



A Look Around Lakota

DISTRICT E-NEWSLETTER

May 2022 Edition



#WEareLakota

IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meeting

May 26
12:00 p.m.

Memorial Day (District is Closed)

May 30

Master Facilities Plan Community Meeting

Lakota West Freshman
May 31
7 p.m.

Master Facilities Plan Community Meeting

Hopewell Jr. School
June 1
7 p.m.

Master Facilities Plan Community Meeting

FRONT & CENTER



Graduation Ceremonies Celebrate the Lakota Class of 2022

Woodland Elementary
June 6
7 p.m.

**Board of Education
Meeting**

June 13
6:30 p.m.

**Board of Education
Meeting**

June 27
6:30 p.m.

**First Day of School for
K-12 Students**

August 16
(Staggered Start)

As the school year came to a close, the Class of 2022 enjoyed time-honored celebrations like the [Military Commitment Ceremony](#), [Parade of Graduates](#), senior picnics, and of course, commencement exercises.

Family and friends gathered at Xavier University's Cintas Center to share this important milestone with Lakota's 1,348 graduates. Lakota West held its ceremony on May 18, with Lakota East following on May 20.

Photo albums of the graduation ceremonies for [Lakota East](#) and [Lakota West](#) can be viewed on Lakota's Facebook page.

[Read more](#)



Celebrating Our 2022 Educators of Excellence

The Northern Cincinnati Foundation, in partnership with Lakota Local Schools, is proud to announce the recipients of the 2022 Lakota Educator of Excellence Awards. The 2022 honorees include:

Elementary (PreK-6) Winner: **Kim Snider**
Sixth Grade Teacher – Freedom Elementary

Secondary (7-12) Winner: **Noelia Brunner**
Language arts Teacher – Ridge Junior School

Administrator / Support Staff Winner: **Dr. Greg Finke**
Principal – Independence Elementary

Each recipient was honored with a special surprise celebration last week among their peers and including their family.

[Read more](#)

AROUND LAKOTA

DISTRICT NEWS



**Master Facilities
Update & Community
Feedback Meetings
Start May 31**

Lakota's master facilities committee met for its monthly meeting on May 9 to review participation in the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission's (OFCC)



**2022 Financial
Prospectus Coming
Mid-June**

The spring 2022 edition of Lakota's Financial Prospectus will arrive in mailboxes mid-June and will be available electronically before the end of May.

Expedited Local Partnership Program (ELPP), as well as discuss a proposed timeline and community engagement opportunities.

The community is invited to a series of open meetings where the district will share more information about the need for a facilities plan, the four options selected by the Board and next steps. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions, share feedback and take building tours. Tours begin at 6:30 p.m. with meetings starting promptly at 7 p.m. Join us:

- **May 31** - Lakota West Freshman
- **June 1** - Hopewell Junior School
- **June 6** - Woodland Elementary

[Read more](#)

This annual publication, distributed to West Chester and Liberty residents and businesses, is designed to provide a complete and in-depth view of the district's current and projected financial situation.

It shares with the community important financial information such as where the district receives funds, how the district prioritizes its spending, how our taxes and spending compare to similar districts, and what the district has done to maintain a balanced budget for the last ten years.

[Read more](#)



Celebrating our 2022 Retirees

Lakota Local Schools is celebrating over 40 employees who are retiring in 2022. The district has been recognizing these individuals on social media throughout the month of May. Read on for the list of retirees.

[Read more](#)

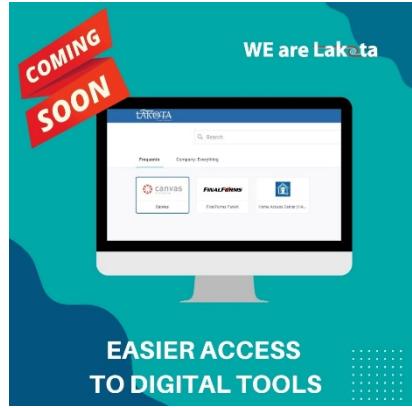


Lakota's New Website Coming Soon!

Look for Lakota's New Website, Mobile App Next Month

At the end of June, Lakota's district and school websites - in addition to the downloadable mobile app - will take on a dramatic new look and feel with a host of new features to improve the overall visitor experience.

[Read more](#)



Changes Coming Soon to OneLogin for Parents

Lakota Local Schools is expanding two popular tools for parents and



Summer Updates & Back-to-School Information

Get important information about Lakota's summer schedule, including

guardians: OneLogin and FinalForms. These changes, which are being introduced over the summer, will save time and increase efficiency for parents and guardians when accessing digital tools and completing district forms.

[Read more](#)

Welcome Center operations and school office closure dates. We also share some basic information about the return to school for the 2022-2023 school year and when and how to expect updates on school supplies, bus routes and more.

[Read more](#)



Submit 2022-2023 Transportation Requests by Aug. 4

To ease the transition to a new school year and honor families' requests for alternative pick-up and drop-off locations for transportation, Lakota is asking that families submit transportation forms by Aug. 4 to receive transportation on the first day of school.

