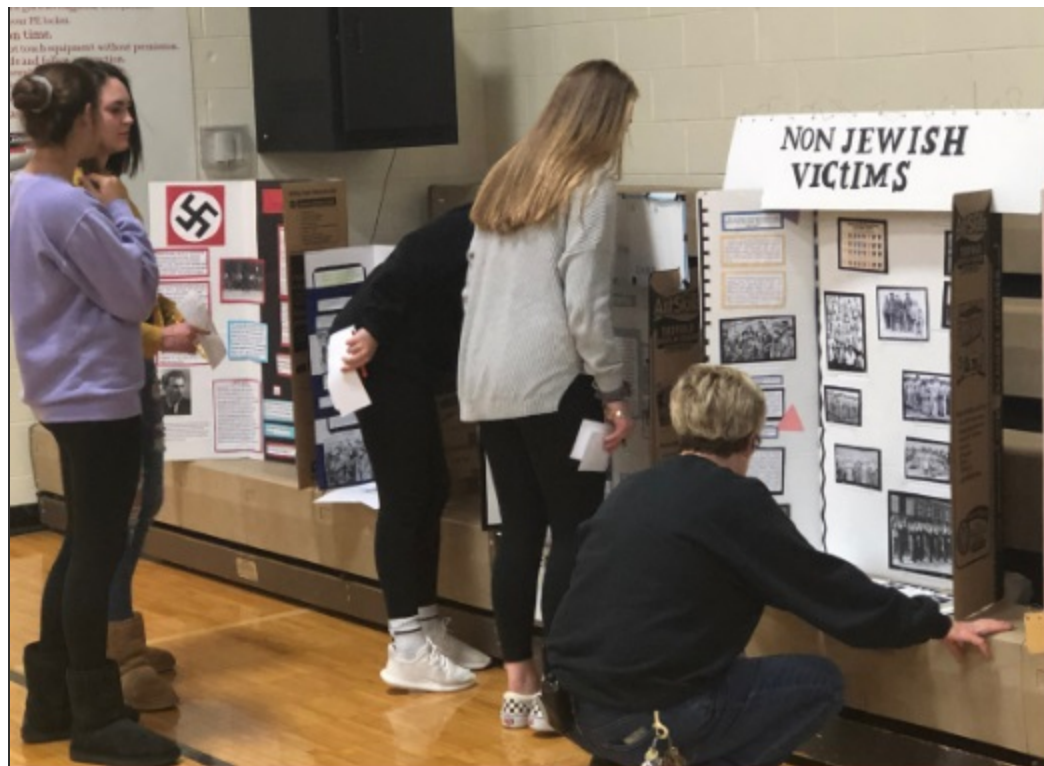
She heard about a similar mentoring program at Wyandot ECS, and coordinated with their counselor so Lakota East students travel to Liberty ECS and Wyandot ECS on the same day and time.

Big PAWS are Lakota East juniors and seniors carefully selected through an application process; they also attended an orientation prior to starting the program. This year there are 10 Bigs and 10 Littles participating; the goal was to start small and gradually build the program with a solid structure and the time needed to build trusting relationships.

The Bigs enjoy the program as much as the Littles. “I love spending time with Tegan,” said Lakota East’s **Maddie Owens**. “It is always so fun playing games with him and it’s nice to take a break in the day to spend one-on-one time with a kid.” And fellow Big PAW **Emma French** likes the flexibility of the program. “I like how we have the option to work on school work with them and that it isn’t mandatory. That way we get to know our Little PAWS on a more personal level rather than them looking at us like another teacher.”

Gross looks forward to growing the program next year. “Our Big PAWS are outstanding young adults dedicated to impacting the life of a young Lakota child. If I had to think of one word to describe Big PAWS/Little PAWS, it would be heart-warming. The first time the Bigs and Littles met for a mentoring session, it brought tears to my eyes. The interaction between the Bigs and the Littles is just simply sweet.”





## Ridge Junior Students Extend Learning through Holocaust Museum Project

Eighth-graders at Ridge Junior School have been reading *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Seeing an opportunity for the students to dive deeper into learning about the Holocaust, teachers **Noelia Brunner** and **Kyleigh Feenstra** added a project-based learning assignment to go along with the play.

Brunner explained, “Students will be continuously challenging themselves as we progress through our studies by learning about the historical period, creating personal writing pieces, and researching, all while referring back to the guiding question: How do we show resilience?”

