



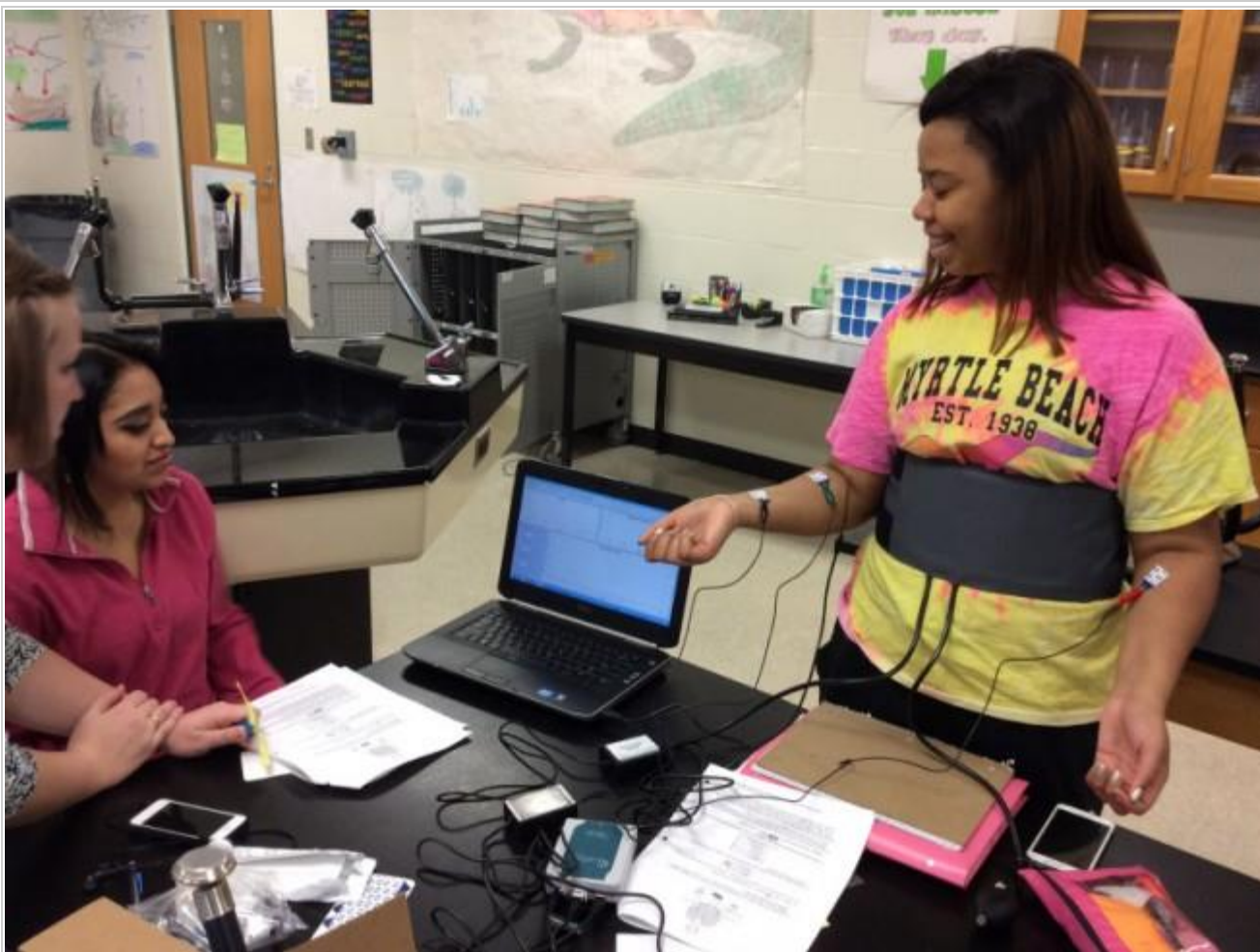
This Week At Lakota

Instilling Pride. Igniting Passion. Infinite Possibilities.

September 9, 2016

Leading the Way

Featured Presentations



Students in Lakota East's medical interventions class utilize digital tools and data collection equipment to test biofeedback therapy on one another as part of the district's annual Digital Learning Day. It's another way Lakota encourages digitally-enhanced lessons, student activities and digital collaboration, all of which foster STEAM concepts. Here, a student is attached to several sensors while her partners track data.

