



A Look Around Lak@ta

DISTRICT E-NEWSLETTER

March 2022 Edition



#WeAreLak@ta

IMPORTANT DATES

State of the Schools/ School Showcase

March 29
6:15 p.m.

**Board Safety, Policy
and Community
Engagement**

FRONT & CENTER

**Committee Meetings
Cancelled**

April 1

**Board Facilities
Meeting Rescheduled
from April 4**

April 14
4 p.m.

**In the Loop with the
Supe**

April 6
2 p.m.

**Board of Education
Meeting (Rescheduled
from April 11)**

April 14
6:30 p.m.

**No School for
Students & Staff**

April 15

**2022 Educator of
Excellence
Nominations Due**

April 18

**Military Commitment
Ceremony**

April 26
7 p.m.



Don't Miss Tonight's State of the Schools & School Showcase

Lakota's annual State of the Schools & School Showcase is tonight at Lakota East High School and is open to the entire community.

"This is the perfect opportunity for everyone to get a peek into all 24 of Lakota's schools," said Superintendent **Matthew Miller**. Prior to the 7 p.m. State of the Schools address, an interactive School Showcase will allow attendees to:

- find out how Hopewell ECS students turned caps and lids into benches for their school
- meet some Endeavor students who created a completely student-run studio to spruce up their morning announcements
- learn how a group of diverse junior high students spread hope, help and strength in their

community through the Sources of Strength program

- hear from Lakota West students about 'Real World 101,' featuring over 40 learning and self-discovery options put together by staff and community partners
- and much, much more.

"You will get an overview of everything that is happening at Lakota and a look at what's on the horizon," said Miller. "I'll be more of an emcee for the program, and our students and staff will take the lead sharing their experiences. The Lakota story is one that is best told by our students and staff."

Click below for more information about the event, including how to view it online if you can't attend in person.

[Read more](#)

AROUND LAKOTA

DISTRICT NEWS



**ESL Tech Connect
Helps Families Partner
in Student's Education**

Families that left the recent ESL Connect evening at Cherokee Elementary really felt like partners in their student's education.

For most of the families, technology and language barriers had kept them from being able to view their student's grades and assignments, check on their nutrition account, or to be able to read communications from the district in their language of preference.

[Read more](#)

Lakota Hosts Educators from Across the Country

"Your kids are happy. They love learning."

"Every student said they felt seen and felt heard."

"Students are very engaged in the process of learning - not just what they're learning."

These statements aren't just something WE strive for, but feedback received after nearly 100 superintendents and educational leaders from across the country toured six Lakota schools as part of the League of Innovative Schools Spring Convening on March 10.

[Read more](#)



**ICYMI: Community
Conversation Notes**



Now in its tenth year, Lakota's Community Conversation program gives school board members and administrators an opportunity to gather feedback from parents, staff, students and community members on a variety of topics.

While these meetings are not recorded, notes are taken and are posted on Lakota's website. Most recently, the district hosted community conversations on the 4 Es (Enrollment, Enlistment, Employment and Entrepreneurship) and what a post-pandemic education and educational environment can look like.

Notes from these conversations, along with prior sessions, can be found on the [Community conversation page of Lakota's website](#).

[Read more](#)

Lakota Hall of Fame Welcomes New Inductees

Eight new members were inducted into the Lakota Athletic Hall of Fame on March 24, bringing its membership total to 224. The inductees included:

Paul Bowen

Lakota East Class of 2006
(Football)

Bill Dorton

Lakota Class of 1975
(Football, Wrestling & Track)

Lexi Dannemiller

Lakota West Class of 2011 (Volleyball)

Jordan Hicks

Lakota West Class of 2010 (Football & Basketball)

Liz McMahon

Lakota West Class of 2011 (Volleyball)

Sara Pearson

Lakota East Class of 2010
(Softball & Soccer)

Korey Ward

Lakota West Class of 2011 (Golf)

Ashleigh Witte
Lakota West Class of
2010 (Tennis)

[Read more](#)

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHTS



Disney Imagineers in the Making

What if you could create the next Disney theme park? To quote America's favorite mouse, "Oh, boy!"

