



Nurture ■ Inspire ■ Empower


Lafayette

School Corporation

MAIN OFFICE

 Hiatt Administrative Center
2300 Cason St.
Lafayette, IN 47904-2692

 www.lsc.k12.in.us

 765-771-6000

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Dear Parents, Guardians and LSC Stakeholders,

Each day, teachers and students in our buildings engage in any number of meaningful interactions. From advanced chemistry experiments to honing writing skills to the simple act of saying "thank you," our students are acquiring the knowledge and skills they need to lead successful adult lives. This newsletter shines a spotlight on a few select activities. But you should know that, for every one we share, there are dozens of other stories that are just as worthwhile. Here in the Lafayette School Corporation, we are proud of the job we do to educate all children. When parents partner with teachers to invest in their child's education, there are no limits. To learn more about what is happening in our schools, visit our corporation website, lsc.k12.in.us, or visit your child's home school web page. Please follow us on Facebook or Twitter, @lsclafayette. We want to work with you to help all children have a successful school year.



Sincerely,
Les L. Huddle
Les L. Huddle, Superintendent





Denise DesEnfants

Denise DesEnfants, principal at Murdock Elementary, has served a variety of roles in LSC. She taught fifth grade at Washington and Vinton Elementary; was the Title I lead teacher at Vinton; worked in professional development and as assistant elementary administrator for the corporation, and was an assistant principal at Tecumseh. She earned her bachelor's degree at IUPUI and her master's degree and administration license at Indiana Wesleyan. Her husband is a graduate

of JHS. Their two elder children, Zack and Morgan, attend Purdue University; her youngest son, Alex, is a freshman at JHS. She loves hiking and visiting the National Park system.

Cindy Gerlach is filling the new position of Director of Communications and Community Engagement for LSC. She earned her bachelor's degree in journalism at the University of Missouri-Columbia and her master's degree in English at Bradley University. Prior to joining LSC, she worked at the Journal & Courier (on the Opinions Page and covering arts/entertainment), in marketing/communications at Purdue, and as the managing director of the Lafayette Master Chorale & Children's Choir. She is also a freelance writer. Her three daughters, Alison, Madeleine and Sylvia, are all graduates of Jefferson High School. She lives in Lafayette with her husband, Gary, one dog and one cat. In her free time, she loves reading, attending local arts performances, re-watching "Arrested Development" and traveling.



Cindy Gerlach



Kathryn Parthun

Kathryn Parthun is part of the Jefferson High School administrative team as principal of Oakland Academy, an extension of JHS. She is an LSC grad (JHS class of 2009), and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees, along with her administration license, from Purdue University. She also completed her Applied Behavioral Neuroscience certificate through Butler University. Before becoming a teacher, she was a paraprofessional at then-Oakland High School.

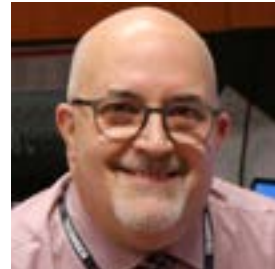
She earned her transition to teaching license and taught Life Sciences at North Montgomery High School and Oakland High School before becoming LSC's Director of Social and Emotional Learning. She and her husband have two sons (ages 3 and 1) and two dogs (a Pitbull and a Boston Terrier). While at JHS, Parthun was a drum major in the marching band, completed service hours in the National Honor Society, helped improved recycling in the city while in Mayor's Youth Council, attended President Obama's inauguration, and wrote for the Booster school newspaper for a year.



Sherry Mazza

Sherry Mazza is the new Director of Health Services for LSC. A native of Pennsylvania, she earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania; she worked in labor and delivery and as a school nurse prior to moving to Indiana. She has been married for 37 years; she and her husband are the parents of twins, a son and a daughter. She enjoys baking and reading.

