

May 24, 2018



WE are Lakota



Celebrating the Class of 2018

Streamers and confetti filled the air at Xavier's Cintas Center last week, in celebration of Lakota's Class of 2018.

Lakota West held its ceremony on Thursday to honor its 581 graduates, with Lakota East hosting its commencement exercises the following evening for 643 graduating seniors.

Students and faculty members addressed the thousands in attendance, sharing their perspective on the Class of 2018 and what lies ahead. The valedictorians presented their fellow classmates with a new way to reflect on their time at Lakota and the future.

Lakota West Valedictorian **Anna Szolwinski** compared her fellow classmates' journey to that of King Island's Diamondback roller coaster. She thanked the Lakota staff for making the ride go smoothly, and said the time at West was characterized by countless fast-paced, exciting moments such as the girls' basketball team winning state, the marching band performing in the Rose Parade, and the senior girls crushing it in the Powderpuff football game. Szolwinski also paid tribute to Shayna Smith, a classmate they lost during their freshman year.

She ended her speech by sharing something that Principal **Elgin Card** always asks of his students... to "take care of our business." Szolwinski said the Class of 2018 had done just that. She hopes that as they begin to tackle life beyond high school, that each of her classmates will find their sense of individuality by discovering their interests, making their own mistakes and establishing the best version of themselves. [Click here to read the full speech.](#)

Card is very proud of the Class of 2018. "They have carried themselves with class during their four years representing Lakota West. We wish them the best as they move on and are excited to see what great things they do for our community, state, country, and across the world!"

Lakota East Principal **Suzanna Davis** shares Card's sentiments toward her own graduates. "They have left a positive and lasting impact on Lakota East High School as champions in the classroom, on the field of play and throughout our community. We look forward to watching them go out and change the world as they spread their Thunderhawk wings and soar. Congratulations on behalf of the faculty and staff at Lakota East!"

During Lakota East's commencement, Valedictorian **Weston Lindner** challenged his classmates. "Every single human being on planet Earth is wrong about some things," said Lindner. "The challenge of the human experience lies in figuring out which things those are, and changing our mind." He encouraged his fellow graduates to realize that you need not agree with someone to respect them, saying, "What if we go into every conversation, every disagreement willing and eager to be proven wrong? Imagine the power it could have."

Lindner went on to explain that there is one thing that adults like to say that is totally wrong. "So often, we're told that we are the future of this country. Incorrect. We are the present of this country, and don't you ever forget that. Already, our class has not strayed away from activism, from our Orange for Change campaign to our countless efforts to raise money for causes we care about, like cancer research and hurricane relief. As we leave high school, because we are the present of this country, our actions and our core principles will define our community and nation now and for years to come; I can only hope our spirit of activism and engagement continues to thrive." [Click here to view Lindner's entire speech.](#)

Congratulations to the Class of 2018!

A Closer Look at the Graduation Ceremonies

Click below to view our Facebook graduation photo galleries.

[Lakota East Graduation Photos](#)

[Lakota West Graduation Photos](#)

Special Graduation Ceremony Held on Monday

The following Monday, Lakota East dedicated an abbreviated graduation ceremony to Dustin Horter, who missed the one with his classmates because of weather delays at the track and field district tournament. The five-time cross country champion received his diploma in the presence of school and district leaders as the entire staff and student body gathered on Main Street.

“Dustin Horter embodies everything Lakota East is and his mark will forever be felt at Lakota East High School,” said Principal Suzanna Davis. [Click here to view a video summary of Dustin Horter's graduation ceremony.](#)

Parade of Graduates Began the Class of 2018 Celebrations

Earlier this month, cheering students, staff, parents and members of the community greeted approximately 900 seniors from both Lakota East and West high schools as the graduates walked the halls of their elementary buildings during the second annual Parade of Graduates. [Click here to watch a new video](#) about the event that celebrates the Class of 2018 and inspires Lakota's youngest learners to dream big.