Gifted Intervention Specialist **Amy Alexander** was excited to introduce the Disney and Khan Academy real-world learning "Imagineering in a Box" project to VanGorden sixth graders. During their enrichment class, students watched videos of Disney's famous Imagineers explaining how they bring theme park concepts to life- not



Junior Entrepreneurs

A case that charges your phone. An inflatable camping tent. Skate shoes controlled by your phone. An automated pet feeder.

All ideas that were born from Lakota's first-ever attempt at "Junior Entrepreneurs," the stepping stone for the year-long INCubatoredu high school elective for budding entrepreneurs.

[Read more](#)

just the rides, but the
whole experience.

[Read more](#)

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITI ES



Lakota Military Family Spirit Week: April 25-29

April is the "Month of the Military Child." As a way of lifting up all our military families, Lakota is proud to announce a district-wide "Military Family Spirit Week" April 25 through April 29.

The week coincides with Lakota's annual Military Commitment Ceremony happening April 26 to celebrate our Lakota East and West graduates who have committed to a branch of the U.S. Military. Students and staff are encouraged to participate in one or more of these spirit days:

4/25 - Red, White & Blue Day



SEEN Parent Workshop Coming May 6

Whether you're a parent, teacher, counselor, or neighbor, seeing kids and teens dealing with difficult emotions can be scary - BUT there is hope! Center Pointe Christian Church (CPCC), in partnership with Lakota Local Schools, is hosting a special parent workshop on Friday, May 6 to help encourage, empower and equip parents to connect with their children even during the most difficult times.

4/26 - **Support your Favorite Military Branch Day**

4/27 - **Wear Camouflage Day**

4/28 - **Purple Up! Day** (in honor of Lakota's two Purple Star Award Schools - Adena & East)

4/29 - **Wear R.E.D. Day** (Remember Everyone Deployed)

Share your pride and support all week long on social media using #PurpleUpOhio and #WESupportOurMilitaryFamilies.

The workshop features co-authors of best-selling book SEEN. Will Hutcherson is the founder of Curate Hope and Chinwe Williams, Ph. D. is a Board-Certified, Licensed Professional Counselor and owner of Meaningful Solutions Counseling and Consulting. With their help, we will be tackling the important topic of mental health for our kids. The goal is to help attendees understand how the brain works when it's in despair and how to offer simple tools you can use each day that point to HOPE.

The program will be held at CPCC, located at 5962 Hamilton Mason Road, from 6-8:30 p.m. Free childcare will be provided through fifth grade. Tickets are \$25 per couple or \$15 per single. [Click here to view the program flyer.](#)

[Purchase Tickets](#)

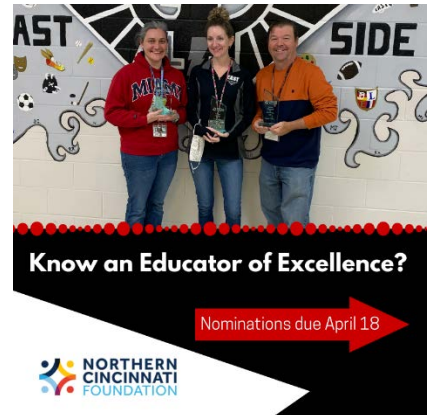


Be Part of Lakota's Military Commitment Ceremony

WE are proud of our seniors who have made the commitment to serve in a branch of the United State's military or attend a military academy after graduation. The community is invited to join us on April 26 at the Lakota East Freshman School to celebrate these members of the Class of 2022 at our fifth annual Military Commitment Ceremony. The program will begin at 7 p.m.

We ask that any senior who has committed, or is in the process of committing, to service [complete this short Google form](#) or sign up with your guidance counselor by April 8.

