

Instilling Pride. Igniting Passion. Infinite Possibilities.

October 6, 2017

Leading the Way

Feature Stories

Just Announced!

**Lakota Selected
to League of
Innovative Schools**



Lakota Accepted into National Network of Innovative School Districts

Lakota Local Schools was accepted into the Digital Promise - League of Innovative Schools on October 5, 2017. The League is a national coalition of forward-thinking school districts organized by Digital Promise, a nonprofit



Lakota Community Rallies Behind 'Stuff the Bus' Food Drive

Almost as a symbol of this year's new approach to the annual district-wide food drive for Reach Out Lakota, the "Stuff the Bus" community drive kicked

organization with the mission to accelerate innovation in education and improve the opportunity to learn.

Lakota is one of only 93 school districts throughout the country to be a member of this network of innovative school districts. "Lakota Local Schools is seen as a leader in innovative teaching," said superintendent Matthew Miller. He continued, "Being a member of the League of Innovative Schools helps us use what we're already doing, what's already happening in our classrooms, and take us to the next level."

Examples of innovation in the schools include STEAM labs in all elementary schools by January 2018 and the continuing expansion of STEAM course offerings at the secondary level through our partnership with Butler Tech. The district-wide Digital Learning team is committed to supporting our teachers in developing their teaching and technical skills. The district has begun a shift from a traditional learning environment to a modern, student-centered approach.

Miller noted, "We are very excited to join this prestigious organization and collaborate with like-minded districts across the country. The League of Innovative Schools fosters relationships among forward thinking educators, encouraging innovation in the classroom to best meet the needs of students."

Digital Promise started the League of Innovative Schools in 2012. It supports school districts by initiating, facilitating and supporting collaborations and partnerships. "It's an exciting time to be a part of Lakota Local Schools – for the students, staff and the community – as we strive to engage our kids every day through innovative teaching methods and the use of educational technology," said Miller.

For more information about the League of Innovative Schools, [click here](#).

off at the East vs. West football game Sept. 29. *Pictured above are members of the Lakota Board of Education, sponsors of the annual food drive.*

"This game is one of the most spirited displays of the East and West sides of the district coming together as one Lakota," said Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller. "The food drive is a great reminder of the immense impact we can have when we all come together for a common cause."

In the spirit of Lakota's new mantra, "WE are Lakota" - and the 10-year anniversary of the community tradition – Lakota will go up against Mason City Schools and Hamilton City Schools this year. It's a shift from the traditional friendly competition between the East and West sides of the district, creating a positive outcome for three different communities.

The drive will continue through Oct. 25 with donation bins available in every Lakota building.

Union Elementary chose to kick off its support of the drive with a "Stuff the Fire Truck" campaign at its annual walk-a-thon. Cherokee Elementary staff and students who brought in a canned good got to wear hats for the day. At Independence Elementary, the school's Team Inspire Food Drive Committee has put together a whole campaign including publicity, announcements, graphing and boxing of items. The students issued a neighborhood challenge and committee chair Sadie Kes put together [this cool video tour of Reach Out Lakota](#).

The two buses Lakota will ultimately pack with donations will be hopping around town all month long, making a stop at each school so students and staff can 'Stuff the Bus' with the items they collect. "It's a good way to keep the drive front and center and serve as a continuous reminder of Reach Out Lakota's need for support," said Lakota's Chief Operating Officer Chris Passarge.

The final collection points will be Oct. 27 at the last home games of the year (East vs. Mason and West vs. Hamilton, both at 7 p.m.) [Click here to view a flyer about the drive, including a list of items most needed by Reach Out Lakota](#).

Around Lakota

School Spotlights

Wyandot 'Little Stars' Build Relationships with East 'Big Stars'



It's not every day Lakota East juniors and seniors have to squeeze into first grader-sized chairs. But for the remainder of the school year, it will be a ritual every other Wednesday for about 35 East students who have volunteered for the mentorship program.

A little over a month into the new school year, Lakota East's "big stars" had their first opportunity to meet their Wyandot Early Childhood "little stars". One by one, first-graders entered the school cafeteria to find their new high school friend. They spent the next half hour coloring, playing games, and most importantly, listening to each other.

"It's all about building relationships," said Wyandot ECS Counselor Jennifer Gillum, who said "big star" participation has nearly doubled over last year's inaugural program. "Our older students may never fully realize just how big of an impact 30 minutes of their week is having on our little ones. Even if they don't remember their names years from now, they'll remember how that person made them feel."

