

June 2021

Friends & Neighbors

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



LAKWOOD
SCHOOL DISTRICT

2021: Year of triumphs despite pandemic

Lakewood High Class of 2021 heads off to a variety of new opportunities

Lakewood High School's Class of 2021 walked across the stage to receive their diplomas this month. That in itself was an accomplishment given the pandemic's impact on students, their families, the school's teachers and support staff, and our local community.

At 137 members strong, the Class of 2021 reaped numerous honors above and beyond the rigorous coursework needed to earn their diplomas. Almost \$489,000 in scholarships were awarded to this class including Calan Eastman's prestigious appointment to the United States Air Force Academy.

LHS graduates will travel around the state and around the country to continue their learning. About a third of the class will attend college, another third will participate in training programs, and the final third will be learning more about themselves and life by joining the workforce or serving in the military. Below are student profiles from each of these three areas.



*Lakewood High School Class of 2021
Angel of the Winds Arena*

Brayden Reeves

"Study everything hair" is Brayden Reeves' goal after graduating this month from Lakewood High School. "When I was a little kid, my mom was a hairdresser," he said. "It just astounded me to see the smiles she could put on faces." Reeves was awarded the Careers that Work Scholarship to continue his cosmetology training at Evergreen Beauty College in Everett. He studied cosmetology at Sno Isle TECH Skills Center during his junior year. Reeves said it helped him prepare for what working in a real salon will feel like.

Alexis Allen

Travel is Alexis Allen's goal after graduating this month. First, she is traveling south in the fall to attend Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia – about 25 miles outside of Atlanta. There Allen plans to study to be a nurse – a traveling nurse. Traveling nurses are registered nurses who work in short-term roles at healthcare facilities around the world. They help fill gaps in areas where there are nursing shortages. "It's a new experience and a new adventure with every assignment."

DylanAndre Ang

Serving others is DylanAndre 'Dre' Ang's goal after graduating from Lakewood High School this month. Wanting a strong structure, he has enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he hopes to serve as a corpsman. Corpsmen are medical specialists with duties similar to civilian physicians' assistants. Born in the Philippines, he moved to the United States at the age of 8 to join his mom. "I was old enough to understand life," he explained. "Moving here changed mine. Every day I think how lucky I am to be living in this country."

Read more about the Class of 2021 and their accomplishments at www.lwsd.wednet.edu/news.



www.lwsd.wednet.edu



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Free summer school instruction begins this month



Summer learning sessions are available for all ages free of charge this year. As our community begins to put the pandemic behind us, we know our students have some catching up to do. Many options are available from high school students wanting to move ahead or retake classes to elementary school students needing to build their skills in reading, writing and math. Band, STEM and American Sign Language are also offered. A "Get Ready" academy just for incoming 9th graders is also scheduled for August. The cost of these programs will be reimbursed by federal COVID relief funds. Learn more at www.wednet.edu/news.

K-12 students will study on campus in September 2021

Lakewood School District will be returning students in all grades to full-time learning on campus in the fall. This commitment is consistent with state health and education officials. For families that are interested, an alternative school option in the form of Online Academy with Edgenuity will be offered.

An eventful & unusual school year

Dear Lakewood community,

This past year in so many ways extended the challenges and opportunities that we experienced last spring, during the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

There was little about this last school year that we would have chosen for ourselves, our children, or our district. From remote learning to hybrid schedules; from uncertain local funding to the prospect of massive budget and program reductions; or from the tensions that we all experienced around reopening to the loss of four beloved past and present colleagues. We navigated many challenges as a community that went beyond those experienced in other school districts.

Yet we persisted. We pushed each other, listened, disagreed, pulled together and wrapped around our students. In Lakewood, the intersection of the pandemic, school reopening and the levy election caused us to tease out what is most important to us. We looked beyond what we all hope is a temporary condition with the virus toward the bright future that our students represent.

We were consistently at the forefront of what school districts in our area were undertaking during the pandemic. Lakewood led the way in these areas:

- Establishing the original "Meals on the Bus" program
- Returning students needing supplemental services to in-person learning in the fall
- Returning middle & high school athletes to in-person activities at the same time
- Providing transportation to athletics & activities for secondary students in need
- Offering free diagnostic COVID testing in schools for students and staff
- Returning all primary students to school four days per week
- Returning our K-8th grade students to in-person learning five days per week
- Holding the first in-person musical performance in our county

We established the Lakewood Compact: A Small District Going Big Places as a roadmap for our future and a vision that will shape the nature and quality of our relationships for years to come. We have made commitments to draw upon our learning from the past year to sharpen our assessment, instructional, and support systems through our Student Academic and Well-Being Recovery Plan. We are committed to ensuring that we reimagine our systems in ways that are culturally responsive, inclusive, and attentive to the needs of each child and family given their cultural and socio-economic backgrounds.

We are grateful for the opportunity to hold a graduation for our seniors in which they and all of their families can once again share the joy of watching them receive their diplomas. Our seniors have so much to be proud of. This was a huge culminating moment for all of us. It is the privilege of my life to serve Lakewood as its superintendent. I look forward to engaging with each of you as we realize the incredible future that is in store for this community.

Scott Peacock
Superintendent

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In accordance with RCW 49.60, the Lakewood School District does not discriminate in employment and schools. The Lakewood School District provides Equal Educational and Employment Opportunity without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, sex, handicap/disability, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, creed, religion, age, veteran or military status, use of a trained dog to guide or service animal by a person with a disability, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and designated youth groups. The district complies with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations to include, but not limited to, Title IX, Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, RCW 49.60 "The Law Against Discrimination," and RCW 28A.640 "Sex Equity," and covers, but is not limited to, all district programs, courses, activities, including extracurricular activities, services, access to facilities, etc. Inquiries regarding compliance procedures should be directed to Lakewood School District, 17110 16th Drive NE, Marysville, WA 98271, Attention: Title IX and Civil Rights Officer, Daniel Lee, 360-652-4500, dlee@lwsd.wednet.edu or ADA Compliance Officer and Section 504 Compliance Officer, Amie Verellen-Grubbs, 360-652-4500, averellen-grubbs@lwsd.wednet.edu.