



Lakewood City Schools REPORT CARD

A Lakewood community newsletter

June 2021

Niedzwiecki set for shift to Superintendent Office

The 2021-2022 school year will begin with new names, but not new faces in the superintendent and assistant superintendent offices. Current Assistant Superintendent Maggie Niedzwiecki will replace departing Superintendent Mike Barnes, who announced in December that he would leave the District to take over the superintendent job at Mayfield City

Schools, where he spent most of his career.

Niedzwiecki's assistant superintendent position will be filled by the District's current director of teaching and learning, Dr. Christine Palumbo, who has been with the District in two different stints. She spent 14 years as an interventions specialist, left for another district and then in 2011 returned

as the director of student services. In 2016, she was named director of teaching and learning.

The District will be bringing in an educator from the outside to fill Palumbo's position. Steven Ast, the current principal at Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School, will begin his job as the new director of teaching and learning on August 1.

At the time Niedzwiecki's hiring was announced, Board of Education President Betsy Bergen Shaughnessy said, "Maggie brings unique experience that will help us move forward in addressing a Board priority – tackling the learning loss resulting from the impact of the pandemic. Maggie will, in her words, maintain the

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Niedzwiecki

Congrats to Class of 2021!

Congratulations to the 316 seniors who received their diplomas on Friday, June 4! This class had to wait a week for their rescheduled commencement but it was worth the wait!

Leading the way for their classmates were class valedictorian Anastasia (Nina) Seckers and salutatorian Katherine Spilsbury. Student speakers were Chloe Derethik and Tovi Vega. Thirty-nine students earned highest honors with a 4.0 or greater cumulative GPA.

Our graduates will head off to employment, military service and a wide variety of colleges. Most will stay in Ohio for their next chapter in education, but some will spread out across the nation to places such as University of Arizona, University of Tampa, University of Wisconsin and Oregon State University. We are especially proud of our six grads choosing to serve in the military.

Congratulations and best wishes to all our 2021 graduates!



District repeats as among best in music education

Lakewood City Schools has once again earned the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education and support from the Lakewood community. Lakewood is one of 686 districts from across the

country and only 46 in Ohio to earn the prestigious award.

The Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) recognizes outstanding efforts of teachers, administrators, parents, students and community leaders who are making music part of a well-rounded education for

every child in their communities. The District answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, and support for the music program. This year there were also questions about how our staff adapted instruction dur-

ing remote instruction due to the pandemic.

This award recognizes that our district is leading the way with music learning opportunities and that our Board of Education and community are committed to continuing the excellent legacy of music education in our schools.

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Awards & Recognitions

HIGH SCHOOL

Students sweep Beck/Rotary speech awards

Lakewood High juniors swept the top four spots of the Speech category in the 76th annual Rotary Club of Lakewood & Rocky River Speech, Music, and Visual Arts Contests sponsored by the Beck Center for the Arts. Leading the way for the talented talkers was Eva Strazek, who earned \$700 and the right to move on to the District competition. Rounding out the top four contestants were Andre Hallenburg (\$500), Abby Hirsch (\$300) and Sidney Bacon (\$250).

Contest participants are students from the five Lakewood and Rocky River high schools including Lakewood High School, Lutheran High School West, Magnificat High School, Rocky River High School, and St. Edward High School. The speech contestants were asked apply the principles of Rotary international's Four Way Test to a current ethical issue. Students are challenged to identify a topic they feel passionate about and to

adopt a point of view from which they will seek to persuade others. The Four Way Test includes the questions:

Is it the truth?
Is it fair to all concerned?
Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Great job by all the contest participants!

Rotary honors W. Shore Outstanding Students

Congratulations to the 14 West Shore Career-Tech students that were recognized as the Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary Outstanding Students for 2021. The winners were chosen for their exemplary accomplishments in the classroom, school activities, clubs, athletics and service in the community. Each student exemplifies traits of leadership, dedication, responsibility, caring, community involvement, and initiative.

