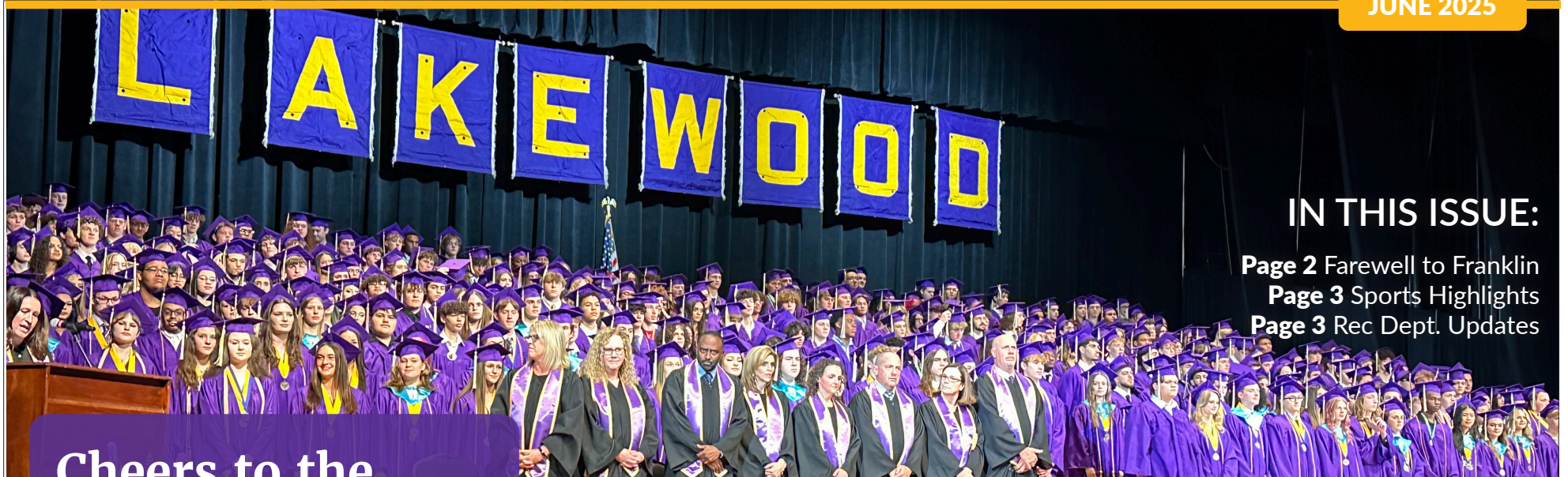


REPORT CARD

A Lakewood City Schools Community Newsletter



JUNE 2025



IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 2 Farewell to Franklin
Page 3 Sports Highlights
Page 3 Rec Dept. Updates

Cheers to the Lakewood High Class of 2025!

Congratulations to the Lakewood High School Class of 2025! The class of 352 graduates received their diplomas at the school's 177th Commencement Ceremony on June 1 in front of a full house of family, friends and staff in the Civic Auditorium.

The ceremony included speeches by students Camden Fegley and Ayodele Adigun. The graduates and audience also heard words of support, wisdom and congratulations from Principal Joy Morgan, Superintendent Maggie Niedzwiecki and Board of Education President Nora Katzenberger. The ceremony included several special recognitions of student groups including 65 Hawthorne Medal recipients who earned a 4.0 or better GPA, the eight graduates entering the military, various honor societies and music and athlete groups. Best wishes to our graduates!

LHS production of Les Miserables wins the Dazzle Awards' Best Musical category

Lakewood High School's drama club, the Barnstormers, has won its first ever Dazzle Award. The group won Best Musical for Tier I productions (shows with budgets under \$14,000) for its production of Les Miserables (School Edition). The Dazzle Awards, presented by Pat and John Chapman and supported by PNC, were held May 17 at Playhouse Square and honor the best high school theater productions in Northeast Ohio in several categories. The Barnstormers also earned nominations for Best Actor (Owen Hill), Best Orchestra, Best Scenic Design, and Best Costume Design.

