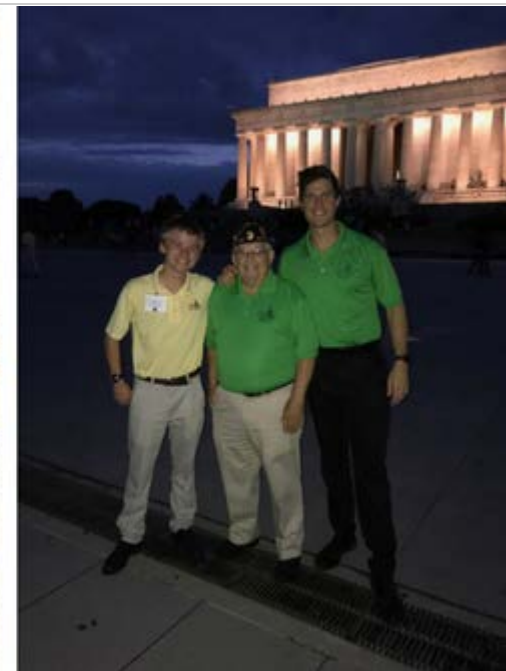


Instilling Pride. Igniting Passion. Infinite Possibilities.

February 9, 2018

Leading the Way

Featured Presentations



Share Your #WEloveLakota Photos on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram

East Seniors Win Trip for Top Scores on Americanism Test

In celebration of Valentine's Day this month, we're asking you to tell us what makes you love Lakota – with a photo!

Is it a specific teacher, your principal, a favorite class, your entire school, your high school sweetheart, an extra-curricular program or maybe even the cafeteria's chicken nuggets?

Whatever it might be, GET CREATIVE and share a photo that illustrates that one thing or person that gives you a reason to love Lakota.

Participate all month long on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram by tagging Lakota's account and #WEloveLakota. At the end of the month, the top photo on each site with the most "likes" will be declared our "most loved" Lakota people, places or programs.

In return, Lakota's Media & Community Relations department will deliver a special valentine surprise to those three most loved people, places or programs on your behalf. Others around Lakota will learn more about the top winner through a story about them to be featured on Lakota's website, on Lakota's social media accounts and in the district e-newsletter, "This Week at Lakota."

How to Participate:

1. Get creative and think about one person, place or thing at Lakota that makes you smile.
2. Post a photo before the end of the month on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. To participate, you must tag Lakota's official account and include #WEloveLakota.
3. Share your photo with your friends to rack up the "likes," or votes all month long.

You can participate without submitting a photo, too! Search on your social media site of choice for #WEloveLakota to "like" and share your favorite submissions.

"There are between 40,000 to 65,000 tests administered each year across Ohio, and the sheer numbers make it very, very rare to have a state award winner from any school or any district. But to have two from the same school in the same year, it's just remarkable," said Jerry Nelson, Americanism Chairman of American Legion Post 681.

The remarkable happened at Lakota East this year, when seniors **Hannah Ackerman** and **Weston Lindner** won the State of Ohio Awards for best scores and essays on the annual Government Test administered by the American Legion. Their prize is a five-day escorted and guided tour to Washington, D.C. and the Gettysburg, Pa battlefield sponsored by the Ohio American Legion.

Each November, Lakota East and West students have the opportunity to take the test after school. Hannah and Weston's AP Government teacher, Dr. Tisha Menchoffer-Grote works with the American Legion to coordinate the test and promote it to students each year. "I am very proud of Weston and Hannah. Both students are seriously civic-minded; they are going to be change-makers!"

She noted that both Hannah and Weston attended the American Legion Boys State and Girls State (Weston went on to Boys Nation in Washington, D.C.), and that they are also members of the Junior State of America Chapter at East (the group focuses on political discussion, debate and activism).

The American Legion test covered topics including the Constitution and Declaration of Independence as well as government at the federal, state, county, local and school levels. In addition to the multiple-choice questions on these topics, students were asked to write an essay about the right or freedom that they cherish most. Hannah and Weston received top scores, demonstrating a breadth of knowledge.

Weston became hooked on history from an early age – going back to when he was eight and he memorized the presidents on his placemat at the dinner table. He never envisioned that he would win this trip of a lifetime. "I'm just thankful to the American Legion for all of the opportunities they have given me through Boys State and Boys Nation, as well as through this contest." Weston is looking ahead to college next year, majoring in political science and then going on to practice law.

