A Look Around Lakota - E-News Edition

March 23, 2018





Lakota Holds First State of the Schools

Lakota Local Schools held its first annual State of the Schools address on March 13. Approximately 200 people filled the seats on Lakota West High School's Main Street to hear Superintendent Matthew Miller and his guest speakers talk about recent district accomplishments and future plans.

Freedom Four, a four-member band comprised of sixth-graders from Freedom Elementary School, kicked off the hour-long event with two original songs performed above the crowd on the bridge walkway. **Quinn Cooper**, **Max Lenhoff**, **Sawyer Rock** and **Lilly Plummer** performed their award-winning "MLK Song" and debuted "Oh, Lakota," written specifically for the State of the Schools.

Throughout the evening, students and staff members took to the stage to expand on Miller's points. "It's our students and staff who make this district successful," said Miller. "Our community needs to hear their stories and the State of the Schools is a great opportunity to showcase them."

Independence third-grader **Avery Jenkins**, with the support of her brothers **Colby** and **Zachary**, spoke about their love of the school's STEAM² lab, while Ridge seventh-grader **Leo Kofron** discussed being a part of the 1:1 technology pilot in his school. Leo whole-heartedly approves of the district's decision to purchase Chromebooks for the junior schools, noting that technology is a great tool to increase efficiency for researching topics.

Dustin Horter, a senior at Lakota East, talked about balancing athletics and academics and the support he's received from teachers and coaches through the year. The state champion runner said, "...there is no shortage of love and support from the staff... and students. I couldn't be more appreciative of the experiences they've left me with."

Gabrielle Mathis, an eighth-grader at Hopewell Junior, and **Sandra Twumasi**, a senior at Lakota West, both spoke about their Lakota experiences. During elementary school, Gabrielle attended a parochial school, but asked her parents to let her return to Lakota once the school levy passed in 2013. Gabrielle spoke about the opportunities she has at Lakota and how fortunate she feels to have been able to return to the school district. Originally from Ghana, Sandra came to Lakota in elementary school when her uncle invited her to live with him so that she could receive a better education. Far from her parents and siblings, Sandra told how "the teachers helped me and encouraged me...They push me every day to do my best."

The audience was also able to hear from staff members about innovation in our schools. **Todd Caulfield** talked about flexible learning spaces and how his sixth-graders at Cherokee Elementary School are benefitting. **Nicole Isaacs**, assistant principal at Lakota's Career Readiness Academy, announced that the academy has had 17 graduates so far this school year. "Our smaller, flexible environment helps students face some of the barriers to success they may be dealing with," she told the crowd.

Miller also addressed innovation in the classroom, teacher collaboration and school safety. "Tonight has been about giving our community a look inside our schools - at both what is happening now and what we are planning for the future. We are building on a strong foundation at Lakota and will continue to engage our kids in learning while providing an education that is student-centered. We will continue to be innovative in the classroom and build out the resources for our kids and teachers to help them succeed."

Lakota School Board President **Julie Shaffer** was excited about the event. "(The State of the Schools) was a great opportunity to highlight what Matt Miller and his team have accomplished by listening to our staff, students and community and adapting."

Miller also announced that the district has begun a new strategic planning process. Shaffer noted, "It's an exciting time to be in Lakota. I look forward to supporting Mr. Miller's effort to move us forward and continue to build on this positive momentum."

Click here to view Lakota's State of the Schools address.

Pictured above: Superintendent Matthew Miller, along with students and staff presenters, at the March 13 State of the Schools event.



MidPointe Bookmobile Rolls Out to Lakota

Lakota's continuing partnership with the MidPointe Library is putting a new spin on the traditional school media center experience.

MidPointe's "Library on Wheels" program - originally designed to help reach parts of their service area without a physical branch as well as patrons physically unable to visit their branch - recently rolled out a bookmobile. The vehicle rolls up to most Lakota school buildings once a month, parking outside for most of the day as classes take turns coming aboard to peruse the monthly selections.

