FALL 2025-2026 NEWSLETTER

LAKEWOOD LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Reimagining education, instilling community pride, inspiring future success.









Lakewood Schools Community,

I began my first school year as your permanent Superintendent (not interim) just a few short months ago, and I feel beyond honored to lead this district after working in it for 25 years. I say it all the time...I really do love our district's families and educators and look forward continuing to build on all that we accomplished last year.

Speaking of accomplishments, we did a lot of preparation for the new school year this summer. Our buildings were cleaned, many of our spaces were painted, floors were waxed, and lawns were manicured. Many thanks to all of the individuals responsible for making our campus look so good and operate so well. While our physical spaces were being freshened, our educational plans were being carefully crafted by our educators. My sincerest thanks to our faculty and staff who worked tirelessly to prepare their rooms and curriculum plans. I appreciate their dedication and commitment.

At the beginning of the school year, I communicated to our district families that I would, once again, be focused on five core priorities this year: Rigor in Teaching & Learning; Student Behavior; Athletic Culture; School Attendance; and Restoring Pride. Please see inside for updates in these areas, as well as the Superintendent's page on our website.

On September 16, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) released its 2024-2025 Ohio Schools Report Card. Lakewood Local Schools earned a 3.5-star overall rating (5 stars in Gap Closing; 4 stars in Graduation Rate; 3 stars in Achievement, Progress, and College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness; and 2 stars in Early Literacy). This means we are meeting, exceeding, or significantly exceeding state standards in every area except Early Literacy. We have implemented so many wonderful programs and activities to help bolster this area, including: the implementation of the Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) programming at grades K-5, which aligns to the Science of Reading; evidence-based interventions that correlate directly with our benchmark and dyslexia screeners and support student acquisition of basic and advanced Reading skills; a MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) model that revolves around the analysis of specific student data, progress monitoring of student progress, and the implementation of specific strategies to help students grow and achieve.

The Fall/first quarter of the school year flew by and included some great moments: Senior Sunrise; Homecoming festivities, including the bonfire at Canal Park; honoring our 2025 Wall of Fame Inductees; and celebrating our Principals during National School Principals Month (October) and our LHS Boys Cross Country team and four Cross Country Girls qualifying for Regionals!

We have several things to look forward to on the horizon...Winter athletics, drama productions, music department shows, and many academic achievements to be sure. As we move forward throughout this year and beyond, I greatly appreciate the support from our families and the Lakewood community. I look forward to sharing more of the great accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students as we continue the 2025-26 school year.



Let's go, Lancers!

Sincerely,

Scott Coffey
Superintendent
Lakewood Local Schools

Lancer PRIDE Spotlight



22 LHS seniors attended the College Application Blitz at Licking Heights.



Class of 2026 celebrates Senior Sunrise.

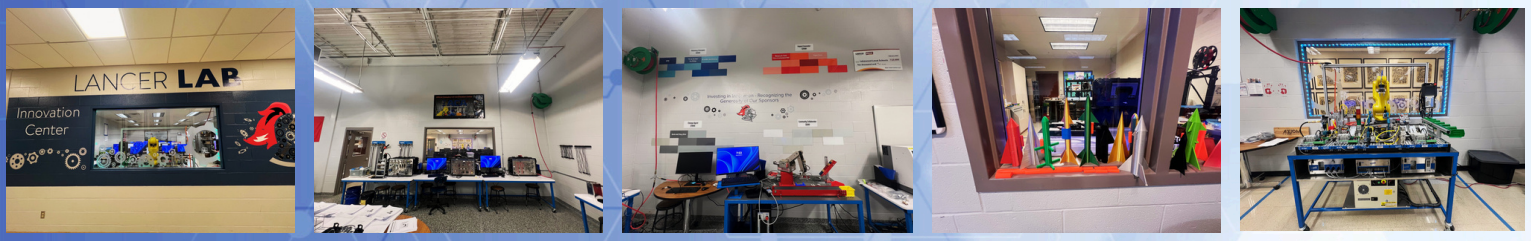


Welcome new Lakewood staff Members!



2025 Homecoming Court: Queen Emily Shull-Hodge and King Kyzic Overbay

Lakewood High School was awarded $5,000 through the Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN) Classroom Grant Program, funded by Battelle. This money will go toward materials and technology to support an integrated project between engineering and art class titled Art IS Rocket Science!



Our Lancer Lab continues to grow as a hub for creativity, technology, and hands-on learning. Students are exploring the world of automation, robotics, and engineering using advanced equipment like our new robotic training system, helping them develop real-world technical and problem-solving skills.