Hannah's career plans include medical school and being a doctor, but she also hopes to foster her love of politics and government by becoming involved with a political action group. She, too, is grateful for the opportunities she has been afforded by the American Legion, and for the preparation she received in Dr. Grote's class.

"We are looking forward to hearing Hannah and Weston report back on their experiences in D.C. and Gettysburg," said Nelson. "They have worked hard and deserve these awards. They are indicative of the caliber of students in the Lakota School District and the quality of education provided to them."

Pictured: Hannah Ackerman with Jerry Nelson of the American Legion (left) and Weston Lindner at American Legion's Boys Nation in Washington D.C. with two Lakota alumni.

Around Lakota

School Spotlights

Lakota Partners with Miami University for Literacy Intervention



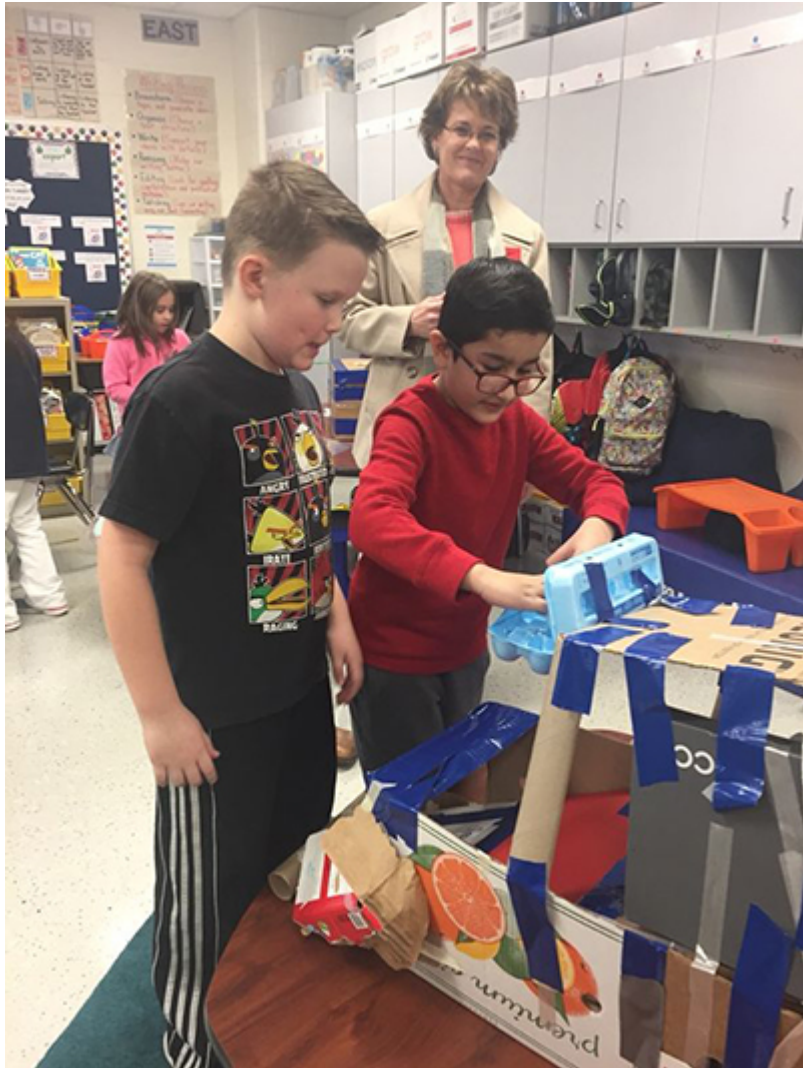
Miami student Katie Milders sits with Creekside ECS first-grader Marissa Nguyen.

Students at Creekside Early Childhood School will have special visitors twice a week for the rest of the school year. Ten Miami University pre-service teachers will work with Creekside's kindergarten and first grade students on literacy interventions to help improve their reading skills.

The Miami students, studying to earn degrees in education, will be able to work with Lakota intervention specialists to gain a better understanding of the role and importance of this position in schools. Lynda Theiler, Lakota's Executive Director of Special Services, grades K-6, would like the Miami students to walk away with a better understanding of special education. "Special and general education are not separate entities. They coexist and it is critical that teachers, both future and current, understand this."

