



This Week At Lakota

Instilling Pride. Igniting Passion. Infinite Possibilities.

March 31, 2017

Leading the Way

Featured Presentations



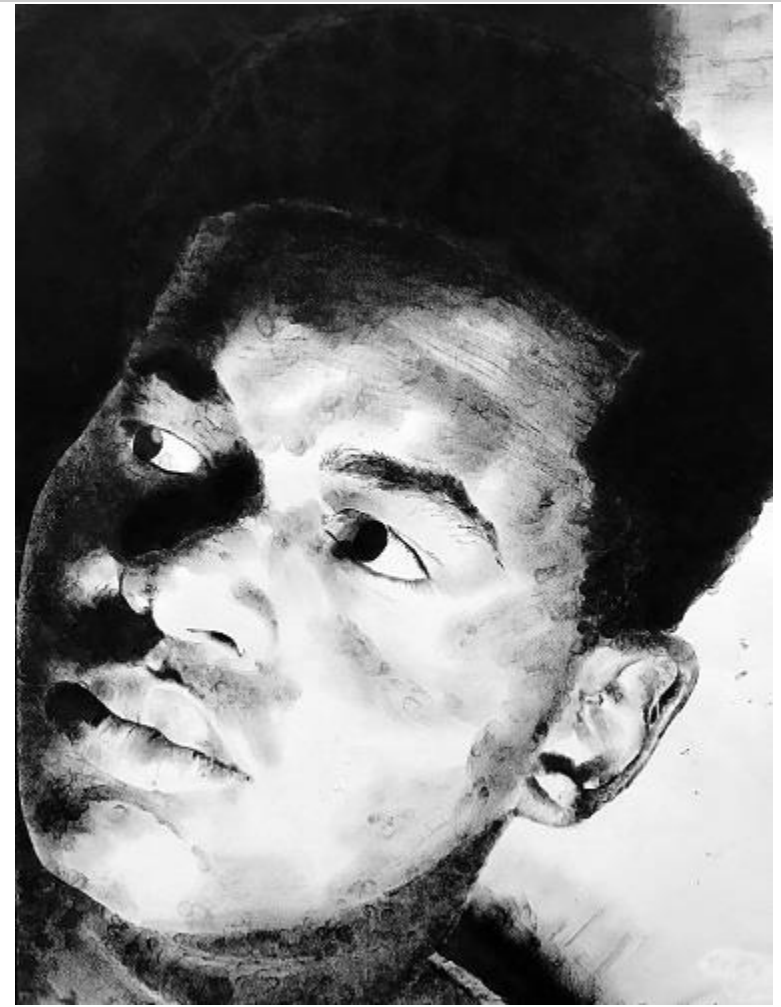
Click to Watch:
**Partnerships for
Student Internships**

Summer Internship Options Continue Expanding

11 Summer Internship Placements for Rising Juniors and Seniors

For many students, summer break is a time to relax from learning, perhaps working a part-time job and relaxing with friends. However, for some Lakota high schoolers, it is the perfect opportunity to sharpen their professional skills while learning the inside scoop about careers of interest to them.

“I’m excited to share that we will have 11 partners offering summer internship placements, including our newest partner, SanMar Corporation,”



Lakota High School Students Create Award-Winning Artwork

Scholastic Art Competition, Ohio Governor’s Art Exhibition Select National and State Winners

Lakota’s talented high school art students are bringing home top state and national awards for their drawings, paintings, printmaking, photography and other artwork.

When the national Scholastic Art Award winners were recently announced, seven Lakota students made the list of the top 1% in the nation. The

states Fran Morrison, Lakota's senior director of Innovation Programming K-12. "Those opportunities will provide up to 56 students unique learning opportunities."

That is in addition to the 45 students who will be participating in an internship session over spring break.

In addition to the number of placements, the summer internships represent a wide range of offerings in government, non-profit, business and medical arenas. Options range from marketing research, financial services and communication to specialized biomedical experiences in pharmacy, rehab, sports medicine and nursing.

