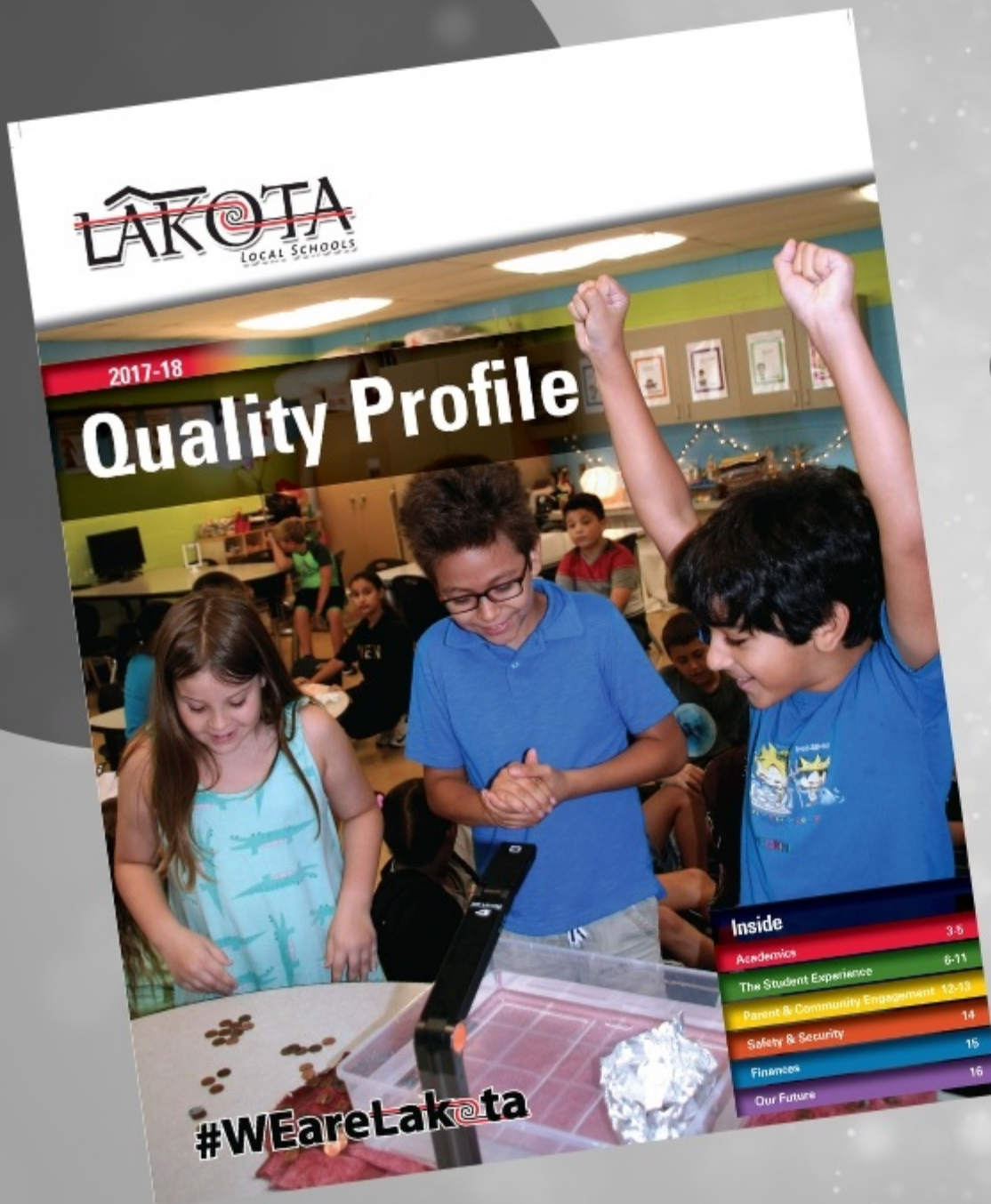


A Look Around Lakota: E-News Edition

October 5, 2018



WE are Lakota



2017-2018

QUALITY PROFILE

LAKOTA
LOCAL SCHOOLS

Lakota Releases Quality Profile

Lakota Local Schools is proud to share with the community its 2017-2018 Quality Profile. This annual publication, mailed to every household and business in both West Chester and Liberty townships, is designed to give every Lakota resident a quick look at the major priorities and areas of focus driving our daily work.

