

# LAKELAND HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A green starburst graphic with a scalloped edge, containing white text that reads "SPECIAL FEATURE: LHS'S DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM".

SPECIAL  
FEATURE:  
LHS'S DUAL  
CREDIT  
PROGRAM

## **LAKELAND HIGH SCHOOL'S DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM: A BRIDGE THAT'S BUILT TO LAST**

"Education is all a matter of building bridges." While Ralph Ellison may not have been referring to the modern challenges of bridge-building in education during his famous 1963 lecture *What These Children Are Like*, it is a model statement to describe the construct of Lakeland High School's dual credit program.

Recently there has been increased attention on local dual credit programs due to the ever-changing landscape of public education, post-secondary education, and socioeconomic atmosphere. Lakeland High School believes their program is a standout to bridge the gap between all of these landscapes. For LHS students seeking rigor, advanced opportunities, and college program acceleration, all with little to no financial burden, the path is wide open and well marked.

The dual credit journey starts early in the high school experience at LHS when freshmen are introduced to the program's opportunities by a school counselor. Initial advising includes how to form successful habits in order maintain a strong grade point average. Students collaborate with counselors to plan each semester's schedule, keeping graduation requirements and future goals in mind. Personalized, customized course counseling is routine for every student at Lakeland High School, and during the sophomore year, students and their parents receive invitational information on the dual credit program, reviewing its benefits and challenges as it pertains to each student individually. Additionally, parents and students receive guidance for each step of the enrollment process. Consequently, close to half of the junior and senior populations end up qualifying and participating in the dual credit program.

What might be the most unique advantage that Lakeland's program has over others is that it is predominantly an on-campus experience, which provides numerous benefits to participants. For little to no financial cost, the dual credit student receives in-person instruction, classroom discussion, and hands-on, college level instruction, all within the high school classroom environment. There is no need to spend hours during the school day in front of a computer screen for instruction, nor is it necessary to travel off-campus. Lakeland High School offers a total of nearly fifty credits over the five-day school week while maintaining the integrity of the high school experience where students are socially involved with peers their own age. It is the best of both worlds. Our students can participate in extracurricular activities, clubs, leadership, and more all while benefiting from high level courses with transferable college credits, applicable to multiple degrees. For the student who wants to graduate with a two-year degree while enjoying the typical high school experience, Lakeland offers it all.

Considering the unique culture that Lakeland High School's dual credit program provides, it's no surprise to hear that some refer to it as the "best in the state." The success of our students makes it clear that the bridge we have built here is a strong one, well-traveled and built to last.



# LAKELAND'S DUAL CREDIT COLLECTIVE



Jimmy Hoffman,  
Principal



Dustin Frank,  
Assistant Principal



Shannon LaFountaine,  
Assistant Principal



Frank Vieira,  
Counselor



Lorain Ryan,  
Counselor



Kim Suko,  
Counselor



Jessica McCardell,  
Dual Credit Teacher



Colleen Bevacqua,  
Dual Credit Teacher



John Keating,  
Dual Credit Teacher



Shannon Hall,  
Dual Credit Teacher



Colleen Hall,  
Dual Credit Teacher



Tim Gering,  
Dual Credit Teacher



Jodi Nelson,  
Dual Credit Teacher



Shannon Mattila,  
Dual Credit Teacher



Sara Teel,  
Dual Credit Teacher



Keara Schaffer,  
Dual Credit Teacher