



LORAIN SCHOOLS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 954
LORAIN, OH 44052

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WELCOME!

Welcome to the Lorain Schools Alumni Association Newsletter! Who are we and what do we hope to accomplish with this organization? The Association was created to connect, recognize, and honor past, present, and future graduates of Lorain high schools. Anyone who is a graduate of any of the high schools in Lorain, past or present, is invited to join our association. This includes graduates of Lorain High School, Lorain St. Mary's High School, Lorain Admiral King High School, Lorain Southview High School, and Lorain Catholic High School. The main goal of this organization is to build pride in our community and the graduates of Lorain's high schools. The hope is to demonstrate for current students that a quality education has always been available through our local high schools and that education can provide the foundation for our students to succeed and soar to accomplish their goals in life. Each year this association will honor alumni graduates who illustrate this success. Another goal is to provide scholarships for Lorain's deserving students to further their education. Fundraisers will be held to support this goal. Lastly, it is a goal to share the journey of this association with our members through the quarterly publication of this newsletter. Join us!



... TO THE PRESENT

In August 2016 the opening of the new Lorain High School marked the culmination of the building of all new schools in the Lorain City School District that began with the passage of a 2001 bond issue allowing the district to receive \$172,000,000 in state funds. With a local contribution a total of \$216,000,000 was spent to build 14 new schools.

Lorain High School is a beautiful, state-of-the-art facility located on the site of the former Admiral King High School. It consists of three main buildings designed to provide the very best educational opportunities for Lorain students for decades to come.

Building A houses administrative and counseling offices, the cafeteria, and gym. It has facilities for the culinary arts program, their school-run restaurant, the Media Center and the Lorain Sports Hall of Fame. Attention was paid to the design of this building which features a brick hallway lined with bricks from each of the previous Lorain high schools. The hallway features photos of athletes from any of the former high schools who went on to play at the collegiate level. Showcases hold trophies and pictures featuring the historical athletic successes from Lorain, Admiral King and Southview. A huge mural on the Lorain Lighthouse emphasizes the subtle use of a nautical theme throughout collegiate level. Showcases hold trophies and pictures featuring the historical athletic successes from Lorain, Admiral King and Southview. A huge mural on the Lorain Lighthouse emphasizes the subtle use of a nautical theme

... TO THE PRESENT CONTINUED

Throughout the building. The school's new colors, navy and silver, chosen by the students, are featured. The new nickname, the Titans, was also selected by the students to represent a new beginning.

Building B houses the main academic wing with classrooms and labs. Building C is the location for the Lorain Performing Arts auditorium and rooms dedicated for the choirs, band, orchestra, and JROTC. Career and technical programs are here as well in well-equipped spaces for welding, HVAC, engineering, auto repair, graphic arts, and interactive media arts. The area for the medical assisting and State Tested Nursing programs is on the second floor. Lorain County Community College occupies the front of Building C offering advising, financial aid, and classes for all Lorainites.

A vision created and financed at the beginning of the century has become a reality that all Lorainites should be proud of. Come and visit your new Lorain High School and develop your own Titan Pride.

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Jay Ferguson
AKHS, Class of '73



Tamika Newsome
AKHS, Class of '91



Aaron Simmons
AKHS, Class of '04

Many thanks to our outgoing board members, **Raul Ramos and Bill Rufo**, for the time and dedication that they gave to this board and our association.

BOARD OFFICERS

Henry Patterson, President	AKHS, Class of '93	hpatters@lorainccc.edu
Anthony Giardini, Vice President	AKHS, Class of '69	abglaw@yahoo.com
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BOARD MEMBERS

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Bill Sturgill	LHS, Class of '68	bsturg@roadrunner.com

DISINGUISHED ALUMNI INDUCTION

On June 29, 2019, the Lorain Schools Alumni Association will induct its second class into the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. A committee of association members selected candidates who have distinguished themselves at a high level of achievement in their particular field of study, life's work, or community service in areas such as, but not limited to, the arts, business, education, government service, community service, science, and/or technology. The selected alumni will be inducted at a breakfast in their honor at the Antlers Grand Ballroom. See related article for ticket information.

The list of inductees will be announced later this month.

UPCOMING DATES*

May 11, 2019	Sports Hall of Fame Enshrinement Banquet
May 15, 2019	Alumni Executive Board Meeting
May 21, 2019	Last Day of School
May 21, 2019	Lorain High Graduation LCCC Field House
June 19, 2019	Alumni Executive Board Meeting
June 25, 2019	Sacred Music Concert (LIF) St. Peter's, Lorain (Free)
June 26, 2019	International Festival Breakfast German's Villa, Vermilion
June 27, 2019	International Princess Pageant Lorain High Performing Arts Center (Free)
June 28-30, 2019	Lorain International Festival Black River Landing
June 29, 2019	Distinguished Alumni Recognition Breakfast, Antlers Ballroom
June 30, 2019	International Festival Parade
July 13, 2019	Mexican Mutual Scholarship
July 17, 2019	Alumni Executive Board Meeting
August 4, 2019	LSHOF Golf Outing
August 10, 2019	Lorain City Schools Back to School Back to School Event
August 21, 2019	First Day of 2019-2020 School Year
August 21, 2019	Alumni Executive Board Meeting
September 18, 2019	Alumni Executive Board Meeting

*For further information on each event, visit the website for each organization/school.

