

REPORT CARD

A Lakewood City Schools Community Newsletter



APRIL 2025



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Rotary honors West Shore's standout students

Congratulations to the 15 students honored April 7 at The Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River's 27th annual West Shore Career-Technical District Outstanding Student awards luncheon. The students were honored for their dedication, leadership, and accomplishments in their respective career-technical programs.

West Shore Career-Technical District encompasses Bay Village, Lakewood, Rocky River, and Westlake high schools. WSCT serves more than 400 students in its programs.

The 2024-25 Outstanding Student Award recipients are:

Automotive Technology: Titus McAlvey

Business Management: Mihai Bogdan-Chindea

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LHS students earn top honors in Rotary/Beck Speech, Music & Visual Arts Contest

The 80th Annual Speech, Music & Visual Arts Contest put on by the Lakewood and Rocky River Rotary Club in conjunction with Beck Center for the Arts invites high school students from all Lakewood and Rocky River schools to submit their best pieces in the respective categories. Lakewood High students traditionally do well and 2025 was no different.

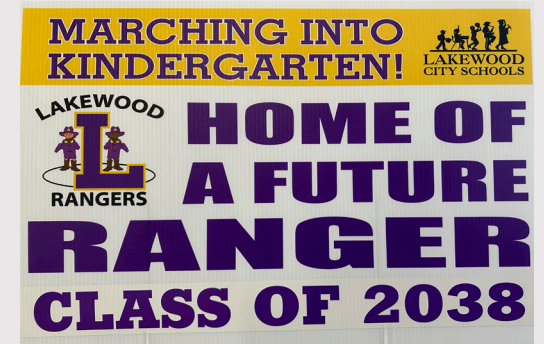
Lakewood High students took first place in the music and speech categories and second in the visual arts competition. Our students took three of the top four award spots in speech, led by winner Alessio Matera. Delaney Starr placed third and Mel Diemert fourth.

In the music category, Danka Wentzel won over judges with her clarinet solo to win first place. Drew Wallen placed third with his vocal piece and Bryce Sandoval earned fourth with his cello solo. In the visual arts contest, Molly Kean placed second and Helen Fraunfelder earned an Honorable Mention.

Congratulations to all these talented students and to their amazing teachers!

Don't wait to sign up for 2025-26 kindergarten

Do you have a child who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30, 2025 who is not signed up for kindergarten yet? If so, we urge you to go to our District website at www.lakewoodcityschools.org and click on the Enroll button at the top of the page to get the process started! Your child will receive a fun sign like the one pictured to place in your yard and a t-shirt to proudly display that they are in the Class of 2038!



Elementary Planning Task Force update

In August 2024, Lakewood City Schools convened the Elementary Facilities Task Force to examine how to optimize our building use in response to declining enrollment. The task force comprises 50 members, including parents, teachers, community leaders, and district administrators, representing diverse perspectives and expertise.

The group's mission is to analyze data and community feedback to develop recommendations for how we can use our resources more effectively. To ensure transparency and community involvement, the task force has been given access to extensive data, including enrollment trends, building capacities, and financial considerations. You can explore these materials on the Task Force page of our website.

Initially, the task force reviewed seven

scenarios, some of which involve repurposing one or two elementary buildings. Each option was designed with safety and community values in mind, prioritizing walkability, neighborhood cohesion, and minimizing travel distances for students. These scenarios also considered maintaining building capacities above 60%.

The task force has carefully analyzed each scenario, discussing the educational, financial, and logistical implications of potential changes. Members have considered community survey results and suggested modifications where necessary. Through open, honest dialogue, they have maintained their focus on what is best for all students.

During the April 2 meeting, the district opted to remove each scenario involving the



repurposing of two buildings in response to task force and community feedback.

Superintendent Niedzwiecki will ultimately present a recommendation to the Board of Education, guided by the task force's insights. We are committed to making a decision that balances educational excellence, community needs, and fiscal responsibility. Whatever the outcome, our focus remains on preserving the quality and accessibility of education in Lakewood.

New Student Services Dept. director named to replace departing Bruening

The Lakewood Board of Education at its March 3 meeting approved Stephanie Morgan as the District's new director of Student Services, effective Aug. 1, 2025. Morgan replaces Lisa Bruening, who is retiring.

