

April 27, 2018



**WE are Lakota**

Lakota's 'Champions for Change' Present

# *Parade of Graduates*



*All are Welcome!  
May 3 at 10 a.m.  
Any Elementary School*



## **Parade of Graduates Inspires Lakota's Youngest Learners**

Lakota West and East seniors are graduating on May 17 and 18, respectively. But before they say their final goodbyes to Lakota, the Class of 2018 will participate in a new Lakota tradition known as the "Parade of Graduates".

On May 3, all 10 of the Lakota's elementary schools will welcome a group of this year's graduates in fanfare fashion. The graduates, many of them returning to their elementary school, will be welcomed by students, staff, and parents as they walk the halls in their caps and gowns with signs displaying their future plans.

East senior **Michael Croy** is excited to return to VanGorden Elementary once more before he starts his gap year of full-time employment.

Michael recalls his favorite memory at VanGorden was running different races during field day every year. He is very excited to walk down the halls he once called home. Michael is also excited to see his former teachers and encourage current students.

"I really hope [the graduates] have a positive impact on the younger students," Michael said. "I think it's a great idea to let the students see hard work pay off by letting [the graduates] walk through the school with our caps and gowns."

For Michael, the welcoming crew will also include his mom, Linda Croy, who is currently a teacher at VanGorden.

Derived from Lakota's Champions for Change program, the parade is designed to celebrate the achievements of our graduating students while also demonstrating to every elementary student that others who look like them or have the same goals as them have reached such a milestone.



**NEW: Safety Tip Line**

**SPEAK UP**

**SAVE LIVES**

**Text or Call: 844-SAFEROH**



Lakota Schools is adding another layer to its safety and security protocols. The district has partnered with the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Public Safety to bring the SaferOH tip line to the Lakota community.

The 24-hour tip line is another way for concerned students, parents and residents to share information with school officials and authorities. “The safety and security of our schools is always our number one priority at Lakota,” said superintendent Matthew Miller. “The tip line is another way we can learn about potential threats to student safety before they happen.”

The calls and texts are answered by analysts in the Threat Assessment and Prevention (TAP) Unit of Ohio’s Homeland Security department. “Members of our community, adults and students, can remain anonymous when they report a threat to our schools or an individual student,” said Chris Passarge, Chief Operations Officer at Lakota. “Information received through a phone call or text is assessed and then forwarded to local law enforcement and school officials,” he continued. The TAP Unit will also follow up to ensure that each incident has been investigated.

“Our district safety team meets regularly to review safety protocols at Lakota,” Miller noted. “Our safety plans are never done. We are always looking for ways to make them better so our students and staff are safe.”

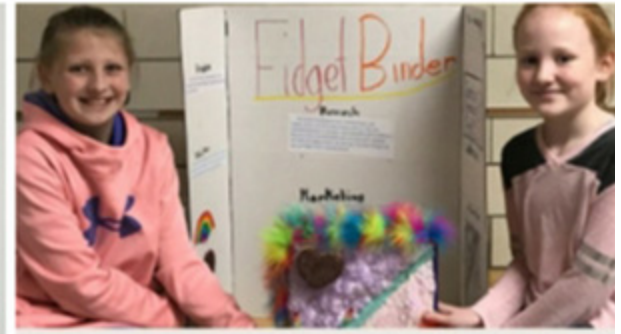
The SaferOH tip line is available to any school district, including both public and private schools, in the state free of charge. The tip line’s number, 844-SaferOH is now posted on the district’s website and its mobile app. Posters with the phone number will be placed in schools as well. “We teach our students that if they see something that looks suspicious, they should say something to a trusted adult. This is another way to alert the proper authorities,” Miller said.

