



# Quality Profile

for the 2019-20 School Year

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**Lak@ta**  
Local Schools





Students at Wyandot ECS can collaborate, innovate and enjoy a book in their new Innovation Hub.

## WE ARE LOOKING BACK

Everything WE do is designed to provide a future-ready, student-centered learning experience for Every Single Child. This is not only the mission statement of Lakota Local Schools, but what we strive to do every day. We achieve this because WE are Personalized, WE are Future Ready, WE are Fiscally Responsible and WE are In This Together.

What began as a “typical” school year turned out to be one that we had never experienced before, sending us into the uncharted territory of shifting the entire district to remote learning in March. To move nearly 17,000 students to online learning is not easy.

**I am proud of our teachers, our staff and our students who rose to the challenge and made the best out of a very difficult situation. The spring showed us what “WE are In This Together” truly means.**

The information on the following pages will give you a better understanding of the education our students receive. You’ll see how the diverse needs of our students are being met through personalized learning. You’ll see how being future ready helped ease the shift to remote learning. You’ll also see how the district continues to be fiscally responsible with our

taxpayers’ dollars. And, you’ll see how partnerships with our local businesses and community engagement help us to be in this together.

Our annual Quality Profile is an opportunity to share highlights and information from the previous school year with our community. In a “normal” year, this publication is released in the fall alongside the State report card. As with many things in 2020, this too has changed. With the cancellation of State testing in the spring and the absence of a traditional report card, districts across the state have moved the release of the Quality Profile to January.

I hope you find the Quality Profile informative. As always, WE are grateful for the support you give to Lakota Local Schools and our kids.

*Matthew J. Miller*

**Matthew J. Miller**  
Superintendent



## LAKOTA LOCAL SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Kelley Casper**



**Brad Lovell**



**Lynda O'Connor**



**Michael Pearl**



**Julie Shaffer**



## State and National Awards



### ODE's Momentum Award

Lakota Local Schools, along with five individual schools within the district, received the Ohio Department of Education's Momentum Award for 2019. This is the fourth consecutive year that the district has received this honor. Additionally, two Lakota early childhood schools received both the 'All A Award' and 'Overall A Award.'



### Technology & Innovation Award

Lakota Local Schools was named a 2019 winner of ComSpark's Corporate Tech & Innovation Award. The award honors the region's leading corporations and executives who encourage innovation through technology. The award exemplifies Lakota's commitment to furthering education by utilizing technology as a tool for our students.



### Step Up to Quality

Lakota's 2019-20 preschool program continued to be awarded five stars by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Department of Education's Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) rating program.

## WE are Here for YOU



A Tribute to Our Why

### OHSPRA Achievement Awards

Lakota received two top awards from the Ohio School Public Relations Association for exemplary work. Lakota's electronic Quality Profile Report received the 'Best of the Best' Award. The "WE are Here for You" video won a 'Mark of Distinction' Award for capturing teachers throughout the district surprising their students with heartfelt statements about how they are their inspiration for coming to work every day.



Scan the QR code to watch the "WE are Here for You" video series.



### Student Work Featured at OSBA Capital Conference

The Ohio School Boards Association's Capital Conference chose Lakota to be featured in five of the 100 booths found at the Student Achievement Fair. The fair highlights innovative learning. Lakota students were on hand to promote cross-district collaboration for ASL; the empowerment of student voice to reimagine learning spaces; engineering capstone projects; support for veterans; and media & design work. "Our students tell our story best," said Superintendent Matthew Miller.



### Auditor of State Award

Fewer than five percent of all entities that are audited annually earn the Auditor of State Award with Distinction – and Lakota has received the honor six years in a row. The award recognizes the district's commitment to fiscal responsibility and transparency for the 2019 fiscal year audit.

WE are Achieving Excellence

## LAKOTA SNAPSHOT

Lakota is the largest suburban public school district in southwest Ohio serving West Chester and Liberty townships.

**23** schools, grades pre-K-12

**63** square miles

### OUR EMPLOYEES

**63%** Worked at Lakota 5+ years

**79%** Teachers with advanced degrees

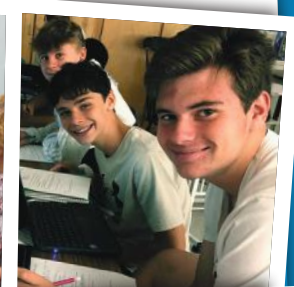
**17** Average years of teaching



**98.5% Graduation Rate**  
- Class of 2020 -



**100% of students have access to innovative learning spaces**



**35% of students of a diverse background**



**16,800 Students**  
**1,845 Employees**



**98.5% Attendance Rate**





## REAL WORLD LEARNING

Lakota's 'Portrait of a Graduate' outlines the skills that every Lakota graduate should master, guiding the student learning experience from kindergarten through high school. Real world learning is a cornerstone of that student experience, preparing graduates to pursue one of the 4Es: Employment, Enrollment, Enlistment and Entrepreneurship.

