SPRING 2024-2025 NEWSLETTER

LAKEWOOD LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Reimagining education, instilling community pride, inspiring future success.





Lakewood Schools Community,

I hope you are having a great summer! We closed another school year more than a month ago, but I wanted to acknowledge and celebrate some of our students' achievements from the last few weeks of the year.

Let me start by saying congratulations to the 130 graduates of the Class of 2025! Commencement was wonderful, and we are incredibly proud of this class of seniors and their accomplishments (see inside).

For the rest of our District's students, the last nine weeks of school was a time to finish strong and look forward to new opportunities. We had new inductees to National Honor Society at LHS and National Junior Honor Society at LMS. We also had three students who were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. Out of 3,000 students from over 90 countries, LHS student Reece Wellman was just selected to be a 2025 Summit STEM fellowship student! This summer, he will participate in a learning program led by graduates from Harvard, MIT and Stanford that will mentor and help him gain skills to develop technology that supports individuals with disabilities; this is a meaningful and prestigious fellowship – Reece is the first student from Lakewood to ever receive this opportunity, and we are so excited to see what new things he will be able to do for our community in the future!

Our Preschool was evaluated this year by the Ohio Department of Children and Youth, as it is every year, and once again it was awarded the GOLD AWARD for Step Up to Quality. Both Lakewood Elementary and Jackson Intermediate Schools were designated Purple Star Schools for 2025 (a three-year term) by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce for their support of military families. Volunteers from across the county collaborated with LMS teachers, LHS students and the Lakewood Education Foundation to conduct another Reality Store event, which provides a financial literacy experience for our 7th and 8th-grade students. On May 12, our Student Experience Strategic Planning Action Team organized a very impressive event for called the LANCER DAY OF GIVING. This was designed as a service project day for our students to experience the gratification and satisfaction of giving back to our community. We also conducted many activities to honor our administrators, teachers, bus drivers, etc. in this last month of the school year.

In addition to their everyday classroom success, our students have achieved great extracurricular success in the arts and athletics. Please see more inside.

As I have communicated in the other two newsletters this year, I have been focused on five priorities/goal areas for this school year. Please find another update on our progress inside.

Thank you for your staunch support of our Lakewood Lancer students, staff members, and programs throughout the 2024-2025 school year. I hope you have a great Summer and we'll catch back up with you next school year! Let's go, Lancers!



Sincerely,

Scott Coffey
Interim Superintendent
Lakewood Local Schools

Congratulations
LHS Class of 2025!







During Commencement, I talked to the Class of 2025 about graduation not just being about academic achievement (which they have obviously demonstrated) but it also being about character, leadership, and determination. These are values that truly matter. These are values that will carry them far beyond the halls of Lakewood High School. I challenged them to keep aiming higher, keep being the one who shows up early and takes pride in their work, keep being the leader who helps others along the way, AND...keep being a person of integrity, a person who can be counted on to do what's right, not what's easy. Graduation is a great milestone but not a finish line. My wish for the Class of 2025 is that graduation day be a reminder of who they are and what they are capable of, and use it as fuel to keep growing, keep striving, keep leading, and being the example others follow. -*Superintendent Scott Coffey*

Lancer PRIDE & Academics Highlights



Congratulations to three LHS students who were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (above): Reece Wellman, Information Technology; Addison Wise, Criminal Justice; and Drew Molter, Dental Assisting.




(Left) LHS student Reece Wellman was selected to be a 2025 Summit STEM fellowship student! This summer, he will participate in a learning program led by graduates from Harvard, MIT and Stanford that will mentor and help him gain skills to develop technology that supports individuals with disabilities. (Right) LMS National Junior Honor Society inducted 15 new members. (Bottom Left) Middle School students Garett Dougherty, Ben Ruhl (pictured at left) and Logan Spurrier were the winners of this year's History and Geography Bee!




PURPLE STAR
Supporting Military Families

Ohio Step Up To Quality GOLD AWARD

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce selected Lakewood Elementary and Jackson Intermediate Schools as Purple Star Schools for the Class of 2025. Lakewood Preschool received the GOLD AWARD for Step Up to Quality. Awarded by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, this program recognizes learning and development programs that exceed preschool licensing health and safety regulations.

