



— Lakeview Local Schools — **LAKEVIEW LEDGER**

September 2025

From the Desk of the Superintendent

Dear Lakeview Families,

We are off to a great start at Lakeview Local Schools! The excitement and energy around our district this fall are inspiring, and we're already seeing students and staff jump into learning, connection, and growth. Thank you for sharing your children with us, it is an honor and privilege to partner with you in their education.



This year, our district theme is **"Be an Asset."** We believe that every member of our school community—students, families, staff, and community partners, brings unique strengths, talents, and perspectives that contribute to our collective success. Being an asset means showing up for others, looking for ways to serve, and striving to make a positive difference wherever we are.

We are encouraging students to see themselves as leaders and role models, capable of impacting their classrooms, teams, and community in meaningful ways. From the smallest acts of kindness to taking on big challenges, this mindset will help us create a culture where every student feels valued and empowered. If you haven't heard me say it, we have **AMAZING** students! I proudly brag about them to all that will listen.

As we settle into this school year, we invite you to join us in bringing this theme to life. Whether it's supporting your child at home, volunteering in our schools, or cheering on our students at events, your involvement matters more than ever. Together, we can create an environment where every child feels supported, challenged, and inspired to grow.

Thank you for your partnership and trust in Lakeview Local Schools. We're looking forward to an amazing year filled with learning, laughter, and opportunities to **Be an Asset!**

Educationally,
Ashley Handrych
Superintendent

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Career Connections

At Lakeview Local Schools, we are committed to preparing students for success beyond the classroom by helping them explore their passions, develop their skills, and discover the many career pathways available to them. From middle school through high school, our goal is to expose students to a wide variety of opportunities, whether that means college, skilled trades, military service, or entering the workforce.

One of the programs being introduced at Lakeview High School this year is Real Life Wednesday, a series that brings guest speakers from various fields right into the classroom. Local business owners, health professionals, engineers, entrepreneurs, and tradespeople share their stories and insights, giving students a firsthand look at real career paths. These conversations provide students with invaluable advice, mentorship, and inspiration, showing them that there are many ways to achieve their goals. Recently, Superintendent Handrych presented at the Regional Chamber of Commerce event, **Good Morning Bazetta and Cortland** and received an outpouring of support and willingness to partner from attendees.

At Lakeview Middle School, our Career Connections course lays a strong foundation by encouraging students to explore their interests, learn about different career clusters, and start thinking about how their skills and passions can shape their future. This early exposure helps students begin planning ahead and seeing the relevance of their education.

This fall, Lakeview students will also attend the Mahoning Valley Skilled Trades Fair, where they can connect with professionals in fields like manufacturing, construction, welding, and electrical work. Hands-on demonstrations and interactive exhibits will give students a taste of careers they may not have considered before, sparking interest in high-demand, high-paying fields.

Lakeview's focus on career planning is about more than choosing a job, it's about empowering students to dream big, set goals, and pursue pathways that align with their strengths and interests. By creating connections between school and the real world, we're helping students leave Lakeview confident and ready for whatever comes next.

Lakeview Legacy Teacher

Lakeview Local Schools is proud to announce the winners of the **first annual Lakeview Legacy Teacher Award**, sponsored by **Apostolakis Honda**. This prestigious recognition celebrates two outstanding educators whose dedication, passion, and commitment to students have left a lasting mark on our district: **Michelle Conley** and **Barb Graeser**.



Apostolakis Honda generously donated **\$1,000** to **each teacher** to invest back into their classrooms, ensuring their legacy of excellence continues to directly benefit students.

The Legacy Teacher Award was created to honor teachers who go above and beyond in shaping not only academic success but also character, confidence, and lifelong learning in their students. Both Mrs. Conley and Mrs. Graeser exemplify these values through years of dedication, creativity, and unwavering support for their students and colleagues.

"Great schools are built on the dedication and heart of great teachers," said Superintendent Handrych. "Recognizing educators like Mrs. Conley and Mrs. Graeser reminds us of the incredible work happening in Lakeview classrooms every day. They've created an impact that will be felt for generations."

This initiative reflects Lakeview's belief that celebrating our teachers is essential to fostering a thriving learning community. Recognizing their hard work is not only a way to say thank you but also a reminder of the vital role educators play in shaping the future of our students and community.

We are deeply grateful to **Apostolakis Honda** for their commitment to education and for supporting our teachers in a meaningful way. Congratulations again to **Michelle Conley** and **Barb Graeser** for earning this well-deserved honor!

Honoring a Legacy: Donation to Lakeview Golf in memory of Jeff Finley

Lakeview Local Schools is proud to celebrate a generous gift made in memory of a beloved community member. On August 26th, Jill Tellock presented a \$4,300 donation to the Lakeview Golf Program in honor of her late father, Jeff Finley, whose love for golf and support for Lakeview athletics left a lasting impact on the community.



The donation was accepted at the Lakeview Board of Education meeting, where members of the Lakeview Girls Golf Team joined Jill to honor Jeff's memory and celebrate his passion for the sport. The team expressed gratitude for the support, sharing how these funds will help enhance the golf program and create opportunities for future golfers.

The donation was made possible through the success of this summer's Jeff Finley Memorial Golf Outing, which brought together friends, family, and supporters for a day of camaraderie, competition, and remembrance. The event was a testament to Jeff's legacy, not only as a golfer but as a mentor, father, and friend who inspired many in the Lakeview community.

