

## Salute to our Nat'l Merit honorees

### Semifinalists are among the top 1% of seniors in the country

Lakewood High School seniors Abigail Hirsch and Caleigh Naylor have been named National Merit Semifinalists in the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Corp. competition. This designation recognizes Abby and Caleigh as among the top students in the nation.

National Merit Scholarship Corp. also recognizes Commended Students, who are among the top 5% of PSAT scorers. Seniors Joseph Daso and Andre Hallenburg were named Commended Students. Although these students do not move on in the scholarship competition, we recognize them as among the best students in the state.

Based on their PSAT score from the 2020-2021 school year, Abby and Caleigh join the group of 16,000 Semifinalists across the country. These

academic standouts rose to the top of more than 1.6 million students who took the PSAT. Semifinalists represent less than 1% of U.S. high school seniors and are the highest scoring entrants in their state. Semifinalists are designated on a state-representational basis. The number of Semifinalists named in each state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating high school seniors.

Abby and Caleigh are now eligible to continue on in the competition in hopes of being named a Finalist and receiving one of more than 7,500 scholarships worth nearly \$30 million to be awarded in the spring.

Congratulations to these four academic superstars and good luck to our Semifinalists in moving forward in the competition.

### National Merit Scholars



ABIGAIL HIRSCH  
SEMIFINALIST



CALEIGH NAYLON  
SEMIFINALIST



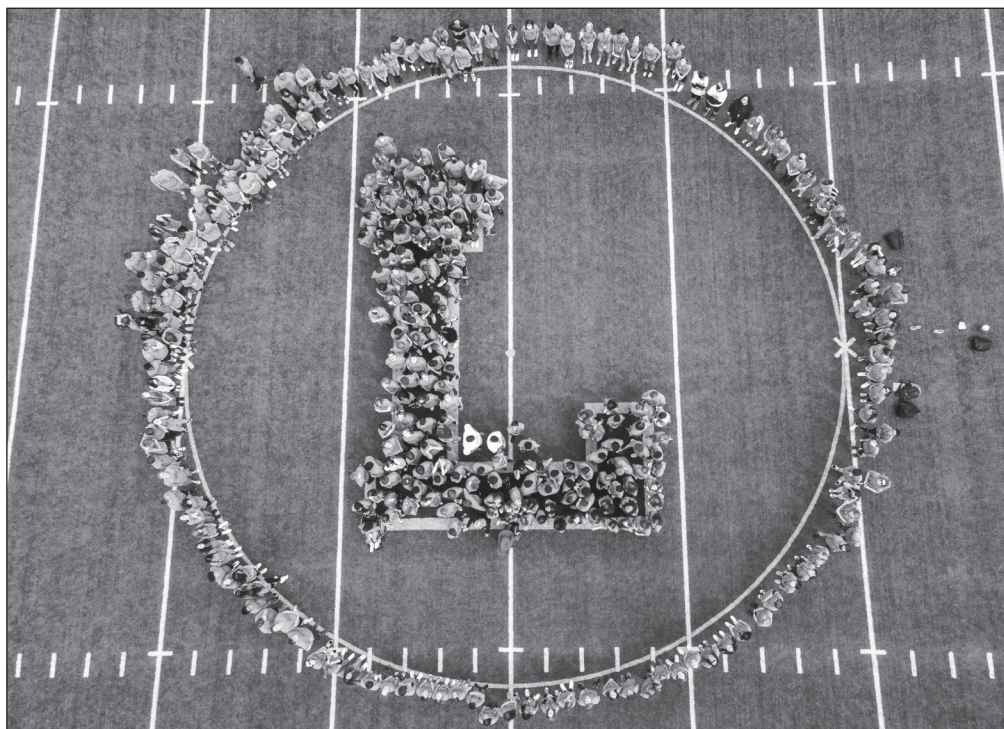
JOSEPH DASO  
COMMENDED STUDENT



ANDRE HALLENBURG  
COMMENDED STUDENT

## LHS welcomes Class of 2025!

With in-person learning back on for the 2021-2022 school year, organizers of the Lakewood High School Fresh Start orientation program were excited to welcome the freshmen Class of 2025 (and other new students to LHS). This class photo was the cap on a day filled with learning the ins and outs of being an LHS student. One of the top rules, show your Ranger Pride!