The Miami students will provide small group and one-to-one interventions, targeting specific areas that will help to improve the literacy skills of these young learners. Some areas to be targeted include phonics and the application of literacy skills. Creekside administrators worked alongside Lakota's special services department and Miami professors to implement this partnership. Prior to working with in the classrooms, Miami students participated in Lakota led professional development sessions on early literacy skills to ensure that they are well-prepared for this experience.

Cherokee Classrooms Turned Arcades Put Student-Centered Learning on Display



Cherokee Elementary School's second grade classrooms were transformed into arcades this week. Student-designed hockey games, Plinko boards and even a wind machine were pieced together with household items ranging from toilet paper rolls, cotton balls and plastic cups to duct tape, balloons and saran wrap.

The best part about it, said Cherokee teacher Jenny Hutzelman, is that they all actually worked.

"It was absolutely amazing to see the creativity," Hutzelman said, stressing that she makes a point to "get out of (her students') way" even when she has her doubts about their plan working. For her, the process is as important as the product. "It's very student-led and lets them be in charge of their own learning. It's so much more meaningful that way."

The designs, put on display for parents and staff to actually play and earn tickets, were the culmination of the grade's recent science unit on force and motion and also one of Hutzelman's monthly STEAM challenges. She is such a firm believer in the design process used in the STEAM lab that she uses it as an extension of her core curriculum outside of her regular STEAM lab time. This particular challenge forced her students to apply concepts like push, pull and friction to actually solve a problem and produce something functional.

The Makerspace she set up in her classroom gave students a range of materials to ultimately engineer the project they planned with a partner. Students had to improvise and learn how to work with limited resources when parts of their plans failed.

Hutzelman recalled one group's plan that originally called for a leaf blower. The final product used their classroom fan as a substitute and incorporated other creative touches that over the course of the week-long project, the group excitedly thought up from one day to the next..

"The confidence it builds in kids, especially those who might struggle in reading or math class, is truly amazing," said Hutzelmann, noting that multiple students went home to create more arcade games on their own and posted videos to a class sharing site called Seesaw.

"It's moments like those when know you've made a difference," she said.

Lakota's New Mobile App Offers On-the-Go Convenience, Customization



Lakota's new and improved mobile app is now live in Apple and Google Play stores.

Besides a refreshed design, the new app is packed with more resources all in one place, plus the ability to customize your calendar, news feed and push notifications, based on your personal school selections. Download the app to gain quick and easy access to:

- School directions, hours and contact information
- Events calendar and the option to sync with your personal calendar
- News headlines customized to your personal school selections
- Breakfast & lunch menus
- Portals like Home Access Center, EZ Pay, Canvas and School Messenger
- District and school push notifications

In addition to all the current notifications methods, important and time-sensitive district alerts, like weather delays and closures, will be pushed to app users as a push notification.

To download, search for "Lakota Schools" from your mobile device's app store. You can also click [here](#) from your mobile device to download the app from the [Apple Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

[Click here to learn even more about Lakota's mobile app features.](#)

Student-Athletes Sign Letters of Intent

The Athletic Departments at Lakota East and West held events this week on the first day of the NCAA winter signing period for football, soccer and water polo. Congratulations to these student-athletes!



Lakota East

Sam Ballman (Football): Morehead State University

Dylan Fry (Football): Olivet Nazarene University

Natalie Hamilton (Football): Urbana Univerisity

Ethan Oldfield (Soccer): Marietta College

Holly Thompson (Soccer): College of Wooster



Lakota West

Adrianna Brewer (Soccer): University of Toledo

Desiree Grubbs (Soccer): Miami University

Samantha Hausser (Soccer): University of Dayton

Hannah Planck (Soccer): Anderson University

Linden Eberle (Soccer): Wright State University

Jordan Harris (Football): Wilmington College

Christopher Johnson (Football): University of Findlay

Xavier Peters (Football): Florida State University

Cedric Thomas (Football): University of Pikeville

Student Ambassador Groups Formed at East, West

New Program Fosters Philanthropy, Develops Leadership Skills



Last week's 'Go Gold for Dragonfly Basketball Game' is just the first of many projects that Lakota West students have planned as part of The Dragonfly Foundation's Student Ambassador Program.

