



This Week At Lakota



Instilling Pride. Igniting Passion. Infinite Possibilities.

September 22, 2017

Leading the Way

Featured Presentation



District-Wide 'Stuff the Bus' Food Drive has New Twist, Kicks Off Sept. 29



2016-17 Report Card Shows Substantial Growth in Key Areas

Three Communities Will Win in the End

To celebrate the 10th annual district-wide food drive for Reach Out Lakota, Lakota Local Schools and the Lakota Board of Education are issuing a new challenge this year to the Lakota community, as well as two neighboring communities.

"This year, in the spirit of 'WE are Lakota,' we are bringing the 22 schools in our district together to help pack a bus with donations for local families served by Reach Out Lakota," said Lakota Superintendent Matt Miller. "In the past, the food drive has been a spirited competition between the East and West sides of our district. This year, we have asked two neighboring districts to join the cause, with the winners being all three of our communities."

Lakota will go up against Mason City Schools and Hamilton City Schools, each district working to pack a school bus with the most canned goods and other items. The final collection will go to a local relief organization serving their communities.

"This has become a long-standing tradition around Lakota and something our students, staff and residents have always rallied behind," said Lakota Board President Ben Dibble. "It's exciting to take it in a new direction where even more families will benefit."

Lakota will kick off its drive at the Sept. 29 East vs. West football game (7 p.m. at West), where the community will be invited to bring their donations to the game. The first 250 donors will receive a "WE are Lakota" phone wallet. [Click here to view a flyer](#), including a list of items most needed by Reach Out Lakota.

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

"We are always happy to come together and support local organizations like Reach Out Lakota that are working for the good of the Lakota community," Miller said. "It's just part of the meaning behind 'WE are Lakota'."

Encourages Community to Look Beyond the Letter Grades

The Ohio Department of Education recently released the state report card results for Ohio schools. While Lakota Local Schools shows marked improvement in many areas, the results should be read with some contextual understanding of the continued challenges all Ohio schools are facing under the grading scale.

"Lakota Local Schools continues to provide a high-quality education for our students and that is reflected in this year's report card from the State of Ohio," said superintendent Matthew Miller. He continued, "K-3 Literacy has improved from an F to a B, thanks, in large part, to the hard work and dedication of our early childhood and elementary schools."

Assistant Superintendent Robb Vogelmann is proud of the progress Lakota has made in regards to K-3 literacy stating, "We are proud of the fact that our district is able to meet the benchmarks set by the ODE for our 4,400 students in grades K-3. Our teachers and administrators should be proud of the recent K-3 literacy scores. The current rating is evidence that we are able to support our struggling learners as they progress toward the required scores associated with the State mandated third grade reading guarantee."

Lakota also saw great strides in Gap closing, improving to a C this year. Keith Koehne, Executive Director, Curriculum and Instruction, notes, "Our teachers and administrators worked very hard last year to understand ALL student data, plan for appropriate intervention and enrichment as necessary, and develop those critical relationships with students that are so critical as they face rigorous assessments."

The challenges include students being graded in just six different areas and a continuously changing target for what the state sees as proficient. The ever-changing scale does not allow a true comparison of year-over-year results for state test indicators. The state standard changed from 75% proficient for the 2015-16 school year to 80% for the latest results, which does not indicate the true growth of a district.

Superintendent Miller states, "Testing is only one part of assessing student growth. Many other factors should be taken into consideration. The release of Lakota's first Quality Profile Report later this fall will highlight other areas that

"Lakota supplies approximately 75 percent of the annual food donations stocking our shelves at Reach Out Lakota," said Peyton Gravely, Director of Development and Marketing for Reach Out Lakota. "We are grateful for the strong partnership we've grown over the years."

should be taken into consideration. As a district, we will continue to work towards individual student growth and personalized learning. Teachers are collaborating and using best practices to ensure that our kids are engaged in learning every single day."

The 2016-17 State Report Card for Lakota Local Schools can be found [here](#).

