

Friends & Neighbors

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

From Superintendent Scott Peacock to you.



LAKEWOOD
SCHOOL DISTRICT

MARCH 2021



*Kinsey Lichty
in the STEM lab.*

New STEM Lab welcomes middle school students as they shift to in-person learning this month

Students at Lakewood Middle School shifted to in-person teaching this month and also to a new STEM Lab. Children attend classes either Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday. On their first in-person day each week, they learn in extended sessions of first, second and third period classes. Followed the next day by instruction in their fourth, fifth and sixth periods. Wednesdays include whole-class support in the morning and online learning the rest of the day. Teachers also have online office hours so a student can ask questions and obtain extra help on assignments. High school students will follow the same schedule when classes resume at Lakewood High School on March 29.

The new 3000-plus square foot STEM lab focuses on science, technology, engineering and math – aka STEM. It was set to open last spring, but COVID-19 forced schools to close. State construction assistance dollars (state match) generated by the Lakewood High School project funded construction of this new addition at the middle school.

Many of the vocational classes inside the lab are supported by the local Educational Programs and Operations Levy. Voters did not replace the levy before it expired in 2020. Dollars to support this year's classes are coming from Lakewood schools' fund balance (savings account).

"It is a perfect marriage of modern and old school technology," said Dale Leach, Executive Director of Operations and Learning Support Services for Lakewood Schools and the lead on the lab construction project. Even without a physical student presence inside the new lab, teachers Lane Hoback and Ron Detrick have been making use of the space in their virtual lessons. Watching their online projects come together ramped up the students' enthusiasm for the lab, LMS Principal Amanda Coté said. "They are on the edge of their seats to get started in person in this new space," she smiled. Read more about this story at www.lwsd.wednet.edu/news.



Ethan Giavelli in the STEM lab.



Students ace World Language state competency test

More than half the Lakewood students taking the recent World Language Competency Test earned the maximum number of credits offered giving them a big jump toward high school graduation. And some were only middle schoolers! This reflects a high level of academic achievement in our secondary students.

This is the first year Lakewood students have taken part in this state program offered in at least 23 different languages. Thirteen Lakewood students in grades 6-12 took tests in Russian, Mandarin/Chinese and Spanish. Every child earned credit. The state allows students who speak, read, and write in a language other than English to earn world language credits by demonstrating proficiency. Their competency test score earns 2 to 4 course credits. Read more at www.lwsd.wednet.edu/news.



www.lwsd.wednet.edu



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LAKEWOOD COMPACT: A SMALL DISTRICT GOING BIG PLACES

Strategic Priorities in the Lakewood School District

The Lakewood School District is a rapidly changing and growing community which has placed students at its center. Our changing demographics present our schools with opportunities to embrace welcoming, inclusive and culturally responsive practices that foster a sense of belonging for each student and their family. Our greatest challenges are our greatest opportunities. We have the responsibility to design our instructional resources, services, policies and facilities in service to relationships dedicated to the growth of each child. To these ends and in the following areas staff, administrators, students and community leaders will work together to fulfill the following commitments:



Service, Leadership and a Community of Caring

- Cultivate a sense of ownership and belonging among students by developing their leadership skills in academic and non-academic endeavors.
- Build partnerships and practices with students and families, from registration to graduation, that place community at the center of the school and the school at the center of the community.
- Expand student agency in the world outside of Lakewood through a variety of classroom, family and community based activities or forums.
- Provide daily access to health services for each staff member and student in our district.
- Support all staff as stewards of healthy, caring, creative relationships centered on the social-emotional growth of students.
- Provide supports to each staff member that reinforce self-care and personal health.
- Invest in the development of staff leadership at all levels of our district.



Equitable Access to Powerful Learning

- Review and redesign school district policies, communications and practices that eliminate physical, financial, racial and cultural barriers to learning.
- Expand academic and vocational experiences that encourage each student to pursue their passions in the Lakewood school community.
- Ensure equitable access to high-level, challenging course offerings that provide multiple pathways to college and careers.
- Continue to place literacy at the center of student and professional learning across disciplines.
- Ensure that each student and family experience the benefit of instructional resources, technology systems, and services.
- Build culturally responsive academic support systems that remove barriers to high achievement.
- Enhance support systems for students with disabilities that leverage parent voice, support smooth transitions and provide the most intensive instruction while maximizing inclusion in general education.



Collaborative Community and Programmatic Partnerships

- Extend community resources and services to each student in need of mental health and social-emotional supports.
- Pursue academic and vocational partnerships outside of Lakewood schools that prepare students for learning and life after high school.
- Enhance transportation services in ways that increase student participation in a full range of academic and in non-academic activities.
- Enhance food service programs in ways that expand student choice, cultural experiences and food security to families in our community.
- Develop and expand professional learning communities between and across grade levels.
- Facilitate community collaboration that prioritizes safe, healthy and dynamic learning relationships in school district operations and facility use.
- Foster public partnerships at the local, county and state levels that support safe, welcoming neighborhoods, facilities and services in our district.

