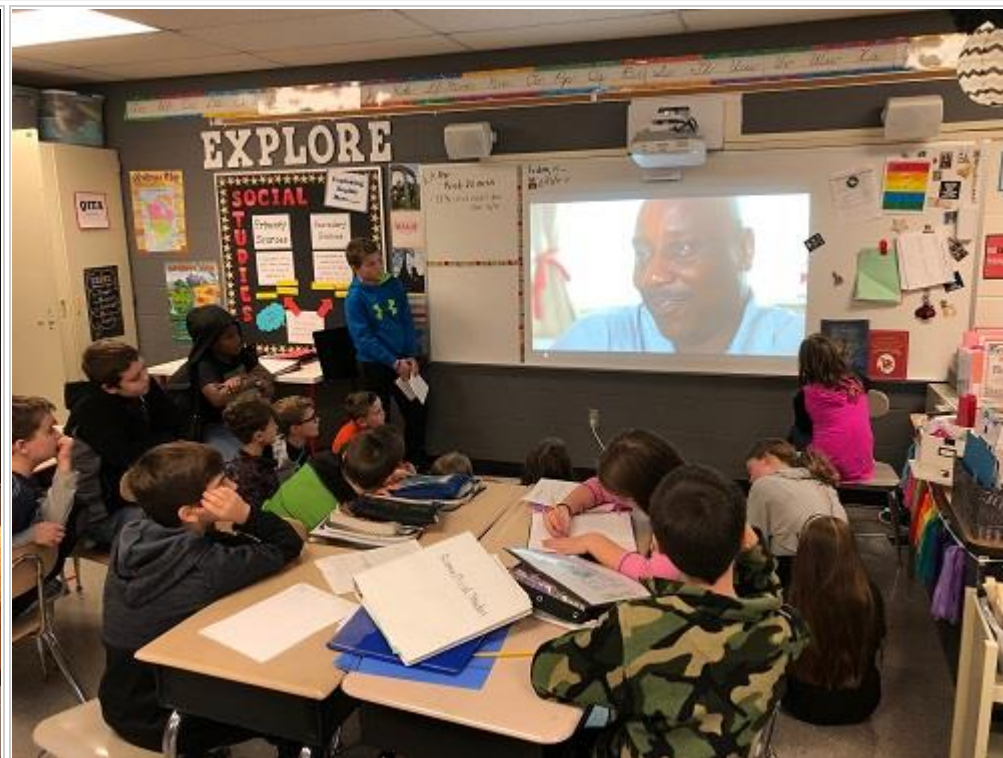


Instilling Pride. Igniting Passion. Infinite Possibilities.

January 26, 2018

Leading the Way

Featured Presentation



Theatre Programs Go Well Beyond What You See on Stage

When the curtain opens in late February for *Shrek the Musical* at Lakota West, the community will be treated to a production that features some truly talented performers as well as some amazing technical theatre elements.

Moving lights, specialty makeup and facial and head appliances will transform students into ogres, bears, pigs, and elves. Thirty body mics and 20 stand mics will be used for the cast and orchestra. The production will use a fog machine, three puppets, five bars of fly scenery, and eight moving wagons of scenery.

And then there's the 25-foot dragon puppet that takes six students to operate.

It's no easy feat to put on a theatre production at Lakota – there is so much that goes into each play or musical (for example, there are 138 West students that are in the cast, crew and pit orchestra for Shrek!).

The core of the high school theatre program is the curricular course offerings. Acting I, II, and III are available as a progressive program for students who are curious about or interested in acting. "Students learn to present themselves and gain confidence through performance," said East Theater Director Kristen Statt. "As they progress, they learn all about the fundamentals of performance and work on more sophisticated skills as they move through the courses." Next year both campuses will offer a Theatre Arts class that focuses on designing and building sets for the mainstage shows as well as learning about lighting, sound, costumes, props, and makeup. Students will also learn about the theatre business and production.

