



This Week at Lakota

Instilling Pride. Igniting Passion. Infinite Possibilities.

February 3, 2017 EDITION

Leading the Way *Featured Presentation*

Lakota Celebrates Board Appreciation Month through Students' Eyes



Pictured above (left to right): Sixth-graders Tyler Linam (Union); Lucy Enneking, Kristina Amundson and Zara Silvis (Adena); and Hadyn Revell (Hopewell).

The Jan. 23 school board meeting featured a unique display of appreciation for the service of Lakota's five Board of Education members – through the eyes of five Lakota students.

To help recognize January as National School Board Appreciation Month, three sixth grade language arts classes at Adena, Hopewell and Union elementary schools put in writing their appreciation for Lakota's school board. With the guidance of their teachers – Kate Chaney, Krista Hctor and Kelly Law – they found a real application for recent units and then presented their work to the board.

Hopewell students, for example, participated in a research project overlapping with business letter writing. Students investigated the roles of elected officials, including school board members. Following a rubric for business letter writing, they composed their own letters to Lakota's school board.

Hopewell student **Hadyn Revell**'s letter was selected among her classmates to be read aloud at the school board meeting. It referenced the personal value of such opportunities as after-school programs and advanced classes.

The class at Union made the exercise an extension of their recent lesson in argumentative writing to simulate writing a formal letter of request to an elected official. **Tyler Linam**'s argument supporting increased time in academic specials won out among his peers.

The class at Adena made it a group exercise that practiced the skills of letter writing and public speaking. Sixth-graders **Zara Silvis**, **Kristina Amundson** and **Lucy Enneking** represented their class at the podium during the board meeting.

One note of thanks from their letter: "One specific thing we want to thank you all for is the addition of STEAM to the curriculum. It teaches us to problem solve, be creative, and work with our peers more directly."

West's Peer Mentoring Group 'A Safe Place to Share'

Group Supports Cultural Inclusiveness, Community Engagement



Members of Lakota West's Peer Mentoring Group gather before a recent session. The students share concerns and encourage one another with school, family, work and other issues.

According to Lakota West senior **Jada Dunn**, the best aspect of participating in the school's peer mentoring group is that "We get to talk about what's bugging us and to get others' perspective. We can share anything as it's a safe environment and we know there will be encouragement from the others."

Dunn, who has been involved with the group since the beginning of this year, says she "appreciates the affirmation I

get by coming here. It helps to share and hold each other accountable.”

According to Principal Elgin Card, that’s the purpose of the club: to provide a network of support for African-American students that allows them to share frustrations, challenges and opportunities.

“Many students didn’t know each other previously, so they have become a cohort, a group that holds one another responsible for their grades, behavior and decisions. They truly mentor each other, helping them work out and address issues.”

According to Dr. Monique C. Johnson, who’s one of the co-coordinators of Lakota’s “Champions for Change” cultural inclusion program, “The group is a great opportunity for students to share their feelings and to encourage one another. Research has shown that African American students who attend schools where they are in the minority experience feelings of isolation and alienation at times. Social support systems like this group are a great way to support, retain, and help students adjust as well as excel.”

The desire to help every student feel welcome and accepted is the foundation of the “Champions for Change” cultural proficiency training program for Lakota staff. At its core is building a stronger culture of inclusiveness and understanding that supports high achievement for students of all different backgrounds. The program acknowledges a demographic trend at Lakota defined by steady changes in the cultural, racial, socioeconomic and even cognitive make-up of the district’s students and families.

[Click here to continue](#) reading about the impact of West’s peer mentoring group.

New Video Features Lakota’s Career Readiness Academy

Alternative High School Experience a New Option for Lakota Students

Lakota’s new Career Readiness Academy is the definition of personalized education – and one example of Lakota’s commitment to providing a range of options to set students up for success.

The alternative high school program, introduced as an option to both Lakota East and West students this school year, offers students the opportunity to earn their high school diploma in a smaller, more flexible environment. Students facing different circumstances in their lives or struggling with the traditional high school format can work at their own pace with the benefits of a curriculum that combines online instruction with one-on-one support from the Academy’s academic staff.



Lakota's Career Readiness Academy offers one-on-one support and personalized education, allowing students to progress at their own pace and with a more flexible environment. [Click here to](#) view the video on Lakota's You Tube channel.

"The model allows students to work entirely at their own pace," said Nicole Isaacs, the leader of the district's new high school alternative program open to both Lakota East and West ninth- through twelfth-graders. "Every student who walks through our doors has the same goal – to graduate on time and formulate a plan for what happens after that. But how they get there can look very different."