Fast Facts about the Class of 2018

Number of Graduates: 1,224 (East- 643, West – 581)

Graduation rate: 97.5%

Percent attending a 2- or 4-year college or university in the fall: 81%

Graduates serving their country in a branch of the armed services: 54

Percent earning honors diploma: 27%

Scholarships reported by students: Over \$10 million



End of an Era: Hopewell, Heritage Pay Tribute to Long Histories

Families and community members were invited to take a trip down memory lane at both Heritage and Hopewell elementary schools this month. Before the buildings become early childhood schools in the fall, former and current staff, students and their families visited and shared memories as they toured the buildings.

On May 17, Hopewell staff facilitated a scavenger hunt for their guests. Visitors could view a photo timeline through the decades before visiting the gym, where old yearbooks, student time capsules and a video were on display. A rock painting project in the art room produced a decorative touch for the school's new courtyard and outdoor learning space, a project made possible by the school's PTO.

"This was a very special event for our Hopewell community," said Hopewell Principal **Christina French**. "We've had many generations come through Hopewell over the last 55 years. It was a great opportunity to reminisce together and take a walk back through our long history. This has been a bittersweet year for our staff and students, but this was truly a night of celebration."

On May 21, photographs highlighting moments throughout Heritage's 26 years lined the walls for visitors to peruse as they toured the building. Guests were asked to sign wooden letters, spelling Heritage, that will hang on the wall in the new ECS. Notes describing favorite memories were collected and past yearbooks were on display. Classrooms were open and visitors enjoyed taking a look around to see how the school has changed over the years.

"It was so special that students and families felt so connected to Heritage that they wanted to come back and say goodbye to the Heritage they remembered. Those relationships are what make Heritage so special," said **Missy Alexander**, principal at Heritage. "This is a bittersweet time because while we are saying goodbye to our current and past families, we are just as excited about building those relationships with our new families and looking forward to making new memories." Alexander is grateful for the community's support through the years and believed it was important to invite them to an open house at the school.

Pictured: Former and current staff, students and their families gather at Heritage (top) and Hopewell (bottom) elementary schools to share memories before the buildings transition to early childhood schools next year.



Students Headed to TSA Nationals

Fifty-eight Lakota students found success at the Ohio TSA Championships in 21 TSA/STEAM competitions through the district's partnership with Butler Tech. Congratulations to these junior and high school students who will travel to Atlanta to compete at the TSA national competition in June!

Hopewell Junior: Brandon Moore, Bridget Rexhausen, Carly Graham, Connor Miranda, Courtney Henson, Elise Kerstine, Grace Shah, Jack Nomina, Jashanveer Singh, Lucy Laude, Mary Barone, Ryan Cheng, Samiksha Mukherjee, Sarah Opoku, Sudiksha Mukherjee and Wendi Reffner

Liberty Junior: Braeden Birman, Carrie Rielage, Elliott Keith, Emma Schwer, Hope Keith, Ilyas Malik, Jackson Hummer, Jacob Nguyen, Johannes Fernholz, Joshua Reigle, Noah Keith, Ryan Hartinger, Sabah Al Swank and William Tenoever

Plains Junior: Adam Barksdale, Tommy Googins

Ridge Junior: Ashlynn Sapp, Elizabeth Ogle, Kaitlin Knapek and Liana Bohrer

Lakota East Freshman: Saad Khan and Osmaan Mysorewala

Lakota East High School: Noah Clippinger, Eli Tivin, Joseph Wiberg, Gabriel Pascoal, Andrew McCrary, Jacob Brink, Phillip Niewald, Ryan Golembiewski and Jacob Smith

Lakota West Freshman: Kiernan Quebman, Ryan Williams and Sam Enneking

Lakota West High School: Hunter Ellis, Konrad Kowalk, Garrett Lindsey, Oscar Mussari, Anthony Swank, Nick Wasan, Lizzie Troup and Daniel Troup

Deputy Doug Hale and Jody Green Help Mother and Child

Through an act of heroism, two of Lakota's school resource officers demonstrated that they are on call for all members of the community, not just Lakota students.