Lakota theatre courses offer something for the student who has a casual interest in theatre to those who want to pursue it in college. "Theatre is a vital element to our educational process and community," said Kim Eldridge, Lakota West Theater Director since 1997. "Through our courses and theatre productions, students learn skills that will benefit them in any profession they pursue. Although many Lakota theater alumni are working professionally in

Genius Hours Sparks Learning through Exploration

If it weren't for a little something called "Genius Hour," Google may have never discovered a little something called Gmail.

It's with a similar goal in mind - giving students the creative outlet to discover and explore what interests them - that many Lakota teachers are turning to a concept Google coined "Genius Hour" in their classrooms. Some call it a "Passion Project," while others call it "20% Time," but the basic premise is the same.

"It's about giving students the time and freedom to research and develop ideas around some topic they want to learn more about," said Woodland fifth grade teacher Jessica Lewicki. "Seeing the excitement and creativity it generates is a daily reminder of what learning should look like."

One of Lewicki's latest prompts challenged students to choose a project that could "make the world around them more awesome." The result was everything from researching the Hope House and organizing a school-wide coat drive to learning how to bake a new recipe and sharing it with their classmates.

Genius Hour isn't just limited to any specific subject areas or grade levels either. While the topics may be wide open, setting specific requirements is what guides students toward practicing softer skills such as research, interviewing and presenting and even more technical skills like writing, science and math.

"Every student has their interests and things they can teach their classmates," Lewicki said. "Genius Hour puts that idea into action and truly empowers them to take ownership of their learning."

the entertainment industry, the rest of our students take a deep love for theatre and appreciation for the arts with them after graduation.”

Exposure to theatre begins during junior high for many Lakota students. Most of the junior high schools offer a drama club that puts on performances for the community. Plains teacher Aaron Nunley is currently working with students on a production of *Mulan Jr.* “This is the 10th season for theatre at Plains. It has grown to roughly 130-140 students (cast/crew) each year... representing roughly a quarter of our student population. My students develop skills in a variety of arts and sciences including: music, dance, drama, theatre lighting, sound engineering, art, and the technical aspects of theatre. They also build community and learn about the importance of teamwork. Many students describe the program as the highlight of their Plains experience.”

Lakota elementary students also get to experience the benefits that theatre offers. In the fall, Lakota East presents a children’s musical that is completely student run, and elementary students take a field trip to see the play. East has also done special programming with this show with the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, and American Heritage Girls, doing post-show workshops and tours. West has partnered with elementary and junior high schools on many projects (such as a Dr. Seuss Celebration) over the years. High school theatre students also hold summer camps for students that include a free public performance to showcase the campers’ work.

Both high schools have a chapter of the International Thespian Society (an honor society for theatre students), giving students the ability to attend and compete in regional, state and international competitions. Lakota high schools have won top awards at the state and international levels. This group and other acting students also find time to do educational outreach projects throughout the year.

“Lakota East students have worked with a speech and language pathologist to create situational social role playing videos for use with students with autism,” said Statt. “We have also worked with the Butler County Sheriff’s department on their Text-a-Tip campaign, creating videos for the officers to use in their campaign to get students to understand their safety resources.” West students have worked on similar service projects. “Our



Shown above: Wyandot kindergarteners flock to the Makerspace in Elizabeth Farris' classroom.

The same concept of giving students an outlet for applying their skills and knowledge to a real-life scenario is accomplished through other strategies like project-based learning and Makerspaces. Both present problems and challenge students to use the resources they have available to find a solution. In many cases, by partnering with outside organizations, the result might be something that can solve a real problem in our community, or even our world.

Stay tuned next month for the next edition of “Inside Our Schools,” a community newsletter mailed to every household and business in West Chester and Liberty townships. It will showcase the unique learning spaces and instructional methods surrounding Lakota’s dedication to student-centered learning.

Pictured at top: Students in Jessica Lewicki's fifth grade class at Woodland get to discover and explore what interests them during Genius Hour.

Lakota students are always willing to help the community when the need arises,” added Statt.