Around Lakota

School Spotlights

Adena Elementary Remembers 9/11



Adena Elementary School students and staff gathered in the front of the school to remember 9/11 and honor Patriot Day. Principal John Mattingly said, "We have gathered together because it is Patriot Day, an annual observance of September 11th, to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001."

The ceremony began with Girl Scout Troop 47739 helping to raise the flag to half-staff while the attendees joined together to sing the National Anthem. A moment of silence followed.

Mattingly also spoke about the importance of Patriot Day, saying, "Today is also a day to celebrate Patriotism. It is a time to celebrate the pride that we have in being citizens of the United States of America."

Every student carried a flag, which they waived proudly during the singing of "God Bless the USA" by Lee Greenwood. Special guests included School Resource Officer Jim Berling and members of the West Chester Fire Department.

Adena was not alone in remembering the events of September 11th. Schools throughout the district took time to honor Patriot Day. At Cherokee Elementary, Mrs. Leslie King's fourth grade class wrote letters to New York City police officers and firefighters to thank them for their service and honor the fallen heroes of that day.

Endeavor Students, Staff Have Fun Getting Ready for New STEAM Lab



Endeavor students and staff are getting ready to launch their new STEAM lab in January, and have had lots of fun the last two weeks getting a preview of what's to come there and raising funds for the new learning space.

It all culminated with Endeavor's annual walk-a-thon, with proceeds going to help start up the STEAM lab. "The sky is the limit with types of things we will have in the steam lab," said Endeavor Principal Andrea Blevins. "From 3-D printers to computers for coding and flexible furniture choices, the room will include a variety of resources to help students be creators/producers."

Every day this week, students have been getting a sneak peek at the kind of activities they will get to experience in the STEAM lab. The themed days began with Scientific Monday where Blevins and Assistant Principal Patricia Constable took on the role of mad scientist, amazing students with experiments like walking on raw eggs to show relative force, blowing up balloons with the chemical reaction of vinegar and baking soda, and penetrating a gallon bag of water with pencils (*see top left photo*).

They ended the week with "Rocket Man Launch", a unique activity designed to get students excited about STEAM. Students watched a short video scenario in which Endeavor's custodian and cafeteria aide got stuck on the edge of a castle. Then, students received a bag of supplies and worked in teams to design a way (like a rocket) to help him get down. Teachers led the groups through the activity, and helped them test the viability of their designs (*see bottom left photo*).

"Every grade level participated," Blevins said. "It was a great way to give students a flavor for project-based learning and what it means to try something and learn from it before going back to the drawing board."



Safety a Top Priority at Lakota



Ongoing safety training takes place throughout Lakota. A recent exercise has Lakota staff, local first responders, special response teams, and emergency management agencies participating in a simulated response to a local hazardous materials spill.

The safety, health, and well-being of Lakota students, staff, volunteers, and visitors is a top priority of the district, and goes well beyond the safe and secure entrance you notice at each school building. It also goes beyond the 10 school resource officers (uniformed law enforcement officers, either deputies from the Butler County Sheriff's Office or police officers from the West Chester Police Department) that serve Lakota schools.

Each year, schools meet a number of safety requirements set forth by the state of Ohio. These include:

- Submitting an emergency management plan.
- Providing students with safety and violence prevention training. Lakota uses ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training for handling the threat of an aggressive intruder or active shooter event. A tiered approach is used – the training for seniors is very different from first-graders.
- Monthly fire drills.
- Tornado drills during May, June and July.
- Three safety drills.

An example of a safety drill is the K-9 search that took place at Lakota West High School last week. A search of lockers and hallway areas took place during classtime, and the school was under an internal lockdown during the search. The entire process took 15 minutes and did not detect illegal drugs or contraband.

Other initiatives include the text-a-tip program created through Lakota's District Parent Council in consultation with our Butler County SROs, safe driving classes, self-defense classes,

suicide/self-harm procedures and mental health support and services.

Lakota's District Safety Team meets quarterly and consists of central office personnel, building administration, all Lakota SROs, a member of the school board, and other local law enforcement supervisors.

'Dress for Success' Tie Project Teaches Life Skills



Lakota Superintendent Matt Miller was among the special guests helping teach Career Readiness students the important life lesson of tying a tie.

