

Instilling Pride. Igniting Passion. Infinite Possibilities.

September 1, 2016

Leading the Way

Featured Presentations



Lakota Busing: Smooth Start for One of District's Largest Operations

When you're talking 12,000 students on 143 bus routes over a combined 10,000 miles each day, there's a lot of room for error. Add in other uncontrollable variables like road construction, weather, and traffic, and getting students where they need to be, and when they need to be there, is a tall order.

But Lakota's transportation team, powered by contracted service provider Petermann, rose to the challenge this school year. This was a big contributor to the smooth start to school that the district prepares for all summer long.

"Despite the magnitude of challenges that comes with this type of operation in a district our size, bus routes this school year have run mostly on time and with very few operational glitches that might throw off the schedules communicated to parents," said Lakota's Chief Operating Officer Chris Passarge.

That's especially impressive when one considers all the different factors weighing into the final routes that get published to parents and are run daily by drivers.

[Read more...](#)

Bus Drivers Put Safety Skills to the Test

It's one of the most high-pressure jobs in education - school bus driver. Imagine the responsibility of ensuring the safety of a bus full of students, not only watching your own driving, but also monitoring what other drivers are doing. Thus safety is an ongoing focus, leading to an international safety competition hosted by the National School Transportation Association.

The School Bus Driver International Safety Competition invites drivers from the United States and Canada to compete for top honors and recognition within

Running Program Culminates in Optimist Run

Running Program Open to Lakota Students Grades K-6

The Lakota junior high cross country teams are again hosting their Elementary Cross Country Series geared for Lakota students in grades K-6.

The running program includes one mile races at Plains Junior on Monday, Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. and at Hopewell Junior on Monday, Sept. 26 at 6:30 p.m. These one-mile fun runs will give out medals to the top 15 boys and top 15 girls. There is no cost.

These races will lead up to the 1 1/2 mile 'Run for Youth' race sponsored by the Lakota Optimist Club on Saturday, Oct. 8 at 9 a.m.

Although this race is designed for Lakota students in grades K-6, parents and others are welcome to register and participate. Only K-6 runners will receive awards. Runners are encouraged to register early to receive their t-shirts on race day.

The series grows every year, with thousands of Lakota elementary students participating over the years. Another benefit: proceeds from the Optimist's run are reinvested in youth programs within the Lakota community.

This year, the 24th annual event, the race will benefit Cincinnati Children's Hospital - Camp Njoy for children with cancer; Reach Out Lakota; and Midpointe Library's summer reading program. In addition, the proceeds will enable the Lakota Optimists to provide scholarships for a senior from Lakota East and Lakota West.

[Click here](#) for details on the Lakota Elementary cross country series and [click here](#) for the Optimist's Run flyer and registration form.

their industry. The event begins with a written test, then contestants get behind the wheel of a bus to put their driving skills to the test in one of three categories—conventional, transit or small bus.

[Read more](#) to see how Lori Robertson, a bus driver for Lakota students, fared in this international competition.

Around Lakota

School Spotlights

Lakota Fields Several Teams in National Technology Competition

Liberty Junior Students Designed Catapult System, Placed 3rd



Liberty Junior recently received notification that three former students v place in a national competition, thanks to their problem-solving, creativi engineering design efforts. The students - who all are now freshmen at East – received their honor in the catapult design category at the Techn Student Association National Convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

Alex Fernholz, Hanna Everding and Abby Niehaus competed with technology students from nearly every state in the country, as more than middle and high school students competed in over 65 STEM-based competi To qualify, teams had to first win at local and then state levels; at the national level, competition involved writing essays, making a presentation and developing solutions to hands-on scenarios centered on the theme “Engineering the Invention.”

The Lakota team’s entry included the development of a technical portfolio and a functioning catapult system. They were entered into the competition by Butler Tech Automation/Robotics teacher Brian Ruby.

“We are so proud of this team and how they have shown a winning combination of technical skill and problem-solving,” states Eric Baur, principal of Liberty Junior.

