

TOGETHER WE CAN...

BELIEVE GROW COLLABORATE
DREAM EMPOWER
SUPPORT PARTNER ACHIEVE
UNITE CELEBRATE RESPECT

I am thrilled to be your new superintendent and embark on this collective pursuit of educational excellence with you all. As I step into this role, I am deeply inspired by the strong sense of togetherness that defines our district.

Mother Teresa said, "I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things." Together, we stand at the threshold of a new academic year filled with limitless possibilities. Our unity is our strength, and it is through collaboration and mutual support that we will nurture an environment where every student can thrive.

I have spent the summer meeting with district and school leaders, staff, parents and other members of the Lakota community to learn as much as I can about our district. I am certain that together, WE can achieve excellence for our students, for our staff and for our community. Together, WE can ensure that Lakota's mission statement, "Everything WE do is designed to provide a future-ready, student-centered learning experience for every single child," resonates through our work.

Learning is a process, and we must partner to support all of our students from the moment they enter our doors until they cross the graduation stage. Our students need to understand that they are seen and heard, and they need to know that they belong in our school community. An integral part of this is helping our students understand how to harness their learning styles and interests so they can strategize and utilize tools that boost their learning and understanding. Together, WE can support our students so they can grow and meet their potential.

One of my first goals for the new year is to re-energize our school district by building trust and a positive school culture throughout Lakota.

This will take time and effort on all of our parts. By working hand in hand, together WE can create a nurturing environment where everyone feels valued and empowered and one that fosters inclusivity, kindness and respect. Together, WE can celebrate our diversity, our achievements and the unique contributions each member of our community brings to the forefront.

Together, WE can excel. I will set high expectations for our staff and students and myself. I will be transparent as I work to create a clear action plan that will carry this district forward, always with our students' learning, growth and achievement at the forefront. Together, WE can dream the next best version of ourselves.

During our first semester, I want to meet with as many members of the Lakota community as possible to listen and learn. Together, WE can define what WE believe.

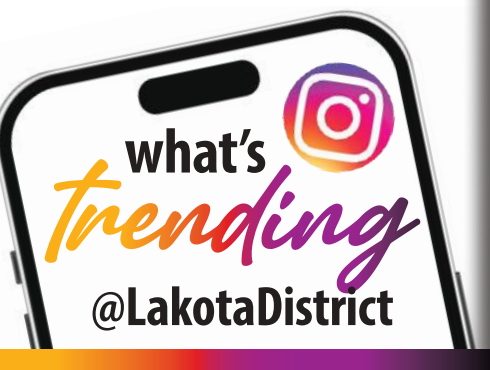
While we must continue to grow and adapt to the changing demands of education, I also want to keep the rich traditions of Lakota Local Schools. If we haven't met yet, I am looking forward to meeting you at one of our upcoming listening sessions. Please check our website for the latest schedule. Together, WE can achieve great things for Lakota.

As we embark together, I am committed to listening to your insights, collaborating closely with all stakeholders and ensuring that every decision reflects our shared commitment to excellence because together, WE can [...].

With gratitude and excitement for the future,

DR. ASHLEY WHITELY
Superintendent





PaySchools CENTRAL

Introducing PaySchools Central
Lakota has moved to PaySchools Central for its online payment portal for all student fees and lunch balances. Parents can access PaySchools Central through their OneLogin account.
#WEareLakota

TeacherLists School Supply Lists

TeacherLists: A New Way to Shop for School Supplies
Lakota will continue to provide each K-8 student with a supply kit. New this year, Lakota has partnered with a free service called TeacherLists to digitally share supplemental back-to-school supply lists in a way that's convenient and economical for families. The tool includes one-click shopping at major retailers OR a checklist that can also be printed.
#WEareLakota #LakotaBacktoSchool

Lakota Back to School Hub

Back-to-School Hub
Whether brand new to the Lakota family or returning for another year, visit our Back-to-School Hub for all the information you need: lakotaonline.com/BacktoSchool.
#WEareLakota #LakotaBacktoSchool



FROM THE TREASURER

At Lakota, WE are fiscally responsible. This statement is at the center of every financial decision we make to uphold our district mission: "Everything WE do is designed to provide a future-ready, student-centered learning experience for every single child."



As August approaches, there is always excitement in the air at our schools and Central Office as we prepare to welcome back our students and staff for the new school year. This summer, Lakota's finance team has been very busy closing the books on Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24), opening the new one and implementing a few changes for the upcoming school year.