To learn more about Lakota’s theater program, be sure to tune in to “Listen Up Lakota”, a monthly radio program powered by WMKV 89.3FM. Kim Eldridge and Kristen Statt will be featured guests on the show which will air on Friday, Feb. 16 at 5 p.m. or on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 1 p.m.

For information on upcoming theatre productions, see the article below.

Pictured at top: Lakota East students wrap up their first semester theater class.

Around Lakota

School Spotlights



**Lakota Art Students Big Winners
in Regional Scholastic Art Awards**



Lakota high school students were big winners in the Regional Scholastic Art Awards with 142 individual awards and two portfolio winners.

Judges reviewed over 5,000 art pieces on originality, technical skills, and emergence of personal vision or voice. Awards include Gold Key, Silver Key and Honorable Mention designations, and the winning pieces will be on exhibit at the Art Academy of Cincinnati from Jan. 29 through Feb. 9. The regional award ceremony will take place on Feb. 9 at the School for Creative and Performing Arts.

Gold Key winners will move on to the national competition in New York City that takes place in March.

“Competing in the Scholastic Art Awards is an important experience for our students,” said West Visual Arts teacher Stephanie Gauer. “It teaches them how to put themselves ‘out there’ and deal with both rejection and acceptance. It is also a great opportunity for our students to get their work recognized at both a regional and national level, which can often lead to scholarships.”

East art instructor Linda Augutis added, “This year’s winners represent the diverse expression of our students who are involved in all of the different art classes offered at Lakota.”

[Click here](#) for a list of the regional winners; Lakota’s Gold Key winners are listed below.

Portfolio Gold Key Awards (consisted of 8 pieces of art)

Madison Lentz (12th Grade): “State of Affairs” - Drawing and Painting

Olivia Stock (12th Grade): “Fragile”- Photography

Individual Gold Key Awards

Lakota East

Madison Lentz (12th Grade): “Thrown Away”- Mixed Media and “Abandoned”- Mixed Media

Clay Brown (12th Grade): “You’ll Know Where to find Me”- Mixed Media; “189” – Painting; “Big Box Cutter”- Sculpture and “The Glow”- Jewelry

Amanda Joiner (12th Grade): “Oh That’s Just Her Face”- Drawing and Illustration

Magdalyn Lehman (12th Grade): “Oncoming Traffic Doesn’t Stop”- Drawing and Illustration; “Lights Out Please”- Drawing and Illustration and “Caught Red-Handed”- Painting

Isabelle Rottenberger (12th Grade): “Loss of Innocence”- Photography

Anastacia Hartinger (10th Grade): “Ring Around the Finger”- Jewelry and “Heavy Metal”- Sculpture

Yvonne Huynh (11th Grade): “Nature at Work”- Jewelry

Jacob Wernke (11th Grade): “Bio Boot” - Sculpture

Laura Daniels (12th Grade): “Evil Eye”- Jewelry

Trevor Welch (12th Grade): “S.Y.D.”- Sculpture

Therese Willging (12th Grade): "Star Seeker"- Sculpture
Gabrielle Behrmann (12th Grade): "Mysteries in the Shadows"- Photography
Benjamin Sabelhaus (12th Grade): "Inside a Person- Digital