While directing traffic after the Lakota East Baccalaureate ceremony on May 5, Butler County Sheriff's Office deputies and Lakota School Resource Officers, **Doug Hale** and **Jody Green** were approached by a mother in her SUV because her baby was in distress. Deputy Green released the baby from the car seat to check his breathing while Deputy Hale called the Liberty Township life squad. Deputy Green continued to attend to the baby until the paramedics arrived to transport the baby to the hospital.

AROUND LAKOTA



If you look closely, you can see Adena ESL students holding a sign thanking Lakota for supporting them this year and for the opportunity to tour the Freedom Center to extend their learning.

Trip to Freedom Center Has Big Impact on Adena ESL Students

“Our recent field trip to the Freedom Center was simply one of the best days ever,” said Adena Elementary ESL specialist **Helen Vassiliou**.

Last week, she took 25 English language learners in grades 4-6 on the trip to cap off their yearlong studies about the ideals of courage, perseverance, and the importance of helping others as leadership qualities.

The students read texts, articles, watched video clips, looked at and analyzed primary sources from the Library of Congress' archived materials to gather information about people who lived with a purpose and demonstrated leadership skills. This gave Vassiliou's diverse learners the experience of knowing about people who were courageous amidst the hardships of life, so that they could internalize their strength to preserve themselves in all they face in our schools, at home, and in our country.

The learning experience showed them what it meant for so many wanting freedom -- “not that different from the immigrant experience today,” one student said.

“I wanted to take my students to the Freedom Center for more than the selfish reason of making their learning come to life in a place that stands for everything they learned about. It was also about getting them to leave their neighborhoods and see a museum,” said Vassiliou. “I want our ESL program to be more than just intervention, but also a safe place for learning, thinking, problem-solving and innovation. I want to show that our diverse learners are special and worthy of having advanced experiences that shape them and change their thinking.”

Vassiliou and her students are grateful for those in the Lakota community who supported their learning this year. Throughout the year, local churches and organizations and many Lakota staff members helped get what she needed for her students. Special thanks go out to Superintendent **Matthew Miller**, Community Outreach Coordinator **Angie Brown** (who worked with the group throughout the year and helped get a grant so that the students could take the field trip), Chief Operating Office **Chris Passarge**, and Adena Principal **John Mattingly** (who surprised the students and joined them on the trip).

“The tremendous support we received gave our program and our diverse learners validation,” said Vassiliou. “We need to keep providing *all* kids with enrichment experiences, no matter what their skill sets are. We impacted 25 kids yesterday who had never even heard of the stories of people that helped pave the road for them to be free.”

The impact on the students was evident. There was a student who cried during part of a film at the Freedom Center. She couldn't believe that people were not treated equally. Vassiliou had to comfort her in the power of her future to stand up against inequality. The student smiled and said, “Well, you know I will.”

During the tour, a couple of fourth grade students latched on to the quote by Harriet Tubman that read, “Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.” One girl said, “Well, that’s what it means to be an Adena ALL Star, right Ms. V?”



Endeavor Elementary Idea Takes to the Air

Students at Endeavor Elementary School recently participated in the Cincinnati Architecture Foundation's educational outreach program, Design Lab. The project based learning competition is a free, hands-on program for K-12 teachers in Greater Cincinnati.

The fifth grade math plus students in **Teri Hatfield** and **Molly Adams'** class took on the "Food for Thought" theme, which challenged students to push the limits of where and how food is made, bought and consumed. The class looked at existing spaces and explored how they could be improved.

Ella Enman, Alexa Jensen and **Caylee Rosenbeck** received the "Inspired Innovator" award for their project, "Food for Friends Blimps." The award recognized their creativity and innovative design.

