

#### A publication of the Lake Local School District

Volume 24 Issue 1



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Mission: Educating generations, serving our community. Commitment: Preparing students to unlock their potential for a lifetime of success.

# Return of the Blue Streak News

We are thrilled to announce the return of the Blue Streak News as the official newsletter of Lake Local Schools, keeping our community informed and engaged. Starting in 2025, the newsletter will be published twice, with plans to expand.

Each issue will highlight school events, celebrate student and staff accomplishments, and share important updates from across the district. Our mission is to provide a resource that unites and benefits everyone in the Lake Local Schools community.

Thank you for supporting Lake Local Schools as we strive for excellence in education and community engagement. Enjoy reading the first issue in 2025!



### Visit us @ www.lakelocal.org



# Superintendent Message



### Kevin Tobin, Lake Local Schools Superintendent

It is a great pleasure to be writing this message as we kick off the re-launching of the Blue Streak News. I hope that each of our students is finding this school year to be fulfilling and successful. We have so much to be proud of. Our students have had success in the classroom, on the playing fields, and showing off their many talents on the stage. Our students in the performing and visual arts continue to do amazing things and are truly the very best at what they do.

The coming months will have their own challenges as we head into the testing season. Our students will be expected to do their very best on the many state assessments that we are required to administer. I have found over the years that our kids do their best when we collectively support them during this stressful time. We must encourage and help our children understand these tests are a snap shot in time and do not define who they are and what they have accomplished. We will continue to expect them to just do their best! If they can do that, all will be fine. The results don't lie; our kids continue to perform at a very high level.

Did you know that Lake Local has had the highest performance index in Stark County for 9 straight years? We are so proud of our staff and our kids and their work to make this happen. Obviously, our parents, caregivers, and community all play a part in the success of our children. The saying, "It takes a village to raise a child" has been demonstrated time after time here at Lake.

I hope you find the information in this publication to be useful and helpful in understanding all that we have the opportunity to do with our children each and every day! As always, **GO Blue Streaks**!

# Strategic Updates

Our Mission: Educating generations, Serving our community.

**Our Commitment:** Preparing students to unlock their potential for a lifetime of success.

Our Values: To be Responsible, Respectful, Safe.

### 2024-25 GOALS

**Performance Excellence** Student Achievement - Top 5%

#### **Engagement and Support**

Mental Health – Create identification process Wellness – Increase in attendance Safety – Create collaboration between and among all safety agencies

#### **Organizational Performance**

Process – Identify, evaluate, and align district wide processes Fiscal Responsibility – Identify and evaluate programs, resources Marketing – Create a district-wide marketing strategy

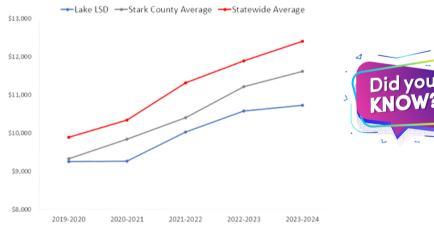
## **Treasurer's Report**

#### Nicole Nichols, Treasurer

The Lake Local School District has made significant efforts to achieve a high level of performance while closely monitoring costs. To demonstrate our level of performance, the District's Performance Index for the 2023-2024 school year was the highest in Stark County for the ninth year in a row and placed us 51st out of 607 districts in the state. To measure our costs, the District's Expenditure Per Equivalent Pupil for the 2023-2024 school year was \$10,726, while the statewide average was \$12,396.

Based on Expenditure Per Equivalent Pupil and Performance Index, there were only four districts in the state who spent the same or less and performed the same or better as Lake.

The following chart shows the district's Expenditure Per Equivalent Pupil compared to the average for Stark County and the statewide average for the last five years. Source of data: Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, School Report Cards and Data



#### Expenditure Per Equivalent Pupil

### Student Services Lisa Shannon Director of Student Services



Special education is constantly changing as schools find new ways to support students with different learning needs. Lake Local uses personalized learning plans, assistive technology, and specially designed instruction, among other resources, to help students succeed in both special and general education settings. There's a growing push for more inclusive and supportive practices in education and learning is becoming more accessible. Lake Local is proud to report that about 93% of our preschool students with disabilities are fully included in the general education setting and close to 80% of Kindergarten through twelfth grade students with disabilities take general education classes. We are committed to inclusion as a special education model and our graduation rate of over 97% for students with learning differences indicates that our students can be successful. Lake Local focuses on early intervention, social-emotional skills, and preparing students for life after graduation. Laws like the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) help protect students' rights to a fair education, but real progress also comes from teamwork among teachers, families, and specialists. As special education continues to improve, finding better ways to teach and provide resources will be key to making sure every student gets the support he or she needs.