Thanks to overwhelming community support, the golf outing raised funds to directly benefit Lakeview golfers and grow the program. Plans are already underway for next year's event, scheduled for August 2, 2026, promising another opportunity to celebrate Jeff's life and invest in the future of Lakeview athletics.

Lakeview Local Schools extends heartfelt gratitude to Jill Tellock and all those who made this gift possible. With this donation, Jeff Finley's legacy will continue to inspire young athletes for years to come.

Lakeview Athletic HALL OF FAME

The 2025 class will be formally honored during Induction Weekend, which coincides with the varsity football game against South Range High School on **Friday, September 12**, and the Induction Ceremony on **Saturday, September 13** at DiLucia's Banquet Center in Warren, OH.

CLASS OF 2025 INDUCTEES

2014 & 2015 GIRLS GOLF TEAMS

Back-to-back state appearances resulted in a state runner-up and a state championship

1990S TRACK BOOSTER CLUB - CONTRIBUTOR

A dedicated group instrumental in fundraising for the county's first 8-lane all-weather track and for two decades of support through hosting prestigious meets

DAVE CHRISTNER - CONTRIBUTOR

Longtime supporter whose behind-the-scenes work made a lasting impact on Lakeview athletics

DIANE NEIGHBARGER - COACH

Revered for her leadership and lasting influence on student-athletes

GREG SOLARZ - CLASS OF 1983

Outstanding multi-sport athlete who left a mark on Bulldog baseball in the early '80s

LAURA NOCHTA - CLASS OF 2006

Distinguished golfer with state-level accomplishments

KYLE SMEDI - CLASS OF 2008

Punishing linebacker who was the heart and soul of the 2007 regional runner-up team

BEN MOODY - CLASS OF 2009

Record-setting two-sport champion whose speed and determination defined his career

LAUREN SCHATTINGER - CLASS OF 2012

A dynamic sprinter and one of the most decorated athletes in Lakeview track and field history

Launch Day

Lakeview High School kicked off the school year with **LHS Launch Day**, a day designed to set students up with everything they need to start high school confidently and get involved in all that Lakeview has to offer.

Launch Day gave students the opportunity to explore the building, meet teachers and staff, and learn about the wide variety of clubs, sports, and activities available. From academics and athletics to arts and student leadership opportunities, the day was all about **helping students discover their passions and connect with their school community**.

The goal was simple: to make sure every student feels welcomed, prepared, and excited about their next chapter.

"We want every student to find a place to hang their hat at LHS and to know that there's a place for them to get involved, grow, and thrive," said Assistant Principal, Mike DeToro.

Parents and families also had a chance to see how Lakeview supports students holistically, with resources for academic success, mental health and wellness, and extracurricular involvement.

LHS Launch Day is part of Lakeview's broader commitment to building a strong school culture, one where every student has the tools, relationships, and confidence to succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

Important Dates:

- **SEPTEMBER 11th**: Camp Fitch 5th Grade Parent Meeting at 5:00 PM
- **SEPTEMBER 11th**: Washington DC 8th Grade Parent Meeting at 6:00 PM
- **SEPTEMBER 12th**: Athletic Hall of Fame Induction at Home Football Game
- **SEPTEMBER 13th**: Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet
- **SEPTEMBER 20th**: Homecoming Dance
- **SEPTEMBER 25th**: High School Parent Teacher Conferences
- **SEPTEMBER 30th**: Volleyball Pink Game
- **OCTOBER 9th**: K-8 Parent Teacher Conferences
- **OCTOBER 10th**: NO SCHOOL, NEOEA Day
- **OCTOBER 17th**: End of the First Nine Weeks



Bulldog Fun Force: Superintendent's Adventure Club

This year, Lakeview Local Schools has introduced an exciting new way to connect with students, gather their feedback, and give them memorable experiences beyond the classroom. **Mrs. Handrych** is hosting the **Bulldog Fun Force Adventure Club**, a dynamic program that replaces the traditional Student Advisory Council held last year.

Instead of meeting in a classroom to discuss ideas, Bulldog Fun Force combines **student voice and leadership development with hands-on adventures**. Students from all three Lakeview buildings are invited to share their perspectives on school life, brainstorm ways to strengthen the district's culture, and enjoy meaningful learning experiences together. The sign-ups were done at LHS on a first come first served basis, while students in K-8 will be able to use PBIS tickets to sign-up for an adventure trip.

The club's first trimester is filled with unique trips tailored to each age group:

- **High School students** will embark on a canoeing adventure at Camp Hi in Hiram, fostering teamwork and leadership skills while enjoying time in nature.
- **Middle School students** will take part in a hands-on cooking class at Thyme in Your Kitchen, where they'll learn culinary techniques while building confidence and collaboration.
- **Elementary students** will explore creativity and innovation during a trip to the **3D printing lab at Oh Wow! The Roger & Gloria Jones Children's Center for Science & Technology** in Youngstown.

"Our goal is to hear directly from students in a way that's engaging, fun, and memorable," said Mrs. Handrych. "We want to create experiences that help us connect with students while showing them that their voices matter in shaping our schools."

By blending **adventure, creativity, and leadership development**, the Bulldog Fun Force Adventure Club provides a fresh approach to building relationships between students and school leaders. These experiences not only give students a platform to share their ideas but also encourage curiosity, teamwork, and confidence.