## District boasts 42 AP Scholars

The robust slate of 18 Advanced Placement Courses at Lakewood High has resulted in 42 current students and recent graduates being honored as AP Scholars by College Board. Congratulations to our AP Scholars:

**AP Scholars with Distinction** (earned by averaging at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams):

**Class of 2021:** David Gramo, Jayden Jackson, Sophie Lipka, Mohamed Manaa, Gina

See AP Page 3

## INSIDE:

Orchestra students named to honor groups  
**Page 2**

LHS Showcase set for October 5  
**Page 2**

Harding starts 6th grade peer mentor program  
**Page 3**

New faces on District leadership team  
**Page 3**



Awards & Recognitions

HIGH SCHOOL

Students named to All-State, All-Region orchestra groups

Congratulations to the Lakewood High musicians chosen to be part of the Ohio Music Educators Association’s Northeast Ohio Region Orchestra, including junior Madeline Oldfield (viola), who earned a chair in the All-State Orchestra as well. Joining Madeline in the regional honor ensemble are sophomore William Detmar (bass) and junior Jill King (cello). Jill also was chosen as an alternate for the All-State ensemble.

Students must qualify for the Region Orchestra to be eligible for a spot with the All-State Orchestra. The All-State ensemble performs at the OMEA annual conference. The conference will be held in Cleveland this year at the Huntington Convention Center from February 3-5.

At right: Madeline Oldfield (left) and Jill King. (William Detmar was absent.)

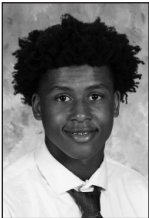


Ranger varsity football off to best start in quarter century

At presstime, the Lakewood Rangers varsity football team had only suffered one loss out of five games. The team has not had such an impressive start since the 1995 team that finished its season 11-1.

The team has been led by the spectacular play of running back Hakeem Quran, who has broken several team records, including the 40-year-old rushing yards-per-game mark held by Jim McGuire. Hakeem rushed for 285 yards in the season opener versus John Marshall and then topped that with 322 yards versus Fairview the following game. Hakeem also holds the new record for most touchdowns in a game with seven.

Congratulations to all the team and Coach Tom Thome and his staff.



LREF secures STEM grant for District

The Lakewood City Schools and the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation (LREF) are pleased to announce that Howmet Aerospace Foundation has awarded a \$33,959 grant to LREF that will be dedicated to bolstering the school district’s STEM resources across all grades.

The grant money will be used to purchase Sphero programmable robots packages for every building in the District.

“We are thrilled to have played a part in securing this grant to enrich STEM education in our District,” said LREF Executive Director Terri Richards. “LREF’s mission is to help provide a world class public education for each and every Lakewood student and we are grateful for partners like the Howmet Aerospace Foundation, who assist us in fulfilling that commitment.”

Howmet Aerospace Foundation invests in STEM and technical education As part of its efforts to educate and inspire tomorrow’s scientists, engineers and technical experts. The Howmet Foundation is the independently endowed charitable arm of Howmet Aerospace.

The grant opportunity was brought to LREF’s attention by one of its trustees, Heather Watson, who is a quality engineer manager for Howmet Aerospace.

“I am so happy that Howmet Aerospace Foundation found the value in supporting STEM projects for Lakewood City Schools. It’s a benefit that I will treasure as an employee of Howmet, a member of the LREF Executive Board, but most of all as a parent in the district,” Watson said.

LHS Showcase Night Oct. 5

You hear about all the great courses, extracurriculars, and learning spaces at Lakewood High but have you ever been able to come explore them? Well, you will have your chance at the Lakewood High Showcase Night. Learn about LHS clubs, activities, athletics, West Shore Career-Tech, AP classes, and so much more! It all takes place on Tuesday, October 5 from 6-7:30 pm. A presentation for private school parents will be from 7:30-8 pm. Come see what a gem we have in LHS!


