

Friends & Neighbors Newsletter

Superintendent's Message: Bringing your vision to life

Greetings,

It has been a wonderful start to the 2025–26 school year in Lakewood, and we're excited to share this community update with you.



Dr. Erin Murphy,
Superintendent

Our dedicated staff continue to partner with families to create engaging learning experiences, and we're proud of our students' growth and achievement. Enrollment continues to rise—now more than 2,600 students (FTE)—and we're honored to serve new and returning students and families.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 9: LHS presents Home for the Holidays Concert, 7 p.m.

December 11: LMS Band

December 11-12: Drama Presents: Little Women, LHS



Left: A geometry student uses a compass to determine the angles of a triangle. Right, top: Students in LMS Consumer Math created their own currency. They can save up to buy items like keychains from their class store. Right bottom: A student in LHS Personal Finance studies an example of a bank statement while learning how to manage a checking account.

Accelerating Math: Building skills for today and tomorrow

It's common for high school students to pick up an after-school job. For many, that first paycheck brings a surprise: taxes.

To help students build financial confidence early, Lakewood offers personal finance courses at both the middle and high school levels. These consumer-focused classes teach students how to avoid common pitfalls such as overdrawing a checking account. Students also learn how interest can increase the cost of borrowing for purchases like a car, and how it can help grow savings over time.

Because money decisions often come with emotions, students also discuss the complexities of

borrowing money from family members and how to navigate those situations responsibly.

In LHS geometry, eighth and ninth graders recently teamed up to prove the interior angles of a triangle equal 180 degrees. Students folded patty paper and used compasses and protractors to measure angles.

The LMS/LHS partnership allows eighth graders to challenge themselves academically while learning together with peers.

Together, these experiences are building confident, capable learners who will be equipped with the skills they need for high school and beyond.

CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT? CONTACT CHILD FIND

Child Find seeks to locate, evaluate, and identify children up to 21 years of age with suspected disabilities in need of special education services.

Have concerns about your child's progress? For children not yet in school, or school-age children enrolled in a private or home-based school program, please call 360-652-4500.

For school-age children currently enrolled, please contact your school psychologist.

2 LHS STUDENTS HEADED TO NW HONOR BAND



Junior Elliot Burelo, alto sax, and senior Lukas Gibb, tuba, will represent Lakewood High School at Northwest Honor Band at Pacific Lutheran University in January.



LAKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Inspiring Growth.
Empowering Futures.

FIND US ON





School Board Directors: Leah Tocco, President, District 5; Dawn Taylor, District 4; Steven Larson, District 1; Dana Krueger, Vice President, District 3; Sandy Gotts, District 2; Amelia Escalante, student advisor; Rubi Carmona-Rodriguez, student advisor, Dr. Erin Murphy, Board Secretary.

LWSD directors awarded 'Board of Distinction'

Congratulations to the Lakewood School District Board of Directors, who were honored by the Washington State School Directors Association with the 2025 Board of Distinction recognition. This award reflects the board's commitment to narrowing opportunity gaps and aligning board actions with initiatives to promote student success.

ARE YOU AGE 60+? APPLY FOR CLASSIC COUGAR CLUB

Senior citizens who live within district boundaries can attend most "home" athletic and scholastic events for free. Learn more on our website.

Dr. Murphy: 'Inspiring Growth. Empowering Futures'

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As our middle and high school fall sports seasons wrap up, I want to thank our Lakewood community for supporting the Educational Programs & Operations Levy, which makes opportunities like these possible. The levy also allowed us to reinstate a School Resource Officer (SRO) position this year, strengthening safety and connection across our campuses.

We're pleased to share that we've finalized the 2025-2030 Lakewood School District Strategic Direction. This plan reflects the collaboration and input of hundreds of community members and will guide our work for the next five years. As part of this process, we've updated our district mission and vision statements to capture our collective commitment and goals, and finalized our new district motto, "Inspiring Growth. Empowering Futures."

I'm honored to work alongside our Lakewood community to bring this vision to life.

In partnership,

Erin



Top: LHS CorePlus Construction students explored high-paying, hands-on careers like construction, electrical work, and ironworking at the Trade Up event. Bottom left: Elementary students received high-fives from the LHS football team during the annual Homecoming Parade. Bottom right: Students performed songs, hosted speakers and shared gratitude with veterans during Veterans Day assemblies.

NEW DISTRICT SRO POSITION

Thanks to the voter-approved EP&O Levy, we were happy to welcome school resource officers this year in partnership with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office to support safety and security.



GRANT PAYS FOR 6TH ELECTRIC BUS



Lakewood celebrated the arrival of its newest electric school bus with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony in September. Thanks to grants from the Washington Department of Ecology, Lakewood now has six electric buses in its fleet. These buses are replacing aging diesel models, which helps us save on fuel costs and creates a quieter ride for our students.

Safety upgrades: New LMS fire control system and CCE fences

CAPITAL LEVY UPDATES

✓ Lakewood Middle School recently received a major safety upgrade with the installation of new fire alarm control panels. The previous fire control system no longer met current standards.

✓ Cougar Creek Elementary has new safety fencing.

Thank you, voters, for supporting our 2024 Capital Improvements and Safety Levy!



The new fire control system at LMS includes advanced smoke and heat detection and integrated alarm/communication systems, ensuring a faster emergency response.

NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE:

Lakewood School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, color, religion, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, homelessness, immigration or citizenship status, disability, neurodivergence, the use of a trained dog guide or service animal, age, and honorably discharged veteran or military status and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Lakewood School District, 17110 16th Drive NE, Marysville, WA 98271, Attention: Title IX and Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator, Timothy Haines, 360-652-4500, thaines@lwsd.wednet.edu or Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Lissan Wipfli, 360-652-4500, lwipfli@lwsd.wednet.edu. Title IX inquiries may also be directed toward the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR). Information about the nondiscrimination and sex-based discrimination policies and grievance procedures, and how to report a concern or complaint are at www.lwsd.wednet.edu.