Continued Increase in STEAM² Enrollment

Third Consecutive Year of Growth in Grades 7-12

For the third consecutive year, the student enrollment in Lakota's STEAM² courses in grades 7 – 12 has continued to increase. For the 2016-17 school year, student enrollment increased by nearly 13 percent over the previous year - from 2,405 students to now 2,711 students. That's an increase of 306 students, with nearly two-thirds of this increase occurring at the high school level.

"STEAM² is Lakota's framework that uses the design process to connect science, technology, engineering, the applied arts/design, mathematics, and medicine," explains Dr. Lon Stettler, executive director of strategic business partnerships for Lakota.

Summer Meant National Competition for Many

Students Participated, Placed in High Level Contests

This summer numerous Lakota students excelled in major national competitions, exhibiting both their technical and leadership skills.

First, several students participated in the HOSA's international leadership conference, held in late June in Nashville, Tennessee. HOSA is an

And the increases are happening across all pathways. For example, enrollment in the junior high courses of design & modeling and automation & robotics increased by 115 students, an 8 percent increase, to the current 1,574 students. Enrollment in the high school engineering program increased by 60 students to 685 students – nearly a 10 percent increase – while the high school biomedical program jumped by nearly 41 percent with 131 new students, now totaling 452 students.

According to Stettler, there are several reasons for the increase in the STEAM² enrollment. He explains, “First, the 2016-17 school year completes the 4-year build-out of both the engineering and also biomedical pathways at both Lakota high schools. At the front end of the STEAM² pipeline, our elementary schools are providing more students with learning experiences in STEAM² in the science curriculum and the expanding the number of elementary STEAM² labs.”

In addition, Lakota students and parents are recognizing the high demand for more qualified high school and college graduates in the STEAM² careers. Many of Lakota’s parents are currently in STEAM² careers and, therefore, see the opportunities and encourage their student to take one or more STEAM² classes.

“Secondary students are also hearing from fellow students who took a previous STEAM² course how good the course is and see its relevance for their future,” says Stettler. “STEAM² students find the curriculum to very challenging and taught by very competent and capable teachers. The endorsement of peers carries a lot of weight with students when they consider courses for the next school year.”

Finally, students see that courses in the engineering and biomedical pathways segue into high school internship experiences during their junior and senior years. An internship is “deeper dive” field experience for students that consist of multiple rotations in a professional setting.

Lakota currently offers about 20 internship opportunities in the high-demand industries of biomedical/health, engineering and design, information technology and business operations. Some of our current internship partners include UC West Chester Hospital, Procter & Gamble, Kinetic Vision and Premier Health Atrium Medical Center.

Superintendent Robb Vogelmann states, “Lakota is committed to preparing our students for their future, and our STEAM² curriculum makes a significant contribution toward preparing graduates. We’ve incorporated the STEAM² concepts across all grade levels, which is still relatively rare among public school districts.”

[Click here](#) for more on Lakota’s STEAM² and [click here](#) for more on Lakota’s internship program.

international student organization focused on promoting career opportunities in the health care industry and this year, their 40th anniversary conference had a theme of “innovate, inspire, ignite.”

Lakota East students **Chase Harris, Maddox Linneman** and **Sam Pannek** placed fourth in the “biomedical innovations” category with their idea for curing HIV. The team of **Hannah Ackerman** and **Sofia Seppi**, both from Lakota East, earned a top 40 finish in CPR/first aid. Other Lakota students participating in the event were Lakota East students **Talia Brown** who competed in interview skills and **Paige Bentley** in the medical math category. **Ali Hausfeld**, Lakota West student, participated in nutrition and **Lexi Adams**, Lakota East, attended as an officer.

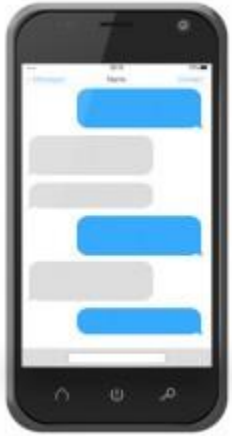
Several Lakota West Freshmen students traveled to San Diego for the national FCCLA conference. The FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) is a career and technical student organization with the family as its central core. The members work to address important personal, work and societal issues through family and consumer science education, in particular developing their leadership potential and skills for life.