### REAL WORLD LEARNING IN ACTION



Lakota West held a Lunch & Learn series where local business partners shared insights on the 4Es such as starting a business, making yourself marketable, leadership in the military, educational opportunities, and supply chain management. Likewise, Lakota West Freshman students took part in the school's first ever 'Real World 101' while Lakota East's 'The Game of Life' series brought in community partners to host sessions on real world skills.



Internships with local partners give students hands-on experience in a variety of fields.



Lakota Academy students collaborated with other area districts for Project Chaos to help find answers to real world issues.

### EMPLOYMENT

Lakota partners with Butler Tech to offer satellite and on-campus trade programs that prepare students to be career-ready.

### ENROLLMENT

A range of rigor through college-prep, honors, Advanced Placement and College Credit Plus courses helps prepare students for the next step of higher education.

### ENLISTMENT

Lakota's Military Commitment Ceremony continued in a virtual format to honor all our graduates who committed to a branch of the U.S. Military. [Scan QR code to watch video.](#)



### ENTREPRENEURSHIP

#### COMING UP...

**INCubatoredu@Lakota**, a new course aimed at budding entrepreneurs, debuts in the 2020-21 school year. Lakota is the second school district in Ohio – and one of just 125 nationwide – to offer a "Shark Tank" style class to its high school juniors and seniors.



Woodland Elementary turned its Business Day into project-based learning, where fifth-graders learned different aspects of a business plan in their language arts, math and social studies classes.



With the help of local partners, Lakota introduced its first mobile learning space. The Wonderbus is outfitted with a host of educational tools and resources that give parents and the larger community a taste of student-led learning. With such spaces available for daily use in every Lakota school, the bus is reserved for community events where families can enjoy the design thinking process together.



# EMPOWERING STUDENTS & STAFF

Lakota is applying real world learning to its daily teaching practices across all grade levels, allowing students to explore their passions and gain important skills. Even the challenge of remote learning during the fourth quarter was an exercise in real world learning. Students and staff learned to better navigate technology and develop time management skills, among other important attributes highlighted in the district's Portrait of a Graduate.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOLS

Our ECSs reimagined their media centers into Innovation Hubs. These new learning spaces provide not only a space for K-2 learners to foster their love of reading, but also allow students to explore, create and collaborate using a variety of digital tools and hands-on activities. Virtual reality, robots, green screens, manipulatives and flexible seating offer students unique opportunities for learning.



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

At Lakota's elementary schools, district-owned Chromebooks were provided to each sixth grade student for use at school. The expansion of the 'WE are Empowered' program to sixth-graders allows for a more personalized learning experience, and it gives teachers a robust learning tool to incorporate innovative instructional content, increased collaboration and communication into their lessons.



## JUNIOR SCHOOLS

Our junior schools have implemented real world learning through project-based learning activities like Hopewell Junior's 'Reality Path Fridays'. The school held a 'Future Ready Fair' where 12 local business partners set up booths in the gym. Students were able to explore everything from starting salaries to skill requirements of the industries they were interested in. Follow-up sessions included developing budgets, participating in mock interviews and creating a resume – all based on the individual student's future pathway.

"It's been really helpful to start now and feel more prepared for what's next and how to be successful in life," said eighth-grader Ben Isom.



## HIGH SCHOOLS

Lakota expanded zero bell course options for its high school students, giving students more flexibility in designing their learning experience. The district also continued to expand its course catalog with future-ready offerings like AP Computer Science, Lakota Cyber Academy and Computer Integrated Manufacturing. These changes resulted from the LakotaNEXT design challenge where teachers and students collaborated to create ways for high school schedules to foster the core principles of personalized learning.