Through the program, students advocate for the charity through service projects and volunteering opportunities, as well as learn how to use their personal strengths, resources, and connections to make a positive impact in their community. There are currently Student Ambassador Groups at Lakota East and West, and The Dragonfly Foundation hopes to establish student groups at other local high schools in the coming years. The goal of the organization is to help young cancer and bone marrow transplant patients and their families find strength. West ambassadors include seniors **Ali Hausfield** and **AJ Petersen**, as well as juniors **Megan Shaffer** and **Tony Amsbaugh**.

The first annual Go Gold game was a success, selling out of gold t-shirts and raising over \$2000 for The Dragonfly Foundation. But what stood out most to the West ambassadors was how people came together to rally around the cause by providing postgame music, dressing up as Star Wars characters, and just stepping up left and right to help make the evening a success.

Lakota East will be holding a similar "Orange Out" game to benefit the charity on Feb. 16. It's their third annual student-led fundraiser. The school will be selling orange t-shirts and bandanas in advance of next week's game; for more information, be sure to follow [@LEHSorangeout](#) on Twitter.

The West Student Ambassador Group will now focus outreach efforts on the #SpreadSmilesForDragonfly walk/run campaign. They will represent The Dragonfly Foundation at the Cincinnati Cyclones Frozen 5K/10K, the Shamrock Shuffle 5K/10K, and the Cincinnati Flying Pig. In fact, Ali is attempting to break the Guinness World Record for 'Fastest Half-Marathon Dressed as an Emoji' at the Flying Pig in May.

"The idea came to me last fall," said Ali. "I have been volunteering for Dragonfly since 2013, and the organization has developed a very special place in my heart. Over the course of these five years, I have seen the many ways that Dragonfly serves pediatric cancer patients and their families. Seeing their incredible impact through my volunteer experiences made me want to do more for the organization."

You can help support Ali and her fellow West Ambassadors by walking or running in the Shamrock Shuffle and Flying Pig with their team – simply select The Dragonfly Foundation during registration. For updates on the work of the West Ambassadors, follow them on Twitter ([@WestDragonfly](#)).

*Pictured: Halftime ceremony at the Lakota West 'Go for Gold' basketball game.
(Photo courtesy of Kimheart Moeung)*

Preschool Offered at all ECS Buildings in 2018-19

Lakota Local Schools is excited to announce that preschool will be offered in all six early childhood schools during the 2018-19 school year.

The preschool program currently serves over 340 children at three of the district's early childhood schools. Earlier this school year, the program earned a five-star rating from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Department of Education's "Step Up to Quality" rating program.

"We are thrilled to be able to offer preschool at all six of our ECS buildings in the fall. Adding to an already stellar program, this is an opportunity for our preschoolers to be at their home schools, making the transition to kindergarten easier for them," said Lynda Theiler, Executive Director of Special Services, grades K-6.

The preschool program provides a nurturing environment that supports the intellectual, academic, and social growth of young children. It is designed to serve both students with a range of disabilities as well as typical preschool students who pay a tuition to attend. The model is built on the premise that preschool-aged students with disabilities, as well as those with typical learning styles, can both benefit and grow academically by learning alongside one another. "Center-based classrooms" are comprised of equal numbers of both types of learners.

"This is another area where we are moving the district forward," said Superintendent Matthew Miller. "Our preschool program is top-notch. The teachers are dedicated to our youngest learners, working hard to instill a love of learning at an early age. We are very happy to extend the program to all six of our early childhood schools in the fall."

While preschool staff are contracted by the Butler County Educational Service Center, educators work collaboratively with Lakota's administrators to combine resources and ensure a successful transition to kindergarten. Registration for the 2018-19 school year is now open. More information can be found [here](#).

**View All
District News**

New Business

Announcements & Opportunities

On The Radar

Quick Links & Reminders

'State of the Schools' Set for March 13

Superintendent Matthew Miller will deliver the district's first "State of the Schools" address on March 13. Members of the community are invited to attend. Miller will cover many topics including success in the classroom, innovation in our schools, the district's financial stability and the exciting initiatives coming in the 2018-19 school year. Community members will also get a chance to hear from Lakota students and teachers.

"This is an opportunity to learn about the amazing things our students and staff are doing in Lakota. I'm very excited to share with our parents and community members, and even more excited that they'll get to hear from students and staff members," Miller said.