New to the Tecumseh administrative team is Principal Frank Meyer. He earned a BA in communications from the University of MO-St. Louis, his English teaching certificate and MA in Educational Leadership from Ball State University, and his MBA in Educational Leadership from the University of Indianapolis. He was at Avon High School for 18 and a half years (five and a half years teaching, then 13 as an administrator); prior to teaching, he worked at NBC News in New York and The Atlanta Journal Constitution as a video/film archivist and print archivist, respectively. He and his wife, Megan, are the parents of Owen, 22, a senior at DePauw University; and Eliza, 18, a freshman at IU. You may not be able to tell by looking at him, but he used to have "a pretty sweet mullet." (All photos of that time have been destroyed in a purification ritual.)



Frank Meyer



MARIBEL MASOODI, FIRST-GRADE HIGH ABILITY EDGELEA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



It's reading time in Maribel Masoodi's classroom. The students have just read aloud, together, an article about polar bears. And Masoodi is ready to test their comprehension.

"Let's see if we were able to retain what we read," she says. "What is the main idea? But not of this piece – what is a main idea?"

The answers come from all parts of the classroom, with students defining what a main idea is, and then sharing details ("A detail gives me some sort of information," Masoodi reminds them) that they gleaned about polar bears (they are, for the record, angry, grouchy and thoughtful).

"Using context clues – and who remembers what context clues are?" she asks. A student is prompted to answer. "And if you get it wrong, no big deal. We'll help you."

"Did you notice how my voice went up at the end of the question?" she asks again.

If you were to listen to only the questions, the comments and the dialogue in the classroom, you might be surprised to learn, given the advanced level of the exchange, that these students are only first-graders. They are in a high-ability classroom, but they are in their very first year of elementary school.

The discussion is quick-moving, rapid fire; it can feel almost frenetic at times. It's a thoughtful, engaging lesson with a challenging discourse. And that, says Masoodi, is typical for her, every day.

"I always start at the top and bring it down if I need to," she says. "I never, ever spoon-feed; I answer questions with questions."

Masoodi is a winner of the 2023 Golden Apple Award, given annually to outstanding teachers in Tippecanoe County who demonstrate excellence in the classroom.

A product of the Lafayette School Corporation, Masoodi (née Salazar) entered Miller Elementary as an English language learner – her parents spoke Spanish at home. "I didn't know I needed the help," she recalls.

"I just went to the resource room." She went on to earn her bachelor's degree in education from Purdue University, her ELL certification and later, a master's degree, from Indiana University.

She took these skills to Tecumseh Middle School, where she taught language arts and helped establish the ELL program. In her time at Tecumseh, she worked with some students who, at age 12, entered school with almost no English language skills; many of them went on to graduate and earn college degrees. She has stayed in touch with many of these former students. Watching those students succeed, she says, are special moments for her.

Masoodi has transitioned over to teaching the high-ability first-grade class in LSC. Her classroom at Edgelea is filled with letters and numbers, shapes and sight words. There is poetry on the walls, along with equations and STEM facts. There are a plethora of educational books and games, references to money matters, to geography and nature.

And books, of course. So many books.

It's all part of teaching these children whatever it is they need to know, whatever they're ready to learn. Whatever they want, Masoodi is ready to help them.

"I'm planning all these extra lessons," Masoodi says. "But that way I'm meeting everyone's needs."

Because, she says, these learners, the children classified as high ability, have a specific set of needs. They must be guided to reach their full potential.

"I see how sad they can get when they're not challenged. We all have to meet the kids where they're at."

And she is not afraid to push a little – "Just to where it doesn't bring the tears" – as she introduces concepts and ideas that engage these young minds. Sometimes, she says, it will be tough for them. But she doesn't hold back.

"It is expected that we will fail," she says. "When we fail, we're still learning."

These are the innovations that won Masoodi the Golden Apple award. It's an honor that clearly humbles her, and she is quick to note how many stellar teachers are nominated each year.

"It feels good to be praised and recognized for all the hard work," she says. "It motivates me."