> Did you know that there are fourteen different disability categories? Among them is the disability of Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Autism, or ASD, is a developmental condition that affects how a person communicates, interacts with others, and experiences the world. It is called a "spectrum" because it includes a wide range of strengths and challenges, with some individuals needing significant support while others navigate quite independently. Common characteristics of autism include difficulties with social interactions. repetitive behaviors, intense focus on specific interests, and sensitivity to sensory input. While autism is a lifelong condition, early intervention, therapy, and support can help individuals develop skills and thrive within their school and community. Sixtynine students in grades PK-12 have Autism which significantly impacts their education.

### **Curriculum Update** Angel Harbaugh, Curriculum Director



In compliance with Ohio's state mandate {ORC 3313.6028}, Lake Local School District adopted a new K-5 Core English Language Arts Program that is aligned with the science of reading. After forming a dedicated committee of K-5 Reading Teachers and carefully evaluating nine different programs, the district selected Benchmark Advance as the best fit for our community. Benchmark Advance is an Ohio-approved curriculum designed to meet the diverse needs of all learners, ensuring that every student receives a robust and engaging educational experience. We are confident that this decision will not only fulfill state requirements but also provide a strong academic foundation that supports the growth and success of every child.



Students at LMHS have multiple

competitive activities. Recent

on to represent Lake in state

opportunities to extend the lessons and

knowledge they obtain in the classroom

accomplishments include having two of

our Career Tech programs send students

to a variety of extra-curricular and

competitions. Team Runkle from our

Competition, and we have 60 students

from our Marketing program who will

The Blue Streak Academic Challenge teams are winding down their seasons with our

grades 7/8 team holding an impressive 6-2

compete at the state level in DECA.

Legal Studies program reached the

Regionals in the state Mock Trial

# Lake Middle/High School Dan Harold, Principal

We are proud to have 8th grader Rennick Darrah representing our school at the **Regional Spelling Bee! Rennick** narrowly edged 7th grader Christian Mihal at our district spelling bee after a closely contested 19 round event.



The LMHS Speech and Debate team will be wellrepresented at the state tournament this year! Samantha Bays, Ava Bays, Paige Bays, Grace Swihart, Dali, Sophia Gage, Natalie Laymon, and McKenna Mather will compete for the top spots and a chance to move on to the nationals!



Students in our 7th grade class set reading goals each grading period outside of the "required" reading that they do as part of their classes. 33 students were treated to a pizza party on January 14 for reading at least 6 books during the 2nd grading period.



Alex Yokley, Lyla Klodt, Mona

record with one match left to play. Our high school varsity Academic Challenge team finished the season with a 6-4 record, good enough for 6th place out of 12 teams. The JV team ended their season with a 5-1 record, just missing out on the top spot in the league.



### National Honor Society News

The Lake chapter of the National Honor Society continues to set itself apart from other schools as our 72 senior members work toward completing their required service projects. NHS members work to organize and carry out an event or project that will make a difference in their school or community and, quite possibly, have an impact that might extend far beyond our township boundaries to other parts of the country or world. Lake students make a difference, every day, and we are looking forward to inducting our newest members of the National Honor Society on March 5.



Congratulations to our long time Spanish teacher, Luisa Gunther, on her selection as the Lake Chamber of Commerce "Educator of the Year"! And we also recognize Mrs. Debra Bordo for being included among the five finalists for the 2025 Music Educator of the Year which will be presented at Canton Symphony Orchestra's March 22nd concert. Our thanks to the Chamber of Commerce and Canton Symphony for letting everyone know what we already know - our teachers are the best!