Earlier this month, more than 100 students enrolled in Lakota's alternative high school program, Career Readiness Academy, learned an important life lesson – how to tie a tie.

Using ties donated by community members, several Lakota leaders joined the class to help lead the "Dress for Success" exercise. Superintendent Matt Miller, Assistant Superintendent Robb Vogelmann, Chief Operating Officer Chris Passarge, and Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction Keith Koehne were just some of the visiting instructors.

"One of our goals is to make sure students leave us with the life skills they'll need to succeed," said Academy Principal Nicole Isaacs. "We decided to start that theme with this project, mainly so students could begin envisioning themselves as successful individuals."

Among just some of the messages shared: Dress for the job that you want, not for the job that you have. Looking the part is as important as what you say during the interview process.

Every student went home with their own tie – and a new life skill.

Six Lakota Seniors Take Top Honors, Named National Merit Semifinalists



Six students from Lakota East and Lakota West high schools have earned positions as semifinalists in this year's National Merit Scholarship Program, recognizing the nation's most academically talented high school seniors. Honorees include:

- Ryan Ackerman - Lakota East
- Alex Dunaway - Lakota East
- Weston Lindner – Lakota East
- Megan Merk - Lakota West
- Jacob Moore - Lakota West
- Steven Sweeney – Lakota West

The Lakota seniors are among the approximately 16,000 students nationwide being named National Merit Semifinalists for their performance on the Preliminary SAT (PSAT). About 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools took the PSAT, so these semifinalists represent less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors.

"These three young men epitomize being a well-rounded student," said East Principal Suzanna Davis. "This achievement speaks to their dedication to their academic pursuits, as well as to the outstanding faculty members we have at Lakota East who continually challenge our students. We offer our congratulations to these young men and wish them the best of luck as they pursue National Merit Finalist status."

"The National Merit program is extremely competitive and we are so proud of these members of the Class of 2018 for representing Lakota West on the national scale," said West Principal Elgin Card. "It will be exciting to cheer them on as they progress to the next round of the competition. The whole Lakota West community is behind them."

About 90 percent of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and nearly half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship. The program will ultimately award more than \$32 million in scholarships to about 7,500 students beginning next spring.



Lakota East Lights the Sky to Celebrate 20 Years



The scene at Lakota East's Sept. 8 home football game, and the week leading up to it, was like no other the school has hosted in its 20-year history.

"Over the course of 20 years, a lot of people have been involved in shaping the community we all know as Lakota East today," said East Principal Suzanna Davis. "We wanted to make the 20-year anniversary a big celebration for all those people, past and present."

A week-long staff spirit week covered everything from black-tie formalwear to a proud display of staff's college alma maters.

"A good number of our staff were here when East first opened its doors," Davis said. "Their enthusiasm, especially, was infectious and really helped bring tremendous energy to the week, among both students and staff."

The Friday night game included a staff picnic, activities and a parade for all of Lakota's future Thunderhawks, a band night for eighth- and ninth-graders, as well as a halftime recognition of two recent state champions.

To top it all off was a 16-minute fireworks display, for which the student body was invited to watch from the football field. All activities were made possible by the financial support of the East PTSO, the Class of 2018, the Upbeat Club and the Athletic Boosters.

Lakota West, in partnership with its student support groups, is celebrating 20 years with displays of fireworks at each home game this football season. Other activities are being planned to take place at a home basketball game later this year.

Photo courtesy of Christina Whitehead.

[View All
District News](#)

New Business

Announcements & Opportunities

On The Radar

Quick Links & Reminders

Fall Community Newsletter Now Available

Several times a year, Lakota produces a community newsletter to help parents and residents stay informed about important district-wide news and updates. The piece is mailed to every household and business in West Chester Township and Liberty Township for just 16 cents per piece.

The fall 2017 edition was mailed to all residents this week. If you do 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 strong start to the new school year. That includes an overview of many of the new programs and opportunities behind Lakota's new mantra (and hashtag) "WE are Lakota." The issue features an introductory message from Lakota's new Superintendent Matt Miller, as well as a financial update from Treasurer Jenni Logan.

