LAKEWOOD LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | August 28, 2026

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Lakewood Local School District Welcomes New Staff and Transitions Roles for Others for 2026-27 School Year, Including Two Administrative Hires

Lakewood Local School District has welcomed several new staff members for the 2026-27 school year, including two administrative hires/role transitions. The district has hired a total of 25 new employees, and transitioned roles for six others.

The district's new administrative hires/role transitions are:



• **Jodi Nichols** – The district has hired Jodi Nichols as Dean of Students for Jackson Intermediate School (JIS). Jodi is beginning her 29th year in education; prior to coming to Lakewood, she was an Intervention Specialist at Licking Valley Elementary.
• **Lynde Ridgeway** – Lynde, formerly Dean of Students at JIS, will now be serving as our Special Services Coordinator, overseeing the preschool day-to-day operations.



The district's additional new hires are:

- Mickenzie Beverly – LMS Language Arts
- Audra Chaffin – LHS English
- Brooke Clark – JIS Health/Safety Monitor
- Sandra Coiner – LHS Cashier
- Monica Cusick-Miller – LMS Science
- Nikki Doles – LES Health/Safety Monitor
- Melissa Flanigan – LHS & LMS School Psychologist
- Shawn Ford – Maintenance
- Trace Ford – LHS Social Studies
- Allison Gothard – JIS Health/Safety Monitor
- Kelli Hupp – Preschool Intervention Specialist
- Tracy Hysell – LMS Intervention Specialist
- Adam Mick – LMS Science
- Patrick Naughton – LHS Science
- Makalyia Pierce – JIS Intervention Specialist
- Samantha Seeds-Careers – LMS/CTEC
- Adriana Smith – JIS Health/Safety Monitor
- Krista Weekly – LHS Intervention Specialist
- Brooke Weimer – LHS Guidance Counselor
- Elizabeth Welch – Bus Aide
- Brooklyn Wilson – JIS Intervention Specialist
- Aaron Zhu – LHS CTEC/CIS

In addition, Lakewood announced the hiring of new Superintendent Dr. Heather Hedgepeth in April, new Lakewood High School Principal Daniel Fox in May (as well as Scott Coffey becoming Assistant Principal), and new Athletic Director Rich Porter in June.

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The following employees also transitioned roles within the district:

- Jeanine Fairburn – LHS English
- Syera Shrigley – JIS Secretary
- Stacey Wolfe – LES Title I

“This year, we welcomed many new team members across the district, including several new administrators and operational staff, including myself,” said Superintendent Dr. Hedgepeth. “I’m excited about the diverse backgrounds, talents, and aspirations each new hire brings to Lakewood Schools. I’ve already witnessed many positive contributions from our newest team members, and I’m confident these dedicated educators and professionals will continue working hard to support our students, staff, and community as we move forward together.”

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