The event takes place at Lakota West High School on Tuesday, March 13, and will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 20 & 21: Lakota High Schools Host Student Job Fair

Businesses interested in recruiting from one of the largest local pools of young talent are invited to exhibit at Lakota's' first-ever High School Student Job Fair.

Visit with students at Lakota West High School (8940 Union Centre Boulevard, West Chester) on Tuesday, Feb. 20 and at Lakota East High School (6840 Lakota Lane, Liberty Twp.) on Wednesday, Feb. 21. Both fairs will take place from 9:45 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. in each school's gymnasium.

Space is limited. [Please click here to pre-register by Friday, Feb 16 as an exhibitor.](#)

Any questions can be directed to Lakota East Principal Suzanna Davis at suzanna.davis@lakotaonline.com or (513) 755-7211.

Kindergarten Registration Nights Feb. 22, 28

Preschool Registration Open Feb. 1- 28

Registration for Lakota's tuition-based preschool program began on Feb. 1 and will 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

Open registration for the revamped all-day kindergarten option for all students will begin on March 12 and run through April 6. Two parent information nights for Kindergarten have been scheduled as follows:

February 22
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Lakota East HS

February 28
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Lakota West HS

Enrollment applications are now available on the [enrollment section of Lakota's website](#). All questions can be directed to the Enrollment Center at (513) 682-4120.

Feb. 22: 'Building a Stronger Community One Culture at a Time' Next in Parent Engagement Series

In addition to its all-new Facebook Live parent engagement series, Lakota is bringing parents monthly learning opportunities in a more traditional format.

On Thursday, Feb. 22, the focus will turn to “Building a Stronger Community One Culture at a Time.” As our schools grow increasingly diverse, Lakota promotes a learning environment that embraces cultural differences. Our special guests from the Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati will equip you with strategies for extending the lesson of cultural understanding into your home, too.

The session will take place at Lakota's Central Office from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. [View the event flyer for more details](#) and [register online here](#).

January Video Update: A Look Around Lakota

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

Summer School Registration

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 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; [click here for details](#). If you have any questions, please email summerschool@lakotaonline.com.

Write Challenge Open to Students K-12

Is your student a budding Shakespeare? Or the next Elizabeth Barrett Browning? LEADS 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 three. Entries are due on March 11 and must be submitted electronically.

Lakota Local Schools is proud to share this next edition of its monthly video update, "A Look Around Lakota." The January edition features just some of the latest highlights and happenings around Lakota, as shared by Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller and Treasurer & CFO Jenni Logan.

[Click here to view the January edition](#) of "A Look Around Lakota" and stay tuned for more video updates as the year continues.

Community Conversation for Parents with Students Receiving Special Services

Parents of students receiving special services are invited to a Community Conversation on March 8 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Lakota East High School Community Room. School leaders will be on hand to hear your thoughts and ideas regarding services for students with special needs.

This is part of Lakota's ongoing Community Conversation program designed to build a partnership with residents, finding common ground on our core values around education, defining the purpose of education, and confronting and solving difficult issues in education.

All are welcome.

Feb. 26 Book Club includes Mobile Toy Lab

The next LEADS Book Club is set for Feb. 26. The book selection for grades 2-6 is the Caldecott Award winning novel "The Invention of Hugo Cabret" written by Brian Selznick.

As part of book club this month, Happen, Inc. will be bringing their Mobile Toy Lab to Lakota, and readers will make their own unique toy out of recycled toy parts. There will be two sessions (6:00 - 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.). A small fee will be charged for each child attending. [Click here for a flyer](#) about the event. Space is limited; [click here to sign up now and reserve your spot](#).

Learn more at the Lakota [LEADS website](#).

Next Coffee Chat Feb. 14

Join Lakota Superintendent Matt Miller at his next monthly Community Coffee Chat Wednesday, Feb. 14 from 1 to 2 p.m. at Einstein Bros. Bagels, located at 9216 Allen Road in West Chester.

One of the top priorities for Lakota's superintendent is to get out in the community and listen to as many students, staff members, parents, residents and community and business leaders as possible. For an hour on the first Wednesday every month (with some exceptions), Superintendent Miller will be available for drop-in conversation with parents and residents at local coffee shops (rotating between West Chester and Liberty Township locations). The times will also vary to accommodate different schedules.

