

Lakeview Community Schools Viking Voyager

January 2026

Issue 5



From the Desk of the Superintendent

New Year's has long been associated with resolutions, those promises we make to ourselves to start something new, improve something old, or finally take on that project we've been thinking about for months. And there's actually science behind why we do this. Daniel Pink calls moments like January 1st *temporal landmarks*, natural reset points that give our minds permission to begin again.

Our minds see these temporal landmarks as the perfect time to act on those thoughts and ideas that have been sitting in the back of our heads, playing like the soundtrack to our own movie. It makes sense why we start when we do, because starting is the first big hurdle to overcome. The new year becomes the jump ball in a basketball game or the whistle to begin a wrestling match. We need that catalyst, and the calendar turning gives us one.

And if you think back to any time you've tried to begin a new resolution or plan, where did you put most of your energy? Most likely into the start. You bought the things that would "help," set up a planner, made a schedule, maybe even watched a few YouTube videos. You prepared yourself to begin. But the truth is, that's the easiest part. The real challenge is what happens next.

Most resolutions don't fall apart because the goal was wrong. They fall apart because we don't plan for the first time life gets in the way. We forget to make a plan for the days that don't go perfectly, or when we take a break, or when something unexpected interrupts the routine. We also often try to go too big too fast, expecting transformation overnight. But real change looks more like the tortoise than the hare: steady steps, small milestones, and consistency that eventually becomes a habit.

So why is your school superintendent talking about New Year's resolutions? Because everything we know about successful change applies just as much to communities as it does to individuals. The strongest predictor of whether a resolution will last is not motivation, it's support. It's having people who encourage us, walk with us, and help us get back on track when things don't go exactly as planned. That's what I've seen again and again at Lakeview. This is a community that shows up for one another, celebrates the wins, and lifts each other when the path gets tough. As we begin a new year together, my hope is that we continue to be that source of strength and encouragement for our students, our staff, and one another.

Small steps. Better soundtracks. And the support of a community that believes in moving forward: **together.**

We are Lakeview!

Rick Meyer
Superintendent
Lakeview Community Schools

Thank You, Lakeview Board of Education



January is School Board Appreciation Month, and Lakeview Community Schools would like to extend a sincere thank you to the dedicated individuals who serve our district.

Our board members, Keith Runge, Joy Escen, Chad Anderson, Eric Stuthman, Jerry Jaixen, and Jeremy Sprunk, generously give their time, leadership, and thoughtful decision making to support our students, staff, and community. Their commitment helps guide the vision of our district and ensures our schools remain a place where students can learn, grow, and succeed.

We are grateful for their service, their dedication to public education, and their continued support of Lakeview Community Schools.

The Viking Way Students of the Month

We strive to build a strong **academic** foundation with educational opportunities that develop **character** and the **mindset** needed for all students to be successful members of their community.

Avery Morhman

Congratulations to Avery Morhman for being selected as the Viking Way Student of the Month for December! Avery is a courageous and inspiring student. He is a responsible and reliable student who demonstrates a positive attitude. He works hard, and he is not afraid to take on a challenge. Great job Avery!



Holden Seda

Congratulations to Holden Seda for being selected as the Viking Way Student of the Month for December! Holden is an excellent student who strives to do his best academically. Holden has a positive attitude, he is enthusiastic, focused, and is a leader in his class. He is respectful of both his peers and teachers. Awesome job Holden!

Health Science 1

The Health Science 1 students at Lakeview were trained and certified in Basic Life Support (CPR) on December 10th. They learned how to perform CPR on adults, children, and infants; how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED); and how to respond to a choking emergency.





SEASON REVIEW 2025

Game #1 Lakeview vs. Omaha Gross W 38-9

Lakeview hosted the eventual playoff team to kick off the season. The Vikings won in all three phases and defeated the Cougars.

Game #2 Lakeview @ Adams Central W 34 - 6

Lakeview hit the road to take on an improved Patriot squad. Lakeview overcame some early missteps to pull away.