Despite some challenges on the horizon, such as increasing enrollment and no increases to state funding, Lakota's finances continue to be strong. We ended FY24 with our 12th consecutive balanced budget while also receiving our tenth consecutive Auditor of State Award with Distinction.

To that end, please be aware of a few changes that have been implemented for the new school year:

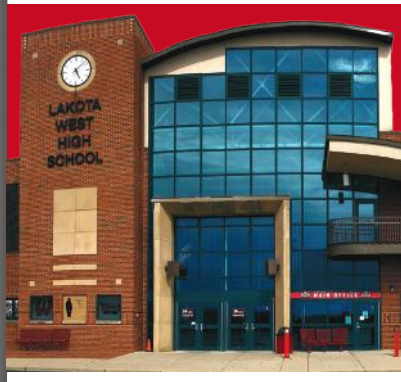
- PaySchools Central has launched as the district's new online payment portal, replacing EZpay. Parents can access PaySchools through OneLogin.
- As we have communicated, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds from the COVID-19 pandemic are no longer available. As a result, student fees will return for the 2024-2025 school year. Specific information about fees can be found on our website.
- For the first time since 2017, student lunches will see a slight increase in cost.

Thank you to all of our new families who have completed the enrollment process. Early registration helps the district be better prepared with staffing and planning for the new school year.

I hope that you have had a chance to read our annual Financial Prospectus, which was mailed to our residents and businesses in the spring. If you missed it, please use the QR code to access the electronic edition.

If you have any questions about Lakota's finances, I encourage you to reach out to me. I am always happy to have a conversation with our community members.

ADAM ZINK
Treasurer/CFO



Master Facilities Plan Update

The Board's work on the Master Facilities Plan continues to move forward. The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) has approved the Lakota Board of Education's application to enroll in the Expedited Local Partnership Program (ELPP). As a result, the State will now pay for an updated enrollment study and building assessment that the district will use to build out its facilities plan. Partnering with the State through ELPP also makes Lakota eligible to receive partial reimbursement for facilities projects that the OFCC approves through the final plan. Currently, Lakota is eligible for a 31% reimbursement rate through ELPP.



Make Way for ParentSquare!

There's a new tool in town for staying up-to-date on the Lakota news that matters most to YOU as a parent, employee or engaged community member!

Receive important school and district email, phone, text or even app alerts - when and where you want them - using ParentSquare.

The new tool is a direct response to survey feedback that prioritized a more centralized solution for school-to-home communication. In future years, we look forward to using ParentSquare as a true hub that also folds in communications from your teachers, coaches, club advisors and more.



Curriculum Corner

Lakota students will benefit from new curriculum textbooks and materials in English language arts and mathematics this year. Approved in May by the Lakota Board of Education, the new curriculum supports the Ohio Learning Standards, which Lakota follows for teaching and instruction.

K-6 English Language Arts

Imagine Learning EL Education focuses on the comprehension side of reading, using social studies and science topics to teach students. This not only teaches students to read, but also builds their content knowledge at the same time.

Students in kindergarten through third grade will use "Heggerty Bridge to Reading" to build their foundational

skills. The curriculum for grades four and five will be released from the company and introduced at Lakota for the 2025-2026 school year. The curriculum includes decodable books and workbooks to support student learning.

K-6 Math and Sixth Grade Advanced Mathematics

Imagine Learning's Illustrative Mathematics 360 curriculum has been adopted by the Board of Education for early childhood and elementary students. Students will have access to online accounts to practice their math skills as well as manipulative kits in their classrooms for hands-on learning.

7-12 Mathematics

Students will now have consistency with the foundational resources for their math courses when transitioning from primary to secondary grades. The District has adopted Amplify Desmos

Illustrative Based Math for seventh grade through Algebra II, sharing the same Illustrative-based foundation as the adopted K-6 math curriculum.

Additionally, the Board has approved the adoption of the Miller Precalculus textbook and Bedford, Freeman and Worth textbook for advanced placement (AP) statistics, AP calculus AB and BC.

7-12 English Language Arts (ELA)

Lakota has adopted the SAVVAS MyPerspectives ELA curriculum for both regular and advanced language arts classes in grades 7-8. This curriculum has also been adopted for college preparatory (CP) English 9-12, British and world literature and honors English 9-11. One of the deciding factors for choosing this curriculum is the robust teacher and student resources available to enrich instruction and learning.



