



# A Look Around Lakota

**DISTRICT E-NEWSLETTER**

*April 2022 Edition*



**#WEareLakota**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

### **Military Commitment Ceremony**

April 26  
7 p.m.

### **Kindergarten Readiness Learning Session**

May 3  
7 p.m.

### **In The Loop with the Supe**

May 4  
8 a.m.

### **SEEN Parent Workshop**

May 6  
6 p.m.

## **FRONT & CENTER**

### **Follow the 'WE Choose Lakota' Video Series**



From the strong sense of community and academic opportunities to a culture of inclusion and personalized learning, we are capturing just some of the reasons our families choose Lakota. The full video debuted at Lakota's "State of the Schools" last month, but the video series continues through the end of the school year, zooming in on each of the top draws to the Lakota district.

**Board of Education**

**Meeting**

May 9  
6:30 p.m.

**Lakota Academy**

**Graduation**

May 17  
6 p.m.

**Lakota West**

**Graduation**

May 18  
7 p.m.

**Lakota East**

**Graduation**

May 20  
7 p.m.

**One Hour Early  
Release & Students**

**Last Day**

May 20

**Teacher In-Service**

**Day**

May 23

**Board of Education**

**Meeting**

May 23  
6:30 p.m.

**Summer School Starts**

May 24

Look for the videos on social media, then join the conversation to share why YOU choose Lakota.

Watch WE Choose Lakota

**TONIGHT: Military Commitment Ceremony  
Honors 18 Seniors**



**LAKOTA MILITARY  
COMMITMENT CEREMONY**

APRIL 26 AT 7 P.M. - LAKOTA EAST FRESHMAN

**#WEareLak@ta**

We invite our community to join us on Tuesday, April 26 at 7 p.m. as we celebrate the 18 seniors who have made a commitment to enter a branch of service after graduation.

In addition to the traditional in-person ceremony open to the public, [the district will live stream the program on West Chester Township's YouTube channel.](#)

Read More & See List of Honorees

# AROUND LAKOTA

## DISTRICT NEWS

### Matt Miller Named Digital Superintendent of the Year



**Matt Miller**, superintendent and CEO of Lakota Local Schools, has been named the 2022 EmpowerED Digital Superintendent of the Year by CoSN, a premier association of K-12 education technology leaders, and AASA, the School Superintendents Association. Miller received this honor in recognition of his efforts to ensure all students are engaged and inspired learners who have access to equitable and inclusive learning environments.

### State of the Schools Highlights & Video



Lakota's annual State of the Schools event was the perfect venue for the community to learn about the exciting things going on around the district.

For those unable to attend, [the event can be viewed on demand.](#)

Superintendent **Matthew Miller** began his address stating, "When our students cross the graduation stage, we want them to not only know what their next steps are, but to be prepared and confident that they will succeed."

“Matt’s innovative approach to education has benefited our students from the moment he walked through our doors,” said **Lynda O’Connor**, president of the Lakota Board of Education. “He listens to our families and our teachers, and always puts our students first.

[Read more](#)

Staff and students followed Miller by presenting programs that align with the district’s mission statement of providing a future-ready, student-centered learning experience for every Lakota student.

[Read more](#)

### Lakota Earns Eighth Auditor of State Award



For an impressive eighth year in a row, Lakota Local Schools has earned the Auditor of State Award with Distinction from the Ohio Auditor of State. This recognition comes after the Fiscal Year 2021 financial audit.

“This award recognizes the hard work of fiscal

### Lakota Treasurer Announces Retirement



At the March 28 school board meeting, Lakota’s treasurer and CFO, **Jenni Logan**, announced that she will retire on Aug. 1. “Lakota has been my home for the past 11 plus years,” she told the Board. “This decision has been one I have personally struggled with, but have now reached a sense of

offices to keep clean, accurate records,” said Auditor of State **Keith Faber**. “Their efforts go a long way toward making Ohio more efficient, effective, and transparent.”