Released in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Education's annual report card, the second annual Quality Profile highlights areas of education not assessed by the State. The report dives into six areas the district views as high priorities, including: academics, the student experience, parent and community engagement, safety and security, finances and the future of our schools.

"Academics should be at the core of a school district, just like it is at Lakota," said Superintendent Matthew Miller. "We are proud to offer a high-quality, student-centered education that is focused on preparing our students for life after graduation."

Miller is proud that Lakota received a 'B' as an overall grade, but wants the community to look deeper than the overview provided by the State. "The report card is just one tool for measuring our progress toward meeting state-directed benchmarks," he said. "We want to go beyond the state minimums. The Quality Profile is designed to fill that gap by showcasing our performance in areas we value most."

[Click here to view the electronic version of the new Quality Profile.](#)

AROUND LAKOTA

2018

COLOR RUN



Hopewell Junior's Color Run brought the community together to raise funds for the school.

Hopewell Junior Community Profits from Inaugural "Color Run"

Who knew that combining colored corn starch, community and competition could result in more than \$18,000?

The final fundraising figure was a welcome surprise for the school and PTSO leaders behind Hopewell Junior School's inaugural "Color Run" on Sept. 28. But more difficult to calculate was the exponential impact it had on strengthening the school community.

"Balancing professional, efficient fundraising with events that bring our families and community together is so important," said PTSO fundraising co-chair **Susanne Page**, who helped lead the charge in creating the one-mile, after-school running event behind Hopewell. The course was divided up by five different color stations manned by school and district-level staff armed with bottles of colored powder.

While students' white shirts at the starting line passed through the finish line as a rainbow of colors, no amount of color could cover up their smiles and laughter. Students and staff continued the festivities with live music, food and even a dunk booth.

"What set this event apart is that the reward to students for raising funds for the school was all experiences versus the traditional tangible rewards," said **Amy Macenski**, who leads Hopewell's PTSO fundraising alongside Page. "One of our goals was for the kids to learn that supporting your community and being together is the reward."

The fundraising component aside, Hopewell Principal **Jeff Rouff** agreed that an event combining friendly competition, community building, responsibility and even health and wellness is one that deserves to live on as a new Thunderhawk tradition.

"The greatest part of this event was that we were able to have over 220 students get involved with an after-school activity where almost all of their teachers joined in with them to make it a great event," Rouff said. "With the hard work of our PTSO, we were able to create an event that promoted personal wellness, connected students, community members, and staff, and raised money for our PTSO."

Eighth-grader **Dylan Jackson** enjoyed the experience and even pointed out the fact that along the way, he met and talked to some classmates he didn't know previously. "It doesn't get much better than running around with all your friends and getting messy," he said.

Page and Macenski are proud of the fact that 100 percent of the event donations will support future PTSO-sponsored events and programs at Hopewell. In fact, they leaned on local businesses for some of the monetary and in-kind donations, noting that "by staying within our community, our community profits too."

Rather than taking his post at a color station, Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller participated among the students as a runner. [Click here to watch a short video and relive the Color Run through Miller, who wore a Go Pro camera for the race.](#)

“It was definitely one of the more creative and fun ways I’ve seen a school community come together to raise money,” Miller said.

[Click here to view a complete photo gallery](#) on Lakota’s Facebook page.



West's Fourth Annual Cultural Fair Has New Twist

Students in the English Language Learners (ELL) program at Lakota West had an opportunity to share about their cultures and home countries at the school's annual Cultural Fair. Guests were able to hear about what life is like in many different countries from 35 student presenters.

This is the fourth year for the event, which **Miranda Cockrell**, an ELL teacher at West, started in 2014. "The idea behind having the fair is so that teachers can see students in a different light," she said. It allows teachers to "get to know (the students) on a personal level."

A twist this year partnered creative writing students from **Eileen Washburn's** class with students who would be presenting at the fair. After getting to know one another, students in Washburn's class created a project about the presenter, such as poetry, short stories, photo montages and even a song. **Amy**, a senior in Washburn's class, enjoyed the project immensely. "It was a great opportunity to write about someone else's perspective." She also enjoyed getting to know, and become friends with, fellow students who she most likely would not have met otherwise.

Dallane, a student presenter, enjoyed the project because it gave her a chance to talk about her family. "I like to study and I like all of my classes," she said. One of the things she likes about Lakota West is the teachers. "They show me well, like in Algebra," she added. Originally from Guatemala, Dallane has only been in the United States for six months. Her favorite subject is biology because "they teach me about cells."