[Click here](#) to view the publication electronically.

Junior High Cross Country Hosts Elementary Running Series

The Lakota junior high cross country teams are again hosting their Lakota Elementary Cross Country Series geared for students in grades K-6. The running program includes a

Join Us at an Upcoming Student Fanfare

Mark your calendar to attend one of Lakota's upcoming Student Fanfare events.

Parents, staff and community members line the school's entrance and give students high-fives and words of encouragement as they are filing into school. It's a fun way to give students a visual display of all their supporters during times like testing and the start of a new semester.

Every Lakota school will host a fanfare at some point throughout the school year. Here are the upcoming Student Fanfare events:

September 26
Union Elementary
9 a.m.

September 28
Creekside Early Childhood School
9 a.m.

September 29
Wyandot Early Childhood School
9:05 a.m.

October 2
Lakota West Freshman School
7 a.m.

one mile race at Plains Junior (held on Sept. 18) and one at Hopewell Junior on Monday, Sept. 25 at 6:30 p.m.

These one-mile fun runs give out medals to the top 15 boys and top 15 girls. These races will lead up to the 1 1/2 mile 'Run for Youth' race sponsored by the Lakota Optimist Club on Saturday, Oct. 7 at 9 a.m. Although this race is designed for area students in grades K-6, parents and others are welcome to register and participate (only K-6 runners will receive awards). Runners are encouraged to register by September 24 in order to receive their T-shirts on race day.

"The series was a huge success last year," said Tom Thompson, who coaches Plains Junior School's cross country team. "It's a great way to introduce younger students to the fun that you can have while running." [Click here to view a flyer](#) about the running program.

Lakota Gives Back: Zumba for the Cure Oct. 6

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.

Lakota West Craft Show Set for Oct 7-8

Lakota West's Arts & Crafts Show will be held at 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

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

Join Superintendent Miller at his next Coffee Chat Oct. 4

Join Lakota's new Superintendent Matt Miller at his next Community Coffee Chat on Wednesday, Oct. 4 at from 2-3 p.m. at Coffee Beans & Brew at 7051 Yankee Road.

One of the top priorities for Lakota's new superintendent is to get out in the community and listen to as many students, staff members, parents, residents and community and business leaders as possible.

For an hour on the first Wednesday every month, Superintendent Miller will be available for drop-in conversation with parents and residents at local coffee shops (rotating between West Chester and Liberty Township locations). The times will also vary to accommodate different schedules.

Coffee Chat times and locations for the remainder of the year are available on the [Superintendent page](#) of Lakota Online.

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!

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.](#)

Special Olympic Basketball & Cheerleading Registration Now Open

Registration for Special Olympic basketball and cheerleading is now underway, with practices and games beginning in December. [Click here to view a flyer](#) with details about registration.

Reach Out Lakota Celebrity Waiter Dinner Oct. 5

The 6th Annual Celebrity Waiter Dinner benefiting Reach Out Lakota and presented by Park National Bank, is Thursday, October 5 at the Savannah Center in West Chester.

The Lakota community partner's largest annual fundraiser brings together some of Greater Cincinnati's biggest and brightest stars and West Chester and Liberty Township's kindest neighbors for a night of fun and philanthropy. The event begins with a cocktail hour presented by Tide Dry Cleaners, where guests can network and take photos with their favorite Cincinnati sports mascots. A three-course meal will include a special presentation highlighting Reach Out Lakota's 25th Anniversary and CEO Lourdes Ward's 24 years of service.

Entertainment is provided by Liberty Funny Bone with many opportunities to take home gifts and prizes. Register at celebritywaiterdinner.eventbrite.com. To learn more about the event, [click](#)

[here.](#)

West Chester/Liberty Chamber Alliance Hosts Community Conversation

Lakota Local Schools “Community Conversation”

Wednesday, October 4

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

This event is hosted by the West Chester • Liberty Chamber Alliance.
8922 Beckett Road, West Chester

Come and share your
thoughts with our new
Superintendent, Matt Miller
and other school leaders!