Game #3 Lakeview vs. Omaha Roncalli W 45 - 0

Lakeview returned home and took on the preseason ranked Crimson Pride. Lakeview played a very complete game.

Game #4 Lakeview vs. Mt. Michael (HC) W 21 - 7

Lakeview had a very tough battle against a very improved Knights team. Mt. Michael would eventually finish the season ranked #5 in class C-1.

Game #5 Lakeview @ Schuyler W 69 - 8

Every player on the team that was in uniform contributed to the big win for the Vikings.

Game #6 Lakeview @ Wayne W 55 - 7

The Vikings traveled to take on the Blue Devils at Wayne State College. Lakeview played very inspired football.

Game #7 Lakeview vs. Scotus W 35 - 3

Parker Osten blocked a punt late in the first half to break open a tight game. The Vikings never looked back.

Game #8 Lakeview @ Pierce W 21-19

Pierce is always a tough place to play. The Vikings had just enough in the tank to turn away the Bluejays late in the 4th quarter.

Game #9 Lakeview vs. O'Neill W 29-19

Lakeview would host the Eagles with the district title on the line. Both teams played inspired football. Lakeview would score late to put it away.

Game #10 Lakeview vs. Boys Town W 21-14

Lakeview would face a surging Boys Town Cowboy team that would not go away. It was a great 4 quarter battle.

Game #11 Lakeview vs. Aurora W 45-0

Lakeview played arguably their best game of the year. Lakeview dominated the Huskies to earn a trip to their second semifinal appearance in 5 years.

Game #12 Lakeview vs. Sidney L 24-28

This was the first semifinal game at Lakeview since 1990. Both teams were hungry to get to the final. This #2 vs #3 match up would live up to the hype. Sidney would eventually outlast the Vikings to reach their first ever final.

SUB VARSITY SEASON REVIEW 2025

The Junior Varsity and Reserve teams combined for a 7-2 Record. JV finished 6-0 and the Reserves were 1-2 on the year! Both teams competed very hard and improved every week during the season!



ALL DISTRICT

1st TEAM ALL DISTRICT OFFENSE

QB - Rylin Viergutz
RB - Brandon DeAanda
WR - Blake Rathbone

1st TEAM ALL DISTRICT DEFENSE

DL - Levi Hrouda
DL - Grayson Vogt
DL - Luke Wellman
LB - Parker Osten
OLB - Trevor Sloup
DB - Jett Borer

HONORABLE MENTION

WR - Nash Henk
OL - Carter Schmidt
OL - Dane Soulliere
DB - Caleb Sloup

ALL STATE

1st TEAM ALL STATE

KICKER/ATHLETE - BrandonDeAanda
OL/LB - Parker Osten
OL - Grayson Vogt
DT - Luke Wellman