Miss Mandy O'Dell was Lakewood's 2025 winner of the Coughlin Cars "You Make a Difference" Award. She was nominated by LHS student Gracie Burns.



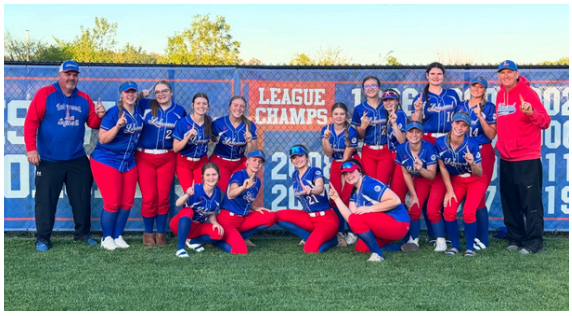
Lancer Athletics & Arts Highlights







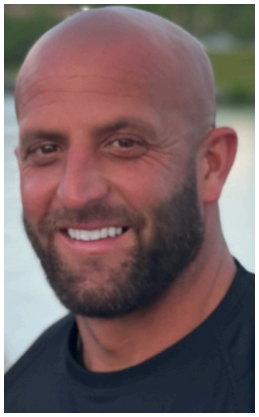

Troy Martindale placed 8th in the State - earning All-Ohio honors - and set a new school record in the 300M Hurdles. Troy Martindale, Braylon Brooks, Derrick Norwood, and Matthew Keller also qualified for Regionals in the 4x200M Relay and set a school record in the event. Jaylie Maas was District Runner Up in the 100M Dash.



Girls Softball: 2025 LCL Cardinal Champions, and Jon Griffith was LCL Cardinal Coach of the Year!

LAKEWOOD Lancers

Welcome to new our Athletic Director, Jamie Justus.





Girls Varsity Bowling: As a state finalist, this team qualified and competed in Nationals in Fort Wayne, Indiana .










Spring Drama Productions: (First three, left to right) Seussical the Musical from LHS and (directly above, top and middle at right) Annie Jr. from LMS. The LHS Spring Concert featured the A Cappella Choir, the Concert Choir, Jazz Bands, Concert Band, and Symphonic Band (bottom right).

Lancer Day of Giving

On Tuesday, May 13, all Lakewood Local students engaged in activities that helped someone or the environment. From beautifying parks and schools to singing for community members and supporting local causes, our Lancers gave back in a BIG way.

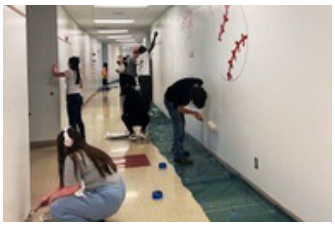












District Goal Areas for 2024-25

Rigor in Teaching & Learning

Our curriculum is broad, balanced and aligned with Ohio's Revised Learning Standards. There is a clear progression of knowledge and skills that is flexible and responsive to each student's needs and interests. Our focus is on student growth, mastery of material, and achievement.

Work was completed in several content areas this year to update and align our curriculum. Subjects under review this year were Science, Family and Consumer Science, Health and Physical Education, Engineering and Manufacturing, and Career-Based Intervention. Mrs. Pickering, our Director of Teaching and Learning, led this process to ensure that our content is engaging and fully aligned with the rigor of the Ohio standards.

Student Behavior

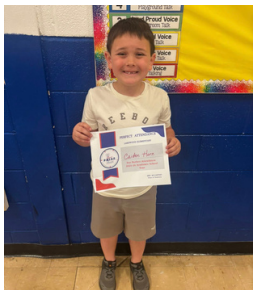
Student and staff safety is a top priority in Lakewood Local School District. We take this responsibility very seriously and appreciate the partnership of students, staff, families, community members, and our first responders to keep everyone safe.