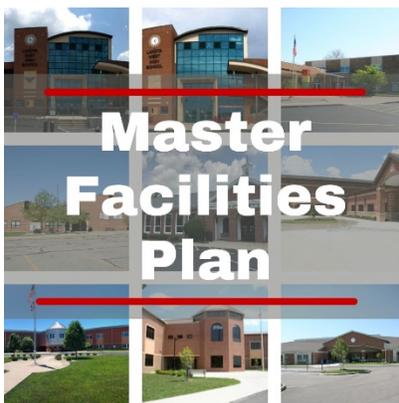
[Read more](#)

peace and know it is the right thing and right time for me and my family.”

Under Logan’s leadership, the district has achieved 10 straight years of balanced budgets and eight Auditor of State Awards with Distinction from the Ohio Auditor of State.

[Read more](#)

### Facilities Committee Narrows Plans for Next Steps



At the April 14 Master Facilities Committee meeting, the Board narrowed down several plan options to prepare for future community engagement sessions. The options, which fall into three different grade-band configurations, also include estimated costs associated with each.

### VLO Changes Announced for the 2022-2023 School Year



Lakota Local Schools recently announced to its virtual families that the Lakota Virtual Learning Option will shift to grades 9-12 only for the 2022-2023 school year. Current VLO students in younger grades will return to in-person learning.

[Read more](#)

Read more

## SCHOOL SPOTLIGHTS

### MTSS Drives Personalized Learning, West Freshman Success Story



If you've ever heard your child talking about their own personal academic progress, a regular check-in with a teacher, or perhaps "following the group plan," it's likely just one of the many byproducts of Lakota's increased focus on something called MTSS - otherwise known as Multi-Tiered Systems of Support.

MTSS is the driver behind personalized learning at Lakota and a big success story playing out at Lakota West Freshman School.

### Hopewell ECS Students Turn Caps & Lids into Benches



Why are students so proud of the 50-gallon barrel on display at Hopewell Early Childhood School?

It's filled with old caps and lids that the K-2 students are recycling to turn into benches for their school.

Before the year and a half long project is over, the students will have literally sorted through a ton of used caps and lids. The school is participating in the ABC (A Bench for Caps) Program, an initiative invented by kids as a tool to learn about caring for the earth.

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)

### Cherokee Elementary Receives Purple Star Award



The Ohio Department of Education recently selected Cherokee Elementary as a 2022 Purple Star school for its outstanding commitment to serving military-connected students and families.

[Read more](#)

### Lakota Announces Class of 2022 Valedictorians and Salutatorians



As we approach the commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2022 - scheduled at Cintas Center May 18 for Lakota West and May 20 for Lakota East - Lakota is proud to announce this year's valedictorians and salutatorians.

[Read more](#)

## EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

**SEEN Parent Workshop  
Coming May 6**

**May 10: Elementary  
Welcome Night for  
Incoming Third-Graders**



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 and other influencers to connect with their children even during the most difficult times.

The workshop features co-authors of best-selling book SEEN.

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

Lakota's eight elementary schools have coordinated on a date and time for their incoming third-graders to visit their future Lakota school.

Students who will be in third grade for the 2022-2023 school year are invited to a welcome night at their soon-to-be elementary school on Tuesday, May 10 from 6-7 p.m. Families will have an opportunity to tour their new building, meet building staff and ask questions.

[Use Lakota's interactive attendance zone map to confirm your elementary building of attendance.](#)

couple or \$15 per single.  
[Click here to view the program flyer.](#)

Read more

### Sign Up for Lakota Safety Village



Lakota Local Schools is proud to bring back the Lakota Safety Village, hosted by the West Chester Police Department and the Butler County Sheriff's Office School Resource Officer Divisions at Lakota West Freshman.