Summer internship programs include the following partners:

- Liberty Township administration – internship focus on local government and business management
- West Chester Township administration – internship focus on local government and business management
- ProSource – internship focus on business, including sales, finance/accounting, and IT/network engineering
- Emery Federal Credit Union – internship focus on financial services and sales
- WMKV-FM Radio Station 89.3 – internship focus on communication and broadcasting
- Valley Central Bank – internship focus on financial services and sales
- First Financial Bank – internship focus on business management and banking
- Various Views Research – internship focus on marketing and market research
- SanMar Corporation – internship focus on distribution supply chain management
- UC West Chester Hospital – internship focus on biomedical sciences
- Atrium Medical Center – internship focus on biomedical sciences

"Because of the range of summer internship placements, I feel we are offering an experiential learning opportunity that addresses a wide range of student interest," adds Morrison.

Scholastic Art Awards is the nation's longest-running and most prestigious recognition program for creative teens in grades 7-12. Judges poured over a record-breaking 330,000 entries in the regional and national competitions to arrive upon the national Gold and Silver Medalists.

Lakota West's **Trey Small** was awarded a Gold Medal for his printmaking piece titled "Out of the Shadows" (shown above); his piece will be framed by Scholastic and on display at New York City's Parson's School of Design or Pratt Institute's Pratt Manhattan Gallery. Trey will be attending the National Award Ceremony at Carnegie Hall on June 8.

There were six Silver Medalists from Lakota including: **Meredith Elstun** (West): drawing titled "H2O"; **Shelby Lambright** (West): painting titled "Child's Play"; **Megan Lee** (West): photograph titled "Oblivion"; **Alyson Power** (West): printmaking piece titled "More Than Just a Fingerprint"; **Mackenzie Robinette** (East): drawing titled "Oh Deer"; and **Lauren Wilson** (East): painting titled "Cut from the Same Cloth."

[Click here to see their winning artwork.](#)

"This year was exceptional with seven Lakota students being recognized for their creative efforts," said Lakota West Art Teacher Stephanie Gauer. "For two of the Lakota West students, their award-winning works were pieces that they created outside the classroom. They took the skills, techniques, and concepts we taught them and explored them further on their own. Through that exploration, they were able to discover new and creative ways to apply them. This is what I believe gives our students a creative edge to their work. It also proves that through hard work and constant practice, success follows."

The Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition also recently announced its regional and state winners. From the 11,500 regional entries, approximately 2,500 were selected to enter the state judging. State jurors then selected 300 for the actual exhibition, with 25 of the 300 chosen to receive the Governor's Award of Excellence.

Two Lakota East students were state award winners and their pieces will be on display at the James A. Rhodes State Office Tower starting April 23.

Overall, Lakota's internship programs continue expanding. "We're pleased to see how popular these placements are with our juniors and seniors, with such robust offerings in the government, non-profit, business, and medical arenas," states Robb Vogelmann, Lakota's Acting Superintendent.

He continues, "Regardless of which partner our students are placed with, these opportunities provide real world, experiential learning experiences that help develop the next generation of professionals. Following this experience, we know our students are in a better position to take the next step in their college and career planning."

Application timelines vary and students will be asked to participate in an interview process for each one. [Click here](#) for complete details for the summer internship line-up.

The winners were **Danielle De LaCruz** for her painting titled "I Wanna Get Out of Here" and **Luke Villareal** for his metals piece titled "Flying Fortress."

[Click here to see their artwork.](#)

These 18 Lakota East students were regional winners: **Anastacia Hartinger, Celina Huynh, Ronan Cole** (2 pieces), **Danielle DeLaCruz, Maiana Wells, Lauren Wilson, Lilyanna Bryan, Madison Lentz, Mckenna Lewis, Sondos Hasan, Nicholas Kiefer, Julia Kuhr, Laura Daniels, Clay Brown, Jacob McGee,** and **Lauryn Hill.**

