

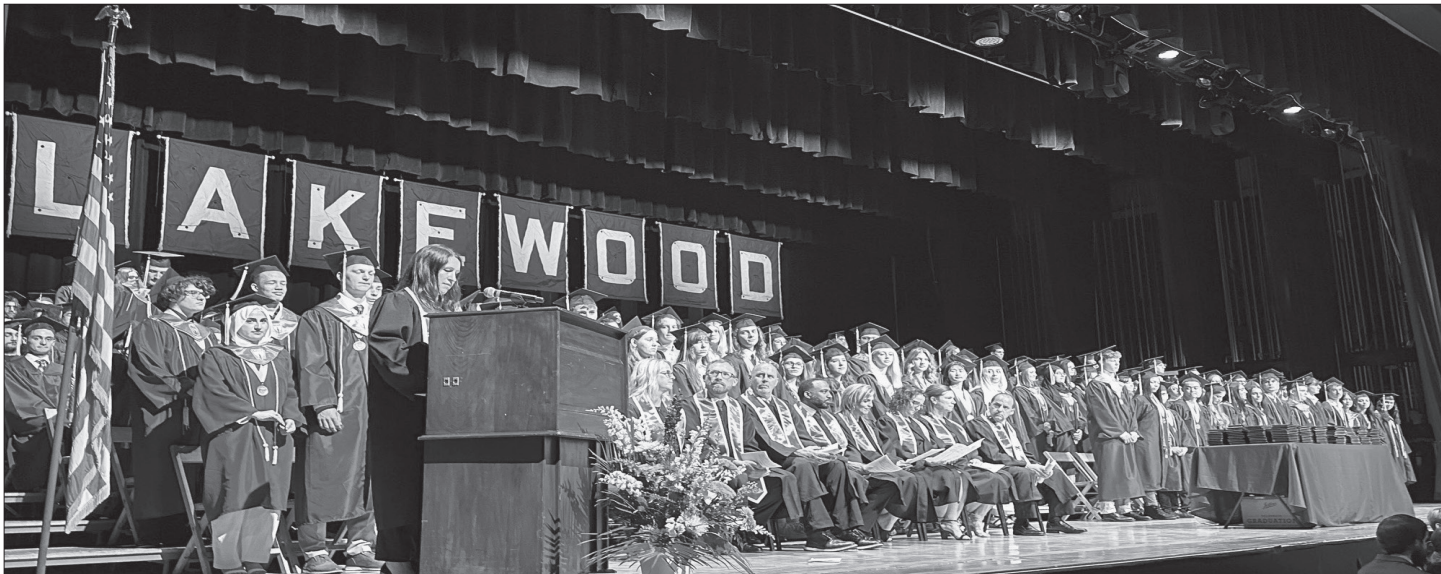


REPORT CARD

June 2024

A Lakewood City Schools Community Newsletter

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2024!



Congratulations to the Lakewood High School Class of 2024! The class of 313 graduates was celebrated at the school's 176th Commencement Ceremony on June 2 in front of a full house of family, friends and staff in the Civic Auditorium. The ceremony included speeches by students Andrew

Krankowski, Owen Rumsey and Edie Barcelona. The graduates and audience also heard from Lakewood High Principal Joy Morgan, Superintendent Maggie Niedzwiecki and Board of Education President Michael J. Callahan.

The ceremony included recognition of the 66 Hawthorne

Medal recipients who earned 4.0 or better GPAs, four graduates who are entering the Armed Forces and various honor societies, and musicians and athletes who won top honors over the year.

Best wishes to all our Class of 2024 graduates as you move on to your next exciting chapter!

LAKEWOOD HIGH EARNS STATE PURPLE STAR STATUS

Lakewood High School has earned the Purple Star designation as part of the Purple Star Class of 2024 from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

The award recognizes the school's commitment to serving military-connected students and families through such efforts as providing resource information for military families on the school's website, a staff liaison for military students and families, and holding military recognition ceremonies such as honoring new graduates headed to the Armed Forces at commencement, the new Military Wall of Honor in the Civic Auditorium lobby and holding ceremonial signings for students joining the military.

SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS: TOP 10 STATE FINISHES, CONFERENCE TITLE

It was a stellar spring season for a number of our Ranger athletes and teams. Leading the highlights was senior Kaydence Doxley's 2nd place finish in the long jump after a tie-breaking jump with the eventual winner at the Division 1 State Track & Field Championship Meet. Kaydence was awarded with All-Ohio status for her top 8 finish. She also competed in the 200 meters and a relay at the state meet.