Did you know?

This Fall Season we kicked off a new Did You Know series highlighting the amazing achievements of our Lakewood local students! Stay tuned to our social media channels for more!

Did you know?

We have six students in the top 5% of the Class of 2026 who are eligible and have applied for the Governor's Merit Scholarship ($5k per year for four years at a state college or university).

LAKEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Did you know?

Our preschool is rated Gold through Step Up To Quality(SUTQ), the best possible rating of a three-tier quality rating and improvement system for Ohio's early learning and development programs. SUTQ recognizes and promotes programs that meet and exceed quality standards that are focused on improving outcomes for children.

LAKEWOOD PRESCHOOL

Did you know?

For the first quarter of this school year, 16 students earned Principal's List (4.0 GPA), 140 students achieved Honor Roll (3.5-3.99 GPA), and 62 students had perfect attendance.

LAKEWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

District Goal Areas for 2025-26

I want to share what my focus will be again this school year. The Lakewood Board of Education and I have been discussing many things since I was hired, and I want to be transparent with our families about where the priorities lie. I am doubling down on some of my priorities from last year, as I believe there is still more work to be done in these areas. -Superintendent Scott Coffey

Rigor in Teaching & Learning

This remains an important priority again this year. Lakewood Local Schools' curriculum is broad, balanced, and aligned with Ohio's Revised Learning Standards. There is a clear progression of knowledge and skills that is also flexible and responsive to individual student needs and interests. Our focus is on student growth, mastery of material, and achievement. My commitment to you is that we will be, now more than ever, measuring progress against our own philosophies and policies.

Student Behavior

Student and staff safety and sense of belonging are top priorities in the 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. We have heard concerns from parents and guardians about discipline and bullying, and yes, racism in our buildings. Based on these concerns and the subsequent conversation, we are taking action this year through additional staff training, additional student instruction, and consistent consequences for infractions.

Athletic Culture

We welcomed a new Athletic Director, Mr. Jamie Justus, for this school year. Like me, Mr. Justus believes 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.





School Attendance

This year, Lakewood is again raising the bar on student attendance. I believe that the student attendance rate is one of the most accurate predictive indicators of student success and preparedness, and that the student absenteeism rate is among the most accurate predictive indicators that students will struggle. I have charged all buildings with relentlessly pursuing remedies for all excessively absent and habitually truant students this year. In order to meet our goals, we simply must maximize the amount of time our students have with our excellent teachers to make the academic content more meaningful and accessible. We showed improvement in this area last year, and hope to see even better results in 2025-26.

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 think many people in our community feel this way, but we want the majority to. This year we are renewing our commitment to develop and promote attributes of Lakewood that are worthy of our community's pride and engagement.





FIVE GOALS

Strategic Plan Updates

In addition to everything above, all of our Strategic Plan Goal Areas, will continue be a focus. Some updates:

- The Student Experience committee is planning the second annual Lancer Day of Giving event for May 15, with the goal of engaging all students in community service, as well as developing signature learning events for each grade level like field trips, projects and hands-on experiences.
- Staff Experience is working on some social events for this school year, and has audited all the activities the individual buildings do for their staff to recognize and show appreciation for efficiency.
- Facility & Resource Management highlights inlcude a manhole replacement at LES, exterior door replacement at JIS, concrete replacement in the LMS courtyard, and some exterior lighting was upgraded LHS. In all buildings, Fire Extinguisher inspections and replacements were completed.
- Culture of Inclusion and Belonging will again work as a district to celebrate various days and months that represent the diversity within our district (e.g., Native American Heritage Month, Black History Month, and Women's History
- Month).
- The Community Pride & Engagement committee led the very successful Homecoming bonfire and additional activities. The committee will join forces with the Student Experience committee for the Lancer Day of Giving.

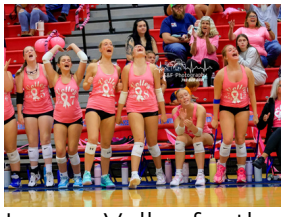
Lancer Athletic Highlights





Lancer Golf: Emery Lingo - District Qualifier- Finished 13th at the District Tournament.





