



A Look Around Lakota

DISTRICT E-NEWSLETTER

December 2021 Edition



#WEareLakota

IMPORTANT DATES

Teacher Professional Development Day (No School for Students)

December 22

Winter Break (No School)

December 23 -
January 2

School Resumes

January 3

In The Loop with the Supe

January 5

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No School)

January 17

FRONT & CENTER

SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 3

*Happy
Winter Break*

Enjoy your time celebrating
with family and friends.

**Lakota Science &
Engineering Fair**

January 21

**State of the Schools &
School Showcase**

February 7

Have a Wonderful Break... See You January 3!



**Lakota Increases Sub Pay Rates to Help
Overcome Shortage**

At the recommendation of Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller at the Nov. 29 Board of Education meeting, the school board voted unanimously to increase the district's current substitute pay structure.

"We are not alone when it comes to employment challenges," Miller said, referencing the nationwide shortage of workers across all sectors. "The shortage of substitute teachers and support staff to fill in when our staff are faced with illness, professional development requirements and other personal demands takes a toll

on the rest of the staff tasked with finding coverage. We are hopeful this increase will provide some relief to our buildings.”

[Read more](#)

AROUND LAKOTA

DISTRICT NEWS



Super In 60: December 2021

Join Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller for his last 60-second highlight reel of 2021. In this month's "Super in 60," he has all the latest on Lakota's increased pay rates for substitute staff, the return of giving trees, the winter break schedule and important dates coming up in the new year.

[Watch the Video](#)



Words of Wisdom: How Can WE Have a Great Winter Break?

Winter break is finally here! We asked students around Lakota to share some ideas on how to have a great winter break. WE wish you a happy, safe and healthy winter break. We'll see you on Jan. 3!

[Watch the Video](#)

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHTS



Boys Club: Life Skills & Friendships

Lots of Lessons Wrapped Up in Union Buddy Program

A new class buddy system at Union Elementary is serving as the foundation for new friendships across grade levels. For students of **Jackie Bender, Kristin Moore and Jeanne Turek**, it is doubling as an opportunity to reinforce math and English language arts (ELA) standards.

The trio has taken their class buddy assignment a step further, dedicating most of their class meet-ups to practicing a new concept like multiplication or letter writing, for example.

"How can I make good on the promise to help build this community?" Ridge Junior School teacher **Andrew Wuest** asked himself this question during his first year of teaching. The answer: Boys Club.

Now in its third year, Boys Club at Ridge is just that: A weekly after-school group for male students that centers around building relationships.

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)



Real World Learning Through Mentorship

What do you do when you're a retired engineer who loves physics? If you're **Richard Rigley**, you volunteer in high school physics classes.

"I was in engineering for my whole career, but never lost my interest in math and physics," Rigley said. After retiring from his job in Florida, Rigley and his wife moved back to Cincinnati to be near their children and grandchildren.

[Read more](#)



Past, Present Talent Explodes at West Theatre's 25th Anniversary Celebration

The Lakota West Theatre managed to fit 25 years of mainstage productions into two hours last Friday and Saturday night. Together, 18 current students and 12 alumni took a trip down memory lane, playing back some part of all 60-plus musicals and dramas adapted for Lakota West's stage over the program's 25-year history.

[Read more](#)



In-Person Activities Add More Personalization for VLO Students

"One of the most enjoyable parts of learning to read is getting to 'shop' for books to borrow from the classroom library," said VLO second grade teacher **Charlotte Elia**.

While her VLO students have many digital reading resources, Elia also wanted them to have the option to experience choosing books in this more traditional way.

[Read more](#)

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES



Jan. 17: Community Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Student Winners

The entire West Chester Liberty community is invited to attend a virtual edition of the 23rd annual celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, Jan. 17 at noon. The virtual program follows the 10 a.m. in-person community march, which extends from West Chester Township to Liberty Township.

Click below for details, including the list of this year's student winners.

[Read more](#)

Lakota Announces Summer Fun Fair Dates, Makes Call for Exhibitors

Lakota's 10th annual Summer Fun Fair, featuring local youth-based summer programming activities, is back to being in-person this year.

As a matter of convenience for families, the district will once again be hosting the fair on two nights from 6-8 p.m.: Monday, Feb. 28 at Lakota West and Wednesday, March 9 at Lakota East.