Joining Kaydence as state meet qualifiers were Charlie Payne, who earned a spot on the podium, finishing 7th in the 1600 meters; Charieon Doxley in the 100 meter hurdles; and the 4x200 meter

relay team of Mckenna Hunt, Sophia Eccher, Kaydence and Charieon Doxley.

Kaydence's state meet medal was one of many accolades she earned over the course of the season. She was conference, district and regional champion in the long jump and was named Athlete of the Year for the Great Lakes Conference.

Softball pitcher Mia Carroll-Greeves earned First Team GLC, all-Cuyahoga County and all-Northeast Ohio teams. Logan Ellis of the baseball team was named GLC Pitcher of the Year and the varsity team was the GLC East champion!

SPORTS Page 4



Supporting Military Families

IN THIS ISSUE:

Awards & Recognitions
Page 2

New Harding Principal Named
Page 3

Grant Going Green
Page 4

MULTIPLE WINNERS IN STOP THE HATE CONTESTS

Rising seniors Mae Mohar and Adele Wetzel were among 26 finalists in the Stop the Hate Essay and Poetry Contest out of over 3,000 entries. Mae’s poem was chosen as the winner in the high school category and Adele earned honorable mention.

The Harding Middle School 6th grade morning choir class won the Youth Sing Out competition and the Harding 8th grade choir was runner-up!

Also honored were the District’s middle school choir director Lisa Blasko and Lakewood High English teacher Amy Garritano, named the Middle School and High School Teachers of the Year!



DAVID SCHWARTZ PHOTOGRAPHY

Stop the Hate poetry contest winner Mae Mohar.

LHS HAS ITS FIRST DAZZLE AWARD FINALISTS

Congratulations to our Lakewood High Barnstormers who were named finalists for the Dazzle Awards presented by Playhouse Square for “Sweeney Todd (School Edition)”: Owen Hill, Best Actor; Ceci Whiteamire, Best Supporting Actress; and our pit for Best Student Orchestra! The Dazzle Awards program is affiliated with the National High School Musical Theatre Awards. Winners were announced May 18 at the KeyBank State Theater and many of our Barnstormers attended to support their classmates. We are super proud of our students and their dedication to their theatrical craft!

PTA

LHS’ GREANOFF EARNS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

The Lakewood Council of PTAs handed out its annual awards at a ceremony on May 1. The ceremony included awarding five senior scholarships and recognizing Lakewood High School social studies teacher Chuck Greanoff as the District’s Outstanding Educator of the Year.



Also honored at the ceremony were Civic Auditorium manager Corey Farr and assistant manager Gibson Burns. The pair were given the Helping Hands award, designated for a non-teaching staff members who have gone above and beyond in helping students or staff in the District.

Congratulations to all!

MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS EARN HONORS IN STATE MOCK TRIAL CONTEST

Garfield, Harding and Lakewood High School’s mock trial teams participated in the statewide mock trial competitions sponsored by the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education and came away with many awards, including Best Attorney and Best Witness.

Garfield’s Best Attorneys winners were Tyler Kemp, Avery Spahr, and Adam Tanina. Harding’s Best Attorneys were Julia Thomas and Ingrid Matera. Garfield’s Best Witnesses awardees were Cory Clemens, Zsofi Flasher, and Henry Trefethen. Harding’s Best Witness was Harper Haney.

Forty-three teams from districts across Ohio competed and only 16 teams scored a Superior rating, which the Garfield Ranger Team received. Garfield Gold and Purple Teams as well as Harding Team 1 received a rating of Outstanding and Harding Team 2 received a rating of Excellent.

In the high school competition, the Prosecution team was composed of Mel Diemert and Mikayla Jaissle, while the Defense attorneys were Gwen Hongosh and Maya Trempe. The lawyers prepared the examination and cross examination of all witnesses, using the case materials and evidence



High school mock trial team member Delano Yeung earned a Best Witness award.

provided by OCLRE. They all were diligent in their preparation and executed their roles skillfully.

The witnesses were played by Abby Peck, Ceci Whiteamire, Delano Yeung and Tarik Ibricagic. They prepared their parts and helped the lawyers present their best case. Delano Yeung’s performance earned him a Best Witness award!

When Does School Start?



Aug. 20
LHS Grade 9

Aug. 21
Grades 1-8, 10-12

Aug. 26
Kindergarten

Did You Know? ☆☆☆☆☆

Grant Elementary, Lincoln Elementary and West Shore Career-Technical District all earned the Ohio Dept. of Workforce and Education’s Overall 5-Star Building Award for the 2022-2023 Report Card!



Salute to our 2023-2024 retirees!