During its pilot year, the Academy is situated in a space right off the cafeteria of Lakota West's main campus. Students reap the benefits of all that main campus has to offer, like guidance counselor support, athletics and extracurricular programs, while enjoying a more flexible, alternative format.

The Academy has big plans to increase its capacity next school year in a new location that will be more central to students from both sides of the district. During the current registration season for the 2017-2018 school year, students might consider what the Career Readiness Academy has to offer.

Learn more about Lakota's new option, and why it's worked for some students, by viewing this [new video](#) or [reading the article](#) published in the last edition of "This Week at Lakota."

Around Lakota

Kindergartners Celebrating 100 Days of School



January 30 marked a special day for Lakota kindergartners: 100 days of learning, friendship, and developing self-confidence and skills....100 days of school.

How did our early childhood schools celebrate? In a wide range of ways, including community service projects, dressing like people 100 years ago or as the 101 Dalmatians, completing 100-piece puzzles, reading 100 books, counting out (and perhaps wearing) collections of 100 things.

[Visit our Facebook page to view more fun photos](#) from the 100th day of school.



Speech Class Leaves Lasting Impression on Alumni



*Pictured: Sophomore **Clara Erich** and senior **Jesse Patton** are currently taking speech and were recently recognized for their 'Pet Peeve' speeches. They agree with speech alumni that all students should consider taking a speech class.*

The course registration process is now underway for high school students, with Lakota offering a full range of educational paths and classes to students to prepare them for their future. But recent graduates of Dave Honhart's speech class think students should seriously consider working an elective speech class into their schedules.

Honhart had 10 alumni volunteers come back and share their experiences during Lakota East's Elective Showcase – and one even developed a [video](#) to promote taking speech. "All of these students, and many, many more who have kept in touch with me, believe that the class had a tremendous positive impact on their lives and it was one of the most

powerful courses they took in high school. The content and nature of class itself just lends itself to making an immediate impact on students."

Honhart can easily talk at length about the value of taking a speech class, but hearing recent graduates talk about the class is what really hit home with current students. During the Showcase, alumni had the opportunity to talk one-on-one with current students, sharing how the class increased their overall confidence, strengthened their leadership skills, gave them an edge in college or the workforce, and more.

Speech is offered at both high school campuses. Registration for rising sophomores, juniors and seniors began Jan. 27 and closes on Feb. 6.

[Click here to read the messages that alumni shared with students.](#)

LEA Selects 2017 Scholarship Winners

The Lakota Education Association (LEA) announced its 2017 scholarships, recognizing the four recipients at the Jan. 20 Lakota East versus Lakota West boys' varsity basketball game.

The union's scholarship committee awards a total of four \$1,000 scholarships in two categories: the LEA Senior Scholarship is given to a senior who has indicated their interest in pursuing a

degree in education, while the LEA Member Scholarship is awarded to students whose parents are educators at Lakota.



LEA Treasurer Dennis Beck and Scholarship Chair Tracy O'Rourke (from left) pose with the four 2017 scholarship recipients: Lakota East senior Erin Metz, Lakota West seniors Kara Denison and Justin Kelley, and Princeton senior Rachel Moorman-Minton, who received the LEA Member Scholarship.

Sharon Mays, LEA president, said, "Every year, the LEA Scholarship Committee takes on the difficult task of selecting four students from an impressive pool of candidates to reward with \$1,000 each to use toward their higher education goals. Such gifts are possible thanks to the generosity of our members, as Lakota Education Association members contribute annually to the scholarship fund."

The students selected to receive a scholarship must demonstrate academic

excellence, school and community involvement, and have strong recommendations from teachers and community members.

Congratulations to **Erin Metz**, a Lakota East senior, who was awarded the 2017 LEA Senior Scholarship. Metz plans to attend Canisius College and major in adolescent education and French. The LEA Member Scholarship winners are Lakota West students **Kara Denison** and **Justin Kelley**, and **Rachel Moorman-Minton**, who attends Princeton High School. Denison plans to further develop her Spanish by studying in the U.S. and overseas while pursuing her passion to help others. Kelley is planning to secure a degree in finance and economics before continuing on to law school, and Moorman-Minton plans to major in political science and work to legislate positive change on a local and national scale.

Lakota East, West Host National Signing Day Ceremonies

On Feb. 1, Lakota celebrated 26 senior student-athletes' during the NCAA national letter of intent signing day. Both Lakota high schools held ceremonies to honor the accomplishments of these students who will continue their education while playing a sport in college.