This year's recipients are:

Auto Tech: Ryan Duffy
Construction Trades: Matt Dacek

Culinary Arts: Madison Lacquement

Early Childhood Education: Ella Villafane

Electronic Engineering: Mason Orlando

Engineering/PLTW: Aidan Erway

GFS: Jacqueline Underman

Health Careers: Hay Nay Lwi

Media Art & Design: Gabby Toms

Medical Office Management: Shamsa Abdullah

Networking: Sean McHugh

Sports & Exercise Science: Muzafar Ali

Theatre Arts: Sarah Whitkofski

Wyndham: Tomaserin Larocque

Artists selected for Gov. Youth Exhibit

Congratulations to Lakewood High senior Nola Williams-Riseng, whose artwork (pictured) was honored with an Award of Excellence as one of the top 25 pieces entered in the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibit competition. Also earning a spot in



the 300-piece exhibit with their artwork were juniors Grace Hopel and Inga Wilhelmy.

Judges received more than 1,000 entries from high school students across Northeast Ohio. From those entries, 126 were selected to join winners from the other Ohio regions to be judged at the state level to determine what art to include in the exhibition.

From the 6,000 regional entries from across Ohio, approximately 1,000 are selected to enter the state judging. State jurors then

select 300 for the actual exhibition, with 25 of the 300 chosen to receive the Governor's Award of Excellence. Scholarships are offered to seniors by over 30 universities and colleges of art.

The Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition is open to all Ohio high schools. Its purpose is to provide all young artists of the state with opportunities to advance their talent, whether that be through scholarships or simply experiencing the process of entering their work in a competition.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Harding, Garfield choirs sweep Sing Out contest

Congratulations to the 7th Grade Harding Choir and the 8th Grade Garfield Choir for earning first and second place, respectively, in the recent Youth Sing Out competition. The Youth Sing Out songwriting contest, part of the Stop

the Hate program at Maltz Museum, required participants to go through an online workshop, where they worked with a teaching artist from Roots of American Music to create an original song. The songs were then submitted to the contest and judged by a panel of music experts through a partnership with the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Both choirs are directed by Andrea Soncina.



honor); Amy Pilgrim - Award of Outstanding Achievement; Sylvie Ballou and Alexandria Russell - Honorable Mention

Visual Arts: Grace Hildebrandt - Award of Excellence (highest honor); Lila Wright - Award of Merit; Bailey Rohrs - Honorable Mention.

Statewide entries were judged by category and age group – pri-

mary (grades preK-2), intermediate (3-5), middle (6-8) and high school (9-12). Reflections offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. Students in PreK-12 are encouraged to submit works in seven arts areas: literature, dance choreography, film/video production, musical composition, photography and visual arts.

HS SPORTS

MVP Supinski leads All-Conference honors

Congratulations to our varsity spring sports Rangers who earned a place on their respective sport's Great Lakes Conference All-Conference teams! Special shout out to senior Jameson Supinski, who was named conference MVP for baseball!

All-Conference Selections

Baseball: Jameson Supinski (MVP); Lucas Winters (1st Team); Will Hyatt (2nd Team); Carlos Cintron and Ben Jablonski (Honorable Mention); David Coleman (Sportmanship)

Lacrosse: Gabe Constantine and Garrett Schweter (Honorable Mention); Felix Piotrowski (Sportmanship)

Softball: Inga Wilhelmy (1st

Team); Mia Carroll-Greeves (2nd Team); Alesha Hanna-Kotula and Jordan Rossen (Honorable Mention); Laruen Barber (Sportmanship)

Tennis: Aidan Peck (Honorable Mention, Sportmanship); Joe Twardesky (Honorable Mention)

Boys Track and Field: Aidyn Zingale (1st Team - 800m run); Aidyn Zingale, Ethan Pacella, David Burns, and Aidan Sterling (2nd Team - 4x400m relay); Gavin O'dell (2nd Team - high jump); Arturo Orso (2nd Team - 110m hurdles); Ibrahim AlSabbar (Honorable Mention - high jump); Marshall Vargas, Kevin Coffman, Alex Symons, and Aidan Sterling (Honorable Mention - 4x200 relay); Miles Watts (Sportmanship)

Girls Track & Field: Helen

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REFLECTIONS

7 earn state honors

Congratulations to the seven Lakewood High School students who this spring were recognized by the Ohio PTA as winners for their submission to the 2020-21 PTA Reflections Program.