Kudos to director Carolyn Demanelis and her assistants — vocal director Rayna Brooks, orchestra director Michael Dandron, technical director Freddy Hill, and production manager Dominic Farinelli-Martinez — for bringing out the best in our talented students!

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 members of the Class of 2038!



Horace Mann duo named Team Teachers of Year

Horace Mann Elementary first-grade teachers Patti Cramer and Julie Harkness have been named the 2025 George P. Milbourn Team Teachers of the Year. The award is part of the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation's Jennings Educator Awards Program that honors public school educators from across Ohio and includes a grant of \$7,500 to fund a deep learning project for students.

According to the Jennings Foundation, The George B. Milbourn Team Teachers of the Year Award honors exceptional teams of educators whose innovative and coordinated efforts enrich the educational experience and foster success across your school community.

Cramer and Harkness, who have been teaching together for 13 years, certainly fit the description.

"Ms. Cramer and Mrs. Harkness demonstrate an unwavering commitment to student success through innovation, collaboration, and instructional excellence, making them exceptionally deserving of this distinguished recognition," said Horace Mann Principal Sanya Henley. "They purposely and deliberately work together to ensure deep learning for students by planning, instructing, and coaching each other in ways that maximize student engagement and achievement."

For their part, Cramer and Harkness find two is better than one. "I love having a teammate that brings a different skill set to the table! What I don't think of- Patti does! The kids are the beneficiaries," said Harkness.



Julie Harkness, left, and Patti Cramer.

Added Cramer: "With my passion for literature and Julie's boundless creativity, we have blended our strengths to create a dynamic, engaging, and highly effective first-grade team."

Cramer and Harkness will be recognized at the Jennings Foundations' awards banquet on July 24.

Middle school mock trial teams earn "Best" awards at state showcase

Last month, Harding and Garfield middle schools mock trial teams traveled to the State Courthouse in Columbus to participate in the statewide Middle School Mock Trial Showcase sponsored by the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education. Together, the teams won six awards.

Garfield's two teams together won one of four possible "Best Attorney" awards and two of four possible "Best Witness" awards. Harding's two teams won one "Best Attorney" award and two "Best Witness" awards. Garfield's "Best Attorney" was Antonia Nicholson. Harding's



Harding winners Caleb Chan, Ainsley Tracey and George Stratton.

"Best Attorney" was George Stratton and Garfield's "Best Witnesses" were Isaac Cornwell and Amelia Ketter. Harding's "Best Witnesses" were Ainsley Tracey and Caleb Chan.

See MOCK Page 4

The Lakewood Project Concert July 4

It wouldn't be the Fourth of July in Lakewood without a Lakewood Project concert! Once again, our amazing high school electric rock orchestra will continue its tradition of entertaining the massive Lakewood Park crowd prior to the City of Lakewood's fireworks show. Music starts at 7 pm at the bandstand. Bring a blanket and some snacks and enjoy the show! Limited seating is also available.

District auctioning off Franklin Building

On the final day of the school year, the Franklin School of Opportunity (FSO) community came together for a last-day-of-school celebration. Not only was this the end of a school year — it was the final day ever for the century-old Franklin School building as part of Lakewood City Schools. Franklin has served the District in many capacities since it opened its doors in 1914 to grades K-6.

The Franklin building was slated to be put up for auction by the District on June 23. FSO, however, has a bright future ahead as the program moves to its newly constructed school-within-a-school at Lakewood High School beginning next school year.

When Will School Start?

Aug. 21: Grade 9 (Fresh Start)
Aug. 22: Grades 1-8, 10-12

Aug. 25: Preschool
Aug. 27: Kindergarten

Did You Know...

...That the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation awarded \$61,500 in scholarship money to 48 Class of 2025 graduates? The generosity of LREF's donors made this possible. If you would like to contribute to future scholarships, visit www.lakewoodrangers.com to donate.