## SHOUT-OUTS





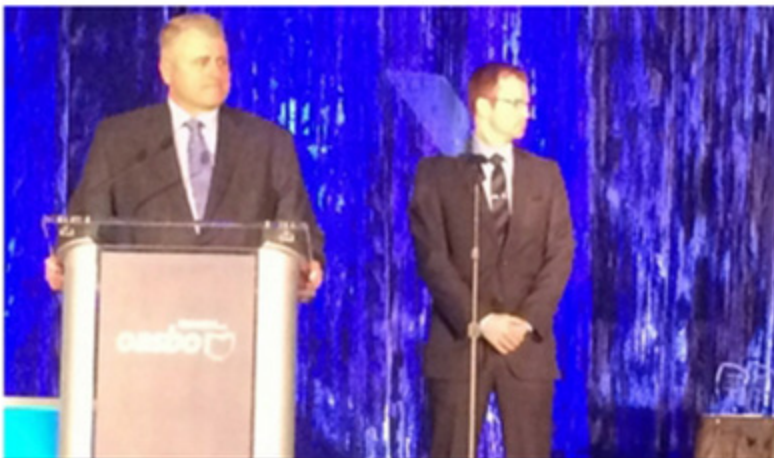
**Beakal Amsalu**



**Hopewell Students  
Headed to State for D.I.**



**Lakota East & West Students  
Qualify for HOSA International**



**Lakota East & West Students**

## Eight East, West Students Move on to TSA Nationals

Six Lakota East students - **Noah Clippinger, Gabe Pascoal, Andrew McCrary, Eli Tivin, Jake Brinck, and Joseph Wiberg** - and two West students - **Oscar Mussari and Nick Wassan** - qualified for the Technology Student Association (TSA) national competition this summer in Atlanta, Georgia. Students from grades 7-12 will be represented at the June 22-26 competition.

The students competed in the annual VEX Robotics Competition hosted by Ohio TSA. where they qualified for nationals. The VEX Robotics competition has a new challenge every year, and the students spent nine weeks building their robots in their Principles of Engineering class. Besides competing in robotics competitions, the students also participate in other events that include 3D computer aided design (CAD), Tech Problem Solving, Flight Endurance, and many more.

## East, West Students Qualify for HOSA International

Twenty-five students from Lakota East and 11 students from Lakota West placed in the top three in their respective competitions at the Ohio Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) State Leadership Conference in Columbus on April 10 and 11. These students will now attend the HOSA International Leadership Conference in Dallas, Texas from June 27-30 to compete in their respective categories.

The 25 East students moving on to the international competition include **Linsey Thompson, Megan Hatfield, Madison Hart, and MacKenzie Wilson** who placed first in creative problem solving; **Madison Owens, Emma Collett, Maddox Linneman, and Martha Yost** who placed third in Health Care Issues; **Jack Cooney, Ben Reimer, Chris Whitehead, and Peyton Bruce** who placed third in the HOSA Bowl; **Jewel Hicks and Julia Hartinger** who placed second in CERT skills; **Hannah Ackerman and Sofia Seppi** who placed first in CPR/first aid; **Sara Cope and Aly Hamilton** who placed third in EMT; **Julia Finley** who placed first in transcultural healthcare; **Haseeb Bakali, Shamil Abdu, Kamil Sacha, and James Cosgrove** who placed second in medical innovations; and **Megan Hoke** who placed second in medical math.

The 11 West students moving onto international competition include: **Julieta Ramirez** and **Saliha Watley** who placed on the healthcare issues exam; **Courtney Powless** who placed second in Human Growth and Development; **Jacob Bitonte** who placed first in Human Growth and Development; **Farha Watley** who placed second in Nutrition; **Grace McCaughey** who placed second in Pathophysiology; **Abby Rockenhaus** who placed second in Epidemiology; **Elena Tunis** who placed first in Medical Law and Ethic; **Max Murdock** and **Khalil Saleh** who placed third in Medical Innovation; and **Alexis Lam** who placed second in Behavioral Health.

## Lakota Assistant Treasurer Earns 'Emerging Leaders' Award

Lakota Assistant Treasurer **Adam Zink** received the "Emerging Leaders Scholarship" at the 2018 Ohio Association of School Business Officials conference. The award is open to any school business official for five years of experience or less who wants to expand their professional network, skills and leadership abilities. Adam received \$1,000 to attend the 2018 Battle of Lake Erie Leadership Conference Aug. 5-7.