Amitoj Kaur and **Matthew Ho** received a gold (the highest a team or individual can place) in the advocacy junior section and **Michael Clemons, Brayden Kreiner** and **Holt McNeer** also garnered gold in the interpersonal communications junior category.

Congratulations to all for their achievements at these high level competitions.

Around Lakota

Opt-in for School, District Text Messages Today



If you wish to receive Lakota text message notifications for closures/delays, emergencies and other urgent school/district alerts, please pay close attention to this notice.

Lakota's new notification system uses something called "short code" texting to send text messages to parent and staff mobile devices, when necessary. This method is highly reliable and fast because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers themselves.

With that access comes some strict federal requirements for Lakota to gain opt-in verification from those on the receiving end of those text messages – all of our parents, staff and community members.

Even if you've already selected text message preferences through your notification account setup process, **to officially begin receiving text messages via our new notification system, you must opt-in each mobile device from which you wish to receive text messages. Simply text "Y" to the short code 67587. [Click here for more details.](#)**

2015-16 State Report Card Coming Next Week

The Ohio Department of Education is scheduled to release the 2015-16 state report card results for all Ohio schools and districts next Thursday, Sept. 15. For the first time under Ohio's new format, the report card will assign letter grades to each of the six areas measured by the once-a-year state assessments.

"We are certainly not alone, but Lakota's report card will look very different than it has in years past and we want our community to be prepared for that," said Lakota Superintendent Robb Vogelmann. Like other similar districts statewide, Lakota anticipates a drop in letter grades across most components.

The drop doesn't correlate to waning student achievement, but more to a new and evolving set of achievement standards facing all Ohio school under the new grading scale.

"The expectations for student achievement across the board get higher each year and the state's measurement tool – or the test – continues to change, too," Vogelmann said. "That makes it difficult to track our students' year-over-year growth, but either way, we are up for the challenge."

"Regardless of what this one snapshot in time suggests, Lakota is an excellent school district. We will continue to challenge ourselves and our students in a way that prepares them for the end game, which is always our top priority," Vogelmann continued. "We are committed to giving our students every opportunity to prepare for life beyond high school and we must recognize that the state's report card doesn't tell the whole story of the Lakota experience."

Lakota will share its state report card results next week, in addition to other student achievement data that captures the school district's success at developing students who are college- and career-ready.

Lakota SRO Named "Deputy of the Year"

Deputy Jody Green Honored by the Butler County Sheriff's Office



Lakota's School Resource Officers celebrate one of their own as Deputy Jody Green (third from left) was named "Deputy of the Year" by the Butler County Sheriff's Office. Other officers are (from left) Deputy Doug Hale, Deputy Darrell Prewitt, Green, Deputy Todd Cordes, Lieutenant Morgan Dallman, and Deputy Steve Rogers.

Students and staff at Woodland Elementary and Liberty Junior School have long known that their School Resource Officer (SRO) Deputy Jody Green, does an outstanding job. But what Deputy Green did this summer while on reassignment, is simply heroic. It also earned him "Deputy of the Year" honors from the Butler County Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Green was traveling north for a transport when he came upon a semi that had crashed and was on fire. He pulled the driver from the burning vehicle and saved his life. Division Commander Lieutenant Morgan Dallman said, "There are many police officers who are able to help save someone's life, but Deputy Green put himself in high physical danger to rescue the driver of the semi." Lt. Dallman added, "Deputy Green wholeheartedly deserves this award for his heroic effort and also for being an outstanding SRO."

Deputy Green was honored at the Sheriff's Office on Aug. 31 in front of his peers and command staff. Sheriff Richard Jones presented him with a certificate and a special ribbon to be worn on his uniform.

In the photo at right, Butler County Sheriff Richard Jones presents "Deputy of the Year" honors to Lakota School Resource Officer Jody Green in recognition of Green's

heroic actions to save a man's life despite putting himself in great physical danger.