He adds, “They are to be commended for their leadership in incorporating STEAM components – science, technology, engineering, applied arts

Alex Fernholz, Abby Niehaus and Hanna Everding won third place in the Technology Student Association’s national competition, held late this summer in Nashville. The Liberty Junior team’s entry included a technical portfolio and a functioning catapult system.



and mathematics – to their personal growth and education. Their exacting attention to detail is evident of the TSA motto of ‘Learning to lead in a technical world.’”

That wasn't Lakota's only team doing well at the competition as Hopewell Junior students **Michelle Antiri, Will Biggane, Ally Heitz-Britton, Makenna Hyams, John Pachuk** and **Haley Searcy** finished in fourth place nationally for Inventions and Innovations. This team entered a “Shark Tank” style competition where they had to present ideas and prototypes to a panel of judges. This team created a product called ACT Pack, which is a care package that can be purchased online and sent to teens struggling with anxiety or depression. The box included items such as a journal, candy, stress balls, and even a CD of music that they composed and recorded themselves.

And a second Hopewell Junior team, comprised of **Isaac Michelson and Frank Aiden**, finished in the top 10 nationally for STEM animation. They created a computer animation to demonstrate how GPS works and how it relates to the components of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

Michelle Antiri, Will Biggane, Ally Heitz-Britton, Makenna Hyams, John Pachuk and **Haley Searcy** and finished in 4th place nationally for Inventions and Innovations. This team entered a “Shark Tank” style competition where they had to present ideas and prototypes to a panel of judges. This team created a product called ACT Pack, which is a care package that can be purchased online and sent to teens struggling with anxiety or depression. The box included items such as a journal, candy, stress balls, and even a CD of music that they composed and recorded themselves.

Isaac Michelson and Frank Aiden from Hopewell Junior finished in the top 10 nationally for STEM animation. They created a computer animation to demonstrate how GPS works and how it relates to STEM components of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. You can [view the video here](#).

Other Lakota students who qualified for TSA Nationals include: **Evvy Beaman**, Hopewell Junior; **Austin Riep, Kayla Scanlon, Corinne Zucker, Karaline Abramo**, Lakota West Freshman; **Jackie Elia**, all from Liberty Junior; **Jennifer Liu and Audrey Rush**, Lakota West Freshman; and **James Wright**, Lakota West.

Hopewell Junior's Team A designed a "ACT Pack" - a care package to help teens struggling with anxiety or depression. Pictured below are John Pachuk, Ally Heitz-Britton, Makenna Hyams, Haley Searcy and Will Biggane with chapter advisor Todd Hummer.

Federally-Funded Summer Feeding Program Helped Meet Local Need

Converted Buses Provided Free Meals to Eligible Children



Federal grants allowed Lakota Schools to transport and serve more than 15,000 nutritious meals to area youth, taking the food out into the neighborhoods via two converted buses that otherwise would have gone to auction due to their age.

The program, which is a collaboration between the Faith Alliance, the Butler County Success program and Lakota, is fully funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Any Lakota student up to 18 years old (21 if disabled) can participate, with the intent being to help those students on Lakota's free and reduced lunch program get proper nutrition over the summer, too.

"During the summer break, many youth go hungry or lack proper nutrition," explains Lakota's Child Nutrition Director Chris Burkhardt. "While we didn't meet our projections, we know that the summer food program does make a huge difference for many of in the community. I'm especially pleased we were able to reach kids who might not have been able to participate due to lack of transportation."

The mobile meals meant that several sites could be added, with the free lunch program offered at seven community locations. Previously, there was one site that helped about 100 children, totaling just over 3,000 meals.

Another plus: by rehabbing the buses, the program expanded to include hot meals, for many of the kids their heartiest meal each day. [Click here](#) for a recent article on the program by Michael Clark in the Journal-News.

"We've learned a lot this summer and are already incorporating those improvements into the program for next summer," states Burkhardt. "We're proud of how the program has evolved over the two years that Lakota has been involved and look forward to continuing the good work begun by the Faith Alliance several years ago."

The educational activities and tips for healthier habits were just as popular with many local youth as the free nutritional meals. More than 15,000 meals were served over the summer as part of the grant-supported program.