Morgan brings 17 years of student services administration experience. Her most recent role at Brunswick City School District saw her overseeing a comprehensive range of programs, including those for students with disabilities, English learners, and students experiencing homelessness. During her tenure at Brunswick, Morgan managed



Stephanie Morgan

federal grants and department budgets, established compliance procedures and supervised PK-12 enrollment and special needs services.

The Lakewood Project Concert May 10

The Lakewood Project performs its annual spring concert on Saturday, May 10 at 7 pm in the Civic Auditorium. The spring show is dubbed "Lakewood Project on Shuffle." The ensemble will play songs from a variety of genres including jazz, rock, classic rock, pop, metal, and classical funk. Tickets can be purchased at www.payschoolevents.com.

Harding student wins area essay contest

Congratulations to Harding sixth-grader Adeline Chalker on winning the top prize for sixth grade in the annual Maltz Museum of Jewish History's Stop the Hate Youth Speak Out essay contest! Adeline earned \$400 for her winning piece. Stop the Hate also includes a Youth Sing Out songwriting contest, and Harding's sixth-grade morning class choir earned runner-up with their song "Listen to Our Words". This year, 4,419 students from more than 160 Northeast Ohio schools participated in the Stop the Hate contest and workshops.



Upcoming No School Days

May 26: Memorial Day

June 3: Summer Break begins

Did You Know?

The Lakewood Times has launched a podcast? The LHS student paper's first two episodes cover The L Room and Lakewood's connection with Viktor Shreckengost. Listen on Spotify or at lakewoodtimes.net.

LHS senior's art earns national Scholastic award

Lakewood High School senior Olive Rodemann has earned the highest honor of being named a national Gold Medal winner in the prestigious Scholastic Art & Writing Awards! Olive was honored for her photograph of a worker at the West Side Market titled "Meat Man."

This competition is the nation's longest-running and most prestigious recognition program for creative students in grades 7-12. More than 310,000 pieces of art were submitted for the contest and earning a national award puts Olive in the top 1% of participants.

Olive's "Meat Man" image was one of six Gold Keys she earned at the regional level judging of the competition.

Olive's Gold Key-winning image will be part of an online exhibit of all Gold Key national winners that can be viewed at www.artandwriting.org.



State runners-up lead exciting season of winter sports Ranger highlights

Our Ranger student-athletes and teams shone bright during an otherwise gray Lakewood winter. Leading the way were two state runners-up (Zayna Muntaser in wrestling and Charieon Doxley in the indoor long jump), the school's first Cleveland West Conference champion (boys basketball), a division champ (hockey), and several Player of the Year awards!

Many of our Rangers were also named to All-Conference teams:

Basketball: First Team - Ariana Hueter, Lucas Seguine, Luke Vannucci
Second Team - Elizabeth Doup, Charleigh

Doxley, Riley Verderber
Honorable Mention - Luke Bonvissuto, Ava Cuffari, Addison Garrett, Brady Long

Bowling: Honorable Mention - Anajd Dajnaj, Hailey Ellis

Diving: Second Team - Rian Fetting
Honorable Mention - JP McManamon, Riley Stallbaum, Drew Wallen

Hockey: First Team - Ronan Johnson, Tyler Volcansek
Second Team - Gavin Beisel, Ryan Sterling;
Honorable Mention - Camden Fegely

Swimming: Second Team - Henna Memaj, Piper McElfresh, Ava Watts, Riley Swift
Honorable Mention - Shane Lindsay, Grace Lowmiller, Henna Memaj, Graham McAlvey, Piper McElfresh, Mia Resto, Caden Sandoval, Gavin Stimac, Riley Swift, Ava Watts, Daniel Azgrebin

Player of the Year & Defensive Player of the Year: Lucas Seguine (basketball)

Offensive Player of the Year: Ariana Hueter (basketball)

Coach of the Year: Alex Cammock (basketball)

Recreation Department Update:

Counting down to days of outdoor pools, summer camps & July 4 parade

LAKEWOOD RECREATION DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES 100 YEARS: It's been 100 years this spring since the Lakewood City School District created the Lakewood Community Recreation & Education Department! We have been selected as the Grand Marshal of the annual 4th of July Parade. We will have t-shirts, shorts and of course over 100 lbs. of candy to provide parade spectators. We are proud to have served our community for this

long and look forward to another 100 years.

