

Instilling Pride. Igniting Passion. Infinite Possibilities.

August 20, 2016

Featured Stories



First Day Photo Contest Underway



All Staff Cookout and Wellness Expo

Contest Voting Ends Aug. 24 at Noon

More than 250 photos have been sent in so far in this year's "A New Year, A New You" back-to-school Facebook photo contest. [Click here to see all of the fun photos](#) and to vote for your favorites (simply click on the like button to cast your vote for a photo). The owners of the three photos with the most likes by Aug. 24 at noon will receive a collection of Lakota East or West spirit items.

There's still time to send in your photo too.

Here's How to Participate:

1. Whether you're a student, a parent or a staff member, determine what part of your first day you want to capture and share with others.
2. Submit your photo via a private message on [Lakota's Facebook page](#) or by email to webmaster@lakotaonline.com.
3. Wait for it to be posted to Lakota's Facebook photo gallery, then share it with your friends to rack up the "likes," or votes.

Thanks to everyone for sending in your cute, creative and fun photos celebrating the first day back to school. We'll share the winning photos in next week's newsletter.

The district's first annual Wellness Expo, designed to encourage healthy lifestyles for Lakota employees, was a huge success. An addition to the all-staff kickoff, the event was a great way for employees to pick up some tips for healthier living.

More than 40 local businesses and organizations were on hand to share information about exercise, proper nutrition, prevention practices and financial well-being. The event was hosted by the Lakota Wellness Committee, which supports wellness and healthy living among students and staff throughout the year.

Several charitable partners were also present, including the Boys & Girls Club of West Chester/Liberty, Caring Community Collaborative (C3), , Reach Out Lakota and the United Way of Butler County. Employees were able to make financial gifts there or sign up for payroll deduction in support of these groups.

Thanks to the many community partners who attended the event and for helping Lakota staff live healthier.

Around Lakota

School Spotlights

First Day Fanfare at Hopewell Junior School



On their first day back, Hopewell Junior students were greeted with a fanfare of applause and high fives.

Community members joined some district staff for the early morning celebration that formed a tunnel of local support for incoming seventh- and eighth-graders. The welcoming crew greeted waves of students as they stepped off the bus, offering words of encouragement and support at the start of a new school year.

"It's a simple thing, but it sends a strong message," said Angie Brown, leader of Lakota's CommUNITY Ambassadors, a group of volunteers who work within our schools to build stronger communities and increase parents' engagement. "We wanted them to know that there are a lot of people out in our community rooting for them this year."

For much of the crowd, Hopewell was a stop on their way into the office that day. It was a great way to start their morning and show students their support, they said.

Adena Elementary Celebrates New Playground



Only a thin ribbon held the students back and, with the snip of scissors, they were off and running, eager to check out their new playground equipment.

Adena Elementary School held a ribbon-cutting celebration Monday so students and families could get a sneak peek at the new equipment, complete with plenty of time for hands-on playing by the children present. The section represents phase 1 of the playground's rehab, with more to come as the PTO raises funds.

"What a way to get students excited about the start of a new school year - open a brand new section of playground, thanks to our PTO," says Jodi Leichman, Adena principal. "We are so thankful for the PTO's support and leadership of this project. We've already had several comments from our students and their parents about the equipment."

The celebration was held in conjunction with the school's open house. "It was a great way to open this new area and to publicly thank our PTO for all of their hard work," adds Leichman.

Hundreds Take Final Look at Former Union School



Last Friday, hundreds of former students and teachers took advantage of the opportunity to walk through their old elementary school one last time. A span of generations gathered in the gymnasium, forming several mini class reunions and recounting old stories from their days at the former Union Elementary off Cincinnati Dayton Road.

One community member returned to the school that offered him his first teaching job back in 1960. Another former student returned seeking out the baptismal necklace she accidentally dropped inside an old banister back in 1992 when she attended Union as a fifth-grader. [More stories are shared in the Journal-News's coverage of the event.](#)

The West Chester – Union Township Historical Society, in partnership with Lakota, hosted the community walk-through. The open house was held just before the demolition of the school began this week.

Present at the open house was a local Eagle Scout hopeful who is partnering with Lakota and the Historical Society to erect a memorial wall at the current Union Elementary. The wall will be built from and funded by bricks from the former school that are purchased and engraved by community members. For those who wish to have a personal keepsake from the school, the Historical Society is selling individual bricks. More information about both opportunities will be available in future editions of "This Week at Lakota."