Literature: Erin Ptacek - Award of Excellence (highest

Lakewood Kiwanis donates \$15,000 to District

Part of the tradition of the Lakewood Kiwanis is to have a signature project to mark important anniversaries of the organization. For the group's 75th anniversary in 1996, the Kiwanis gifted an illuminated sign for the Lakewood Board of Education property located then on Warren Road. A quarter century later and in conjunction with its centennial celebration, the Kiwanis have graciously given the Lakewood City Schools \$15,000 to place a new sign at the Board's new home at the Taft Center for Innovation (formerly Taft Elementary).

"We are extremely grateful for the longstanding partnership the District has with the Kiwanis and appreciate the many ways they serve our students, whether it be through scholarships for seniors, service clubs at our school buildings, or now this generous gift for our community," said Superintendent Mike Barnes.

The Kiwanis marked their 100th anniversary with a gala on May 14 where Board President Betsy Bergen Shaughnessy accepted the \$15,000 gift on behalf of the Board.

Kiwanis Centennial Gala chairman and past president Tim Mohr said choosing the schools for the centennial project was a natural fit. "Kiwanis has an ongoing commitment of serving the community through the schools. Our focus has always been on kids," he said.

The District hopes to have the new sign in sometime during the next school year.



Summer doesn't stop the learning!

Hundreds of K-12 students will be taking advantage of an extensive offering of free summer enrichment/learning programs taught by Lakewood City Schools teachers. The summer kicked off with Instruments Jump Start for rising fifth and sixth graders. Other offerings include traditional summer school, Kick Start to Kindergarten, Makerspace Camp, STEM camps that include focuses on app creation, the science of food waste, robotics, and green architecture. They are all designed to maximize the learning and the fun!



New LHS/W. Shore courses focus on history, career options

Lakewood High School and the West Shore Career-Technical District are known for their broad selection of courses and that wide array will grow even larger next school year. Elective courses will be added in the

social studies and English departments and West Shore's family consumer sciences and business departments.

Lakewood High students' options to learn about history from new perspectives will now

include courses in Native American history and African American history. Those students interested in exploring a career in broadcast journalism will now have that option under the English Department semester electives.

On the career-tech front, West Shore will be adding Leadership & Mentoring and Architecture & Interior Design into the family and consumer science fold and Entrepreneurship in the business area.

Sports

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Roche (1st Team - 400m dash); Alicia Smith (1st Team - 110m hurdles); Alicia Smith, Aniya Symons, McKenna Hunt, and Kaydence Doxley (2nd Team - 4x100m relay); Alicia Smith (Honorable Mention - long jump); Kate Healy (Honorable Mention - pole vault); Teeghan McGann (Honorable Mention - 800m run); Helen Roche, Aniya Symons, Abby Sacha, and Teeghan McGann (Honorable Mention - 4x400 relay); Helen

Roche, Mallory Zavatchen, Abby Sacha, and Teeghan McGann (4x800 relay); Mallory Zavatchen (Sportsmanship).

In other exciting conference news, track and field standouts sophomore Helen Roche (400-meter run), senior Alicia Smith (110-meter hurdles) and senior Aidyn Zingale (800-meter run) were crowned champions at the Great Lake Conference Championship Meet. Congratulations to all our Ranger student-athletes and coaches for their commitment during this challenging but rewarding year!