Heather Burdette, Executive Secretary, Central Office
Caroline Flannery, Teacher, Roosevelt Elementary
Tom Ford, Network Specialist, District
Ray Hannola, Assistant Custodian/Utility, District
Gerry Hauer, Teacher, Harding Middle School
Diane Kehn, Teacher, Horace Mann Elementary
Anne Knab, Exec. Assistant to the Superintendent, Central Office
Anne Masielle, Secretary, Lakewood High School
Sean McGuan, Teacher, Grant Elementary
Terry Moreman, Secretary, Harrison Elementary
Nora Murray, Teacher, Harding Middle School
Mary Beth O'Malley, Cafeteria Leader, Harding Middle School
Laurie Pollner, Teacher, Harding Middle School
Alice Racy, Paraprofessional, Harding Middle School
Debby Roloff, Paraprofessional, Lakewood High School
Cheryl Schaefer, Lunch Monitor, Harrison Elementary
Dianne Shoemaker, Health Aide, Garfield Middle School
Lana Wade, Paraprofessional, Garfield Middle School
Kathy Wentz, Teacher, Hayes Elementary
Lori Whitmer, Assistant Custodian, Harrison Elementary
Diane Wolfe, Secretary, Central Office
Debbie Wooley, Teacher, Lincoln Elementary

NEW HARDING PRINCIPAL NAMED

The Lakewood Board of Education approved Willoughby Middle School Principal Christopher "Chip" Plush as the next principal of Harding Middle School, beginning Aug. 1, 2024. Plush has spent the last eight years as an administrator for the Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools.

Plush began as a high school house principal and then moved into an assistant principal role at the middle school level before assuming the principal job at Willoughby Middle School in 2021. He began his educational career as a language arts teacher at Willoughby South High School.



Among many accomplishments while principal at Willoughby Middle School, Plush and his team earned the Ohio Department of Workforce & Education 2023 Momentum Award in recognition of significant improvement in growth and achievement on the Ohio School Report Cards.

Plush earned his undergraduate degree in education from University of Dayton and was awarded a master's degree in educational administration from Cleveland State University.

DISTRICT EARNS MUSIC EDUCATION AWARD FOR EIGHTH YEAR

Lakewood City Schools has earned the designation of Best Communities for Music Education from The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education for the eighth straight year! Now in its 25th year, the award program recognizes districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide

music access and education to all students. To qualify for the Best Communities designation, the District answered detailed questions about funding, fine arts graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and community music programs.

The Lakewood City School District offers music education

from kindergarten through 12th grade. Instrumental instruction begins in 5th grade. Middle school offerings include classroom band, orchestra and choir, with extracurricular opportunities in all three.

The high school fields five orchestras, four choirs, three bands, and classes in music theory, music history, pop music and keyboard. High school ex-



tracurricular ensembles provide numerous opportunities for our students to enhance their musical experience.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE: SUMMER IN FULL SWING WITH SWIMMING, BASEBALL

BECKS & FOSTER POOL OPEN FOR THE SUMMER!: School is out, which means the outdoor municipal pools are open! Becks Pool (located in Madison Park) opened on June 4. Foster Pool (located in Lakewood Park) is heading into its second summer following its complete renovation last year and opened on June 11. Pool passes, swimming lessons and pool hours are all available on the Rec Department website at lakewoodcityschools.org/recreation.

IN-HOUSE BASEBALL: Our youth in-house baseball and softball leagues were up to bat and getting hits on Opening Day on May 28.

Stop and check out a game this summer at one of our many fields around Lakewood: Cove, Edwards, Emerson, Harding, Lakefront and Stone House.

PURPLE & GOLD CLASSIC - GRANT WINS: The annual districtwide 5th grade basketball tournament, the Lakewood Ranger Purple & Gold Classic that was played April 6, crowned a third new champion as Grant claimed the Commissioner's Cup! For more details check out the article posted under our news section on the Lakewood Recreation website.

OFFICE SUMMER HOURS: Our office will

be closing at 3:00 pm during the summer months. The Fitness Facility & Indoor Track hours will remain unchanged. All facilities and offices will be closed on Wednesday, June 19 (Juneteenth) and Thursday, July 4 for federal holidays. We look forward to seeing everyone throughout the summer. Our next booklet with new course offerings will be coming out in late July. Check out our website for any up to date information. Follow us on social media (Twitter: @lkwdrec, Instagram: lkwdrec, Facebook: Lakewood, OH, Community Recreation & Education Dept.)

REPORT CARD

The Lakewood Board of Education

Michael J. Callahan, *President*
Nora Katzenberger, *Vice President*
Colleen Clark-Sutton, *Member*
Lisa Dopman, *Member*
Betsy Bergen Shaughnessy, *Member*

Administration

Maggie Niedzwiecki, *Superintendent*
Kent Zeman, *Treasurer*

Editor

Christine Gordillo

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. Jeffrey Schlade serves as Title IX Coordinator and Lisa Bruening as 504 Officer.

