

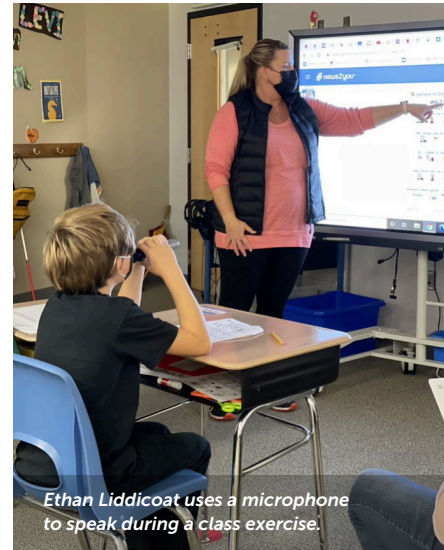
Friends & Neighbors Newsletter

Students Learn Life Skills at Cougar Creek Elementary

“I think what I enjoy most about working with these kiddos, is watching that lightbulb go on for the first time,” says Comprehensive Skills Program (CSP) teacher, Kristin Stacey.

This is the moment Cougar Creek Elementary that Stacey and her teaching partner, Tanya Petrie, enjoy most about working with children in their Comprehensive Skills Program (CSP).

CSP instruction falls under the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) umbrella of special education programs at Lakewood School District’s elementary schools. Stacey and Petrie are passionate about the work they do with students helping to set them up for success in life. They use both traditional forms of instruction and the latest technology to provide their students with the ability to demonstrate their knowledge in a manner that fits their learning abilities.



Ethan Liddicoat uses a microphone to speak during a class exercise.



My Pal is Jessie Salas uses his TouchChat, Saltillo device.

The teachers said what makes this work rewarding for them is seeing student progress. They meet them where they are academically, socially, and emotionally. “It’s the little steps that make it so big. It’s challenging work, but we see growth by applying different strategies that will develop their emotional, academic and social learning” added Petrie.

In 2020, the CSP teachers had a different type of year than the rest of the school district. They taught in person with their students starting in the fall. Attired in full personal protective equipment (PPE) including masks, visors, and gowns, they worked diligently to help their students gain new skills. “We are always trying to show our families what we really do. It’s important that if it weren’t for the funding and support that we get through the community, these things would not be available for us,” said Petrie.

That support includes state and federal dollars as well as the current Technology Levy. Local voters approved this Technology Levy for two years. It expires December 21, 2022. Technology is vital for students of all abilities, but even more so for those with additional barriers. **Continue reading, scan QR code (with your phone camera) or visit our website: <https://bit.ly/3IVOLtO>**



School Levy
News

Thanks to voters, the school operations levy will be reinstated in the spring of 2022, returning vital local funding to Lakewood schools. The collection rate will actually be lower than expected! The collection rate will be \$1.75 per \$1,000 of assessed property value instead of the estimated rate of \$1.80 presented to voters in April.



LAKWOOD
SCHOOL DISTRICT

“Sharing news from our local schools that every community member should know.”

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Keeping Kids in School: Safety is Priority

Schools are the heart of Lakewood, and our students are at the center of it all. They are the priority when it comes to safety, health, and learning.

Keeping families and the community knowledgeable about what schools are doing is a vital link in helping everyone know why it is important for the health and safety of students and staff to follow the protocols. Trust and transparency will help continue to keep schools open for in-person learning 5 days a week.

"I'd like to thank all the families in our district who have been patient with the many processes that seem to change weekly, and that allow us grace in these circumstances. Please know that we are working tirelessly to keep your kids in school in the safest manner possible." said Jennifer Rucker, school nurse at English Crossing Elementary School.

Lakewood school leaders believe students should still be able to experience a sense of normalcy despite the pandemic. During these first weeks of classes, students and staff are fully masked, standing



Two high school students sit outside on a sunny day during lunch on the first day of school, September 2021.

the recommended three or more feet apart, and making the most of lunch arrangements where students are assigned seating sections to mitigate contact. At the same time, it is also easy to see a community of belonging, hard at work, laughing, sharing their summer stories, and enjoying each other's presence after a remote learning environment.

Huge kudos go out to our school nurses and the broader student safety team for their amazing work every day. Sanitizing, performing contact tracing, testing, reaching out to families with questions, keeping track of all the data, and staying up to date with the latest factual information, more than fills their workday. **Continue reading, scan QR code (with your phone camera) or visit our website: <https://bit.ly/3IXCrZK>**



LHS Senior Ranks Top in Nation



Already at the top of her class, now Lakewood High senior Kiana Oos is also top in the nation.

Oos is one of a select few high school seniors across the nation to earn semifinalist status in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Her scores on the 2020 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) earned this accolade. It is presented to only 16,000 out of the more than 3 million high school seniors across the country.

It was not just brain power that secured Oos' honor. In 2020, COVID 19 forced the cancellation of the PSAT/NMSQT at high schools across the region including Lakewood High School. Her determination and drive led Oos to locate an alternative testing location and complete the extra paperwork to ensure she was in the running. "She really went out of her way to apply to be a semifinalist," said Melanie Irish, Career Center Specialist at Lakewood High School. Oos' work ethic has kept her name on the Honor Roll for years. Earning this distinction does not surprise her current LHS teachers or those from her time at Lakewood Middle School and Cougar Creek Elementary School. **Continue reading, scan QR code (with your phone camera) or visit our website: <https://bit.ly/2YZhgxA>**



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