Photo courtesy of Trim Photo

LAKOTA EAST

- Erin Babcock:** Soccer (University of Akron)
- Talia Brown:** Soccer (Bowling Green State University)
- Nicholas Finley:** Football (University of Findlay)
- Tyler Glenn:** Football (Limestone College)
- Jack Harper:** Soccer (Hobart and William Smith College)
- Bryce Hartwell:** Football (Cincinnati Christian University)
- Jayde Hoffman:** Soccer (Capital University)
- Hunter Holt:** Baseball (Ohio Christian University)
- Silas Ingram:** Football (Thomas More College)
- Xavier Martin:** Football (Mercyhurst University)
- Abigail Mathews:** Soccer (Ohio Northern University)
- Sydney Pinder:** Soccer (Illinois Wesleyan University)
- Kaitlyn Rhodes:** Soccer (Hanover College)



Photo courtesy of Jenny Walters Photography

LAKOTA WEST

- Jennifer Douyere:** Soccer (Earlham College)
- Devin Duhme:** Soccer (Lander University)
- Caley Murphy:** Soccer (Mount St. Joe)
- Andrew Brengelman:** Soccer (Malone University)
- Jeffrey Douyere:** Soccer (Earlham College)
- Jeremy Douyere:** Soccer (Earlham College)
- Brandon Whited:** Soccer (Heidelberg University)
- Will Nguyen:** Football (Georgetown College)
- Payton Porterfield:** Football (Hocking College)
- Brian Qua:** Football (Grand Valley State University)
- Zelwyn Robinson:** Football (Georgetown College)
- David Walcott:** Football (Ball State University - preferred walk-on)
- Tony White:** Football (University of Pikeville)

[View All District News](#)

New Business

Announcements & Opportunities

School Board Narrows Superintendent Search to Two

Finalists Receive Top Rankings from Both Board and Community



In its search to find the district's next superintendent, the Lakota Local Schools Board of Education has narrowed its superintendent search to two candidates: Dr. Keith Kline and Mr. Matthew Miller.

"During the first round of interviews, we were fortunate for the opportunity to meet a solid pool of candidates, all with prior superintendent experience in districts both locally and regionally," said Lakota Board President Ben Dibble. "While we appreciate all of their interest in Lakota, Dr. Kline and Mr. Miller most closely embodied the skills, values and overall experience that will help our district continue making progress for the benefit of all our students."

Both candidates have been invited to participate in a final round interview with the board next Thursday, February 9. This will allow the district to expedite their original timeline and make a final decision earlier than planned.

The board conducted first round interviews with eight candidates selected from the original pool of 17. Keeping with its commitment to involve the community at critical points throughout the process, the board also invited a cross-section of staff, parents, business leaders and residents to ask questions of the candidates and provide feedback.

"Part of our decision involved reviewing the community input collected earlier in this process, as well as the feedback given by the 24 community members who participated in the recent meet and greet," Dibble said. "It was reassuring to see that this group's feedback aligned with that of the board's."

[Read more about the candidates' qualifications and the superintendent search process.](#)

2017-2018 Kindergarten Registration Information Now Available

Registration forms and applications for Lakota's half-day and full-day kindergarten are now available on the district website. Beginning Feb. 27, families will be able to register at the Lakota Enrollment Center according to the building-by-building schedule.



To enroll in kindergarten, a child must be five years old on or before August 1, 2017. Currently active preschool students must register for kindergarten as well.

Upcoming Parent Information Nights will be held at each Lakota early childhood school prior to enrollment. These sessions are a great opportunity for parents to ask questions and learn more about Lakota's Kindergarten program, as well as receive assistance in completing the necessary registration forms.

[Click here](#) for more information and details on the Parent Information Nights and registration schedule.

Summer Fun Fair Promises Nearly 100 Vendors, Over \$2,000 in Prizes



Are you ready to start thinking about warm weather activities?

In less than a month, Lakota East and West's hallways will be lined with nearly 100 organizations offering summer youth activities. It's all part of Lakota's fifth annual Summer Fun Fair events taking place on Monday, Feb. 27 and Wednesday, March 1.

[Click here to see the list of nearly 100 exhibitors](#) ranging from summer camps, learning

centers and childcare facilities to athletic leagues, art programs, recreation activities and volunteer opportunities.

