

Nurture ■ Inspire ■ Empower

Lafayette

School Corporation

WINTER 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

When the first bell rings to begin the school day, that signals the official start time for classes. But in reality, our buildings come to life much earlier. For some students, the day begins with a greeting from a bus driver. Many students eat their breakfast in our cafeterias, and some students arrive early at Jefferson High School for a zero-hour class or athletic practice.

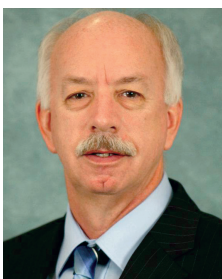
And when the end of the day bell rings, that is merely the signal that our official instructional time has ended. Many students remain at school – some for the after-school care their school offers, which lets employed parents know their children are well cared for, and some for the many extra activities that occur after school hours. From sports to music to extracurricular clubs, to tutoring and family nights, our buildings are full of activity well into the evening. And on the weekends, our schools host multiple events, welcoming students and families, as well as the community.

During the school day, our teachers are dedicated to working with students on the Indiana State Standards, making sure our students succeed in these areas. But they remain engaged with students well beyond those hours, both teaching and mentoring them in countless ways.

We are vested in the education of all our students. Our faculty and staff are there for students, all day, every day. Our students not only gain an education, but they build relationships and learn how to be productive members of the community.

All of these things happen because, every single day, we live the Lafayette School Corporation mission: to nurture, inspire and empower all students and staff.

You are encouraged to see what we're doing in all of our buildings, each and every day. Please follow us on social media – Facebook, X, Instagram and Threads. We want to work with you to help all children be successful in our schools.



Sincerely,

Les L. Huddle

Les L. Huddle, Superintendent

A DAY IN LSC



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2024 GOLDEN APPLE WINNERS: WILLIAM HUSTON & MACY SHANKLIN



Growing up, William Huston should have known that teaching was in his future.

Both of his parents were educators – his father, a history professor at Ball State University, and his mother, a high school English teacher. Even his older sister was a teacher.

"I still remember coming home from college and some of my mom's students would swing by and say hi," he says. "It seemed like teaching was in the bloodline."

When Huston enrolled at Purdue University, he intended to go into science, but not education; he was more interested in geology or meteorology. Then, when Earth Science Teacher Roy Wood spoke to one of his classes as a guest, something clicked.

"I remember sitting there, going, 'That's me,' " he recalls. " 'Maybe this is it.' "

A light was turned on. Huston observed high school classes at West Lafayette High School, where he was able to work with and help the students. And he student taught at Tecumseh Junior High with Bob Meacham. Who, Huston says, was terrific. Always calm and very friendly, Huston thought to himself, "This guy is my style."

After a stint in New Palestine, he returned to Lafayette School Corp., teaching at Tecumseh for two years before moving over to Jefferson High School. Where, in what ended up being a serendipitous moment, he ended up teaching Astronomy, thus landing the role of running the JHS Planetarium.

It was, Huston said, a job he had not prepared himself for, and he didn't get a lot of direction. Teaching Astronomy was one thing; giving Planetarium presentations to elementary school students was quite another. But he listened and was willing to learn – he took a course one summer at Ball State, attended conferences and

joined a group that he thought was intended for museum Planetariums; as it turns out, most Planetariums in the United States are on the same scale as the one at JHS.

Huston has worked to secure funding and to update the technology. When he started, the show was done by two slide projectors on the wall; that has been updated to Power Point presentations. He has updated the software, the chairs, the carpet.

"It's been as much fun – maybe even more fun – running the elementary school kids through here," he says.

Teaching Earth Science and Astronomy are more than just his career; they are his passion. He wants his students to learn about the environment and how we are all related to it, about light pollution, and sustainability.

"We can have all these other things and still take care of the earth so we can see the sky," he says.



The room is hushed as **Macy Shanklin** leads a small group of students in a math lesson.

"You must have a common denominator," she tells the students. "How do you get from two to 20? What do I do next?"

And then, quiet words to redirect one boy.

"I love your spirit, but let's give somebody else a turn."

Shanklin's fourth-grade classroom is filled with words of encouragement. "Dream Big, Work Hard, Be You," "Make an Effort, Not an Excuse" – these positive affirmations encourage students to achieve while liking themselves and being kind to others.

Shanklin has been part of Edgelea Elementary School's fourth-grade team for 11 years, joining the staff after finishing her degree at Purdue University in 2013. She was inspired to go into teaching by her grandfather, she says, who was a teacher and a coach.