THE BLUE STREAK BULLETIN Lake High School Newspaper

Scan to see the latest edition of the Blue Streak Bulletin



## **Important Dates and Events**

March 5 - National Honor Society Induction - 7:00 p.m. - PAH April 23 - Class of '25 Top 25 Banquet - 6:00 p.m. - KSU-Stark May 1 - Lake Academic Boosters Grades 9-12 Recognition May 2 - Class of '25 Senior Walk and Picnic May 5 - Lake Academic Boosters Grades 7/8 Recognition May 19 - Class of 2025 Baccalaureate - 7:00 p.m. - Bethany Mennonite May 20 - Class of 2025 Senior Recognition - 6:00 - Hartville Kitchen May 24 - Graduation Day! - 3:00 p.m. - Blue Streak Stadium





# Lake Elementary

### Joey Brightbill, Principal

As we approach the spring season, one of the busiest and most exciting times of the year, it's a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the successes and growth we've experienced throughout the school year while also beginning to plan for the next. Together, we have much to celebrate as Blue Streaks, and we are incredibly proud of our students, staff, and community for their hard work and dedication. Looking ahead, spring break, state assessments, concerts, and end-of-year activities are quickly approaching. Please take a moment to review the important upcoming dates listed below.

We are looking forward to our 4th Annual Reading Under the Lights on May 7 from 5:30-7:00 PM at Blue Streak Stadium. This special evening celebrates our shared love for reading, featuring over 30 reading stations led by our dedicated staff and community partners. Students who participate will receive a free book, and there will be exciting giveaways to further support our young readers. We encourage all families to attend and celebrate literacy with us!

Additionally, we want to extend our best wishes to the Lake Elementary Robotics Team as they participate in the State Competition in Dayton, Ohio, this March. We are incredibly proud of their dedication and hard work and look forward to seeing them represent our school at this prestigious event.

Please stay tuned for updates on summer programs and back-to-school information over the summer break.

Thank you for your continued support. Go Blue Streaks!



Lake Leaders: Responsibility Lesson

Students learned that being responsible includes our words, how we treat others, and choosing to look at situations from a positive perspective.

We are thrilled to introduce Blue Streak Cafe, a new initiative led by our incredible staff and students! This program brings a unique opportunity for our students to develop real-life skills while serving our school community.

From taking orders and counting inventory to managing money and practicing communication goals, our students are engaging in handson learning that's both meaningful and fun. Even better, they get to see and interact with their favorite teachers and staff members while delivering their orders.



For the latest updates and events

at Lake Elementary, scan the QR

code to access our weekly Blue

Streak Bulletin. You can also stay connected by following Lake

Elementary on our Facebook page.









## **Important Dates and Events**

April 2 and 3 - Spring Pictures Week of May 5 - Write to Read Week and Staff Appreciation Week May 7 - Reading Under the Lights from 5:00-7:00pm (Rain date: May 15) at Blue Streak Stadium May 29 - Last day of School









# Lake Primary

### Megan Seeley, Principal

#### Lake Primary Students Show Heart! 🤎

At the beginning of February, Lake Primary kicked off an exciting partnership with the American Heart Association. During a school-wide assembly, our kindergarten and first grade students learned about the importance of heart health and raised awareness for Hands-Only CPR. Our students are making a big impact by helping to raise funds for this lifesaving cause. A special highlight of the event was recognizing two of our very own Heart Heroes, who bravely shared their personal heart stories with the school. Their strength and resilience inspire us all. In addition to fundraising, students also actively participated in heart stations. These fun and engaging activities helped them learn more about how to keep their hearts healthy while staying active.

We are so proud of our students for showing kindness, compassion, and dedication to helping others.



Pictures - Adam Parker from the American Heart Association with our Heart Hero students, Zion Stuchul (Kindergartener) and Daylon Crutchman (Kindergartener)







#### **100th Day Food Drive Success**

Our kindergarten and first-grade students celebrated the 100th day of school by giving back to our community! As part of the celebration, students worked together to collect nonperishable food items for a local food pantry. Thanks to their generosity and teamwork, we collected an incredible 1,101 items! A huge thank you to all the students, families, and staff who contributed to this amazing effort.



