



— Lakeview Local Schools — **LAKEVIEW LEDGER**

May 2025

From the Desk of the Superintendent



As the school year begins to wind down and we shift our gaze toward the final stretch, I've been reflecting deeply on what truly powers a great public school system. Yes, we can talk about curriculum, technology, facilities, and test scores — and all of those pieces are important. But at the heart of it all, the true engine of public education is relationships — especially the ones we build with you, our families.

When schools and families work together, students thrive. It's that simple, and that powerful.

Whether you're cheering from the bleachers at a Friday night game, helping with homework at the kitchen table, attending parent-teacher conferences, or even just asking your child how their day was — you are making a difference. Your presence, your questions, your partnership with our educators matter more than words can express.

Public education isn't just about what happens in the classroom. It's about creating a community of care. It's about trust. And it's about building a shared vision for what our children deserve — not just academically, but socially and emotionally as well.

In Lakeview, we don't just serve students. We serve families. And our commitment is to keep listening, learning, and growing with you.

As we head into the final weeks of school, I encourage you to stay connected — not just for the big events, but in the everyday moments. And if you ever have questions, ideas, or simply want to talk, my door is always open.

Thank you for being such an essential part of our journey. Together, we are building something strong, something meaningful, and something truly hopeful for our children.

Warm Regards,
Ashley Handrych, Superintendent

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Care Crew

At Lakeview Elementary, the mornings have become just a little brighter—thanks to the new **Care Crew**, a group of dedicated senior citizens who greet students at the doors with smiles, high-fives, and encouragement to start their day.

Formed this spring, the **Care Crew** is made up of retired community members who have made it their mission to provide a warm, welcoming presence for the youngest members of our school. Each morning, these volunteers line the entrances, offering a friendly hello, a helping hand, or simply a listening ear for students heading into the building. It sets such a positive tone for the day, and it means the world to our kids to know there are people in their community who care deeply about them.

The intergenerational connection has quickly become a favorite part of the day—not only for the children, but for the volunteers as well. Many members of the Care Crew are retired teachers, grandparents, or longtime Lakeview residents who were eager to stay connected and give back in a meaningful way.

We're looking to grow our Care Crew!

Lakeview Elementary is currently seeking additional volunteers to join the Care Crew. Whether you're available once a week or every morning, your presence can make a difference. No experience is necessary—just a kind heart, a warm smile, and a few minutes to spare at the start of the school day.



If you or someone you know is interested in joining this meaningful initiative, please contact the Lakeview Board of Education Offices at (330)637-8741 for more information.

District Art Show

Join us for an unforgettable evening at the Lakeview District Art Show on **Monday, May 5th from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** in the K8 Cafeteria, showcasing stunning artwork from our talented students in grades K-12! This is more than an art exhibit — it's a family-friendly celebration of creativity, community, and culture.

Enjoy live musical performances from our student ensembles as you explore the gallery of paintings, sculptures, photography, and mixed media pieces. Make sure to come hungry — a variety of local food trucks will be on-site with something delicious for everyone.

Come celebrate the imagination and hard work of our amazing students at this wonderful annual event.

Eagle Scout Project

Lakeview High School is proud to recognize senior Bradyn Armstrong for successfully completing his Eagle Scout project — a thoughtful and lasting contribution that celebrates both school spirit and the incredible staff who support our students every day.

For his project, Bradyn designed, built, and delivered custom Lakeview Pride Podiums to be used by staff members across the high school. These sleek, handcrafted podiums are adorned with the Lakeview logo and school colors, and serve as both a functional tool and a symbol of Bulldog pride.

The response has been overwhelmingly positive. The podiums not only enhance daily classroom instruction and school events, but also serve as a visible reminder of the appreciation our students have for the adults who make a difference in their lives.

Bradyn's project required months of planning, building, and coordination — and reflects the leadership, dedication, and community service at the heart of the Eagle Scout rank. By choosing a project that gives back to his school in a meaningful way, Bradyn has left a mark that will be felt for years to come.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to Bradyn Armstrong for his outstanding work and for choosing to give back to the Lakeview community in such a powerful way.



One School, One Book

This spring, Lakeview Elementary was buzzing with excitement as students, staff, and families came together for our One School, One Book program, centered around the hilarious and heartwarming story:
8 Class Pets + 1 Squirrel : 1 Dog = Chaos! by Vivian Vande Velde.



Thanks to the generous support of Cortland Rotary, every student received their very own copy of the book to read and enjoy at home and in class. This schoolwide reading adventure aimed to foster not just literacy skills, but a deep love of reading — and it delivered in the most creative ways!

Throughout the program, Lakeview was transformed into a celebration of storytelling and imagination. Highlights included:

A wild visit from Jungle Terry, who brought exotic animals and tons of excitement to the school. Door Decorating Contests, where each classroom brought scenes from the book to life with vibrant, themed displays. Class Pet Adoptions, with each grade level adopting a fictional class pet inspired by the book — building connection, responsibility, and fun around literacy. And the beloved Elementary Art Festival, where student artwork was showcased in dazzling displays that celebrated reading, animals, and creativity.

Whether students were laughing at the antics of Twitch the squirrel or falling in love with the various classroom pets, this shared reading experience brought our school community closer together. Families read aloud at home, discussions echoed in hallways, and a spark for reading was lit in every corner of the building.