Lakota West

Casey Clarke (10th Grade): "Apple, Pomegranate, and Orange" - Drawing and Illustration
Linda Wang (10th Grade): "Me Looking Slightly Worried"- Printmaking
Jaspreet Singh (11th Grade): "The Real Me"- Printmaking
Jennifer Ellison (12th Grade): "Alive"- Painting; "Until I Turned Green"- Painting; "Eleren en Suiker"- Painting; "Coming to Life"- Drawing and Illustration and "Wires Got the Best of Him"- Drawing and Illustration
Cecilia Farrar (12th Grade): "Opa's Chair"- Painting
Jakob West (10th Grade): "Rain Drops"- Photography
Audrey Albert (11th Grade): "Lumos"- Drawing and Illustration
Emily Crawley (11th Grade): "Beauty in Everyday"- Photography
Samantha Freeland (11th Grade): "Starved"- Drawing and Illustration
Meghan Glass (11th Grade): "Ingrained"- Drawing and Illustration
Mitchell Marshall (11th Grade): "Dreaming of the Big Leagues"- Photography
Grace McCaughey (11th Grade): "Peonies"- Drawing and Illustration and "Grubby Little Hands"- Drawing and Illustration
Karol Perez (11th Grade): "Through a Cheerio"- Drawing and Illustration and "Escaping Reality"- Photography
Alyson Power (11th Grade): "Cheers"- Drawing and Illustration and "Don't Let Go"- Photography
Trey Small (11th Grade): "Eye on the Sparrow"- Drawing and Illustration and "Skilled Hands at Work"- Drawing and Illustration
Larisa Gorgas (12th Grade): "The Artist"- Drawing and Illustration
Megan Lee (12th Grade): "Frozen"- Photography and "Consolidation"- Photography
Olivia Stock (12th Grade): "Drowning"- Photography; "Choked by Society"- Photography and "Looming"- Photography
Giavanna Tur (12th Grade): "Sour"- Photography
Zixin Yang (12th Grade): "Childhood"- Drawing and Illustration

*Pictured top left: **Madison Lentz** (12th Grade): "Thrown Away"- Mixed Media; Top right: **Jennifer Ellison** (12th Grade): "Coming to Life"- Drawing and Illustration*

Liberty ECS Makes Math Fun for Students, Parents



Liberty Early Childhood School found a way to include parents in the learning process at its annual Family Math Night this week.

“We recognize that teaching a child about numbers can be as daunting to our parents as teaching them to read. Yet, our parents play a pivotal role in reinforcing what their children learn while at school,” said Liberty ECS Principal Carrie Montgomery, whose staff also hosts a family literacy night each year. “I think it helps to bring parents into the learning process so that they, too, can mimic our teachers’ approach at home.”

“Plus, it’s just a fun excuse to come together as a school community,” she added.

About 250 families attended, bringing in current preschoolers through first-graders and even their older siblings. Families moved around the building playing games like Yahtzee, PacMan, Estimation Station, How Much is Your Name Worth?, and graphing with Skittles.

Famous Illustrator Gives Students Glimpse into an Art Career



“Everything around you has passed through the hands of an artist.”

With these words of wisdom, illustrator C.F. Payne encouraged aspiring student artists at Lakota West Thursday evening to consider the countless possibilities of a career in art. More than 80 students, and their parents, packed into the community room to learn about his long and successful career in illustration.

In the five years that the Lakota West visual arts department has been sharing the artist with students, It was the first time it was moved to the evening so that parents could enjoy the special visitor, too. He joked about society’s caricature of the starving or eccentric artist, while pointing out that everything from fashion, buildings, and cars to movies, videogames and even packaging requires some level of artistic expression.

Like so many careers, a future career in art will likely look far different than his did, he shared. He rushed through the extensive overview of his career to focus on the evolving world of professional art and also to share a live painting demonstration.



But, he warned, success in the field doesn't come without extensive discipline and dedication. "Mediocrity is not in demand. You have to look at, study and make art all the time."

"For our students and their parents to hear from such a prestigious and respected name in the art world is an opportunity no lesson can top," said Lakota West art teacher Stephanie Gauer. "It's critically important that they can visualize where their passion and talent for art can take them at the next stage of their lives."

Payne's work has graced the pages and covers of several publications and children's books such as Time Magazine, Sports Illustrated, Reader's Digest, and U.S. News and World Report. His illustrated novel, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and the bio-documentary, C.F. Payne: An American Illustrator are among some of his newest efforts. For the last 30 years, he's also taught illustration courses at the university level.

At left: C.F. Payne speaks with students at parents at Lakota West and an illustration of Barack Obama that appeared on the cover of Time Magazine.