And, she says, as a Latina teacher receiving the award, she feels it gives her the opportunity to inspire similar young learners. She is proud to use her Spanish ("It's my superpower") to help children.

"I'm proud to be a trailblazer," she says. "Now we need more."

Her colleagues at Edgelea are well aware of how well Masoodi works with her students. She is beloved by staff, students and parents alike, says Principal Ana Ave.

"Mrs. Masoodi demonstrates extraordinary teaching skills, a wide base of knowledge, innovation and creativity, and she has emerged as a leader because she takes initiative and gets the job done," Ave says. "She is very deserving of the 2023 Golden Apple Award because she has impacted not only the students in her classroom but all the students at Edgelea and our community at large. It is with great pleasure that we celebrate her distinction as a Golden Apple Award-winning educator."

Masoodi is energized by the work she has done and how far she has come. And she is clearly poised to continue to work with children, helping them learn and grow.

"I want them to think critically, think globally, but at the same time, be kind and uplift others," she says. "I want to open their eyes to what's out there. There is so much more."



RAIDER PRESCHOOL GLEN ACRES ELEMENTARY

Glen Acres is the first elementary school in LSC to operate its own preschool. Sensing a need for a preschool option that is convenient, reasonably priced and open all day, Glen Acres came up with Raider Preschool. The program, which opened in August 2022, was offered first to LSC staff; the 20 children are currently half LSC and half neighborhood children. The focus is on Kindergarten readiness, though there is plenty of time for play and age-appropriate free time; the classroom is filled with activities that incorporate pre-K readiness, and they even have their own playground. The preschoolers are housed in the school and, while operating as a preschool, are integrated into school events, including Family Nights and assemblies. It is a convenient option and helps prepare students who will enter Kindergarten in the fall – many of whom will attend Glen Acres.

CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE AMELIA EARHART ELEMENTARY

A brain-smart start can be the best way to start each school day. At Earhart, the school is engaging in Conscious Discipline, which hopes to reshape how children and adults approach emotional management and wellness. This multi-step framework begins with engaging students; a day of learning is started with a handshake, a song or an activity designed to disengage stress. Students are then asked to make a goal for their day. The framework promotes internal motivation, empathy and self-regulation, says Principal Ryan Habben. With a focus on logical consequences, the shift in working with and understanding children should have a positive change on how children interact with adults, how discipline is applied and how students learn. Because providing adults guidance on how to implement these principles can improve children's lives for generations to come.



INNOVATION STUDIO OAKLAND ELEMENTARY

It may look as if students are playing with building blocks and crafting. But in the Innovation Studio, discovery and creativity are fostering learning and critical thinking. This high-tech classroom, funded by a grant from IN-MaC Indiana Next Generation Manufacturing Competitiveness Center, features computers, robotic arms and 3D printers. All students spend time in the room every week, where they can let their imaginations run wild as they create, build and explore. It's an early introduction to STEM principles, which will be useful throughout their time in school. Teacher Kristi Serra says it's an amazing space for students to hone skills. "It's a safe place to think, build and wonder."



ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK EDGELEA ELEMENTARY

Over 500 Edgelea students and staff all read E.B. White's *Stuart Little*: together. The opportunity was made possible by a grant from the Public Schools Foundation of Tippecanoe County, says Principal Ana Ave. The story of the mouse-like boy was shared through group reading; there have been daily trivia questions (with prizes!), with classes phoning in their responses to the office, in a throwback to radio contests. The school had a Stuart Little dress-up day, and teachers integrated book-themed activities into their lesson plans each day. Each class put together projects based on the book – so kindergartners and fourth-graders got to see how the different grade levels worked on the same themes. The shared read allowed the students to discuss its themes, including tolerance and acceptance of those unlike us. But the true gift is the joy of reading together, as a community, and involving families in the literacy journey, says Ave. By sharing this book throughout the school, and at home, the students will find joy in community and develop a life-long love of reading.