At Lakeview Elementary, we believe that books open doors — to imagination, empathy, and endless possibilities. Thank you to the K7 PTO for their assistance and to everyone who helped make this year's One School, One Book a joyful and unforgettable experience.

Wrestling Comes to Lakeview

Lakeview Schools is proud to announce the launch of its first-ever OHSA-recognized wrestling club, marking an exciting new chapter in the district's athletic offerings. This initiative, driven by the passion and dedication of Ryan Williams, will open doors for student-athletes interested in the sport—all at no cost to the district.

Wrestling has long been a staple in Ohio high school athletics, known for its emphasis on discipline, resilience, and individual growth. Now, thanks to the vision and commitment of Williams, Lakeview students will have the opportunity to experience those benefits firsthand.

A seasoned wrestling advocate and coach, Williams has volunteered to lead the club entirely pro bono. His extensive background in the sport and genuine enthusiasm for youth development were instrumental in securing OHSA recognition for the program, ensuring Lakeview's wrestlers will be eligible for official competition and postseason opportunities.

Equipment has come through private donations and with no financial burden placed on the school district, the club's formation is a testament to the power of volunteerism and community support. The wrestling program will operate as an official OHSA-sanctioned club, allowing it to compete against other schools, while laying the groundwork for potential varsity status in the future. This is exactly how bowling and tennis got their start at Lakeview.

Lakeview is thrilled to welcome wrestling to its growing roster of student activities and extends heartfelt thanks to Ryan Williams for making it all possible.

For more information about the club, practice schedules, or how to get involved, please contact the Athletics Office.

YSU English Festival



A group of passionate Lakeview students recently had the exciting opportunity to attend the Youngstown State University English Festival, where reading came to life in unforgettable ways! Held annually, the festival brings together students from across the region to celebrate literature, writing, and the power of words.

Throughout the day, students engaged in a variety of enriching activities centered around the festival's selected books, which they had read in preparation for the event. From panel discussions and writing workshops to book-themed competitions and the much-anticipated "Not-So-Trivial Pursuit" game, our students immersed themselves in the joy of reading and intellectual exploration.

One of the highlights of the festival was the opportunity to meet and learn from a featured author, whose insights into the writing process and storytelling inspired students to think deeply and creatively. This year students met Alan Gratz. Whether it was asking thoughtful questions or reflecting on the themes of the books they'd read, our Lakeview students represented our district with pride and enthusiasm.

The YSU English Festival not only celebrates literature, but also fosters critical thinking, communication, and collaboration — skills that go far beyond the page. We are incredibly proud of our students for their dedication and their love of reading, and we thank our staff for supporting this memorable learning experience.

Lakeview continues to prioritize opportunities that enrich students' minds and expand their horizons — and this trip was one for the books.

Reduction in Force / Savings 2025-2026

As part of its ongoing commitment to financial stewardship and long-term sustainability, Lakeview Local Schools has implemented a modest Reduction in Force (RIF) for the upcoming school year, resulting in an estimated annual savings of \$136,000.

The reduction includes the following positions:

- One full-time teaching position, filled through attrition, with no current staff members displaced
- One full-time mechanic position
- One part-time teaching position

These difficult but necessary decisions were made after careful consideration of the district's staffing needs, student enrollment trends, and long-term financial planning. By leveraging attrition and minimizing impact on current staff, Lakeview has managed to reduce expenditures while continuing to provide high-quality education and services.

Lakeview State of the Schools Forum

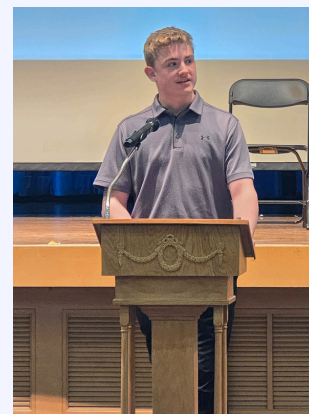
On April 15th at the **Lakeview High School Auditorium**, families, staff, students, and community members gathered for the annual **State of the Schools Forum**—an event that highlighted the district's achievements, addressed current challenges, and cast a clear vision for the future of Lakeview Schools.

The event was a heartfelt message about the importance of community partnerships in shaping the educational journey of every child. From academic growth and expanded student opportunities to facility improvements and future planning, the forum provided a transparent, hopeful, and inspiring look at where the district is—and where it's going.

Key highlights included:

- **Academic Success:** Showcasing student progress and innovative programs aimed at preparing learners for a rapidly changing world.
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** An update on how the district is carefully managing resources while investing wisely in the needs of students and staff.
- **School Culture & Safety:** Ongoing efforts to foster an inclusive, respectful, and secure environment for all learners.
- **Vision Forward:** A look ahead at upcoming goals, initiatives, and how the district plans to partner with families and the broader community to achieve them.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to this important evening. The strength of Lakeview lies in the people who care deeply about our schools and our students. Together, we're building something remarkable.



Important Dates:

- 5/5 District Art Show, K8 Cafeteria, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- 5/7 High School Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- 5/8 High School Choir Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- 5/9 Prom
- 5/13 Lakeview Jazz Fest, 7:00 p.m.
- 5/14 5th - 7th Choir Concert, 6:00 p.m.
- 5/18 Graduation, 1:00 p.m.
- 5/23 Last Day of School