District earns ninth straight NAMM music education award

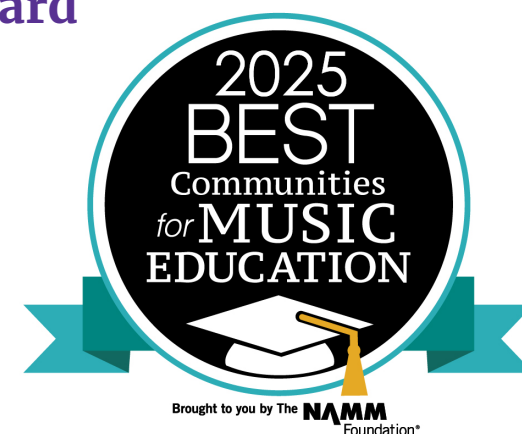
We're thrilled to announce that Lakewood City Schools has been named a 2025 Best Community for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation for the ninth straight year! This prestigious recognition celebrates our commitment to providing exceptional music education to all students. A huge thank you to our talented music teachers, supportive families, Lakewood

Music Boosters, and our entire community for creating an environment where students can discover and develop their musical talents!

The Lakewood City Schools offer music education from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Instrumental instruction begins in fifth grade. Elementary choirs begin in third grade. Middle school offerings include

classroom band, orchestra, and choir. Lakewood High offers multiple level of ensembles and extracurriculars in band, orchestra, and choir.

BCME is now in its 26th year of recognizing and celebrating school districts and individual schools for their support and commitment to music education and their efforts to ensure access to music for all students.



State qualifier, Regional team finalist highlight exciting spring sports season

Our Ranger athletes and teams shined this spring with many school and personal records set alongside outstanding postseason performances and all-conference honors. Leading the way were two-event state qualifier Charieon Doxley (6th in long jump and 13th in hurdles); conference champion girls track and field; and Div. II District champion boys baseball! Several of our players and a coach also won special conference Player/Coach of the Year awards!

Rangers named to All-Conference teams:

1st Team:

Baseball: Logan Ellis, Cooper Russell

Softball: Ella Bower, Madison Comer
Track & Field: Chareion Doxley, Tyrese Gatling, Braedan Greenfield, Anthony Hargrove, Boston Truitt, Aidan Smith

2nd Team:

Baseball: Andrew Jones, Nick Hart
Softball: Emily Gillick, Marissa Showers
Track & Field: Sophia Eccher, Chareion Doxley, Charleigh Doxley, Rian Fetting, Tryese Gatling, Anthony Hargrove, Miarah Hargrove, Lucy Jablonski, Nicole Kemp, Aidan McKenna, Boston Truitt

Honorable Mention:

Baseball: Leo Soneson, Riley Verderber
Softball: Gaby Carroll-Greeves
Tennis: Luke Burke, Reiley Macmoy
Track & Field: Anna Daso, Mady Lee, Mae Mohar, Chelsea Payne

Special Awards

Player of the Year: Ella Bower - Softball
Position Player of the Year: Cooper Russell - Baseball
Pitcher of the Year: Logan Ellis - Baseball (second straight year)
Coach of the Year: Steph Toole - Cross Country

Recreation Department Update:

Summer's here! That means outdoor pools and plenty of baseball

BECKS & FOSTER POOL OPEN FOR THE SUMMER!: School is out and that means the outdoor municipal pools are open! Sounds of swimmers splashing around at Becks Pool (located in Madison Park) began on Tuesday, June 3. Foster Pool (located in Lakewood Park) opened its doors to swimmers and sunbathers on Tuesday, June 10. Pool passes (individual and family), swimming lessons (classes are filling up fast) and pool hours are all available on

our website at recreation.lakewoodcityschools.org

IN HOUSE BASEBALL: Opening Day for our youth in-house baseball and softball leagues was up to bat and getting hits on Tuesday, May 27. We have over 840 participants this year, filling 65 teams!! Check out all the games that will be played at fields around Lakewood: Cove, Edwards, Emerson, Foxx, Harding, Lakefront, Stone House and Usher.

