

A PLUS for Our Students.  
**A+** for Our  
COMMUNITY.



LAKEWOOD  
CITY SCHOOLS





## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:

When I took over as Superintendent of the Lakewood City Schools in August 2011, I shared with our staff my vision of our district being among the top 20 public school systems in the state by 2020. I knew we had many of the foundational components in place—a highly qualified staff, dedicated parents, and a supportive community—to accomplish this goal.

In many ways that are not rated on state report cards, I believe we are already among the top districts in Ohio, considering our outstanding fine arts, career-tech, gifted, and Early Language Learner (ELL) programs. Our administrators and many of our teachers are looked to as leaders in their field on curriculum development and best practices in the classroom.

We know we excel, and we continue to make good progress in helping each student realize a full year of academic growth during each school year. In the state rating system, Lakewood City Schools has exceeded the benchmark for this measure (Value-Added) every year that this component has been included. In fact, the last time this was measured in 2011-2012, our district was in the top 2% of the state in student academic growth.

Student achievement is always our top goal. Our mission is to build students' critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication skills in order for them to become productive 21st century global citizens and life-long learners.

Inside this booklet, you will find what is happening in our district beyond test scores. In a series of community meetings held back in early 2012, Lakewood residents shared their thoughts on what they value in our school district:

- quality of the staff
- respect for diversity
- abundance of extracurricular opportunities
- all-day kindergarten
- new school buildings
- support of music, arts, special education, career-tech, ELL, and gifted programs
- breadth of high school programming
- emphasis on technology

It is these aspects, along with the incredible teachers, administrators, support staff, parents, and students that make Lakewood City Schools special to so many people. It is also these aspects, along with transparent leadership and fiscal accountability that have earned the community's trust as evidenced by the overwhelming support of an operating levy and bond issue in 2013.

We are proud of the work being done in our schools. We could not achieve what we have and continue to build upon it without the amazing support of our community!

*Jeffrey W. Patterson*



# CURRENT AREAS OF FOCUS:

Each summer, the Board of Education adopts strategic goals for the coming school year. The top goal is always to improve student achievement. These are the areas the district is focusing on in order to achieve that goal:

- 1 Provide continued support in the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and Ohio Revised Standards
- 2 Continue district implementation of Response to Instruction and Intervention framework that identifies early students in need of additional help at all levels
- 3 Seamlessly integrate technology within the curriculum to prepare students and staff for 21st century learning assessment.
- 4 Deepen the instructional leadership skills of our principals for their learning communities
- 5 The remaining goals include: designing new structures of Grant Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, and Lakewood High School; building upon the confidence of the staff and the community in the Lakewood City Schools; providing fiscal stability of our Lakewood City School District; and maintaining positive relationships and a collaborative work environment with all employees.



## STRONG FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

The Lakewood City Schools has earned the trust of the Lakewood community with its sound fiscal policy that has included judicious cuts over the years coupled with smart cost-saving measures. Contributing greatly to that stability is the Lakewood taxpayers' overwhelming support of operating levies in 2010 and 2013. A sample of the financially beneficial moves made by the district in the last few years:

- Negotiated changes in employee contributions for health care benefits
- Instituted policy where employees' spouses must be covered under their own health plans if eligible
- Continued to participate in the Suburban Health Consortium to keep premium increases below the industry average
- Secured favorable bond ratings of AA- (Standard & Poor) and Aa2 (Moody's) that enabled the district to refinance \$15 million worth of bonds at a savings of \$600,000 to the community
- Participated in energy purchasing programs to mitigate rising utility costs


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## OUR BUILDINGS

Lakewood City Schools adopted a long-range, master facilities plan in 2003 to replace or renovate all of the District's school buildings. With the passage of a bond issue in November 2013, the district has begun the third and final phase of construction. All buildings will be 10 years or younger when construction is completed in 2017.

- Phase I began with rebuilding Harrison and Hayes Elementary Schools, which opened in 2007. It also included the construction of Harding and Garfield Middle Schools. Garfield's historic facade, built in 1891 as part of the original elementary school, was salvaged and restored.
- Horace Mann and Emerson Schools' renovation from middle school to elementary school buildings was completed in 2009. Lakewood City Schools was recognized with preservation awards for the two buildings.
- The west end of Lakewood High School was renovated and reopened in 2009.
- The third, and final phase of construction, will include the demolition and construction of new Grant, Lincoln, and Roosevelt Elementary Schools. They are scheduled to reopen in 2016. The east end of Lakewood High School will also be demolished and rebuilt, with its reopening set for 2017.

