



A Look Around Lakota

DISTRICT E-NEWSLETTER

February 2022 Edition



IMPORTANT DATES

Community
Conversation: 4Es

February 24
6:30 - 8 p.m.

Summer Fun Fair
Open House at Lakota
West

FRONT & CENTER

February 28
6 - 8 p.m.

Board of Education Meeting

February 28
6:30 p.m.

In the Loop with the Supe

March 2
6:30 p.m.

Summer Fun Fair Open House at Lakota East

March 9
6 - 8 p.m.

Spring Break (No School)

March 14 - 18

Professional Development Day (No School for Students)

March 21

Board of Education Meeting

March 28
6:30 p.m.

State of the Schools

March 29
6:15 - 8 p.m.



Lakota's Innovation Hubs Relaunch, Elevate Personalized Learning

While COVID may have temporarily derailed Lakota's plans to leverage Innovation Hubs for more collaborative learning, the concepts driving the new spaces - personalized, student-led learning - have been as alive as ever the last two years.


"The foundation of the Hubs is the instructional practices our teachers are using to complement the digital tools in these spaces," said **Keith Koehne**, Lakota's executive director of curriculum and instruction. "The strategies our teachers were prepared to apply in the Hub to give students more choice and ownership in their learning have simply been relocated to their classrooms during the pandemic."

But little by little, the spaces are beginning to return to their original purpose. "Hub Hops", as Lakota's team of innovation specialists like to call them, are recharging the spaces and reminding students and staff how they

can be used to take personalized learning to even higher levels.

“It’s been really exciting to witness,” said **Krista Heidenreich**, Lakota’s director of digital learning and professional learning. “Students and staff are rediscovering the space and with the same level of enthusiasm we saw two years ago.”

[Read more](#)

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Ohio School Boards Association Honors Lakota Nurses with Prestigious President's Award

The Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Southwest Region is presenting this year’s prestigious President’s Award to the entire team of Lakota nurses.

Lakota Board President **Lynda O’Connor**, also the board president of the southwest region chapter of OSBA, and Lakota Manager of Healthcare Services **Lauren Brown** surprised all 23 nurses with a personal invitation to the spring conference where they will be publicly recognized in March.

Watch a special video message from Superintendent **Matthew Miller** and O'Connor. Congratulations to Lakota nursing team on this well-deserved award!

[Watch Video](#)

AROUND LAKOTA

DISTRICT NEWS



Super In 60: February 2022 Edition

Take just 60 seconds to get caught up on Lakota's Who Dey spirit recognized by Bengals Coach Zac Taylor himself; a few examples of how WE showered Lakota staff with some extra love this month; and a new Junior Entrepreneurs program preparing our junior school students for INCubatoredu@Lakota.



Summer Fun Fair Open House Next Week

It's time to start thinking warmer weather and summer fun! Lakota's annual Summer Fun Fair events will give you lots of great ideas to fill those summer days.

Over 70 vendors will be participating - choose the date and location that works best for you.

**Monday, February 28
6-8 p.m.**

[Watch Super in 60](#)

Lakota West

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

There is also a FREE raffle each night, with well over \$5000 in prizes up for grabs. Click below for a full list of prizes and vendors.

[Read more](#)

LAKOTA CENTRAL



Lakota
Virtual
Learning
Option



Lakota
Access

#WEareLakota

Lakota Central: One Stop for Flexible Education Choice

Lakota Local Schools is excited to introduce Lakota Central for the 2022-2023 school year. Lakota Central

brings together the three different flexible learning options for students under one roof: The Academy, Access and Lakota's Virtual Learning Option (VLO).

[Read more](#)

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHTS



Liberty Leaders Learn Beauty of Kids Helping Kids

When Liberty ECS second-grader **Brogan Huxel** heard about the tornadoes that struck Dawson Springs, Kentucky last month, he was immediately reminded of the question his counselor, **Dana Hallgarth**, had posed to him and his fellow Liberty Leaders in their preparation for Random Acts of Kindness Week.