- 1 Automatic Enrollment.** We will automatically contact you at the emails and phone numbers you update in FinalForms.
- 2 Set your Preferences.** Optional: Log in via OneLogin (or the free app) to set your preferences for instant alerts or a daily digest and to see all your alerts in one place.
- 3 Expand your Involvement!** Explore more groups available to you as a parent or staff member.
- 4 Download the Free App!** Scan for on-the-go access to all your Lakota alerts or search "LLSD ParentSquare" from your app store.



ANDROID APP



IOS APP



No Lakota Student? No Problem!

Scan to join one or more of our ParentSquare community groups to stay up on general school or district announcements.



Subscribe to one or more of our regular e-newsletters. Scan to get started!



lakota_district
FinalForms: Making Updates Easy and Efficient
 Reminder: Parents can easily complete most required back-to-school forms and waivers, plus make updates year-round, through FinalForms. Access the platform via OneLogin to review and update contact information, medical information, transportation plans and more. #WEareLakota



lakota_district
A Staggered Start to 2024-2025
 Once again, students will begin the new school year with a staggered start. This model eases the transition back to school and accelerates relationship building, putting teachers and students in a smaller group setting. Check the district's academic calendar on Lakota's website for more details. #WEareLakota #LakotaBacktoSchool



lakota_district
Free/Reduced Meals Application
 Families who may qualify for free and reduced meals (and waived student fees) based on income or other qualifying factors must complete the meal benefits application at www.lakotaonline.com/Child-Nutrition. IMPORTANT: This form must be re-submitted each year. #WEareLakota



lakota_district
First Day Photo Contest
 Get in on this year's back-to-school photo contest! Share your best first day moments using #WEareLakota. The post with the most votes (or "likes") on Facebook and Instagram will win some Lakota swag! #LakotaBacktoSchool



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

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- Lakota_District
- Lakota Local Schools
- Lakota Local Schools
- Download our mobile app:
Search "Lakota Schools."

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IMPORTANT BACK-TO-SCHOOL DATES



PRESCHOOL

- Open House** | Aug. 14
- First Day: AM Students Only** | Aug. 21
- First Day: PM Students Only** | Aug. 22
- First Day with all Preschool Students** | Aug. 26

KINDERGARTEN

- Open House** | Varies by school
- First Day: Last Names A-L Only** | Aug. 15
- First Day: Last Names M-Z Only** | Aug. 16
- Half of Kindergartners** (details provided by school) | Aug. 19
- Half of Kindergartners** (details provided by school) | Aug. 20
- No School for Kindergartners** | Aug. 21
- First Day with All Kindergartners** | Aug. 22

GRADES 1-12

- ECS Open House (Grades K-2)** | Aug. 13
- Elementary Open House (Grades 3-6)** | Aug. 13
- Junior & High Schools Orientation/Schedule Pick-up** | Varies by school
- First Day: Last Names A-L Only** | Aug. 15
- First Day: Last Names M-Z Only** | Aug. 16
- First Day with all 1-12 Students** | Aug. 19

UPCOMING DISTRICT-WIDE DATES

- Staff PD Days** | Aug. 12-14
- No School (Labor Day)** | Sept. 2

BACK-TO-SCHOOL CHECKLIST

- Enroll your child online** by Aug. 9 to start on the first day of school: www.lakotaonline.com/enroll.
- Buy school supplies.**
- Attend open house or orientation.**
- Complete new school year forms** in FinalForms via OneLogin. Aug. 1 was the deadline for alternative bus pick-up/drop-off locations to be honored on the first day.
- Submit any updated immunization records** to your school nurse.
- Add funds to your child's meal balance via PaySchools.**
- Complete your annual free/reduced meals application** if you think you qualify.
- Check teacher assignments** and student schedules on Home Access Center (HAC) in early August.
- Look up your bus route** in HAC in early August.
- Bookmark your school's website** and subscribe to the calendars of your choice.
- Download Lakota's mobile app** (search "Lakota Schools" from your app store) and select your schools to customize your calendar, news feed and push notifications.
- Download Lakota's ParentSquare app** (search "LLSD ParentSquare" from your app store) and set your communication preferences.
- Follow district and school social media accounts** listed on our website.
- Participate in the first day photo contest on social media!**

meet your LAKOTA BOARD OF EDUCATION

Standing (left to right):
 Douglas Horton, Christina French,
 Isaac Adi

Sitting (left to right):
 Vice President Kelley Casper,
 President Julie Shaffer



NOW HIRING

Lakota still has several full-time and part-time positions open for the upcoming school year, including instructional aides, custodians, child nutrition staff and school psychologists.
 Visit lakotaonline.com/Employment for details.



VIEW OPENINGS