[Read more](#)



Lakota State of the Schools Returns Feb. 7

Lakota is excited to return to an in-person format for the fourth annual “State of the Schools” address, scheduled for the evening of Monday, Feb. 7 at Lakota East High School. The event is open to the entire community.

[Read more](#)

SHOUT-OUTS



Adena ELL Teacher Earns Ohio TESOL Award

Adena Elementary English Language Learner (ELL) teacher **Helen Vassiliou** earned this year's "Excellence in Teaching Award" from the Ohio chapter of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).

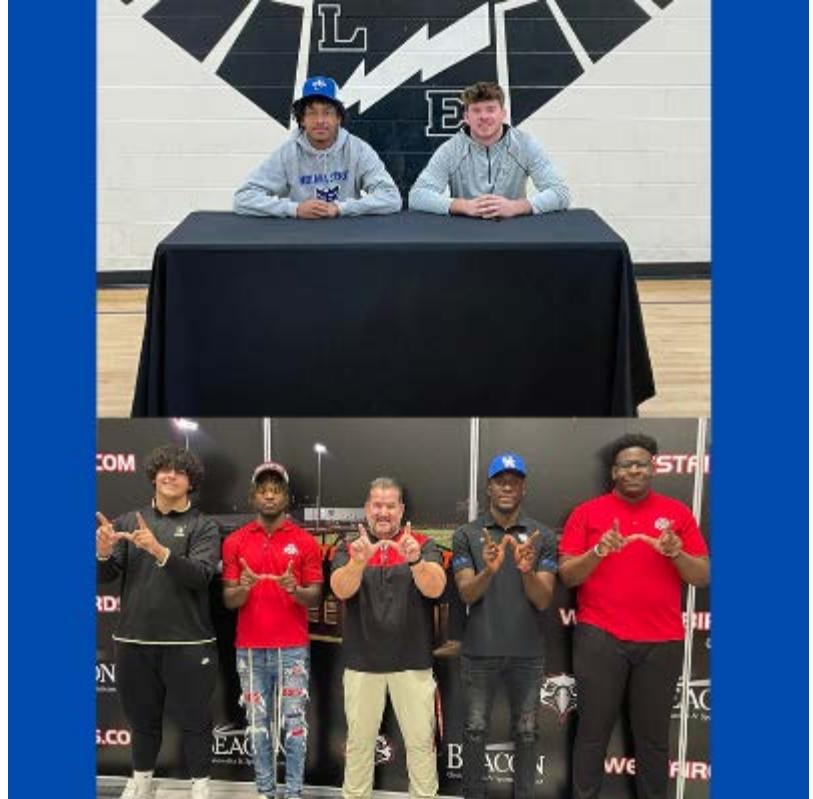
Jill Kramer, ELL coordinator of the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio, presented the award virtually on Dec. 17. "Helen has been very active in the field of TESOL and has helped Ohio TESOL with technology during the pandemic," wrote Kramer, who nominated Vassiliou for the award.



West Student Artist Wins First in Otterbein Exhibition

Congratulations to Lakota West senior artist **Gina Lin** for her first place finish in the third annual Juried High School Art Exhibition at Otterbein University. The juror described her work (pictured above) as "beautiful, yet fragile."

The exhibition featured just 45 different pieces statewide, including three others from Lakota West: **Ashley Fryer, Taylor Hamilton** and **Jasmine Walker**. All four students received a \$2,000 Otterbein Art Scholarship, while Lin received an additional \$200 cash prize. [Click here to view the virtual edition of the exhibition.](#)



High Schools Hold Football Signing Events

Last week, Lakota East and West high schools held athletic signing events on the first day of the NCAA Football Early Signing Period.

Congratulations to these Thunderhawks and Firebirds who will be continuing their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level.

Lakota East

Charlie Kenrich: Purdue University

Caleb Vanhooser: Indiana State University

Lakota West

Alex Afari: University of Kentucky

Jyaire Brown: The Ohio State University

Lathan McComis: Wofford College

Tegra Tshabola: The Ohio State University

TOP PICK PIC



Lakota East Veterans Network Club helped with setting up and handing out the wreaths at Brookside Cemetery on Saturday, Dec. 18 for Wreaths Across America. This was the first time this has been held in West Chester; Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) organized the event with Wreaths Across America and West Chester VFW 7696 /American Legion 681 did the Color Guard and taps.

The students placed 50 wreaths two hours prior to the event, plus the eight used as part of the ceremony. It was a wet and foggy day, but the students were honored to be part of the event to remember those who served our country.

WE are Lakota



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