

**Instilling Pride. Igniting Passion. Infinite Possibilities.**

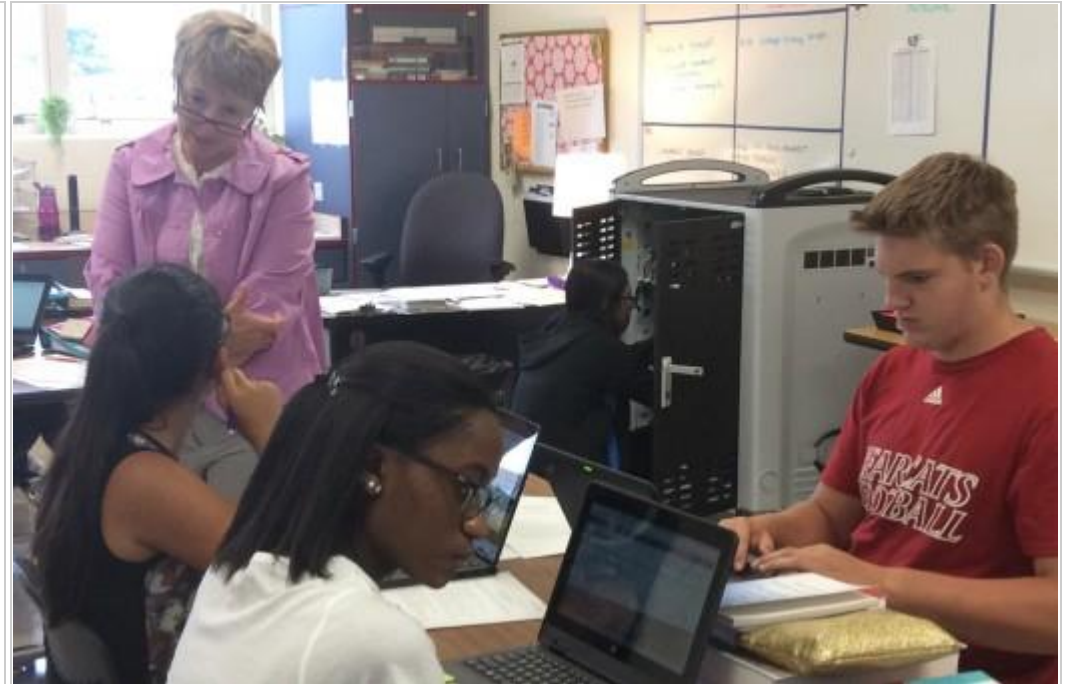
August 26, 2016

## Leading the Way

*Featured Presentation*



*His excitement evident, first place photo contest winner Adam Samir faces his first day as a kindergarten student at Shawnee Early Childhood School.*



*Mary Mahoney utilizes a variety of technology, including the new Learning Management System, in her Honors English course at Lakota West.*

## Three Winners in Lakota's Annual Back-to-School Photo Contest

### *Almost 400 Photo Submissions Celebrate New Year*

From posed shots to candid snaps, Lakota's annual "first day of school" photo contest shows the excitement and anticipation our students and families feel on the first day. From anxious kindergarteners to smiling students (and parents), and even a few sad family pets, the photos include a wide range of images.

With 392 total entries, Lakota's back-to-school photo contest was a great district-wide celebration of the new school year. Students, staff and even some parents put on display their eagerness for a new start.

By popular vote, three photos were the most "liked" in this year's contest and the winners of new spirit wear from the Lakota high school of their choice.

**Adam Samir**, a kindergarten student at Shawnee Early Childhood School, claimed first place with 363 likes (above).



The second place photo received 250 likes (left) and shows **Rhea Misha** getting ready for her first day of kindergarten at Creekside Early Childhood School.

**Braylon Flowers'** photo took third place with 153 likes (below). He is a first-grader at Liberty Early Childhood School.

Rounding out the top five are two photos that tied, with 151 likes each. At Wyandot Early Childhood School, first-grader **Alyssa Werling** gave her new

## Lakota's New Learning Management System Expands to More Classes this School Year

Lakota's partnership with Canvas, a learning management system used by K-12 districts and universities nationwide, is bringing hundreds of Lakota teachers and students a single platform for expanded digital learning.