"He was in the world of education," Shanklin recalls. "He was always so happy going to school – I thought, I could be happy, too!"

And teaching has made her happy. Working with elementary school students means there is a lot of variety in her day, she says – "not a dull moment." She can see how much her students love learning, and she is proud of being able to light that fire in them.

As fourth-graders, her students are right on the verge of leaving childhood. They are in their last year at Edgelea, with big changes in store as they enter intermediate school. So Shanklin encourages their love of reading, their problem-solving skills, and pushing them just hard enough.

"You have to keep pushing," she says. "They need that 'productive struggle.'"

But equally important is teaching these students how to be good people. One look around Shanklin's classroom and that message is clear. But there have to be reminders.

"The two main things are, 'Are you kind?' and 'Are you capable?'" she

says. "The big thing is these kids learn now to deal with different personalities and learning styles."

Winning the Golden Apple Award is, Shanklin says, such an honor. It's nice to get validation for the hard work that goes into this profession, she says.

"You put your whole heart into teaching," she says. "I already feel that what I'm doing is fulfilling and it matters. I am doing a good job."

But, she says, she reminds herself of what she tells her students: You can't strive for success for the rewards or recognition. The motivation needs to come from within.

"It's that intrinsic motivation that we need to instill in kids."

She is proud to contribute to helping her students become who they need to be in order to succeed in life. She knows full well the role teachers play in our lives.

"I'm a product, a puzzle, of all the teachers I've learned from," she says. "Especially the teachers I've worked with."

And she will continue to spread that message of kindness, of encouragement. "We're a family," she says. "You have to bring joy into your classroom."

MAIN OFFICE



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



www.lsc.k12.in.us



765-771-6000

DATES TO REMEMBER

- » **March 5–April 30** *Kindergarten Round-Up*
- » **March 8** *Last Day of Third Quarter*
- » **March 25–29** *Spring Break*
- » **April 8** *No School*
- » **April 20** *Prom*
- » **May 23** *Last day of School/End of Fourth Quarter*
(tentative based on additional snow days)
- » **June 2** *Graduation*

TESTING DATES

- » **SAT March 4**
- » **IREAD 3 March 4–15**
- » **ILEARN Grades 3–8 April 15–May 10**
- » **NWEA April 15–May 24**

SUMMER SCHOOL

- May 28–June 28**
 - » *Grades K-8*
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mondays–Thursdays
 - » *Grades 9-12*
Mondays–Fridays
Two sessions
 - 7-10:05 a.m.
 - 10:25 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

Onsite 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, 2024

OR Online March 6 - April 30, 2024



Go to https://www.lsc.k12.in.us/parents/informational_resources/kindergarten_round-up or scan QR code below to pre-register your child for Kindergarten. You may also attend Round-Up at your child's home school to pre-register, 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, 2024.



PLEASE be prepared with:

- *student's birth certificate
- *contact information (address, phone, email)

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 Ln | 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

STUDENTS MUST BE 5 YEARS OLD BY AUGUST 1, 2024, to enter Kindergarten

A DAY IN LSC



7 a.m.
Here Comes the Bus

For many students in LSC, the school day begins when they are picked up each morning by their friendly school bus driver. Bus drivers are responsible for the safe transport of these children, and they are highly trained, knowing how each part of the bus works. They must pre-inspect their bus, pick up children, manage road safety, as well as greet the students. Bus drivers are the first point of contact for many children, and they start each student's day with a smile, making sure they arrive safely at school.



7 a.m.
Zero Hour Classes

For some students at **Jefferson High School**, the learning begins long before the first bells rings. Many students enroll in what are called "zero hour" classes. These classes, which range from Government to Math to Science, offer a different learning model. Classes meet daily, rather than on a block schedule, and make the rest of the day more flexible. It's one more option students have to customize how learning works best for them.



8 a.m.
Good Morning!

Students enter buildings all over the district, greeted at the front by teachers, staff and administrators. At **Oakland Academy**, students are greeted by perhaps the most popular staff member: Facility Fawn. Fawn is a 3-year-old Golden Retriever who made her way to Oakland by way of Paws With a Cause, an organization that breeds and trains assistance dogs for people with disabilities, as well as facility dogs for hospitals, courthouses, police stations and schools. As opposed to an assistance dog, Fawn loves to play, and students are welcome to play with and pet her.