[Read more](#)



Passarge Honored with Regional, Statewide Service Awards

Chris Passarge, Chief Operations Officer at Lakota Local Schools, was awarded the 2022 Southwest Region Distinguished Service Award and the statewide 2022 Virginia Ramsey Service Award by the Ohio Association of School Business Officials' (OASBO) Foundation for School Business Management at its 2022 Annual Conference & Expo in Columbus.

[Read more](#)

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHTS



Woodland's Business Day Takes Personalized Approach to Cross-Curricular Lesson

A fifth grade tradition at Woodland Elementary that is 15-plus years in the making continues to challenge students and teachers alike - stretching students to think like an entrepreneur and teachers to adapt the experience year after year.

Known as "Business Day," the three week project culminates in a multi-classroom market in which every student, individually or in pairs, owns their own storefront and learns firsthand the dynamics of a capitalist economy.

[Read more](#)

Collaboration in Science is Music to their Ears

Did you know that it's possible to make a flashlight out of an index card? Fourth graders at Independence Elementary School certainly do. As part of the science curriculum unit on electricity and magnetism, the fourth-grade team of teachers make sure to include hands-on learning to "spark" their students' interest.

[Read more](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

District Seeks Input on 2023-24 Academic Calendar



District Seeking Input on Academic Calendar

The Lakota District is soliciting community input on the 2023-2024 district calendar. Lakota staff, students, parents and community members are invited to review the current draft before any final recommendation is presented to the school board.

Lakota considers many different factors when drafting the district calendar, including everything from scheduled state assessments and other state mandates to observed holidays and staff training days. When comparing the 2022-2023 calendar to this proposed calendar, there are no major changes.

[Read more](#)

Open Enrollment Applications Due May 31 for Staff & Returning Families

WE are Lakota

Staff and Returning Families: Open Enrollment Applications Due May 31

Due to the high volume of returning open enrolled students, at this time we are not accepting first-time applicants for the 2022-2023 school year. Per Board Policy 5113 and Administrative Guidelines, we will only be accepting applications from current Lakota staff, returning open enrolled students and siblings of returning open enrolled students.

Current open enrolled students and current Lakota staff will be receiving an email with directions on how to apply for open enrollment. New staff requests must email enroll@lakotaonline.com to receive an application. All completed applications must be submitted to enroll@lakotaonline.com by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 31, 2022.

[Read more](#)



Summer Food Service Program Begins May 31, Free/Reduced Meal Application Opens July 15

The Lakota Local School District, in partnership with the Faith Alliance, is participating in the USDA's Summer Food Service Program this year. Meals will be provided daily to all children (ages 18 and younger and individuals with disabilities through age 21) - free of charge and regardless of income - beginning May 31 through July 29 (except for July 4).

Summer meals will be distributed at five different locations. Click below to view the complete Summer Food Service Program schedule.

With the expiration of the USDA's free meals waiver for all students - regardless of financial qualification - at the end



Sign Up for Lakota Safety Village

Lakota Local Schools is proud to present the first-ever Lakota Safety Village for incoming kindergartners, 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](#)

of the 2021-2022 school year, **families are reminded to re-apply for free/reduced meals.**

Applications must be submitted on an annual basis and to qualify for next school year, you must submit your application AFTER July 15.

[Read more](#)

SHOUT OUTS



West Freshman Lead Way in FCCLA State Career Development Events

Competitors from Lakota West Freshman excelled in the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America's (FCCLA) recent state career development competition. **Ja'Niya Clark** and **C.J. Keister** placed first in Food Innovations, while **Daeshia Carter Jones** and Ja'Niya Clark were the top finishers in the

Lakota Junior Entrepreneurs Among Top Finishers in Ohio Pitch Challenge

Following Lakota's inaugural Junior Entrepreneurs Pitch Night - the stepping stone for the year-long INCubatoredu high school elective for budding entrepreneurs - all student pitches were recorded and submitted to the Ohio After School Network's Pitch Challenge.

Liberty Junior eighth-

Sustainability Challenge. **Jadah Bowling** placed third in Interpersonal Communications. Congratulations on this accomplishment!

grader **Aleah Culver**, who won Lakota's local pitch night, earned first place in the middle school division with her pitch to create a phone case that charges your phone with kinetic energy. Aleah will receive a \$500 Amazon gift card and a consultation with a successful entrepreneur. Plains Junior seventh-grader **Blake Horine** was awarded an honorable mention in the middle school division for his customizable bed that works to maximize sleep quality. Congratulations Aleah and Blake!



