

# A Look Around Lakota



# WE are In This Together

The strength of a Lakota education is rooted in an entire community that supports our mission. Because students, staff, parents and community partners, alike, play a critical role in our work, we asked them to finish this statement:

**"When school starts, I'm most looking forward to..."**

"...meeting my new kindergartners and showing them all there is to love about school!"

**Melissa Gregory**  
Teacher, Heritage ECS



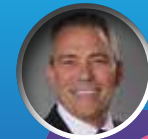
"...going to gym, STEAM<sup>2</sup> Lab and meeting new friends."

**Avi Patel**  
3rd Grade,  
Cherokee Elementary



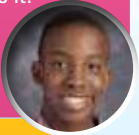
"...following the Cyber Academy's inaugural year and its impact on our students' futures and our local economy."

**Tom Farrell**  
Cyber Academy Advisory  
Board & Trustee,  
Liberty Township



"...becoming the best I can be and living my life the way I want to live it!"

**Jayvyn Jean-Mary**  
Senior, Lakota West



"...continuing our valuable internship program with Lakota. Insight from diverse, creative and engaged students helps shape our marketing in new ways each semester."

**Mark Hecquet**  
President & CEO,  
Butler County Visitors Bureau



"...our students' reaction to the new Innovation Hub and the excitement as we continue with personalized and project based learning."

**John McCutchen**  
Head Custodian,  
Adena Elementary



"...a routine, new friendships (for the kids and us parents), homework arguments, and lots of laughs!"

**Jena Wells**  
Parent



"...seeing what awesome things my new students will create."

**Moriah Walker**  
Teacher, Liberty Junior



"...a great year with new leadership at Endeavor, wonderful teachers at Plains and a great junior year at West!"

**Jen Best**  
Parent



"...participating in Hope Squad and the new service club I started called Interact."

**Gavin Mullen**  
Junior, Lakota East



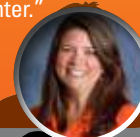
"...meeting my new teacher and what fun stuff I will do in first grade."

**Paisley Lewis**  
1st Grade, Hopewell ECS



"...spending time after school with teens from Lakota West at our new Teen Center."

**Annie Droege**  
Operations Director,  
EDGE Teen Center



# #WEareLakota



# what's trending @LakotaDistrict

## International Tech Recognition

Lakota's continued work with the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) fast tracked the district to become one of just eight districts worldwide to pilot the new ISTE District Partnership. Chief Technology Officer Todd Wesley and his team were recognized for their district-wide rollout of the partnership through "WE are Empowered," an initiative designed to empower students with personalized learning supported by technology. A cohort of Lakota teachers also participated in ISTE's first "Educator Certification Program," equipping them with strategies and resources to transform learning through technology.

#WEareLakota



## Somos Lakota' Wins International Telly

"Somos Lakota" was one of just 7 videos in the Branded Content General Education category to win an international bronze Telly Award. The video, produced in partnership with SpotOn Productions, portrayed the personal experiences of Lakota ESL students to help staff adopt more culturally responsive teaching practices.

#WEareLakota

## National Communication Technology Award

At its annual conference last month, the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) presented Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller with the 2019 Communication Technology Award for Superintendents. The award recognizes a superintendent for leadership in redefining, upgrading and integrating cutting-edge communication technology to expand outreach and engagement with stakeholders. #WEareLakota



Matthew J. Miller  
Superintendent

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome back! We've been hard at work behind the scenes this summer, getting ready for the first day

of school. WE can't wait to have our students back in our buildings.

The start of the 2019-20 school year is right around the corner and we're excited to launch new programs and open new learning spaces for our kids. The Lakota Cyber Academy kicked off over the summer. More than 40 seniors enrolled in Cyber Sprint have already begun the curriculum and an additional 115 sophomores and juniors will join them in the fall. Our elementary school students will

have new learning spaces as their media centers have been turned into innovation hubs this summer, complete with new learning tools and collaboration spaces. Most of our youngest learners will have a new home as our preschool moves to VanGorden Elementary. Liberty Early Childhood School will also have two preschool classes. This decision was made to create more room at our ECS buildings to accommodate enrollment projections.