The fair gives students in the ELL program the opportunity to practice their English in front of an audience. "The students love being able to show their teachers how much English they know and love being able to brag about their cultures," Cockrell added.



The new Innovation Lab at Independence gives teachers and students a unique new learning space. Shown here are fourth-graders using the lab to learn more about fossils.

Students Become Archaeologists in Indy's Innovation Lab

Fourth grade archaeologists in **Susan Smith**'s class took over the new Innovation Lab at Independence Elementary this week. They rotated between four hands-on stations using ingredients like cookie dough, bread and gummy candies to learn about trace fossils, molds and casts, and fossil creation.

"When you can make the learning experience meaningful, memorable -- and interesting, student understanding and learning soars," said Smith. "The Innovation Lab helps a teacher create those types of learning experiences. This is exactly what happened with the fossil learning stations today."

At the fossil creation station, students placed gummy candies between layers of bread to simulate organisms in between layers of sedimentary rock. A stack of books was then pressed down on the bread to simulate 10,000 years of time. When the young archaeologists carefully peeled apart the layers of bread, exclamations of "that's so cool" could be heard as detailed molds of the candies appeared.

"The Innovation Lab is a very exciting and inviting place," continued Smith. "I think it sparks students' interest and inspires teachers to look at new possibilities for experiences to enhance learning. We have plans to use it for water table experiments with erosion, weathering and deposition. And I can already imagine engaging stations for our electricity and circuit building unit later in the year."

That's exactly what Principal **Dr. Greg Finke** had in mind when he envisioned the Indy Innovation Lab. He toured schools that had spaces dedicated to studies like cooking or video production. He and a team of teachers took the best elements of all these learning labs and combined it into one versatile learning space. Indy's Innovation Lab includes a culinary corner, grow tower, video station and green screens, an erosion table, 3D printers and more. The lab is still evolving; in fact, plans are underway to add a greenhouse area later in the school year.

"The Innovation Lab gives teachers the space to experiment and try things – and a place for the students to experiment and try things as well," said Dr. Finke.



September Video Update: A Look Around Lakota

Lakota Local Schools is proud to share this next edition of its monthly video update, "A Look Around Lakota." The September edition features just some of the latest highlights and happenings around Lakota, including:

- Lakota's state report card results and Quality Profile;
- Lakota's ice cream social welcoming new families;
- First Lakota Learning Day for staff professional development;
- 1:1 technology pilot at Lakota's junior schools;
- Liberty ECS's 90th anniversary celebration; and
- Lakota's annual "Stuff the Bus" food drive for Reach Out Lakota.

[Click here to view the September edition of "A Look Around Lakota"](#) and stay tuned for more video updates as the year continues.



MLK Day Writing, Art Contest Encourages Students to 'Find a Common Ground'

In preparation for our community's 20th annual celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, all Lakota students are invited to participate in a contest that promotes self-reflection about diversity and inclusion in our community and nationwide.

This year's "Common Ground" theme challenges students to address how we unite in a world that is divided and polarized in so many ways. The contest is part of the community-wide observance of MLK Day, known as the "Live the Dream: Our Declaration of Unity" celebration.

Students in grades 7-12 are to submit in writing the equivalent to a two-minute speech. Elementary students may respond through the artistic medium of their choice or through writing.

In addition to an individual's entry, classes, troops, or youth organizations for students in grades K-12 who would like to enter the contest as a group project are invited to be as creative as possible, with skits, songs, artwork or videos that can be presented within a two-minute time limit.

Entries should be submitted to the student's building principal or to the West Chester or Liberty Township Administration offices. The deadline for entering is Monday, November 26, 2018, at 4:00 p.m.

All contest entries will be displayed at the community commemoration on January 14 at Lakota West High School, where winners will share their entries with the public. The March for Unity will begin at noon at Union Centre's Clock Tower and conclude at Lakota West, where the program will lead into a free lunch donated by local restaurants. [Click here to access the entry form and more contest details.](#)

Happy HOWL-o-ween!

Share your best-dressed pets this
Halloween! Tag Lakota & #LakotaHowloween
for a chance to win our October photo contest!



Use #LakotaHowloween to share your Halloween pet photos on social media.

Howl-o-ween Photo Contest Spotlights Best-Dressed Pets

Pets are the second best-dressed to kids on Halloween - so we're dedicating this month's social media photo contest to them. Share your funniest, funkiest and most creative "Howl-o-ween" photos with the rest of the Lakota community.

