WINTER 2025-2026 NEWSLETTER

LAKEWOOD LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Reimagining education, instilling community pride, inspiring future success.







Lakewood Schools Community,

It is hard to believe that we are already three-quarters of the way through this school year, and our students are preparing for their final quarter of 2025-26. Many great achievements have happened since the Fall newsletter and I'm happy to share them with you.

First, I think most of you should know by now that I have announced my plan to retire at the end of this school year. It was a decision not made lightly because I love this district and have for the last 25 years. I deeply appreciate all of you for your support and partnership throughout these last 20 or so months. As I mentioned in the specific message about my retirement, I believe that I, the Board of Education, the faculty and staff, and the families have worked together to ensure that Lakewood Local Schools remains a place where students achieve success while being seen, known, challenged, and supported.

I would also like to share that our district as a whole, and each of the individual schools, were selected for Gold Awards by the Ohio Department of Education's State Support Team for their work and progress in the area of PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports). PBIS is a comprehensive system of taught and known expectations for behavior and conduct in the buildings, with common expectations and common language that is woven into the very fabric of day-to-day operations. It involves incentives and recognitions and represents the constant reinforcement of desired behaviors and conduct. Receiving the Gold Award means we have gone above and beyond in implementing strong practices that support student success both academically and socially. Congratulations to all!

There are many more highlights within these pages. As we move into spring, many exciting things are on the horizon. The LHS and LMS spring musicals, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Bye Bye Birdie, Jr.*, respectively, are coming up. The LHS production will take place during the weekend of April 17-19, while the LMS production will be on May 7. We're also looking forward to the spring sports season, with Lancer Baseball, Softball, and Track & Field programs striving for continued success. Lastly, the Class of 2026 will end their Lakewood Lancer career with Commencement on Friday, May 22, from The Court in Lakewood High School at 6:30 p.m.



We have several things to look forward to on the horizon. As we move forward, 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 finish the 2025-26 school year. Let's go, Lancers!

Sincerely,

Scott Coffey
Superintendent
Lakewood Local Schools






Lancer PRIDE Spotlight



LES 2nd grade students spoke at the Board of Education meeting, sharing their learning experiences.



Brittaney Crider: Leaders for Learning Award



LHS Quiz Bowl District Champions



Riley Williams was voted in as one of the nine Central Regional Officers for SkillsUSA











LMS District Spelling Bee pictured left to right: Carter Abbott (1st Place) and Allison Artin (runner-up); Geography Bee AND History Bee Champion: 8th grade - Ben Ruhl; 7th grade-Garett Dougherty; 6th Grade Geography Bee Champion: Tanner Shepherd; History Bee Champion: Mason Daniels

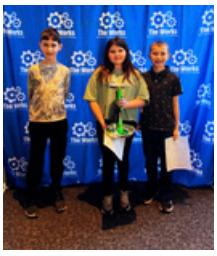


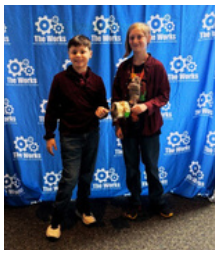


The Lancer bands performed at District 10 OMEA Large Group for the first time in 20 years. Symphonic Band earned a rating of Superior (I). Concert Band performed at a high level.



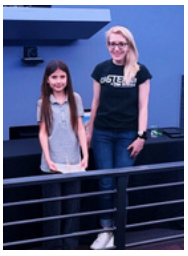
This school year marked the first official year of our DECA program. One team advanced to the State DECA Competition and four additional students competed at the District level. (Pictured from Left to Right, Carsen Gilroy, Evan Gardner, Ashlyn Carder, & Matt Frischen.)











5th Grade students participated in the STEMFest at the Works: Ohio Center for History, Art, & Technology. Sawyer Springer earned the judges award for her innovative car design (pictured second to last on the right) and Zeveah Simco earned the Judges Award for her toothpick bridge. (pictured far right)



Lancer Locker Community Donation Drive: Thank you to THK Manufacturing of America, Inc., Village of Hebron, and WIN Waste Innovations for being incredible community partners.