Students were selected for the program on a referral basis. "There's no single profile. It's meant for any students who may benefit from a little extra one-on-one attention," Gillum said.

For every visit, the student volunteers are responsible for bringing a one-on-one activity they can lead their "little stars" in. Lakota East junior Tyler Wilkerson brought his younger brother's oversized art set.

"I thought it was a great chance to give back to the community that helped raise me," said Tyler, who was flooded with memories of his days as a Wyandot student the first year the building opened. "I would have loved to have something like this at school to look forward to."

Lakota East senior Raquel Emrick heard about the opportunity through her involvement in East's Student Athlete Leadership Team (SALT). "I thought it would be fun and it was. My little star had so much to share already!"

Lakota West will be teaming up with a few West feeder schools for a similar program in the coming weeks.

Lakota Students Selected for All-State and Area Ensembles, Orchestras



Lakota band students will have a chance to join alongside other talented band students from across the area – and across the state – as part of honor ensembles and orchestras.

The Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) named a number of Lakota East and West high schools students to their honor ensembles. "We are extremely proud to have so many Lakota students selected to participate in the OMEA honor ensembles," said Andrew Carr, West's Director of Bands.

Lakota West Students

Selected to Elite

Cincinnati Ensembles



"These all-state ensembles choose the best musicians from the entire state and give them an opportunity to work with world class conductors and other phenomenal students from throughout Ohio. The honor of being selected to perform in one of the ensembles is a culmination of many hundreds of hours of practice, private lessons, class work, district support, and supportive families."

In addition to these all-state honors, Lakota junior high and high school students were named to Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestras, as well as ensembles sponsored by the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati.

"We have extremely talented, intrinsically motivated music students at Lakota," said Rob Tanis, East's Director of



Lakota East Students

Named to the

All-State Band and

Cincinnati Youth Orchestra

Bands. "There are numerous elite ensembles for high school students (and junior high students) in the Cincinnati area and it is truly an honor for our schools, our programs, and the entire Lakota community to have such a large percentage of the ensemble members be Lakota students."

[Click here for a list of students selected for the ensembles and orchestras.](#)

Lakota Grad, Student Behind Inaugural Autism Advocacy Project Oct. 27 & 28

LYNX PROJECT
presents
**AUTISM
ADVOCACY
PROJECT**
a world premiere concert
Friday, October 27, 2017
7:30pm
Mason Middle School
6370 Mason Montgomery Road
Pre-Order Tickets and Save!
lynxproject.org/aap

Artwork by Brian Burgdorf
provided by VISIONARIES + VOICES

A Lakota student and graduate played a big role in the upcoming dual premiers of the Lynx Project's inaugural Autism Advocacy Project at the Cincinnati Art Museum Oct. 27 and 28.

The special art song performance, co-directed by 2008 Lakota West alum Megan McGill Moore, sets the words of four Cincinnati-area youth with autism to music.

The four young men selected for the project include Hopewell Junior seventh-grader Rithik Sinhasan. He and the other writers are primarily non-verbal and communicate by pointing to letters on a board in a process called the Rapid Prompting Method (RPM) or "letterboarding".

"Lynx Project commissioned composers from the United States, Canada, and Australia to write music showcasing the words of these remarkable young men," Moore said. "A

project of this type is unprecedented, and this groundbreaking collaboration has deep ties to the local greater Cincinnati area."

Lynx Project will host its premiere performances Oct. 27 at Mason Middle School at 7:30 p.m. and on Oct. 28 at the Cincinnati Art Museum at 9:30 a.m. Friday night's concert is inclusive, family-oriented and interactive, and is preceded by an art-making workshop hosted by "Visionaries and Voices". A post-concert dessert reception will include donated goods from area bakeries and restaurants.

Saturday's concert is in conjunction with the Cincinnati Art Museum's "Autism Family Exploration". The museum opens before-hours exclusively for families who have children with autism.

General admission pre-sale tickets are \$20, and \$5 for students. Order tickets and view frequently asked questions at lynxproject.org.

West Athletic Director Named to Ohio Advisory Council



Lakota West Athletic Director Scott Kaufman is one of seven athletic administrators selected to serve on the Ohio High School Athletic Association's "Athletic Director Advisory Council" for the 2017-2018 school year. He will serve as a representative of the OHSAA District Athletic Board, for which he is a member.

"Scott's strong presence at the state level has earned him a tremendous amount of respect among his peers statewide, not to mention some great opportunities for collaboration over the years," said Lakota West Principal Elgin Card. "We are very lucky to have his voice advocating for the best interests of our student-athletes."