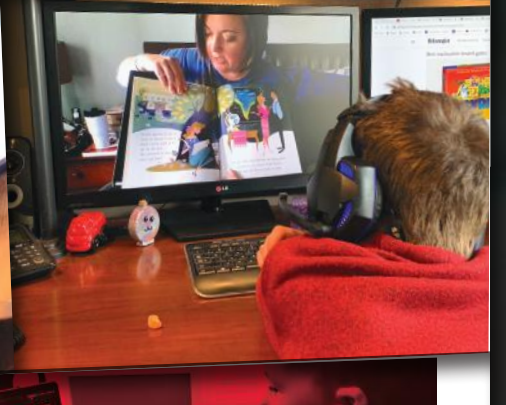
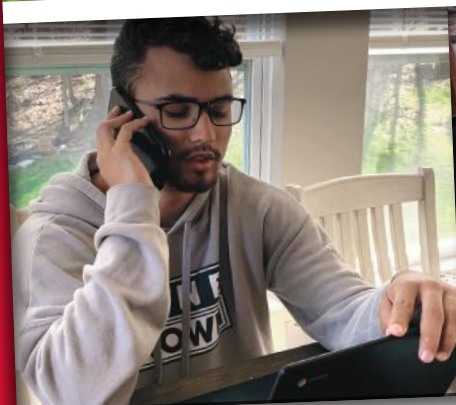
# REMOTE LEARNING

When the international health crisis surrounding COVID-19 forced a statewide shutdown in March 2020, Lakota had to pivot quickly. Instead of welcoming students back into our buildings at the conclusion of spring break, teachers and staff launched a full-scale remote learning environment for our 16,800 students.

A pre-scheduled remote learning exercise the day before spring break turned into two straight months of at-home learning. The unexpected change impacted literally every aspect of school life, forcing teachers and staff to rewrite everything from lesson plans and meal programs to graduation ceremonies and athletic programs.

Lakota leaders relied on frequent staff, student and parent surveys to gauge success and identify issues.

In the end, Lakota persevered and truly tested the school year's motto: WE are In This Together.



## TECHNOLOGY

From Zoom to Seesaw to Canvas, staff and students relied heavily on both new and familiar technology to communicate with one another and continue learning from a distance.

The district's one-to-one device program left students in grades 7-12 – already accustomed to completing assignments

electronically – well-equipped to tackle remote learning.

While students in grades K-2 did not have a digital requirement, our 3-6 students were offered the opportunity to borrow a district-provided Chromebook to keep up on their learning. More than 625 devices and 100 mobile hotspots were distributed in the spring to students without such access.

### IN THE FIRST WEEK OF REMOTE LEARNING:

**10,900** students in grades 3-12 (84%), on average, logged into their school account each day.

Teachers and staff used Zoom to host more than **1,600** meetings

that were attended by more than **10,000** individuals





## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

Mental health supports remained a top priority during remote learning. Lakota's partnership with MindPeace, which places a licensed therapist in our schools to provide access to high-quality and affordable mental health services, continued without interruption. School counselors regularly shared tips and strategies for social and emotional health with their families while the district hosted a four-part video series that provided COVID-specific mental health guidance.



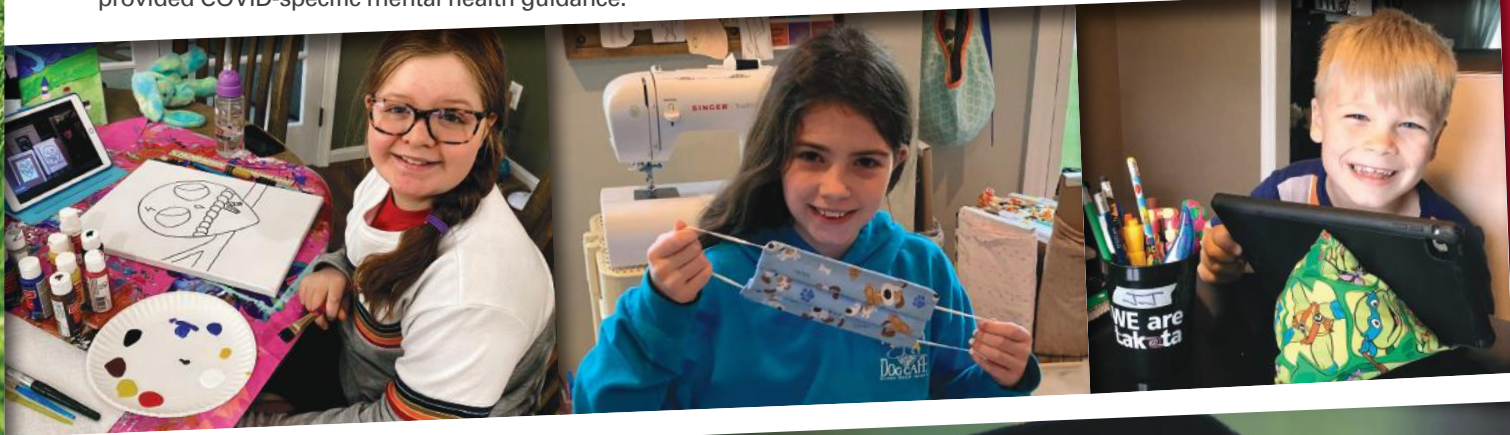
Scan the QR code to view video series.