Participate all month long on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram by tagging Lakota's account and #LakotaHowloween. At the end of the month, the three best-dressed pets, or the photos with the most "likes," will be declared our winners.

In return, Lakota's School & Community Relations department will deliver a special surprise to the top dogs (or cats). We'll also feature them on Lakota's website, social media accounts and in 'A Look Around Lakota' District E-News.

How to Participate:

1. Snap a photo of your pet in their "Howl-o-ween" costume.
2. Post a photo before the end of the month on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. To participate, you must tag Lakota's official account and include #LakotaHowloween.
3. Share your photo with your friends to rack up the "likes," or votes, all month long.

You can participate without submitting a photo, too! Search on your social media site of choice for #LakotaHowloween to "like" and share your favorite submissions.

[View All
District News](#)

FEATURED PHOTOS



#LakotaShoutouts



Lakota East students in Ms. Katherine Joseph's class got a surprise visit this week, complete with donuts and milk, for winning last month's #LakotaShoutouts social media contest. West Chester Township sent out the winning tweet about the letters the class wrote to first responders on 9/11.



Lakota Schools welcomed 35 business partners to Liberty Junior School to gain a better understanding of how the district is bringing real world learning experiences to its students through the expanded internship program and in-class opportunities.



During a recent STEAM lab activity, Freedom Elementary students were given five sheets of paper and a few small pieces of tape to create a table to hold pumpkins.

NEW BUSINESS

New Child Nutrition Website Offers Interactive Menus

[Lakota's new and improved Child Nutrition website](#) makes it easier than ever for parents to keep health and wellness top of mind.

Now available from the district website, the new tool features interactive menus that allow visitors to view nutritional information just by scrolling over individual menu items. Parents are also invited to sign up to automatically receive the district's monthly menus by email or even access the updated menus via the district's mobile app (available by searching "Lakota Schools" from your app store.)

"The district shares parents' concern for the health and wellness of our students," said Craig Hatfield, Lakota's senior director of business operations. "It's great to be able to provide an easy and convenient way for parents to be involved in helping their kids make healthy decisions."

The new site also provides nutrition and fitness tips, resources and even games and exercises that promote healthy habits. The content is organized by audience and frequently refreshed.

Lakota Learning Blog: Relationships for Results

Lakota educators are the voice behind the "Inside Lakota Learning" blog. Contributing authors are bridging the gap between how learning strategies in the classroom can be reinforced at home.

In the latest post, "Lions and Tigers and Relationships, Oh My," K-6 Curriculum Director **Christina French** taps into her own childhood memories - and now her senior daughter's experience - to drive home the impact relationship building and empowerment has on student success in the classroom.

"From day one, we have spent time getting to know our students, understanding their passions and contemplating how we use this knowledge to motivate them to unleash their creative potential," French writes. "But before we can accomplish this, we must get to know our students on a deeper level, make them our family, love them so much that they can fail and learn from their mistakes, share in a celebration of success and safely step outside of their comfort zone with arms wrapped tightly in support."

[Click here to read this latest post and to subscribe to alerts for future posts.](#)

Oct. 6-7: Lakota West's Arts & Craft Show

The Lakota West Arts & Crafts Show, hosted by the school's PTSO, has been going strong for over 38 years, and is one of the premiere shows in the area. You'll find over 220 booths at this weekend's event which will be held at the West Main Campus on Union Centre Boulevard. There is also free on-site parking, and lunch and concessions will be available. Admission is \$2.

Saturday, October 6

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday, October 7

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

October Community Conversations Focus on Safety, Theater, Business

October includes three opportunities to be heard by district leaders through Lakota's ongoing Community Conversations program:

Monday, Oct. 15

Theater & Performing Arts

6:30 p.m.

Plains Junior School (Innovation Hub)

Tuesday, Oct. 16

Safety & Security

6:30 p.m.

Plains Junior School (Innovation Hub)

Wednesday, Oct. 31

Partnering with the Business Community

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance

RSVP to Chamber

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.

First High School Open Houses Welcome Future Families

Lakota is welcoming future and prospective students to visit its two high schools on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018 for the district's first open house.

"We are excited to invite both up-and-coming students and families who may be considering Lakota to visit our open houses," said Superintendent Matthew Miller. "We are proud of the high quality, student-centered education we provide and want others to see what exactly that looks like."

The open house comes during a year in which the "Lakota Next" project has begun to reimagine the high school experience for students in grades nine through twelve. The group leading this work is comprised of administrators, teachers and students. They have been tasked with creating a new high school experience that will incorporate expanded course offerings, technology, internships and more.