Enroll in one of the nine weekly summer sessions to get your child kindergarten ready. Participants will learn about basic safety skills and proper school etiquette

Read more

### May 3: Kindergarten Readiness Learning Session



### Kindergarten Readiness Learning Session

Parents of all incoming kindergartners for the 2022-2023 school year are invited to join Lakota's "Kindergarten Readiness Learning Session," being offered virtually on Tuesday, May 3 from 7-8 p.m.

No pre-registration is required. [Join the Zoom webinar here on Tuesday, May 3 at 7 p.m.](#)

Read more

## Lottery Applications for 2022-2023 Tuition-Based Lakota Preschool due May 9



The 2022-2023 lottery application for seats in Lakota's tuition-based preschool program, provided in partnership with the Butler County Educational Service Center, is getting a late start this year due to significant changes in preschool special education operating standards regulated by the Ohio Department of Education.

Lottery applications for a limited number of tuition-based seats, hosted at both VanGorden Elementary and Liberty ECS again next year, are now being accepted and must be received by Monday, May 9 to be considered for the lottery.

## 2022-2023 K-12 Online Registration Remains Open



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

[Visit the 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](mailto:enroll@lakotaonline.com).

[Read more](#)

Read more

## SHOUT-OUTS

### Lakota DI Team Places First in State, Advances to Global Finals



Lakota Destination Imagination (DI) team “YOLO in YoWo” defeated four other teams to place first at the state-level tournament on April 2 and qualify for the Global Finals. Congratulations to team members (pictured left to right) **Hayes Megee** (Adena), **Cohen Pollack** (Ridge), **Anna Leitsch** (Freedom), **Cora Westendorf** (Ridge) and **Sydney Oliver** (Ridge) - all led by volunteer team manager **Jenny Leitsch**.

Competing in the scientific challenge, the group had to present a story about a character

### East Freshmen Place First in TSA Competition



Lakota East freshman students **Emma Langevin** and **Hannah Kohlhaas** placed first at the Technology Student Association (TSA) state competition. They competed in the Technology Problem Solving event and will now head to the national competition this summer.

that encounters a mysterious object in a microworld. They designed and created a 3D microworld scenery enhanced by a microscopy imaging technique.

Representing Lakota in this year's DI competition were 40 students making up nine teams - four of which advanced to the state competition. 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.

### West Junior Scores a Perfect 36



Lakota West junior **Trevor Jensen** scored a perfect 36 on the ACT. More than 1.7 million take the college entrance

### Dougherty Wins National Cyber Award



**Ben Dougherty**, Lakota West Cyber Academy and Advanced Math Topics teacher, has received the

exam each year. Only 0.33% earn a perfect score.

The ACT is a curriculum-based achievement exam that measures what students have learned in school. It consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading and science, scored on a scale of 1 to 36. The student's composite score is the average of the four test scores.

national Cyber.org Educator Award.

One of just four recipients of the award nationwide, Dougherty will have the opportunity to present a master class about teaching at the organization's national conference this summer.

### West Photo Artist Wins Congressional Art Competition



Lakota West junior **Brianna Rosato's** photo titled "The Letter" (pictured above) was selected as the top entry in Congressman Warren Davidson's annual Congressional Art Competition. Her photo will represent the 8th

Congressional District in the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. over the next year. The grand prize also included two airline tickets to attend the exhibit's opening this summer and a \$3,000 scholarship.

In the fine arts category, Lakota West senior **Gwyn Barnholtz** claimed first place, while Lakota West senior **Bani Gill** won third place in the photography division. Eleven other Lakota East and West artists received honorable mentions for their entries.

## TOP PICK PIC



The Return of Spring Field Trips!

Second-graders at Creekside Early Childhood School toured Great American Ballpark and the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame for their spring field trip. For the first time since 2019, many Lakota students are enjoying the return of field trips.

## WE are Lakota



**Lakota Local Schools**  
5572 Princeton Road  
Liberty Township, OH 45011  
(513) 874-5505  
[lakota@lakotaonline.com](mailto:lakota@lakotaonline.com)  
[www.lakotaonline.com](http://www.lakotaonline.com)