“What does it mean to be kind?” she had asked, challenging the group to lead a project in their school.



Shawnee's Lit Lab Gets a Huge Makeover

Shawnee ECS has given its Literacy Lab (aka Lit Lab) a huge makeover. Instead of being on a cart that rolls into kindergarten classrooms, Lit Lab now has its own designated space. It's also chock full of new hands-on resources and materials, thanks to the generous collaboration with the PTO.

The Shawnee kindergarten staff all worked together to create meaningful and differentiated stations to help students build

[Read more](#)

literacy confidence and skills.

[Read more](#)



Junior High Student Solves Problem for Math Teachers

"Anyone have thoughts on how to store the new stylus pens we now use in math class? I need an organization system to hold 25-30 pens so kids can take as needed and I can easily see all 25 are there at the end of class."

When Independence math and science teacher **Jennifer Hall** posed this question in a parent email, she had no idea who would help solve her problem. A series of connections would lead to Liberty Junior seventh-grader **Claire Denlinger**.



Musical Theater Brings History to Life

Studying a play during English class is part of the educational standards for tenth graders throughout Ohio. When making this year's lesson plans, Lakota East's **Courtney Jacobs** wanted to find a play that her students would be excited to study - something that would grab their attention.

Studying a play can be challenging for any tenth-grade student, but Jacobs' students also have an additional barrier: the English language.

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)



Sixth Graders Collaborate to Publish Book

It all started with two fourth-grade girls creating a backyard game for fun. Now two years later, those girls have turned that game into a 229-page published book called *The Wishmakers*.

Adena Elementary's **Gertie Hutchison** and Freedom Elementary's **Anna Leitsch** have been friends since first grade. They often played games in Gertie's backyard, but one idea about two best friends in a fictional world of magic and wishes stood out. The girls both love reading and writing and often joked that it would make a good book.

[Read more](#)

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

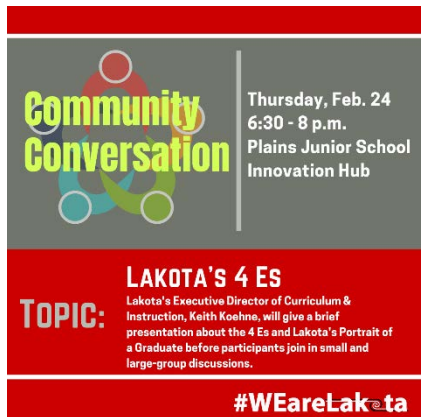


State of the Schools Returns March 29

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.

"If you attend one district event all year long, this is the one you want to attend," said Lakota Superintendent **Matthew Miller**. "We touch on all the major highlights of what's happening across the district and what's to come. As always, I'm excited to share the stage with some of our students and staff."

Miller will cover many topics, including current examples and future



Community Conversation

Thursday, Feb. 24
6:30 - 8 p.m.
Plains Junior School
Innovation Hub

LAKOTA'S 4 Es
Lakota's Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Keith Koehne, will give a brief presentation about the 4 Es and Lakota's Portrait of a Graduate before participants join in small and large-group discussions.

TOPIC:

#WEareLakota

Feb. 24: Community Conversation on the 4Es

Join us for a community conversation about Lakota's 4 Es: Enrollment, Enlistment, Employment and Entrepreneurship on Thursday, Feb. 24.

Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction **Keith Koehne** will share a short overview about Lakota's Portrait of a Graduate and the district's focus on preparing our students for success after graduation. The rest of the program will be spent in conversation with your neighbors and school leaders, including school board members and the superintendent, sharing your thoughts about the 4 Es.

Thursday, Feb. 24
6:30 - 8 p.m.
Plains Junior School
Innovation Hub

plans to support the district's strategic plan.

All are welcome to visit our showcase of schools beginning at 6:15 p.m., followed by the State of the Schools at 7 p.m.

