

REPORT CARD

A Lakewood City Schools Community Newsletter

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APRIL 2026



GRANT
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Grant named one of 14 Blue Ribbon Schools in state

We are thrilled to announce that the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) has named Grant Elementary as one of only 14 public schools in the state to be selected for the 2025 Blue Ribbon School Award! This is the second time Grant has been selected as a Blue Ribbon School, also earning the National Blue Ribbon designation in 2004.

The recent Ohio honor is a recognition of Grant's exceptional academic outcomes through a combination of strong leadership under Principal Christine Foote, data-driven instruction, and deep-rooted collaboration with families.

To earn the Blue Ribbon designation, Grant had to meet a rigorous set of performance metrics. The requirements to earn the award include:

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Pair of students earn top awards in the annual Stop the Hate essay/poetry contest

Congratulations to Garfield Middle School student June Weaver and Lakewood High junior Zoe Pierce, on placing first and second, respectively, in the Maltz Museum of Jewish History's Stop the Hate Youth Speak Out essay and poetry contest! June won the top prize for the seventh grade essay category, which comes with a \$400 award. Zoe placed second in the poetry category. Her award comes with \$1,500 and a \$500 educational grant for LHS. Thousands of students from more than 150 Northeast Ohio schools participate in the Stop the Hate contest and workshops each year. Now in its 18th year, Stop the Hate provides school communities opportunities that encourage storytelling to build bridges and create empathy.

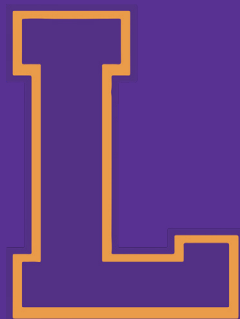


T&L Director Ast named next assistant superintendent

The Board of Education has named Lakewood City Schools' director of teaching and learning, Steven Ast, as the District's next assistant superintendent. Ast will replace Dr. Christine Palumbo, who is retiring. Prior to joining the District, Ast served as principal of Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School and Chagrin Falls High School prior to that. Ast has influenced educational policy through his service on the National Association of Secondary School Principals Board of Directors and the College Board National Assembly.



7 state qualifiers lead winter sport highlights



Our Ranger student-athletes and teams shined bright during an otherwise gray Lakewood winter. Leading the way were seven state qualifiers: Billy Cummins (diving), El Tha and Riley Robertson (wrestling); and Gio Carroscia, Tyrese Gatling, Anthony Hargrove, and Boston Truitt (indoor track and field). The boys basketball team also won its second straight Cleveland West Conference championship! Many Rangers also earned all-conference awards:

Boys Basketball:
1st Team: Rory Chanter and Riley Verderber
2nd Team: Nathan Bruwer

Honorable Mention: Kavontah Swain and Lamarien Wilson
Defender of the Year: Riley Verderber
Coach of the Year: Alex Cammock

Girls Basketball:
1st Team: Charleigh Doxley
2nd Team: Chloe Carroll and Ariana Hueter
Honorable Mention: Olivia Andregg and Maeve Andrews

Boys Swimming & Diving:
1st Team: Graham McAlvey, Caden Sandoval, Even Seiler, and Daniel Zagrebin (200-yard free relay)
2nd Team: JP McManamon (diving), Caden Sandoval (100-yard fly)

Honorable Mention: Graham McAlvey, Caden Sandoval, Even Seiler, and Daniel Zagrebin (200-yard medley relay); Daniel Zagrebin (50- & 100-yard free), Lance Zrnich (diving)
Girls Swimming & Diving:
2nd Team: Elle Heller, Makayla Jaissle, Hena Memaj, and Riley Swift (200-yard free relay)
Honorable Mention: Hena Memaj (50-yard free), Riley Swift (500-yard free)

Gymnastics:
1st Team: Lilly Tabor

Wrestling:
1st Team: Kostandin Laska

New asst. treasurer joins District

Rachel Tansey has been named the District’s new assistant treasurer. Prior to her hire, Tansey was treasurer for Green Local Schools in Wayne County. She brings extensive experience in school finance, accounting, and public sector operations to the role. In her new position, Tansey will work closely with Treasurer Meghan Rohde to support the District’s financial operations.