## MEAL PROGRAM

One of our priorities during the shutdown was the continuation of meals for our families in need. Lakota's Child Nutrition department quickly brought a plan together to implement a model similar to our Summer Lunch program.

Over the course of  
**46 days**  
the district  
distributed nearly  
**70,000 meals**  
to students.



## CLASS OF 2020

Putting an exclamation point on an unusual and disappointing senior year was of critical importance to district leadership. Following many iterations of a plan to align with the Butler County Health Department's ever-changing regulations, the district landed on a very non-traditional, yet memorable drive-in style graduation.

**The Lakota East and West Class of 2020 was celebrated over the course of two days and seven separate ceremonies held in each high school's parking lot.**

Our graduates enjoyed many of the same ceremonial traditions among their family and friends from the comfort of their vehicles or parking spaces. Additionally, a special video premiere for each high school paid tribute to the Class of 2020.



Scan the QR code to enjoy all the videos celebrating the Class of 2020!

The district also found a way to carry on the "Parade of Graduates" tradition, which invites graduates to parade through the hallways of their elementary building. A 10-part video series featured photos of each senior paired with special messages from their past teachers and staff.

**WE are Future Ready**



# WE are Building Our Future

#WEareLakota

In line with Lakota's strategic plan, which calls for an in-depth assessment of our facilities, the district launched a full-scale master facilities planning process last year. The end goal was to build a plan that protects the district's most important assets - Lakota's 25 buildings valued at more than \$400 million - and supports the type of learning that will carry our schools into the future.

A committee made up of district leaders and expert partners was tasked with building a multi-year plan that was both sustainable and supported by the community. The committee assessed everything from enrollment projections and the age and current condition of our

facilities to how well our spaces align with the vision for future learning at Lakota.

An extensive data gathering phase was followed by a series of community forums and surveys to help shape the future vision for Lakota's facilities. Following completion of the visioning phase in late February, the district was forced to press pause at the onset of COVID-19.

## COMING UP...

The committee reconvened in Fall 2020 to revisit the planning process and will begin engaging the community once again in the near future.

**LAKOTA FACILITIES: BY THE NUMBERS**

<b>\$400M</b>	Lakota's 25 buildings are valued at more than \$400 million.
<b>32</b>	The average age of Lakota's facilities is 32 years old.
<b>50</b>	By 2038, eight Lakota schools will be over 50 years old.

**Lakota's two high schools are the oldest in Butler County.**

## COMING UP...



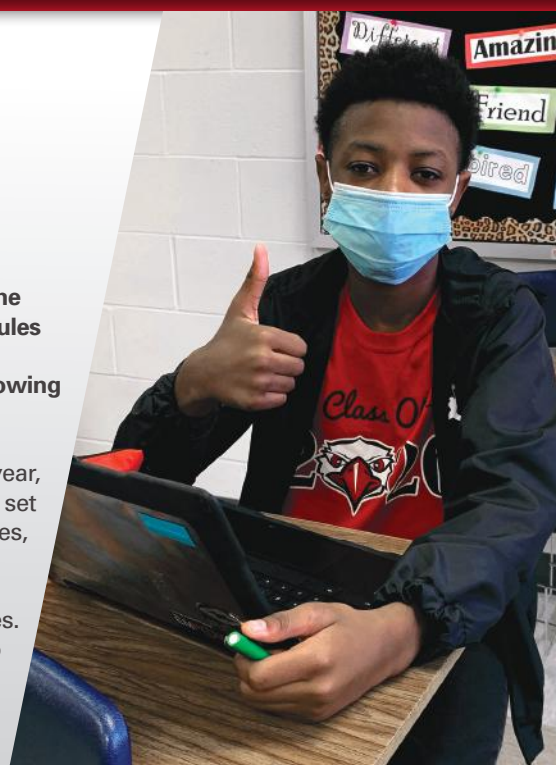
# WE are PREPARED

2020-2021 Responsible Reopening

Even before last school year ended, Lakota began planning for what the 2020-2021 school year might look like based on COVID-19 considerations. The final plan to start the school year in person with a virtual learning option (VLO) was based on guidance from state and local health officials; staff, parent and student feedback; and a strong commitment to continuing to provide a personalized learning experience for every single student.