The students began the project by researching World War II and the Holocaust. They were then empowered to choose a topic of their choice to study further, ultimately creating an exhibit for a Holocaust museum. **Lexi Fry** embraced the assignment, choosing the Dachau concentration camp as her topic. “It’s something really important that happened in our history that we need to learn about,” she said. Lexi felt it was important to bring to light information about a lesser-known concentration camp, even though it was the first camp opened in Germany. The most surprising fact she learned? There were 32,000 documented deaths at Dachau.

The museum was open to Ridge students and staff, as well as parents and the community. Displays filled the gym, both on the floor and the bleachers. Amanda Poling, a parent and visitor to the museum, was impressed by the creativity. “It’s pretty amazing that students put this together,” she said. “It’s very emotional.”

Lexi said that she enjoys project-based learning because it encourages her to use her imagination. “I’m a creative person so I love getting to show my creativity.”



**#theEASTway**





## East's Student Voice Efforts Highlighted on National Stage

Empowering student voice is something in which schools in Lakota excel. Just ask Dr. Blaine Alexander from the Arkansas Leadership Academy.

Recently, administrators, teachers and students who are passionate about empowering student voice gathered at the University of Arkansas to participate in the Student Voice Institute. Prior to the conference, Alexander put a call out looking for schools that are leading the way and was pointed towards Lakota East High School.

Three seniors joined Principal **Suzanna Davis** during a video conference with Alexander and the institute's attendees to talk about how East has been able to embed student voice into school culture.

Davis explained that she began to embrace the idea of empowering student voice last year, as a result of Superintendent **Matthew Miller's** encouragement. "Now, it's very unusual not to have a student in the room when big decisions are being made," she said. Davis used the power of social media to create her student advisory council. The group, whose numbers have grown from 24 last year to 40 currently, meets regularly to brainstorm ideas on how to improve the school and give feedback to Davis.

**Caleb Hoch**, one of the East participants, saw a difference after the start of the student advisory council. "Just filling out the application, being asked what I thought about the school district and what I thought could be improved - and then seeing it come to life was huge," he said.

Senior **Grace Phair** agrees. "It's been a mindshift," she believes. "We really wanted people to learn how to be leaders, how to communicate and how to speak up for themselves," she explained. "Students feeling comfortable having a conversation with administrators helped the process to explode."

"Student Voice gets you out of your comfort zone and lets you see what can happen," **Max Chandler** told the audience.

When the conference attendees voiced a concern about a teacher versus student mentality, Davis and her students quickly dismissed it, citing several examples of building a different type of relationship between the two groups, including social media. "Our Lakota Ed Chats helped immensely," Grace said. "When students run the ed chats, they can ask questions and have teachers answer." The group also talked about the emphasis put on building relationships during the first two days of school this year, a decision they believe truly helped both teachers and students.

Although not a part of the student advisory council, **Bea Amsalu**, a fellow senior, feels very comfortable approaching school administrators with her ideas. “A lot of student voice has been me tweeting out into the void and Mrs. Davis responding,” she said, praising the district and the school’s increased use of social media. “Twitter has been a huge part of student voice - being able to tweet and have someone from the district respond.”

Davis realized early on that the school needed to act on ideas in order to have buy-in from the student body. “It couldn’t just be students talking but not seeing results in order to make students understand that they matter and their voices matter.”





## East, West Collaborate to Expand ASL Holiday Tradition

Since 1993, Lakota West American Sign Language teacher **Gwen Trujillo** has been challenging her ASL students to learn and sign a holiday song from start to finish for their peers. But a new twist introduced this year by ASL teachers **Katie Nicol** and **Jessica Frye** transformed the tradition into a learning experience for ASL students at all levels. And with the help of digital learning tools, Lakota East students were able to participate too.

Every month this year, Nicol and Frye have been trying to recreate lab day experiences like the ones they had while attending Eastern Kentucky University. The idea is to create activities that bring ASL I and ASL II students together.

“Our goal is to give students a total immersion experience and force them to use the language outside of the classroom setting,” Frye said.

At Lakota West last Friday, students spanning ASL I through ASL III gathered in the community room to do just that. Even filled with more than 50 high schoolers, the room remained silent for nearly two hours as small groups enjoyed some holiday treats over a voice-free conversation. The morning continued with pairs of ASL III students performing the holiday songs they had learned for their peers.

“Learning to sign a song requires a whole different level of interpretation,” said Nicol, explaining that facial expressions and rhythmic interpretations are make it more engaging for a deaf person. “Besides the obvious exposure to different and more advanced vocabulary, it was great for students who are just beginning their work in ASL to see what could be in store for them.”

A former student of Trujillo, Nicol credits her career path to her deaf teacher and the impression she made on her. Similarly, senior and ASL III student **Jocelyn Peterson** says Trujillo is the reason she plans to become an interpreter.