Lakota West's "Volley for the Cure" Set for Sept. 13

Annual Event Has Raised More Than \$90,000 for Breast Cancer Research



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. To date, Lakota West girls volleyball has raised over \$90,000 for Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

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. During the event, the Atrium Medical Center will be on hand to answer any questions and provide materials to educate and raise awareness in the fight against breast cancer.

The Premier Health Atrium Medical Center mammography van will again be available this year. The van will be conveniently located in front of Lakota West from 2:30 – 6:30 p.m. on the day of the event. **Please call (844) 453-4199 to schedule your mammogram (registration required).** It only takes about 15 minutes and could save your life!

The teams will be honoring those affected by breast cancer by placing their names on a “Wall of Honor” on Main Street. Survivors and families of those who have lost loved ones due to breast cancer are invited to attend. If you or someone you know has been affected by breast cancer and would like to attend, please contact [Kristin Henley](mailto:kristin.henley@lakotaonline.com) at kristin.henley@lakotaonline.com for complimentary tickets and a free Volley for the Cure t-shirt.

"There is a very authentic family/community feeling that is present at Lakota West during Volley for the Cure," said Shelley Kaufman, media relations chair for the event. "The survivor room captures a warmth of feeling secure and honored where as the Main Street festivities of raffles, games and food create the buzz of excitement and fun! The period of time before the varsity is announced is by far the most touching as the true human spirit in those battling breast cancer are united and escorted by name to the American flag for the National Anthem."

[View All District News](#)

New Business

Announcements & Opportunities

Opt-In for District, School Text Messages Today

Don't Wait Until Opt-In Day Sept. 9

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.

On The Radar

Quick Links & Reminders

Lakota No Longer Collecting Fees for Butler Tech Courses

Effective September 1, 2016, Lakota Local will no longer collect fees for Butler Tech satellite courses taken in Lakota buildings. Instead, fees will now be collected directly by the classroom teacher.

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.**

To opt-in your mobile devices to receive Lakota text messages, the process is simple:

- From each mobile device, text the letter **Y** to the short code **67587**.

Important Note: The device from which you're opting in must be among those contact numbers already registered in your Lakota Info Center account. To add a new number or check current ones, [click here](#) to sign in or sign up for a new account, using your Lakota email address (staff) or your primary HAC email address (parents) as your username.

- **If we have a mobile phone number for you on file AND you have not already opted-in by Friday, Sept. 9**, or Lakota's Text Opt-In Day, you will receive the following text from 67587 requesting you to opt-in to receive important informational text messages from your child's school or district:

"Lakota Local Schools messages. Reply Y to confirm, HELP 4 info. Msg&data rates may apply. Msg freq varies. schoolmessenger.com/tm"

Community members are still welcome to sign up for Lakota notifications, including phone, email and text messages, via our self sign-up community portal. [Click here to learn more about setting up or accessing an account for Lakota's notification system.](#)

Please direct any questions and concerns to webmaster@lakotaonline.com.

Gifted 101 presented by Lakota Gifted Services

Is your child newly identified as "gifted"?

Are you interested in learning more about the services and resources Lakota offers gifted students, especially those in the early grades?

According to Butler Tech, Lakota was one of their only districts who provided this service.

"We continue to fully support the Butler Tech programs within our schools, such as the numerous STEAM courses," states Jenni Logan, Lakota Treasurer.

"However, we feel this new arrangement simplifies and expedites the financial path as the fees will now stay within the Butler Tech system instead of routing through the Lakota district."

Butler Tech will also be communicating with parents so they are aware of this change and to clarify fee schedules and other pertinent information.

Tag Day on Sept. 10

Annual Fundraiser for Lakota Bands

Lakota East and Lakota West High School 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.

Tag Day is the biggest annual fundraiser for Lakota East and Lakota West High School band booster programs.

Join Jenifer Lodovico, Director of Gifted Services, for her presentation on "Gifted 101" to be held Thursday, Sept. 15 from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Lakota Central Office, 5572 Princeton Road. You'll hear about gifted identification, Lakota gifted services at each grade level, options for acceleration or advancement, as well as parent resources. This program is primarily for parents of students grades K-6.

