

# Inside Your Schools



## Personalizing Education

**On the surface, Lakota West senior Aditya Tewari's plans to attend college and study computer science may resemble those of others who have come before him. But the exact path he's taken to get there is unlike anyone else's. It's the kind of personalized educational experience that Lakota strives to create for all its students.**

Since his kindergarten year at Lakota, Aditya can't point to any one experience that shaped his career goal to use technology to solve global problems — first at a leading technology company like Google and later as an entrepreneur who goes on to

mentor other start-up companies in his field.

Instead, an uncharted combination of courses, after-school activities and mentors helped lead him to that conclusion — and only after lots of trial and error. An abundance of advanced level math and science courses were obvious catalysts. While some confirmed his notion of the perfect career, others did quite the opposite. He also appreciated less relatable subjects, like AP Composition and

Economics, which helped him value business and communication skills, even in a more technical field.

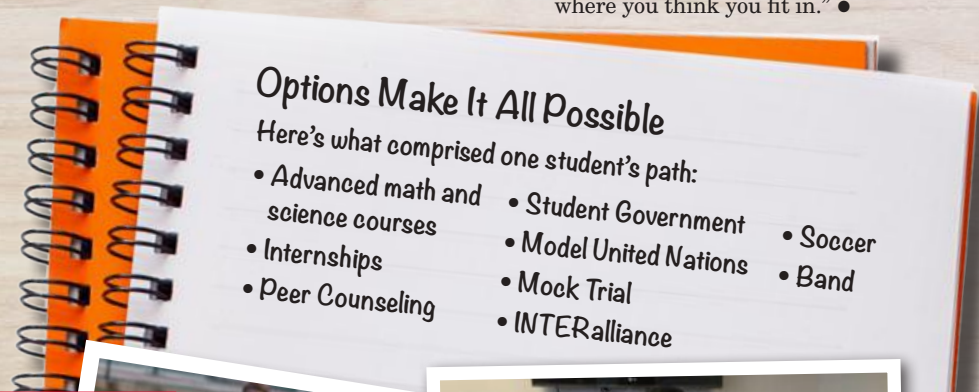
The same is true of a whole range of activities he tried over the years, including everything from soccer, band, math club, and student government to mock trial, peer counseling and a model United Nations group he helped pioneer.

"They didn't all stick," Aditya said. "But each one gave me a new skill or connected me to the next best thing."

One of those things was a school club called INTERalliance. His early involvement with the IT group

is what solidified his interest in programming and connected him with countless other people and opportunities to put that skill to work. That included a summer internship with General Electric that is now generating contracted work with other local technology companies. His involvement with Lakota's Procter & Gamble internship program was yet another source of clarity.

"I've always loved the diversity you find in Lakota's clubs and activities," Aditya said. "It's rarely all the same kinds of students because the focus is always on getting involved in as much as possible, no matter where you think you fit in." ●



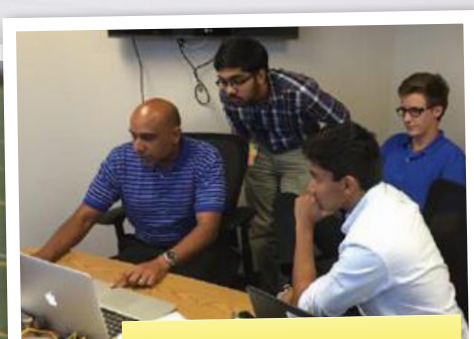
### LAKOTA LEADERSHIP UPDATE

On Aug. 24, the Lakota Local Schools Board of Education took action to ensure strong leadership in the district following Superintendent Dr. Karen Mantia's request for Family Medical Leave. Robb Vogelmann is serving as acting superintendent during her absence.

"Lakota is one of Ohio's best school districts and we want to see that tradition of excellence continue," said Board President Lynda

O'Connor. "While it is unfortunate that Dr. Mantia had to step aside, we have strong leadership that will be able to continue the great progress we have all made together."