HONORABLE MENTION ALL STATE

DL - Jett Borer
WR - Blake Rathbone
OLB - Trevor Sloup
QB - Rylin Viergutz



ACADEMIC ALL STATE

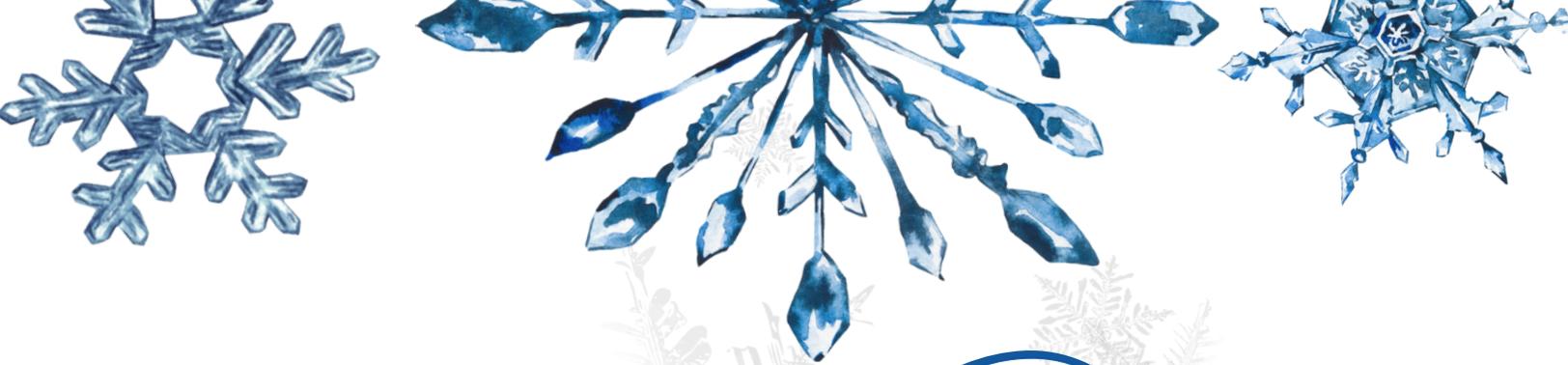
Jett Borer
Caleb Sloup

AWARDS

PANCAKE AWARD - Carter Schmidt
BALL HAWK AWARD - Trevor Sloup
HIT MAN AWARD - Levi Hrouda
PRACTICE MVP - Will Stuthman
PRACTICE MVP - Peyton Halvorsen
SCOUT TEAM MVP - Preston Wacker
MOST IMPROVED PLAYER - Nash Henk
BLUE COLLAR AWARD - Trevor Sloup
BLUE COLLAR AWARD - Luke Wellman
SPECIAL TEAMS MVP - Brandon DeAanda
DEFENSIVE MVP - Grayson Vogt
OFFENSIVE MVP - Blake Rathbone
OFFENSIVE MVP - Rylin Viergutz
TEAM MVP - Parker Osten
VIKING PRIDE AWARD - C.Sloup, J.Borer

COACHES

Head Coach - Kurt Frenzen
Defensive Cord. - Jeff Bargaen
Defensive Cord. - Aaron Rudloff
ST Cord - Nolan Vandenberg
Defensive Backs - Patrick Clark
Head JV - Jimmy Biggs
JV Spec Teams - Caden Ranslem
Assistant - Zach Lesiak
Assistant - Ethan Piper



Snowball Winter Formal 2026

HOSTED BY THE SENIOR CLASS

**SATURDAY, JANUARY
10TH, 2026**

All 9-12 Lakeview students are invited to attend the Snowball Winter Formal. The dance will be held Saturday, January 10th, 2026 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm in the LHS West Gym.

Admission will be \$5 per person, paid at the door that evening.

All Lakeview patrons are invited to attend the crowning of our Snow Ball royalty at 7:30 pm that evening in the West gym.

As the senior class is hosting the event, all members of the Class of 2026 are reminded that we will clean up the last half hour of the dance that evening – cleanup will be done by 10:00 pm.

Mark your calendars to ring in the New Year at the Snowball Winter Formal!

Physical Training

The first semester of Physical Training was met with a variety of changes. Students were challenged 3-4 times per week to compete against themselves. The beginning of the semester showed changes in mindset, and as the semester progressed, those changes in mindset became an expectation. Teachers and students worked together and worked through adversity to achieve personal success. Whether students in Physical Training were athletes or non-athletes, they all met the same expectation: "Be the best version of yourself each day." With that knowledge, students had the autonomy to demonstrate they could push past their previous best, or understand their best on a particular day may not be their Personal Best of all-time. This allowed students to be okay with failure, but not complacent. As a result, Mr. Frenzen, Mr. Vandenberg, and Mr. Sjuts recorded over 1,300 Personal Records! As teachers and coaches of the weight room, we are incredibly proud of the effort students put in this semester and are eager to continue to help students progress to be their very best each day. Our goal for the 2025-2026 school year is to achieve 2,000 PR's.



➔ SENIOR PICTURES DUE NOW! LAST CHANCE!