And on Friday morning, Woodland Elementary honored Deputy Green with a surprise donut celebration. Principal John Wise praises Deputy Green's work as an SRO.

"The connections Deputy Green has made with students as well as staff and community members have helped to make our school an even better place to be. His positive energy combined with high expectations for our students help make Woodland and Lakota great!"

Liberty Junior Principal Eric Bauman agrees. "Deputy Jody Green is much more than just an SRO at Liberty Junior and Woodland. He is a coach, role model, friend and father-figure to many students. He is always positive and encouraging with our students and staff."

[View All District News](#)

New Business

Announcements & Opportunities

Space Still Available for Lakota Preschool

Some strategic changes to Lakota's preschool program this school year allowed the school district to contain costs, while maximizing student service levels and academic

On The Radar

Quick Links & Reminders

Tag Day on Sept. 10

Lakota East and Lakota West High School

programming for even more students. The program is built around “center-based classrooms,” or classrooms made up of an equal number of students with disabilities and typical, tuition-paying students.

The changes nearly doubled Lakota’s preschool classrooms this year, opening up about 64 additional spots for tuition-paying students (spaces previously reserved for Head Start students), and bringing the wait list down from 55 students last year to zero this year.

Despite the original enrollment deadline passing, Lakota is proud to announce that it can still accommodate up to five more preschool students for the 2016-17 school year.

To learn more about Lakota’s preschool program, [click here](#). Visit the [preschool registration site](#) to complete and submit an application for one of the remaining spots.

Community Conversation with our Senior Citizens

Since 2013, Lakota Local Schools has hosted frequent gatherings designed to build a relationship with residents on a variety of topics. The conversations help us find common ground on our core values around education, and provide an opportunity to confront and resolve difficult issues in education. Sometimes a specific topic is featured, one that demands community input; at other times, specific groups in our community are invited to attend and share their viewpoints.

For our upcoming Community Conversation, we’d like to learn more from our senior citizens – what education issues do they feel are most pertinent, what ideas do they have for addressing such needs and more. All Lakota area senior citizens are invited to join us Thursday, Sept. 22 from 10 – 11:30 a.m. at the West Chester Activity Center for a conversation and the opportunity to share their voice.

For more information, please contact Lauren Boettcher at lauren.boettcher@lakotaonline.com or (513) 874-5505.

Community Foundation Offers Aid to Student Athletes

band members will go door-to-door through West Chester and Liberty Township neighborhoods on Tag Day, Sept. 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to request tax-deductible donations for their respective band booster programs.

For further information on contributing a tax-deductible donation to the Lakota East and Lakota West Upbeat Clubs, please visit their websites at lakotaeastbands.org and lakotawestbands.org.

Volley for the Cure

Lakota West girls volleyball will be hosting Princeton High School for the 10th annual "Volley for the Cure" event at Lakota West High School on Tuesday, Sept. 13.

In addition to exciting volleyball action, there will be games with prizes, split the pot, silent auctions, raffles, mystery boxes, giveaways, and a wonderful sampling of food and drink from local vendors.

Matches begin with the freshman team playing at 4:30, J.V. at 5:30, a faculty “fun” match at 6:30, and varsity at 7 p.m.

Mammography Van

Sept. 30 Deadline for Athletic Participation Grants

The Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty is offering Lakota families assistance with their children's athletic participation fees. By applying, families will be considered for a grant that would cover half of their athletic participation fees.

The grant is funded by private donations and available to students in grades 7-12. A limited number of grants are available and only one per student will be awarded in a school year.

The deadline for consideration of the Community Foundation grant for Winter sports is Friday, Sept. 30.

[Click here for more information and to download the application.](#)

Gifted 101: Sessions for Grades K-6 and 7-12

Come hear about gifted identification, Lakota gifted services at each grade level, options for acceleration or advancement, as well as parent resources at the upcoming Gifted 101 sessions.

A program for parents of students in grades K-6 will be held on Thursday, Sept. 15 from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Lakota Central Office. A session for parents of students in grades 7-12 will take place on Thursday, Sept. 22 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Lakota East High School.