The team wanted to find a way to deliver food to homeless people and nursing homes throughout the world. While other groups were contemplating buildings, Ella, Alexa and Caylee looked to the skies. The trio decided that building a structure would have more negative impact on the environment than a blimp because trees would need to be cut down for construction. Choosing blimps as their delivery vehicle would enable food to reach difficult areas while also reducing fossil fuel consumption. Ella noted that the group wanted "to be green to help the environment and be sustainable."

"We wanted our project to stand for helping the needy," said Ella. Caylee and Alexa went on to explain that having a blimp in every country would enable food from that region to be dropped in open fields or at airports. Homeless shelters would be able to place their order in ahead of time & would then be notified about pick-up time.

Hatfield was impressed by the dedication her students showed while working on the project. "When the building began, there was no holding these kids back. They formed an idea, and started building. Molly and I stepped back and they controlled it all. There were so many different ideas and when the girls started it, It was wonderful to see their idea take place."



Wyandot Student-Led Bookstore Teaches 'Ideas Can Change the World'

A new student-led bookstore at Wyandot Early Childhood School is the product of a big lesson for **Libby Brown**'s kindergarten class: Acting on a good idea is better than just having a good idea.

The original idea came from kindergartner **Carson Ratliff**. "I thought since we were making lots of books in Writer's Workshop, we might as well make a bookstore," he said. Soon after, the entire class rallied behind his idea and began building upon it.

"They were persistent that something needed to happen," said Wyandot Principal **Mary Brophy**.

So, Brown went off course, encouraging her class to put their idea into action and organizing opportunities for them to learn in the process. They wrote a persuasive letter to academic coach **Emily Hermann** to obtain the bookshelf now situated outside their classroom for any Wyandot student to shop from. They met with technology teacher **Jenny Haynes** to explore the idea of printing bookmarks for their patrons, which they proudly proclaim were sold out on opening day. They visited Barnes & Noble to talk with industry experts. They even interviewed Lakota Superintendent **Matthew Miller** about being a good manager.

It was Miller who helped the class realize that "sometimes you have to start small to get big," Brown said. The class got busy developing their business plan and then doing all the work to open their bookstore - giving it a name (Books R Us), collecting and sorting books, promoting it, coming up with a fee structure (Wyandot's "shining stars" awarded for positive behavior) and developing a work schedule. From managers and cashiers to shelvers and sign makers, everyone had a job.

"As an educator, this project taught me to never underestimate my students - even if they are five and six years old," Brown said at the May 21 board meeting, where she and her students were recognized. "Passing by our bookshelf, you might call it cute. Their work is much deeper than that. The amount of thought, revision, collaboration, and dedication that went into this project is remarkable."

"From start to finish, the entire project was led by students," she continued. "These students had an idea and they persisted. I think we can all learn from them."

Reflecting on their project, students overwhelmingly answered “yes” to the question, “Can a bookstore change the world?” One student, Kendall, expanded on her answer, saying, “A bookstore is an idea and ideas can change the world.”

“I’m so proud of Mrs. Brown for taking a risk and encouraging her students to take the lead,” said Wyandot Principal **Mary Brophy**. “It’s amazing what comes about just by freeing their minds to think about a problem and how to solve it.”

[Click here to watch a video Wyandot students helped produce about their bookstore project.](#)



Lakota's 'Transition to Work' Breakfast Celebrates Student Growth

For many of the attendees at Lakota's annual work study student appreciation breakfast, it is the highlight of their year. It's a special event, not only for the students being honored and their families, but also for the employers who support the program.

"This is a great time to celebrate the accomplishments of our hardworking students," explains **Andrea Longworth**, executive director of Special Services for grades 7-12. "The students change so much throughout the year and it is wonderful to recognize their effort and their growth."

The district's "Transition to Work" program is designed to help special needs students learn employment basics while honing their interpersonal and social skills. Instructional assistants and job coaches support the students, ensuring projects are appropriate for their abilities and serving as liaisons between the students and the employment site. This year, 75 Lakota students (up from 60 students last year) were placed at 23 local employers, with others completing their work study at 14 Lakota schools and the Central Office.