The event hours are from 10 a.m. to noon at both Lakota East's and Lakota West's main campuses. Representatives will include teaching staff and students from both high schools, along with the four junior schools, who will be available to answer questions and share more about the student experience.

'Gifted 101' Set for Oct. 25

Do you have a child identified as gifted? Learn more about Lakota's Gifted Services at 'Gifted 101'. At this session you will discover key resources to support your student at home, learn about the work of Lakota's Gifted Intervention Specialists and Gifted Advisors, and hear about the LEADS parent group. 'Gifted 101' will be held on Oct. 25 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at Plains Junior School. [Please click here to RSVP.](#)

Help Out with Lakota PI Day

Pi Day 2019, hosted by Lakota LEADS, will take place on March 1 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Lakota East High School. LEADS is in need of volunteers to join the Pi Day Committee to ensure another fun and successful event for all Lakota families.

You do not need to be a LEADS member to be on the committee. If you are interested in helping plan Pi Day, please email LakotaPiDay@gmail.com.

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, October 8
Board of Education Meeting
at Plains Junior Media Center
6:30 p.m.
- Friday, October 12
Community Fanfare for Students at Plains Junior
at Plains Junior School
6:55 - 7:25 a.m.

ON THE RADAR

Announcements & Opportunities

District-Wide 'Stuff the Bus' Food Drive for Reach Out Lakota Starts Today

Lakota's district-wide "Stuff the Bus" food drive, benefiting Reach Out Lakota, kicks off Oct. 5 at the East vs. West football game (7 p.m. at East) and concludes Oct. 27 to coincide with National Make a Difference Day. All students and staff are invited to participate.

This year, neighboring districts Mason City Schools and Middletown City Schools are joining the cause for a friendly cross-town

- Monday, October 15
No School for Students (Professional Development Day for Teachers)
- Monday, October 15
Community Conversation: Topic - Theatre
at Plains Junior School
6:30 - 8 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 16
Community Fanfare for Students at Career Readiness Academy (AM Session)
at Career Readiness Academy
7:45 - 8 a.m.
- Tuesday, October 16
Community Fanfare for Students at Career Readiness Academy (PM Session)
at Career Readiness Academy
11:40 - noon
- Tuesday, October 16
Community Conversation: Topic -School Safety
at Plains Junior School
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Thursday, October 25
Gifted 101 for Parents
at Plains Junior School
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 27
Family & Parent CommUnity University
at Miami University VOA
8 a.m. - noon
- Wednesday, October 31
Community Conversation Hosted by the West Chester-Liberty Chamber Alliance

competition, each collecting canned goods and other needed items for a relief organization serving their communities.

Following the Oct. 5 kick-off, donation bins will be available in every Lakota school. Over the course of the drive, a bus will make stops at each school to collect donations. The final collection points will be Oct. 26 at the last home football games of the year (East vs. Sycamore and West vs. Colerain, both at 7 p.m.)

[Click here to view the "Stuff the Bus" flyer,](#) including a list of items most needed by Reach Out Lakota.

Peachjar Digital E-Flyers Now Online

Lakota is now using Peachjar to send digital flyers directly to our families. Starting this week, digital flyers are being sent directly to parents who will see them as visually engaging images right on their smartphone or computer screen. Additionally, all flyers will be posted to each school's website, as well as the district website.

Start Your Day with High-Fives

Join us for one of our upcoming community fanfare events supporting student achievement. The concept is a simple one: Line the school's entrance and give students high-fives and words of encouragement as they are filing into school, providing students with a visual display of all their supporters during times like testing and the start of a new semester.

Upcoming fanfares include:

Plains Junior

Oct. 12
6:55 a.m.

Career Readiness Academy

Oct. 16

at West Chester-Liberty Chamber Office
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

7:45 a.m. (AM session)
11:40 a.m. (PM session)

**See Full
Calendar**

'Run for Youth' Tomorrow Morning

The 1.5 mile "Run for Youth" will be held at Plains Junior on Saturday, Oct. 6 at 9 a.m. Although this race is designed for area students in grades K-6, parents and others are welcome to register and participate (only K-6 runners will receive awards).

Up for grabs are medals for the top finishers, cash prizes to the physical education program at schools with the highest percentage of students participating, and a travelling trophy to the top elementary school. [Click here for a flyer with more information about the "Run for Youth".](#)



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