Vogelmann was serving as assistant superintendent at the time of his appointment. A Lakota veteran since 1997, his extensive experience includes teaching, coaching and leading two different Lakota schools as both an assistant principal and principal. ●



**INSIDE**

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- FINANCES:** Stability & Responsibility
- COMMUNITY:** Coffee Chats & Video Series

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

# Why Personalized Education Matters

Every student's story is different. Some students are excited to go to college; others are earning industry credentials so they can go straight into the world of work

after graduation. Still others are eager to join our armed forces. Whatever path a student chooses, I want to ensure that they are ready to be successful

after they receive their Lakota diploma. This means that we must personalize the instruction and educational opportunities we offer to better fit the unique needs of each student.

At Lakota, we accomplish this through the use of strong data and enhanced technology that compliments the instruction of our teachers. We have been looking at the changing demographics of our school district so that we are prepared to support the students who are coming to our schools. We use different types of assessments to help guide our instruction and we

base class offerings on student interests and needs.

We do all of this while also understanding that we must stretch taxpayer dollars whenever possible and be vigilant about spending money responsibly. We're also stepping up our communications to keep our residents, staff and students informed about what's happening inside their schools. I am humbled and honored to lead this great school district and welcome your questions, concerns or ideas.

**ROBB VOGELMANN**  
*Acting Superintendent*



**“Whatever path a student chooses, I want to ensure that they are ready to be successful after they receive their Lakota diploma.”**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Connect over Coffee

“Coffee Connections” is Lakota’s monthly open invitation to the community to join Acting Superintendent Robb Vogelmann and Treasurer Jenni Logan for an informal chat over coffee. Come with questions, feedback or just an interest in hearing more about what’s happening at Lakota.

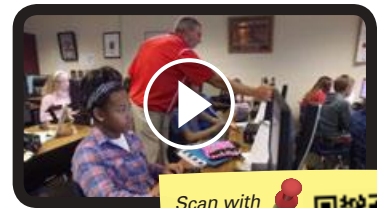
Join us the last Wednesday of every month (except December) at one of two coffee shops in West Chester and Liberty townships. Times vary to accommodate all different schedules. See calendar at lakotaonline.com. ●

Join the Conversation  
facebook.com/lakotaschools

## Tune In: New Video Series

A new eight-part video series, “Inside Your Schools,” features the priorities that define our work and the areas we value most when it comes to creating a personalized experience for all our students.

Visit [lakotaonline.com/insidewayschools](http://lakotaonline.com/insidewayschools). ●



Scan with any mobile device to view Lakota's new video series.



Visit our fresh, new, mobile-friendly website  
[lakotaonline.com](http://lakotaonline.com)











“Community Conversations” listening program continues for a fifth year.

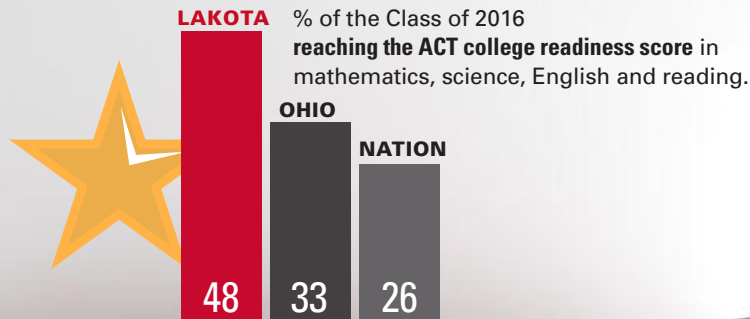
**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

**REGARDLESS OF WHERE OUR STUDENTS LAND** after graduation, making sure they are ready for the demands of higher education and the workforce includes giving them a taste of college-level classes and possible career paths while still in high school. That's why Lakota has diversified its options over the last several years to challenge college- and workforce-bound students in a more individualized manner. That means options like Advanced Placement and College Credit Plus courses, Credit Flexibility, and expanded career pathways and internships, in areas that mirror student interest. ●



# College and Career Ready

-  • **82%** of 2016 graduates pursued higher education.
-  • **2,711** secondary students participated in STEAM<sup>2</sup> career pathway courses developed with Butler Tech (59 percent higher than four years ago).
-  • **35** Class of 2016 graduates served their country in the U.S. Armed Forces.
-  • **713** secondary students participated in district-organized internship or job shadowing experiences last year.
-  • **74** Advanced Placement, college-prep and honors course options.
-  • **360** college courses taken for transcript credit last year.
-  • **10** regional college and university partners.
-  • **\$19.9 million** scholarship dollars earned by 2016 graduates.