For questions, please contact our Gifted Services Department at 513 644-1186 or email giftedservices@lakotaonline.com.

Future Hawks Night September 16

Calling all future Thunderhawks! Join us for the Future Hawks Night at the Lakota East Varsity Football game on September 16. The Thunderhawks will be taking on the Oak Hills Bull Dogs at 7 p.m. Community members are invited for a pre-game celebration behind the stadium prior to kick-off.

The Mercy Health mobile mammography unit will be at Lakota's Central Office Thursday, September 15, from 1-3:30 p.m. Sessions are open to all and Lakota staff, families and the general community are invited to participate. Please call (513) 686-3300 to schedule your appointment in advance.

Heroes of Character

The Character Council of Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky and the City of Character, Hamilton, Ohio are accepting nominations for their "Heroes of Character" honor. The group will recognize both students (grades K-12) and adults from the Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana area who demonstrate outstanding character. [Click here to view the nomination forms](#) that are due by Sept. 30.

Student Fee Holiday

Lakota has introduced a three-month student fee holiday, which eliminates the \$2.00 convenience fee typically required of any online payments for student fees or lunch accounts. As both an incentive to remit payment early and promote the convenience of online payment, the student fee holiday will extend through Oct.

Starting at 5:30 p.m., our East-Side Early Childhood and Elementary Schools will be providing music, games and give-a-ways for some pre-game fun! At 6:10 p.m., students have the opportunity to gather with their school community for a Future Hawks parade around the Hawks Nest. Students will join the award-winning Marching Thunderhawks on the field to form a tunnel as the Thunderhawks rush onto the field. Students will then be returned to their families to enjoy the game and amazing half-time show. Don't miss this opportunity to show your East-side pride!

Free admission to pre-game festivities and the football game for all students K-6 attending East-side Early Childhood and Elementary Schools; general admission fee of \$7 for adults and students 7-12.

31. [Click here](#) for more information about student fees.

Online Resources for Parents

Applications like Info Center, the new Lakota Online and Canvas join the list of parent tools offered by the district to keep parents informed and engaged in their child's learning experience. A new page on Lakota's website, accessible at lakotaonline.com/parents, catalogues the many available online parent resources, their purpose and if applicable, any relevant mobile apps. Any new parent tools will be added to this one-stop shop, so please bookmark this page for quick and easy access.

Photo of the Week



Union Holds Annual Grandparent's Day Luncheon

On Sept. 8 and 9, Union Elementary held one of its favorite events: Grandparent's Day. The school invited grandparents to join their grandchildren for lunch and recess. Sixth-grader **Ava Dittus** is shown here enjoying the day with her visitors.

Upcoming Events

Event Spotlights

- [Monday, September 12](#)
Lakota Board of Education Meeting (Central Office)
7 p.m.
- [Wednesday, September 14](#)
"Career-Focused Education" Community Conversation with Butler Tech

Lakota In The News

Community Coverage

Hamilton Journal-News
[Vogelmann: Lakota leadership change has little impact on operations](#)

Today's Pulse
[State lawmaker wants to see school start after Labor Day](#)

Latest E-Flyers

What's News 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

7 p.m.

- [Thursday, September 15](#)
**Gifted 101 for Grades K-6,
presented by Lakota Gifted
Services**
7-8 p.m.
- [Thursday, September 22](#) **Community Conversation
with Our Senior Citizens**
7 p.m.
- [Thursday, September 22](#)
**Gifted 101 for Grades 7-12,
presented by Lakota Gifted
Services**
6:30-7:30 p.m.
- [Monday, September 26](#)
**Lakota Board of Education
Meeting (Central Office)**
7 p.m.

[See Full
Calendar](#)

of all of the new district and community-sponsored flyers for this week.

District-Sponsored:

- [Lakota East Wrestling Club \(Grades K-6\)](#)

Community-Sponsored Flyers:

- [Upward Basketball & Cheer Registration](#)
- [Liberty Township Fall Festival \(Sept. 24\)](#)
- [Children's Theatre of Mason Classes Start Sept. 24 \(Ages 5-16\)](#)

To view all of the current flyers, please [click here to go to Lakota's E-Flyers page](#).

[All Current
E-Flyers](#)

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