Lakota Announces 18-19 Administrative Changes

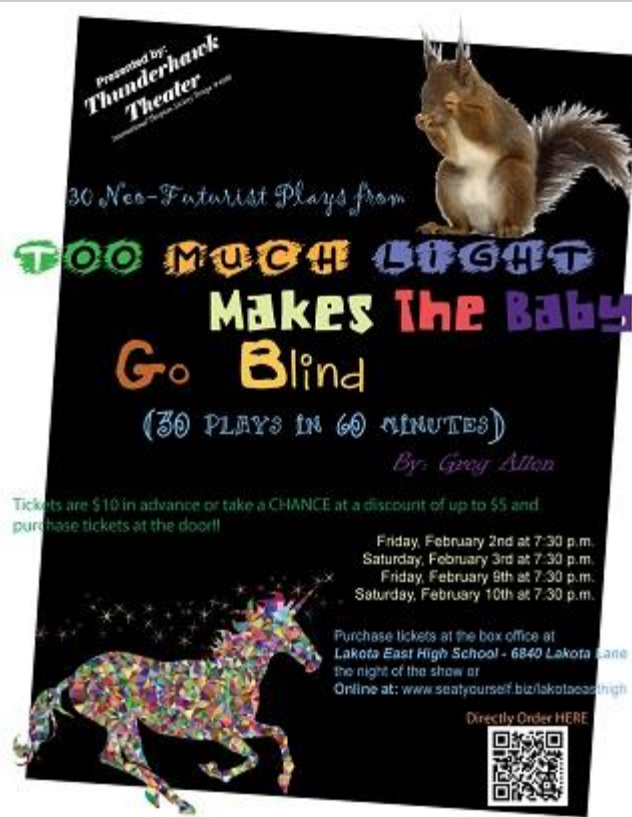
With the upcoming changes to Lakota's K-6 building configuration, most notably including the transition of Heritage and Hopewell elementary schools to early childhood schools, these administrators are changing positions, effective for the 2018-19 school year. .

- Hopewell Elementary Principal Christina French has accepted a director position in the Curriculum Department at Central Office.
- Wyandot ECS Principal Mary Brophy will be leading the new Hopewell ECS community.
- Woodland Elementary Assistant Principal Liz Gruber is stepping up as principal at Wyandot ECS.
- Heritage Elementary Principal Missy Alexander will continue in her position at the new Heritage ECS.

"The leadership in our schools is paramount to our students' educational experience," said Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller. "It's important to continuously give our staff opportunities to grow and use their talents in a way that best serves our students. I'm confident in the staff who will lead the charge next year with our youngest learners."

Upcoming Theatre Productions

Lakota East's Winter Show Performances Begin Feb. 2



Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind: 30 Plays in 60 Minutes by Greg Allen

February 2, 3, 9, 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Lakota East High School

Tickets are \$10 online, or take your chance at the door—roll a dice for a chance at a discount!

Join two ensemble casts in a foray into Neo-Futurist sketch comedy. Ten actors go up against the clock and involve the audience in the challenge of putting on 30 plays in 60 minutes. Plays span from classics like a two-minute version of Macbeth to the absurdity of running with scissors. This show explores social norms, tests group behavior, and may even push your boundaries. For a chance to join in the fun, choose “Splash-Zone” seating. This show is intended for mature audiences.

For Lakota East Theatre tickets, visit www.seatyourself.biz/lakotaeasthigh.

Shrek the Musical

Friday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 24 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 25 at 2:00 p.m.

Lakota West High School

Tickets \$13 Pre-Sale / \$16 at the Door

[Patron tickets available now](#)

Regular price tickets go on sale February 2

Based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks Animation film, Shrek The Musical is a Tony Award-winning fairy tale adventure, featuring all new songs from Jeanine Tesori (Thoroughly Modern Millie; Caroline, or Change) and a sidesplitting book by David Lindsay-Abaire. Shrek brings all the beloved characters you know from the film to life on stage and proves there's more to the story than meets the ears. Shrek presents a treasure trove of creative opportunities, including costumes, sets, puppets (there is a 25' fire-breathing dragon created by Lakota West Theatre) and more! Irreverently fun for the whole family, Shrek proves that beauty is truly in the eye of the ogre.