If you are unable to attend the ceremony in person, it will also be



2022 Lakota Educator of Excellence Awards Nominations Due April 18

The Northern Cincinnati Foundation,, in partnership with Lakota Local Schools, is currently accepting nominations for the 2022 Lakota Educator of Excellence Awards. The nomination deadline is Monday, April 18 and all honorees will be announced before the end of the school year.

Two monetary awards will be presented: one to a teacher from the elementary level (PreK-6) and another teacher from the secondary level (7-12). The winners will receive a \$1,000 grant to be used for a special project at their school, awards made possible through generous sponsorship from Phelan Insurance Agency. The

live-streamed on the West Chester Township YouTube channel.

[Student Sign Up](#)

third, non-monetary award, will be presented to a Lakota administrator or support staff member who has shown extraordinary commitment to the students and teachers of Lakota Local Schools as well as the community.

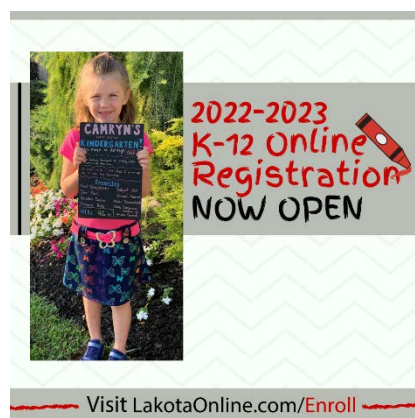
[Click here for more details about this year's awards.](#)

[Submit a Nomination](#)



Summer School Registration Now Open

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 sessions to help prepare them to retake any one of the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) or End-of-Course (EOC)



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](#)

assessments or to participate in select math courses to qualify for advanced math placement the following school year.

Summer School registration is open through April 4 for original credit courses. Registration for high school credit recovery courses will remain open through June 10.

[Read more](#)

[kindergarten registration site for more details and to register online.](#)
[Visit the Welcome Center homepage for enrollment details for other grades.](#)
All questions can be directed to the Welcome Center at (513) 682-4120 or enroll@lakotaonline.com.

[Read more](#)



April 1-9: East Theater Presents *Once Upon A Mattress*

If you thought you knew the story of "The Princess and The Pea," you are in for a hilarious surprise!

Once Upon a Mattress is a spin on this familiar fairy tale, telling the story of Winnifred the Woebegone who swims the moat to meet Prince Dauntless the Drab, hoping to become his bride. Of course, Queen Aggravain doesn't want her little boy



April 1-3: Lakota West Presents *Chicago the Musical*

Lakota West Theatre presents four shows of the sharp-edged satire Chicago on April 1, 2 at 7:30 p.m. and April 3 at 2 p.m.

In roaring twenties Chicago, Roxie Hart

to grow up, and she plans to do anything she can to keep him in her clutches. The show includes wonderful songs that are hilarious, heartfelt, and at times, raucous.

Once Upon a Mattress will be presented on April 1, 2, 7, 8 & 9 at 7:30 p.m. and April 3 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are available online at <http://seatyourself.biz/lakotaeasthigh> or at the show for \$15. Lakota East theater students will also present *A Night of One Acts* on May 6.

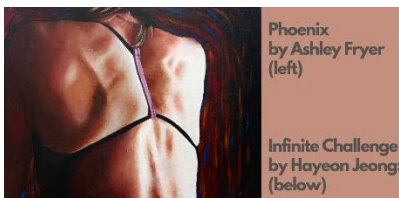
[Get tickets](#)

murders a faithless lover and convinces her hapless husband, Amos, to take the rap...until he finds out he's been duped and turns on Roxie. Convicted and sent to death row, Roxie and another "Merry Murderess," Velma Kelly, vie for the spotlight and the headlines, ultimately joining forces in search of the "American Dream": fame, fortune, and acquittal.

Looking ahead, theater students will also present an evening of *One Acts* on April 26 at 6 p.m.

[Get tickets](#)

SHOUT-OUTS



**Governor's
Art Show
Top 25
Winners**

Lakota West Artists Win Governor's Art Awards

Lakota West had another strong showing in the



Lakota Students are HOSA State Champions

Students from both Lakota East and West high schools competed at the

Governor's Youth Art Exhibition this year.