Huggins Earns Perfect Score

Lakota East junior and Lakota Cyber Academy student **Sean Huggins** has earned a perfect score in the American Computer Science League competition. This international competition consists of four regular-season competitions with two parts per round. More than 5,000 students



Signing Events Celebrate Student-Athletes

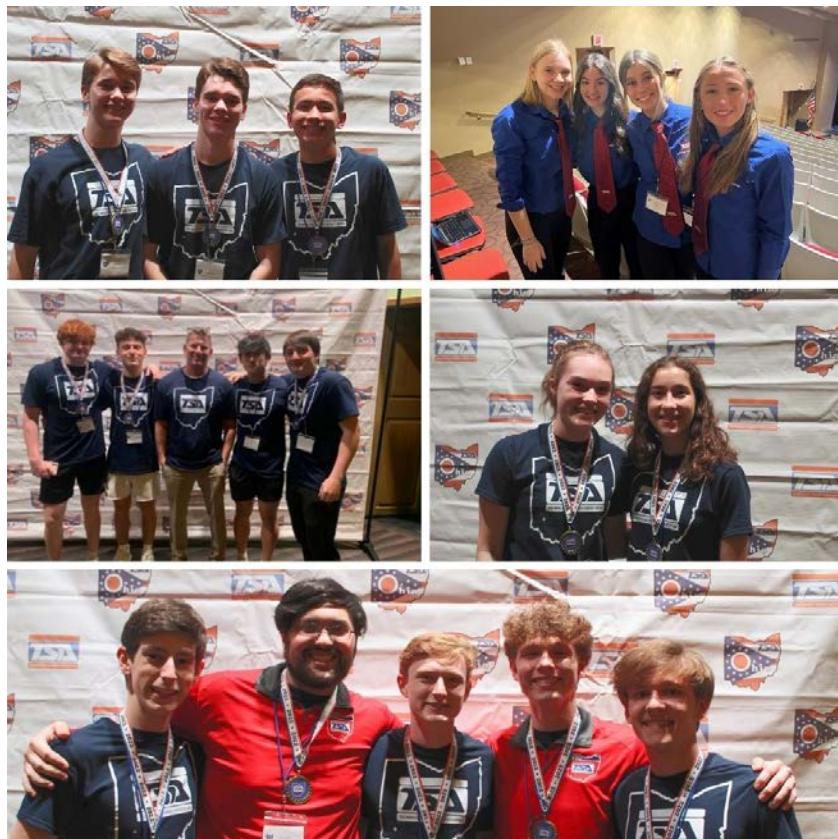
Lakota East's Spring Signing Event honored seniors who will be continuing their athletic careers in college. Twenty-four seniors representing 14 different sports were recognized with a host of family, friends, coaches, and staff

from the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia have competed.

Additionally, Sean has secured the tenth place spot in the National Cyber League competition. He has also earned the gold level in the national CyberStart competition. His scores for both of these contests are the highest in Lakota history.

there to celebrate this special event in their lives ([view all East signings](#)).

The Lakota West Athletic Department recently hosted its last athletic signing event when five more Firebirds committed to play at the collegiate level. This brings the total to 48 signed student-athletes for the Lakota West Class of 2022. [Click to see the complete list of 2022 signings.](#)



State TSA Titles for East Students

Five teams from Lakota East High School claimed state titles at this year's Technology Student Association (TSA) competition. The Ohio TSA chapter serves more than 6,000 students who are interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. More than 4

million students have participated in the organization since it was founded in 1978.

These Lakota East students will compete at the national competition this summer (clockwise from top left):

Technology Bowl

(Pictured L-R) **Noah Keith, Elliott Keith, Alec Brown**

Animatronics

(Pictured L-R) **Ashley Fohl, Lucy Laude, Courtney Henson, Dani Thorner**

Technology Problem Solving

(Pictured L-R) **Emma Langevin and Hannah Kohlhaas**

Engineering Design

(Pictured L-R) **Anthony Walsh, Ilyas Malik, Brandon Moore, Jack Nomina, Connor Miranda** (not pictured: **Ty Parrish**)

Computer Integrated Manufacturing

(Lower photo, pictured L-R) **Jackson Hummer, Gavin Hook, Todd Hummer** (teacher) **Jacob Nguyen, Alex Rivera**



Woodland Students Place in Top 10 in National NPR Podcast Challenge

Three Woodland Elementary sixth-graders, **Ashlyn Frayer, Reagan Murray** and **Shahed Saleh**, finished in the top 10 entries for the 2022 National Student Podcast Challenge sponsored by National Public Radio. Their entries were judged against 2,400 others coming in from 45 states.

The trio, along with their classmates, were asked to choose a topic with two sides, pick a side, and then write a detailed podcast script complete with research and descriptive language. Their teachers, Bonnie Scearce and Kim Carlson, saw it as a wonderful opportunity to get students writing about a topic they were passionate about and delivering their final draft to an authentic audience.

TOP PICK PIC



Parade of Graduates Celebrates Next Steps for Class of 2022

The Parade of Graduates returned to its traditional format for the Class of 2022, this year welcoming graduates and their families inside the halls of the Lakota elementary schools they attended years ago. Students and staff at all eight elementary buildings, in addition to Hopewell ECS and Heritage ECS (pictured above) that also served as elementary schools to this year's graduates, lined the hallways to cheer on their visitors. Graduates arrived dressed in their caps and gowns, carrying signs that displayed their post-graduate plans as a signal to their younger counterparts of what's possible.

[Click here to view a complete photo gallery of the Parade of Graduates event on Lakota's Facebook page.](#)

WE are Lakota

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