

**Instilling Pride. Igniting Passion. Infinite Possibilities.**

December 16, 2016

## Leading the Way

*Lakota Schools Give Back This Holiday Season*



National Honor Society students at Lakota West wrap coats, gloves and other cold weather clothing which will be given to the homeless. For more photos of recent numerous community service projects around the district, [visit our Facebook photo gallery.](#)

Sixth grade students in *Team Inspire* at Independence Elementary pose with their "compassion tree." The group encouraged other students to sponsor a mitten and provide gifts for the needy.

Perhaps it is the increased need of many area residents during the winter months or the emphasis on helping this time of year. Regardless of the reason, many Lakota schools took on special projects in order to help others.

“I am so proud of our students and the compassion they continue to show for one another and especially for our community,” said Acting Superintendent Robb Voglemann. “They get the concept of giving back, something that we try to incorporate into all grade levels. It is part of our commitment to giving back to a community that does so much to support our work.”

Research shows that such community service work not only fosters compassion in students, but also complements the academic program and helps promote a sense of community and civic responsibility.

Numerous Lakota schools, including Cherokee Elementary and Liberty Junior, participated in Stockings for Soldiers, gathering items such as food, mints, hygiene products, and reading materials to send overseas to our soldiers during the holiday season.

Another common project was the giving tree, although implemented in various ways around the district. At Wyandot Early Childhood School, families come together for a “wrap party” to prepare all of the gifts, while at Liberty Junior they used money from their March Madness dance, along with additional gifts from parents, students and staff, to sponsor 26 students with clothing and gifts.

Independence Elementary’s third grade students, teachers and families made beautiful stockings for their Compassion Tree recipient families while sixth grade students in *Team Inspire* organized the gifts and promoted the effort throughout the school.

At Lakota West, several student organizations led the efforts. Student Government coordinated *Adopt A Child*, in which students donated money in their fourth bell class – enough to provide gifts to 120 students from Lakota elementary schools. The Key Club collected winter gear such as coats, hats,

It was as if a blanket of snow had covered Adena Elementary during their White Gifts assembly. Students bring a non-perishable food item and wrap it in white paper. All of the items are then given to Reach Out Lakota as a way to give back to the community, with an emphasis on teaching the students that the focus is not on the gift itself, but the act of giving.

Reach Out Lakota was the recipient of another giving back project, as gifted students from both high schools and the junior schools got into the holiday spirit. The group organized and stuffed more than 700 stockings that Reach Out Lakota shares with the needy throughout the area.

The Kindness Ambassadors at Liberty Early Childhood School took the lead on the school’s recent giving back efforts, donating toys to Reach Out Lakota and Children’s Hospital which will be shared with patients during the annual Jingle Bell Junction party for children who are in the hospital during the holidays.

**Meredith Brown** and **Madison Price**, two of Woodland Elementary’s fifth grade students, became inspired by a presentation on poverty and world hunger they completed and presented to their Tutoring & Enrichment (T & E) class. Ms. Chris Butler, their T & E teacher, impressed upon them and the other students in the class the importance of giving back and getting involved to help those less fortunate. From their assignment and the words of their teacher, they then took it upon themselves to start up a cause to help those less fortunate. They reached out to a couple different organizations regarding a toy drive to fit in with the season and decided to support Children’s Hospital. The students then set out to create a campaign to get the word out, and even decorated collection boxes to bring in early to school one day. Meredith and Madison worked closely with administration to set a goal of 50 toys, which they easily surpassed by gathering 79 items.

*These are just some of the many ways Lakota Gives Back, both during the holidays and throughout the year. Regardless of the season, Lakota students and staff work tirelessly to support causes that make a difference in the lives of others right here in West Chester and Liberty townships. For more information, [please click here to view the Lakota Gives Back video](#), one of an eight-part video*

gloves, and scarves to give to the needy and the National Honor Society donated clothes, coats and other items to help the homeless through a local ministry.