For Lakota West Theatre info and online tickets, visit www.LakotaWestTheatre.net.

Mulan Jr.

March 16 at 7:30 p.m.

March 17 at 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

March 18 at 3:00 & 7:30 p.m.

Plains Junior School

Tickets will be available on at [Ticketpeak.com/plainsmulan](https://www.ticketpeak.com/plainsmulan) beginning February 12.



West Chester VFW Celebrates Four Independence Students

Independence student Brendan O'Sullivan wrote the winning entry in the first level of competition for the Patriots Pen contest, a national VFW-sponsored youth essay contest. He represented the West Chester VFW Post 7696, placing second at the district level.

The annual competition challenges students to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. Brendan's classmates, Kyle Smith, Shasha Shankaramani and Sophia Walling, were also presented with an achievement award for their entries.

Selena Chen Wins State MLK Art Contest

Congratulations to Selena Chen for being selected as the winner for the 10th grade art competition for the 2018 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art, Writing & Multimedia Contest, sponsored by the Ohio Civil Rights Commission. Her artwork was selected from hundreds of entries and she will be honored at an award ceremony in Columbus next week.

East's Dustin Horter Travels to Scotland with Team USA

Lakota East senior Dustin Horter has had great success this year in cross country. Following his second consecutive state title and finishing sixth at the Nike Cross Nationals, Dustin was selected to join Team USA at the 2018 Simply Health Great Edinburgh XCOUNTRY Challenge. Traveling to Scotland to compete in the junior men's 6K, Dustin was one of only six athletes under the age of 20 selected for Team USA. Dustin finished 13 overall in the combined junior division, with a time of 20:11. Congratulations, Dustin!

[View All District News](#)

New Business

Announcements & Opportunities

Attendance Zone Changes Pave Way for 18-19 Changes

Updated attendance boundaries to accommodate building realignment to grades K-2 and 3-6, as well as all-day kindergarten for all students beginning next school year, are now available on the Lakota website. [Click here](#) to check your home address against our interactive map and view all the schools in your attendance zone. Also available is a comprehensive list of [frequently asked questions](#) surrounding all of next year's changes.

Administration has worked alongside our building principals to modify the attendance boundaries in a manner that best serves all of our school communities. Many different factors have played a role in this process. These include keeping neighborhoods together, maintaining our current east and west high school boundaries, maximizing transportation services and anticipating the continued growth and development of our townships.

All-day kindergarten, paired with other exciting changes such as increased specials in grades K-6 and 1:1 technology for our secondary students, will bring the Lakota education to a whole new level for our students. [Click here to read the complete news story.](#)

Summer School Registration Begins March 5

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

On The Radar

Quick Links & Reminders

West's 'Try Band' is Tomorrow

Future Ridge and Plains students, especially fifth and sixth-grade students, are invited to attend the annual "Try Band" on Jan. 27 at the Lakota West Freshman School from 9:30 a.m. until noon.

Students will have an opportunity to visit with small groups of musicians to learn about the various instruments -- to listen to the instruments, touch them, and maybe even get a chance to play them. This open house part of the event will run from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. The Lakota West Symphonic Winds will hold a concert from 11:30 a.m. until noon. [Click here for a flyer with details.](#)

them to retake any one of the Ohio Graduation Tests or End-of-Course assessments or to participate in select math courses to qualify for advanced math placement the following school year.

Registration begins March 5 and ends on April 6; see below for dates and class offerings. If you have any questions, please email summerschool@lakotaonline.com.

Summer School Dates

May 29 - July 6 (no school July 4)

PE1 - May 29 - June 15

PE2 - June 18 - July 6 (no school July 4)

Course Offerings, Dates, Costs and Other Details

[High School Summer School Information](#)

[Junior High Summer School Information](#)

Volunteers Needed for March Madness Tournament

March Madness, Lakota style, is back again this year and promises to be bigger and better than ever!

A school-community tradition, the charity basketball tournament gives Lakota elementary students the opportunity to represent their school and help raise money for local causes. Lakota students (boys and girls) in grades 2-6 can participate. The tournament will tip off on Monday, March 12 and conclude with the finals on Friday, March 23.