### Kindergarten Registration is Open for the 2025-2026 School Year!

We are so excited to welcome the next generation of Blue Streaks to Lake Primary. If your child turns 5 on or before August 1, 2025, he or she are eligible to start kindergarten for the 2025-2026 school year; we can't wait to have them join our school family.

Get ready for a year filled with learning, laughter, and new adventures. To begin the registration process, scan the QR code and get started today. We can't wait to meet our newest Blue Streaks! Please call the Lake Primary office if you have any questions, 330-877-4298.



### Scan below to see the latest highlights from Kindergarten







the latest highlights from First Grade

Scan below to see



# Athletic Department Brock Cline, Athletic Director Go Dani, Go!



Rounding the corner with outstretched arms for high fives and beaming faces, students found their way to Dani as she concluded her lap around the classrooms. With her teammates, family, and coaches in tow, Dani departed the campus with an army of supporters and the wind at her back. **Go Dani, Go!** 



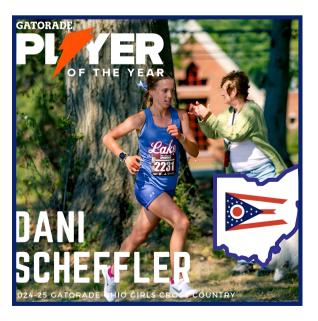
Dani's remarkable 2024 cross country season is a story written out of utter dominance and an indomitable will. She set four course or meet records during the regular season and ended the season by setting meet/course records in each post season race. Fortress Obetz served as the host for the 2024 OHSAA State Cross Country Meet, where Dani won the D1 race while setting a course record with a blistering time of 17:01.29. Dani Scheffler donned a Lake uniform atop the podium and brought back our first state championship in girls cross country history. **Go Dani Go**!





Scheffler's storybook season did not come to an end in November, as she was invited to run in Portland, Oregon for Nike Cross Nationals (NXN) in early December. Placing 5th in the Midwest Regional in Terra Haute, Indiana a few weeks prior, landed her a coveted spot against the best distance runners the nation has to offer. In typical Dani fashion, despite challenging weather conditions and a stacked field, Dani put together a gutsy performance and finished 10th overall. In doing so, she secured All-American status, another first for a Lake distance runner. **Go Dani Go**!

As the calendar turned to 2025, Gatorade announced that Dani had been named the 2025 Girls Cross Country Player of Year for the State of Ohio. This award not only recognizes an athlete's skill and talent but also their leadership, sportsmanship, and commitment to excellence. Scheffler's outstanding performance both on and off the course has made her a role model for aspiring runners everywhere. **Go Dani Go**!



# CLASS OF 2025 - COLLEGIATE COMMITMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE STUDENT-ATHLETES FOR COMMITTING TO FURTHER THEIR ATHLETIC AND ACADEMIC CAREERS!



🔰 Visit us @ www.lakelocal.org 🛛 🗙

# Lake Showcase of the Arts

Thursday, March 6, 2025 5:00-8:00pm Lake Middle High School



Lake Local Schools is proud to announce its first K-12 Showcase of the Arts, scheduled for Thursday, March 6, 2025. This highly anticipated event will celebrate the artistic talents of students across all grade levels, highlighting their creativity and dedication to the arts. The showcase will take place in the Lake High School Performing Arts Hall and Gymnasium from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Families, friends, and community members are invited to attend this free event and to experience the vibrant arts programs offered at Lake Local Schools.

#### The evening will feature:

**Visual Arts Displays:** Artwork created by students in grades K-12 including paintings, drawings, sculptures, and mixed media projects, will be exhibited throughout the gymnasium.

**Live Performances:** Reflections, LHS Band, and LHS orchestra groups will perform a variety of musical selections. **Interactive STEAM Stations:** Attendees can participate in hands-on STEAM activities. Tickets for Giveaway Baskets for all ages will be distributed at the doors.

"Through the arts, students discover selfexpression, develop confidence, and learn the value of perseverance. The Showcase of the Arts is a tribute to their growth and a testament to the importance of arts education."