*series that focuses on the three main principles and priorities guiding Lakota's daily work: Instructional Excellence, Community Engagement and the foundation of it all, Fiscal Responsibility and Sustainability. Watch the video series to see how Lakota is providing all students with a personalized and premiere educational experience.*

# Around Lakota

## School Spotlights

### Video: New Student Fanfare Events Put Community Support on Display



Lakota East High School, both the freshman and main campuses, were among the first scheduled stops in a new series of community fanfare events supporting student achievement. [Click here to view a quick video capturing some of the action at Lakota East.](#)

The concept, derived from a first day of school tradition at Hopewell Junior School, brings community and school leaders together to send a message of support to Lakota students. At different times throughout the school year, the district is inviting community residents and businesses to join school staff for a fanfare-like welcome to school for students.

The group's task 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.

Lakota East hosted welcoming groups on Dec. 15 as a way to lift students up during first semester exams. The district's partnership with the West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance drew many local business professionals, like Daron Fender of SpotOn Productions.

"Seeing all the students' reactions was a really fun way to start the workday," Fender said. "Plus, it was only a 15-minute pit stop on my way to work."

Upcoming fanfare events include:

*Students at Lakota East are greeted by community residents and business as part of a new district-wide initiative designed to show students how the community is vested in and supports their success.*

**Jan. 4, 2017 @ 7:45 a.m.**  
Lakota West High School

**March 17, 2017 @ 9 a.m.**  
Cherokee Elementary

**March 20, 2017 @ 8:15 a.m.**  
Adena Elementary

**April 18, 2017 @ 9 a.m.**  
Heritage Elementary

[Click here for the most up-to-date schedule and to sign up for different events.](#)

## Announcing Spring Internships for High School Students

This spring, Lakota's juniors and seniors will have more internship opportunities than ever before. Lakota has partnered with seven area businesses to create unique learning experiences that also offer elective high school credit.

More than 50 high school students will have the chance to gain hands-on experience in such career paths as OT/PT/speech therapy, marketing, biomedical engineering, podiatry/small business, surgery/physical therapy, and pediatric medical care.

Application timelines vary (see dates below) and students will be asked to participate in an interview process for each one. Click on the following links for brochures and program descriptions for five of the internships (student applications for these internships will be posted to the district and high school websites over winter break). Look for details on the new programs at Cincinnati Children's Hospital and Beacon Orthopaedics at the beginning of January.

A wide range of summer internships will be announced in the spring.

### **ABC Pediatric Therapy**

Applications due Jan. 12

[Brochure](#)

[Program Description](#)

### **Various Views Research**

Applications due Jan. 30

[Brochure](#)

[Program Description](#)

### **Ethicon**

Applications due Feb. 1

[Brochure](#)

[Program Description](#)

### **Procter & Gamble**

Applications due Feb. 10

[Brochure](#)

[Program Description](#)

### **Center for Foot Care**

Applications due Feb. 20

[Brochure](#)

[Program Description](#)



### **Beacon Orthopaedics**

Applications due Mar. 1

More details available in Jan.

### **Cincinnati Children's Hospital**

Applications due Mar. 3

More details available in Jan.

## **Lakota Band Members Named to All-National Honors Ensembles**



*Seniors Faith Ann Santucci and James Leonard were selected to perform with the National Association for Music Education's 2016 All-National Honors Ensembles.*

Lakota West's **Faith Ann Santucci** and East's **James Leonard** recently travelled to Grapevine, Texas to perform alongside the nation's top high school musicians at the National Association for Music Education's annual conference held November 10-13.

As members of last year's All-State Concert Band, they were invited to audition for the prestigious ensembles that consisted of a concert band, symphony orchestra, mixed choir and jazz ensemble.

Faith Ann, a flutist, was selected to be part of the concert band, and James played the timpani with the symphony orchestra.

Faith Ann is a senior who has played flute since fifth grade. She is currently auditioning for music education programs, with career aspirations to be a band director. "It was an incredible experience getting to meet and perform with other students who share my love of music," said Santucci.

Also a senior, James has played percussion for seven years and plans to major in percussion performance next fall. He hopes to one day perform professionally with an orchestra.