Purple & Gold Gala Oct. 16

The popular Purple & Gold Gala is back! Join the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation on Saturday, October 16 at Gordon Green, a new event space in Gordon Square. The Gala is a fundraiser to provide opportunities in academics, the arts, music, athletics and other educational enrichment for all Lakewood students at every level of their education. The fun back-to-school themed event will feature music, games, auctions and plenty of food and drink. Buy your tickets now at [www.lakewoodrangers.com](http://www.lakewoodrangers.com)

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LAKESWOOD HIGH SCHOOL  
SHOWCASE NIGHT

COME EXPLORE THE MANY RICH OPPORTUNITIES OUR  
SCHOOL HAS TO OFFER



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5TH  
SHOWCASE 6-7:30 PM  
PAROCHIAL PRESENTATION 7:30-8 PM

LAKESWOOD HIGH SCHOOL



# Harding buddy program kicks off new “Traditions”

Harding Middle School sixth graders had the honor of being members of the first class to kick off a new school tradition, called appropriately - Traditions. Traditions is the brain child of social studies teacher Bill Altman and his colleagues who were part of a staff group addressing ways to make the building more inclusive for all students.

“We were looking for a way to create a common, positive experience for all Harding students” from the time they enter Harding to the time they leave, regardless of their grades, popularity, socioeconomic status, or extracurricular activities, Altman said.

The program started off on Day One of school as every sixth-grader was paired with an eighth-grade mentor. Fifty-eight eighth graders volunteered to mentor the new middle schoolers. The

mentors promise to connect and communicate with their mentee at least once a month. The mentors are there to answer questions, concerns, or give guidance and advice. But mostly, they are to be a friendly face when a new student may need it the most.

Altman said that lunches, breakfasts, pizza parties and other activities are being planned to help foster the relationship between the mentor and mentee. Each sixth grader will also be given a memory box that will serve as a time capsule for the student. The boxes will be decorated and filled throughout the course of their middle school experience, and will be given to them as departing eighth graders. Eventually, the program will include some community outreach events, and other service projects.



Harding eighth-grader mentors accompany their sixth-grade buddies on the first day of school.

## AP

continued from PAGE 1

Marjanovic, Sean McHugh, Aidan Peck, Katherine Spilsbury, Simon Thompson, Aidyn Zingale

**Class of 2022:** Anna Weiss

**AP Scholars with Honor**

(earned by averaging at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams):

**Class of 2021:** David Coleman, Jack Holian, Emily Kompier, Jasmine Magda, Emma Owens, Willow Rosser

**Class of 2022:** Joseph Daso, Emma Hart, Abigail Hirsch, Alexander Pongracz

**AP Scholars** (earned by completing three or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher):

**Class of 2021:** Caroline Harmon, Jacob Kave, Erin McHugh, Griffin Miller, Aubree Nagel, Maxwell Potter, Samuel Saracina, Nola Williams-Riseng

**Class of 2022:** Mia Condosta, Julia Costello, Lewis Fetting, Andre Hallenburg, Veruca Jou-riles, Teeghan McGann, Lucy McIntyre, Caleigh Naylor, Erin Ptacek, Eva Strazek, Reka Sundem, Sophia Weiss

**Class of 2023:** James Holland

## Board, City OK agreement on shared rec facilities responsibilities



We are pleased and excited to announce a formal partnership agreement between the Lakewood Board of Education and the City of Lakewood regarding the care of the public baseball/softball fields and pools. Months of planning and discussions took place to complete this process and we all are thankful for the relationship that has developed over the past couple years between the District and the City to achieve this.

In other news, the Recreation Department is involved in the Foster Pool Renovation Committee, spearheaded by architectural & engineering design firm Sixmo Inc. The

renovated pool is slated to open spring of 2023. These discussions began two months ago, seeking community feedback, user group comments, programming needs and amenities requests, which will help us construct a facility that everyone can enjoy and take pride in. Located on the City of Lakewood's website is the draft concept and survey results, which you can access at [www.lakewoodoh.gov/fosterpool/](http://www.lakewoodoh.gov/fosterpool/).

The Rec fall catalog is out! Copies were mailed to residences and the booklet is posted at [www.lakewoodrecreation.com](http://www.lakewoodrecreation.com). Check out our offerings and register today!

## District leadership team has new members

This school year started with a few new faces to the District leadership team and a couple of new administrator roles for some familiar faces.

