

Friends & Neighbors Newsletter

Superintendent's Message: Growing with excellence

Greetings,

It has been a great start to the school year in Lakewood School District and I am excited to share some highlights. Our school year started off strong. October enrollment came in at 2,584 – almost exactly what we budgeted – a 2% increase from last year.



Dr. Erin Murphy,
Superintendent

The level of student learning



COUGAR CABINET: Students in Cougar Cabinet give a thumbs-up at the end of their first meeting of the year. This is the third year of Cougar Cabinet, where about 70 students in grades 4-12 are working together to identify changes they would like to see in their schools.

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Grade A potato evaluation: FFA promotes career, leadership opportunities

From forestry to public speaking, the FFA program provides students with hands-on experiences that build skills in agriculture, leadership, and in life.

In Veterinary Science, 11th and 12th graders participated in a "Shark Tank" Advocacy activity, inspired by the entrepreneurial TV series.

Students recently dove into

the art and science of potato evaluation at Lakewood High School's FFA event.

Other popular events include forestry, horse evaluation, employments skills and public speaking.

At the District FFA Jamboree, students placed first in milk quality, and third in potato evaluation, food science, and horticulture.

CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT? CONTACT CHILD FIND

Child Find seeks to locate, evaluate, and identify children up to 21 years of age with suspected disabilities in need of special education services.

Have concerns about your child's progress? For children not yet in school, or school-age children enrolled in a private or home-based school program, please call 360-652-4500.

For school-age children currently enrolled, please contact your school psychologist.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 10: LMS Winter Concert

December 12: LHS presents Winter Wonder concert, 7 p.m.



LHS performed Cyrano de Bergerac in November.



LAKWOOD
SCHOOL DISTRICT

*"A small district
going big places"*

FIND US ON



Dr. Murphy: Schools share gratitude with veterans

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and engagement across the district is something that we are truly proud of. It is a direct result of the commitment our students and staff make each day to support high levels of learning and partnerships with our families.

Two of our schools, Cougar Creek Elementary and English Crossing Elementary, were recognized by the State Board of Education for their work to close the opportunity gap (as measured by 2022-23 state testing).

In addition, Lakewood High School received the Association of Washington School Principals inaugural Schools on the Rise award, which recognizes schools that have high levels of student and staff collaboration.

As a district, we continue to work together to support continued growth and excellence. Our Cougar Cabinet program, now in its third year, kicked off in October and includes 70 student leaders, in



As part of our Veterans Day activities, we were honored to recognize the service and sacrifice of our veterans. Each of our schools hosted an assembly with music, speakers, flag exercises, and the opportunity to show our gratitude for all our military does to ensure the freedom of our great nation.

grades 4-12, working alongside building administrators to grow as belonging ambassadors and develop plans for addressing identified areas of growth. This opportunity for collaboration and student leadership and advocacy is something that we are proud of in Lakewood.

We recently launched our district strategic direction committee, and are grateful

to the almost 80 committee members who are serving on this committee. You can sign up for our community newsletter on our website to stay informed of updates.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season and thank you for your support of Lakewood School District.

All my best,

Erin



LHS amplifies student voice, builds community

Lakewood High School is learning by listening to its most important people: its students. The inaugural "Schools on the Rise" award, from the Association of Washington School Principals, recognizes the school for seeking out student voice and collaborating to improve school culture and belonging.

LHS started a student belonging committee last year to identify areas that were causing division instead of inclusion. School administrators supported the group's collective creation of a path forward.

Together, LHS is creating a culture of mutual support and accountability.



Lakewood's Homecoming is a districtwide celebration of the strength and connection of our community. Students at each school had a chance to watch the high school parade.

APPLY FOR FREE PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Is your child starting kindergarten next year? Help them be kindergarten-ready by applying for free, full-day Transitional Kindergarten at LES, beginning in January. Open to students living in Lakewood School District. Learn more on our website.

3 HEADED TO NW HONOR BAND



Three Lakewood High School students will perform in the Northwest High School Honor Band with about 325 of the finest high school musicians in the Pacific Northwest. Congratulations to Alec Clark, tenor saxophone; Lukas Gibb, tuba; and Elliot Burelo, alto sax.

NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE:

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 Act, 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, Timothy Haines, 360-652-4500, thaines@lwsd.wednet.edu or ADA Compliance Officer and Section 504 Compliance Officer, Lissan Wipfli, 360-652-4500, lwipfli@lwsd.wednet.edu.