Lancer Volley for the Cure

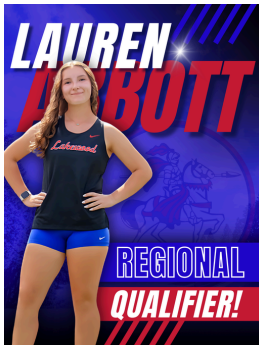


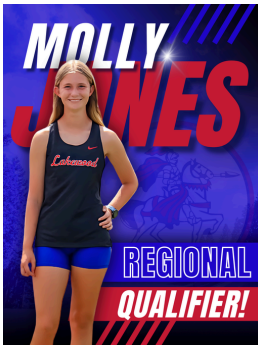
Lancer Fall Senior Athletic Photo Tradition



Left: Division 3 Section 2 Central District XC Boys Runner-up!
Right: LW Girls XC Regional Qualifiers.







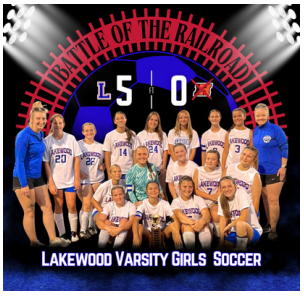




With the help of Creative Catering and Lakewood Little League Football, the LHS Football team sold cookies that benefited not only our football program, but also gifted several hundred dollars to the Lancer Locker.



Middle School Band Night



Girls Soccer wins the Battle of the Railroad



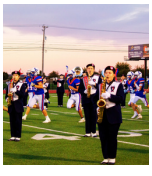
Josie Lynch earns 1500 career assists.



WALL OF FAME INDUCTEES 2025

Congratulations to the 2025 Wall of Fame inductees! We honored Jan Mason: A proud 1966 graduate of Lakewood High School and board member, Joyce Nadolson: Graduate of the Class of 1971 and teacher for 30 years and Rick Anthony: Dedicated baseball and basketball coach for the District. (Janet Anthony accepted on Rick's behalf.)

All three were recognized for Achievement during a special reception and ceremony in the Fall season before the football game. Thank you for your lasting impact and dedication to our Lancer community!

















District Finances

The District's year end was June 30, 2025. Below is a breakdown of general fund cash basis revenues and expenditures (our operational costs) for FY2025.

District General Fund Revenues

Property (Real Estate) Taxes	$19,059,556
Public Utility Property Taxes	$2,406,300
Unrestricted Grants-in-Aid	$4,791,590
Restricted Grants-in-Aid	$586,609
State Share of Local Property Taxes	$2,264,038
All Other Operating Revenue	$2,122,364
Other Financing Sources	$27,009
TOTAL INCOME FY25	**$31,257,466**

District General Fund Expenditures

Salaries & Wages	$15,356,272
Employee Retirement/Insurance	$5,865,484
Purchased Services	$2,986,109
Materials & Supplies	$999,779
Capital Outlay	$1,491,400
Debt: Principal and Interest	$284,731
Other Objects	$1,445,958
Transfers Out/Other Financing Sources	$2,083,904
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FY25	**$30,513,637**

DID YOU KNOW?

- Last school year, the District expended $2.1 million in federal awards. Of that amount, $869,000 was for Food Service activities, $73,000 was for COVID-19 ESSER activities, $167,000 was for K-12 School Safety funding and $964,000 was for Federal Title programming.
- Last school year, the Food Service department served 200,695 total lunches, which included 12,006 lunches to Eagle Wings Academy students, and served 112,688 total breakfasts, which included 7,217 breakfasts to Eagle Wings Academy students.
- Last school year, the Transportation department transported on average 954 students per day. The buses used 45,002 gallons of diesel fuel at a cost of $126,834.

Recently, the Lakewood Local School District Treasurer's Office was presented with the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting the June 30, 2024 Financial Reports. These certificates are the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment for the school district and its management. These reports are available on the District website under the District Treasurer tab.

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

525 E Main St
Hebron, OH 43025
740-928-5878

Planning Ahead

Fall 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:** https://www.lakewoodlocal.k12.oh.us/schools-page/lakewood-high-school/counseling-office/preparing-for-college
- **IXL (LMS student resource to practice math, social studies, science and ELA):** http://ixl.com/ (and login)

Key Dates for 2025-26 School Year

- **November 26-Dec. 1:** Thanksgiving Break
- **December 22-January 5:** Winter Break
- **January 19:** No School (MLK, Jr. Day)
- **February 16:** No School (Presidents' Day)
- **March 13:** No School (Records Day)
- **March 23-27:** Spring Break
- **April 3**: No School (Good Friday)
- **May 22:** Graduation (6:30pm)
- **May 25:** No School (Memorial Day)
- **May 28:** Students' Last Day
- **Late Start Dates:**
  - January 28, February 25, April 29

www.lakewoodlocal.k12.oh.us/calendars.aspx

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