**“Teaching at Lakewood High School is a treat! The curriculum is diverse, the students are interested, interesting, and engaged... Students are presented with an array of course selections rarely seen at the high school level. An outstanding gifted faculty augments and supports the learning and questioning of an energized student body.”** – Robert Sedlak, *Math Teacher, Lakewood High*



Lakewood City Schools serves a diverse student population of approximately 5,400 students.

Our students hail from 35 countries and speak as many languages, or more.

English Language Learner students in the District are 9% of those enrolled. All receive services.

Our refugee student population receives summer instruction in our schools through a partnership with Asia Services in Action Inc. and Muskingum University.

Students with disabilities are 13% of the student population, with every student receiving services.

Our district sponsors community charter school Lakewood City Academy for those students who need an alternative education setting.

## GIFTED & TALENTED PROGRAMS

Accelerated curricula is available for qualifying students beginning at the elementary level through Grade 12.

- Qualifying elementary students may be identified for self-contained “Discovery” classrooms, which begin in Grade 3. These units accelerate students by one grade level in Math and Language Arts.
- Discovery students integrate all subjects in the creation of extensive research projects. Lakewood’s Templar Automotive and the history of Lake Avenue mansions are among past topics studied.
- Middle School students may qualify for self-contained “Energy” classrooms or may be accelerated in specific subjects in the “Focus” program.
- Students accelerated in Math take Algebra I and Geometry (and earn high school credit) while in middle school.
- Lakewood High students can enroll in Advanced or AP classes and post-secondary options. AP courses are available in 11 subjects.

## OUTSTANDING FACULTY & STAFF

99% of Lakewood faculty members are designated as “Highly Qualified” according to Ohio Department of Education standards.

- Lakewood teachers average 14.4 years of experience and 62% hold Master’s degrees or above
- Each year the district has staff members that earn recognition for being the best in their field. In 2013-2014, Katy Corrigan was named Ohio PTA School Nurse of the Year, Social Studies teacher Ruth Pangrace won the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation’s Master Teacher Award for Ohio and West Shore Career-Tech culinary instructors Rob McGorray and Devan Sharosky were named Teachers of Distinction by Ohio ProStart and in 2013, LHS Orchestra Director Elizabeth Hankins received the Yale University Distinguished Music Educator Award.
- Lakewood faculty includes five Curriculum and Technology Teachers, who assist with integration of Common Core State Standards and technology standards.
- The District invests in professional development, including training in Response to Instruction and Intervention, Columbia Reader’s & Writer’s Workshop, and Math Solutions.

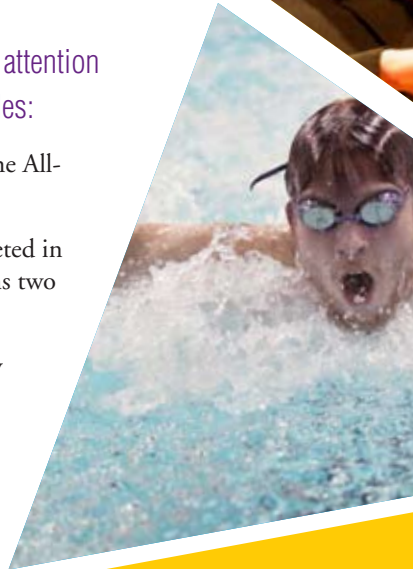
## STANDOUT STUDENTS

Our students routinely garner national, state, and regional attention for their many and varied accomplishments. Some examples:

- One or more of our students has represented LHS in the All-National Honor Orchestra three of the last four years.
- The high school’s Academic Challenge team has competed in the national tournament and was conference champions two years in a row.
- Our middle school Power of the Pen teams consistently excel in the creative writing competition, including individual and team titles at the state, regional and district levels.
- A West Shore Career-Tech Culinary Arts student took top honors in the statewide ProStart competition.
- An LHS art student has been recognized on a national level in the prestigious Scholastic Art & Writing Awards three of the last four years.
- Our athletic teams in 2013-2014 earned two conference championships, has four individual state qualifiers, an individual district champion, and a conference champion. Four coaches earned Coach of the Year awards.