## East Junior Selected as Ohio HOSA Officer

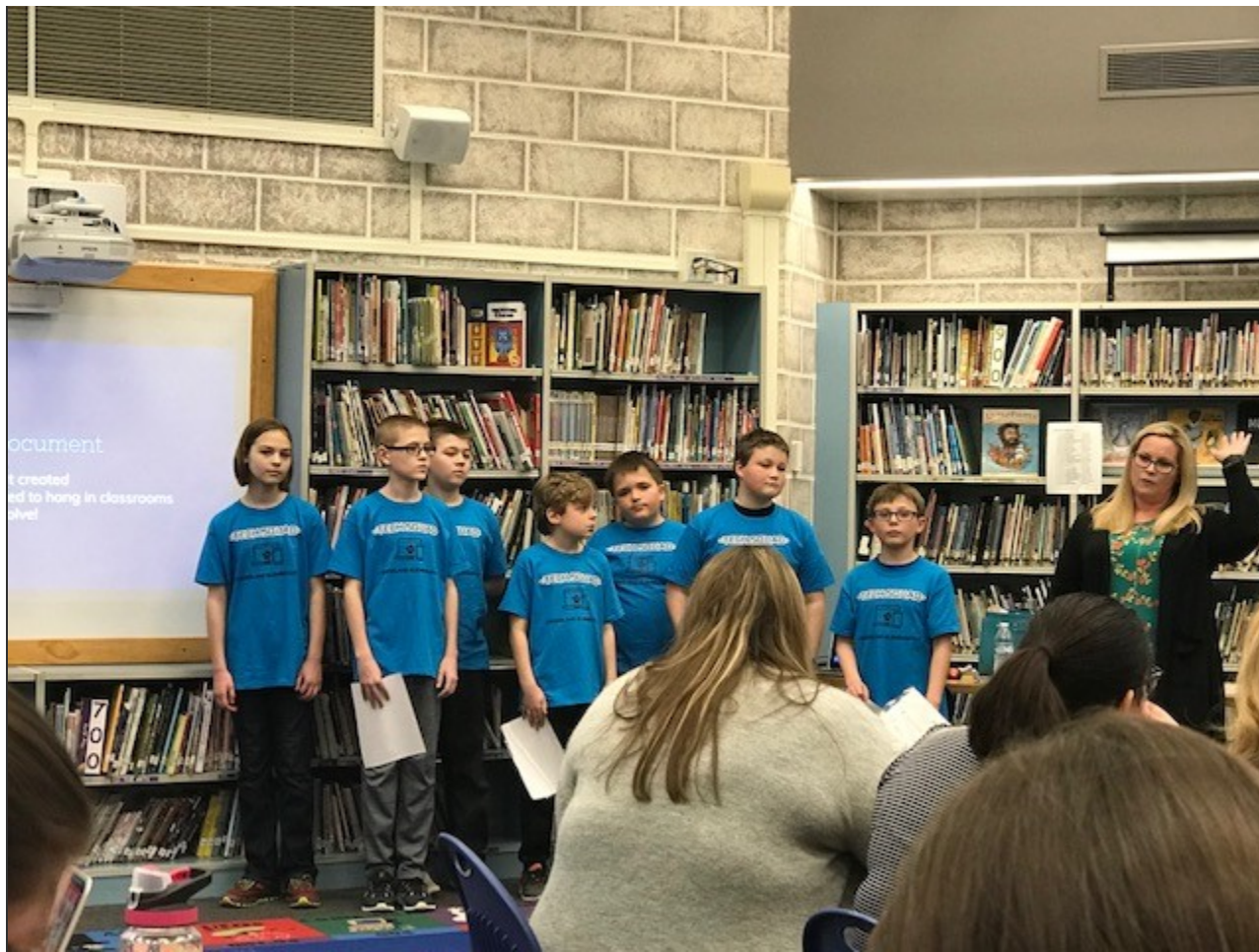
Lakota East junior **Beakal "Bea" Amsalu** was elected as the Ohio Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) State Treasurer for the 2018-19 school year. After an intensive application process, which included a written test and an interview, Amsalu was announced as a top ten candidate in early April. At the Ohio HOSA State Leadership Conference hosted on April 10 and 11, Amsalu gave a speech in front of all of the 1,500 students in attendance. Out of the final ten candidates, Amsalu was one of six to receive a position.

## Hopewell Students Qualify for State Invention Convention

Five Hopewell Elementary students are moving on to the Invention Convention state competition. **Emma Cooney** and **Emily Miorin** qualified with their invention "The Fidget Binder," which helps students with ADHD. **Tyler Wetherington** qualified with his invention "Walking Water Stick," which helps filter water as it passes through. The final qualifiers were **Sydney Lewis** and **Ava Britton-Heitz** with their invention "The Chesk," which combines comfort and function into a desk. The students will attend the state conference on July 29 at the Ohio State Fair in Columbus.

**AROUND LAKOTA**





*Fourth, fifth and sixth grade students make up Woodland's new Tech Squad. They are shown here presenting their ideas to teachers during a professional development session.*

## **Woodland Tech Squad Puts Student Voice into Action**

Woodland Elementary School's Tech Squad made its debut appearance at the school's April staff professional development session, sharing their plan for classroom support with teachers. The Squad consists of fourth, fifth and sixth grade students. Their primary mission is to help support their peers with digital learning in the classroom.