"It's out of class and in their face. It's something fun and different," said MidPointe's mobile librarian Jenn Effinger.

The 30-foot vehicle features a complete collection of thousands of library materials for all ages, giving students a different selection than they'll find in their school media center. It oftentimes features the newest and most popular titles too, giving students a different experience than they might have by actually visiting the West Chester branch.



Woodland Elementary sixth grade teacher **Audrey Scarbrough** smiled as her advanced language arts students eyed the latest selections, noting how the new program fills a need for more advanced material that older and more advanced readers can't necessarily find in their elementary school media center.

She agrees with the MidPointe team on the point that bringing students a library on wheels certainly adds a different flavor to the age-old process of checking out a book. And for others who haven't ever experienced a visit to the library, giving them their own individual library card adds another layer of excitement.

"We see more kids on our bookmobile than we do in our physical branches," said Effinger, referencing the average 700-plus books they check out on a daily visit to one of Lakota's schools.

For Effinger and Llbrary on Wheels Manager Zach Roberts, their stops at the younger grade levels is all about helping students form early habits around using their library as a resource.

"This is the way libraries are moving," Roberts said. "The way we grow and stay relevant is to go to (our community)."

SHOUT-OUTS





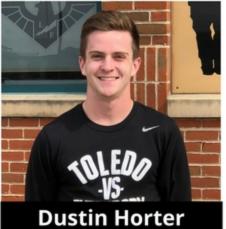
High School
Students
Organized
Stoneman
Douglas
Tributes



Woodland Student Wins "My Favorite Breakfast" Art Contest (right) Lakota High School
Students Win
National
Scholastic Art Awards
(left)







Lakota High School Students Win National Art Awards

Six Lakota high school students have won national awards in the 2018 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Competition. Only a very small percentage of the 346,000 works of art submitted receive national awards. Gold medal recipients will have their artwork displayed in New York City. Award-winning students, their parents, and their art teacher are invited to attend the National Award Ceremony at Carnegie Hall in June.

Jennifer Ellison (Lakota West): Silver Medal for her drawing "Coming to Life".

Cecilia Farrar (Lakota West): Gold Medal for her painting "Opa's Chair".

Grace McCaughy (Lakota West): Gold Medal for her drawing "Grubby Little Hands"

Trey Small (Lakota West): Gold Medal for his drawing "Eye on the Sparrow"

Olivia Stock (Lakota West): Gold Medal for her photograph "Drowning"

Anastacia Hartinger (Lakota East): Silver Medal for her ring "Ring Around The Finger"

Click here to view the winning artwork.

Woodland Student a Winner in Ohio's 'My Favorite Breakfast' Artwork Contest

Woodland Elementary sixth-grader **Natalie Hoerst** was one of five statewide winners recognized in the "My Favorite Breakfast" artwork contest hosted by the Ohio Department of Education's Office for Child Nutrition. In celebration of National School Breakfast Week, the group shared a different winning submission every day. Woodland's Child Nutrition team, pictured above, was happy to celebrate Natalie's recognition!

Dustin Horter Wins National Championship

Dustin Horter, the number one ranked 1600m athlete in the country, competed in the New Balance Nationals Indoor track competition on March 11. With a time of 4:08.03, the Lakota East senior secured his national championship win in the one mile race. Congratulations, Dustin!

Student Tributes to Stoneman Douglas

Students at both Lakota East and West high schools worked with their school administrators to plan activities to remember and honor the victims of the tragedy that took place at Stoneman Douglas High School, along with allowing their student voice to be heard. Thank you for your efforts to plan such respectful events.