Last year, more than 1,000 students participated. With the help of community supporters attending their games, they raised more than \$13,000 for local charities.

Tournament leaders are now seeking more than 120 adults to help coach. If you would like to help, please contact Mike Goldman at mgoldman@osigroup.com. If your student is interested in participating, please watch for dates and times of the evaluations in your

Preschool Registration Begins Feb. 1

Registration for Lakota's tuition-based preschool program will begin on Feb. 1 and run through Feb. 28.

An informational meeting for parents will be held on Feb. 15 at Liberty Early Childhood School from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

With the recently announced transition of two Lakota elementary schools to early childhood schools for the 2018-19 school year, we are hopeful to have preschool at all of our early childhood buildings, but are still in the planning stages. Placement will be based on attendance zone, but parents may select up to three additional locations as preferences during the application process.

All applications must be received or postmarked by Feb. 28 to be considered for the lottery. The lottery will take place at the beginning of March and notices of admission will be mailed March 12 to all applicants. Applications received after the Feb. 28 deadline will be placed on a waiting list. Parents can [visit the preschool enrollment webpage](#) for more detailed information and to download the application. Applications are also available at any of the four current early childhood schools. Please direct any

school newsletters. For more details on the tournament, visit the [Lakota March Madness webpage](#).

Lakota Partnering with Parent Group to Discuss Vision for Gifted Education

With the shifts in buildings and staffing for the 2018-19 school year, Lakota's program for gifted services will also see some changes. While Lakota will continue to have one Gifted Intervention Specialist assigned to each of the eight 3-6 buildings, we will be working to develop the future vision of the student experience for our students.

As the strategic plan developed in 2013 comes to an end, Lakota's Gifted Services will be working with the LEADS parent group to discuss and determine the vision for gifted education in Lakota. Some areas of focus for discussion will be developing a more comprehensive model in reading and math, targeted professional development for staff, strategic student acceleration, and the development of student agency.

Parents of gifted students are invited to take part in a community conversation on Monday, Jan. 29 to discuss gifted education and services. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at Lakota's Central Office, 5572 Princeton Road.

Calling All Writers: The Write Challenge Contest is Underway

Is your student a budding Shakespeare? Or the next Elizabeth Barrett Browning?

LEADS (Lakota's Enrichment and Academic Development of Students) is excited to announce The Write Challenge writing contest for all Lakota students K-12.

This year's theme is **CHANGE**. Students can submit an essay, narrative, poem or all 3. Entries are due on March 11 and must be submitted electronically. Students and families can learn more about the Challenge and obtain entry forms at the [LEADS website](#).

For questions, contact president@lakotaleads.org.

questions to the preschool office at (513) 870-5378.

Next Facebook Live Parent Engagement Learning Series is Feb. 6

A new learning series open to all Lakota parents makes starting to engage in your child's education as easy as logging into Facebook.

One night a month, a group of Lakota teachers and staff are available to provide parents with tips and strategies in a live conversation format on Facebook. Sessions will cover a range of topics, including strategies for reading together, interacting with teachers and other school staff, creating a positive learning environment at home, and more. Mark your calendar for the next session:

Feb. 6 - 7 p.m.

Engaging with your Child's Teacher

During the 30-minute session, the panel of local teaching experts will answer a series of questions before opening it up to questions from their live audience. The entire video will also be available for playback after the live session has concluded. Visit [Lakota's](#)

Try Band at Lakota East on Feb. 3

All students planning to attend Liberty Junior or Hopewell Junior as 7th grade students next school year are invited to a Try Band Open House at the Lakota East Main Campus on February 3.

The event will run from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the band room. If you have prior band experience, please attend and show your skills. If you don't have band experience, this is your chance to try an instrument.

[Click here for a flyer](#) about the event.

[Facebook page](#) to tune in for any of the [upcoming sessions](#).

Summer Fun Fair Just Around the Corner

Does your business or organization offer a summer program or activity that's perfect for kids? Are you looking for ways to keep your kids active this summer?