“Mrs. Trujillo was my first encounter with a deaf person,” Peterson said. “I was so ignorant to Deaf Culture, but she opened my eyes and gave me a new appreciation for the challenges they face.”

That same afternoon, laptop cameras connected West’s ASL students with an ASL I class at East. With the sound literally muted, small groups of students communicated via Skype, forcing them to use only sign language. The class also enjoyed a selection of holiday songs signed by West’s ASL students.

“We’re so excited for the 1-to-1 rollout to be able to incorporate technology even more,” Frye said. “We’re hoping to even connect students by establishing ASL pen pals across the district.”

[View All District News](#)

FEATURED PHOTOS





### ***Giving Tree Tradition Continues, Serves Nearly 800 Students***

*When it comes to giving back to our neighbors, the holiday season is no exception. Lakota's longstanding "Giving Tree" tradition was present in 20 schools this month, including Independence Elementary (pictured above). Students and staff claimed ornaments from trees around the district as a way of adopting a Lakota child and helping make their holiday season a little brighter. Nearly 800 Lakota students received a gift, and in some cases other personal necessities, through the "Giving Tree" program this year.*



*It was a packed house Wednesday night at the Marriott North, where Lakota invited students and their families to learn about the new Cyber Academy launching next year at both Lakota high schools. In partnership with Belcan Corporation and beginning in the fall of 2019, Lakota will offer a cyber security course pathway that will allow participating students to earn up to six industry certifications and internship experience in a field where it's predicted that more 3.5 million jobs will be unfilled by 2021. [Read the Journal-News story to learn more about this program.](#)*



*East, West Students Share Self-Authored Books with Cherokee, Creekside Classes*

*Top Photo: Lakota East's Spanish III students had a fun time sharing children's books they wrote in Spanish with ESL students at Cherokee Elementary.*



*Bottom Photo: At Lakota West Freshman, Kendra Herber's creative writing students shared their own short stories with Creekside ECS first-graders in Charlotte Elia's class.*

## NEW BUSINESS

### Jan. 21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day Community Celebration

The entire community is invited to the 20<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. on Jan. 21. The March for Unity will begin at 10:15 a.m. at Union Centre's Clock Tower and conclude at Lakota West, where the program, beginning at 11:15 a.m., will lead into a free lunch donated by local restaurants.

As part of the celebration, a contest was recently held that challenged students to address how we can unite in a world that is divided and polarized in so many ways. All student entries will be on display at Lakota West, and winning essays, skits, songs, artwork or videos will be presented during the program.

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### 2019-2020 Preschool Registration Open through Jan. 31

The registration application for Lakota's tuition-based preschool program is now available and will run Jan. 3 through Jan. 31.

An informational meeting for parents will be held on Jan. 23 at Liberty Early Childhood School at 6 p.m. in the gymnasium. Staff members will be available to answer questions and to give an overview of the program.

With the recent transition of two Lakota elementary schools to early childhood schools, we plan to offer preschool at all of our early childhood buildings, depending on the interest level for each attendance zone. Placement will be based on attendance zone, but parents may select up to three additional locations as preferences during the application process.

All applications must be received or postmarked by Jan. 31 to be considered for the lottery.

The lottery will take place at the beginning of February and notices of admission will be mailed mid-February to all applicants. Applications received after the Jan. 31 deadline will be placed on a waiting list.

Parents can [visit the preschool enrollment webpage](#) to download the application and access more detailed information about the enrollment process and preschool program. Applications are also available at any of the six early childhood schools. Please direct any questions to the preschool office at (513) 870-5378.

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## #LakotaGivesBack on Social Media all Month Long

This December, as we celebrate the season of giving as the ultimate example of what is encouraged in our schools all year long, help us highlight all the ways Lakota staff, students, parents and residents care for one another and give back to the community. Look back on the last year and help us recap the many acts of service that have happened all year long.

One current example is the giving trees that adorn most Lakota buildings. This has become a tradition around Lakota, giving the schools and even Central Office an outlet for helping give Lakota students a brighter holiday. Lakota's community liaisons facilitate this service activity, helping pull together wish lists for students in need.

Throughout December, we invite you to share your Lakota stories of service on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or all three!

To add your post to the growing list of stories, be sure to tag Lakota Local Schools ("Lakota Schools" on Facebook, @LakotaDistrict on Twitter and Lakota\_District on Instagram) and include #LakotaGivesBack in your posts.

Join and follow the conversation by searching #LakotaGivesBack.