“My son is challenged daily to reach higher and achieve more. He is allowed and encouraged to be the best he can possibly be.”

– Barb Detwiler, *parent*







The Lakewood City Schools have fostered creativity and learning for our child which shows in his achievements both academic and social. We have a choice and we continue to choose the Lakewood City Schools.... Lakewood's got great teachers! They are engaged and mission driven.

There are so many creative things happening in Lakewood classrooms.

Scores just don't tell the whole story.



– Kerry Bohac, *parent*



# HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Lakewood High School provides rigorous courses of study in a wide variety of areas.

- AP classes are available in subjects ranging from Art History to Calculus. The classes provide a rich college preparation that allows students to earn college credit and advanced standing.
- Dual enrollment through the University of Akron Lakewood enables students to earn high school and college credits while enrolled at Lakewood High. Classes are taught by LHS teachers and use college textbooks and syllabi.
- Post-secondary options allow students looking for more rigor to take classes at local universities while still in high school.
- Foreign language options include Chinese, French, Spanish (begun in middle school) and German. Language study is enhanced by regular opportunities to travel abroad with study trips sponsored by the Foreign Language Department.
- Lakewood High School is home to the West Shore Career-Technical District, a collaborative program with the Bay Village, Rocky River, and Westlake school districts. Fourteen programs ranging from Culinary Arts and Construction Trades to Cisco Networking are available as two-year programs beginning junior year.
- Housed within the West Shore program, Project Lead the Way is a four-year series of Engineering classes. It is part of a nationwide program to develop student awareness and access to Engineering and related STEM careers.
- Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of extracurricular activities. Lakewood High School fields 21 varsity sports teams and houses more than 90 clubs, ranging from Math Club and Model UN to Dance and Race & Diversity Clubs. Some clubs, such as Girls' Rugby, compete on a national level.

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## COLLEGE READY

Lakewood High graduates are admitted to a wide range of colleges and universities each year including some two-year colleges as well as some of the nation's most selective universities.

- LHS students routinely outperform the national averages for test scores in both the SAT and ACT, including all four subject areas of the ACT.
- LHS each year produces several National Merit Scholars who are among the highest performing students in the nation.
- Each year, approximately three-quarters of LHS graduating seniors choose to continue their education at the post-secondary level.
- AP, Dual Enrollment and Career-Tech classes enable our students to enter college with substantial college credits, often enough to have sophomore standing as a first-year student.

**“I enjoyed my experience at Lakewood High School because of the diversity offered. I was able to interact with new people and understand the different ways in which they viewed things.”** – Irina Vatamanu, *LHS, Class of 2014 / Harvard College, Class of 2018*



## FINE ARTS

Arts education is integral to all Lakewood City Schools students through a curriculum rich in visual and performing arts.

- Elementary students receive grade-appropriate art and music instruction.
- Classes in band or orchestra instruments begin in Grade 5.
- Middle school students participate in band, orchestra, or chorus and a variety of extra-curricular ensembles.
- Lakewood High School offers five orchestras, five bands and five choral ensembles. In addition, students may participate in numerous extra-curricular music groups, including The Lakewood Project alternative rock orchestra, Marching and Pep Bands, and two a capella quartets.
- Our middle and high school music groups routinely earn ratings of Superior from Ohio Music Educators Association adjudicators in juried music competitions. Music students are named to honors bands, orchestras, and choruses annually.
- Lakewood High students can study in a four-year art sequence to concentrate in a specific area and develop an extensive portfolio. Digital art, interactive media, and design are also available.
- Students of all ages regularly receive recognition in the National PTA Reflections art competition and Scholastic Art & Writing Contest. Recently, students received national recognition in both contests.
- “Barnstormers,” Lakewood High School’s theater program, produces three plays annually: a fall comedy, winter drama, and spring musical.

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## SAFE & MEANINGFUL RECREATION

The Lakewood Community Recreation and Education Department, operated by the Lakewood Board of Education, has provided recreational and educational opportunities for over 90 years.