AROUND LAKOTA



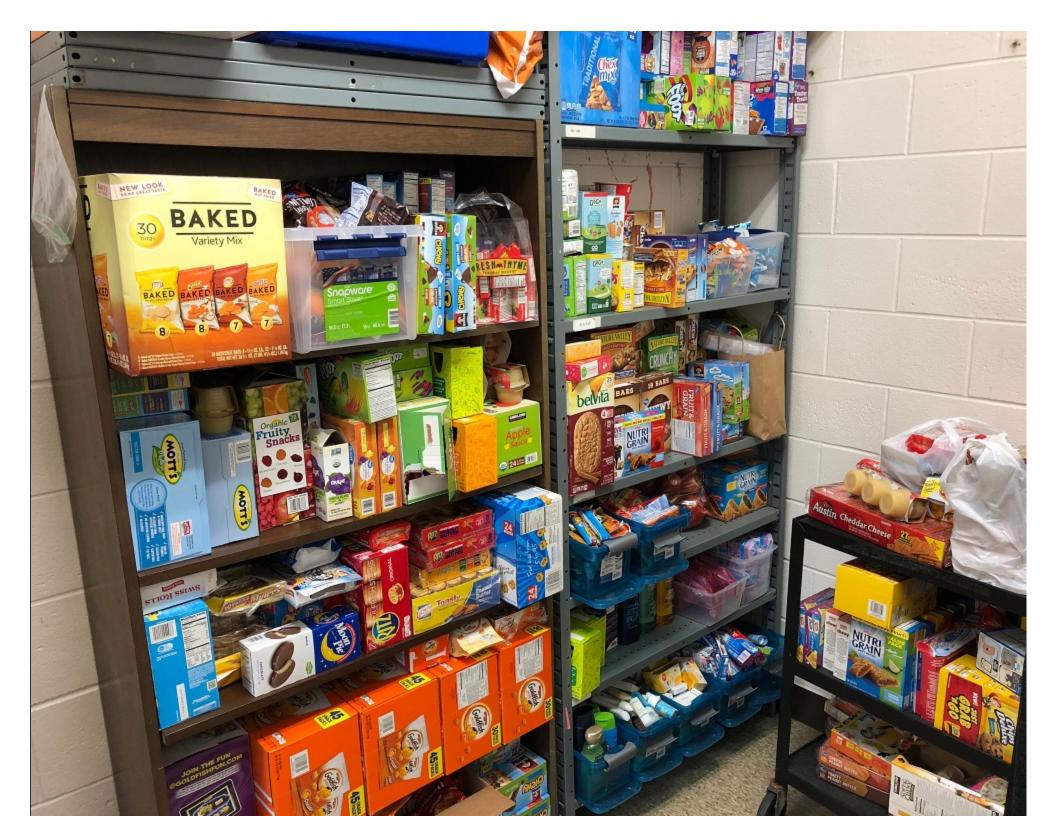
LAKOTA MILITARY COMMITMENT CEREMONY

Lakota Hosts First Military Commitment Ceremony on April 5

Lakota is inviting the community on April 5 to help honor this year's Lakota East and Lakota West graduates who have committed to serve our country through any branch of the U.S. Military.

"At Lakota, we value those students who choose enlistment as a post-graduate option," said Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller. "Honoring them in this way for their commitment and service to our country is the least we can do. I look forward to celebrating their choice among their families and others in our community."

The ceremony will take place at the Lakota East Freshman Campus at 7 p.m. Attendees are invited to meet our honorary students during an informal reception immediately following the program. Honorary students and their families will receive an invitation closer to the event date.



New Adena Resource Pantry Meets Student Needs

Just a few weeks after its inception, a former closet turned resource pantry at Adena Elementary is already stockpiled with hundreds of different snacks, school supplies and hygiene items.

"We always refer to Adena as our school family," said Assistant Principal **Keri Albrinck**, who jumped at the opportunity to respond when she saw the need. With some students struggling with hunger and some motivated by food, teachers were continuously stocking their classrooms with both healthy snacks and sweet treats.

"Making sure our students' basic needs are met is exactly what a family unit is for," Albrinck said. "We're all about helping kids and every kid can benefit from this in some way."