·This area will continue to be an area of focus for Lakewood. We are seeing improvements overall, but there are simply too many incidents of this type still occurring in our buildings. I remain grateful to the staff members and administrators who are working to hold students accountable for these actions and help them to make better decisions moving forward. Nearly all of our students continue to do an amazing job.

Athletic Culture

Athletics are an important part of student development, proven to support academic performance, teamwork, mental health, leadership and more. We will be focused on making sure our athletes are representing our values in every contest, our athletic department and programs are running smoothly and efficiently, and that concerns are addressed and resolved.

Our Spring athletic season is over, and our teams had very good records. That should not be a surprise to anyone, as our Spring Sports have always excelled and been a source of pride in our school and community. Join me in congratulating our Lancers! We also have a new Athletic Director, Jamie Justus, joining us this summer - we know he will be a great addition!





School Attendance

This year, Lakewood is raising the bar on student attendance. We must maximize the amount of time students have with our instructors to make the school year more meaningful and productive. We cannot grow students who are not present in our classes.

As I have said previously, I believe that school attendance rate is one of the best predictors of academic success. Our rate of attendance is ahead of last year's mark in most buildings, which means we are ahead of last year's mark for time spent learning as well. The hard work of principals, staff, parents, and students in getting our learners to school continues to pay off.

Restoring Pride

In our strategic plan, our Community Pride & Engagement goal areas statement says that "Lakewood Local Schools creates and fosters a school community whose members are engaged, communicative, supportive, and proud to be Lakewood Lancers."

I remain proud of our district and the growth we are experiencing in this area. I am more proud of our students, our employees, and our community with each passing day. I am proud to call Lakewood my home and look forward to spending the rest of my career caring for its students. As always, I welcome your suggestions for how we can make improvements that strengthen our district and grow our Lancer Pride!





Strategic Plan Updates

On May 12, the Student Experience Action Team organized the LANCER DAY OF GIVING – a service project day for students to experience the gratification and satisfaction of giving back to our community. Projects highlights included: beautification on campus, at Dawes Arboretum, on Buckeye Lake's North Shore, on the bike path, in the Village of Hebron, and at Evans and Canal Parks; letters to Seniors (Kindergarten); greeting cards to Senior Citizens; greeting cards to Veterans; work in the Baby Pantry at New Life; and fundraising for memorial trees for deceased students.

The Community Pride & Engagement Action Team is planning a Back to School Bash for all community members on August 19, the day before school starts. Please watch our social media channels for more information.

We believe that if we are accountable to the Strategic Plan Goal Areas as a district and as a community, we will continue to improve, achievement will increase, and decisions about doing what is best for students will be clear.



District Finances

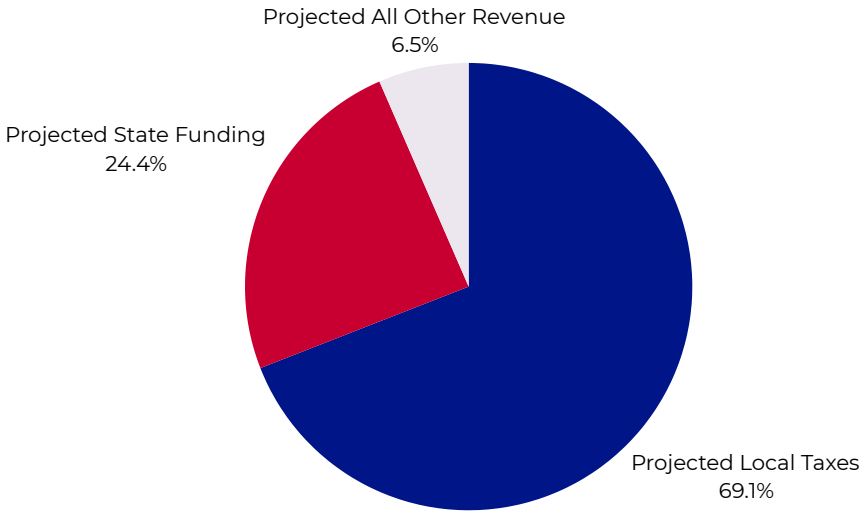
To keep our community informed about the District's finances, we wanted to share information about the projected revenue and expenses for this fiscal year.