It's time to submit **senior pictures** for this year's yearbook! Please submit headshots to Mrs. Schatz at kschatz@lakeview.esu7.org. Specifications for submission are below. If we do not receive a picture for your senior student by **January 31**, we will use the headshot taken for school pictures. These pictures will be used for the yearbook, for the senior slide show, and for the Columbus Telegram.

Senior Photo Submission Requirements:

- Email the image to be used (kschatz@lakeview.esu7.org)
- JPG Format
- Minimum 200 DPI
- Cropped vertically
- No special effects (soft focus, b/w, sepia, etc...)
- **Submission due by January 31**

****Note**** Headshots are required for the Telegram. If you submit a photo that is focused further away, know that it may be cropped to meet the requirements for the Telegram.

Important Yearbook Info

➔ SENIOR ADS FOR YOUR SPECIAL SENIOR - LAST CHANCE!!

Attention Parents of Seniors!! Graduating from high school is such a wonderful milestone in your child's life. We would like to offer the opportunity for you to mark this occasion by ordering a senior advertisement in the yearbook. These "ads" will contain your child's senior picture already submitted and a baby picture if that was also submitted. You can then personalize the ad by writing a note to your child. Past notes have been ones of encouragement and love. The limit is 150 words. You can submit these ads to kschatz@lakeview.esu7.org. The cost is \$50 per ad. Please make payment to Lakeview High School with senior ad marked in the memo. All ads and payment must be submitted by **January 31**. We only have 2 spots available, so get your senior ad today!



Platte Center Grandparents' Day



What's more fun than making gingerbread houses? Making them with our grandparents! Platte Center Kindergarten and 1st grade students welcomed 70 special guests who joined them for lunch and helped build gingerbread houses together. It was a joyful day of creativity and sharing the spirit of Christmas. Warm thanks to our guests for being part of such a memorable day.

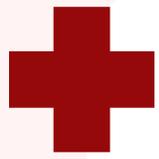




Platte Center Grandparents' Day



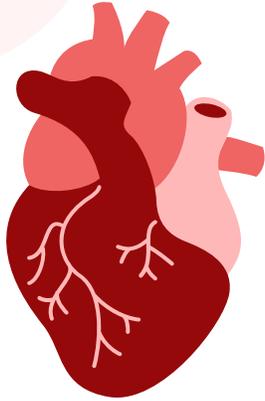
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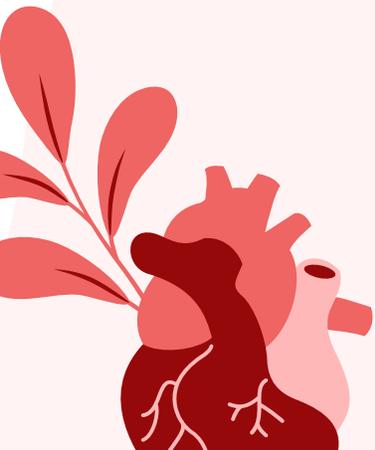
HEART



CHALLENGE



Platte Center Elementary students took part in the Kids' Heart Challenge in December. If they achieved their fundraising goal of \$3,000, the top donors would have the opportunity to slime Mrs. Childers. Thanks to their efforts, they reached their goal, and Mrs. Childers was slimed during the Morning Meeting on Thursday, December 17th.



SHELL CREEK 1ST GRADE AR PARTY

STUDENTS WHO MET THEIR
GOAL OF 4 POINTS OR MORE
FOR THE 2ND QUARTER
ENJOYED BUILDING
"GINGERBREAD VILLAGES"

WE ARE SUPER PROUD FOR
THEIR HARD WORK AND
DEDICATION TO READING.





1ST GRADE AR PARTY



St. John's Lutheran School Newsletter

The Christmas season is here and the students at St. John's enjoyed all the steps of preparation....from learning songs and parts for the Christmas Program on Christmas Eve, creating handmade cards for their prayer partners, and creating personalized Christmas tree picture frame ornaments for their parents. Sharing the reason for the season, the birth of the Savior Jesus, brings us great Joy!