"Technology's impact on student learning has exploded over the last few years. While this impact is far-reaching, it can also impede instructional progress if we're trying to use too many tools all at the same time," said Chief Technology Officer Todd Wesley.

"Canvas allows our students to access instructional information and digital resources at any time and from a single location for multiple courses. It also gives our parents the ability to partner with teachers and observe the process in a way that supports their student's progress."

A successful pilot of this levy promise took place in Lakota high schools at the start of last school year, and expanded into the junior high schools last winter. Students experienced the added benefit of such features as supplemental digital content and assignments, a course calendar, student-to-teacher and student-to-student collaboration tools, alerts and more. Students, staff and parents will continue to see just how powerful this new tool is, especially as teachers continue their training on new features and applications for student learning.

[Click here for the full story.](#)

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teacher Nancy Church the traditional “apple for the teacher” while her little brother Lucas plays in the foreground. And the Martinez kids pose for one final shot before first-grader Malachi and kindergartener Elliani leave little sister Zoe on their way to Shawnee Early Childhood School. You can view these and many other submissions in the [complete photo contest gallery](#).

Thank you to everyone who submitted a photo or cast your vote for this year’s contest.

## New District Website Features Easy Access to Growing List of Online Parent Resources

Lakota continues to expand its parent resources to support student success. 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](http://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.

## Around Lakota

*More News & School Spotlights*

## Lakota to Ensure Strong Leadership During Superintendent's Medical Leave

*Lakota Veteran, Assistant Superintendent Vogelmann to Serve as Acting Superintendent*



The Lakota Local Schools Board of Education will accept the superintendent’s request for medical leave to ensure that the students and staff of one of Ohio’s largest school districts are well supported and that learning will continue during her absence.

Superintendent Dr. Karen Mantia’s request for Family Medical / Medical Leave, beginning Wednesday, August 24, was approved at a special board meeting Wednesday, Aug. 24. The board also officially appointed Assistant Superintendent Robb Vogelmann to serve as Acting Superintendent during her absence.

“Lakota Local Schools is one of Ohio’s top school districts. We plan to see that tradition of excellence continue,” stated Board of Education President Lynda O’Connor. “While it is unfortunate that Dr. Mantia must take a leave of absence, we are fortunate to have strong leaders to continue our progress and tackle what challenges lie ahead of

us. Our focus will continue to be on providing a quality education for our students, supporting our staff in their work, and building upon the great relationship we have with our community.”

Mantia was hired to lead the district beginning on August 1, 2011. In October 2015, the board extended her five-year contract through July 31, 2017.

“The board wishes Dr. Mantia all the best during her medical leave. She has been a strong leader for our community and our schools,” noted O’Connor. “We have great confidence in Robb Vogelmann. His familiarity with Lakota, as both a long-time parent and staff leader, demonstrates his investment in our community and our schools. Mr. Vogelmann has the skills to step into this leadership role and continue moving the district forward.”

## Lakota East's Branson, Fulmer Strive for Top Scouting Honors

### *Service Projects Address Local Literacy Needs*



*East freshman Nick Branson is earning his Eagle Scout honor with the creation of a Little Free Library, in collaboration with the Walter Jo. Long Sports Complex.*

Two Lakota East students, **Nick Branson**, a freshman, and East senior **Kate Fulmer**, have several things in common.

They’re completing the requirements for the highest ranks awarded in Scouting. Nick is working toward his Eagle Scout and Kate is completing her Girl Scout Gold Award. And, even more interesting is the fact that both have decided to focus on supporting a similar need in our community - literacy for all children. They’re both doing it, in part, through something called the Little Free Library initiative.

The Little Free Library promotes literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges worldwide. There are nearly 40,000 Little Free Library book exchanges around the world, sharing millions of books annually.

Locally, the interest for such convenient books is growing, thus the purpose for Kate and Nick's projects.

