

REPORT CARD

A Lakewood City Schools Community Newsletter



SEPT. 2024



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Pictured from left: William Cosgriff, Anna Daso, Helen Fraunfelder, Madelaine Gabella, Beckett Broadwater, Danka Wentzel and Connor Pierce.

Kudos to our 7 National Merit honorees!

Congratulations to Lakewood High School seniors Madelaine Gabella and Danka Wentzel on being named Semifinalists in the 70th annual National Merit Scholarship Corp. competition! This designation recognizes Madelaine and Danka as among the top students in the nation based on junior year PSAT scores. LHS also boasts four Commended Students, seniors Beckett Broadwater, William Cosgriff, Anna Daso, Helen Fraunfelder and Connor Pierce.

Madelaine and Danka are part of an elite group of 16,000 Semifinalists across the country whose PSAT scores in the 2023-2024 school year put them in the top tier of the more than 1.3 million students who took the PSAT. Semifinalists represent less than 1% of U. S. high school seniors

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District elementary students to benefit from \$30K LREF STEM grant

The Lakewood City Schools and the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation (LREF) have been awarded a \$30,000 grant from Howmet Aerospace Foundation that will be dedicated to purchasing 3D printers for our seven elementary STEM classrooms. This is the fourth Howmet grant LREF has received to benefit Lakewood students.

The printers are needed for the District's "Enhancing STEM Education through 3D Printing in Elementary Schools" project where teachers will be integrating 3D printing technology into the STEM curriculum at all seven elementary schools. Beginning in January 2025, the project will leverage 3D printing to enhance student engagement, foster creativity and develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Each building will receive two printers.

"Our partnership with the Howmet Foundation continues to be an outstanding resource for high level STEM education for Lakewood students." said LREF Executive Director Terri Richards.

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LHS pair earn selection to Regional Orchestra

Congratulations to the Lakewood High students Bryce Sandoval and Abby Kovach on being chosen to be part of the Ohio Music Educators Association's Northeast Ohio Regional Orchestra! Bryce was also selected as an alternate cellist for the All-State Orchestra. Bryce and Abby, who plays bass, will perform with the regional honors group at the OMEA's annual conference in Cleveland next February.



Elementary Planning Task Force update

The District's Elementary Planning Task Force, created this past summer to explore the optimal use and maintenance of our elementary facilities, has held two of four scheduled meetings. This group will provide strategic recommendations to the superintendent, focusing on how to efficiently use our school buildings, especially where excess capacity exists. The Task Force's responsibilities include analyzing the financial, educational, and logistical impacts of potential changes, engaging the

community in these decisions, and exploring opportunities to expand early childhood education and community programs. Its goal is to align facility use with the District's mission in a financially responsible and sustainable manner. After the task force's initial work is done, the District will take its recommendations to the community for its input via a survey and Community Conversations at each of our seven elementary buildings (see chart at right). Once the task force synthe-

sizes the community input, Superintendent Niedzwiecki will bring the recommendation to the Board of Education. No changes would be implemented before 2026. This task force is the second such group that the District has convened as part of a comprehensive examination of all of its facilities that began in spring 2023 with the Facilities Study Task Force. Information on that task force can be found along with updates from the current task force on the District web site under the Find It Fast tab.

Community Conversations Schedule

All events will be from 6:30-7:30 pm in the school cafeteria

OCTOBER 28	Emerson Elementary
OCTOBER 30	Roosevelt Elementary
NOVEMBER 7	Grant Elementary
NOVEMBER 20	Lincoln Elementary
NOVEMBER 25	Harrison Elementary
DECEMBER 3	Horace Mann Elementary
DECEMBER 11	Hayes Elementary

Superintendent to hold school year's first Listen & Learn on Oct. 17

Join Superintendent Maggie Niedzwiecki for her first Listen & Learn session of the school year on Thursday, Oct. 17 from 6-7 pm at the Ranger Cafe, located in the front of Lakewood High School.