PURPLE & GOLD CLASSIC - LINCOLN IS THE VICTOR: The annual districtwide 5th grade basketball tournament, the Lakewood Ranger Purple & Gold Classic that was played on April 5, crowned a fourth consecutive new champion as Lincoln claimed the prestigious Commissioners Cup! This one-day districtwide tournament captures the spirit and energy of what it means to play for your school and be a Ranger! See you next year on April 18,

2026 in the LHS Gym.

OFFICE SUMMER HOURS: During the summer, our first floor office will be closing at 3:00 p.m. The Fitness Facility & Indoor Track will keep the usual hours but be sure to look for postings for holiday closures. All facilities and offices will be closed on Thursday, June 19 and Friday, July 4. We look forward to seeing everyone throughout the summer.

The Lakewood Board of Education

Nora Katzenberger, President
Betsy Bergen Shaughnessy, Vice President
Michael J. Callahan, Member
Colleen Clark-Sutton, Member
Lisa Dopman, 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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ECRWSS

Vision of a Lakewood Ranger: Collab leads to new Lincoln garden

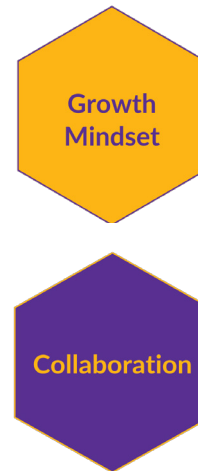
Big things are blooming at Lincoln Elementary! Thanks to a generous grant from the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District, the Pollinator Club—led by teachers Jen Johnson and Kate Bunsey—recently installed a rain garden in the school’s bioretention basin.

The collaboration did not end with Cuyahoga Soil & Water. The District Operations staff and Lincoln custodian prepped the site and delivered the mulch. Once the site was ready for planting, the fifth graders rolled up their sleeves and worked alongside Conservation staff to plant native flowers and grasses — all chosen to filter pollutants and provide a safe haven for bees, birds, and beneficial bugs.

This project is a shining example of our stu-

dents putting their Global Awareness/Citizenship into action, building a more sustainable future for the Lake Erie watershed. Special thanks to the parent volunteers and the Lincoln Elementary PTA, which donated gardening tools and will help maintain the garden over the summer and throughout the school year.

The project was a wonderful example of our Vision of a Lakewood Ranger in action and a win-win for both the school and the environment.



Lincoln fifth graders Charlotte Mestek and Riley Stewart spread fresh mulch on the new pollinator garden.



MOCK From PAGE 1

Forty-three teams from districts across Ohio competed over three days, and only 14 teams scored in the top tier. The Garfield Gold Team received a rating of “Outstanding.” Garfield’s Purple Team as well as Harding Teams 1 & 2 received ratings of “Excellent.”

Each middle school team subdivides into a prosecution and a defense squad, and prepares for two different trials against other Ohio middle schools. Students take on the roles of attorneys, witnesses, and bailiff/timers. The trials take place in front of real

attorneys who act as trial judges and who rate teams on case understanding, professional demeanor, oratory skills, and understanding of trial technique and courtroom procedure.

Garfield’s seventh-grade team: Maryam Adigun, Sarah Ali, Auden Brickner, Josie Bunsey, Isaac Cornwell, Enzo Flasher, Sophie Higgins, Jaiden Gibson, Luci Jones, Amelia Ketter, Gianna Martorello, Antonia Nicholson, Joseph Norris, Rilyn Rohde, Derek Schwab, Blake Sciulli, David Sharosky, Julia Sharpe, Finn Spade, Sebastian Tougouma, Stella Vinkovic,

and Morgan Williams.

Harding’s eighth grade team: Sofia Brown, Marie Brosky, Deagan Carney, Ace Griggs, Lucy Heller, Lily Lipowski, Caroline Lubas, Ingrid Matera, Sulley Mestek, Italo Moncrief, Alex Schneider, Amelie Snipes, Amelia Touseley, and Anna Winchester.

Harding’s seventh grade team: Julia Babson, Vivian Baker, Caleb Chan, Elise Dux, Scarlett Gage, Keira Hummer, Evelyn Payne, Audrey Revehl, George Stratton, Ainsley Tracey, Carson Westfall, and Penelope Yeager.