Research shows how interacting with dogs can be calming and can help people in tense situations de-stress. Dogs can provide comfort in ways humans sometimes can't; while it might feel difficult to trust humans, dogs are always loyal and never judge. Fawn's social personality is perfect for this role, where she will be in classrooms and available throughout the school for any student who would like to spend time with her, whether it's a little or a lot.

Fawn is a welcome addition to the brain-aligned atmosphere Oakland has worked hard to create. It's one more way LSC works to find many different ways of engaging with our students in order for them to be successful.



8:15 a.m.
Spirit Days

On the 101st day of school, students at **Vinton Elementary School** celebrated the milestone with a special twist: by dressing as dalmatians!

At Vinton, and at many other elementary schools, these spirit days add an element of fun to learning. Teachers incorporate counting, and they include special lessons on the theme for the day. Other special days at Vinton this year have included Kindness Week and Reading Spirit Week, which involved dressing up as book characters, school-wide events and tasks.

It's yet one more way of incorporating learning into the school day, this element of whimsy, says Principal Cindy Preston. But it also helps builds community, making coming to school fun.



8:30 a.m.
Early Learners

The joyful sounds of young children engaged in learning through play emanate from the room of the youngest students at **Amelia Earhart Elementary School**. The building is now home to some of LSC's youngest students, as it opened a preschool in August. The preschool offers early education, preparing children for their entry into

Kindergarten. These youngest learners spend time with letters and numbers, using scissors and glue, and fine-tuning both fine and gross motor skills. They also build with blocks, visit the play kitchen and play dress-up – all age-appropriate activities for the preschool set. With this early exposure to fundamentals, they'll be prepared and up to speed when they enter Kindergarten. LSC also has preschool programs through our **Little Bronchos Preschool** and the **Raider Preschool** at **Glen Acres**.



9 a.m.
Reading: One School, One Book

Mornings in elementary school are an ideal time to devote to reading, one of the most important skills students will master. At **Oakland Elementary School**, students engaged in a community read this year, with all students in grades Kindergarten through four reading *Mr. Popper's Penguins*. The communal read involved students of all ages, at different reading levels – some students were able to read the book themselves, while others read it with the help of parents and teachers reading aloud.

The engaging story held everyone's attention, with its action-packed sequences and humor. Teachers were able to incorporate lessons about penguins in multiple ways – students created vehicles to tow penguins in the Innovation Studio, they created penguin-themed artwork, and they learned about the various species of penguins, sharing their knowledge in Power Point presentations.



10 a.m.
Getting Physical: Big Blue Football Camp

A sunny October day was the perfect opportunity for Big Blue Football Camp at **Miami Elementary**. Each spring and fall, the Indianapolis Colts take their Big Blue Football Camps to schools across the Indianapolis area. This free camp is open to Indiana elementary schools to be held during the school day for second- through fifth-graders.

Led by former Colts Safety Mike Prior, this non-contact camp aims to introduce kids to the game of football while demonstrating the NFL's Play 60 message of obtaining at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day. Students were able to run, throw, kick and engage in quickness and agility tests – a fun way to stay active, and a great introduction to lifelong physical activity. Not to mention nurturing a fan base to cheer on Indiana's only NFL team!



Noon Lunch for Everyone

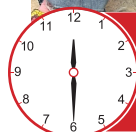
This year, no student in LSC will go hungry come lunch time. All students in grades Kindergarten through 12 are fed breakfast and lunch at no charge. LSC qualifies for a federal program that helps fund the free meals. Studies have consistently shown that students learn better when they are not hungry. The free meals meet all federal nutritional guidelines – and, students say, they're delicious, too!



11 a.m. Serving Up Lessons that Taste Good

Students at **Jefferson High School** who need their morning coffee need go no further than the Pony Espresso. It's an in-house coffee bistro that serves up hot and cold beverages and snacks. And across the hallway is its partner, The Branding Iron, that serves hot lunch options: pizzas, chicken bowls and ethnic cuisine.

Both of these eateries are actually classroom labs, and the staffing is provided by culinary students. Mondays are classroom days, but Tuesdays-Fridays both venues are open for business. Family and Consumer Sciences teacher Kaycee Brannan runs the program, and she helps students understand the food prep, cleanliness/sanitation, organization and budgeting that goes into running a restaurant. Students serve as managers and get that valuable experience. These students not only serve tasty treats to their classmates, but they are educated in all aspects of the career of a restaurateur.



12:30 p.m. Music Lesson: Playing the Ukulele

Move over, recorders: the hot new instrument for budding elementary musicians is the ukulele. Young musicians at **Edgelea Elementary School** are picking up ukuleles this spring. Playing the ukulele requires concentration, dexterity, coordination and attention to detail. And the end result? Some toe-tapping tunes.