Lakota Local Schools will partner with more than 100 local businesses and organizations to host its sixth annual Summer Fun Fair this March 5 and 7. The event features local organizations with programs and services to keep students in grades K-12 active this summer. Vendors range from summer camps, learning centers and childcare facilities to athletic leagues, art programs and local parks and recreation.

For convenience, families and exhibitors are invited to attend either of two open house events:

- Monday, March 5 – Lakota East High School – 6-8 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 7 – Lakota West High School – 6-8 p.m.

There is no cost to exhibit or attend. Exhibitors are encouraged to participate

both evenings and will be provided with a table and chairs.

Learn more at

www.lakotaonline.com/summerfair. To register your organization as an exhibitor at the fair, please contact Cindy Zahneis at Cindy.Zahneis@lakotaonline.com or at 513-644-1203 before Feb. 26.

Check Your Weather Communication Preferences

If you'd like to change the way you receive Lakota communications for weather-related delays and closures, please follow the instructions below.

If you are the official parent or guardian of a current Lakota student or a current employee with a valid Lakota email address, please [log into School Messenger](#) to make sure the phone numbers and email addresses being automatically pulled from Home Access Center (parents) and active directory (staff) are accurate and up-to-date. To view and modify your weather-related preferences, select “Preferences,” then “Weather-Related Notifications.”

Others in the Lakota community who are not parents, guardians or employees and wish to subscribe to district communications may do so via [Lakota's self-sign-up portal](#).

[Click here for more information about signing up for or logging into your School Messenger account for Lakota communications.](#)

Photo of the Week



'Mathletic Department' Largest in Plains Junior History

The 30-member math team at Plains Junior School is the largest in school history. They meet once a week to study challenging “non-traditional” math problems that require extensive problem-solving skills. The team competed in the AMC8 competition in November and will compete in the Ohio Mathematics League Competition on Feb. 21.

The math team program is modeled after MathCounts (a national organization sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) in partnership with other state and local organizations). Ten students will be selected to represent Plains at the Greater Cincinnati Regional MathCounts Competition in late February at the University of Cincinnati. Plains always does well in that competition and has sent several students to the state competition in the past.

Best of luck to the Plains Mathletic Department!

Upcoming Events

Event Spotlights

- Saturday, January 27
[Lakota West 'Try Band' for 5th/6th Graders](#)
at Lakota West Freshman Campus
9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Saturday, January 27
[Lakota East Swing Dance](#)
at Lakota East Main Campus
7:30 - 10 p.m.
- Monday, January 29
[Community Conversation on Gifted Education, Services](#)
at Lakota Central Office
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
- February 2, 3, 9, 10
[Theatre Production: Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind](#)

Lakota In The News

Community Coverage

Hamilton-Journal News
[Now, live on Facebook! Lakota connecting with parents in a new way](#)

[This cancer fundraiser has a lofty \\$100K this year. Here's how to help.](#)

Dayton Daily News
[Lead in schools: What we know now](#)

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

District-Sponsored:

[Barbershop, Books and Boys: 1st Tuesday of the Month \(Grades 1-6\)](#)

Try Band at Lakota East (February 3)

at Lakota East Theatre
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

- Saturday, February 3
[Try Band Showcase at Lakota East](#)
at Lakota East Main Campus
10:00 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 6
[BarberShop, Books & Boys](#)
at X-Quisite Cutz, 7324 Kingsgate Way
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 6
[Facebook Live Session: Engaging with your Child's Teacher](#)
7:00 - 7:30 p.m.

**See Full
Calendar**

Community-Sponsored Flyers:

[Karen Moeller Scholarship Fundraiser at East of Chicago \(January 29\)](#)

[Karen Moeller Scholarship Fundraiser at Moe's \(February 8\)](#)

**All Current
E-Flyers**

Lakota Central Office

5572 Princeton Road
Liberty Township, OH 45011-9726

Phone: (513) 874-5505

Lakota@lakotaonline.com