Free and open to the public. Lunch is provided. Space is limited, so reserve your spot now!

Please RSVP online (www.TheChamberAlliance.com—Calendar of Events)
or to Pam Gruber at pgruber@TheChamberAlliance.com).

****Please note any special dietary restrictions and we will try our best to accommodate.**

[Click here for the online link to register for the event.](#)

Photo of the Week



Lakota Gives Back through Volley for the Cure, Hawks for the Cure

Lakota West's 'Volley for the Cure' and East's 'Hawks for the Cure' events have done more than raise an amazing \$150,000 in support of the Susan G. Komen Fund for breast cancer awareness and research. Both programs find unique ways to get their students and the community involved in their efforts. Most of the events honor breast cancer survivors in some fashion, and promote an authentic feeling of sportsmanship, sense of community and some fun aspects.

Shown above are Lakota West volleyball players at their 11th annual 'Volley for the Cure' event that took place on Sept. 12. Thirty cancer survivors were recognized during the ceremony that took place before the varsity volleyball match against Mason, and all families who lost a loved one to breast cancer were also honored.

Lakota East will host a series of programs in October during Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Upcoming Events

Event Spotlights

- Monday, September 25
[**Board of Education Meeting**](#)
at Lakota Central Office
7 p.m.
- Monday, September 25
[**Hopewell Junior Invitational Run for Elementary Students**](#)
at Hopewell Junior School
6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 26
[**Student Fanfare Event at Union Elementary \(Community Invited\)**](#)
9:10 - 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, September 28
[**Student Fanfare Event at Creekside ECS \(Community Invited\)**](#)

Lakota In The News

Community Coverage

Journal-News

[5 things you should know about local school report cards](#)

[Faith Alliance feeds hundreds of hungry Lakota children](#)

[3 Butler County schools still playing football on grass](#)

[Butler County student wins clothing company's anti-bullying award](#)

[State report cards: Some Butler County schools gain, others lag](#)

[How Butler County schools used data to help younger student with their reading](#)

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:

["WEareLakota" Stuff the Bus Food Drive \(September 29 - October 27\)](#)

9:00 - 9:45 a.m.

- Friday, September 29
[Student Fanfare Event at Wyandot ECS \(Community Invited\)](#)

9:05 - 9:30 a.m.

- Friday, September 29
[District-Wide "Stuff the Bus" Food Drive Begins](#)

at East vs. West Football Game (at West)

7:00 p.m.

- Monday, October 2
[Student Fanfare Event at Lakota East Freshman \(Community Invited\)](#)

7:00 - 7:15 a.m.

- Tuesday, October 3
[Barber Shop, Books & Boys](#)
at X-Quisite Cutz

6:00 p.m.

- Wednesday, October 4
[Coffee Chat with the Superintendent](#)
at Coffee Beans & Brew

2 - 3 p.m.

- Friday, October 6
[Zumba for the Cure](#)
at Lakota East Main Campus

7 - 9 p.m.

[Annual Lakota food drive takes on Hamilton, Mason schools](#)

[Barber Shop, Books & Boys - Oct. 3, Nov. 7 and Dec. 5 \(Boys Grades 1-6\)](#)

[Special Olympics Basketball & Cheerleading Registration \(Ages 8 and up\)](#)

[Liberty Center Fall Classic 5K Event benefiting Lakota Athletics - October 8](#)

Community-Sponsored Flyers:

[Autism Advocacy Project World Premiere Concert \(October 27-28\)](#)

[Sing Out Against Poverty Christian Rock Festival - September 30](#)

[Lakota West Kids Wrestling Club Registration - October 17 \(Grades 1-6\)](#)

[Butler County Poll Workers Needed](#)

[Food with Friends, Sponsored by Edge Teen Center and C3 \(Sept. 27\)](#)

[**All Current E-Flyers**](#)

- 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.

[See Full Calendar](#)

Lakota Central Office

5572 Princeton Road
Liberty Township, OH 45011-9726
Phone: (513) 874-5505
Lakota@lakotaonline.com



Notification Preferences