**EXPLORATION AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

are cornerstones of Lakota's elementary education, too.



Early literacy is a critical point of emphasis; 99.4 percent of all third-graders last year met the requirements of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.



Like art, music and physical education, beginning in the first grade, 100 percent of elementary students now experience a technology "special." ●

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

**17 cents**

is the per-unit cost to print and mail this piece to Lakota households and businesses.



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**FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**

# From the Treasurer: Financial Outlook is Stable

Thanks to the support of voters in 2013 and a firm commitment to fiscal responsibility, Lakota Local Schools has moved from a district in serious financial distress to one with a balanced budget and steadily rising cash balance.

Recently the school board approved an updated five-year forecast. While every forecast includes certain assumptions and unknowns, thanks to a fiscally conservative mindset, we are anticipating a balanced budget until 2020 and a cash balance that could help offset deficit spending through 2026.

We understand that stretching taxpayer dollars isn't a choice, it's our responsibility.

As such, we've taken ownership of our employee healthcare plan and bucked the national trend of rising costs. We've ramped up our energy conservation efforts, adjusted our overall compensation structure in employee contracts, and re-financed debt to a lower rate. These changes and others have saved the district millions. In spite of adverse factors like

inflation, they've helped shape an annual general operating budget that is \$15 million less than it was five years ago.

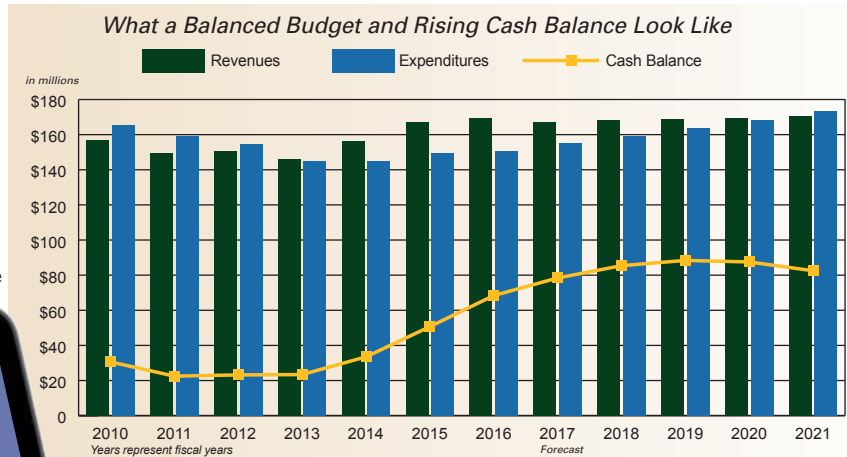
That doesn't mean we aren't still increasing the value

of the Lakota education. In addition to following through on our levy commitments, most recently we've been able to redirect some of our savings to reduced extra-curricular fees, expanded busing and a new alternative school, for example. We understand the excellent value we provide to the community and want to see

the levels of both academic and financial operating excellence continue.

Please visit lakotaonline.com to see more financial information. You can also always contact my office at any time with your questions.

**JENNI L. LOGAN**  
*Treasurer*



**Gauging Our Savings**

**\$6 million**  
Total savings from frequent debt refinancing over the last five years.

**\$6.8 million**  
Total utility savings to date from energy reduction efforts introduced in 2011.

**\$12 million**  
Current annual employee wage cost reductions, compared to 2010 levels.

Jenni Logan was named Ohio's 2016 "Treasurer of the Year." In the last five years, three Lakota leaders have been the recipients of the Ohio School Board Association's top four leadership awards.

Greg Lynch/Journal-News