"The number of students grows each year, as well as the number of employers," said **Donna Haury**, work study coordinator. "We're grateful to our many community businesses that encourage our students through their support."

Longworth added, "Our goal is to make the work study program as individualized as possible for each student, so if we don't have the right employment match available for a student, we will go out in the community to find it or build it in one of Lakota's schools or at the Central Office."

Community employers participating in the program include: ABC Pediatric Therapy Network, Bagger Dave's, Big Lots VOA, Bob Evans (Middletown, Sharonville, Tylersville, Union Centre), Buffalo Wings and Rings 747, City BBQ VOA, Cracker Barrel (Middletown and Sharonville), Faith United Methodist Church, Fitworks, Frisch's (Bridgewater, Cincinnati-Dayton, Sharonville and Yankee), Kroger Marketplace, Procter and Gamble, The Edge Teen Center, TJ Maxx VOA and Walgreens (Liberty Township and VOA).

Lakota buildings and programs hosting students include: Adena Elementary, Cherokee Elementary, Endeavor Elementary, Freedom Elementary, Hopewell Elementary, Hopewell Junior School, Independence Elementary, Central Office, Lakota East Coffee Cart, Lakota East

Freshman School, Lakota East High School, Lakota East Spirit Shop, Lakota West Candy Shop, Lakota West Freshman School, Lakota West High School, Liberty Junior School, Ridge Junior School and Union Elementary.



Fourth Annual Canoe Regatta Sails into Lakota YMCA

Corrugated cardboard, duct tape and water may seem like an odd combination, but for Lakota East students taking Introduction to Engineering Design, it makes perfect sense.

The fourth annual canoe regatta took place at the Lakota YMCA on May 18 and followed a bracket-style competition. Students enrolled in this Project Lead the Way class, through Butler Tech, worked in small groups to design a canoe that two students could paddle two lengths of the swimming pool. The class is the first in the engineering pathway offered by Lakota and Butler Tech.

Maddie Barone explained that after math lessons to determine how high the water would rise, her group moved on to the design process and duct tape. "It's a fun project overall. It's a good way to have fun while learning about engineering," she said.

Joe Schorr teaches the class to approximately 125 students at the East Freshman campus. "Throughout the year we focus on the six-step 'Project Lead the Way' engineering design process. Students walk through the process of brainstorming ideas, evaluating all their ideas, sketching and giving dimension to their canoe drawings, doing buoyancy calculations and then finally building and testing."

The project culminates in the annual regatta, which this year pitted "Trust Issues" against "Green/Gray Machine". Congratulations to **Aidan Garland, Adrianna Fay, Katie Addison** and **Courtney Lyden** for winning this year's regatta in their canoe, "Trust Issues!"



School's Out for Summer, 2018-19 School Year Information

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

The first day of school for the 2018-2019 school year is Thursday, Aug. 16. Open houses for grades 1-6 will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 14.

Check the district and school websites, along with social media accounts, throughout the summer for additional information and general Lakota news. A back-to-school FAQ will be posted in July. For those of you who want to get a head start on your school supply shopping, [click here to view the 2018-19 supply lists](#).

Lakota Welcome Center (Enrollment Center) Open through Summer, Relocates to Central Office June 21

The Lakota Welcome Center, previously known as the Enrollment Center, will remain open throughout the summer to welcome families new to the district for the 2018-19 school year. Families may also visit the Center over the summer to make address, as well as custody and/or guardianship, updates.

Through June 15, visit the Center daily from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 8735 Cincinnati Dayton Road. Beginning June 21, the Center will be available at its new location inside Lakota's Central Office, located at 5572 Princeton Road. New daily hours will be 8 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. Please note the Center will be closed June 18-20 for relocation.

Visit www.lakotaonline.com/enroll for more information about the enrollment process. Questions may be directed to enroll@lakotaonline.com or 513-682-4120.