Kaufman earned the distinction of "Athletic Director of the Year" for southwest Ohio last year.

Under Kaufman's leadership for the last four years, Lakota West Athletics has brought home a state championship and two GMC championships in girls basketball, four GMC championships in boys baseball, and more than 100 student-athletes who have committed to continuing their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level. Kaufman has also been on the leading edge of about 15 different facility upgrades and

enhancement projects, helping stretch both district funds and private donations to maintain a model athletic program.

This advisory group was established just last year and meets at least twice during the academic year.

"This group will strengthen the communication pathways between our school athletic departments and OHSAA administration and operations," said OIAAA Executive Director Bruce Brown. "A two-way dialogue between these groups can only enhance the delivery of positive educational experiences for our Ohio students."

Liberty Junior Teacher Name Jennings Fellow



The Martha Holden Jennings Foundation recently named Mrs. Cheryl Zachry, a science teacher at Liberty Junior School, a "Jennings Fellow." Zachry is one of 13 teachers in southwest Ohio to earn the title in 2017.

This highly regarded distinction honors master teachers in select areas of Ohio each year. Candidates, who have been nominated by their superintendents, participate in the Jennings Educators Institute during the fall. The Institute encourages and supports teachers as they strive to improve their practice. Upon completing the series, participants can earn the designation "Jennings Fellow" by taking an additional step to immediately apply what they have learned. During the next several months, they design, implement, and document lessons incorporating ideas from the Institute under the guidance of university partners. They share the outcome of their work with colleagues at the Jennings Fellows Showcase the following spring.

"Since 1959, the Jennings Foundation has recognized teachers who set an example by pursuing and implementing excellent teaching practices," remarks Dr. Daniel Keenan, the Foundation's Executive Director. "We honor the Jennings Fellows because they demonstrate a commitment to further develop their own skills, to take action, and to reflect on those practices with their peers. This is what excellent teaching is all about."

Superintendent Matthew Miller presented Zachry with a plaque at school. "Mrs. Zachry is always striving for continuous improvement. It's nice to be recognized for hard work and effort," said Eric Bauman, principal at Liberty Junior.

[View All District News](#)

New Business

Announcements & Opportunities

Community Conversation on Student Stress, Anxiety

Lakota will hold a Community Conversation on Oct. 25 to discuss the stresses and anxieties on students, and the roles of parents, schools and the community in helping students deal with them.

What are the roles that we all need to play to help build socially and emotionally healthy young people, so that they're better equipped to deal with the stresses and anxieties they face now and will continue to face throughout their lives?

The Community Conversation will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 25, at the Lakota Central Office, at 5572 Princeton Road, in Liberty Township. All are welcome.

Education and mental health professionals have noted a long-term increase in the social and emotional challenges confronting today's students. At this Community Conversation, district leaders hope to understand the experiences of parents and students dealing with these issues. This could include social media and its use and effects, bullying, depression and other social and emotional health issues, and more.

New State Mandated Attendance Policy

With the passage of House Bill 410, school districts across Ohio are required to revise their truancy policy this school year. An email was sent to all parents and guardians last week covering these revisions to the Lakota Local Schools attendance policy, PO5200, as required by the state.

Under the new policy, there are three classifications of truancy:

On The Radar

Quick Links & Reminders

Lakota Gives Back: Zumba for the Cure is Tonight

The seventh annual "Zumba for the Cure" is a great way to have fun, get some physical exercise and support a great cause! All are invited to the Lakota East High School gymnasium from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6, to get their groove on to support breast cancer research and awareness. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, with all proceeds benefiting Lakota East's annual "Hawks for the Cure" initiative.

Tickets can be purchased the evening of the event. Come in workout attire ready to hear upbeat, lively music and dance to Latin rhythms! No prior experience is necessary, just a desire to have fun. Raffle baskets filled with donations from local merchants will be also available to win. For more information, please contact Annie Cantrell at annie.cantrell@lakotaonline.com.