[Read more](#)

[Please RSVP via Google form to let us know that you are planning to attend.](#)

[Read more](#)



Summer School Registration Opens March 7

Registration for Lakota's secondary Summer School program opens March 7. This year's summer session will be held May 24 through July 1 (with no school on May 31 or June 20) at Hopewell Junior School.

Lakota's Summer School program provides an opportunity for students in grades 7-12 to earn original and recovery credit. Students may also participate in summer



K-12 Online Registration for 2022-2023 School Year Now Open

Online registration for grades K-12, including Lakota's all-day kindergarten program, is now open for the 2022-2023 school year.

Early kindergarten registration extends through April 1. [Visit the kindergarten registration site for more details and to register online.](#)

[Visit the Welcome Center homepage for enrollment](#)

sessions to help prepare them to retake any one of the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) or End-of-Course (EOC) assessments or to participate in select math courses to qualify for advanced math placement the following school year.

[Read more](#)

details for other grades. All questions can be directed to the Welcome Center at (513) 682-4120 or enroll@lakotaonline.com.


[Read more](#)



2022-2021 Preschool Registration On Hold

The Ohio Department of Education recently announced statewide changes in requirements for preschool programs that may limit Lakota's ability to accept new students into its tuition-based program for the 2022-2023 school year.

The district is reviewing the new requirements. Current preschool families interested in



Family Wellness Night Parenting In 2022 Family Wellness In A Changing World

Keynote Speaker: Amy Stenger-Sullivan, LPCC-S

March 10, 2022
5:00 - 8:00 pm
Lakota East Freshman School
Dinner 5:00 - 6:00
Resource Fair 6:00 - 6:00 & 7:30 - 8:00
Presentation 6:00 - 7:30
(child care provided for children 4th grade and younger)
*Facilitated Teen Conversation 6:00 - 7:30

*Students grades 7-12, facilitated conversation led by Jeff Stec, Citizens For Civic Renewal

- Registration Required
- Scan QR Code or visit c3ohio.org to register
- No charge to attend



#WEareLakota



Family Wellness Night

C3, along with Lakota and other community partners, invites you and your family to join us for a Family Wellness Night focused on managing the pandemic burnout experienced by parents, caretakers and kids.

The event will take place on Thursday, March 10

continuing their preschool education at Lakota, as well as preschoolers who qualify for special education services, will retain a spot in the program next school year. However, it is likely there will be limited space for new enrollees in the tuition-based program.

from 5 to 8 p.m. at Lakota East Freshman School and includes dinner, resource fair and presentation.

The event is free to attend, but **registration is required.**

[Register](#)

[Read more](#)



Lakota's March Madness Tips Off March 28

March Madness, Lakota style, is back! March Madness is a charity and community-sponsored basketball tournament in which Lakota students (grades 2-6) can participate to represent their school and help raise money for local causes.



Plains Junior Presents High School Musical Jr.

Lakota Plains Junior Theater is proud to present a spring performance of "High School Musical Jr." March 3-6.

It's the first day after winter break at East High. The Jocks, Brainiacs, Thespians and Skater Dudes all find their cliques. Basketball team captain and resident jock, Troy, discovers that the brainy Gabriella, a girl he met singing karaoke on his ski trip, has just enrolled at

The tournament will tip off on Monday, March 28 and conclude with the finals on Friday, April 8.

If your student is interested in participating, please watch for dates and times of the evaluations being held for their grade and school.

[Tournament Details](#)

East High. The couple causes an upheaval when they decide to audition for the high school musical. Although many students resent the threat posed to the "status quo," Troy and Gabriella's alliance might just open the door for others to shine as well.

Tickets are available for three shows, including March 4 at 7:30 p.m., March 5 at 3 and 7:30 p.m. and March 6 at 3 p.m. Purchase tickets for \$10 each at <https://ticketpeak.co/plains/events>.

[Get tickets](#)

SHOUT-OUTS



High Schools Hold Signing Day

Lakota East and West held athletic signing days on February 2. Nine more Lakota seniors made their athletic commitments to continue their sport at the collegiate level.