- People ranging in ages from infants to the elderly participate in Athletics, Aquatics, and Educational opportunities.
- 13,327 people participated in one or more classes or services in 2012-2013. 72% were from Lakewood; 28% came from surrounding communities.
- Lakewood City Schools works cooperatively with the City of Lakewood to staff and share the facilities that make the wide array of programming possible. Instructors are either certified or experts in the area they teach.
- Summer camps provide a variety of activities for children. Spanish Camp, Preschool Potpourri, Rock On!, Camp-Can-Do, and Ohio Heritage are just a few of the options offered.

## EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY

The Lakewood City Schools is moving toward a more collaborative and mobile environment that reflects the 21st century demands on our students.

- Starting with our transition schools, students have access to iPads in grades K-2 and Chromebooks in grades 3-5.
- Computer labs have been replaced with mobile lab solutions bringing technology to the curriculum.
- Core classroom teachers have been outfitted with laptops to promote mobility, allowing them to bring resources to the students in a small group setting.
- Lakewood High will start using mobile labs in place of computer labs.
- To fit the 21st century teaching and learning model, the district is increasing the amount of technology available to students at all school buildings.
- Google Apps for Education gives every student has access to a word processor, spreadsheets, presentation software, and 30 gigabytes of online storage accessible from anywhere.

175

iPods

3,287

Computers

586 Google Docs created  
in the month of May

## TECHNOLOGY by the Numbers:

iPads

387

152,276

Google Docs  
(files shared instead of printed)

545

Chromebooks

**Files created by  
staff & students:**

2,696 PRESENTATIONS  
1,717 SPREADSHEETS  
37,727 DOCUMENTS



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT & INVOLVEMENT

Lakewood Schools is fortunate to have strong partnerships with community groups.

- Each school benefits from strong, active PTA or PTO groups. These parent groups sponsor speakers and presentations in support of school curriculum, as well as carnivals, dances, track and field days, and more.
- The Athletic and Music Booster groups actively support Lakewood's sports teams and music program. Thanks to Athletic Boosters support Lakewood has one of the lowest participation fees in the area. Music Booster support encourages wide participation in music.
- Numerous businesses in and around Lakewood including the City of Lakewood, Hyland Software, Lakewood Hospital, Marriott, and RTA, are actively involved in the West Shore Career-Technical District and give students real-world experience on specific projects and day-to-day business matters.
- Each year, Lakewood Chamber of Commerce sponsors a new teacher luncheon and co-hosts a breakfast for community leaders.
- First Federal Lakewood's sponsorship of the stadium at Lakewood High School is only one way the bank supports the schools. In addition, First Federal has helped math teachers attend a national conference, purchased advanced math calculators for needy students and supported financial literacy classes at Lakewood High School.
- Help to Others, or H2O, is a unique partnership with the City of Lakewood's Human Services Department. H2O is a service learning program for middle and high school students to engage students in learning, leading, and serving within the community.
- Sixty-five volunteers provided more than 2,500 hours of time to elementary students as part of the Project **Mentoring in Ohio for Reading Excellence**, or Project **MORE**. Project MORE provides students with 1:1 structured reading mentoring to help raise the expectations and performance of children with reading disabilities

### LAKEWOOD RANGERS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Since 1984, the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation has distributed more than \$3 million in funding for classroom grants, student scholarships, and school initiatives to the Lakewood City Schools.

The Foundation is guided by its mission to provide resources to enrich the educational experiences of all students. Support includes enrichment in the following areas: Reading; Math and Science; Social Studies and History; humanities; athletics; music, art, and theater; achievement efforts; capital projects; technology; and extra-curricular activities.

For more information or to make a tax deductible donation, visit [\*\*www.lakewoodrangers.org\*\*](http://www.lakewoodrangers.org)



Ranked **Top 2%** in Ohio  
for Value-Added measure

Lakewood City Schools' tax issue passage  
rate since 1995: **100%**

State average passage rate: 56%

Learn more about the Lakewood City Schools.  
[www.lakewoodcityschools.org](http://www.lakewoodcityschools.org)



**LAKEWOOD  
CITY SCHOOLS**

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“An investment in knowledge  
**always** pays the best interest.”

— Benjamin Franklin