Community liaison **Jessica Allshouse** was a major source of support, coordinating collections with local churches and businesses. The PTO embraced the concept, too, helping organize an event on "National Snack Day," in which students were encouraged to bring in a snack for themselves and another one to share. Almost overnight, the space became a resource for staff to inconspicuously respond to their students' needs or even use it as part of a lesson.

Besides their plans to re-stock the pantry through a quarterly food drive with Adena families, the school is seeking out more community partners. Organizations interested in supporting the cause may email keri.albrinck@lakotaonline.com.



Liberty Junior Club Takes Drumming to a New Level

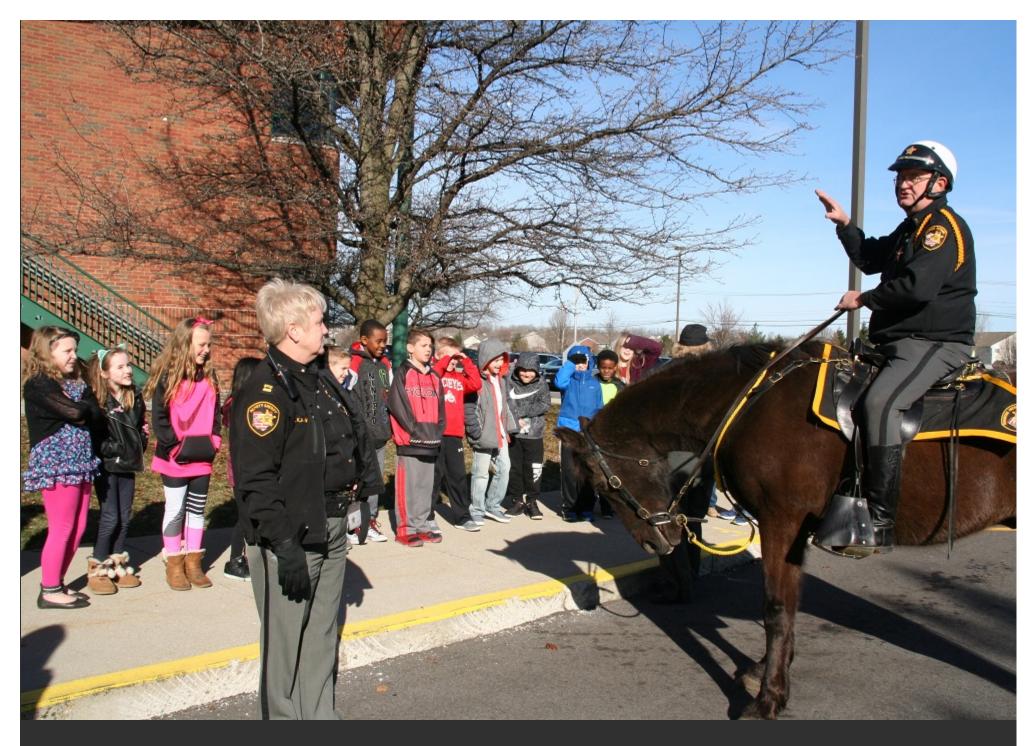
After noticing a few students who used their pencils as drumsticks on their desks, Liberty Junior teacher **Dave Schreier** told them about a bucket drum performance he had seen. "I went out and picked up a couple of buckets and started messing around with it. After a few weeks, I brought it in and played some simple beats that took me weeks to learn. A couple of the kids picked the beat up in less than five minutes!"

Schreier and some of his students got together after school one day and played around with the buckets. From there, the Liberty Junior Bucket Drum Club was born. Schreier and a group of seven eighth grade students meet once a week for about 50 minutes after school to practice. **Ethan Oyako** explained that while they find some of their songs by watching YouTube videos, the group also works out different beats and strings them together to come up with their own.