Lakota West had 22 students win regional awards for 40 different artwork entries. Those students include: **Meredith Elstun** (2 pieces), **Jennifer Ellison** (2 pieces), **Harris Fields** (3 pieces), **Emily Drexelius** (4 pieces), **Lauren Cooley, Kathrine Musolino** (2 pieces), **Alyson Power** (2 pieces), **Mary Garand** (3 pieces), **Megan Lee** (3 pieces), **Esther Welchez, Hannah Sharkey, Keira Burkhardt** (2 pieces), **Nicole Sturgeon, Kathleen Ullrich, Gabriella Halfhill, Shelby Lambright** (3 pieces), **Brooke Boellner, Olivia Popp, Gillian Jordan** (2 pieces), **Hailey Mulholland** (2 pieces), **Samantha Freeland,** and **Annie Engel.**

"Our Lakota high school art program has gained a reputation among top colleges for producing dedicated art students," said Lakota East Art Teacher Linda Augutis. She added that many scholarships are offered to students in these exhibitions to help with their college studies. "Upon graduation, our students establish very successful careers in art and design. These awards reflect the diligent work and talent that our students put forth every day."

Around Lakota

School Spotlights

Spring Community Newsletter Now Available



Several times a year, Lakota produces a community newsletter to help parents and residents stay informed about important district-wide information. The piece is mailed to every household and business in West Chester Township and Liberty Township at a cost of just 17 cents per piece.

The spring 2017 edition is now available. If you did not receive a copy at your home or if you need additional copies, please visit Lakota's Central Office or any school's main office.

Copies will also be available at the administration buildings for both West Chester and Liberty townships, as well as the West Chester MidPointe Library.

This issue focuses on the great opportunities available to Lakota students at a great value to our community. A spotlight on Lakota's new Career Readiness Academy showcases several student success stories resulting from the alternative high school option. We introduce Lakota's new superintendent, Matt Miller, and provide an update on Lakota's financial stability, including a snapshot of ways the district has met and exceeded levy commitments.

To view the publication electronically, [please click here](#).

Lakota's March Madness Tournament Sets Records

More than 1200 Boys and Girls Participate, Over \$1200 Raised for Local Charities



Lakota's March Madness Charity Basketball Tournament just wrapped up its 18th year – and is still setting records.

The tournament gives Lakota's elementary schools a chance to form their own basketball teams, and compete against one another for a chance at the championship trophy for each grade level.

This year the tournament expanded to include second-graders; a record number of more than 1200 boys and girls in grades 2-6 participated in this year's March Madness. The players are not necessarily the student-athletes that will come through the junior high and high school athletics programs. In fact, the majority of the participants will never have another opportunity to represent their school on a sports team, and that is what makes this tournament so special.

Holding Lakota's March Madness is no easy feat; this year 152 teams played 138 games from March 13 through March 24. Volunteers logged many hours to plan this year's charity tournament, and the community came together to coach the teams, sell tickets and cheer on the players.

All of the hard work resulted in over \$12,000 being raised for local charities; this year's funds will go to Reach Out Lakota, the Lakota Community Fund, and Paige's Princess Foundation.

"The tournament is about community-building and philanthropy," said Mike Goldman, one of the founders of Lakota's March Madness. "What students learn goes far beyond how to dribble and shoot a basketball. Students learn how to support one another, as both a teammate and a supporter in the stands."

[Click here to see the tournament brackets and winners for each grade level.](#)

Community Field Trips Provide Valuable Learning Opportunities



Community support from areas businesses can have a big impact on student learning – sometimes through an internship, providing volunteers or donations, supporting students at fanfare events, or by hosting community-based learning experiences.

Last week, Stan the Donut Man opened his business to fifteen Lakota West students, giving them firsthand experience of the work needed to run a donut shop. These students from specialized programs have gone on a number of community outings this year (Skyline, West Chester Police and Fire Departments, Mason Bowl, Bob Evans) to learn more about topics like money exchange and social communication.

Marty (also known as “Stan”) gave the students a behind-the-scenes look at the steps needed to make fresh donuts. They even had a chance to roll out the dough and practice forming a twist donut. Afterwards, each student was able to sample a donut and then practice exchanging money for the donut and tour.