Admin

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great trajectory she sees happening in the Lakewood Schools. She understands the terrific amount of work that was devoted to the development of our Vision of a Lakewood Graduate and has a plan to act on that vision. We secured a stellar candidate and the District can now move forward seamlessly with meeting the needs of our students."

Niedzwiecki has over 27 years of experience in education. She has served as assistant superin-

tendent of the Lakewood City Schools since 2018. She has led the District Innovation Task Force as well as the development of the District's Vision of a Lakewood Graduate.

Niedzwiecki said she is eager to begin her new position.

"I look forward to continuing the tradition of close partnership between the greater community and our educational initiatives," Niedzwiecki said. "I feel fortunate to be part of a great administrative team and look forward to working together to accelerate student achievement."

The Lakewood Board of Education

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All courses and programs offered by the Lakewood City Schools and the West Shore Career Technical District are without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, creed, gender, marital status, disability, or age in its educational programs, activities, employment policies or admission policies as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The district provides equal access to Boy Scouts and other designated groups. Jeff Schlade serves as Title IX Coordinator and Lisa Bruening as 504 Coordinator.

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Postal Customer

Regatta Returns!

After months of remote schooling and few extracurricular activities, LHS Physics students in May were thrilled to be able to participate in the annual Cardboard Boat Regatta sponsored by Tavens Packaging and Display Solutions. The students built their vessels out of corrugated cardboard and packaging tape only. The goal was to make it across the 25-yard pool. Less than half the teams succeeded, however all had fun!



Diversity, equity and inclusion work continues

The District continues to bolster its diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, including concluding its first school year with monthly DEI districtwide task force meetings and professional development focused on DEI at the building levels. The work continues over the

summer as staff have the option to join a summer reading activity. Staff could select from one of eight titles recommended to read over the summer. There will be book discussions to follow once staff returns in August. DEI task force members were also invited to participate in a

three-day diversity training in mid-June that was led by CHARP Education Consulting. Other efforts include the continued expansion of books in our libraries that are more reflective of all of our students and the creation of a process to support preferred name and gender in our data systems.

Farewell to our retirees

At the Board of Education meeting on May 17, the District administration and Board members bid farewell and saluted its 20 employees who are retiring this year. The Board also honored the 2019-2020 retirees, who were unable to have a retirement ceremony due to COVID. The honorees received congratulations from all five Board members and were given a commemorative crystal bowl. Congratulations to all our retirees and best of luck!

2020-2021 Retirees:
Christopher Anderson, Garfield Middle School
Linda Buckle, Garfield Middle School
Debbie Calfee, Lakewood High School
Judy Cornelius, District
Steve Dezsi, District
Dennis Ebner, Lakewood High School
Leslie Eiben, Garfield Middle School
Mary Jo Farr, District
Betty Giguere, Harrison Elementary School
Phil Hilty, Lakewood High School
Bonelle Howarth, Lakewood High School
Kathleen Malanowski, Grant Elementary School
LouAnn Redaelli, Lakewood High School
Diane Rolfe, Horace Mann

Elementary School
Sandy Storey, Lakewood High School
Laura Taylor, Harding Middle School
Julie Tabaj, Garfield Middle School
Donna Tomlin, Harding Middle School
Donna Wolfe, Horace Mann Elementary School
Victor Younis, District

2019-2020 Retirees:
Mary Andrasak, Central Office
Sue Cernanec, Lincoln Elementary School
Terri DuPerow, Lakewood High School
Tina Endress, Central Office
Dave Giorgis, Harding Middle School
Maria Gregg, Central Office
Mary Hanigosky, District
Patty Hays, Central Office
Sue Hegarty, Garfield Middle School
Amy Hughes, Garfield Middle School
Debbie Jordan, Lakewood High School
Dianne Lewis, Harding Middle School
Mary Jo Mallchok, Districtx
Sue Michels, Roosevelt Elementary School
Peter Petto, Lakewood High School
Kim Scheer, Lakewood High School
Rick Wallenhorst, Rec Dept.