Listen & Learns are a chance for parents and community members to hear District updates from the superintendent and for her to listen to what you have to say! Treasurer Kent Zeman will join Supt. Niedzwiecki to give a finance update. This is an infor-



Superintendent Maggie Niedzwiecki

mal one-hour discussion. Hope to see you there!

District Spirit Parade set for Oct. 4

The annual Spirit Parade is a longtime District tradition and always a fun way to kick off Homecoming Weekend at Lakewood High School. The parade, led by the Ranger Marching Band and made up of clubs, teams and organizations from across the District, will make its way from the corner of Abbieshire and Edgewater avenues to LHS via Lake, Belle, Clifton and Bunts. Parade participants start marching at approximately 5:30 pm. Hope to see you on the route and for the Ranger football team's game vs. Normandy at 7 pm.

Rangers now part of Cle West Conference

Beginning this school year, Lakewood has joined a newly formed athletic conference known as the Cleveland West Conference. The Cleveland West Conference is comprised of seven school districts, including eight high schools and 10 middle schools in the Greater Cleveland area.

The founding members of the CWC include: Bay Village City Schools, Buckeye Local School District, Lakewood City School District, North Olmsted City Schools and Parma City School District. Go Rangers!



Upcoming No School Days

- Oct. 11:** NEOEA DAY (all students)
- Oct. 24, 25:** Elementary & Middle School Conferences (K-8 only)
- Nov. 5:** Professional Day (all students)
- Nov. 27-29:** Thanksgiving Break (all students)

Did You Know?

Class of 2017 graduate Evan Suttell recently competed on Jeopardy! and at press time had won \$20,200! Wahoo!

District tackles attendance with Browns' help

Did you know that in Ohio, students who have never been chronically absent are 6.7 times more likely to read on grade level by the end of third grade and nine times more likely to graduate from high school on time? Those stats are just some of the reasons why the Lakewood City Schools has partnered with the Cleveland Browns this school year to be part of their Stay In the Game attendance program.

The Stay in the Game (SITG) network was designed to support improved student attendance. It launched in 2019 with the leadership of the Cleveland Browns Foundation, Ohio Department of Education and Workforce and Harvard's Proving Ground. The

program provides partner districts with:

- A campaign playbook to customize district and school campaigns
- Browns-themed attendance campaign materials to use in our schools and community
- Incentives and activities to reward improved attendance
- Peer learning opportunities to meaningfully impact attendance

We are asking parents and community members to take the Stay in the Game Atten-



STAY ^{IN THE} GAME!

KEEP LEARNING, EVERY DAY

dance Pledge to support our efforts by using the QR code on this page. You can learn more about SITG at stayinthegame.org.



Construction continues at LHS for new FSO home, West Shore programs

Lakewood High School, already a busy hive of activity during the school year, is happily contending with additional commotion as construction crews continue work on several new areas that will transform the high school.

The first project that will be completed is a new space for the Franklin School of Opportunity, or FSO, currently located down the street on Franklin. Construction teams are working on the western end of the high school moving existing classrooms and creating space for what will become a school within a school for FSO. The move was

necessitated by FSO's current aging building that would be cost prohibitive to repair. A task force of staff, parents and community members recommended LHS as the new home as students more easily can take advantage of electives and extracurriculars. FSO is expected to move into LHS for the 2025-2026 school year.

Work will soon begin on space for West Shore Career-Tech's new MEMS (microelectromechanical systems) and welding programs that are made possible by a \$5.78 million state grant. Those programs will likely be ready to launch for the 2026-2027 school year.

Recreation Department Update: With summer behind us, fall activities take the spotlight

SUMMER SEASON - THAT'S A WRAP: When the municipal pools close, it's a sign that summer has officially ended. Thank you to all of our summer participants and users that either played in our athletic leagues, attended one of our summer camps or just decided to cool off in one of the outdoor pools. We are grateful to be able to provide, every day, something for everyone. Special thanks to our seasonal staff who are the main cogs in the wheel that

helps us provide the quality programming our community deserves!