Lakota West Band Director Andrew Carr said, "It is quite an honor for these two students to be part of the national honor ensembles because thousands of students auditioned from all over the country."

## **Lakota East's Art Exhibit Shows that Art Can Change the World**



*Lakota East photography students pose with the school's recent exhibit, "We Are East," which focuses on the commonalities of students as well as their diverse backgrounds and cultures.*

The art exhibit features 24 images and 11 languages yet there is one overall message – “We are East.”

Students in Karen Saunder’s Still Photography I course at Lakota East were inspired to do a project at the high school after viewing the work of professional photographer JR and his question: Can art change the world? She tied in the idea with the district’s new [Champions for Change initiative](#), which promotes inclusiveness and academic success for all students.

“The students wanted to show the diverse group of the school’s population, yet also highlight the commonality they share,” explains Saunders. “They felt that the image of holding the ‘We are East’ sign helps reiterate their shared experience while also honoring the rich diversity of cultures.”

Students who spoke and wrote in two (or more) languages were given the option of which they wanted to use. Thus, the overall exhibit boasts a variety of languages, including Punjabi, Spanish, Arabic, Korean, French, American Sign, Ukrainian, Twi Ghanaian dialect, Mandarin, Hindi and English.

“We also wanted to explore the range of students here at East in other ways, so the students selected females and males, all grade levels, and students with disabilities. To them, the goal was to showcase all, knowing that all students here are in accord, that the ‘We Are East’ applies to all,” adds Saunders.

“The exhibit is close to our front door, as a reminder to everyone visiting our building that we embrace inclusiveness and honor differences,” states Lakota East Principal Suzanna Davis. “It is a value we hold and which permeates our culture.”

## Lakota West Students Participate in First Latino Student Summit at UC



*Lakota West students **Hector Flores**, **Isa Arantes**, **Mei Castaneda Ceballos**, and **Antonio Delgado** pause for a photo at the recent Ohio Latino Student Summit hosted by the University of Cincinnati.*

It was a day focusing on empowerment and affirmation, helping students embrace their culture and their future.

"I saw different perspectives from Guatemalans, Mexicans, Brazilians, etc., and I felt that I wasn't alone in the goals to achieve academically," states Lakota West senior **Isa Arantes**, in explaining how she benefited from the recent experience.

Twelve Lakota West students participated in the Ohio Latino Student Summit hosted by the University of Cincinnati. The event had a two-fold purpose: to foster leadership skills for the attending students while also helping area colleges and high schools learn how to enhance the Latino/Hispanic student experience.

According to Lakota West teacher Bethany Dunn, one of the highlights was for Latino students to converse with professionals who encouraged them to overcome challenges they face and to actively seek information regarding their future academic and career paths.

Keynote speakers Dr. Maria Espinola and Mateo Raul Magdaleno shared messages of Latino resiliency, identity, and community. Students participated in several small group sessions and a panel discussion concluded the conference.

Sophomore **Mei Castaneda Ceballos** states, "I personally think my day at the conference was both important and meaningful. It gave me so much information about going to college and opened the doors to my future."

In response to Mateo Magdaleno's motivational speech, Arantes says, "I'll never forget when all of us shouted 'I DON'T QUIT!' I took a picture with him and that picture is still the background of my phone."

Dunn cites another direct effect of the summit, stating, "After attending the conference, one of our students went to her guidance counselor to start the process of attending college after graduation.



She is a first generation student with neither parent finishing high school."

## Lakota West Holds Art Alumni Day, Providing Career Exploration Insight for Current Students



*Lakota West's Art Alumni Day is a chance for current students to get insight into different colleges from West alums. Here, Kathryn Holday, a current Ball State student and former AP art student at West, shares about her experience with a current high school student and her mother.*

Imagine learning the "inside scoop" from someone who is already working in your field of interest, someone who graduated perhaps just a few years ago from your high school.

That's the premise of Lakota West's Art Alumni Day in which alumni return to the school to chat with current students. According to coordinator Stephanie Gauer, "This event is a very special opportunity for everyone involved. For our current students, this is a time for them to learn about all the great career opportunities available to them."