“The Tech Squad is such a wonderful asset to the classroom,” said Instructional Coach Kristina Linberg, who advises the group. “It’s the perfect example of how Lakota continues to grow opportunities for student voice and empower our students to take ownership of their learning experiences.”

While the students are charged with working together to keep the laptop and iPad carts organized and charged, their primary role is to support their classmates with how to access and use district-provided digital tools and resources, while also encouraging good digital citizenship practices.

Tech Squad members are currently collaborating to create an FAQ poster for teachers to hang in their classroom to assist peers with accessing Onelogin and Canvas. The Squad will be responsible for updating this resource moving forward.

After the staff PD session, fifth grade teacher Chris Butler said, “It has been so helpful to have Rachel from the Tech Squad as my technology point person for my class when we are working on digital projects. Her support has been invaluable and I love how her talent shines.”



## **Over 40 Countries Represented at Hopewell Community's 'Celebration of Nations'**

Hopewell Junior and Hopewell Elementary came together for its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Celebrations of Nations on April 17, honoring the diverse backgrounds found in their community. Families, staff, students and community members gathered for food, fun and sharing.

This year, 42 different countries were represented in some way – music, dress, artwork, performances, or family and student-hosted tables displaying artifacts, information, food and drink.

Students used passports to visit each of these stations at the event, which also included local restaurants, a diversity bean game and an interactive map to identify your family story. Attendees were also treated to a martial arts demonstration including Hopewell students, as well as a performance by the Hopewell Elementary celebration choir.

“It was amazing to see the attire, smell and eat the food, see all of the smiles,” said Hopewell Junior School Counselor Andria Lapthorn, who helped coordinate the event. “Several families came up to tell me how they were going to partner next year with a family that they met that evening to represent the same country. That’s one of the big goals for the event – making new connections and forming new friendships.”





*Alex Erickson from the Cincinnati Bengals spent time with students at Hopewell Junior School.*

## **Cincinnati Bengal Visits Hopewell Junior**

Students at Hopewell Junior School were able to spend time with Alex Erickson, wide receiver for the Cincinnati Bengals, when he visited their school. Erickson spoke to the group about being persistent, finding success and, of course, life in the NFL.

Karen Berndt, a tutor at Hopewell, entered a contest through College Advantage through which she won second prize, a visit to the school of her choice by a member of the Cincinnati Bengals football team. Although the group would normally visit the school her young son attends, they were happy to accommodate the request to visit Hopewell instead once they learned that her son, Silas, is only one. The 25 students who Berndt works with regularly were invited to meet Erickson.

The students spent a good portion of the time asking Erickson about a wide range of topics. He told the group that while playing in the NFL was his goal, he made sure that he did well in college so that he had a backup plan. When asked about his insecurities, Erickson thought back to when he played football in college and doubting whether he was good enough to achieve his goal of playing professional football. He spoke about the importance of having a good mentor and people you rely on to help you believe in yourself and build your self-confidence.

Berndt's favorite part of the visit was that Erickson "shared some of his struggles as a student and an athlete, which allowed the students to see that professionals have to struggle and work hard to succeed just like they do." She told her students, "What can pay off when you do the things that are hard...sometimes those things that you don't want to do lead to good things and better things."

Eighth grader **Lucas Heflan** thought it was pretty cool having a professional football player come to school. I learned to never give up on your dreams."





*Lakota honored this year's 23 recipients of the Barb Bossu Volunteer Spirit Awards, granted to those individuals who exhibit a positive spirit or dedication and generosity for the betterment of their school or district.*

## **Lakota Honors Top Volunteers for Service to Schools, District**



One of the presenters at Wednesday's Barb Bossu Volunteer Spirit Awards referenced a favorite Woody Hayes quote: "You win with people." Presenter after presenter shared the same sentiment, detailing all the things made possible at their school because of the selflessness of their volunteers.

Twenty-three of the district's most standout volunteers were awarded the coveted "Barb Bossu Volunteer Spirit Award" for their service and dedication to their school community. Each year, Lakota schools and the district accept nominations to recognize the top volunteers whose positive spirit and generosity of time and talent contribute to students' overall Lakota experience.

"I truly believe it takes all of us. We can't do what we do for our kids without our parents and volunteers," said Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller. "I want to congratulate all of our winners, but also thank all of our volunteers who give so selflessly all year long."