Lakota Learning Blog Features Summer Learning Strategies

Lakota educators are the voice behind the all-new "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, Wyandot ECS creative specialist **Elizabeth Farris** shares some easy and engaging ideas for encouraging summer learning at home. From play and art invitation stations to outdoor exploration, writing and family read-alouds, Farris taps into her own archive of summer learning strategies to help non-teacher parents encourage the same habits at home.

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

Summer School Begins May 29

Lakota's secondary Summer School program is being held May 29 through July 6 at Ridge Junior School, 6199 Beckett Ridge Blvd. Note that there will not be classes on July 4.

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

Registration is now closed, except for students needing credit recovery courses, OGT prep or EOC testing only. [Click here for more information about Lakota's Summer School program.](#) Contact the Summer School office daily from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at (513) 259-6074 or summerschool@lakotaonline.com.

School Messenger Notification Accounts Set to Update June 1

Lakota uses a comprehensive mass notification system, School Messenger, for delivering important school- and district-wide messages via email, phone and text message. The platform provides parents, guardians and staff with a convenient way to manage their preferences for receiving weather-related, emergency and general notifications from Lakota and its schools.

The system integrates with current student and staff data (from Home Access Center), automatically updating your account to receive communications based on your current school(s) and/or grade level. **All accounts will update to reflect new school and grade assignments for the 2018-19 school year on June 1.** Please note that alternative school of choice assignments will not be reflected until early July.

[Click here for step-by-step instructions](#) on how you can view the email addresses and phone numbers being pulled into your account from Home Access Center and change your communication preferences. For easy, on-the-go access for managing your account settings, download the “SchoolMessenger” app from your app store.

School Offices Closed June 25-July 6

School building offices will be closed to the public for two weeks this summer, from June 25 through July 6. The Summer School office (Ridge Junior School, 6199 Beckett Ridge Blvd.) will be open during that time and can process requests for summer work permits.

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

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

The Lakota Local School District is participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all children (ages 1-18), free of charge, beginning May 30 through August 8 (no service on July 4).

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

Deer Run/Mill Creek Apartments

7846 Mill Creek Cr., West Chester

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

Countryside Village

5126 Hamilton Middletown Rd., Liberty Twp.

11:00-11:35 (Monday - Friday)

Princeton Village

8953 Princeton Glendale Rd., West Chester

1:00-11:20 (Monday - Friday)

Meadow Ridge Apartments

5270 Aster Park Dr., West Chester

11:40-12:15 (Monday - Friday)

Lakota Pointe Apartments

6840 Lakota Pointe Ln., Middletown

12:55-1:25 (Monday - Friday)

Boys & Girls Club

8749 Cin-Day Rd., West Chester Rd.

12:40-1:15 (Monday - Friday)

For any questions regarding the program, please call the Lakota Child Nutrition Department at 513-644-1163.

Summer Reading Lists

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



Sally Barker & Larry Rowe



Kemmie Burrets & Cary Ward



Susanne Linder & George Hoffman

Three Lakota staff members shared in the experience of the latest Tri-State Honor Flight with three local veterans.

Three Lakota Staff Experience Honor Flight with Local Veterans

Three Lakota staff had the privilege of accompanying local veterans on the May 22 Tri-State Honor Flight - a division of the national non-profit organization that transports America's veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials.

Kemmie Burrets, a secretary at Liberty Junior School, accompanied her 87-year-old father and U.S. Air Force veteran, Cary Ward, who served in the Korean War.

"To say it was an amazing day is an understatement," Burrets said. "He was overwhelmed and so excited to participate in the full day's activities. There were veterans on the trip who did not know each other before, but had an instant bond because they had gone through a terrible time in their lives together."

Susanne Linder, a secretary at Lakota East High School, shared the experience with her 83-year-old father, George Hofmann, a U.S. Army veteran during the Cold War. While he didn't serve in the war, the veteran has since written several books recounting the experiences of those who did.

"All the veterans are walking history lessons," said Linder, who learned of the Honor Flight after [Lakota East students and staff welcomed home a crew of veterans this past fall](#). "Many were not able to see the memorials dedicated to their service due to transportation, cost, time and health. Honor Flight removed all these issues and presented a well-organized and meaningful experience for everyone."