She adds, "They get to hear from our alumni about what it's like to be a college student, work with professors, specialize in a specific creative field, be in a studio environment, learn about college level expectations, and know what it's like to have a co-op or internship. It's a great way for our current students to learn how they can take their creative abilities to the next level and turn it into a career."

There's a benefit to the alums as well since they view it as a way for them to "pay it forward."

Alumnae Kathryn Holaday attended the event to discuss her experience as a student at Ball State University. "It's fun to come back and talk to the students and makes me recall what I was doing just a few years ago," states the college junior. "Talking about my work with the students and what I'm experiencing at Ball State is very rewarding. I've found that my time at Lakota West as an AP art student really helped prepare me for what I'm encountering at college. The pace of work is similar and I was able to receive an art scholarship thanks to my strong portfolio that I built while at West."



Gauer explains, “Many of them were inspired by our alumni at Alumni Day when they were in high school and feel a desire and obligation to do the same thing for our current students. They really enjoy talking to our current students and give them advice on their work.”

This year, 20 LWHS alums participated representing fields such as graphic design, industrial design, animation, architecture, communication design, fashion design, and the fine arts. Students also appreciate the real-world insight offered by the alums.

Lakota West senior **Emily Drexelius** explains, "It's really helpful to hear the accurate news from them, instead of the sales angle that is provided by the college. The alums tell us what's real and they know what it will be like for us and want us to do well."

Gauer notes, “For us as teachers, it’s a great way for us to keep up to date with the trends and expectations at the post-secondary level. We get to catch up with our former students and see if they feel that our art program prepared them for college. This is extremely helpful for future planning, curriculum and project development. The day is filled with lots of inspiration, exploration, and discovery for everyone involved.”

[View All District News](#)

## New Business

*Announcements & Opportunities*

**Vendors Sought for Upcoming Summer Fun Fair**

## On The Radar

*Quick Links & Reminders*

**A Reminder about Lakota's Closing/Delay Procedures**



Save the dates for Lakota's fifth annual Summer Fun Fair. The fair is a great way for parents to learn about the many local businesses and non-profit organizations that provide summer programming for students in grades K-12.

Vendors range from summer camps, learning centers and childcare facilities to athletic leagues, art programs and local parks and recreation. They will be available all at one time and in one location to share information and answer questions about

their summer offerings.

Live entertainment by some of our performing arts vendors will be provided and door prizes will be drawn each evening.

For added convenience, families are invited to attend either of two events:

**Monday, February 27**

Lakota East High School  
6-8 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 1**

Lakota West High School  
6-8 p.m.

To register your organization as an exhibitor at the fair, please contact Cindy Zahneis at [cindy.zahneis@lakotaonline.com](mailto:cindy.zahneis@lakotaonline.com) or at 513-644-1203. Any for-profit or non-profit organization offering summer activities for youth is welcome to participate. Activities and services can be educational or recreational and should pertain to students in grades K-12. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Program of Study Expands Options, Supports Career Exploration

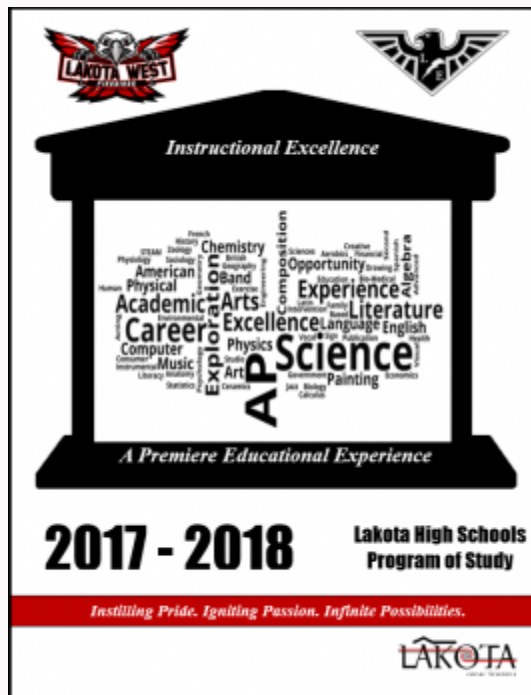
We may not want to admit it, but inclement weather is possible and even probable, now that we're into December. Please check your Lakota communication preferences to ensure you are set up to receive weather-related notifications in the manner you wish to receive them.