McWilliams Named All-Star Teacher

Elise McWilliams, art teacher at both Hopewell and Liberty early childhood schools, was recently named an All-Star Teacher. The honor and a \$100 gift card were awarded during halftime

Congratulations to these outstanding student-athletes:

Lakota East

Jaiden Palmore-Lett:

Football, Ashland University

Greg Roberson:

Football, Ashland University

Nathan Rosario-

Santos: Football, Notre Dame College

Eryn Rose: Rowing, Michigan State University

Sarah Sewak:

Basketball, Huntington University

Cameron Uhl: Golf, Otterbein University

E.J. Upton: Lacrosse, Earlham College

Lakota West

Aden Miller: Football, University of Charleston

Bryan Henderson:

Football, Indiana State University

at a recent Miami men's basketball game.

The All-Star Award Program, created by Kemba Credit Union, recognizes teachers who have a big impact in their school districts.

McWilliams teaches over 1100 students on a six-day rotation, and will her winnings toward classroom supplies.



East Spark Earns 17th National Pacemaker for Journalism Excellence



East Mock Trial Continues Regional Run Following Rare Feat in Virtual Tournament

For the sixth consecutive year, at least one Lakota

For the 17th time, the Lakota East Spark news magazine staff earned a national Pacemaker, the top publication award from the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA). The nation's oldest media evaluation and support organization only awarded 25 Pacemakers nationally in the newspaper category.

Judges were reporters and editors from the Minneapolis Star and St. Paul Pioneer press, who reviewed multiple issues of the Spark for coverage, reporting, writing, design, photography, art, business practices and ethical opinion use.

Several staff members also earned individual writing awards, including:

Mia Hilkowitz, co-chief editor - First Place National Story of the Year (COVID-19 reporting online story category)

Natalie Mazey, co-news editor - Story of the Year runner-up (COVID-19 reporting print story category)

East Mock Trial team will continue on to the Ohio Center for Law Related Education (OCLRE) regional competition following the OCLRE districts tournament.

The team prevailed on both the prosecuting and defensive sides of its case. Individual attorneys are judged on preparedness, objections, opening and closing statements and trial procedures. Individual witnesses, who must master a long deposition as well as maintain a fictitious character, are judged on their ability to answer questions on direct examination as well as hold up on cross examination. Trials are judged by practicing attorneys, sitting judges and local magistrates.

In a rare feat, the teams, comprised of all first-year members, combined for three Best Attorney Awards going to Co-Captain **Mary Baron**, Co-Captain **Olivia Rigney**, and **Cara Raiford** as well as three Best Witness Awards going to **Alex Ross**, **Kyle Smith** and **Nisso Sacha**.

Megan Miranda, co-news editor - Story of the Year fifth place (news writing category).

Vi Dao - Design of the Year fourth place (editorial category).

The Spark staff also earned a fifth place "Story of the Year" award in the social justice category for its in-depth report on "Black Lives Matter."

"The students came together and really excelled," said long-time mock trial teams advisor **Dean Hume**. "These kids had no experience. They just wanted to take a chance, to try something new, and they hit it out of the park."



WE Love Our School Counselors

National School Counseling Week was Feb. 7-11, highlighting the integral role that counselors play in the

development of the whole child through personal, social, educational and career counseling. A big shout-out to all of Lakota's extraordinary school counselors. Thank you for all you do for our students.

TOP PICK PIC



Chamber's Leadership 21 Visits Ridge Junior

Hopewell Junior School's therapy dog, Zooney (shown here giving a big hug), was just one of the highlights of the West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance's visit to Ridge Junior School last Thursday.

The Chamber's Leadership 21 Class of 2022 - a leadership training and community education program for about 25 local business professionals - chose to spend their education session with Lakota, hearing from district leaders, students and staff about the successes and challenges in the K-12 landscape.

WE are Lak@ta



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