A collaboration agreement negotiated between Lakota and the Boys & Girls Club of West Chester Liberty will replace the former school with a new, privately-funded home for the club. The long-term land lease eliminates Lakota's costly maintenance of the current building while still allowing the district to retain ownership of the valuable property. [Click here to view Frequently Asked Questions about the collaboration agreement with the Boys & Girls Club.](#)

Agreement With Boys & Girls Club, New District Initiatives Featured on Listen Up Lakota!

Want to learn more about the new Boys & Girls Club facility which will be built on the site of the former Union Elementary School building? Tune in to WMKV-FM 89.3 next Thursday, August 25 at 1 p.m. as Dr. Karen Mantia, superintendent of Lakota Local Schools, and Patti Alderson, board member for the Boys & Girls Club of West Chester/Liberty will share about the collaboration between Lakota and the Boys & Girls Club, as well as plans by the Club for the new facility.

The interview will also be broadcast at the same time on WLHS-FM 89.9 and streamed live on wmkvfm.org.

In addition to the new Boys & Girls Club facility, the interview also covers other new initiatives at Lakota this year, such as the district's new website and new professional development project called Champions for Change.

[View All District News](#)

New Business

Announcements & Opportunities

Free Microsoft Office Suite Available to Students

Digital productivity and creation skills are a key component of our students' college and career readiness and a strong focus for our staff and students. Lakota continues to offer the most used digital productivity suite in the world, Microsoft Office, **free** to our students at no cost to our families or Lakota Schools.

This will allow Lakota students in grades 2-12 to use a full version of Microsoft Office on up to five devices. Software versions include the latest version of Microsoft Office for PC, Mac, iPhone, iPad and Android. This is a great complement to our Bring Your Own Technology initiative. This is a great complement to Lakota's "Bring Your Own Technology" initiative.

On The Radar

Quick Links & Reminders

Back-to-School Guide Available

Lakota has compiled a helpful Back-to-School Information Guide that covers important topics that you need to know as you start the new school year. [Click here to view our Back-to-School Guide](#) that provides answers to these questions and more.

What is Home Access Center and how do I access it?

Please [click here](#) for more information or [click here](#) for instructions on how to install Microsoft Office.

Liberty Center 5K Slated for Oct. 9

Mark your calendar now for the Inaugural Liberty Center Fall 5K (formally known as The Lakota East ThunderRun), slated for Sunday, October 9 at 8:30 a.m.

Lakota East High School Athletic Boosters, in partnership with Liberty Center Foundation, is proud to be hosting The Liberty Center Fall 5K to benefit Lakota East Athletics. The 5K course will start at The Park at Liberty Center (right across from The Foundry) and runners will proceed on a course around Liberty Center.

[Click here](#) to register or register the day of the event starting at 9:00 a.m.

If you have any questions please contact Kristin Sellers at kristin.sellers@rocketmail.com

How do I update my home address?

What's for breakfast and lunch?

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 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.

Upcoming Events

Event Spotlights

- **Monday, Aug, 22:** [Lakota Board of Education - Central Office at 7 p.m.](#)
- **Wednesday, Aug. 31:** [New Student Ice Cream Social - VOA from 5 to 8 p.m.](#)
- **Friday, Sept. 2:** [No School for Students \(Professional Development Day\)](#)
- **Monday, Sept. 5:** [Labor Day - No School](#)

[See Full Calendar](#)

Lakota In The News

Community Coverage

Journal-News

[Standing ovation, high-fives greet Lakota students on 1st day back](#)

[Former students tour Lakota's Union School for final goodbye](#)

[Former Union principal reflects on significance of old schoolhouse](#)

[Hollywood magic: Lakota school playground becomes a drive-in](#)

Channel 12

Latest E-Flyers

What's News This Week?

District-Sponsored:

- [Lakota West Marching Band Mattress Sale \(Sept. 17\)](#)
- [Leads Family Picnic at Keehner Park \(Sept. 11\)](#)

Community-Sponsored Flyers:

- [After School Program: Perfection Gym. & La Casita](#)
- [August Community Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Flag Football Fanatics - Limited Space after 8/12](#)
- [Gold Medal Archery Fall Classes](#)
- [Liberty Center 5K Benefits East Athletics \(Oct.9\)](#)

16,500 students go back to school in Lakota

- [Liberty Township Fall Festival \(Sept. 24\)](#)
- [Thunderbird Flight Select Basketball Tryouts](#)
- [Upward Flag Football and Cheerleading \(K-12\)](#)

**All Current
E-Flyers**

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