In addition to posting an alert on the district homepage and [Facebook page](#), Lakota also issues a phone call, text message and email to anyone who has selected these options for weather-related alerts. Local newspapers, television and radio stations are another source of these updates.

Lakota has recently switched to a new notification system for general, emergency and weather-related communications. 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 [Info Center](#) 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](#).



As Lakota high school students gear up for course registration season, they will notice several new options in the 2017-2018 Program of Study.

The new program is evidence of the district's commitment to provide students with an increasingly diverse portfolio of courses that support personalized learning, exploration, and an experience that sets them up for college or a career.

“The continued buildout of career pathways, for one, lets students dive deeply into a single area or just scratch the surface in lots of different areas if they prefer,” said Fran Morrison, director of Curriculum & Instruction 7-12. “With the support of Butler Tech, over the last three years, we’ve followed through on our levy commitment by introducing, and in some

cases completing, three new pathways in engineering, information technology and biomedical sciences. Most of these are supported by relevant internship experiences, too.”

Part of the IT pathway, next school year brings the addition of “Introduction to Computer Science/Programming” for ninth- and tenth-graders. Additionally, “Web Design” is new and offered as early as sophomore year. Two more courses, “Computer and Mobile Apps” and “Game Design,” are slated for the 2018-2019 school year.

“Biomedical Innovations” and “Medical Interventions” will also complete the four-course pathway for biomedical sciences. “Sports Medicine,” previously available only at Lakota East, will be available at Lakota West next year, too.

“It’s important that the same academic opportunities be available on both campuses, so we will continue our work under that philosophy, especially with courses that show a high level of student interest,” Morrison said.

New electives help meet other student interests, including “Contemporary Cuisine,” a year-long elective for students interested in a culinary career. “Law and Criminal Justice” rounds out students’ pick of social studies electives. “Metals IV” and “Ceramics IV” give students more

[Click here](#) for more detailed information about Lakota’s new communication system.

## Winter Break Begins Dec. 19

Today, Dec. 16 is the end of second quarter, with students' winter break beginning Monday, Dec. 19. Students will be off through Tuesday, Jan. 3 with school resuming Wednesday, Jan. 4.

The Lakota Local School District will be closed Dec. 23 and 26 and Jan. 2, in observance of Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. During these days, all district schools and administrative offices will be closed. Tuesday, Jan. 3 is a professional development day for teachers and staff.

Planning ahead for January, the district will be closed Monday, Jan. 16 in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

## 'Listen Up Lakota' Focuses on District's Communication

What do the new video series and a printed publication that’s mailed to approximately 42,000 area residents and the district Facebook page have in common?

They are all methods Lakota uses to reach our students’ families and the local community. And the communication isn’t only



visual art options and set the district up for offering a new Advanced Placement course in 3-D Art for the 2018-2019 school year.

CP English 11, a required course for all students, will include a second option, "Focus on American Novels," for those students who wish to dive more deeply into fewer important works in American literature.

High school course registration will begin Jan. 27 and will be communicated by each high school's Guidance Department. [Click here](#) to preview the 2017-2018 High School Program of Study.

## Community Invited to Honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jan. 16

Everyone is invited to attend the community's eighteenth annual celebration honoring the memory of Martin Luther King, Jr. The "Live the Dream: Our Declaration of Unity" events will take place on Monday, Jan. 16.

**March for Unity in Our Community:** This walk begins on Monday at noon at the Clocktower at The Square at Union Centre and will finish at the Lakota West High School cafeteria, where all marchers will be treated to a free lunch donated by local restaurants.