Additionally, our sixth-graders will now be a part of our "WE are Empowered" program. The Chromebooks collected from last year's eighth-graders will now be used by our sixth-graders in a modified 1:1 program, meaning the devices will be available for use at

school, but will not be taken home as they are in our secondary grades.

WE believe so strongly in the power of relationships that the first two days of school will once again focus on making connections. By setting the tone of the classroom together, our teachers and students will be invested in the relationships and culture that will continue to grow throughout the school year.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer. WE can't wait to have you back on August 15.

*Matthew J. Miller*

MATTHEW J. MILLER  
Superintendent

## Portrait of a Lakota Graduate

It is the goal of Lakota Schools that every graduate is prepared to follow one of the 4 Es at the end of their high school career: Enrollment in higher education, Enlistment in the military, Employment, or the pursuit of Entrepreneurship. With this in mind, district leaders have developed a Portrait of a Lakota Graduate (POG).

Inspired through input from students, parents, administrators and the district's business and community partners, the portrait portrays the skills that every Lakota graduate should possess.

**"The Portrait of a Lakota Graduate encompasses more than daily lesson plans," said Keith Koehne, executive director of curriculum and instruction. "Our students must also have critical thinking, communication and collaboration skills to help them succeed in life."**

The POG is a visual reminder that in order to successfully pursue one of the 4 Es, Lakota students must be:

- Critical Thinkers;
- Persistent Problem Solvers;
- Responsible Collaborators;
- Effective Communicators;
- Engaged Community Members; and
- Adaptable Learners.



The goal is for graduates to not only possess these skills by the end of their senior year, but to have mastered them. That's why the district will introduce them at an early age.

**"Aspects of each attribute will be introduced at all grade levels so that by the time a student graduates, these important skills will be second nature to them," Koehne said.**



## FROM THE TREASURER

It's an exciting time to be in Lakota. Our students will enter the new school year with several new opportunities for

expanded learning - all being introduced in a fiscally responsible way.

Lakota continues to be financially sound. In fact, we ended the 2018-19 school year with a stronger cash balance than we anticipated. The fiscal stability and strength we have in this District allows us to think bigger for our students. This didn't happen overnight and we don't take it for granted. Whether the fiscal climate is stable or challenging, we continue to make fiscal responsibility a priority in this District. It should never be a contradiction to provide an

excellent education for our students while at the same time being good financial stewards for the taxpaying citizens of our community.

Our technology department has been hard at work this summer preparing the Chrome-books used by last year's eighth-graders for the incoming sixth-graders. While the devices will remain at school, a modified 1:1 program will be in place for these students. Not only will it give them access to a new learning tool on a regular basis, but it will also help to prepare them for the junior school experience the following year.

The expanded zero bell option introduced at our high schools is also being done in a fiscally responsible way. A flexible work schedule for some of our current teaching staff has allowed this to take place for our students.

Being good stewards of our taxpayers' dollars is a top priority - one that doesn't stop when school ends. This summer, the Lakota Board of Education approved three new finance policies designed to be guardrails for our budget. Written with the guidance of our Finance Committee, these policies are an additional step in maintaining the district's financial stability.

Fiscal transparency is important to me. If you haven't done so lately, I invite you to visit the Finances section of [www.lakotaonline.com](http://www.lakotaonline.com). Should you have questions about Lakota's finances, I encourage you to reach out to me.

**JENNI L. LOGAN**  
Treasurer/CFO

## National Personalized Learning Award

One of its three national award recipients, Lakota was honored by Ed Elements at the 2019 Personalized Learning Summit in May. The "Team Habits for Team Success Award: For Building a Responsive Team" award recognized the district for its swift action in establishing a structure that promotes organization-wide leadership in support of personalized learning. In partnership with Ed Elements, Lakota continues to refine that model with the goal of empowering all staff to be decision-makers. #WEareLakota



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## Chamber U Wraps Up First Year