> Danielle Shaub K-6 Unified Arts Department Head



The K-12 Showcase of the Arts plans to be an annual tradition that emphasizes Lake Local Schools' commitment to supporting arts education. It also serves as a reminder of the vital role the arts play in developing well-rounded, confident, and innovative students. Refreshments and t-shirts will be available for purchase to support the district's arts programs.

Don't miss this inspiring evening celebrating the artistic achievements of Lake Local Schools' students. For more information, please contact Danielle Shaub, Lake K-6 Unified Arts Department Head at (330) 877-4276.



#### CAST OF INTO THE WOODS

Lake Middle High School is proud to announce their 2025 All-School Musical, Into The Woods. Performances will be Thursday-Saturday, April 10-12 at 7:00 and Sunday, April 13 at 2:00. Tickets will be available to the general public on

Friday, March 21st and will be \$15.00. The link for tickets will be on the Lake Middle High School website.

"Be careful what you wish for" seems to be the ongoing theme in Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's Brothers Grimm-inspired musical. The story follows The Baker and his wife who wish to have a child, Cinderella who wishes to go the King's Festival, and Jack who wishes his cow would give some milk. When the Baker and his wife are visited by the neighborhood witch, who reveals to them that she placed a curse on their family, the two set off on a journey into the woods to reverse the curse. Also in the woods, we meet Little Red, who is trying to visit her grandmother, the Wolf who loves tasty little girls, the Witch's tormented daughter, Rapunzel, and the Princes chasing after their loves.

By the end of Act I, everyone has gotten their wish and will seemingly live happily ever after. But in Act II, we see how the consequences of their actions haunt them all. The community must come together to save each other and their kingdom, but sacrifices will be made.

Narrator: Wesley Nelson - Nick Rampa Cinderella: Paige Bays - Sophia Gage Jack: Chance Moore Baker: Nathan Hoversten - Cole Kiser Baker's Wife: Campbell Haupt - Lily Hatch Cinderella's Stepmother: Olivia Gant - Marybeth Gray Florinda: Tori Chase - Olivia Sites Lucinda: Sara Day - Liana Esposito Jack's Mother: Ava Bays Little Red Riding Hood: Mallorie Armbruster - Natalie Laymon The Witch: Makenzie Morgan - Kaela Hatch Cinderella's Father: Donnie Goodwin Cinderella's Mother: Emily Westfall Mysterious Man: Jonah Britt The Wolf: Jacob Iczkowski - Michael Hausser Rapunzel: Samantha Bays Rapunzel's Prince: Jack Brophy Cinderella's Prince: Carter DeBois Granny/Giant: Naomi Cain - Kaylee Haigh Steward: Jackson Banks - Will Leyland





Congratulations to Lake High School student, Breanna Sasanecki, who was one of three winners of the Akron Youth Symphony Concerto Competition. Breanna is a senior in the Lake Band program and plays the bassoon. Next year, Breanna plans to attend college to double major in mechanical engineering and music performance.





Congratulations to Lake Band alum and clarinetist Austin Yoder who was awarded the Robert D. Jorgensen scholarship at the University of Akron! Austin Yoder is a 2020 graduate of Lake High School and is majoring in both music and accounting at the University of Akron. Austin plans to also pursue a masters degree in music. (Austin Yoder, Jared Cooey, Lake Band Director).



Congratulations to the Lake High School Jazz Band and their Director Mr. Joshua Laux for being selected to perform at the 2025 Ohio Music Education Association's Professional Development Conference in Cleveland, Ohio on February 7. Lake's Jazz Band was one of only two high school jazz band's from the entire state of Ohio selected to play for this prestigious performance!

(Picture L to R) Row 1 - Natalia Micozzi, Georgia Griffin, Cole Kiser, Will Booth, Julia Pallas, Lucas Whitacre, Parker Byler; Row 2 - Luke Moorhead, James Pallas, Zach Byler, Tommy Herrick, Julian Booth, Aaron Sombrio, Rachel Peters; Row 3 - Sam Coler, Cameron Gregory, Tessa Stropoli, Isabelle Popham, Kaela Hatch, Andrew Venus



**5th Grade Band Top Practicers - (Picture L to R)** Nathan McPherson, Gage Heatwall, Zach Thomas, Charlotte Willoughby, Owen Henry, Sophia Do, Benjamin Shank, Mason Rozlog, Delsin Rollo, Elliott Berringer

Congratulations to our 5th and 6th Grade Band Top 10 Practicers for the 2nd 9 weeks! 1st place in 5th grade finished with 1,880 minutes and 1st place in 6th grade finished with 3,879 minutes!! Congratulations, future leaders of the Lake Bands!