No experience in drumming is necessary, as Schreier will attest to. While many of the members do have some experience with drumming, none of them had ever played a bucket drum before. Schreier is very proud of the group. "They have surpassed how good I thought we would be in such a short time."

The LJS Bucket Drum Club is getting quite the reputation around Lakota. In addition to playing during their school lunch periods, the group has also played during halftime at a Lakota East basketball game, which was a favorite venue. "The fans were really lively," said drummer **Jamahal Boyd**. "Even the fans who were our rivals...we got a standing ovation from everyone," he continued.

This week, the club branched out, playing the red carpet at the Great American Ballpark for REDI Cincinnati. **Bryson Blakenship** said he "had a lot of fun watching people dance as they went by on the carpet." One of the biggest moments came when the group had a surprise special guest join them. "(Philip Castellini, Chief Operating Officer of the Cincinnati Reds) sat down & (just) started playing with us!" Bryson explained.



Cherokee Third-Graders Get Hands-On Lessons from Mounted Patrol

Last year, Cherokee's SRO Captain **Katie McMahon** visited third grade classrooms to talk about police horses to help students prepare to write essays on the benefits of police horses.

This year she brought more than pictures to show the students – she brought two deputies and their horse, Reggie, from the Butler County Mounted Patrol. The mounted patrol is a dedicated group of volunteers who are Honorary Special Deputies with the Sheriff's Department.

"The students typically read passages to help write their essays, but this visit was a great way for students to interview the deputies to gather additional information," said **Jama Singh**, one of Cherokee's third-grade language arts teachers. "And the students were just so excited to go outside and meet Reggie." The visit also tied in perfectly with a social studies unit on government and law enforcement.

Students learned that the police horses are great tools for the Sheriff's office – both as a means of transportation and for patrolling because sitting above the crowd on a horse is an effective way to watch everything that is going on. The mounted patrol regularly attends events like the Butler Country Fair and area parades, and patrols county parks and even area subdivisions prior to the start of a new school year.

Another role of the mounted patrol is to talk about the work of the Sheriff's Office. And all the students' questions gave the deputies the perfect opportunity to do just that.



No School for Students: may 8

(Election Day)

May 8 Election Day: No School for Students

Lakota Local Schools will not be in session on Tuesday, May 8, primary election day. All staff members will still report for professional development activities, including time for collaboration with their peers.

The decision was made by district officials after careful consideration by the District Safety Team. "Nineteen of our schools are polling places," said Superintendent Matthew Miller. "The safety of our students is always our number one priority and with a high voter turnout expected, we have decided to close, just as we do during the general election in November."

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.