Immediately following lunch, the program will begin featuring student contest winners sharing their ideas on how to incorporate the ideals of the Beloved Community into their lives and their community.

Other West Chester events honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. include:

**Black History Month Lecture:** West Chester's MidPointe Library will host a lecture called "The Buffalo Soldiers and the Black Lone Ranger: African Americans in the Wild, Wild West" on Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. Eric Gutttag, a local lawyer and history buff, will be delivering this informative presentation.

**Spring RASKALS Clean-up:** Sign up to work with others to assist the elderly with their yardwork. You can sign up at the Live the Dream lunch.

one-way, as the district has several ongoing programs that ensure the public can share their questions, concerns and suggestions.

The December "Listen Up Lakota!" focuses on the district's communication strategies and resources, featuring Acting Superintendent Robb Vogelmann and Executive Director of Media & Community Relations Lauren Boettcher. The interview will air Friday, Dec. 16 at 5 p.m. and again Thursday, Dec. 22 at 1 p.m. on Maple Knoll Radio Network stations WLHS 89.9 FM and WMKV 89.3 FM and streaming live at [www.wmkvfm.org](http://www.wmkvfm.org).

## **Community Advisory: East Freshman Site of Dec. 28 Police Training**

In an ongoing effort to partner with local law enforcement in the interest of student safety, Lakota East Freshman is opening up its doors for an all-day police training on Wednesday, Dec. 28.

The Butler County Sheriff's Office will lead a special training of their K-9 units, alongside other county police departments. The school provides an ideal space to simulate a variety of K-9 response scenarios that might take place in schools and other public domains.

Besides student-athletes reporting to a dedicated space for practices, the general public is advised to stay off the premises. Questions may be directed to East Freshman School Resource Officer Todd Cordes at [todd.cordes@lakotaonline.com](mailto:todd.cordes@lakotaonline.com).

## **Photo of the Week**

**Ridge Junior's Vocal Ensemble Entertains at West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance**



Ridge Junior School's eighth grade Vocal Ensemble took their holiday show on the road this week, performing by invitation at the West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance's member luncheon on Dec. 13 at Wetherington Country Club. The 40-student group, led by Choir Director Jennifer Dietsch, shared a few selections from their holiday concert, including Disney Frozen's popular "Love is an Open Door" and a creative compilation of nearly 25 holiday songs packed into three minutes. The group, a semi-finalist in this year's Q102 Jeff & Jenn Christmas Choir Competition, received a standing ovation.

[Click here](#) to view one selection from the choir's latest performance on Lakota's You Tube page.

*Photo courtesy of Len Kaltman Photography*



## Upcoming Events

### Event Spotlights

- Monday, Dec. 19 - Tuesday, Jan. 3  
**No School for Students**
- Friday, Dec. 23 & Monday, Dec. 26  
**District Closed**
- Monday, Jan. 2  
**District Closed**
- Tuesday, Jan. 3  
**Staff Professional Development Day**
- Wednesday, Jan. 4  
**School Resumes/3rd Quarter Begins**
- Wednesday, Jan. 4  
[Student Welcome at Lakota West](#)
- Monday, Jan. 16  
**District Closed** for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Monday, Jan. 25  
[Coffee Connections](#) at Coffee Beans and Brew, 10-11 a.m.

See Full  
Calendar

## Lakota In The News

### Community Coverage

#### Hamilton-Journal News

[Lakota approves changes to township tax district](#)

[State law, cost keep some Butler County high schools without busing](#)

## 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:

- [Try Band for Future Ridge, Plains and West Students \(Jan. 28\)](#)

#### Community-Sponsored Flyers:

- [101 Dalmatians & Cafe Murder Auditions - Jan. 14 \(all ages\)](#)
- [Flag Football Fanatics Spring Registration \(Ages 3-14\)](#)
- [9 Basketball, Flag Football, Soccer & T-Ball](#)
- [Girl Scout Information and Fun Night at GET AIR \(Jan.10\)](#)

All Current  
E-Flyers

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Lakota Local School District would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact Lakota Local School District directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](#)

SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.