Vendors have also graciously donated raffle items that will be given away at each of the two open house events. Over \$1,000 in prizes will be raffled off each evening, including free camp registrations, gift baskets, gift certificates and memberships.

Butler County Esc Early Childhood Program: Basket of baby items and toddler books

Challenger Sports: Replic soccer jersey, soccer ball and more (value \$70)

Children's Theater of Mason: Free Spring Class (value \$60)

Cincinnati Skating School: One month of skating lessons (value \$115)

College Nannies + Tutors Mason/West Chester: Free enrollment to My Sitters mobile app + 3 free sitter hours (value \$206)

Enriching Kidz: One Kidz Home Alone Summer Class (value \$65)

Gold Medal Archery: Raffle basket with one-hour private lesson, cap or t-shirt and more (value \$80)

Heritage Village Museum: \$25 certificate off camp admission

International Order of the Rainbow for Girls: \$50 summer camp certificate

Painting with a Twist: \$25 gift certificate

SDA Studios: \$50 worth of dance lessons & \$45 costume (value \$95)

STEMS for Youth: Two \$100 gift certificates

West Chester Academy – Music, Dance, Gymnastics: Free birthday party (value \$165)

Make plans now to attend either of two events, each featuring almost the same exhibitors:

Monday, Feb. 27

Lakota West High School
6-8 p.m.

Wednesday, March 1

Lakota East High School
6-8 p.m.

Concessions will be on site to grab a quick dinner, snack or dessert. Live performances and demonstrations by some organizations will also provide extra entertainment throughout the evening. Mark your calendars now to be part of the fun!

March Madness Tournament Open to Grades 2-6



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. This year, the program has been extended to include second-graders so now Lakota students (boys and girls) in grades 2-6 can participate. The tournament will tip off on Monday, March 13 and conclude with the finals on Friday, March 24.

Last year, more than 1,000 students participated. With the help of community supporters attending their games, they raised more than \$10,000 for local charities.

Tournament leaders are now seeking more than 120 adults to help coach. If you would like to help, please contact Kevin Martin at kmartin@pipelinepackaging.com. If your student is

interested in participating, please watch for dates and times of the evaluations in your school newsletters. For more details on the tournament, visit the [Lakota March Madness webpage](#).

Student Panel Night Slated for March 9

Perhaps the best way to learn about the Lakota high school experience is to hear from actual students. On Thursday, March 9, several Lakota High School seniors will share their perspective during student panel night.

The presentation is an opportunity for underclassmen and junior high students to ask questions about all aspects of high school: academics, sports, clubs, extracurricular activities and more. The event is geared toward students in grades 6-8 and their families, however all are welcome to attend.

The panel, which is hosted by Lakota's Gifted Services, will be held from 7-8 p.m. at the Lakota Central Office, 5572 Princeton Road. For more information, please contact either [Patty Piron](#), Lakota East Gifted Advisor, or [Lauren Webb](#), Lakota West Gifted Advisor. [Click here for a flyer](#) with more details.

Get Immunizations Now for the 2017-2018 School Year

Lakota nurses would like to remind parents and guardians that it's not too early to begin planning for the upcoming school year. Immunizations are an important part of public health and keeping your child healthy and safe from life-threatening diseases. Ohio law requires students and children that attend school to be immunized against certain preventable diseases. The new vaccine required by Ohio law for school entry went into effect in the fall of 2016.

[Click here to view the new immunizations requirements.](#)

On the Radar

Quick Links & Reminders

Feb. 20 Deadline for Providing Input on 2018-19 Academic Calendar

The Lakota Calendar Committee is preparing a 2018-2019 district calendar recommendation for the Board of Education. Lakota staff, students, parents and community members are invited to review the current draft before any final recommendation is presented to the school board in late February 2017.

But hurry – as you only have until Monday, Feb. 20 to comment. We value any input you have regarding possible changes to the calendar. [Please click here to view the calendar and provide your feedback by completing and submitting the online survey form by Monday, Feb. 20.](#) Feedback will be reviewed and adjustments made, as appropriate.

Parents, Community Welcome at February Student Fanfare Events

Lakota's new series of community fanfare events is proving so popular with students and community members that more events continue to be added. The concept is a simple one: Line the school's entrance and give students high-fives and words of encouragement as they're filing into school. The new tradition aims to provide students with a visual display of all their supporters during times like testing and the start of a new semester, for example.