OUTDOOR POOLS: With late spring comes the reopening of the two outdoor municipal pools in Lakewood: Becks (located in Madison Park) and Foster (located in Lakewood Park). In our most recent booklet (<https://recreation.lakewoodcityschools.org>) you will find swim lessons, aquatic activities and pool hours for this coming season. Mark your calendars: Becks opens

on Tuesday, June 3 and Foster opens on Tuesday, June 10.

PURPLE & GOLD CLASSIC TOURNAMENT RECAP: The annual districtwide 5th grade basketball tournament, the Lakewood Ranger Purple & Gold Classic was played on Saturday, April 5. The first game tipped off at 8:30 am and concluded with the championship game at 2:00 pm. After the final whistle blew, Lincoln emerged victorious over defending champion Grant.

Watch for a full detailed article in the Lakewood Observer.

SUMMER CAMP SEASON is right around the corner! We offer Kids Connection, Ohio Heritage, Safety Town and more to keep your children busy. There are several boys and girls sports camps for soccer, basketball, track & field, volleyball, softball, baseball, lacrosse, and wrestling to name a few. Check out pages 9 and 10 of our booklet on our website at www.lakewoodcityschools.org.

The Lakewood Board of Education

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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.

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Vision Of A Lakewood Ranger: Number of student interns growing

The West Shore Career-Tech District provides hands-on learning in their 13 programs aimed toward preparing students for college and careers. Now, some West Shore students are taking their hands-on learning a step further into the real world with internships in the community.

Five students the Sports Science and Exercise program have landed internships as wellness consultants with the Lakewood YMCA. Two students in the Business Management program are working with the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and two are interning at Laskey Costello accounting firm and two at Stepan CPA Firm in Lakewood.

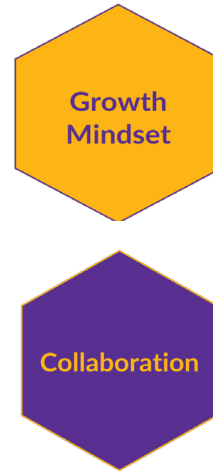
These hands-on experiences provide students with invaluable industry knowledge, professional connections, and a strong addition to their resumes. This opportunity not only prepares them for future careers but also showcases the power of career-tech education in bridging the gap between education

and employment.

YMCA interns Luke Anderson, Evan Gardner, Russell Oldfield, Frank Revy, and Ryan Sterling work approximately six hours a week with duties such as leading fitness center orientations for teens, assisting with teen strength and conditioning training programs and giving 30-minute introductions to personal training.

Says Ryan about his Y experience: "There is an extremely practical crossover between the two, everything we've done in Sports Exercise Science has been in preparation for a job that is in that field of work," he said.

Laskey Costello intern Mihai Bogdan-Chindea says he puts in about 20 hours a week for his paid internship at the firm and is sharpening his skills learned in class like Excel



Exercise Science YMCA interns (front row from left): Evan Gardner, Ryan Sterling, Luke Anderson
Back row (from left): Frank Revy, Russell Oldfield

and other Microsoft applications while also learning new accounting software programs. Nathan Kopko and Steven Mattar are interning at Stepan.

At the Chamber, Lay Phalt Htoo and Ella Hyatt will be assisting with event planning and administrative tasks as well as monitor members' social media accounts to share good news they may post and sit in on meetings with local businesses.

West Shore is looking for more local entities to offer internships. If interested, call 216-529-4155 or email yakoob.badat@lakewoodcityschools.org.

STUDENTS From Page 1

Community-Based Program, Gordon Food Service: Harper Washio

Community-Based Program, O'Neill Healthcare: Andi Sadiku

Construction Trades: Gary Pandos

Culinary Arts: Brynn Wolfgram

Electronic Engineering Technology: Ameera Westbrooks

Media Art & Design: Olive Rodemann

Medical Professions: Naya Fayad

Networking & Cybersecurity: Danari Woods

Nursing Foundations: Zayna Muntaser
Project Lead the Way: James Gollon

Sports & Exercise Science: Elaina Purcell
T.E.A.C.H./ECE: Chareion Doxley

Theatre Arts: Bryce Sandoval