**Teachers worked tirelessly over the summer to build curriculum modules that would give VLO students a 100-percent online education following the Lakota curriculum.**

At the start of the current school year, about one in four Lakota students set up their classrooms in home offices, bedrooms and kitchens, while all others returned for in-person learning with new safety measures. The district remains committed to making decisions that are in the best interest of student and staff health and safety.





The Lakota West Girls soccer team brought home the state championship trophy, and Kailyn Dudukovich was named All-American, Ms. Ohio Soccer, Gatorade Ohio Player of the Year and Ohio Player of the Year. East's Jacob McDonald won his third state swimming crown in the 200 freestyle and 500 freestyle.



## ENCOURAGING EXPLORATION THROUGH EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Lakota offers a wide range of extracurricular experiences that encourage exploration beyond the classroom. These activities allow students to ignite new passions, while developing important soft skills like teamwork, communication and creativity.



**80**

Nearly 80 after school clubs and activities are offered at Lakota's two high schools.



**68**

Lakota high schools offer 53 varsity athletic teams, and 68 student-athletes committed to play their sport at the collegiate level.



**40**

The high school choir programs performed a combined 40 school and community concerts.



**23 Years**

Since 1997 both East & West Marching Bands have consistently earned a superior rating at the OMEA State Marching Band Finals.

Band students have been selected for local orchestras as well as district, regional and state honor assemblies. Two students from East were in the Bands of America Honor Band; two West musicians were named to the National Association of Music All National Honor Ensembles.



**500**

Over 500 students played a part in theater productions staged by Lakota's junior and high schools.



**6**

Six Lakota artists earned gold or silver medals in the National Scholastic Art Awards for pieces like the one above, representing the top 1% of 320,000 submissions nationwide.



**1300**

More than 1,300 students participated in Lakota's high school music programs.

**WE are Future Ready**



# WE ARE PERSONALIZED

WE recognize that every student learns in different ways and demands different services that support the whole child. That's exactly why personalized learning is a priority across Lakota. We are committed to supporting the unique needs of every single student and giving them more choice and ownership in their learning.

## PERSONALIZED LEARNING

Last year, teachers at all grade levels and subject areas chose from four different teaching methods, or "plays". The strategies gave teachers new ways to reach different types of learners.

"Just like our students, we are always asking our teachers and staff to stretch themselves and get comfortable being uncomfortable," said Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction Keith Koehne.

"After diving into personalized learning last year, it's a regular strategy I continue to see embedded in our classrooms this year."

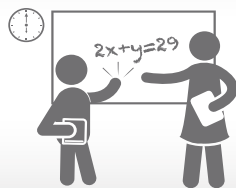
From flipped classrooms and station rotations, to flexible playlists and project based learning, lessons are being presented in ways that encourage students to take ownership of their learning.



## THE FLIPPED CLASSROOM | HOW IT WORKS



ON-DEMAND LESSONS



1:1 IN-CLASS SUPPORT



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

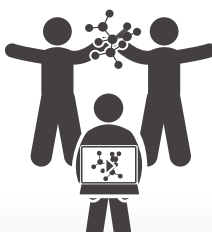
## PROJECT BASED LEARNING | HOW IT WORKS



TEACHER DELIVERS CONTENT



INDEPENDENT OR GROUP WORK



SHOW LEARNING IN ANY FORMAT



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

## THE FLEXIBLE PLAYLIST | HOW IT WORKS



OR



OR



STUDENTS CHOOSE FROM LISTED ACTIVITIES  
– OR EXPAND ON THEM – TO HONE THEIR SKILLS



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

## STATION ROTATIONS | HOW IT WORKS



STUDENTS ROTATE THROUGH STATIONS WITH VARIED ACTIVITIES



SCAN TO LEARN MORE



# SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS



Lakota Local Schools is proud to continue our partnership with MindPeace to provide access to high-quality and affordable mental health services. The partnership helps place a licensed therapist in our schools without any financial commitment from the district. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had anticipated having a school-based therapist at each of our 23 schools. Due to a shortage of therapists both at the local and national level, we ended the year with 15 therapists in our buildings. That number is expected to increase in the 2020-21 school year.