Lakota West had 17 students receive 37 regional awards (more award winners than any other school that participated). Fifteen artworks by seven students were selected for the Governor's Art Exhibition which will be held in Columbus from April 24 through May 19. Artwork by **Ashley Fryer** and **Hayeon Jeong** (shown above) were among the top 25 pieces of art and were awarded the Governor's Award of Excellence.

In addition to the students selected for the exhibition, three Lakota West students had four artworks selected for a new virtual exhibition for the Ohio Department of Education.

A special congratulation goes out to senior **Holly Garver** for having all five of her entries selected as state winners... a new record for Lakota.

[See full list of winners](#)

state HOSA competition on March 24. HOSA, which stands for Health Occupations Students of America, was founded in 1976 and is now an international organization that supports junior and high school students who are interested in pursuing careers in the health industry. The student-led organization has grown to more than 260,000 members in 54 associations. Lakota students are enrolled in the medical pathway classes offered through the district's partnership with Butler Tech.

Students compete regionally to qualify for the state competition. The top three teams in each category will compete at the international HOSA conference this summer.

Congratulations to our state champions:

Lakota East

Emily Fuller and **Chloe Kime**: Emergency Medical Technician
Avni Patel, Karina Aslanyan, Abby Burghard, Kelsey Retzsch: Public Service Announcement

Lakota West

Nyere Jean-Mary: Health
Care Issues

Ananya Goel:

Outstanding Senior

Gracie West, Carter

Willbrand, Quinn

Loughrie, Bella Gallo

and **Maddie Saylor:**

Anatamage Tournament



Coach Leon Gets 500th Win

Jim Leon, head coach of Lakota West's boys basketball, celebrated his 500th win in February. Coach Leon has racked up a record of 500-332 since the '89-'90 season, coaching both boys and girls basketball.

"I'm very blessed and grateful to be with these kids and, you know, win all these games," Coach



East Dance Team Wins State Championship

Congratulations to the Lakota East Dance team on their state championship title for the OASAA Cheer and Dance competition.

The team brought home the top honor in the Game Day Dance large school division category. Additionally, the team placed second in the small contemporary/lyrical category and third in large-school hip hop.

Congratulations to our state champions:

Audrey Allen

Sam Birdsong

Leon told WCPO's Mike Dyer after the win.

Ella Brunt
Anna Dailey
Maci Dixon
Juli Elam
Jackie Griggs
Megan Haitsch
Julianna Hartman
Livie Himes
Alissa Khayo
Paige Moreland
Cameran Morris
Kenzie Nitz
Maddie Nitz
Meliah Stoker
Madelyn Stringer
Alyssa Ternet
Bryn Williams
Sofia Wise



Lakota Artists Win National Awards

How many Lakota students can say they have a national award?

Seven Lakota artists can now make that claim. They entered the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Competition last October but have been preparing for it long before that, spending years developing their skills and working countless hours to create and enter a wide variety of art competitions. Their hard work has paid off and the students below will be honored at a ceremony at Carnegie Hall in early June.

These talented students represent the top 1% of the 260,000 entries made to this year's competition. Congratulations!

Chelsea Afadzi (West)

Gold Medal: *Reaching for the Richer Shades* (drawing)

Gwyn Barnholtz (West)

Gold Medal and the \$1,000 One Earth Award: *The Billionaire Space Race* (editorial cartoon)

Silver Medal: *Frog Hangout* (digital drawing)

Ashley Fryer (West)

Gold Medal and the American Visions Award: *Anxiety in the Practices* (painting)

Samantha George (West)

Gold Medal: *No Change* (editorial cartoon)

Maxwell Hartmann (East)