LMS Production of *Bye Bye Birdie, Jr.* and LHS Production of *A Christmas Carol*

District Goal Areas for 2025-26

At the start of the school year, I told you that I would be focused on the following priorities, so I'd like to provide an update on progress in these areas after the first three quarters of the school year. -Superintendent Scott Coffey

Rigor in Teaching & Learning

The district is in the second year of implementation of the new K-5 English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum, with a continued focus on strengthening instructional consistency and improving student outcomes. To support continuous improvement, the LES Reading Team meets biweekly to analyze student performance data, monitor progress toward individual learning goals, and make data-informed instructional adjustments. Teachers at JIS meet regularly with the Ohio Reads Coach to support curriculum implementation and ensure the consistent use of evidence-based instructional strategies, including Get the Gist and RACE. In addition, the district has implemented the SPIRE and Sound Sensible reading intervention programs, which align with the Science of Reading and complement existing interventions such as REWARDS, IXL, and Orton-Gillingham. All K-8 students and select students in grades 9-12 who are identified as below benchmark in reading receive a minimum of 30 minutes of targeted intervention daily. As implementation continues, teams are reflecting on instructional practices and student data to identify areas of strength and opportunities for continued growth. In mathematics, the Math Committee has reviewed Ohio's Math Plan to guide curriculum alignment and inform future instructional priorities. The Technology Committee is advancing a cohesive, districtwide approach to teaching and learning by aligning instructional practices with updated student learning standards and educator expectations, with an emphasis on purposeful technology integration to support academic growth.

Student Behavior

Student and staff safety and sense of belonging remain 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 continue to take decisive disciplinary action this year through consistent consequences for infractions. Little by little we are making improvements in this area.

School Attendance

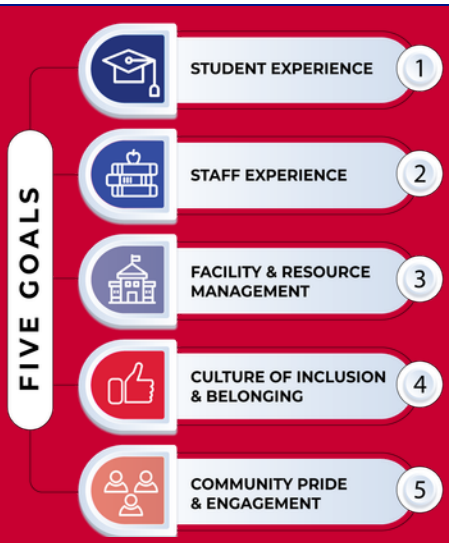
This year, Lakewood is again raising the bar on student attendance. I have said many times the student attendance rate is one of the most accurate predictive indicators of student success and preparedness, and that the student absenteeism rate is among the most accurate predictive indicators that students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

Athletic Culture

We welcomed a new Athletic Director, Mr. Jamie Justus, for this school year. Like me, Mr. Justus believes athletics can be an important part of student development, proven to support academic performance, teamwork, mental health, leadership, and more. We continue to focus on making sure our athletes are representing our values in every contest, our athletic department and programs are running smoothly and efficiently, and concerns are addressed and resolved. We are now in the midst of Winter Sports Season and many of our programs are showing growth. I'd like to remind students that they are admitted free of charge to all Lakewood home sporting events. When we have a strong student section, the atmosphere at these events can be a real advantage. With our excellent cheer team and pep band, it is even more so!

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. Once again, this year we are renewing our commitment to develop and promote attributes of Lakewood that are worthy of our community's pride and engagement.



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. If any local businesses or community members would like to get involved in our day of giving they can contact Dee Martindale at dmartindale@Lakewoodlocal.org.
- Facility & Resource Management highlights include the long-awaited start of our modular project at JIS – the project will add several new classroom spaces at the intermediate school and eliminate some of the crowded conditions we have experienced since moving the 3rd grade into that building along with 4th and 5 th. Other highlights include: epoxy flooring of the restrooms at the blue building, door replacement and fobbing completion of kitchen door at LHS, light replacement at the stadium, dumpster replacement at all four buildings, and some equipment replacement in the walk=in freezer at JIS.

Lancer Athletic Highlights

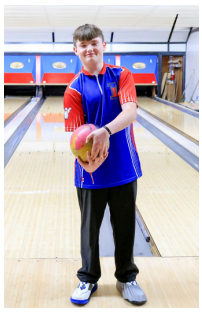
Left: Sam Zwayer: Boys High Game LCL with 279 game





Braylon Brooks: Indoor Track State qualifier





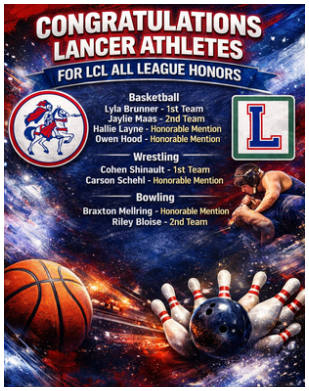
District Qualifiers: Riley Bloise and Braxton Mellring



JV Girls Bowling: LCL Champions



LHS Girls Swim 400 Yard Freestyle Relay qualified for the District Championships: Milly Meldau, Khloe Antunes, Adison Weekly, and Rehgan Marietta





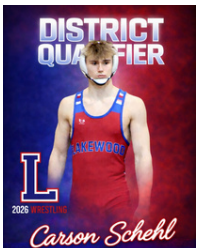


Left: LHS Wrestling State Qualifier: Carson Schehl & Cohen Shinault & District Qualifier: Tucker Ostgaard.