This year's award recipients included:

- **Robyn Knappenberger** - District winner
- **Danielle Rodecker** - Creekside ECS
- **Lisa DeMonge** - Liberty ECS
- **Amanda Wilson** - Shawnee ECS
- **Betty Carter** - Wyandot ECS
- **Amy Pitzer** - Adena Elementary
- **Martha Risher** - Cherokee Elementary
- **Kristin Bramblett** - Endeavor Elementary
- **Julie Nguyen** - Freedom Elementary
- **Kris Lougherie** - Heritage Elementary
- **Jen Smith-Bui** - Hopewell Elementary
- **Catherine Ott** - Independence Elementary
- **Susanne Page** - Union Elementary
- **Lara Williams** - VanGorden Elementary
- **Beth Browning** - Woodland Elementary
- **Barbara Grace** - Hopewell Junior

- **Linda McCrary** - Liberty Junior
- **LeeAnn Hines** - Plains Junior
- **Jim Sparnall** - Ridge Junior
- **Linda Lohman & Rita Gayer** - Lakota East High School & Freshman Campus
- **Jenny Bishop** - Lakota West Freshman Campus
- **Phil Hobbs** -Lakota West High School





## **Lakota Hosts National Thought Leader for Future Ready Schools**

Over 100 instructional leaders around Lakota - and some from neighboring districts - gathered to learn from a national icon in classroom innovation and leadership last week.

Lakota hosted the special visit from Thomas Murray, the digital learning and advocacy director for the Alliance for Excellent Education. Murray represents "Future Ready Schools," a national effort to maximize digital learning opportunities for a more personalized learning experience for all students.

He presented the research-based framework - created by educators, for educators - that help school districts transform their approach to preparing students for success in college, career and citizenship. By defining the framework's seven "gears", Murray challenged his audience to consider their individual role in executing each aspect of the process.

The message around using technology as the accelerator to more engaged learning comes at a critical time for Lakota as it prepares to launch 1:1 technology in all four junior high schools next year.

"Doing the best for our students means empowering teachers, administrators and even students to be leaders in building what our schools look like ten years from now," said Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller, one of the 3,200 district superintendents nationally to pledge his commitment to Future Ready.

"Future Ready Schools is a powerful resource to help us continue moving forward and we were fortunate to hear such an inspiring message from a thought leader like Tom," Miller said.

## **FEATURED PHOTOS**



Families came together on April 22 to build commUNITY and celebrate Earth Day. The event, held at The Square at Union Centre, was hosted by Lakota Schools and the West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance. Plants, games, food and music were all part of the family-friendly celebration. [Click here to view a Facebook album](#) capturing all of the fun.







*The Flying Pig mascot visited Adena earlier this month to help students get ready for the Kids 26th Mile, part of the Flying Pig Weekend May 4-6. Adena has a Recess Running Club that runs a mile on Wednesdays. The goal is to get 25 miles in during the year and run the last one as a team at the 26th Mile Race on May 5.*



On April 20, a "Buddy Bench" dedication ceremony took place at Endeavor Elementary. The bench honors the life of Lakota West student Lauren Hede who passed away on July 11, 2014 at age 16 after a year-long battle with a brain tumor. Lauren's family (shown above) donated the bench to Lauren's elementary school to honor her love of life, to remember her years at Lakota Schools, and to pay forward a life so bright. Placed strategically in the middle of the playground, the bench is designed to encourage new friendships.

## NEW BUSINESS

### *Announcements & Opportunities*

#### **April 30: Community Fanfare for Students at Woodland Elementary**

Please join us for our final fanfare for students this school year at Woodland Elementary on Monday, April 30 at 8:20 a.m. It's a great way to start off your week... lining the school's entrance and giving students high-fives and words of encouragement as they enter the homestretch of the 2017-18 school year. Everyone is invited; hope to see you there!

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#### **Get Your Tickets for Lakota Spirit Night at FC Cincinnati Game on May 26**

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

Lakota families and staff are invited to take advantage of special ticket pricing for the May 26 game. FC Cincinnati will take on Louisville at 7:30 p.m. at the University of Cincinnati's Nippert Stadium. Special activities are being planned to celebrate Lakota's presence at the game, so come and show your Lakota spirit. Visit [www.fccincinnati.com/group-portal](http://www.fccincinnati.com/group-portal) and enter promo code LAKOTA18 to call 513-977-KICK to claim your tickets.

## ON THE RADAR

### *Announcements & Opportunities*

#### **Still a Few Days Left to Share Your Volunteering Photos**

In recognition of National Volunteer Month, help us share the many ways Lakota students and staff branch out to volunteer their time and talents in our community. Get creative and share a photo that demonstrates the individual or organization you like to support.