This Weekend: Lakota West Craft Show

1. Habitual Truant:

- a. Absent for 30 or more consecutive hours without legitimate excuses (one week of school)
- b. Absent for 42 or more hours in one school month without legitimate excuses (seven days in one month)
- c. Absent 72 or more hours in one school year without legitimate excuses (12 days in one school year)

2. Excessively Absent:

- a. Absent 38 or more hours in one school month with or without legitimate excuses
- b. Absent 65 or more hours in one school year with or without legitimate excuses

3. Chronic Absenteeism:

- a. Absent 92 or more hours in one school year with or without legitimate excuses

Changes to the policy include the removal of "excessive truancy" from zero tolerance policies. Also, suspensions and expulsions will no longer be a discipline step for truancy-related offenses. Instead, school officials must work with the student and parents to develop an action plan with clearly defined steps to improve attendance and avoid a court referral due to absences.

If your child should fall into one of these classifications, you will be notified in writing within seven days of the triggering absence. Also, an absence intervention team must be created for "habitually truant" students to develop a plan for minimizing absenteeism.

In addition, House Bill 410 requires that schools report to the State when a child has been habitually truant, excessively absent, an absence intervention plan has been implemented for a child, or when a child, who has been adjudicated an unruly child for being a habitual truant, violates the court order regarding that adjudication. At this time, the State has not communicated how this data will be used.

Under this new policy, we cannot reiterate enough that every hour in school counts. We still believe in the importance of your child being present to have the best possible

Lakota West's Arts & Crafts Show will be held at the main campus on Oct. 7 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and again on Oct. 8 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. With over 220 indoor booths, the annual show hosted by the PTSO has been going strong for almost 40 years and is known as one of the premier arts & crafts shows in the area.

Admission is \$2 and parking is free. All proceeds benefit student programs and scholarships. Make plans to attend and get an early start on your holiday shopping!

Oct. 8: Liberty Center Fall Classic 5K Benefits Lakota Athletics

The Liberty Center Foundation will be hosting a 5K Run/Walk event on Sunday, Oct. 8, with proceeds going to Lakota athletic programs. The 5K will take place at The Park at Liberty Center and begins at 8 a.m. [Click here for a flyer with details.](#)

October Community Fanfares: All Welcome

Community fanfare events have returned for the 2017-18 school year.

educational experience and will continue to work with our families when personal circumstances make this difficult.

Please understand that we do not have an attendance problem in Lakota Local Schools. However, we must follow the rules mandated by Ohio through House Bill 410. If you would like more information, click [here](#).

Oct. 9 Open House for Kinetic Vision Paid Engineering Internships

Kinetic Vision will be holding an open house on Monday, October 9 from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. for Lakota high school students interested in applying for their engineering/design paid internship. [Please click here for details](#).

Kinetic Vision is a global, full-service engineering and design firm offering Lakota students semester to year-long internships. This program is an employer-managed internship where the firm takes the lead to select and provide students with learning experiences including topics such as understanding the culture of the organization, professional work ethic and environment, communication skills, computer skills (including leading-edge design and computer-aided engineering) software products, and understanding prototyping and testing.

Child Nutrition Seeking Part-Time Cafeteria Workers

Are you looking to get more involved with your child's school or other schools around Lakota? Are you looking for work that is flexible and follows school hours?

Lakota's Child Nutrition Department is seeking part-time and substitute cafeteria cashiers, servers and lunch attendants to help prep, serve, and most importantly, provide nutritious meals to students. Applicants should be available to work school days between the hours of 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. You can also request a specific school assignment.

The starting pay is from \$11.29 to \$12.23 per hour, with paid holidays.

You can apply online on the school district's web site, at www.lakotaonline.com.

1. Click "APPLY" in the upper right corner.

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, providing students with a visual display of all their supporters during times like testing and the start of a new semester. The concept, derived from a first day of school tradition at Hopewell Junior School, brings community and school leaders together to send a strong message of support to Lakota students.

Every Lakota school will host a fanfare at some point throughout the school year. Please plan to join us at any one or more of the fanfares next month:

October 13

Plains Junior School
7:10 a.m.

October 18

Career Readiness Academy
7:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

October 20

Liberty Early Childhood School
9:05 a.m.

October 23

Shawnee Early Childhood School
9 a.m.

October 30

Ridge Junior School
7 a.m.

[Click here for more details and the up-to-date schedule.](#)

2. Click "View Open Positions".
3. Click "Food Service".
4. Click "Apply".
5. First-time user? Create an account.

LEADS Pi Day Planning Meeting Oct. 12

Do you feel passionate about bringing hands-on math and science activities to Lakota students? Lakota LEADS is kicking off its planning for Pi Day 2018 and would love to have you share your enthusiasm and energy with the team.