The students enjoyed the first snow! There was just enough to build a few snowmen, but definitely not enough to interrupt our recess football game! Pre-school and pre-kindergarten have finished their initial learning of the alphabet, and enjoyed listening to stories read by Mrs. Nolan. Students in The Little Room have been working on the long A sound, spelled with 'ai' and 'ay'. In Kindergarten, they have been discovering all about dimes and how to count by ten. Working on number words and distinguishing between singular and plural nouns is what the First graders are doing in class. The Primary Room is learning in Social Studies about the fascinating stories of Squanto, the Pilgrims, and their journey on the Mayflower. English uses fun and descriptive adjectives to spice up our sentences, such as exciting, interesting, and informative. Written for our amusement were stories about blue apple pie, grumpy brothers, and soft jelly beans. The Middle Room students have finished the class novel, Number the Stars, and learned the scariness of the Holocaust history. For Social Studies, the students have been exploring the reasons why people moved to the colonies, and how they lived before our country became the United States. The students in the Big Room are always staying engaged with a variety of daily activities like math lessons, classroom novels, working on technology (Building Healthy Digital Habits), science, and history.

Prior to leaving for Christmas break, we had the pleasure of Ben from Camp Luther joining us. He guided our chapel service, introduced some new songs, and explained the Story of Balaam as a prophecy of the birth of Jesus. The "Star" is understood as pointing forward to Christ, and it clearly connects to the Star of Bethlehem in Matthew 2:1-2. And the "scepter" symbolizes kingship, fulfilled in Jesus, the promised King from the line of David. This is God lighting our way and showing us the promise of Jesus coming! Blessings to you and your family in 2026!



CHRIST LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD, ALL THE EARTH;
BREAK FORTH INTO JOYOUS SONG AND SING PRAISES! PSALM 98:4

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Christ Lutheran Happenings

As we close out our first semester, we are thankful for all of the opportunities we have had to serve our community and church, and show the love of Jesus during this special season. Our upper grades classroom once again received nominations for their "elder tree", with over 40 people receiving goodies this year! Delivery was a windy one, but it brought lots of smiles and warm moments to those who needed it this time of year. The students have also been busy preparing for their Children's Christmas Service, to be held on December 21st at 5PM. Another chance to tell the story of the reason for the season. Our parents and teachers also teamed up to serve an advent meal to our congregation, which was appreciated by all! Our upper grades also hosted our annual Market Day this last week of school, with 6 unique businesses for our students and community to shop. It was a great success, with several selling out of their goods! We also held our second Prayer Partner event, with students and congregation members making beautiful ornaments together. We pray that your family has a blessed Christmas, we will see you in the new year!



Upcoming Dates

- **Dec 21st : Children's Christmas Service, 5PM at Christ Lutheran Church**
- **Dec 22-Jan 5: Winter Break**
- **Jan. 25th: Pancake Feed and Book Fair**
- **Jan. 25-31: National Lutheran Schools Week**

2025-2026 LAKEVIEW CLUB WRESTLING

The 2025-26 Lakeview Club Wrestling Season Pre-K-8th grade is right around the corner. A parent meeting will be held in the Lakeview High School cafeteria and the first club practice will be on Monday, **December 22nd, 2025, at 6:30 pm**. Topics will include: wrestling attire, tournament schedule, fundraisers, practice dates and times, Lakeview Club Tournament, coaching and wrestler expectations, as well as any questions you may have. **Don't miss this thrilling opportunity to expose your child to one of the oldest sports known to man!**

Check it out and see if the Lakeview Wrestling Club is right for you! All skill levels are invited. We have **designated December 8th, 15th, 22nd as dates that will have pre-season practices that will focus on fundamentals of the sport**. Practice will run from 6:30- 7:30 PM for the three preseason practices. Bring your child up whether he's experienced or new to the sport of wrestling.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call Coach Bargaen. If you are interested in taking a bigger role such as club coach, please contact Coach Bargaen.