For Nick, this involves a partnership with the Walter J. Long Sports Complex to make books available to families attending sports events in our community. He's building the boxes in honor of Jeffrey Hayden and actually got involved in the program after meeting Jeffrey's grandmother and hearing that he shared with Jeffrey a love for both



*East senior Kate Fulmer and East freshman Nick Fulmer were recognized for their community contributions at the Aug. 22 Lakota Board of Education meeting.*

sports and reading. Naturally, most of the books in these little libraries are sports-themed.

For Kate, her work has been two-pronged. In addition to providing buddy reading opportunities as part of a summer literacy program hosted by the Faith Alliance, she too created a Little Free Library site, which is now active and serves both Woodland Elementary and Liberty Junior schools.

[Click here to learn more about the Little Free Library.](#) Nick was featured in the [July edition of West Chester & Liberty Lifestyle](#) and Kate in a [recent Journal-News article](#). Both were honored for their work by the Lakota Board of Education at the Aug. 22 school board meeting.

## **Hopewell Junior's Cafeteria Makeover Helps Flow, Ambiance**

### *Shawnee ECS Students Also Benefit From Summer Renovations*



There are many logistics involved in feeding a school full of children, including ensuring the students receive their meal in a timely fashion while striving to maintain a simple, yet efficient traffic flow. Add in the need for noise control and it can be a challenge.

That's why Hopewell Junior's cafeteria underwent some renovations over the summer. By adding a new wall between the kitchen and cafeteria, the school improved not only the function, but also the atmosphere.

"These changes are benefitting our students in several ways," said Jeff Rouff, Hopewell Junior principal. "In addition to improving the ease in which our students move through the cafeteria, the updates are also aesthetically pleasing

and encourage healthy lifestyle habits. We're happy to launch the new year with these renovations."

According to Chris Burkhardt, director of Child Nutrition, Shawnee Early Childhood School is also enjoying similar changes to its cafeteria, namely through serving line renovations and updates.

[View All District News](#)

## New Business

*Announcements & Opportunities*

### Ice Cream Social for New Families Coming Up Aug. 31

*Voice of America Park Event is Great Opportunity to Meet and Mingle*

For those families new to Lakota Schools this year, the district is offering an opportunity to meet other new families and get to know the Lakota community a little better.

All new families are invited to the annual ice cream social on Wednesday, Aug. 31 from 5-8 p.m. The gathering will take place in the gazebo at Voice of America Park, located at 7850 VOA Drive.

Make connections with district staff, families and community organizations to learn about what resources and opportunities exist, at their school and all around the district, to help students get off to a good start at Lakota. All family members are welcome to come and enjoy ice cream sundaes, games, activities and live music, compliments of our high school band students.

The host group, Lakota's CommUNITY Ambassadors, works within our schools to build stronger communities and increase parents' involvement in their child's education.

## On The Radar

*Quick Links & Reminders*

### Remember to Sign Up for Lakota's New Communication System

If you haven't had a chance, be sure to take a few minutes to set up your notification account and select your preferences for Lakota's new mass notification system. This system delivers important school and district news and announcements via email, phone and text message. We encourage parents, staff and community members to take full advantage of the platform, which provides these important benefits:

- **Customize your notification preferences.** Choose which phone numbers and email addresses should receive which

## Lakota to Host Mercy Health Mobile Mammography Unit Sept. 15



According to Mercy Health, 15 minutes could save a woman's life. That's the approximate time it takes for a mammogram and, thanks to a collaboration between Mercy and Lakota's Wellness Committee, it's even more convenient.

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.

Mammograms are covered by most health plans, and those attending are encouraged to verify that Mercy Health and The Jewish Hospital are in-network providers with their insurance carriers. Financial assistance may be available for those without insurance or who have a high deductible; contact Mercy Health at the phone number above for more information.

## Future Firebird Night Sept. 9

The Lakota West Athletic Boosters invites all Early Childhood and Elementary Future Firebirds to the upcoming Friday, Sept. 9 Future Firebird Night from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. with the Parade of Champions immediately following.