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## Community Conversations Coming Up in January

The new year will bring new opportunities to be heard by district leaders through Lakota's ongoing Community Conversations program:

**Thursday, Jan. 10**

**Effect of Adverse Childhood Experiences on Students**

6:30 p.m. - Lakota East Community Room

*Join a conversation about "ACEs," adverse childhood experiences, and how they affect children and their behavior and learning. Talk about what science tells us about their effect on a child's mind, and what communities can do to reduce their impact. We'll be joined for this discussion by Robert A. Shapiro, M.D., the director of the Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and professor of pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.*

**Tuesday, Jan. 22**

**Role of Band, Instrumental Music in the K-12 Educational Experience**

6:30 p.m. - Plains Junior School (Innovation Hub)

*Be part of a conversation with school district leaders that will focus on band, and instrumental music in general, and its unique role as part of the K-12 educational experience. Students, parents, staff and community members are all welcome. It is not necessary to currently be part of the band or any music program in order to attend and take part in the conversation.*

**Wednesday, Jan. 23**

**Understanding Trauma-Informed Care and Education**

6:30 p.m. - Lakota West Community Room

*Students' social-emotional well-being goes hand in hand with academic success. Join a conversation about how students experience stress at different ages, and what families and schools can do to help students do their best. Joining us for the evening will be Sarah Buffie, MSW, LSW, who specializes in trauma-responsive care. She teaches effective strategies that can be applied in the classroom and at home.*

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.

Lakota's Community Conversations use a unique format. They're led by a professional facilitator, so that school leaders can focus on listening and not on running the meeting. Most of the talking will be done by the students, parents and residents who are there. Part of the time is spent talking in small groups, where many people are more comfortable sharing their ideas, as well as in the larger group.

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

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## **Call for Exhibitors: Summer Fun Fair Set for March 4 & 6**

Does your business or organization offer a summer program or activity that's perfect for kids? 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.

The open house event features representatives from both for-profit businesses and non-profit organizations. They will be available all at one time and in one location to share information and answer questions about their summer offerings.

For convenience, families and exhibitors 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.

There is no cost to exhibit or attend. Exhibitors are encouraged to participate both evenings and will be provided with a table and chairs.

Learn more at [www.lakotaonline.com/summerfair](http://www.lakotaonline.com/summerfair). To register your organization as an exhibitor at the fair, please contact Cindy Zahneis at [Cindy.Zahneis@lakotaonline.com](mailto:Cindy.Zahneis@lakotaonline.com) or at 513-644-1203 before Feb. 25.



## 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, December 20 - Tuesday, January 1  
**Winter Break: No School**
- Wednesday, January 2  
**Teacher Professional Development Day (No School for Students)**
- Tuesday, January 8  
**Fellas & Fiction**  
at X-Quisite Cutz  
6 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 9  
**Coffee Chat with the Superintendent**  
at Coffee Beans & Brew  
8 - 9 a.m.

## ON THE RADAR

### *Announcements & Opportunities*

### **Jan. 9: Coffee Chat with the Superintendent**

Start off the new year by joining us on Wednesday, Jan. 9 for Lakota's next Coffee Chat. Superintendent Matthew Miller will be on hand from 8-9 a.m. at Coffee Beans & Brew (7051 Yankee Road) for drop-in conversation with parents and residents.

Coffee Chats are held on the first Wednesday every month (with some exceptions), rotating between West Chester and Liberty Township locations. The times vary to accommodate different schedules. [Click here to view the Coffee Chats scheduled for this school year.](#)

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### **Storytime with the Superintendent**

- Thursday, January 10  
**Community Conversation: Effect of Adverse Childhood Experiences on Students**  
at Lakota East Community Room  
6:30 - 8 p.m.
- Thursday, January 17  
**Storytime with the Superintendent**  
at IKEA West Chester  
6:30 p.m.
- Monday, January 21  
**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: No School/ District is Closed**
- Tuesday, January 22  
**Community Conversation: Role of Band, Instrumental Music in the K-12 Educational Experience**  
at Plains Junior School  
6:30 - 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 23  
**Community Conversation: Role of Schools in Trauma-Informed Care**  
at TBD  
6:30 - 8 p.m.

As part of ongoing efforts to build community support around early literacy, Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller will host the next “Storytime with the Superintendent” on Wednesday, Jan. 17.

On the third Thursday of each month (excluding March), Lakota elementary students are invited to IKEA West Chester (9500 IKEA Way). From 6:30 - 8 p.m. in the restaurant on the second floor, students can hear Superintendent Miller share one of his favorite stories. Students are also encouraged to bring a book to exchange for another book they may take home with them. Dinner may be purchased on an individual basis, as desired.

**See Full  
Calendar**



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