High School Coach:
Jeff Bargaen- 402-440-2039



HS & JH Wrestling Coaches:

Logan Rodehorst - HS
Aaron Wilson - HS & JH
Tanner Balfour – HS
Jacob Kloppel - HS
Brandon Glendy - JH

Registration fee per child is \$60. This will include:

- USA Wrestling membership which will carry insurance
- Entry fee to all club wrestling tournaments
- Lakeview Wrestling T-shirt

Dates to Remember:

- **Friday, December 5th** – Come cheer on the high school boys and girls wrestling teams at the Lakeview Invite.
- **Mondays in December 8th, 15th, 22nd** – **Pre-season practices 6:30-7:30 PM**
- **Monday, December 22nd at 6:30 PM** in Lakeview cafeteria. This is the organizational parent meeting. Bring your child along for the preseason practice during the meeting. Club calendar will be handed out, registration paid, and all information will be collected.
- **Mondays and Thursdays** evenings will be designated practice nights after the first meeting. We will have a beginner (Pre-K -2nd) practice from 6:15 – 7:00 PM and an advanced (3rd-8th) from 7:00 – 8:15 PM.
- **Sunday January 25th** - will be our club invite. We host a large tournament, and this is a big fundraiser for our club. We will need everyone's help to make this a success again.
- **Monday, Jan 26th – Feb 9th** - This is our trash bag fundraiser. Please collect the money on the front end of the sale. People love these bags and we have a lot of return customers each year.



LAKEVIEW COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Part-Time Kitchen Help (Shell Creek)
- Student Services Driver (District)
- Head Softball Coach
- Assistant Boys Soccer Coach
- Assistant JH Girls Wrestling Coach
- Assistant Varsity Girls Wrestling
Coach



EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE TODAY!

For more information about these opportunities, please visit our website at www.lakeview.esu7.org

January 2026

Lunch Menu

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Menus are subject to change	Offered daily. Fruit and veggie bar Assorted milk and water			1 NO SCHOOL	2 NO SCHOOL	3
4	5 NO SCHOOL	6 Hamburgers Baked beans Smile fries	7 Chicken fajita Brown rice Black beans	8 Pork steak Mashed potatoes, gravy Corn Rolls	9 Pizza Peas Cookie	10
11	12 Pulled pork Baked beans Chips	13 Bosco stick Mariana sauce Green beans Tri-potatoes	14 Chicken patty Mixed veggies Scalloped potatoes	15 Baked pasta. w/ meat sauce Corn Garlic toast	16 Mandarin orange chicken Brown rice Broccoli Fortune cookie	17
18	19 Rib patty French fries Green beans	20 Corn dogs Mac cheese Peas Cookie	21 Chicken Quesadillas Rice Carrots	22 Biscuit w/sausage gravy Tri potato Yogurt cup	23 Sloppy Joes Chips Baked beans	24
25	26 Chicken nuggets Mashed potatoes Corn Roll	27 Fish sticks Mac cheese Peas	28 Chili soup /cheese Crackers Cinnamon rolls	29 Chicken Alfredo Carrots Breadstick	30 Ham cheese Chips Baked beans	31 This institution is an equal opportunity provider

LAKEVIEW VIKINGS

SIDELINE STORE

FIND YOUR STYLE



70 +
CUSTOM
DESIGNS

OVER
25
BRANDS

YOUR PURCHASE SUPPORTS THE
LAKEVIEW ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