The project, funded by a grant from the **Public Schools Foundation of Tippecanoe County**, provides ukuleles for the student musicians; a similar project was funded at **Oakland Elementary School**. And the sounds of the kids playing those instruments? Music to our ears.

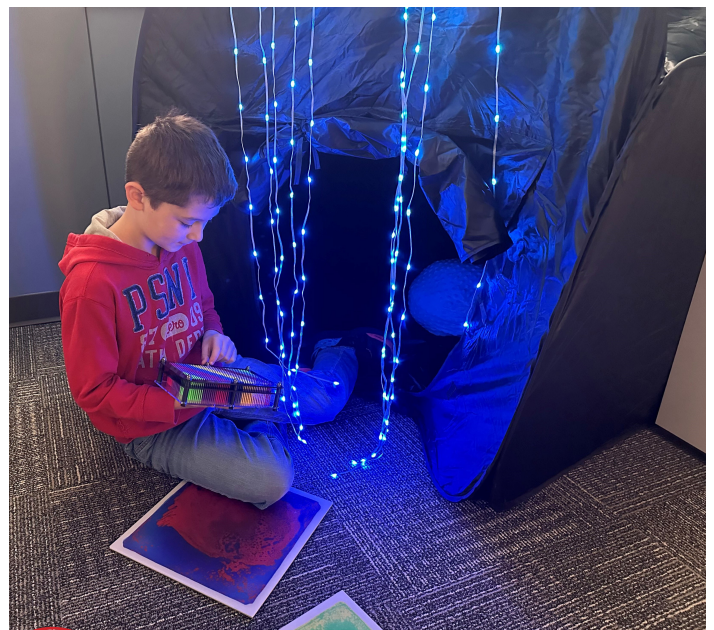


12:45 p.m. High-Tech in the Classroom

At a glance, students at **Tecumseh Junior High** were playing catch in the hallway on a recent Monday morning. But a closer look revealed that the students were, in fact, learning how to fly drones. Flying these small drones required being carefully positioned, concentration and using one's arms correctly in order to propel the orb in the intended direction.

This lesson was just an introduction to engineering concepts that will lead to a more comprehensive look into drone technology and semiconductors; community partner Greg McDaniel of the **Lafayette Police Dept.** has lent his assistance. This initiative is part of the Scalable Asymmetric Lifecycle Engagement (SCALE) network, the preeminent U.S. program for semiconductor workforce development. Led by Purdue University, teachers in LSC (at **JHS, Tecumseh** and **Sunnyside**) have collaborated on curricula that promotes a different approach to training highly skilled U.S. microelectronics engineers, hardware designers and manufacturing experts, making sure students are prepared for the upcoming needs in the rapidly advancing microelectronics field.

capstone course through the **Greater Lafayette Career Academy**. Through GLCA, he has been placed as a welder at Purdue Facilities, where he gets hands-on experience, working with the welding crew. He gets an opportunity to work on various projects, from making repairs to fabricating spec pieces. It has given him some great experience, Brandenburg says, as he has been exposed to different materials and has worked in varying environments – “Just about anything you can think of.” He appreciates the opportunity to improve his skills, as well as the introduction to the maintenance side of Purdue – they’ve been a great partner, expanding on what he’s learned at GLCA. “They’ve taught me how to become a better welder and succeed in welding,” he says. Brandenburg plans to study business at Wabash College, eventually managing a welding shop. And with the experience he has gained through GLCA, he knows he’ll be ready.



1:30 p.m. Zen Den

When the school day becomes too much – too noisy, too much input, or any definition of too overwhelming – students at **Glen Acres Elementary School** can find some respite in their newly created Zen Den. This small room, with its low lights, quiet music and calming atmosphere, is a safe space where students can take a moment, breathe deeply and recalibrate.

The room has pillows and bean bags for seating, a tent, and several quiet, soothing activities. It’s one more way the school helps meet students where they are. **Jefferson High School** offers a similar space. Providing a brief escape from an intense environment helps cut down on disciplinary referrals and, most importantly, lets students know that their needs are first and forefront, which helps them be successful when they return to class.



1 p.m. GLCA Out on the Job

JHS senior Gabriel Brandenburg spends his mornings in traditional senior classes, like Government and Composition. But his afternoons are spent in his welding



2 p.m. Science and Movement

Fourth-graders at **Miller Elementary** are doing activities in the gym on a cold January morning. First, they run across the gym; then they crab walk. They run backwards, they hop. It's a race, and each group wants to win.