“These community outings provide valuable learning opportunities for our students,” said Mike Grote, one of Lakota West's Intervention Specialists. “At Stan’s, students were able to exchange money, socially and physically interact with staff, follow a sequence to make and cut out donuts, and clean-up when finished. The entire staff at Stan’s was so supportive of our students, and the donuts were amazing!”

*Photo: Lakota West students practice making a donut at the Stan the Man Donut shop: from left to right - **Makayla Vulich, Logan Arno and Ashley Szpak.***

Heritage Holds 'Layups for Lauren' Fundraiser



This afternoon, the gym at Heritage Elementary was packed with students and staff anxious to watch a layup competition between five of the school's teachers. The event was the culmination of a fundraiser put on by Heritage's Student Council.

The group's vice president, **Tyler Bohn**, came up with the original idea for the community service project. 'Layups for Lauren' would take place in March to coincide with March Madness, and raise money for The Cure Starts Now in honor of Lauren Hill.

The Student Council then went to work developing a proposal to present to the principal and meeting with the PTA to iron out prize and money collection details for the event.

"The Student Council members have done an amazing job with the planning process," said School Counselor Dawn Hill who serves as advisor for the club. "The project has taught them a lot about all aspects of sponsoring a fundraising event." During a five-day period, Heritage students were able to bring in donations to 'vote' for their homeroom teacher.

When all of the collections were counted, a grand total of \$706.21 was raised for The Cure Starts Now. The three classrooms raising the most money earned a prize and the top five classrooms had their teachers compete in the layup challenge.

*Photo: Student Council members pose in front of their 'Layups for Lauren' bulletin board. Back row: **Lola Lawsongatch, Olivia Newman, Kylie Hanuauer, Veronica Nguyen.** Kneeling: **Kayla Dao, Thomas Fitzharris, Tyler Bohn, Noah Raimey, Alex Jones, and Kennedy Williams.** Student Council members not pictured are **Ethan Price, McKenna Martin, Austin Hinchberger and Nana Donker.***

Sold Out Crowd Attends Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony



Eight new members were inducted into the Lakota Athletic Hall of Fame March 23, bringing its membership total to 194. This was the 19th annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, spanning the 59-year history of Lakota.

"The Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is such a wonderful celebration, a time to honor both individual excellence and to highlight the quality of our athletic programs," said Stu Eversole, Lakota's former athletic director and chair of the event.

"These athletes' accomplishments span a wide range of sports and honors. Their hard work and superb effort are to be commended."

The induction ceremony was sold out, and always draws capacity crowds of current Hall of Fame members, coaches past and present, former athletes, community leaders, and of course, the family and friends of the new inductees.

The 2017 inductees are:

Lindsay Bodeker Youngstrom - Softball (Lakota West Class of 2006)

Josh Chichester - Football, Basketball & Track (Lakota West Class of 2006)

James Dews - Basketball (Lakota East Class of 2006)

Meagan Dooley Dimond - Volleyball (Lakota West Class of 2006)

Scott Fetzer - Head Wrestling Coach (Lakota West)

Alex Hoekstra - Volleyball (Lakota East Class of 2006)

William Johnson - Track (Lakota East Class of 2006)

Casey Keefer - Cross Country, Basketball & Track (Lakota East Class of 2006)

[Click here](#) for more information about Lakota's Athletic Hall of Fame.

VanGorden, Woodland Announce New Assistant Principals

Lakota Local Schools is pleased to announce the appointment of two new leaders at VanGorden Elementary and Woodland Elementary for the 2017-2018 school year.

Succeeding the current assistant principals, both of which have decided to return to the classroom next school year, are Julie Engelbert at VanGorden and Liz Gruber at Woodland.

Engelbert returns to Lakota after spending the last five years teaching at Indian Hill Exempted Village School District. Most recently, she has served as a curriculum coordinator for the primary school where she teaches. Julie's roots are with Lakota, where she started her teaching career in 2006 at Independence Elementary and later, at Wyandot Early Childhood School.

After 11 years in the teaching field, Engelbert brings an extensive amount of leadership experience in curriculum and professional development. She earned a bachelor's degree from the College of Mount St. Joseph and holds two master's degrees from Marygrove College and Miami University.

