



# A Look Around Lak@ta

## DISTRICT E-NEWSLETTER

January 2022 Edition



### NOTICE OF CORRECTION:

*The original edition of this month's district newsletter included an error in the "Important Dates" section. Please note the corrected date for no school on President's Day (Monday, Feb. 21). We apologize for any confusion.*

### IMPORTANT DATES

College Credit Plus  
Info Night

**FRONT & CENTER**

January 27  
Lakota East & West  
5-7 pm

**In the Loop with the  
Supe (Facebook Live)**

February 2  
8 am

**Board of Education  
Meeting**

February 14  
6:30 pm

**No School  
(Compensatory Day)**

February 18

**No School  
(President's Day)**

February 21

**Summer Fun Fair**

**Open House**

February 28  
Lakota West  
6-8 pm

**Board of Education  
Meeting**

February 28  
6:30 pm



**WE are  
Building Our Future**

#WEareLakota

## Master Facilities Plan Restart

After pressing pause on Lakota's Master Facilities Planning (MFP) process last spring, the Board of Education has reengaged, and expanded, the committee to build a plan to protect the district's most important physical assets in a way that supports the education of its 17,000 students. This work kicked off at the Board of Education's Jan. 24 work session.

"This is a very important decision that will require a vast amount of our resources," said O'Connor. "We are looking forward to gathering feedback from our community. It is imperative that they have a voice in this process. We plan to create several opportunities for our community members to weigh in as we continue to build the future of education for our students."

Click below to read more about the work of the committee and how to stay updated on the process.

[Read more](#)

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## AROUND LAKOTA

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### DISTRICT NEWS



#### 2022 School Board Organizational Meeting

The Lakota Board of Education held its annual organizational meeting on Jan.10. **Kelley Casper** and **Darbi Boddy** were sworn in for a second and first term respectively. New board member **Isaac Adi** was sworn in at the December meeting. Members **Lynda O'Connor** and **Julie Shaffer** continue to serve their current terms.

[Read more](#)



#### Super in 60: January 2022 Edition

Get ready for another 60 seconds with Lakota Superintendent **Matt Miller!** He has all of Lakota's latest, including a spotlight on our student winners in this year's Martin Luther King Jr. contest and a quick introduction of the newest addition to Lakota's pack of therapy dogs.

[Watch video](#)

## SCHOOL SPOTLIGHTS



### Freedom's 'Virtuals' Find Purpose in Spreading Kindness

What started as a support group for students returning to Freedom Elementary after more than a year of virtual learning has morphed into a group with a singular goal - to spread kindness and make Freedom a better place.

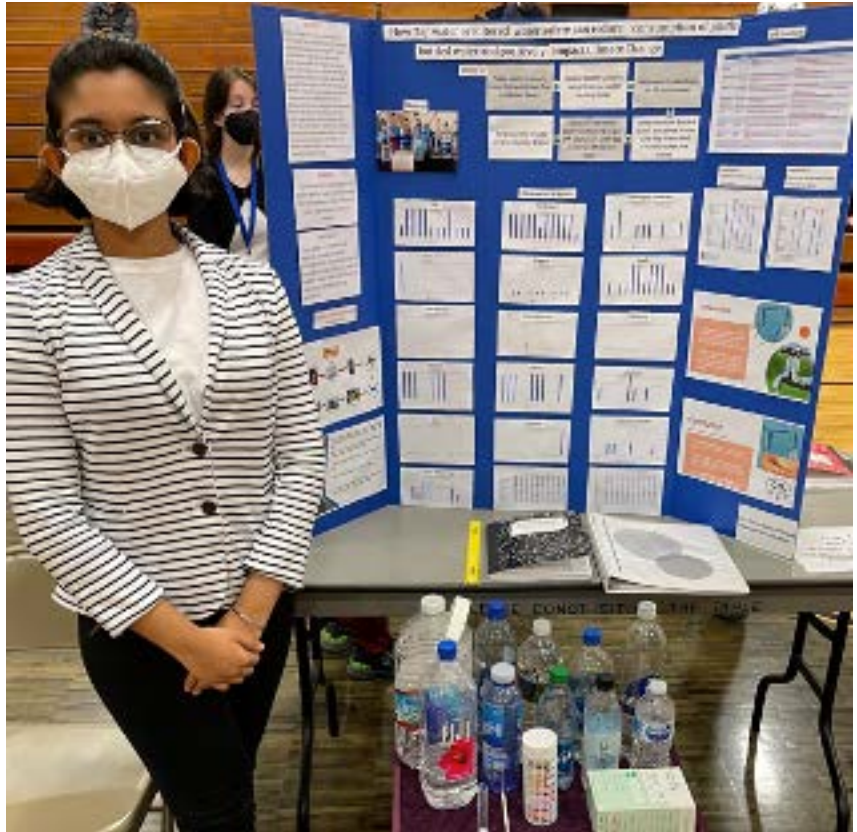
[Read more](#)



### MESH Workshop: Own Your Learning

In 2019, Lakota West math teacher **Jenny Circello** introduced the concept of a flipped classroom to her students and she hasn't looked back. In fact, she's taken it up a notch by creating MESH Workshop with Lakota West English teacher **Kelsey Gelhaus**. Together, they're challenging students to own their learning.