**6th Grade Band Top Practicers - (Picture L to R)** Ethan Tripi, Erika Neimanis, Elena Lewis, Benjamin Plymire, Jordyn Collins, Sammy Kolarik, Aerisa King, Dylan Brandvold, Barrett Radel, Eli Greathouse

Congratulations to our Lake Band 2025 OMEA District 8 Middle School Honor Band participants! Our students put on a wonderful performance at Alliance High School with many talent students from area middle schools! We are so proud of you, and your two weeks of hard work!

(**Picture L to R**) Daniel Belous, Adam Leonelli, Abigail Coler, Ceci Griffin, Madison Orum, Lillian Silvey, Izabel Sasanecki, Garrett Hunt



Lake Band Program's Upcoming Performances

March 6: High School Concert Bands' Pre Adjudicated Events Concert, 6:00 PM, Lake Performing Arts Hall March 14 and 15: OMEA District Large Group Adjudicated Event, times TBA, Lake Performing Arts Hall March 20: Lake Jazz Festival, 7:00 PM, Lake Performing Arts Hall May 1: 7th Grade Band Spring Concert, 7:00 PM, Lake Performing Arts Hall May 1: 8th Grade Spring Band Concert, 8:00 PM, Lake Performing Arts Hall May 5: 5th and6th Grade Spring Band Concert with the Middle School Jazz Band, 7:00 PM, LMHS Gymnasium May 8: High School Concert Band and Symphonic Band Spring Concert, 8:00 PM, Lake Performing Arts Hall May 8: High School Jazz Band and Symphonic Winds Spring Concert, 8:00 PM, Lake Performing Arts Hall



#### Lake Local Schools' Rock'EM Robotics & STEAM Program: Inspiring Future Innovators



Lake Local Schools is home to an exceptional robotics program that is making waves both locally and beyond. Rock'EM Robotics, the district's VEX IQ robotics team, has grown into a powerhouse of innovation, teamwork, and competitive success over the past two years. Coupled with a strong (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) STEAM curriculum, Lake Elementary is fostering the next generation of engineers, problem solvers, and creative thinkers.

### **Rock'EM Robotics: A Legacy of Success**

Rock'EM Robotics has seen remarkable growth and achievements. Last season, the program secured 10 trophies across three tournaments.

This year, the program has expanded to include 39 students spanning grades 5-6, as well as the addition of a middle school team under the guidance of Mrs. Sarah Wernet. The 2024-2025 season is already underway, with Rock'EM Robotics competing in VEX IQ's Rapid Relay game.





# Community Involvement & STEAM Night

One of the highlights of the year was Lake Elementary's Fall Family STEAM Night which took place on November 6th and was a huge success. The event brought together over 3,000 community members to explore hands-on STEAM activities, featuring over 20 local businesses, organizations, and educational institutions showcasing interactive exhibits. From robotics demonstrations to STEM challenges, families had the opportunity to engage with cutting-edge technology and creative problem-solving firsthand.

### A Thriving STEAM Program

In addition to Lake Elementary's STEAM program, led by Mr. Marc Pullen, provides second through fourth graders with engaging, hands-on learning experiences in science, engineering, and technology. Robotics is integrated into 5th and 6th grade math and science classrooms, allowing students to apply their skills in real-world contexts.





#### Looking Ahead

With a bright future ahead, Rock'EM Robotics and the Lake STEAM program continue to inspire young minds, providing them with the skills and confidence to become the innovators of tomorrow. As the teams advance through the season, they remain focused on their mission: to learn, grow, and achieve together. To learn more or support Rock'EM Robotics, follow their journey and stay connected with Lake Local Schools.

🛛 Visit us @ www.lakelocal.org 🛛 🗙

Lake Local Board of Education 436 King Church Avenue SW Uniontown, Ohio 44685

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