FALL ■ NOVEMBER ■ 2026

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Friends & Neighbors Newsletter

Room for Lunch

LMS celebrates remodeled cafeteria



"3… 2… 1!" Students cheered as Principal Amanda Coté cut the ribbon for Lakewood Middle School's newly remodeled cafeteria in September. The updated space is making a difference. With expanded seating and cafeteria tables that maximize space, sixth graders look to older students as they learn cafeteria routines. There are now two lunches instead of three, giving staff valuable time back in their day. This project was identified as a short-term priority by the community Capital Facilities Advisory Committee. Thank you, voters, for supporting improvements for student learning environments.



NEW LES BOILER

Installation of the new boiler system at Lakewood Elementary is complete. The old system required frequent repairs, often with parts difficult to obtain.

Funded through the Capital Improvements and Safety Levy, as well as an urgent repair grant from the state, the new system provides more reliable heating, improved energy efficiency, and lower operating costs.

Thank you, voters, for making this improvement possible.

Superintendent's message: Working together for student success

Greetings,



Dr. Erin Murphy, Superintendent

We've had a strong start across Lakewood, and I'm impressed by the engagement and learning in our classrooms.

While our schools are often described as the center of the community, Homecoming is a time when that connection is especially visible. From districtwide spirit days and signs at local businesses to our annual parade, Homecoming brings our community together and celebrates the connection, belonging, and pride we share as Lakewood Cougars.

Over the summer, our staff worked hard to prepare our schools for students' return. In addition to ongoing maintenance and grounds work, they supported larger capital projects, including the LMS cafeteria remodel and the LES boiler and HVAC replacement. We're grateful to our community for supporting the Capital Improvements and Safety Levy, passed in April 2024, which helped make these projects possible. Your support makes a meaningful difference for student learning environments.

Our Food & Nutrition Services team stayed busy, too, serving 1,246 meals to children through the USDA Summer Meals Program.

As we look ahead, we're grateful for continued partnerships with our families and our community to support every student's success.

All my best,

Erin

LAKEWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Inspiring Growth. Empowering Futures.

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Students in Culinary 1 built essential kitchen skills while preparing taco salad, learning everything from preventing cross-contamination and safely washing produce to using a can opener, cleaning cast iron cookware, sanitizing work areas, properly cooking and storing ingredients, and adding the finishing touches.

A recipe for success

Culinary Arts debuts as new CTE pathway

The aroma of sizzling ground beef and onions filled the culinary classroom recently as Lakewood High School's first culinary students got hands-on experience preparing taco salads.

The Culinary CTE Pathway is new to Lakewood High School this year, providing authentic culinary experiences that emphasize collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. Students taking Culinary 1 this year will have the opportunity to continue their learning in Culinary 2 next year.

To support the new program, our Career and Technical Education (CTE) department installed new student ovens over the summer. Teacher Crystal Henderson guided students through each step of the process, including how to safely open and prepare packages of ground beef, while using a camera projection system so everyone could follow along.



Culinary Arts and other Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes provide real-world industry experience while helping students grow their communication and leadership skills.

Happy Homecoming!



This year's Neon Oasis Homecoming theme came to life with colorful parade floats and cacti.

Lakewood welcomed back generations of alumni for our Homecoming Open House and football game.

Thank you to everyone who helped make Homecoming such a special celebration of our past, present, and future. Once a Cougar, always a Cougar!







This year's Homecoming included an Open House at Lakewood High School with student-led tours and a chance for alums to show their Cougar pride with volunteer-donated shirt decals.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 3, 10, 11, 12: LHS Drama Presents: "12 Angry Jurors," 7 p.m. Matinee at 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 12.

Dec. 9: LHS Winter Concert, 7 p.m., LHS

Apply for Transitional Kindergarten by Dec. 4

Will your child be 5 by Aug. 31, 2027? Lakewood offers a free, full-day Transitional Kindergarten program beginning in January to help students build a strong foundation for kindergarten.

Transitional Kindergarten is open to families who live in the district and who are eligible for free and/or reduced-price meals. See our website to apply. Applications are due Dec. 4.

LAKEWOOD FFA AWARDS



FFA finished 4th overall at the Ferndale Jamboree. Vincent Galvani powered the Tractor Part Identification team to a first-place finish.

CROSS COUNTRY



Boys varsity cross country took second at Hole in the Wall and JV took first in their respective divisions. JV Girls placed 10th in JV silver division out of 22 teams.

GIRLS SOCCER



Girls soccer advanced to Districts after a 7-0 win against Marysville Pilchuck. The Cougars battled against Bellingham next, but came up short with a 0-2 loss.

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