[Read more](#)



### **Lakota LEADS Science & Engineering Fair Results are In**

The third annual Lakota Science & Engineering Fair, hosted by Lakota LEADS on Jan. 21 at Hopewell Junior School, showcased an amazing display of projects from Lakota students in grades 5-12.

“We are so proud of all of these motivated students who took the time outside of school to create a project and demonstrate their interest and aptitude for science and engineering,” LEADS shared in their recent newsletter to wrap up the event.

[View the winners](#)

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## EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES



### Summer Fun Fair Coming Up: Free Raffle with \$5000 in Prizes

If you are looking for summer youth activities, be sure to mark your calendars for Lakota's tenth annual Summer Fun Fair events.

**Monday, Feb. 28**  
**6-8 p.m.**  
**Lakota West**

**Wednesday, March 9**  
**6-8 p.m.**  
**Lakota East**

Attendees will be able to visit exhibitors ranging from summer camps, learning centers and childcare facilities to athletic leagues, art programs, recreation activities and volunteer opportunities.

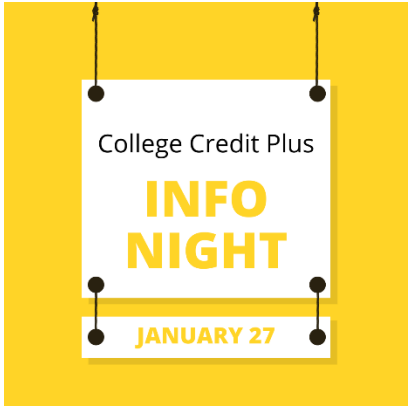
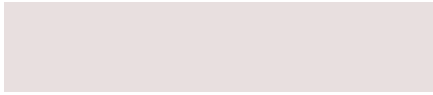
[Read more](#)

### State of the Schools Returns March 29

*In response to the spike in COVID cases, please note that the date has been moved from Feb. 7 to March 29.*

Lakota is excited to return to an in-person format for the fourth annual "State of the Schools" address, scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, March 29 at Lakota East High School. The event is open to the entire community. The program will be preceded by a showcase presented by every Lakota school.

[Read more](#)



**Jan. 27: College Credit Plus Information Night**

Lakota East and Lakota West high schools will both host an open house for all Lakota parents interested in learning more about Lakota’s College Credit Plus (CCP) program. CCP offers students the option to earn college and high school credit simultaneously through agreements with local universities.

As part of each school’s registration night, Lakota administrators as well as college representatives will be available at both locations on Thursday, Jan. 27 from 5-7 p.m. in the Innovation Hub. A 10-minute presentation will be offered at the top of each hour, followed by an open house to ask questions and meet with college representatives. The presentation



**Lakota East Presents Clue: On Stage**

Get your tickets now for Lakota East theater's *Clue: On Stage*.

Based on the cult classic film, *Clue* is a madcap comedy that will keep you guessing until the final twist. Showtimes are Feb. 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 13 at 2:30 p.m.



features the same content available in [this year's CCP informational video](#).

[Visit CCP webpage](#)

## SHOUT OUTS



### Lakota Artists Named Overture Award Semifinalists

Five of the 19 visual art semi-finalists in the 2022 Overture Awards competition hail from Lakota West. The Overture Awards recognizes excellence in the arts among Greater Cincinnati students in grades 9-12.

The Final Competition & Awards Ceremony will take place live and in-person at the Aronoff Center on March 22.

Congratulations to these Lakota West seniors:



### West Leads Region in Scholastic Art Awards

All together, over 100 Lakota East and Lakota West visual arts students earned a collective 177 awards in the southern Ohio, Northern Kentucky and Southeastern Indiana regional division of the 2022 Scholastic Art Awards. With 129 total awards, Lakota West students earned more awards than any other school in the region.

Collectively, East and West students won 31 Gold Keys, 48 Silver Keys



**Holly Garver**  
*Nothing to Wear*

**Taylor Hamilton**  
*Academic Overload*

**Gina Liin**  
*Goodbye*

**Jasmine Walker**  
*Facade*

and 98 Honorable Mentions.

Additionally, Lakota West student artists **Chelsea Afadzi, Ashley Fryer,** and **Bani Gill** held three of the five total spots reserved for the region's American Vision Nominees, selected from all Gold Key winners. These individuals and all Gold Key winning works and portfolios will move on to the national competition.



**Union, Cherokee Students Earn Perfect Wordmasters Score**

Lakota's commitment to offer national math and language arts contests to more students this year paid off for the 1,300 Lakota students who participated - especially Union fourth-grader **Robert Baur** and Cherokee sixth-grader **Jadel Fotsing**.

They both earned a perfect score in the first of three meets in this year's WordMasters Challenge, a national vocabulary competition involving nearly 125,000 students annually. Nationally, only 11 fourth-graders and 15 sixth-graders achieved this result. Congratulations Hudson and Jadel!

## TOP PICK PIC



Meet Straffi, the ninth four-legged staff member joining Lakota's growing pack of therapy dogs. Two-year-old Straffi is already hard at work sharing his puppy love with the students and staff at VanGorden Elementary School.

**WE are Lak@ta**



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