SHOP NOW

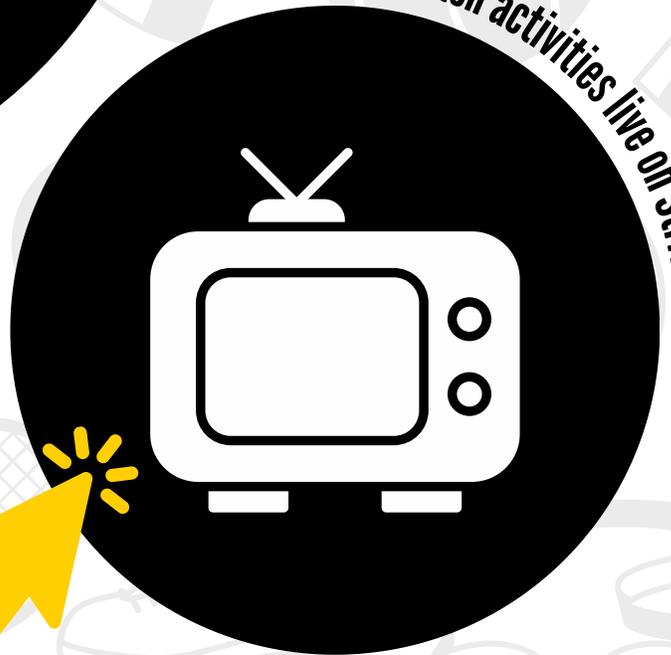
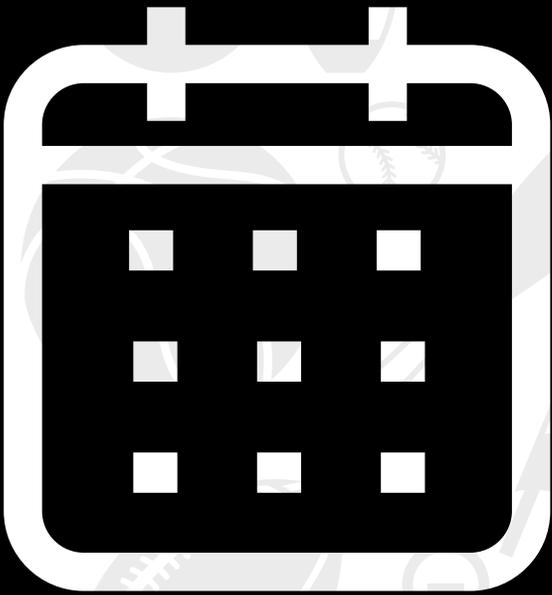


<https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/nebraska/columbus/lakeview-high-school>

Lakeview Community Schools

ACTIVITIES

Lakeview Community Schools Activities Calendar



Watch activities live on Striv

Lakeview

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Community Resources

[Columbus Area Mental Health and Counseling Services](#)

[Community Response](#): to assist children, youth and families to be healthy and resilient through a prevention network of community resources.

Community Response contact information:

Email: rmiksche@columbusunitedway.com

Office: 402-564-5661

Locations:

1119 B Street	3214 25th St, Ste 2
Schuyler, NE	Columbus, NE

[Columbus Area Service Directory](#)

Lakeview Resources

- Need to talk to someone? Does your family have any basic needs that are not being met?

→ Mrs. Mollie Rambour, Junior High & Platte Center School Counselor

→ Mrs. Hellbusch, Shell Creek School Counselor

→ Mrs. Paige Rambour, High School Counselor

[99 Coping Skills](#)

[Mindfulness Practice Cards](#)

[101 Positive Things to Say to Myself](#)

[Your Life Your Voice Website](#)

[988 Lifeline Website](#)

Hotlines/ Helplines

Your Life Your Voice- Boystown National Hotline:

 1-800-448-3000

 Text "Voice" to 20121

Crisis Response- use in case of an emergency or mental health crisis:

 (402) 564-3264

National Suicide and Crisis Hotline:

 988
 800-273-8255 (TALK)

DHHS Child Abuse and Neglect:

 800-652-1999

211 Helpline:

 2-1-1 or 402-444-6666

 Text your zip code (68601) to 898211

TEAMMATESSM

MENTORING
of Columbus

For tickets scan the QR code
or visit <https://bit.ly/RedAndWhiteNight>



RED & WHITE NIGHT

Join us for an exciting fundraising event featuring Husker Volleyball Coach Dani Busboom Kelly. Support our mission of helping area youth reach their full potential through mentoring.



TUESDAY, JANUARY 27TH
PRIME 10 VENUE

DOORS OPEN 5:45 PM MEAL &
PROGRAM STARTING AT 6:30PM

Contact TeamMates with any questions

402-564-8326



mentor@columbusteammates.org