Rachel Tansey

Tansey’s experience includes overseeing financial processes, collaborating with administrative teams, and ensuring responsible stewardship of public resources. Prior to working at Green Local

Schools, Tansey was treasurer for Sheffield-Sheffield Lake City Schools and executive director of federal programs and grants at Lorain City Schools.

The Lakewood Project headlines busy month of spring concerts

The Lakewood Project performs its annual spring concert on Saturday, May 9 at 7 pm in the Civic Auditorium. The spring show theme this year is “A,B,C.” The ensemble will play an alphabetical song list of ‘80s classics like Don’t Stop Believin’, Just Like Heaven and Uptown Funk. Songs will be from a variety of genres including jazz, rock, classic rock, pop, metal, and classical funk. Below is a complete calendar of our remaining concerts this spring:

- May 4: 8th Grade Spring Concert
- May 7: LHS Spring Choral Concert
- May 9: The Lakewood Project Concert
- May 11: LHS Bands Spring Concert
- May 12: 6th Grade Spring Concert
- May 14: 7th Grade Spring Concert
- May 20: 5th Grade Instrumental Concert

All concerts begin at 7 pm in the Civic Auditorium. You can purchase

Upcoming No School Days

- May 25: Memorial Day
- June 5: Summer Break Begins

Did You Know?

Our last operating levy that Lakewood City Schools had on the ballot (in 2020) passed by 76%. We are so thankful for our supportive community!

Rotary honors our outstanding West Shore Career–Tech students

The Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River hosted its 28th annual West Shore Career-Technical District Outstanding Student Awards in March, and honored 14 West Shore students. At this event, Rotary members, educators, and families come together to celebrate student achievements and highlight the value of career-technical education in preparing students for future careers and continued learning.

The Rotary Outstanding Student Award recognizes West Shore students who demonstrate excellence in their career-technical programs. The award honors students for their academic and technical success, leadership, skill development, and commitment to their chosen field.

West Shore Career-Technical District encompasses Bay Village, Lakewood, Rocky River, and Westlake high schools. WSCT serves more than 400 students in its programs. The 2025-26 Outstanding Student Award recipients are:

Automotive Technology: Charles Uhler



Business Management: Erin Boyer

Construction Trades: Adrien Tullio

Culinary Arts: Htoo Lweh Wah

Electronic Engineering Technology:
Alexandra Adamov

Media Art & Design: James Baas

Medical Professions: Isabella Lester

Networking & Cybersecurity: Dominic Kline,

Nursing Foundations: Zoe Norcross

Lead the Way - Engineering: Nora Dunne

Sports & Exercise Science: Ella Bower

T.E.A.C.H.: Seving Seyfulova

Theatre Arts: Cecilia Whiteamire

Welding: Rian Fetting

Recreation Dept. Update: Camps and pool season

IMPORTANT DATES:

May 6: Youth baseball/softball volunteer coach meeting: May 6, 2026

May 12: Outdoor swim lesson registration opens: (Lakewood residents)

May 26: Youth baseball/softball season begins

OUTDOOR POOLS: With spring comes the reopening of our outdoor municipal pools: Becks (located in Madison Park) and Foster (located in Lakewood Park). In our most recent booklet (recreation.lakewoodcityschools.org) you will find swim lessons, aquatic activities and pool hours for this coming season. Opening dates will be announced soon!

SUMMER CAMP SEASON: It's right around the corner! We offer Kids Connection, Ohio Heritage, Safety Town, and more to keep your kids busy. There are several boys and girls sports camps for soccer, basketball, track & field, volleyball, softball, baseball, lacrosse, and wrestling, to name a few. Check out our booklet, posted on our website, for more information.