At this annual event, West feeder early childhood and elementary students are encouraged to come out prior to the first home game and celebrate what it means to be a Firebird! Admission to the varsity football game is FREE but ONLY during the Future Firebird event and parade. To receive free admission to the game, all early childhood and elementary students must either participate during the pre-game activities or parade.

Free pre-game activities will run from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. and will include inflatables, games, giveaways and much more. The Parade of Champions will begin at 6:30 p.m.

types of communications – emergency, weather-related or general school/district news and announcements.

- **No more annual updates.** For current parents, guardians and staff, the new system automatically recognizes your associated school(s), grade level(s) and even language preference, and will update as this information changes in our databases.
- **Manage your sign-ups from a single platform.** While we still ask that parents and guardians keep their information in Home Access Center updated for one-on-one communication needs, all mass notification sign-ups happen in one location.

[Click here](#) to set up your notification account and maintain your preferences.

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## Student Fee Holiday for Online Payments

and all attendees are invited to join their buildings to proudly march around the West track.

[Click here](#) for the flyer or contact Kathy Cook at [bkaecook@aol.com](mailto:bkaecook@aol.com) for more information.

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. The fee has always been intended to defray the processing cost incurred by the credit card payment system.

As both an incentive to remit payment early and promote the convenience of online payment, the student fee holiday will extend through Oct. 31.

[Click here](#) for more information about student fees, including 2016-2017 fee levels, extracurricular program fees, and credit flexibility.

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### **Free Microsoft Office Suite for Students**

Lakota continues to offer the most used digital productivity suite in the world, Microsoft Office, at no cost to our students or Lakota Schools. This is available to students in grades 2-12 is a complement to Lakota's "Bring Your Own Technology" initiative.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## **PHOTO OF THE WEEK**



## Lakota East Scout's Memorial Honors Firefighters



A new memorial honoring firefighters was recently dedicated outside West Chester Township fire headquarters, thanks to the effort of **Alden "AJ" Hanmer**, a Lakota East sophomore.

Hanmer, a member of Boy Scout Troop 974 in West Chester, built the memorial as part of his Eagle Scout project. The memorial was dedicated to the West Chester Fire Department Aug. 15.

Pictured left, AJ (middle) poses with his father Mark (left), a West Chester firefighter, and West Chester Fire Chief Rick Prinz (right).

More details are available on the [West Chester Township website](#).

### Upcoming Events

#### Event Spotlights

- [Wednesday, August 31, 2016](#)  
New Student Ice Cream Social  
5-8 p.m.
- [Friday, September 2, 2016](#)  
No school for students;

### Lakota In The News

#### Community Coverage

#### Journal-News

- [Lakota board grants Mantia leave, promotes assistant to top job](#)
- [Lakota revamps school district website](#)

### 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

Professional Development Day for staff

- [Monday, September 5, 2016](#)  
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.
- [Wednesday, September 14, 2016](#)  
"Career-Focused Education"  
Community Conversation with Butler Tech  
7 p.m.
- [Thursday, September 15, 2016](#)  
Gifted 101, presented by Lakota Gifted Services  
7-8 p.m.

[See Full Calendar](#)

- [Lakota East senior creates free library](#)
- [Lakota educators embrace presidential campaigns as teachable moments](#)

#### Cincinnati.com

- [Lakota superintendent asks for leave](#)

#### WCPO.com

- [Lakota Local Schools Superintendent Karen Mantia taking family medical leave](#)

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:

- [Firebird Cheer Youth Clinic flyer](#)
- [Firebird Cheer Youth Clinic Registration form](#)
- [Lakota East Men's Golf Panera Fundraiser 9/13](#)
- [Lakota West Arts & Crafts Show 10/1 & 2](#)
- [Lakota West Band Tag Day Fundraiser 9/10](#)

#### Community-Sponsored:

- [Thunderbird Youth Basketball Sign-Up](#)
- [Perfection Gymnastics Open House 8/27](#)
- [Acting Up's Addams Family Show Sept. 23-25](#)
- [I9 Fall Basketball Registration](#)
- [Fitton Center fall class flyer](#)
- [Fitton Center fall class scholarship application](#)
- [Boy Scout sign-up](#)

[All Current E-Flyers](#)

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