Steven Ast has joined the District's Cabinet leadership group as the new Director of Teaching and Learning. Ast was formerly the principal of Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School. He replaces Christine Palumbo,

who is now the District's assistant superintendent.

Former Lakewood High House Principal Bridgette Firstenberger has stepped into the role of associate principal, replacing Brian Siftar, who has taken a position in another district. Firstenberger has been with the District since 2015. Meredith Wotjkun moved from her position as an intervention specialist at Grant Elementa-

ry to replace Firstenberger in the House 2 job. Wotjkun was a former principal at Harding Middle School and served in many other roles within the District over her nearly 30 years with Lakewood City Schools.

At the elementary level, Sanya Henley replaced Merritt Waters as principal at Horace Mann. Waters was reassigned to a new position as a teaching and learn-

ing coordinator and will oversee the District's student wellness and mental health initiatives. Henley comes to the District from Euclid City Schools, where she was principal of its Early Learning Village.

Former Human Resource Specialist Fran Hanrahan also joined the District leadership team in a new position of Supervisor of Personnel Services.



**The Lakewood Board of Education**

Betsy Bergen Shaughnessy, President  
Edward Favre, Vice President  
Linda Beebe, Member  
Emma Petrie Barcelona, Member  
Michael J. Callahan, Member

**Administration**

Maggie Niedzwiecki, Superintendent  
Kent Zeman, Treasurer

All courses and programs offered by the Lakewood City Schools and the West Shore Career Technical District are without regard to sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), race, color, national origin, disability, age, religion, ancestry, or genetic information 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. Jeffrey Schlade serves as Title IX Coordinator and Lisa Bruening as 504 Coordinator.

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**The Ranger journey begins!**



We were so thrilled to be able to welcome our Class of 2034 kindergarteners in-person in August! These Hayes little Rangers and their peers have so much to look forward to as they experience all that the Lakewood City Schools has to offer. We look forward to celebrating their progress and achievements every step of the way!

**LREF awards \$19,000 in teaching grants to staff**

The Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation awarded its highest ever dollar amount in teacher grants for the 2021-2022 school year as 18 projects were given funds totaling more than \$19,000.

Executive Director Terri Richards called the proposed projects put forth by teachers from across the District “innovative and inspiring.”

With students back to a full in-person schedule this school year, teachers are excited to introduce some creative, hands-on activities that keep students engaged and spark their curiosity. The grant proposals cover classrooms from preschool through grade 12 and touch on a wide range of subjects from science, literacy, math and economics to social emotional learning topics.

The money provided for the grants comes from LREF donor funds such as the Margaret Warner and the Meinke Creative Teaching grant funds as well as some funding from the foundation’s general fund.

Below is a sampling of grant projects from the 18 that were approved:

- Yoga Club at Garfield Middle School
- Stock Market Game at Lakewood High
- Super Powered (mental health) Support Group at Harding Middle School
- Printmaking Pattern Project at Lakewood High
- Ranger Wear for All - designing spiritwear hijabs at Lakewood High
- Battle of the Books at all elementary schools
- Traditions - a peer mentor program for 6th graders at Harding Middle School
- Eureka STEM Activities and Stories at Lincoln Elementary
- Space Tech and Rocketry at Harding Middle School
- Connecting Generations Over the Dinner Table at West Shore Career-Tech

We look forward to sharing more details about the grant programs as they unfold over the school year.

**Superintendent Listen & Learn dates set**

Superintendent Maggie Niedzwiecki held her first Listen & Learn session of her superintendency on September 22. We are grateful to all who attended. If you missed it, you will have several chances to participate. These sessions are an opportunity for parents of our students and other community members

to have their voice heard regarding the operation and vision of the District. The remaining Listen & Learn sessions are :  
November 17, 6pm



January 19, 9 am  
March 23, 6 pm  
Locations for these dates will be announced closer to the date of each session. We welcome feedback from our stakeholders at anytime, just send an email to ask@lakewoodcityschools.org or call 216-529-4000.

**Connect with us!**

The Report Card is not the only way to stay abreast of District news. You can also connect with us via social media by following us on one of the following platforms:  
Twitter & Instagram: @Lkwd Schools  
Facebook: @lakewoodcityschools