All are welcome! Join us for one or more of the fanfares scheduled for February:

Monday, Feb. 13 @ 8:15 a.m. - Endeavor Elementary
Tuesday, Feb. 21 @ 9 a.m. - Union Elementary
Friday, Feb. 24 @ 9 a.m. - Creekside Early Childhood School
Monday, Feb. 27 @ 8:15 a.m. - Hopewell Elementary

[Click here for the complete schedule through May and to commit to one or more fanfare events](#)
or [click here to view a video from Lakota East to see students' reaction to the welcome.](#)

Lakota Listens Through Community Conversations

Since 2012, Lakota's Board of Education and administration have been hosting Community Conversations as an ongoing way to hear from our local residents. They are a way for community members to share their concerns and comments on general education themes, as well as specific issues and topics that have arisen over the years that merit community input.

[A video](#) summarizes a busy October of Community Conversations, which focused on themes such as the new superintendent search, the district's evolving partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of West Chester/Liberty, and the role sports should play in 21st century education.

While all of the sessions are open to the public, some have a specific theme or audience. Mark your calendar for the next two upcoming Community Conversations:

- **Monday, February 13** from 7 – 8:30 p.m.
Hosted by the Lakota East Boosters (Lakota East Main Campus)
- **Wednesday, March 1** from 5:30 – 7 p.m.
Hosted by the Edge Teen Center (7568 Wyandot Lane #2, Liberty Township)

[Click here](#) for more details about Community Conversations.

Feb. 10 Deadline for Athletic Participation Grants

The Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty is offering Lakota families assistance with their children's athletic participation fees. The grant is funded by private donations and available to students in grades 7-12. The deadline for consideration of the Community Foundation grant for Spring sports is Friday, Feb. 10. [Click here for more information](#) and to download the application.

Photo of the Week

'Try Band' Open Houses



The recent "Try Band" open houses hosted by Lakota's high school band programs were a great opportunity for younger students to explore the possibility of being part of the band program in high school. Students in fifth through seventh grades were welcome to attend, regardless of whether or not they had prior band experience.

At Lakota West, students spent the morning hearing and trying different band instruments and learning about the Lakota band program. For some, it was their first time to try an instrument. Later, the students were treated to a concert by the Lakota West Symphonic Winds band and had the opportunity to come up on stage and "conduct" the band. More photos from Lakota West's open house are [posted to Flickr](#).

There's still time for elementary and junior high students to get involved - just check your school's website for complete details about the beginning band program and how to get involved. Visit the band websites for [Lakota East](#) and [Lakota West](#) to learn more about the high school programs.

Upcoming Events

- Monday, Feb. 6
[Lakota Board of Education Meeting](#), Central Office
7 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 13
[Student Fanfare at Endeavor Elementary](#) (Community Invited)
8:15 a.m.
- Monday, Feb. 13
[Community Conversation Hosted by Lakota East Boosters](#), Lakota East Main
Campus, Central Office
7 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 17
[No School](#)
- Monday, Feb. 20
[District Closed, President's Day](#)
- Tuesday, Feb. 21
[Student Fanfare at Union Elementary](#) (Community Invited)
9 a.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 22
[Coffee Connections](#), Cavu Coffee
2 p.m.

[View Full Calendar](#)

Lakota In The News

Journal-News

[Lakota graduate, current student partner on Autism Advocacy Project](#)
[Local schools react to governor's idea of business leaders on boards](#)
[Human tunnels of encouragement greeting Lakota students](#)
[Candidates say why they want to be Lakota's next superintendent](#)
[EXCLUSIVE: 16 apply for Lakota superintendent job](#)

Cincinnati.com

[Lakota closer to picking superintendent](#)

Latest E-Flyers

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:

[Student Panel Night - current high school students share experiences for students and families grades 6 & up \(March 9\)](#)

[Hot Topics & Hot Coffee - Student Stress and Strategies \(March 13\)](#)

Community-Sponsored Flyers:

[February Volunteer Ideas from Community Volunteer Force \(All ages\)](#)

[Lakota Tomahawks Cheer Registration \(Grades K-6\)](#)

[Lakota Tomahawks Football Registration \(Grades K-6\)](#)

[PYO Baseball & Softball Registration \(Ages 5-18\)](#)

[PYO Baseball Registration \(Ages 3.5 to 7\)](#)

[LSO Referee Program \(Ages 13 & up\)](#)

[Gold Medal Archery Classes - February through April \(Ages 9 & up\)](#)

[West Chester Soccer Club Spring Registration \(Ages 4 & up\)](#)

[LSO Spring Sports Registration for Baseball, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball](#)

[View All E-Flyers](#)