Sally Barker, an ESL instructional aide at Lakota East High School, was the impetus behind that welcome home event. Never having been on a flight, she volunteered to be the guardian for 89-year-old U.S. Air Force Korean War veteran Larry Rowe, who didn't have anyone to accompany him.

"It was incredibly emotional seeing them open up about their experiences," Barker said. "For some, it was the first time they have ever spoken of what they did during the war. I now feel like I have a bond with Mr. Rowe, even though we were strangers just a few weeks ago."

Barker and Linder described the strangers, including school children, who walked up to shake the veterans' hands all day long and hundreds more who gathered to greet them at the Cincinnati/Greater Kentucky International Airport upon their return home that night. But one of the most touching moments, Barker said, was with two high school students.

"They came running over because they wanted to be able to thank Mr. Rowe personally and let him know they had just graduated and had joined the military!" she said.

FEATURED PHOTOS



Liberty Early Childhood School kindergarten teachers **Julie Meno** and **Tia Haynes** found a unique way to show their students' growth over the last school year. An art show on May 14 shared with parents a glimpse into each month of their students' kindergarten year. The event put on display the concepts students had mastered through artwork as well as their marked improvement from August through May.



Shown above are honorees at this year's Lakota Retirement Recognition Reception. Congratulations to all of this year's retirees.

LEA Members: Paul Arthur, Linda Bowling, Steve Castner, Marie Cioffi, Tamela Colliver, Robert Fischer, Kathryn Knueven, Patricia Luan, Craig Myers, Kristin Schlosser, Betty Schnetzer, Catherine Shook, Suzanne Wahler, Christina Williams and Anne Winkeljohn.

LSSA Members: Mike Dietz, Mary Elick, Kenneth Heinrich, Deborah Ingram, Connie Lueking, Terry Patrick, Janet Snyder and John Stover.



This special moment captured at Creekside Early Childhood School was a common scene at Lakota's 23 schools as staff said their final goodbyes to students on May 23. Many of the elementary schools continued their tradition of a final parade for their sixth-graders continuing on to junior high school next year.

NEW BUSINESS

Announcements & Opportunities

ON THE RADAR

Announcements & Opportunities

June 1: Lakota, C3 Host Community Mental Health Program

The Caring Community Collaborative (C3), in partnership with Lakota Schools, invites the community to a resource fair and program on mental health and substance abuse on Friday, June 1.

During the program, a panel of local experts and students will help provide perspective on the impact mental health issues and addiction has on our community. The fair will feature other local organizations providing resources and support.

The resource fair will take place from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Miami University VOA Learning Center, located at 7847 VOA Park Drive in West Chester. The program is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. [Click here to view a flyer with more details about the "Through Our Eyes" mental health and substance abuse program.](#)

May 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 May edition features just some of the latest highlights and happenings around Lakota, including:

- Lakota's continuing Parade of Graduates tradition;
- A special send-off by Congressman Warren Davidson for Hopewell Junior eighth-graders leaving for Washington D.C.;
- Our schools opening up their doors to students new to their buildings next year;
- A Guinness World Record set by a Lakota West senior; and
- A service learning project at Lakota East Freshman.

[Click here to view the May edition of "A Look Around Lakota"](#) and stay tuned for one final video update to wrap up this school year.

2018 Financial Prospectus Now Available

May Photo Contest:

Share Why 2017-18 is a Year to Remember

Now that the 2017-18 school year has come to a close, it's a perfect time to look back at all of those memories and milestones that happened this year.

Show us in photo form what made this a year to remember - it can be a special achievement, a memorable class or activity, or a person that really made a difference this year.