FALL BROCHURE: Our fall brochure was posted on our website (www.recreation.lakewoodcityschools.org) and hit your doorsteps in August. Activities and aquatics programs will run up until right before winter break. You will find information for our winter sports leagues as well. If you or someone you know is interested in offering a class, program

or activity through the Recreation Department - contact us today! We are always looking for new interesting and educational programming.

RECREATION NEWSLETTER: We wanted to provide more frequent updates, spotlights and quick hit information to our users via a bi-monthly newsletter that will be sent out via email and social media. We will spotlight new programs, provide upcoming important dates/event/dead-

lines and other districtwide information.

DID YOU KNOW.....: The Lakewood Community Recreation & Education Department will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2025?!?! Look for celebratory giveaways, updates and fun historical recreation facts. And next year, we will be the Grand Marshal for the 4th of July Parade! You thought we had a lot of candy to hand out in the last parade, wait until next July.....

The Lakewood Board of Education

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Nora Katzenberger, Vice President
Colleen Clark-Sutton, Member
Lisa Dopman, Member
Betsy Bergen Shaughnessy, Member

Administration

Maggie Niedzwiecki, Superintendent
Kent Zeman, Treasurer

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
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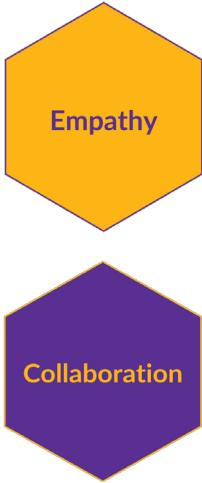
**Vision Of A Lakewood Ranger:
Hayes Embraces New House System**

Hayes Elementary recently launched a new house system, similar to the concept in Harry Potter, to help the school nurture and build a better sense of community and belonging among each other and to build on their culture of school pride, empathy and inclusion. Hayes is the District’s second school to use the house system, developed at Ron Clark Academy. Roosevelt Elementary launched their house program in 2020.

Hayes held a raucous initial house sorting assembly where each student learned which house they would belong to. The houses are comprised of all grade levels. Staff are assigned houses as well. At the start of each school year, new students will find out their house at the sorting assembly. The houses meet regularly throughout the school year to collaborate on activities and check in on each other.

Friendly competition is a big part of the house concept as the houses compete for points that can be used to buy prizes in the school’s PBIS store. At the end of the year, a house champion is declared. Teachers can award points for kindness, academics, service, character, school spirit and just generally going above and beyond.

This first year of houses at Hayes will focus a lot on students learning the history behind their house names, including the country from which the name is derived, and brainstorming ideas for projects throughout the year that will continue to grow the sense of community at the school. One activity that is definitely in Hayes’ sight is a joint event with the Roosevelt community.



Hayes Principal Eric Fortuna pops a balloon that releases a cascade of colorful confetti, signifying to the student what her new house will be.

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and are the highest scoring entrants in their state. The number of Semifinalists named in each state is proportional to the state’s percentage of the national total of graduating high school seniors. Semifinalists are eligible to con-

tinue on in the competition in hopes of being named a Finalist and receiving one of more than 7,100 scholarships worth nearly \$28 million to be awarded in the spring. Finalists will be notified of this designation in February. National Merit Scholarship Corp. Commended Students are among

the top 5% of PSAT scorers. Although Beckett, William, Anna, Helen and Connor do not advance in the scholarship contest, we recognize them as among the best students in the state. Congratulations to Madelaine, Danko, Beckett, William, Anna, Helen and Connor!

STEM Page 1
Howmet Aerospace Foundation invests in STEM and technical education as part of its efforts to educate and inspire tomorrow’s scientists, engineers and technical experts. The Howmet Foundation is the independently endowed charitable arm of Howmet Aerospace.