



— Lakeview Local Schools — **LAKEVIEW LEDGER**

February 2026

From the Desk of the Superintendent

Dear Lakeview Families,

February is often a month where we pause, take stock of where we are, how far we've come, and what lies ahead. At Lakeview, that reflection is deeply rooted in one shared priority: doing right by our students and the staff who serve them every day.



Although the 2026–2027 school year may feel distant, thoughtful planning for that future is already underway. This work is not abstract or theoretical, it is driven by classrooms, hallways, buses, practices, performances, and the daily experiences of our children. Treasurer Armstrong is currently finalizing the district's three-year financial forecast, a critical step in ensuring that Lakeview remains both fiscally responsible and student-centered.

As part of this process, we remain committed to living within our means. When possible, we plan to manage costs through attrition, allowing natural turnover to reduce expenses while protecting programs and maintaining stability for students. However, we also owe our community honesty: the financial cuts being imposed on Lakeview far exceed what we can responsibly "cut our way out of." These challenges are not the result of irresponsible spending, unnecessary positions, or frivolous programs. Our budget reflects the real, essential work of educating and supporting children.

Recently, we were notified that county commissioners are considering an expansion plan connected to the Homestead Exemption and Owner Occupancy credits. If implemented, this would mean an additional annual loss of approximately \$450,000 for Lakeview, further compounding reductions we will soon have to absorb.

It is important for our families to hear this clearly: this situation was not caused by a failed levy or a lack of community support. Instead, we are facing the impact of state-level legislative decisions that continue to erode public school funding, shifting responsibility away from the state and onto local districts.

Lakeview operates with remarkable efficiency. We spend roughly 30% less than the statewide average per pupil, and we have not asked our taxpayers for new operating money since 2010. That is something we are proud of, but it is not something that should come at the expense of our students' opportunities or our staff's well-being.

We also want to be clear about what we believe: our educators and staff cannot continue to be asked to do more with less. They already give generously of their time, energy, and hearts to Lakeview students. At some point, continued reductions stop being numbers on a page and start affecting children directly.

Once Treasurer Armstrong presents the three-year financial forecast to the Board of Education later this month, we will share our fiscal savings plan first with staff, then with the community. Transparency matters to us, and we want our families to understand both the challenges we face and the thoughtful steps we are taking in response.

Please know this above all: we are fighting for Lakeview. We are advocating for our students, standing up for our staff, and working every angle to keep our district strong, whole, and focused on what matters most...kids!

Thank you for your continued trust, partnership, and belief in Lakeview. We do not take it lightly, and we remain committed to walking this path together.

With gratitude and resolve,
Ashley Handrych, Superintendent

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Lakeview Celebrates Margie Petrunia, Ohio RISE Award



Lakeview Local Schools is proud to celebrate Margie Petrunia, who was recently honored with the Ohio RISE Award for Outstanding Classified Employee. This statewide recognition highlights classified staff members who go above and beyond in service to students, families, and their school communities, and Margie exemplifies that distinction in every way.

Margie was nominated for this award by Superintendent Handrych, who describes her simply as “one in a million.” That sentiment is shared by anyone who has had the privilege of working alongside her.

In her role at Lakeview, Margie brings compassion, consistency, and an unwavering commitment to doing what is best for students. She shows up every day with a servant’s heart, quietly supporting students and staff, anticipating needs, and creating a sense of calm and care wherever she goes. Her work often happens behind the scenes, but its impact is felt across the district.

The Ohio RISE Award recognizes classified employees who demonstrate exceptional dedication, professionalism, and positive influence within their schools. Margie embodies all of these qualities and then some. She is a trusted colleague, a tireless advocate for kids, and a reflection of the very best of Lakeview.

We are incredibly grateful for Margie Petrunia and the difference she makes each day. Please join us in congratulating her on this well-deserved honor and thanking her for the heart, humility, and excellence she brings to Lakeview Local Schools.

Finding School Spirit in the Moments that Matter Most

When we think about school spirit, our minds often go to packed student sections on Friday nights, coordinated chants, theme nights, and bleachers full of color. Those moments still matter, and they always will, but the way our students show up for one another has evolved in powerful and meaningful ways.



Spirit today doesn’t always look like noise.

Sometimes, it looks like presence.



Recently, on a snow day, when schedules were disrupted and routines paused, our staff and students made their way to the bowling alley, not because they had to, but because they wanted to. They came to support our Bowldogs, to cheer them

on, to let them know they were seen and valued.

No pep band. No student section assignment. Just people showing up for people.

That moment reminded us that the heart of Lakeview is not confined to gym walls or stadium seats. It lives in the compassion our students show each other, in the choice to carve out time, and in the understanding that support matters, especially when it’s unexpected.



In a world that often feels heavy, joy still exists in the pockets of these actions.



This is Lakeview spirit.

It’s evolving, it’s thoughtful, and it’s deeply rooted in care. We are proud of our students and staff not just for how they compete, but for how they support, uplift, and choose kindness in moments big and small.

Celebrating Artistic Talent: Scholastic Art Show

Lakeview Local Schools is proud to celebrate the incredible creativity and talent of our students who were recognized at the Regional Scholastic Art Show and Award Ceremony. This prestigious exhibition showcases outstanding student artwork from across the region and honors young artists whose work demonstrates originality, skill, and powerful personal expression.



Our Lakeview artists stood out among an exceptionally competitive field. Their pieces reflected not only technical ability, but also thoughtfulness, voice, and a willingness to take creative risks. From drawing and painting to mixed media and design, their work told stories, asked questions, and invited viewers to see the world through their eyes.

The Scholastic Art Awards program is one of the nation's most respected platforms for student artists, with a long history of celebrating emerging talent and encouraging artistic growth. Being selected for exhibition, and earning recognition at the regional level, is a meaningful accomplishment and a testament to the dedication our students bring to their craft.



We are incredibly proud of these students for sharing their creativity so boldly and authentically. Their success is also a reflection of the strong support they receive from their teachers, families, and the Lakeview community.

Congratulations to our talented Lakeview artists on this well-earned recognition. Your creativity inspires us, and we cannot wait to see where your artistic journeys lead next.

Kindergarten Registration

Calling all 2026-2027 Kindergarteners!!

Kindergarten registration for next school year will open on Monday, February 2nd. Students **MUST** be 5 years of age **BEFORE** the first day of school to enroll.

To begin the registration process, scan the QR code below or visit

www.lakeviewlocal.org/register-a-student



Questions?

Email us at registration@lakeviewlocal.org or call the Superintendent's office at (330) 637-8741

We can't wait to meet our newest class of Bulldogs!!



Important Dates:

- FEBRUARY 12th : K-8 Parent Teacher Conferences
- FEBRUARY 13th - 16th: **NO SCHOOL**, Presidents Day Weekend
- FEBRUARY 19th : LHS Parent Teacher Conferences
- FEBRUARY 26th: LHS Band Concert