Lakota East and West Hope Squads play an important role in creating a school culture of positivity and hope, both in school and during remote learning.

## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT STATS

**332**

total hours of individual or group prevention services were provided to

**445**

students

**147**

total education hours provided to staff, students or teachers

**568**

students received school-based treatment services

### Students with Disabilities

About 2,100 Lakota students with disabilities were supported by intervention specialists, school psychologists, instructional aides, a behavioral specialist and a parent mentor.

**10**

social communication classrooms

**14**

multiple disabilities classrooms

**2**

classrooms focusing on behavioral & emotional disabilities

**85**

students with special needs were placed at 32 local businesses, including Lakota schools and Central Office, as part of the district's Work Study program

### Gifted Learners

Nearly 2,300 students were served or supported through acceleration, cluster grouping, Math Plus and advanced coursework.

**31%**

of students in grades 2-12 were identified as gifted

**2,279**

students received gifted support

**299**

students were accelerated in grades K-12

**125**

students were in the gifted cluster in grades 1-5

**362**

students in grades 3-5 were in Math Plus

**347**

sixth grade students were in advanced class

**1,146**

students in grades 10-12 were enrolled in Advanced Placement courses

### Social Emotional Learning Standards

Three Lakota educators helped write the new social and emotional learning standards for Ohio schools. Lakota behavior specialist Tina Pratt, personal health teacher Lori Jones and special education teacher Po Reffitt applied for the voluntary task of developing 60 standards per grade band level.

### PAX Training

Teachers at Creekside, Hopewell and Shawnee early childhood schools implemented the PAX Good Behavior Game to promote community in the classrooms and throughout the buildings. PAX, along with Focus 3 (E+R=O) and Positive Behavioral Intervention Support (PBIS), give teachers tools to create a more peaceful learning environment.



### Therapy Dogs

After researching different methods to best assist the growing number of students with social and emotional needs, Lakota Local Schools partnered with nonprofit Circle Tail to bring two therapy dogs to the district. Zooney works with students at Hopewell Junior School, while Bendi helps younger students at Creekside. The dogs and their handlers are members of the district's crisis team and are called in to provide support for students and staff as needed.

### COMING UP...

Lakota will begin introducing "Sources of Strength" in all four junior schools, a new program for student mental health and wellness.

More therapy dogs will join Lakota to help our students.

WE are Personalized





## SAFETY & SECURITY

The safety and security of our students and staff is always the number one priority at Lakota Local Schools. The district's safety team, comprised of district and building leaders, school resource officers and first responders, meets several times throughout the year to evaluate district protocols.

Our protocols also include practicing safety drills in our schools and as a district. In June, Lakota administrators and representatives from every building participated in a countywide safety exercise. The first of its kind in Butler County, Lakota was one of 11 districts to put its safety plans to the test during this active-shooter simulation.

### STATE REPRESENTATION

Lakota Local Schools Superintendent Matthew Miller was named to Governor Mike DeWine's new School Safety Working Group. Led by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, the group will evaluate current issues regarding school safety and advise the Ohio School Safety Center on its work.

The group, which is comprised of experts in education, public safety, mental health, emergency management and others, will meet at least quarterly to discuss current trends and issues regarding school safety.

### OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Lakota Local Schools was one of the first stops for members of the Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC), a new statewide office through Ohio's Department of Homeland Security, focused on assisting educators and law enforcement in preventing, preparing for, and responding to threats and acts of violence, including self-harm.

Representatives spoke to administrators and students about safety measures Lakota has in place, including mental health resources. They also discussed with students how to better promote the agency's SAFER OH tip line, which Lakota uses.



35% of students are non-caucasian or of a different ethnic background



7% of students identify English as a second language



11% of students speak a language different than English at home

56 languages are spoken by Lakota families

20% of students are economically disadvantaged







## EMBRACING DIVERSITY

### LODI

The Lakota Outreach Diversity and Inclusion (LODI) department continues to help ensure that every student is part of a safe and secure learning environment that is supportive and values diversity.

LODI's "Champions for Change" division, comprised of representatives from every school, meets regularly for training on topics like cross-cultural communication, understanding poverty and barriers to the achievement gap.

These leaders are charged with sharing their learnings and strategies with the rest of their colleagues, promoting a culture of empathy and understanding among students and staff throughout the district.