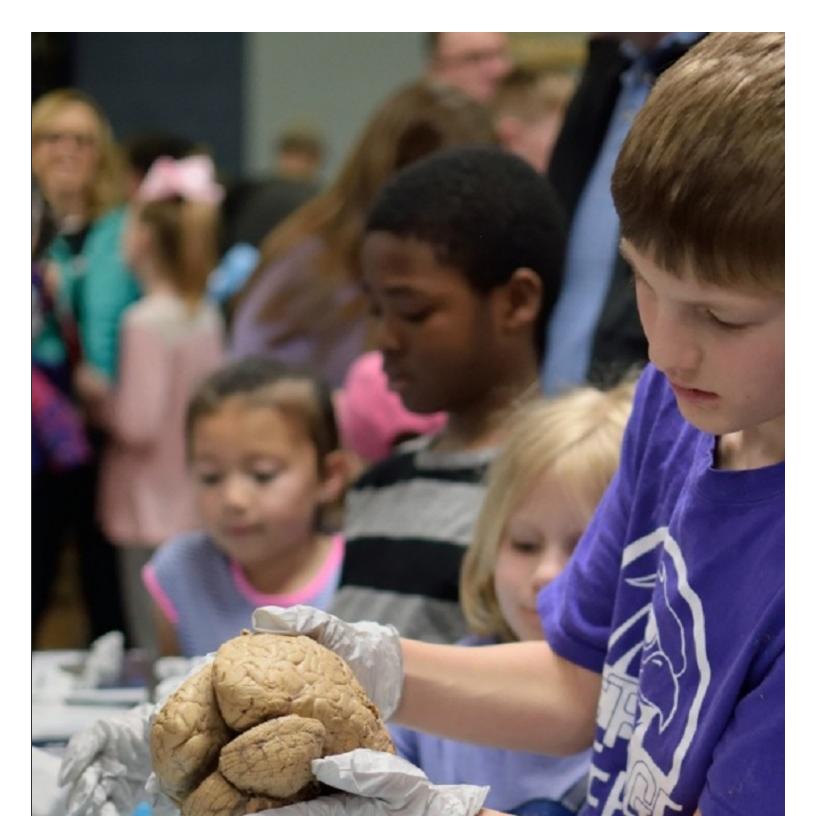
FEATURED PHOTOS





Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller hosted his first "Story Time and Supper with the Superintendent" earlier this week. Over a meal and conversation, he shared a personal favorite, "What do you do with an idea?"

The new program is part of Lakota's ongoing efforts to build community support around early literacy. On the third Tuesday of each month, from 6:30 - 8 p.m., Lakota elementary students are invited to O'Charley's Restaurant (7866 Tylersville Road in West Chester), where children 10 and under eat free. Join the group for the next story time and supper on April 16. Space is limited. Please follow this link to









The West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance invited Lakota Schools to be a part of its March 9 "Wild About West Chester" Annual Celebration in partnership with the Cincinnati Zoo.

Lakota collaborated with the Butler County Educational Service Center to share a virtual reality experience. Using goggles like those used in our classrooms, pictured lower right, guests traveled all over the world during the event's cocktail hour.

Students at Lakota's four early childhood schools provided wildlife-themed artwork in the form of placemats, like the one pictured top right and featuring the famous Cincinnati Zoo hippo, Fiona.

NEW BUSINESS

Announcements & Opportunities

Lakota Spirit Night at May 26 FC Cincinnati Game

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 and enter promo code LAKOTA18 to call 513-977-KICK to claim your tickets.

Hope Squad Informational Night - Save the Date

Dr. Gregory Hudnall, founder of Hope Squad, the peer-to-peer suicide prevention program that is being implemented at Lakota, will return to the district on April 16. After meeting with staff and students at both high schools during the day, Dr. Hudnall will hold an informational session for parents in the evening. More information will be released soon.

ON THE RADAR

Announcements & Opportunities

Inside Lakota Learning Blog

Lakota educators will be the voice behind the all-new "Inside Lakota Learning" blog.

The Lakota learning experience is one filled with inquiry, innovation and discovery. Every student's learning style, passions and interests are different, which is why the experience of one student will never be exactly that of another. It's why Lakota teachers and support staff are committed to student-centered learning and providing a personalized approach marked by differentiated teaching methods.

Let the Lakota Learning Team explain what that means and how that goal plays out on a daily basis in our classrooms. <u>Click here to read the first post from Lakota's Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Keith Koehne, and to subscribe to alerts for future posts.</u>

Help Decide Lakota's Educators of Excellence, Nominations Due April 9

Lakota East Theatre Presents *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Tickets are on sale now for Lakota East's upcoming musical comedy, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.

The production, based on a book by Rachel Sheinkin, is about a group of misfit junior high students who seek out fame and glory on the stage of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. Competition is cut-throat and the audience gets involved as guest spellers at every performance. The torments and musings of your average junior high kid make this show appropriate for mature audiences, and side-splittingly painful. Join the finalists as they compete for the title of spelling bee champion!

Performances will be held on April 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 at 7:30 p.m. and April 8 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 online (www.seatyourself.biz/lakotaeasthigh) or at the door for \$12.