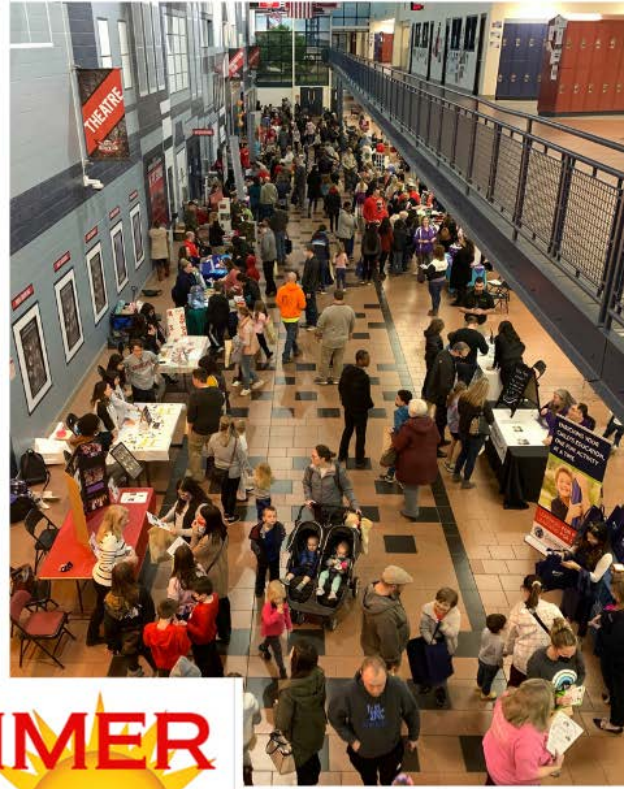
Gold Medal: *Bear Money Clip*

Charlotte Moore (East)

Silver Medal: *Sunrays*

(Gold Award winners pictured above.)

TOP PICK PICS



**SUMMER
FUN
FAIR**



Our tenth annual Summer Fun Fair Open House events were a great success on Feb. 28 and March 9! Our high school halls were filled with families looking for K-12 summer activities. Over 60 exhibitors were on hand offering everything from camps, learning centers and childcare facilities to athletic leagues, art programs, recreation activities and volunteer opportunities. [Click here to see a Facebook album](#) showing all of the fun. [Click here to see a list of websites for all of the exhibitors.](#)



Neighborhood Bridges Facilitates Retrofitted Van Donation to Lakota Family

A Lakota family needing support for their disabled child was the recipient of this retrofitted van - all thanks to donations facilitated by Lakota's partnership with neighborhood bridges. The "Gateway for Kindness" program involves the surrounding community to aid in meeting very specific essential needs of at-risk and underprivileged students.

A callout on the Lakota neighborhood bridges various channels yielded the initial donation of a van by a Lakota family, followed up by \$15,000 in monetary contributions to cover the accessibility features later installed in the vehicle. In-kind donations from Mobility Works, the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities, the Butler County Commissioners and a local Allstate Insurance agent also helped complete the van and cover a year of insurance costs, registration and gas.

Be on the lookout for more needs to support this year's graduates. [View current needs and sign up for email updates on the Lakota neighborhood bridges webpage.](#)



Lakota Represents at Regional Destination Imagination

The “Monster Makers” (pictured above left to right: **Christian Yeazel**, **Bennet Ranes**, **Quinnlyn Himes** and **Mia Premdas**) hailed from both Liberty and Heritage early childhood schools and were among some of Lakota’s youngest competitors in this year’s Destination Imagination (DI) regional competition. Part of the “Rising Stars” category, the group had to impersonate a family of monsters moving to a new home and use their problem-solving and teamwork skills to fix something that breaks in

their home. The entire presentation is completed by the students with no adult interference.

Representing Lakota in this year's final competition were 40 students making up nine teams led by volunteer team managers. Four of Lakota's competitive teams - YOLO in YoWo, VG-I Kids, Imaginative Cheez-Its and the Legends - advanced to the state competition this Saturday, April 2. DI is open to all grade levels and is designed to foster creativity, problem-solving skills and teamwork through a project-based learning experience and competition.

WE are Lakota



Lakota Local Schools
5572 Princeton Road
Liberty Township, OH 45011
(513) 874-5505
lakota@lakotaonline.com
www.lakotaonline.com