"I am so excited to welcome Julie back to Lakota as a member of our team here at VanGorden," said VanGorden Principal Gail Allshouse. "She has an undeniable love of learning and shares our team's sentiments for holding the interests of our students at the center of everything we do."

Gruber brings to her new role three years of administrative experience at Lakota. She will be making the move from Wyandot Early Childhood School, where she's served as the assistant principal for the last two years. She was also a former Lakota teacher and reading specialist.

She earned both her bachelor's and master's degree from Miami University.

"Liz will be a great asset to our team here at Woodland, especially as a familiar face to many former Wyandot students," said Woodland Principal John Wise. "I'm looking forward to working side-by-side with her to continue bringing our students opportunities that match their individual learning needs."

Hopewell Junior Presents '15 Reasons Not to Be in a Play'

Hopewell Junior School will be presenting a short, one act play entitled '15 Reasons Not to Be in a Play' on April 27-28 at 6:30 p.m. in the school's gym. The drama club has already completed one production this year and is excited to end this school year with this hilarious production full of slapstick comedy and sarcasm!

Everyone is welcome; admission at the door is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and children.

[View All District News](#)

New Business

Announcements & Opportunities

Lakota's Spring Break April 10-17

Lakota's spring break is scheduled for Monday, April 10 through Monday, April 17, with school resuming for students Tuesday, April 18. During these dates, all schools will be closed, but administrative offices will remain open.

Parents, Community Welcome at April, May Student Fanfare Events

On The Radar

Quick Links & Reminders

LEADS Parent Connect Session: Understanding the Social-Emotional Needs of Children

Mark your calendars for April 4 when licensed Clinical Psychologist Diane Frey will talk about psychosocial components that sometimes "get in the

Lakota's new series of community fanfare events is proving so popular with students and community members that all 22 schools are now on the schedule. The concept is a simple one: Line the school's entrance and give students high-fives and words of encouragement as they are 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 remaining this school year:

- **April 7 @ 9 a.m.** - Independence Elementary
- **April 18 @ 9 a.m.** - Heritage Elementary
- **May 11 @ 8:15 a.m.** - Freedom Elementary
- **May 22 @ 9 a.m.** - Wyandot Early Childhood
- **May 24 @ 6:45 a.m.** - Lakota West Freshman Campus

[Click here to commit to one or more fanfare events](#) or [click here to view a video from Creekside Early Childhood School 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.

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

Tuesday, April 18

6:30 – 8 p.m.

Lakota's Central Office

Topic: Junior High Athletics

Thursday, April 20

6:30 - 8 p.m.

Lakota's Central Office

Topic: High School Seniors (and their parents)

way” of real life for families. She will provide some intervention strategies for families based on her private practice work with gifted children and her teaching work which has spanned over four decades in the field of gifted studies.

The session, hosted by the [Lakota LEADS parent organization](#), will be held from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the Lakota Central Office. [Click here for a flyer](#) with more details about the event.

Last Call: Nominations for Lakota's 2017 Educators of Excellence

The Lakota “Educator of Excellence” awards are made possible with generous support from the Community Foundation of West Chester Liberty. Three awards will be given: one to a teacher or support staff from the elementary level (PreK-6) and another from the secondary level (7-12). The winners will receive an award, along with a \$2,000 grant to be used for a special project at their school. A Lakota administrator will also be honored with a third non-monetary award to recognize his/her extraordinary commitment to students, staff and the community.

Nominations are due Friday, April 7 and

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

Tips for Parenting "Twice Exceptional" Children

Life with a gifted child who has learning or other disabilities isn't always easy. Come share with our families who are on a similar journey as you learn from each other, gather resources and better understand the unique challenges of parenting these children.

Lakota LEADS and the Ohio Association for Gifted Children are hosting "Solving the Puzzle: Parenting a Twice Exceptional Child" Tuesday, April 25 from 7-8:30 p.m. The session will be held at Lakota East High School's Community Room, 6840 Lakota Lane.

[Click here for flyer](#) or contact Jen Dozer at mrsspock9@gmail.com for more information. [Click here](#) to RSVP.

require a minimum of two letters. [Click here](#) to download the 2017 Educator of Excellence nomination form.