But it's more than merely a race. Because this lesson – yes, it's a lesson – is also an introduction to coding. And the students are catching on.

These activities are brought to Miller by Dr. Sandy San Miguel from the Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine and her League of VetaHumanz. Inspired by the DC Universe, VetaHumanz use their superpowers to educate others about threats to public health. They bring a STEM experience and encourage health literacy, in humans and animals. Thus the lessons brought to Miller include a scientific base coupled with physical activity. Dr. San Miguel teaches students about viruses, bacteria and, today, coding. These activities empower children, spread knowledge, and encourage career exploration.



2:45 p.m. After-School FOCUS

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.



3 p.m. Activities for All

Students in grades 6 through 12 are afforded multiple extracurricular activities at **Sunnyside, Tecumseh** and **JHS**. Students can participate in sports (LSC offers several options for both competitive and intramural sports teams

Continued on page 10

– from football and basketball to bowling and bocce ball), interest clubs (drama, chess, robotics, language and culture) or service groups (Best Buddies, Students in Action, National Honor Society). Each of these groups exposes students to activities and hobbies and lets them spend time with their friends, expanding their horizons along the way.



6 p.m.
Family Cultural Night

Students and families filled **Sunnyside Intermediate School** in October for the school's very first Cultural Night. Families were invited to share their culture with displays, activities, artwork, crafts and more, showcasing the diverse cultures shared by Sunnyside students and their families.

Some of the highlights included the LSC Chinese department giving families the opportunity to learn how to use chopsticks and write in Chinese characters; the Purdue Black Cultural Center leading a Djembe drumming circle; and food was shared from Greece, Mexico and Puerto Rico. In all there were 10 different activities representing eight different countries.

"Cultural night was developed to recognize the unique diversity of the Sunnyside and Lafayette community," says school counselor Joseph Tylanda. "We had a good turnout this year. Families were able to learn about many different cultures. We look forward to growing the event for next year."



7 p.m.
After Hours at JHS

The halls of **JHS** remain busy throughout the evenings, and often into the weekends, with sports and other events. With the many competitive sports teams JHS offers, games and meets often occur on weeknights or weekends. Other groups have either performances or rehearsals – marching band, dance team, drama and choir have rehearsals scheduled throughout the week. And on weekends, the building is often bustling with these activities or even community groups, from Civic Theatre at the Sunnyside auditorium, to the many groups who take advantage of the state-of-the-art Rohrman Performing Arts Center.



NEW THIS FALL

Multi-Language Learning

Students entering Kindergarten this fall will have the option of enrolling in the new Dual Language Program at Edgelea Elementary School. This program, which supports learning in both native English and Spanish, focuses on language acquisition, bilingualism and biliteracy. Studies have shown that bilingual and biliterate students benefit in cognitive development, flexible and abstract thinking, and learning new concepts. LSC is pleased to offer this new program model; this fall, the Kindergarten classroom will open, and the plan is to add a grade level each year. Enrollment will be open at Kindergarten Round-Up.

JHS Online

Jefferson High School will offer an online option for grades nine through 12. Some students continue to need an alternative to in-person classes. Offering an online option eliminates these barriers for some students. Students will have access to a licensed teacher for support; they will need to log in each day JHS is in session for attendance. Students will still be eligible for JHS sports and extracurricular activities. For more information, parents should contact their student's counselor.



Dual Language Immersion



"Study after study has reported that children in bilingual programs typically outperform their counterparts in all-English programs on tests of academic achievement in English."
-Stephen Krashen, Language Researcher



NOW ENROLLING!

Kindergarten students for the Dual Language Immersion Program!

Would you like your child to be fluent in TWO languages?

Best way to learn English!

Hello!

Students learn grade-level skills in **ENGLISH** for 1/2 of the day valuing each language equally!

Best way to learn Spanish!

HOLA!

Students learn grade-level skills in **SPANISH** for 1/2 of the day valuing each language equally!

Best academic achievement!



Students experience increased intellectual flexibility and comparable or higher academic achievement.

Cultural appreciation!



Students develop greater global awareness, improved self-esteem, and stronger cross-group relationships!



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SCHOOL CONTACT INFO

SCHOOL	ADDRESS	CONTACT
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	Leo Leffert
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
Little Bronchos Preschool	1415 Ball St. 765-588-2388	Hannah Fisher

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