For questions, please contact our Gifted Services Department at 513 644-1186 or email to giftedservices@lakotaonline.com or click on the links below:

[Gifted Services Web Page](#)

[Parent Booster Group – Lakota Leads](#)

Enrollment Numbers, Capacity Spike for Lakota Preschool

Spaces Still Available for 2016-17 School Year

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 programming for even more students.

The new model allows the Head Start program to operate independent from Lakota's preschool program, and using a curriculum that suits the unique academic, social and emotional needs of Head Start students.

As a result, administrators and teachers redesigned Lakota's preschool curriculum to better meet the wide range of needs among Lakota's preschool learners. 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.

All proceeds benefit and go directly to each high school's Upbeat Club, the Lakota East and Lakota West band booster organizations.

The collected funds go toward uniform purchase, maintenance and other items beyond what the school district supplies.

On Tag Day, band members wearing band apparel will knock on community doors. On-the-spot donors receive a "tag" (tax-deductible receipt). If no one is at home, band members will leave packets of Tag Day information about how to contribute after Sept. 10.

Between Lakota East and Lakota West High Schools, grades 9-12, there are 10 concert bands, six jazz bands and two large Class AA marching bands. In the many band-related events in which both high schools' bands compete, Lakota East and Lakota West consistently earn Superior ratings.

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.

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.

In fact, 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.

"Heroes of Character" Nominations Due Sept. 30

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. Winning adults will be recognized at the "Heroes of Character" Annual Celebration Dinner on May 15, 2017, and winning students will be recognized at a celebration dinner on March 15, 2017.

[Click here to view the nomination forms](#). Nominations are due by Sept. 30.

Photo of the Week



Ice Cream Social Welcomes New Families

Lakota school board members, principals and other leaders made up the welcoming crew at Lakota's ice cream social offered to new Lakota families Wednesday night. The event, hosted by Lakota's COMMUNITY Ambassadors, drew more than 650 Lakota families to the school district. Besides a meet and greet with staff and other new families, tunes from the Lakota West jazz band inspired some dancing, while face-painting and a table entertained others. Lakota's Child Nutrition Department provided ice cream and all the fixings.

In total, Lakota welcomed more than 1,500 new students to the school district this year. "For so many reasons, it's really important that our families feel connected to the school community," said Lakota Superintendent I. Vogelmann. "That's especially true of our newest students who are still getting to know the people and all the resources available to them through Lakota."

Upcoming Events

Event Spotlights

- [Friday, September 2](#)
**No school for students;
Professional Development Day for
staff**

Lakota In The News

Community Coverage

Journal-News
[Lakota's mobile summer meal program will continue](#)

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

- [Monday, September 5](#)
Labor Day - No School; District closed
- Friday, September 9, 2016
Future Firebird Night for West feeder ECS and elementary schools
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
- [Monday, September 12](#)
Lakota Board of Education Meeting - Central Office
7 p.m.
- [Wednesday, September 14](#)
"Career-Focused Education" Community Conversation with Butler Tech
7 p.m.
- [Thursday, September 15](#)
Gifted 101, presented by Lakota Gifted Services
7-8 p.m.
- [Thursday, September 22](#) **Community Conversation with Our Senior Citizens**
7 p.m.
- [Monday, September 26](#) **Lakota Board of Education Meeting - Central Office**
7 p.m.

current opportunities. Here is a listing of all of the new district and community-sponsored flyers for this week.

Community-Sponsored Flyers:

- [Elks Free Throw Contest - Nov. 5 \(Ages 8-13\)](#)
- [Girl Scout Parent Information Nights](#)
- [Gold Medal Archery Classes \(Ages 7 & up\)](#)
- [Grace Chapel HisPins Archery Classes \(Ages 9-16\)](#)
- [Heroes of Character Nomination Forms - Due Sept. 30](#)
- [Lakota Optimists "Run for Youth" - Oct. 8](#)
- [Learn to Shoot Archery Clases at Grace Chapel \(All ages\)](#)
- [September Community Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Super Saturday Program \(Ages 4-14\)](#)
- [Thunderbird Basketball Sign-up \(Grades 1-6\)](#)

**All Current
E-Flyers**

Lakota Central Office

5572 Princeton Road

Liberty Township, OH 45011-9726

Phone: (513) 874-5505

Lakota@lakotaonline.com