Participate all month long on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram by tagging Lakota's account and #LakotaLooksBack. At the end of the month, the photo with the most "likes" will be declared the winner. [Click here for complete details about the #LakotaLooksBack photo contest.](#)

2018-19 Open Enrollment Now Open

Each school year, the Lakota Board of Education can choose to approve the renewal of Lakota's open enrollment policy. [Under Board Policy 5113](#), students residing in other Ohio school districts can apply to attend Lakota.

Due to the high volume of returning open enrolled students, at this time we are not accepting applicants that are applying for the first time. Per Board Policy 5113 and Administrative Guidelines, we will only be accepting applications from current Lakota staff, returning open enrolled students and siblings of returning open enrolled students.

Click here to download the [Inter-District Open Enrollment Application](#), due to the Enrollment Center by 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 31.

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

New Start and End Times for 2018-19

Students in Lakota's preschools through junior schools will have slightly longer school days in the fall. Preschool, ECS and elementary students will attend school for an extra 20 minutes each day, while junior school students will have their day extended by 15 minutes.

The 2018 edition of Lakota's Financial Prospectus is now available. The annual publication, distributed to West Chester and Liberty residents and businesses, is designed to provide a complete and in-depth view of the district's current financial situation in an easy-to-understand format.

The report shares with the community important financial information such as where the district receives funds, how the district prioritizes its spending, how the district operates in a fiscally responsible manner and how our taxes compare to neighboring and similar school districts. It also discusses when the district expects be back on the ballot for operating funds.

[Click here to view the electronic edition of the 2018 Financial Prospectus.](#) Extra printed copies are available at Lakota's Central Office or any Lakota school.

The additional time will allow for the implementation of daily specials for the primary grades and extended advisory periods for the junior schools.

Times will remain the same for the freshman and high school campuses. District officials have already begun to look at possible improvements to the high school experience in the future.

[Click here to to view the revised school times and more information about this change.](#) More information about [changes for the 2018-19 school year](#) is also available.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Event Spotlights

- Saturday, May 26
Lakota Schools Night at FC Cincinnati
at Nippert Stadium
7:30 p.m.
- Monday, May 28
Memorial Day: District is Closed
- Tuesday, May 29
Summer School Starts
- Monday, June 11
Board of Education Meeting
at Plains Junior School
6:30 p.m.

LATEST E-FLYERS



What's New This Week?

As a reminder, E-Flyers is Lakota's way of distributing information about programs, classes, events and opportunities happening in our schools and around the community. Rather than sending flyers home with students, we are now posting all approved information on the E-Flyer page, making it easy for families to access all current opportunities. Here is a listing of all of the new district and community-sponsored flyers for this week.

District-Sponsored:

["Through Our Eyes" Mental Health Conference at Miami VOA sponsored by C3 and Lakota: June 1](#)

[Lakota LEADS Camp Potential \(Summer Camp for Gifted Children\): June 18-21 \(Grades 4-6\)](#)

- Monday, June 25
[Board of Education Meeting](#)
at Plains Junior School
6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 4
Holiday: [District is Closed](#)
- Thursday, July 6
[Summer School Ends](#)
- Monday, July 16
Board of Education Meeting
at Plains Junior School
6:30 p.m.
- Monday, August 13
[Teacher PD Day \(No School\)](#)
- Monday, August 13
Board of Education Meeting
at Plains Junior School
6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 14
[Teacher PD Day \(No School\)](#)
[Open Houses \(Grades 1-6\)](#)
- Wednesday, August 15
[Teacher PD Day \(No School\)](#)
- Thursday, August 16
[Students' First Day \(Grades 1-12\)](#)
- August 16-20
[Kindergarten Phase-In Days](#)

Community-Sponsored Flyers:

[Boehner Golf Classic to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of West Chester/Liberty: June 11](#)

[Winnie the Pooh & Mary Poppins Auditions \(at EDGE Teen Center\): June 10 \(All ages\)](#)

[STEMs for Youth Summer Camps: June-August \(Grades K-11\)](#)

[Flag Football Fanatics Fall Registration \(Ages 3-14\)](#)

**All Current
E-Flyers**

[See Full
Calendar](#)



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