Mark your calendar for Feb. 14 to ask questions and share your thoughts and ideas about the future of Lakota Schools. Look for more Coffee Chat times and locations on the [Superintendent page of Lakota Online](#).

Summer Fun Fair Just Weeks Away

Save the Date for Pi Day March 9

Lunar rock samples, cosmic rays, a human brain, live animals, Star Wars characters, and so much more! Save the date for Lakota Pi Day on Friday, March 9 from 6:30 - 9 p.m. for a chance to get your hands on some fabulously fun math and science activities at over 40 stations. Sponsored by Lakota LEADS (Lakota's Enrichment and Academic Development of Students), Pi Day will be held at Lakota West High School. It is a free event geared toward students in grades K-8. Learn more at the Lakota [LEADS website](#).

Interim Report Cards Discontinued, Home Access Center Provides Real-Time Grades

Lakota Schools encourages parents to use the Home Access Center (HAC) to view student grades at any time. With this service available, the district will no longer provide an interim report card for students in secondary grades. The grades available on HAC are in real time and, therefore, provide a much more accurate view of class performance.

A link to HAC is available on the homepage of the district website, www.lakotaonline.com, or by clicking [here](#). If you are having trouble logging in to the system, please contact your school office for assistance.

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.

For convenience, families and exhibitors are invited to attend either of two open house events: March 5 at Lakota East High School or March 7 at Lakota West High School, both from 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.

Photos of the Week



Celebrating 100 Days of School



Students across the district recently celebrated their 100th day of being smarter!

Here's some of the fun that first-graders had at Creekside and Liberty Early Childhood Schools -- some students at Liberty ECS even dressed up as spry 100 year-olds. Students loved counting collections of 100, reading poems about 100, writing to 100 and enjoying some really yummy 100th day snacks.

Classes took time to not only imbed math in to all of the activities of the day, but to honor the work that has gone into this landmark day for students.

Upcoming Events

Event Spotlights

- Friday, February 9
[Theatre Production: Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind](#)
at Lakota East Theatre
7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, February 10
[Theatre Production: Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind](#)
at Lakota East Theatre
7:30 p.m.
- Monday, February 12
[Board of Education Meeting](#)
at Lakota Central Office
6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 14
[Coffee Chat with the Superintendent](#)
at Einstein Bagel Bros.
1 - 2 p.m.
- Friday, February 16
[No School in Lieu of Evening Conferences](#)
- Monday, February 19
[President's Day: District is Closed](#)
- Tuesday, February 20
[Student Job Fair](#)

Lakota In The News

Community Coverage

Hamilton-Journal News

[Lakota West senior Anna Szolwinski talks about giving back](#)

[School bus safety is in the spotlight after recent crashes. What's being done?](#)

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:

[Lakota East Honor Society Book Fair at Barnes & Noble \(February 17\)](#)

[Lakota Parent Engagement Speaker Series - Building a Stronger Community One Culture at a Time: February 22](#)

[LEADS Book Club: February 26 \(Grades 2-6\)](#)

Community-Sponsored Flyers:

[Challenger Baseball In-Person Registration: February 17](#)

[Grace Chapel Archery Spring Sessions \(All ages\)](#)

at Lakota West
9:45 - 10:50 a.m.

- Wednesday, February 21
[Student Job Fair](#)
[at Lakota East](#)
9:45 - 10:50 a.m.
- Thursday, February 22
[Kindergarten Information Night for 2018-19](#)
at Lakota East Theatre
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Thursday, February 22
**[Parent Engagement Series:
Building a Stronger Community
One Culture at a Time](#)**
at Lakota East Theatre
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Friday, February 23
[Shrek the Musical](#)
at Lakota West Theatre
7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, February 24
[Shrek the Musical](#)
at Lakota West Theatre
2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, February 25
[Shrek the Musical](#)
at Lakota West Theatre
2 p.m.

**[PYO Baseball and Softball Registration:
Feb. 10 \(Ages 3-18\)](#)**

**[Telehealth Show and Tell Event for Parents
at Children's Hospital: February 17](#)**

**[West Chester Soccer Club Spring
Registration: February 24 Deadline \(Ages 4-
18\)](#)**

**[Gold Medal Archery Classes: Begin
February 19 \(All ages\)](#)**

**All Current
E-Flyers**

**See Full
Calendar**

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