Board of Education
13701 Lake Ave.
Lakewood, OH 44107

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cleveland, OH 44107
Permit No. 2512
ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

VISION OF A LAKEWOOD RANGER: GRANT GREEN TEAM SPURS COMPOSTING CULTURE

The Lakewood City Schools continued to ramp up its efforts this school year to be a more eco-friendly organization.

Grant Elementary is a shining example of making our staff and students aware of their environmental impacts and learning what they can do to help make a difference. Led by student wellness Julie May, the Grant Green Team (grades 3-5) has implemented several initiatives this school year to lead the school on a path to greater sustainability practices.

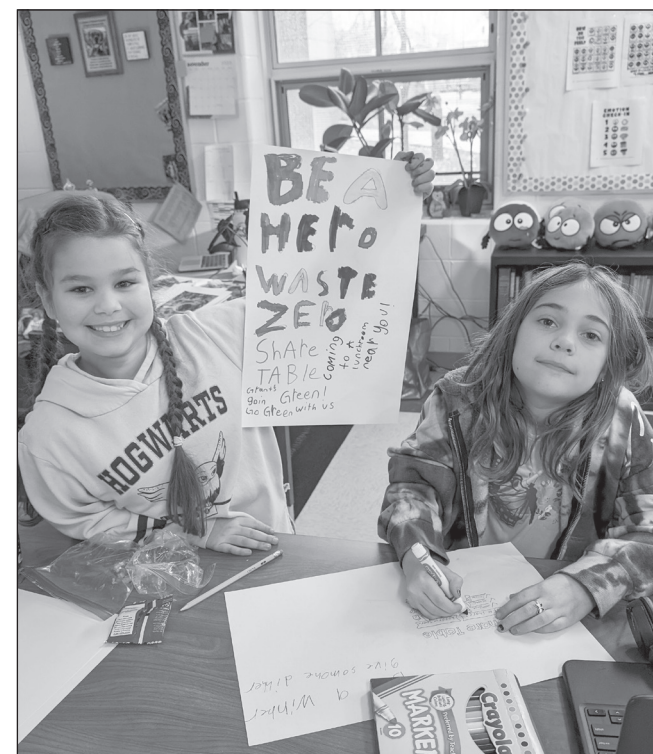
These efforts include recycling paper throughout the building and in the cafeteria, recycling GoGo Squeeze-like pouches, creating a share table of unopened and uneaten food from the school, composting (via Rust Belt Riders), and using compostable silverware and trays. All these efforts were made possible by a \$2,600 grant the District received from Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District and support from Nutrition Services.



Students play a crucial role in the green efforts. Each classroom has two student recycling stewards who monitor the recycling bin daily and give weekly reports on progress. Older students have given presentations at lunch to younger students, educating them on proper recycling and composting and their impact on the Earth. This not only fosters a sense of community but also ensures the

sustainability efforts are ingrained in the school culture for years to come. It is also an opportunity for the older students to build their leadership and communication skills.

Stephanie Oliveri, the Grant cafeteria lead, initiated composting in the cafeteria kitchen. That, combined with the students' efforts at breakfast/lunch, has resulted in Grant composting more than 3,000 pounds of food waste since March! Grant's initiatives align with broader District efforts, including composting in the LHS cafeteria and Ranger Cafe.



Grant Green Team members show off one of their signs that they posted around the building to build recycling /composting awareness.

SPORTS from Page 1

First Team GLC:

Baseball: Logan Ellis, Leo Soneson, Cooper Russell

Softball: Mia Carroll-Greeves

Girls Track & Field:

Kaydence Doxley, Charieon Doxley, Mckenna Hunt,

Boys Track & Field: Charlie Payne

Second Team:

Baseball: Nick Hart, Riley Verderber

Softball: Ella Bower

Track & Field: Kaydence Doxley, Mckenna Hunt, Charieon Doxley, Sophia Eccher, Charleigh Doxley, Aniya Johnson.

Honorable Mention:

Baseball: Drew Jablonoski, Michael Klasea

Softball: Gaby Carroll-Greeves, Madison Comer

Track & Field: Aniya Johnson, Mae Mohar, Anna Daso, Mady Lee, Jaylen Chappell, Alex Symons, Joshua Morrison

Boys Tennis: Eric Bumm, Luke Burke

Note: Track & Field honors are based on individual events.

WE ARE HIRING!

The Lakewood City School District has many open positions including cafeteria workers, classroom aides, lunch monitors, and district substitutes.

If you are interested in joining our team and serving our students, visit the Human Resources page on our website at www.lakewoodcityschools.org.