Current Fiscal Year Projected Revenue Analysis (General Fund)

Projected Local Taxes - $21,465,857
- Real Estate Property Taxes - $19,059,557
- Public Utility Property Taxes - $2,406,300

Projected State Funding - $7,584,344
- Fair School Funding Plan - $4,750,528
- Restricted State Funding - $569,778
- State Share of Local Taxes - $2,264,038

Projected All Other Revenue - $1,994,496
- Other Operating Revenue - $1,973,685
- Other Sources - $20,811

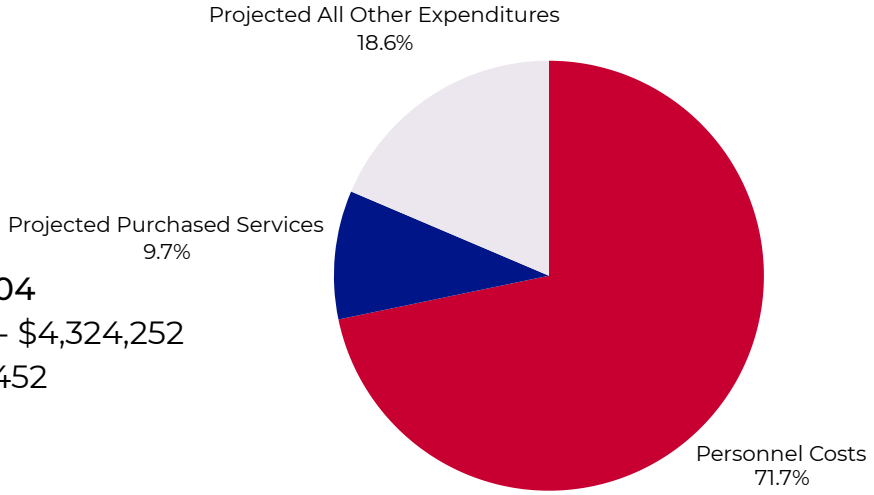


Current Fiscal Year Projected Expenditure Analysis (General Fund)

Projected Personnel Costs - $21,520,686
- Salaries - $15,700,964
- Benefits - $5,819,722

Projected Purchased Services - $2,900,000

Projected All Other Expenditures - $5,604,704
- Supplies, Capital, Debt, Other Operating - $4,324,252
- Advances, Transfers, Other Uses - $1,280,452



On the District website, under the Treasurer's Office page, the updated 5-Year Capital Plan for FY26 is available, as well as the May 2025 5-Year Forecast and Related Assumptions.

If you have questions, please reach out to the District's Treasurer, Glenna Plaisted, at (740) 928-1928 or gplaisted@lakewoodlocal.k12.oh.us.

LAKEWOOD LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Planning Ahead

Learning Resources

- **Camp Invention Activities for Families:** https://www.invent.org/programs
- **The Works Event Calendar:** https://attheworks.org/calendar-events/
- **Highlights for Kids:** https://www.highlightskids.com/
- **Preparing for College:** www.lakewoodlocal.k12.oh.us/schools-page/lakewood-high-school/counseling-office
- **IXL (LMS student resource to practice math, social studies, science and ELA):** http://ixl.com/ (and login)

Key Dates for 2025-26 School Year

- **August 19:** Back to School Bash Community Event
- **August 20:** Students' First Day (PreSchool, 1-12)
- **August 25:** Kindergarten Students' First Day
- **September 1:** Labor Day - No School
- **October 2:** Homecoming Bonfire
- **October 4:** Homecoming Dance
- **October 16:** End of 1st Quarter
- **October 17:** No School - COTA Day
- **October 20:** No School - Records Day
- **November 4:** Election Day - No School
- **November 21-22:** LHS Fall Play
- **November 26-December 1:** Thanksgiving Break
- **December 17-19:** Exams/End of 2nd Quarter
- **December 22-January 2:** Winter Holiday Break
- **January 5:** No School - Records Day
- **Late Start Dates:**
  - August 27, September 24, October 29

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