SEASONAL/PART-TIME JOBS: Seasonal and part-time positions are available for event staff, scorekeepers, athletic supervisors, and Fitness Facility front desk workers. Check out our website or stop in the office to see if you may be interested to join our team.

PreK-5 Hike & Bike Week is May 11-15

Students in preschool through fifth grade are invited to walk or bike to school during Spring Hike & Bike Week!

Organized by Bike Lakewood, the City of Lakewood, and Lakewood City Schools, this citywide biannual event is designed to build excitement around walking and biking to school—not just for one week, but as a regular part of getting to school.

If your student can't participate every day, that's OK. You can:

- Try it once during the week
- Team up with a neighbor or friend
- Join (or start!) a walking school bus

Every step, or pedal rotation counts!

The Lakewood Board of Education

Betsy Bergen Shaughnessy, President
Lisa Dopman, Vice President
Michael J. Callahan, Member
Colleen Clark-Sutton, Member
Nora Katzenberger, Member

Administration

Maggie Niedzwiecki, Superintendent
Meghan Rohde, Treasurer

All courses and programs offered by the Lakewood City Schools and the West Shore Career-Technical District are without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, creed, gender, marital status, disability or age in its educational programs, activities, employment policies or admission policies as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The district provides equal access to Boy Scouts and other designated groups. Jeffrey Schlade serves as Title IX Coordinator and Stephanie Morgan as 504 Officer.

Board of Education
13701 Lake Ave.
Lakewood, OH 44107

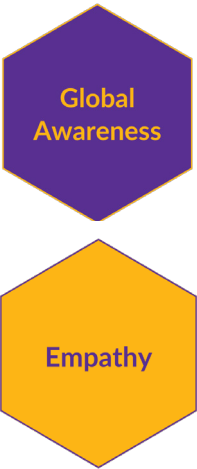
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Vision Of A Lakewood Ranger:
Filling a need in their school community

MILES students in the MILES Makers Club at Lakewood High are learning to incorporate health, science and life skills in real world application with the club’s new harvest bags project. Students are using their hydroponic garden yield and other donated or grant-funded supplies to prepare food bags for students in need at LHS and Franklin School of Opportunity. The market has been providing 12 families with MILES Market Bags since the program started in February. Support from the program comes from a grant from the Rotary Club of Lakewood and Rocky River.

The club is accepting cash donations to the project. Call the LHS Bookroom at 216-529-4047 and say you want to donate to Miles Makers Club.

Food donations of the items below are accepted at LHS. Recommended:
Canned beans, vegetables, soup, chicken, and tuna; pasta sauce; shelf-stable milk; boxed meals (mac and cheese), crackers, applesauce cups.



MILES student Michael Rivera packs the MILES Market bags.

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Top Academic Performance: The entire student body must rank in the top 15% statewide for both the Performance Index and combined English Language Arts (ELA) and Math proficiency.

Subgroup Success: Every student subgroup (including Economically Disadvantaged, Students with Disabilities, English Language Learners, and all racial/ethnic categories) perform in the top 40%

statewide for proficiency.

Progress: The school must earn A 4- or 5-star rating on the Progress Component

Closing the Achievement Gap: The school must maintain a 3-, 4-, or 5-star rating on “Gap Closing” for the past two years.

Consistent Quality: The school must earn zero 1-star ratings across any report card measure or component.

Application: A rigorous application asks details regarding the

school’s approach to curriculum, instruction, assessment, and academic supports. The application also asks about school culture and climate.

“This award exemplifies what happens when effective instruction meets a supportive community. Grant Elementary has created an environment where every student, regardless of background, has the opportunity to thrive,” said Superintendent Maggie Niedzwiecki.

Principal Foote praised the collaborative effort of her staff and students to strive for greatness. “We built our mission of growing greatness together. With the hard work of the staff and the support of our families and community, we believe each child can and will achieve,” Principal Foote said.

The Board of Education, the District administration, and the Grant staff and students will celebrate the school’s Blue Ribbon status at a ceremony on May 8 at Grant.