### CULTURAL RESPONSIVE TEACHING

Twenty-six teachers embarked on a 16-week program to learn what it means to be a culturally responsive teacher. They received their CRT certification by presenting a project on what they learned to their teaching teams, and then implementing it into their lesson plans.

### LATINO LITERACY PROJECT

The Latino Family Literacy Project, a national research-based program that facilitates side-by-side reading in bilingual households, was piloted at Creekside Early Childhood School. Based on its success, LODI expanded the program to include Heritage ECS as well.

"Knowing how important the home connection is to reading development, I was looking for something to help support my English Learner families with reading to their children at home," said Creekside Principal Linda Pavlinac.



### GRANDPARENT CONVERSATIONS

The district held a Community Conversation to learn about specific needs of grandparents who are primary caregivers of Lakota students. As a result, Lakota began building a network of support unique to all kinship caregivers.

### COMING UP...

Creation of a Senior Director of Diversity and Inclusion position

Expansion of Latino Family Literacy Project to all six early childhood schools

Development of Kinship Connection Group

Diversity and Inclusion Student Groups to be formed in all 7-12 schools





# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

## COFFEE CHATS

The superintendent continued hosting monthly coffee chats, giving parents and residents a direct link to leadership and the opportunity to ask questions or share feedback. During the pandemic, these sessions continued virtually, and more frequently.



## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

For the eighth consecutive year, bi-monthly Community Conversations gave the Lakota school board and district leaders an opportunity to get feedback and lead discussions about important topics like engaging the local business community, district finances, student voice, culture, anxiety and more.



## THOUGHT EXCHANGE

Last year, Lakota introduced a new online platform to regularly gather input on different topics and help inform district decisions. The unique tool encourages participants to share their own thoughts to a single question and then rate others' thoughts according to how strongly they agree.



## PHILANTHROPY

Lakota partners with countless local and national causes all year long. The fall's district-wide food drive stuffed two school buses with about 12,000 pounds of donations for our partners at Reach Out Lakota. Lakota's annual staff giving campaign, "Casual for a Cause," amounted to nearly \$25,000 in donations.



### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN 2019-20



**23** Community Listening Sessions

**6,750** Participants in 7 ThoughtExchange Surveys

### BY THE NUMBERS



**115**

Videos Published



**216**

Website Articles



**22,924**

Social Media Followers



**3,320**

Emails Sent



**3,632**

Peachjar eFlyers Sent

## BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

Real world learning can happen inside or outside of the classroom. From project mentors and classroom guests to tours and internship experiences, Lakota relied heavily on its network of 250-plus official business partners last year.

For the first time ever, as a signal of our deep connection with the local business community, Lakota even co-hosted the West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance's annual Business Expo in July 2019. Additionally, with the anticipated launch of INCubatoredu@Lakota for the 2020-2021 school year, industry partners met regularly to revise and plan new business curriculum for Lakota high-schoolers.





# GOOD FINANCIAL STEWARDS

In a year like no other, Lakota Local Schools continues to prove that WE are good stewards of our residents' tax dollars. Though Fiscal Year 2020 saw State tax cuts to public education, the district was able to operate in a fiscally responsible way and still meet the needs of students, even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## HONORED.

Lakota once again earned the prestigious Auditor of State Award with Distinction for the sixth consecutive year, one of the highest financial honors at the state level for outstanding financial accountability.

## HIGHLY RATED.

Strong financial decisions made by the district during the last few years have earned Lakota Local Schools one of the highest possible bond ratings of Aa1 by Moody's Investors Service and AA+ by Standard & Poor's (S&P).

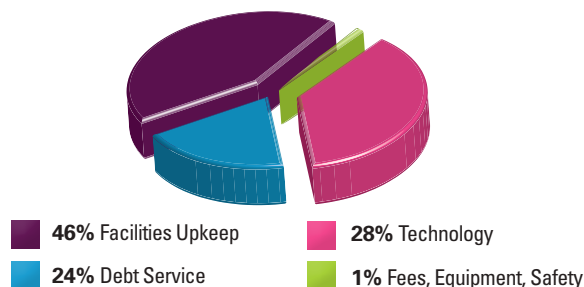
## FORWARD THINKING.

Three new Board policies provide an additional step in maintaining the district's financial stability. The Budget Stabilization, Cash Reserve and Structurally Balanced Budget policies act as guardrails as the district continues to be fiscally responsible.