Last year's Pi Day brought over 40 hands-on math and science activities to almost 1700 participants, and with your help, this year's event can be even better. Join LEADS on Thursday, Oct. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Coffee Beans & Brew (7041 Yankee Rd, Liberty Township). Please contact Brian Kren at krenbj@gmail.com if you would like to help but aren't able to attend. [Click here](#) for more information on Lakota LEADS.

Chamber, SPARK Host 'Meet the Candidates' Events for School Board Oct. 18, 24

Two local groups are hosting "Meet the Candidates" events for this year's candidates to the Lakota Board of Education. Both events are open to any West Chester or Liberty Township resident.

The West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance event will take place Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. at Lakota's Central Office. Lakota East High School's student news magazine, SPARK, is hosting a second session on Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. at the Lakota East Freshman School.

Attendees will have the opportunity to submit questions and hear from each candidate about their stance on different school issues. The candidates are running for election on the Nov. 7 ballot.

JTHF Book Drive Continues through October

Every October, the Lakota community comes together to brighten the holiday season for patients at Cincinnati Children's Hospital in memory of one of its former students. After 13-year-old Jeff Hayden lost his battle with brain cancer in September 2004, his twin brother and a fellow classmate organized a book drive in Jeff's honor.

Thirteen years later, the annual Jeffrey Thomas Hayden Foundation (JTHF) book drive continues due to the generosity of Lakota families and students -- over \$60,000 in books, toys, art supplies and other items have been collected.

During the month of October, Lakota schools will be collecting new books, stickers (any type), journals, music CDs, movie DVDs (no VHS tapes), art supplies and small unopened dollar store toys. The donations will be given to the Liberty Campus of Children's Hospital to stock their book carts and Child Life department.

Collection bins are located in all Lakota early childhood, elementary and junior high schools. For questions about the drive, contact Zoe Kelley at jthbookdrive@hotmail.com or 404-4977. [Click here to learn more](#) about the Jeffrey Thomas Hayden Foundation.

Photo of the Week



Woodland Wolves Collect Change for Hurricane Harvey Relief

Woodland Elementary sixth-graders (left photo) made it their mission to collect loose change for the victims of Hurricane Harvey.

When they overshot their original \$500 goal by almost \$200, Woodland Principal John Wise led an assembly to celebrate their success, which included taking a pie to the face (right photo).

The sixth-graders presented a check in the amount of \$670.23 to Matthew 25 Ministries.

Upcoming Events

Event Spotlights

Lakota In The News

Community Coverage

Hamilton-Journal News

Latest E-Flyers

What's News This Week?

As a reminder, E-Flyers is Lakota's way of distributing information about programs,

- Saturday, October 7
Lakota West Craft Show
at Lakota West Main Campus
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Sunday, October 8
Lakota West Craft Show
at Lakota West Main Campus
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 10
Lakota West Band Concert
at Lakota West Main Campus
6:30 p.m.
- Friday, October 13
[Student Fanfare Event at Plains Junior School \(Community Invited\)](#)
7:10 - 7:30 a.m.
- Friday, October 13
End of First Quarter
- Monday, October 16
No School for Students - Professional Development Day for Staff
- Wednesday, October 18
[Student Fanfare Event at Lakota Career Readiness Academy \(Community Invited\)](#)
7:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
- Tuesday, October 18
Meet the School Board Candidate

[Lakota grade part of UC medical school's most diverse class ever](#)

[Power outage moves Lakota East homecoming dance to football field](#)

[National anthem protests make way into Butler, Warren schools](#)

[Historic turnover for Lakota board? Run for trustee could mean changes](#)

[Lakota East student renovate Middletown home](#)

[Lakota digital learning efforts grow with membership in national group](#)

WCPO - Channel 9

[Lakota East cheerleaders prepare for game against Lakota West](#)

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.

Community-Sponsored Flyers:

[Upward Basketball & Cheer Registration \(Grades K-8\)](#)

[4th Annual Steak & Burger Event supporting the Boys & Girls Club of West Chester/Liberty \(November 9\)](#)

[Lakota Youth Lacrosse Club Registration \(Grades K-8\)](#)

[Teen Film School at the Edge Teen Center \(Starts October 23\)](#)

[Free Dance Class Days at West Chester Academy - October 16-21 \(Ages 2 & up\)](#)

**All Current
E-Flyers**

Night

at Lakota Central Office
7 p.m.

- Friday, October 20
**Student Fanfare Event at Liberty
ECS (Community Invited)**
9:05 - 9:30 a.m.

[See Full
Calendar](#)

Lakota Central Office

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Liberty Township, OH 45011-9726

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