Chamber University Leadership Academy (CULA), a collaboration of the West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance with Cincinnati State and Lakota Local Schools, was designed to create a stronger link between the community and the school district. The program offers leadership skills that can be carried into the schools to positively impact students who will one day make up our workforce. The inaugural class, which included a mix of administrators and local business people, celebrated the completion of their program in May 2019. #WEareLakota



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## County-wide Safety Exercise

On June 18, Lakota joined 10 other Butler County school districts to plan and execute a full-scale safety exercise. The drill was a complex, coordinated event involving multiple first responders, community partners, county and state agencies, and school districts. "Our safety plans are never done," said Lakota Superintendent Matthew Miller. "This event definitely challenged us to think beyond the structure of our typical safety drills." #WEareLakota



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## Cyber Academy Takes Off

Learning doesn't get much more real-world than Lakota's new Cyber Academy experience.

With the launch of these new course options for sophomores through seniors, a new wave of cyber security analysts will likely be coming from Lakota soon. The district's partnership with Belcan, LLC to help kick start the program this summer with an accelerated "Cyber Sprint" option for graduating seniors is a direct response to the prediction that by 2021, there will be approximately 3.5 million jobs unfilled in the cybersecurity industry.

"It is critically important that we graduate students who are equipped to take the next step in their professional career and support the demands of the current workforce," said Lakota's Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction Keith Koehne. "This program will open doors to our students after graduation, should

they choose any one of the 4 Es - continuing their studies in higher education, enlisting in the military, entering the workforce or starting an entrepreneurial path."

The 155 students enrolled in Cyber Academy this school year will have the opportunity to earn up to six industry certifications and qualify for job shadowing and internship opportunities with the district's growing portfolio of industry partners. Beyond on-the-job experience, Lakota is also seeking out partners to support the program in the form of design challenges, mentorships and even direct sponsorship.

Learn more or get involved:  
[lakotaonline.com/cyber](http://lakotaonline.com/cyber)



At an information night last December, parents and students filled the ballroom at the Cincinnati Marriott North, reaffirming Lakota's decision to move forward with the Cyber Academy option.

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# Important Back-to-School Dates

<p><b>AUG. 13</b></p> <p><b>ECS Open Houses</b> 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Elementary Open Houses</b> 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. (Kindergarten open house occurs during phase-in day.)</p>	<p><b>AUG. 14</b></p> <p><b>Preschool Open House</b> 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. (morning sessions) 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. (afternoon sessions)</p>	<p><b>AUG. 15</b></p> <p><b>First Day of School</b> (grades 1-12)</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Hopewell Junior Fanfare</b> 7:10 a.m.</p>	<p><b>AUG. 16</b></p> <p><b>Kindergarten Phase-in Day</b> Varies by location.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Adena Elementary Fanfare</b> 8:00 a.m.</p>	<p><b>AUG. 19</b></p> <p><b>Preschool First Day</b> -----</p> <p><b>Kindergarten Phase-in Day</b> Varies by location.</p>
<p><b>AUG. 20</b></p> <p><b>Kindergarten Phase-in Day</b> Varies by location.</p>	<p><b>SEPT. 2</b></p> <p><b>Labor Day: No School</b></p>	<p><b>SEPT. 4</b></p> <p><b>Coffee Chat with the Superintendent</b> 1:00 p.m. Coffee Beans &amp; Brew</p>	<p><b>SEPT. 14</b></p> <p><b>District-wide Ice Cream Social for New Families</b>  1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Heritage ECS</p>	<p><b>SEPT. 19</b></p> <p><b>Storytime with a Lakota Principal: Gail Allhouse (VanGorden)</b> 6:30 p.m. IKEA</p>



## Back-to-School Checklist

- Buy school supplies.
- Attend open house or orientation.
- Submit any updated immunization records.
- Look up your bus route in Home Access Center.
- Bookmark your school's website and mark upcoming events on your calendar, including more fanfares and storytime with Lakota's principals.
- Download Lakota's mobile app and customize your calendar, news & push notifications.
- Plan to participate in Lakota's first day photo contest.
- Log into School Messenger to check your communication preferences.
- Follow district and school social media accounts.

All your back-to-school questions answered:  
[lakotaonline.com/BackToSchool](http://lakotaonline.com/BackToSchool)