History of The Lakewood Compact

In 2019, 90 members of the Lakewood community identified the future we want for our public education students through the Community Café. As a result of that discussion, the dozen members of the Community Engagement Advisory drew out themes of that community conversation and drafted a set of commitments. This work was further refined by the “Thinking Together” dialog with teaching staff in early 2020. Then ... well, then life was we know it turned upside down with the pandemic.

Recent talks in our community indicate the timing is right to rekindle the conversation that has come to be known as “The Lakewood Compact: A Small District Going Big Places.”

As normalcy begins to return to our lives, we hope that you will join this opportunity to envision the bright future of Lakewood’s schools and students.

Compact (*noun*)
com·pact | \ 'käm-pakt

Definition: An agreement or covenant between two or more parties.



How You Can Participate

Friends, neighbors, parents, and staff came together on February 16, 2021, for a virtual community workshop to discuss our district's vision and priorities.

For those unable to attend, you can find a link to the online survey and voicemail number listed below to share your input. We welcome your participation!

Questions to Consider

1. As you read The Lakewood Compact, what actions would bring these ideas to life?
2. What do you like most about how The Lakewood Compact is written? What do you think is most important?
3. What concerns or suggestions, if any, do you have about how The Lakewood Compact is currently written?

Share Your Input



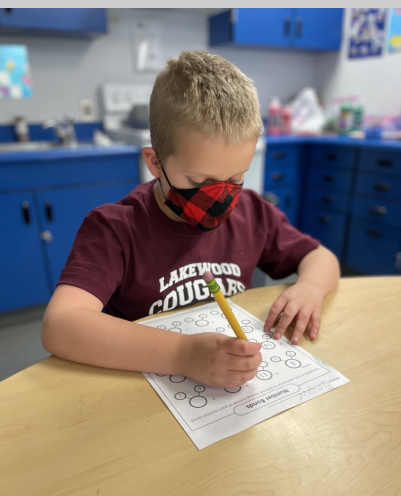
ONLINE

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LAKEWOOD'S LATEST...

Cougar sports are back!



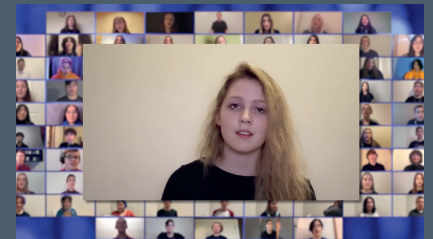
Lakewood High sports are back! The Cougars are holding their own against WESCO teams from much larger districts, competing this spring due to COVID-safety guidance. High school competitions for boys tennis, volleyball, girls soccer, cross country and football resumed in early March. Several safety precautions are in place including continuous equipment cleaning and keeping as social distanced as the sport permits. Financial support of sports is entirely dependent on local funding through the Educational Programs and Operations Levy, which was not renewed for 2021. This year's sports are being temporarily funded with dollars from Lakewood schools' fund balance (savings account).

Many of the Cougar sporting events are being live streamed on YouTube and Facebook. Visit the high school's athletic webpage for direct links or search online for your favorite Cougar team using "Lakewood School District 306".

LHS senior selected as soloist for prestigious jazz festival!

Selected to sing a solo is a tremendous honor for any vocalist. For Lakewood High senior Audrey Stich, it was even more so. Her solos came on a virtual stage shared with several Grammy nominated jazz artists including Kurt Elling, Sachal Vasandani and the group säje. "Audrey is a talented student who works super hard," said Katy Trapp, LHS's Music Department Director. Stich sang two of three solos in "Just the Two of Us" written by Bill Withers and arranged by Amanda Taylor during the March 6th concluding concert of the virtual 45th Annual DeMiero Jazz Fest.

Typically, Swingbeat attends several festivals in the Pacific Northwest each school year. The DeMiero festival was the only one to move online this year. The festival's mission is to create world-class jazz experiences through education, workshops and performances. More than 10,000 students over 45 years have attended this non-competitive vocal jazz festival. But only a select few like Lakewood High's Audrey Stich were soloists.



Audrey Stich during the virtual DeMiero JAZZ Fest.

Music, like many elective classes, has been partially supported by the local Educational Programs and Operations Levy. For this year, electives are being paid for with dollars from Lakewood schools' fund balance (savings account). To read more visit www.lwsd.wednet.edu/news.

School Board asks voters to consider levy on April 27

By unanimous vote, members of the Lakewood School Board agreed to ask voters in April to renew local funding for schools. Ballots will be mailed in early April and must be returned by April 27. The proposed Replacement of Educational Programs and Operations Levy helps maintain Lakewood's quality educational programs and opportunities for students. It is not a new tax, but a restoration of a local levy requiring re-authorization from voters. The previous levy expired in 2020. To read more about this story visit our website at www.lwsd.wednet.edu/news



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SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT WWW.LWSD.WEDNET.EDU



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