Right: Tanner Ostgaard, Middle School LCL League Champion













Did you know?

This Winter Season we continued showcasing our "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 been supporting the Leads Buckeye Lake Food Pantry for the past five years with a food drive in the month of February. This year we collected 711 items that will benefit the families in our community.

JACKSON INTERMEDIATE

Did you know?

Lakewood Elementary has a second grade student advisory group that meets monthly to make decisions and suggestions to help the school.

LAKEWOOD ELEMENTARY

Did you know?

Our preschool students score, on average, 20% higher on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment than students who do not attend preschool.

LAKEWOOD PRESCHOOL

District Finances

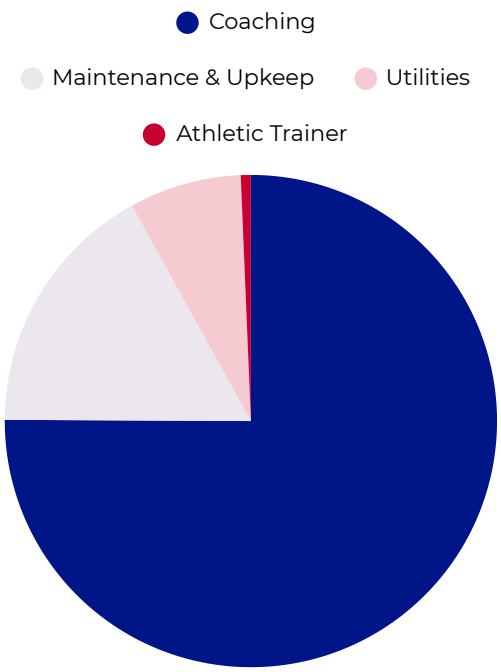
There is often discussion on what the revenue and expenditure differences are between the District's inter-scholastic athletic fund, the District General Fund, and the Lakewood Athletic Boosters. The following is information to keep our community informed about the District's finances.

Athletic Revenues & Expenditures

Lakewood Local Schools has an inter-scholastic athletic fund. The purpose of this fund is to promote inter-scholastic athletic contests with all related activities and to provide wholesome competition in a learning environment for all students. The number of high school and middle school student participants in the 2024-2025 school year was 589 students.

The major sources of revenues for this fund are season ticket sales, season stadium seat sales, gate receipts, tournament or invitational fees, and donations. Revenues for the 2024-2025 school year was $81,474. The inter-scholastic athletic fund also received $25,000 from the District's General Fund.

The major sources of expenditures for this fund include game officials, police security, maintenance of fields, athletic trainer costs and medical supplies, entry fees, league dues, and student awards and recognitions. Expenditures for the 2024-2025 school year was $103,484.



The Lakewood Local School District's General Fund also supports athletic expenditures. The District's General Fund pays for coaching supplementals, related benefits, athletic trainer cost, utilities, maintenance and upkeep of athletic facilities. Expenditures during the 2024-2025 school year included:

- Coaching Supplementals & Related Benefits = $320,494
- Maintenance/Upkeep of Athletic Facilities = $72,082
- Utilities (Electric, Water/Sewage, Gas, Internet, Trash) = $31,477
- Athletic Trainer Costs = $2,812

Lakewood Athletic Boosters is its own separate non-profit organization and maintains its own set of accounting books. The Athletic Booster funds are not commingled with the District's athletic accounts. The Athletic Boosters help support school district programs and students. They use the proceeds from many of their fundraisers to support athletic teams with uniform purchases, team supplies and other requests made by the team to the Athletic Boosters.

DID YOU KNOW?

In addition to athletics, there were many student participants in the performing arts programs for the 2024-2025 school year. There were 127 high school band participants; 109 high school Drama participants; 80 middle school Drama participants; 204 middle school Band participants; 70 high school Chorus participants; and 192 middle school Chorus participants.

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

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Planning Ahead

Winter 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

- **April 3**: No School (Good Friday)
- April 17-19: LHS Production of *Fiddler on the Roof*
- May 7: LMS Production of *Bye Bye, Birdie, Jr.*
- **May 22:** Graduation (6:30pm)
- **May 25:** No School (Memorial Day)
- **May 28:** Students' Last Day
- **Late Start Dates:**
  - April 29

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

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