AFTER-SCHOOL FOCUS MURDOCK ELEMENTARY

The school day officially ends at 2:45 p.m. But for about one-third of Murdock Elementary students, the day continues at FOCUS. The after-school program is offered free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Funded by a grant, the program offers not only after-school care, but enrichment. Children are given time to work on homework, but they have other scheduled activities, including dance, arts and crafts, outdoor activities; they also have math and reading activities that are grade-level, standard-based that they work on daily. As part of the FOCUS experience, parents are asked to commit to attending monthly Family Nights at Murdock, where dinner is provided, along with an activity; these range from literacy to math to service projects. Staffed by teachers, Purdue students and some JHS National Honor Society volunteers, FOCUS offers a quality after-school experience that extends learning time in a fun atmosphere.





WE ARE FAMILY VINTON ELEMENTARY

All schools can feel like a family. But at Vinton, it's an official designation. The school has twice been designated a Family Friendly School by the Indiana Dept. of Education. The school hosts events for families at least once each month, says Principal Cindy Preston. From ELL nights to literacy to arts and crafts, the school finds multiple reasons to get families into the building and interacting with one another. Even their school carnival, which many schools use as a fundraiser, is merely an opportunity for parents to spend time with their children in the school. Encouraging family involvement, getting them into the school and engaged, helps reinforce the relationship students have with school and augments learning. It's a win-win for students, parents and teachers alike.

MILLER'S DAY PARADE MILLER ELEMENTARY

Look out, Macy's: You have competition. This year, Miller Elementary staged its first "Miller's Day Parade." Students were learning about celebrations and tradition, so Principal Erin Phillips decided the time was right for the school to start its own tradition. Kitted out with balloons, noisemakers, banners, music and – naturally – floats (shoebox-sized), the entire Miller School – along with special guests from the City of Lafayette and LSC administration – marched through the neighborhood, sharing goodwill and joy with bystanders along the route. "We always say Miller has HEART," says Phillips. "Our school has so much pride that we can't contain it. We are top-notch when it comes to being a family." The school can't wait until next year for the second annual parade!



EARLY LEARNING LITTLE BRONCHOS PRESCHOOL

There are never enough quality preschool programs for children. The Little Bronchos classrooms are just that, with the unique twist that the program includes peer modeling, with typical children enrolled alongside children who need special services. "The idea is to see how these groups learn from each other," says Todd Deckard, Director of Operations. The six classes – three morning and three afternoon – are housed in the Linnwood Early Childhood Education Center. Days are structured around lessons that help prepare students for Kindergarten. Daily teacher-led activities are in small groups and focus on literacy, science, math and sensory skills that have a weekly theme – think transportation or simple machines – all at an age-appropriate level. Classrooms are equipped with technology that students will encounter as they enter Kindergarten. And paraprofessionals are in the room to help students who need assistance. The program has proven popular, with all classrooms at full enrollment. "The most important thing we can do is prepare these kids for the next step," says Deckard.



PLAY WITH A PURPOSE MIAMI ELEMENTARY

Kindergartners in Julie Grubb's class spend part of their morning building with blocks, creating pictures and doing puzzles. It looks like they're playing, but it's actually play-based learning. Blocks? Spatial relations, cause and effect. Copying pictures? Following directions, trial and error. Children move from station to station – which they choose – and participate in activities that stimulate their minds but that also give them a chance to interact socially. One station goes with the story theme of the week so children can practice using focused vocabulary in a low-risk setting. Many of these students' chance to attend preschool was thwarted by COVID shutdowns. And since children learn while they play, Grubb thought it was an opportunity to combine the two and meet multiple needs. It's one more way that teachers are focusing on child-centered classrooms, giving students the chance to explore in their own way, with guidance from teachers. The result? Children learn in a warm environment that is engaging and nurturing.