April 9: Lakota LEADS Parent Connect Speaker Series

On April 9 from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Lakota LEADS will be hosting a presentation by Psychologist Dr. Edward Amend as part of its "Parent Connect Speaker Series". Dr. Amend focuses on the social, emotional, and educational needs of gifted children, teens and adults. Please join us in the Lakota West Freshman theatre to learn some helpful strategies for parenting gifted children.

Three Upcoming Community Fanfares: All are Welcome

We are nearing the completion of Lakota's community fanfare events for the 2017-18 school year.

The concept is a simple one: Line the school's entrance and give students highfives and words of encouragement as they are filing into school. The concept, derived from a first day of school tradition at Hopewell Junior School, brings Following with tradition, the Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty, in partnership with Lakota Local Schools, is currently accepting nominations for the 2018 "Lakota Educator of Excellence Awards."

The award is made possible with generous support from the Community Foundation. Two monetary awards will be presented: one to a recipient from the elementary level (PreK-6) and another from the secondary level (7-12). The winners will receive a \$1,000 grant to be used for a special project at their school. The third, non-monetary award will be presented to a Lakota administrator who has shown extraordinary commitment to the students and teachers of Lakota Local Schools as well as the community.

Nominations are due Monday, April 9. <u>Click here to download the 2018 Educator of Excellence nomination form.</u> Questions may be directed to Karen Gibbs at the Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty – <u>karen.gibbs@wclfoundation.org</u> or 513.682.8061.

Kindergarten, Summer School Registration Ends April 6

Open registration for the revamped all-day kindergarten option for all students, as well as Lakota's Summer School program, runs through April 6.

With the recently announced changes for the 2018-19 school year, all students will be eligible for the all-day kindergarten option, with the option to enroll in the half-day program, if desired. Lakota's kindergarten classes will be held at six K-2 early childhood schools, including Creekside, Heritage, Hopewell, Liberty, Shawnee and Wyandot. Please note that students must be five years old on or before Aug. 1 in order to enroll in kindergarten for the 2018-19 school year. Families can register for kindergarten at the Lakota Enrollment Center (8735 Cincinnati-Dayton Road).

Enrollment applications are now available on the <u>enrollment section of Lakota Online</u>. All questions can be directed to the Enrollment Center at (513) 682-4120.

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 or

community and school leaders together to send a strong message of support to Lakota students.

Every Lakota school hosts a fanfare at some point throughout the school year. Please plan to join us at the two remaining events:

April 3

Cherokee Elementary 9 a.m.

April 4

Endeavor Elementary 8:15 a.m.

April 6

Heritage Elementary 9 a.m.

Lakota LEADS April Book Club

Students in grades 2-6 are invited to join the Lakota LEADS Book Club for its upcoming Book Club on April 25 at the Union Elementary Gym from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The Rockin' Readers (grades 2-4) will discuss *The Disastrous Magical Wishes of Classroom 13* by Honest Lee & Matthew J Gilbert and design a wish box. A Novel Bunch (grades 4-6) will discuss the book *Wishmaker* by Tyler Whitesides and create their own dream catcher.

Both book selections contain a lot of wishes, a genie and an imaginative adventure! A parent or guardian should attend the event with their student. If you have any questions please contact Diana Opoku at dmopoku78@gmail.com. Sign up for this free event at: http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4ba8a629a46-lakota2.

Spring Break Reminder

Lakota Local Schools will be closed for spring break, March 26 - April 2. Students will return to school on Tuesday, April 3.

End-of-Course assessments or to participate in select math courses to qualify for advanced math placement the following school year.

Summer classes will be held at Ridge Junior School from May 29 through July 6.

Click here for more details about Lakota's Summer School registration.

Next Coffee Chat is April 4

Join Lakota Superintendent Matt Miller at his next monthly Community Coffee Chat Wednesday, April 4 from 1 - 2 p.m. at Einstein Bros. Bagels located at 9216 Allen Road in West Chester.