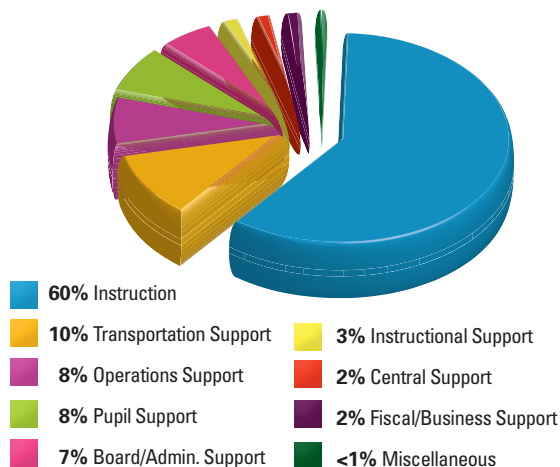
"I am confident that Lakota will come out of the pandemic in a positive manner. Our budget stabilization policy, along with a healthy cash balance, has put us in a much better position to weather this storm. WE will continue to provide the exceptional education for our students that our community expects in a fiscally responsible way." –Jenni L. Logan, Treasurer/CFO

### PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT EXPENSES



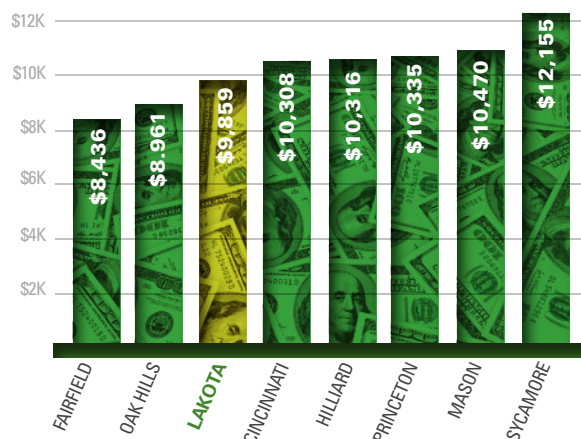
74% of Lakota's permanent improvement fund is spent on technology and the upkeep of our facilities.

### GENERAL FUND EXPENSES BY AREA



71% of Lakota's general fund is spent on instruction, pupil and instructional support.

### SPENDING PER PUPIL



Lakota's per pupil spending is on par with similar districts; we know how to live within our means.

### COMING UP...

For the first time in nine years, we have had to dip into our reserves because of two rounds of State funding cuts to public education and increased expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Similar to many families throughout the country, state and our community, Lakota has relied on its financial planning and its cash reserves, which it has been building since 2013.

The Lakota Board of Education voted unanimously to reinstate transportation services for freshman students, effective for the 2020-21 school year for students living outside of neighborhoods with walking paths or sidewalks that lead to schools. This decision was made possible by the fiscal responsibility the district has shown.

Taking advantage of the low interest opportunities, Lakota Local Schools is refinancing its debt during the 2020-21 school year, which will be a direct savings to our taxpayers.

WE are Fiscally Responsible





**Lakota School District**  
5572 Princeton Road  
Liberty Twp., OH 45011-9726

Website: lakotaonline.com  
Email: lakota@lakotaonline.com  
Phone: 513-874-5505 (Central Office)



Lakota Schools



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Lakota Local Schools



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**Celebrating Diversity**  
Why diversity is one of  
Lakota's best assets.



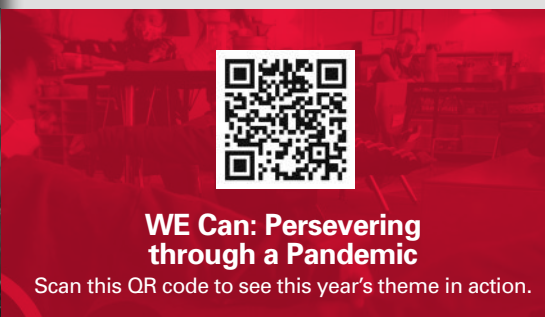
**Words of Wisdom**  
A monthly series featuring  
student voice.



**Super in 60**  
All the latest Lakota news  
in 60 seconds.



**WE Are In This  
Together Karaoke**  
Students & staff capture  
remote learning.



**WE Can: Persevering  
through a Pandemic**  
Scan this QR code to see this year's theme in action.



**Meet Our School Board**  
Get to know each of Lakota's  
board members.



**Back to School Karaoke**  
Students and staff celebrate the  
return to in-person learning.



**New Innovation Hubs**  
Peek inside our newest  
ECS Innovation Hubs.



**A Peek Behind  
the Curtain**  
Get an inside look at Lakota.