PARENT UNIVERSITY SUNNYSIDE INTERMEDIATE

Learning never stops. At Sunnyside Intermediate School, parents are invited to join their children on that journey on themed learning nights once each month at Parent University, says Principal Matt Brown. The project started as a teacher's MBA project. But the evenings were met with such enthusiasm, the school decided to implement them on a regular basis. Parents know the schedule at the beginning of the school year, making it easy to plan. The evenings each have a theme; this year's events have focused on financial literacy, cybersecurity, STEM activities and reading. And each topic is presented with help from a community partner; PFCU was the co-sponsor for financial literacy, while the Indiana State Police presented on cybersecurity. Children are welcome to be part of the sessions, but childcare is offered for younger siblings or for when the topic might be too intense for middle-schoolers. Multiple needs are met in this way. Parents and students are invited – together – to help parents learn alongside their children. Teachers have an opportunity to highlight what is happening in their classrooms. And by working with community partners, they have an opportunity to be inside the building and see the great things happening.

LEARNING AFTER HOURS TECUMSEH JR HIGH

Long after the last bell rings at Tecumseh Junior High, the learning continues. Students can leave behind obligatory math, science and language arts curriculum and choose another learning opportunity all on their own. With over a dozen after-school clubs and activities, students can join one or more and find a new interest. There is a wide variety of offerings, including Tecumseh Singers, Jazz Band, Homework Club, Robotics Club, Students in Action, Drama Club, FACS Club, Spell Bowl, Chess Club and Dance Team. Students are exposed to new concepts that may not fit into standard curriculum. For some students, the goal is to work on their musical abilities in band or Tecumseh Singers; for others, it's just about hanging out with peers while working on a service project, or discovering theater. They are free to explore, discover their passion and create meaningful relationships, all critical parts of developing into lifelong learners.



BEST FOOT FORWARD JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

Ballet. Jazz. Modern dance. Many styles of dance are incorporated into the dance curriculum at JHS. The introduction to dance in levels I, II and III may be the first time some students have been exposed. It's a great opportunity, says dance instructor Amanda Arnett. They learn not only about the art, but also about how to choreograph, select music and work together as a team. Plus it's another form of exercise. Some JHS graduates have even used this dance experience to go on to study dance at the college level. Learning dance and life skills – a sure step in the right direction.



SELF-PACED LEARNING OAKLAND ACADEMY

The first thing you'll notice at Oakland Academy is the quieter atmosphere. Many students apply to the Oakland program because they are yearning for a smaller environment where they can thrive academically and socially. Oakland Academy, an extension of Jefferson High School, has its own campus and its own identity. Students are also attracted to the self-paced nature of the courses where credits are earned by content mastery. This is ideal for students who are behind on their credits and are recovering those that they need, or for those who are wishing to graduate early. For students who are looking for a more personalized, student-driven education, this can be a great opportunity to learn in an individualized way and still earn a Jefferson High School diploma in LSC. This environment fits the needs of some students and adds one more way LSC strives to make sure all students are successful.





CAREER PREPARATION
GLCA

Emma Eberhard knew from a young ago that being a teacher was in her future. But thanks to the Educational Professions Program at the Greater Lafayette Career Academy, Eberhard is now certain that this is her career path. "I love working with people," she says. "I love seeing the lightbulb moment, seeing people succeed." In her program at GLCA, Eberhard spends one day a week in the classroom, where they discuss classroom strategies and theories on pedagogy. The rest of the week is spent as a cadet teacher, where she works one-on-one with students at Edgelea Elementary. With her dual credits, Eberhard will enroll in college ahead of her peers. "I've gotten hands-on experience on what it's like to be in the classroom," she says. "It's helped me confirm that I do belong in a classroom."