Summer School Registration Ends April 7

Students in grades 7-12 who want to enroll in summer school need to submit their registration *no later than April 7*. This includes all math advancement requests. Registrations will not be accepted after this deadline. Those taking Credit Recovery, OGT, and EOC courses will continue to be able to register after this deadline.

Summer school will be held from May 30 through July 7, and all classes will take place at the Lakota East Freshman School. [Click here](#) for complete list of class offerings, specific dates for each course option, and registration information.

New Canvas Parent App Now Available

Lakota is pleased to announce that the Canvas software provider is providing the Canvas Parent app to all iOS and Android users through the app store. To download

the free parent app, search your app store for: **Canvas Parent**.

The Canvas Parent app allows Lakota parents to easily keep up to date with their children's course calendars, assignment due dates and class announcements. [Click here](#) to view our Canvas Parent App Guide.

Remember that for a comprehensive view of your child's grades, visit [Home Access Center](#).

Photo of the Week



Liberty ECS Kindergartners Explore Future Careers

Kindergarten students at Liberty ECS recently dressed up as what their future career might be as part of the school's Career Day. Pictured above are Police Officer **Karan Bhullar**, Artist **MacKenzie McElwee**, and Firefighter **Jada Carter** from Mrs. Kammerer's class.

Thanks to the many volunteers who helped staff the learning stations, the students got to learn more about numerous careers. Their reasons for choosing a future career are as varied as the occupations, however, most of the Liberty ECS Kindergarten students had an altruistic aspect. For example, one student wants to be a soldier because they help protect people, another wants to be a teacher because they help people learn, and a third student said he wants to be a principal so when someone gets in trouble he can help them talk about it. Whatever their reason, the students got a better idea of the career and their role in society.

[Click here](#) to see more photos from the day.

Upcoming Events

Event Spotlights

- Friday, April 7
[Student Fanfare Event](#) (Community Invited) at Independence Elementary
9 a.m.
- Monday, April 10
No School - Spring Break Begins
- Monday, April 10
[Board of Education Meeting](#)
at Lakota Central Office
7 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 18
School Resumes
- Tuesday, April 18
Student Fanfare Event (Community Invited) at Heritage Elementary
9 a.m.
- Tuesday, April 18
[Community Conversation about Junior High Athletics](#)
Location TBA
6:30 p.m.

Lakota In The News

Community Coverage

Hamilton-Journal News

[Lakota group helps spark Bark for Life fundraising event](#)

[Help decide Lakota's 'Educators of Excellence'](#)

WCPO - Channel 9

[Jacob May is the first Major League Baseball player from Lakota West](#)

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:

- [Solving the Puzzle: Parenting a Twice Exceptional Child - sponsored by OAGC and Lakota LEADS \(April 25\)](#)
- [Lakota East Girls Basketball Camp: June 5-8 \(Grades 2-8\)](#)
- [Lakota West Firebird Mulch Madness \(Sale through April 10; Delivery April 21-22\)](#)

Community-Sponsored Flyers:

- [American Cancer Society "Bark for Life" Run/Walk \(April 1\)](#)

- Thursday, April 20
[Community Conversation with High School Seniors, Parents](#)
at Lakota Central Office
6:30 p.m.

[See Full Calendar](#)

- [British Elite Spring Break Soccer Camps: April 11-14](#)
- [Easter Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt at Princeton Pike Church of God: April 15 \(All ages\)](#)
- [JDRF "Fun to Cure T1D" Carnival: April 29](#)
- [Lakota Futbol Club Golf Outing \(U13 Team Panna\): May 19](#)
- ["Camp Uplift" sponsored by The Dragonfly Foundation: June 5-10 \(Grades 5-6\)](#)
- [Girls Inc.: What Girls Want Free Workshop: April 21 \(Ages 15-18\)](#)
- [Grace Chapel Archery Camp: June 19-23 \(Ages 9-16\)](#)
- [Special Needs Easter Egg Hunt at Grace Chapel: April 8](#)

[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.