April 30 is the last day to post your photo on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram -- be sure to tag Lakota's account and #LakotaBranchesOut. At the end of the month, the post with the most "likes" will win a special surprise from Lakota's School & Community Relations department.

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#### **District Seeking Community Input on 2019-20 Academic Calendar**

The Lakota Calendar Committee is preparing a 2019-2020 district calendar recommendation for the Board of Education. But first, the group is soliciting community input. Lakota staff, students, parents and community members are invited to review the current draft before any final recommendation is presented to the school board in May 2018.

The committee considers many different factors when drafting the district calendar, including everything from scheduled state assessments and other state mandates to observed holidays and staff training days. When



comparing the 2018-2019 calendar to this proposed calendar, the committee does not note any major changes.

We value any input you have regarding possible changes to the calendar. [Click here to review the calendar and submit any feedback.](#) All input must be received by Monday, May 7. Feedback will be reviewed and adjustments made, as appropriate.

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### **May 8 Election Day: No School for Students**

Lakota Local Schools will not be in session on Tuesday, May 8, primary election day. Although students will not be in class on that day, all staff will report for a full day of professional development. In addition to collaboration time at the building level, the district will use this opportunity to provide extra safety and security training for staff, with the support of School Resource Officers.

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### **Last Coffee Chat for 2017-18 School Year**

Join Lakota Superintendent Matt Miller at his next monthly Community Coffee Chat on Wednesday, May 2 from 9-10 a.m. at Coffee Beans & Brew (7051 Yankee Road).

This is the last Coffee Chat for the school year, so please join Superintendent Miller to ask questions and share your thoughts and ideas about the future of Lakota Schools.

Chat times and locations for the 2018-19 school year will be posted this summer on the [Superintendent page of Lakota Online](#).

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**



### *Event Spotlights*

- Monday, April 30  
**Community Fanfare for Students**

## **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

at Woodland Elementary  
8:20 a.m.

- Monday, April 30  
**The Write Challenge Awards and Reception**  
at Lakota East Freshman Theatre  
6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 1  
**Barber Shop, Books & Boys**  
at X-Quisite Cutz  
6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 2  
[Coffee Chat with the Superintendent](#)  
at Coffee Beans & Brew  
9:00 a.m.
- Thursday, May 3  
[Parade of Graduates](#)  
at Lakota Elementary Schools  
10:00 a.m.
- Monday, May 7  
**Facebook Live: Tips to Keep the Learning Going Over the Summer**  
7 p.m.
- Monday, May 7  
**Lakota Board of Education Meeting**  
at Plains Junior Media Center  
6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 8  
**Election Day: No School for Students (Staff PD Day)**
- Tuesday, May 15  
**Story Time & Supper with the Superintendent**

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:**

[Lakota East Golf Scramble: June 3](#)

[Lakota East Summer Basketball Camp: June \(Grades 2-12\)](#)

[Lakota East Football Camp: May 29-31 \(Grades 2-9\)](#)

[Lakota East Thunderhawk Theater Camp: June 18-22 \(Grades 4-12\)](#)

[Lakota East Volleyball Camp: June 4 - 6 \(Grades 1-5\)](#)

[Lakota East Volleyball Camp: May 29 - June 1 \(Grades 6-9\)](#)

#### **Community-Sponsored Flyers:**

[Ohio Writing Project's Youth Writing Camp: July 16-20 \(Grades 5-8\)](#)

[Summer Reading & Writing Skills Programs \(Age 4 to Grade 11\)](#)

[ISE Host an International Exchange Student: May 15](#)

[ISE International Student Exchange for Spain: May 15](#)

[Midpointe Library Summer Reading Program: June 1- July 31](#)

[Royal Theatre Company Summer Camps: June-August \(Ages 5-17\)](#)

**All Current  
E-Flyers**

at O'Charley's  
6:30 p.m.

- Thursday, May 17  
[Lakota West Graduation](#)  
at Cintas Center  
7 p.m.
- Friday, May 18  
**Lakota East Graduation**  
at Cintas Center  
8 p.m.
- Monday, May 21  
**Lakota Board of Education Meeting**  
at Plains Junior Media Center  
6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 22  
**One-Hour Early Release**
- Wednesday, May 23  
[One-Hour Early Release: Students Last Day](#)
- Thursday, May 24  
[Teacher In-Service Day](#)

**See Full  
Calendar**





(513) 874-5505

[lakota@lakotaonline.com](mailto:lakota@lakotaonline.com)