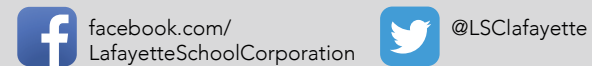
DATES TO REMEMBER

- » **Kindergarten Round-Up** March 1- April 30
- » **March 10** End of Third Quarter
- » **March 27-31** Spring Break
- » **May 25** Last day of School/End of Fourth Quarter (tentative based on additional snow days)
- » **June 4** Graduation

TESTING DATES

- » **SAT** - March 1-3
- » **IREAD 3** March 6-17
- » **ILEARN** April 17-May 12
- » **ILearn Biology** -
 - » Part 1 - April 27-28
 - » Part 2 - May 1-2
- » **NWEA**
 - » **K-6** April 24-May 24
 - » **7-12** April 24-May 24
- » **AP Testing**
 - » May 1-5
 - » May 8-12

CONNECT WITH US



KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

Online: March 1 - April 30, 2023 OR
Onsite: March 7, 2023, 4-7 p.m.

To pre-register your child for Kindergarten, go to:

- https://www.lsc.k12.in.us/parents/informational_resources/kindergarten_round-up
- OR scan QR code below

You may also attend Round-Up at your child's home school to pre-register on March 7, 2023, from 4-7 p.m.



LSC elementary schools:

Earhart	3280 S. Ninth St.	772-4740
Edgelea	2910 S. 18th St.	772-4780
Glen Acres	1106 Kensington Dr.	771-6150
Miami	2401 Beck Lane	772-4800
Miller	700 S. Fourth St.	476-2930
Murdock	2100 Cason St.	771-6120
Oakland	611 S. 21st St.	771-6130
Vinton	3101 Elmwood Ave.	771-6140

PLEASE be prepared with:

- * Student's birth certificate
- * Contact information (address, phone, email)

STUDENTS MUST BE 5 YEARS OLD BY AUGUST 1, 2023, TO ENTER KINDERGARTEN



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GENERAL INFORMATION

LSC ADMINISTRATORS

- » **Les Huddle**
Superintendent of Schools
- » **Dr. Alicia Clevenger**
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
- » **Dr. Katie Reckard**
Assistant Superintendent for Special Education
- » **Dr. Laurie Rinehart**
Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Curriculum & Instruction
- » **Brandon Hawkins**
Director of Human Resources
- » **Eric Rody**
Chief Financial Officer
- » **Scott Howard**
Director of Food Service
- » **Li Zhao**
Director of Technology
- » **Jim Scroggin**
Director of Transportation
- » **Chuck Bear**
Director of Facilities
- » **Sherry Mazza**
Director of Health Services
- » **Cindy Gerlach**
Director of Communications & Community Engagement

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

- » **David Moulton**
- » **Dr. Robert Stwalley III**
- » **Brent Clemenz**
- » **Brian Wagner**
- » **Julie Peretin**
- » **Allison McKay**
- » **Chuck Hockema**

BUILDING CONTACT INFO

SCHOOL	ADDRESS	CONTACT
Little Bronchos Preschool	1415 Ball St. 765-588-2388	Todd Deckard
Earhart Grades K-4	3280 S. Ninth St 765-772-4740	Ryan Habben
Edgelea Grades K-4	2910 S. 18 th St 765-772-4780	Ana Ave
Glen Acres Grades K-4	1106 Kensington Dr. 765-771-6150	Megan Hatke
Miami Grades K-4	2401 Beck Lane 765-772-4800	Amanda Henry
Miller Grades K-4	700 S. Fourth St 765-476-2930	Erin Phillips
Murdock Grades K-4	2100 Cason St 765-771-6120	Denise DesEnfants
Oakland Grades K-4	611 S. 21 st St 765-771-6130	Debbie Patterson
Vinton Grades K-4	3101 Elmwood Ave 765-771-6140	Cindy Preston
Sunnyside Intermediate Grades 5-6	530 N. 26 th St 765-771-6100	Matt Brown
Tecumseh Jr. High Grades 7-8	2101 S. 18 th St 765-772-4750	Frank Meyer
Jefferson High Grades 9-12	1801 S. 18 th St 765-772-4700	Mark Preston
Oakland Academy Grades 9-12	1100 Elizabeth St 765-807-8550	Kathryn Parthun