One of the top priorities for Lakota's superintendent is to get out in the community and listen to as many students, staff members, parents, residents and community and business leaders as possible. For an hour on the first Wednesday every month (with some exceptions), Superintendent Miller will be available for drop-in conversation with parents and residents at local coffee shops (rotating between West Chester and Liberty Township locations). The times will also vary to accommodate different schedules.

Mark your calendar for April 4 to ask questions and share your thoughts and ideas about the future of Lakota Schools. Look for more Coffee Chat times and locations on the Superintendent page of Lakota Online.

West Chester Police Offering S.A.F.E. Classes for College-Bound Students

Safety at college is a widespread concern among parents, which is why the West Chester Police Department is offering a free program focused on teaching practical skills for campus safety to female high school seniors and recent graduates.

The class, held in cooperation with Lakota Schools, is designed to provide first-time college students with the tools to help them protect and defend themselves from possible threats. S.A.F.E. (Self-defense and Awareness through Fundamental Education), was created in response to parent requests and with input from Lakota faculty.

'Listen Up Lakota' Podcast with Angie Brown Now Available

The March edition of "Listen Up Lakota," a monthly radio programmed powered by WMKV 89.3FM, featured an interview with Angie Brown, the coordinator for Lakota's parent engagement efforts.

Brown discussed the evolution of Lakota's parent engagement programs and their proven impact on student achievement. She spotlights other new efforts like community fanfares and an upcoming Earth Day celebration that are designed to build community around our schools.

The interview originally aired on March 16, but is available as a podcast on the <u>WMKV website</u>. WLHS/WMKV is a member-supported public radio with its studios located at Maple Knoll Village in Springdale.

The program is free, but spaces are limited and students who register are expected to attend every day. Students can take the 10-hour class at either high school location.

Lakota East
April 9-13
3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Click here to register for this session.

Lakota West
April 16-20
3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Click here to register for this session.

Lakota West
June 25-29
12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Click here to register for this session.

For more information, contact Officer Michelle Berling with the West Chester Police Department at (513) 759-3985.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Event Spotlights

- Monday, March 26 Monday, April 2
 Spring Break No School
- Tuesday, April 3School Resumes
- Tuesday, April 3
 Community Fanfare for Cherokee Elementary
 9:10 a.m.
- Tuesday, April 3
 Lakota Board of Education Meeting

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:

Lakota Military Commitment Ceremony: April 5

at Lakota Central Office 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 3

Barber Shop, Books & Boys

at X-Quisite Cutz, 7324 Kingsgate Way 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

• Wednesday, April 4

Community Fanfare for Cherokee Elementary

Tuesday, April 3 8:15 a.m.

• Wednesday, April 4

Coffee Chat with the Superintendent

at Einstein Bros. Bagels 1 - 2 p.m.

Thursday, April 5

Lakota Military Commitment Ceremony

at Lakota East Freshman Campus 7 - 8 p.m.

Friday, April 6

Community Fanfare for Heritage Elementary Students 9:10 a.m.

Friday, April 6

Summer School Registration Closes

Friday, April 6 & Saturday, April 7

Theatre Production: The 25th Annual Putnam County

Spelling Bee

at Lakota East Main Campus Theatre 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 7Jazz N Cakes

Lakota West Girls Soccer Camp: June 18-21 (Grades 1-9)

Lakota Schools Night at FC Cincinnati (May 26)

Community-Sponsored Flyers:

Hamilton BMX Race/Clinic: Fridays: May-Oct

CycleBar Liberty Township Lakota Family Fitness Classes: Mar. 26-31

Lakota Hills Swim Club Team

<u>Thrivepointe Counseling Groups for Anxiety and Depression: Begin April 11</u> (Teens)

All Current E-Flyers at Lakota East Main Campus 8 a.m. - noon

Sunday, April 8

Theatre Production: The 25th Annual Putnam County
Spelling Bee

at Lakota East Main Campus Theatre 2:30 p.m.

See Full Calendar



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