HB 70, SB 110, HB 154, HB 127

Keep informed about the governance and status of your Lorain City School District. Attend Lorain Board of Education meetings, Academic Distress Commission meetings and Lorain City Schools Town Hall Meetings.

FUNDRAISER THANKS!

Thanks to all who attended our Spaghetti Dinner on April 4, purchased 50/50 tickets and/or basket raffle tickets helping to raise funds for scholarships. The food was great and we are on our way to establishing our scholarship fund!

Special thanks to the I.A.V. for those who volunteered their time to cook our delicious meal—Leo Citro, Bill Dillon, Alfred DiLuciano, and Ellen Gerber and members of the Police Explorers and PACE who served the meals and helped with the cleanup.

Also, thanks to the following for donating baskets or items for our baskets that were raffled: Carm Januzzi, Sue Bylica, Bambi Dillon, Heidi Gedling, Kathy Lathwell, Tamika Newsome, Missy DeAngelis, Bill Sturgill, The Olive Scene, and Ben Fligner.

SHARE WITH US

Share your stories about our Lorain Schools, memories, upcoming events, etc. for our newsletters. Your input would be greatly appreciated.

Send information to Kathy at kathleenlathwell@gmail.com or Sue at bylica@roadrunner.com.

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The newsletter is written, edited, and published by Kathy Lathwell and Sue Bylica in collaboration with the other board members.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Smart. Driven. Competitive. Resilient. Sharon Lynn Pankratz Tamarcaz has Lorain grit. An “oops” baby, Sharon was born to Gayle and Jerry Pankratz when they were in their forties. She was the youngest of four and grew up competitive with her older siblings, Doug, Kathy and David. Sharon’s destiny was to follow her own path far from Lorain. She attended Lakeview Elementary, Irving Jr. High, and graduated from the Lorain High School Class of 1982 as Salutatorian. Sharon was active in Key Club, Yearbook and National Honor Society. Athletic as well, she participated in Gymnastics, Volleyball, and Cheerleading.

Tragedy interrupted Sharon’s time at LHS when her father was diagnosed with cancer and died in July 1980 between Sharon’s sophomore and junior years. Ten months later Sharon’s mother had a brain aneurysm that left her in a coma for the next ten years. Sharon was essentially an orphan heading into her senior year. Still, she persisted, continuing with her academic and athletic endeavors. In the spring of her senior year, Sharon enrolled in college in order to maintain the death benefits she was entitled to due to her situation. LCCC became the first stop on Sharon’s college journey. Appreciating her resilience, Sharon was Faculty Choice to speak at her high school graduation.



Jerry Pankratz was an adventurous individual and imparted his zest for life to his children. In 1972 he traveled to Colorado to go on a cattle drive through the Rocky Mountains, crossing over the Continental Divide. In 1976, at 12, Sharon went on the cattle drive and proclaimed, “I am going to live here someday.” In 1979, Doug, Kathy and Sharon accompanied their dad on his “last drive”. Sharon went again in the summer of 1982, sent by her siblings as a graduation gift.

Sharon was off to Ohio State in the fall. After two quarters, she came back to Lorain and LCCC before going to the University of Akron the next fall. She majored in polymer chemistry, a challenging program that required three semesters of co-op. The summer of ‘85 was time for the next cattle drive and Sharon went again. It was an eventful drive as Sharon’s horse died and the replacement threw her sky high. She nursed her bruises around the campfire with Paul Tamarcaz, one of the rancher’s sons. They shared a date on the last night in Colorado. Sharon returned to Lorain and Paul proposed three weeks later. They married in December in Midland, Michigan after Sharon completed her co-op semester at Dow Chemical.



Sharon’s life took a dramatic turn with her move to Gunnison, Colorado as the wife of a cattle rancher. Money was tight and the ranching life is demanding. Twin daughters arrived in May of 1987, and a son was born 16 months later. Sharon focused on the babies for several years and then began her career in banking as a teller, moved between three different banks, and eventually rose to her current role as Senior Vice President/Mountain Central Region, Community Banks of Colorado. Still competitive, Sharon frequently earns awards from her employer. Sharon worked shorter stints as the manager of a legal firm and proprietor of a craft store. The sign in her office reads, “ Behind every successful rancher is a wife who works in town”. So, corporate life by day and the cowboy life the rest of the time. Calving season, branding, haying, and cattle drives. It is a different world.

Sharon and Paul are grandparents of eight, and now a fourth generation of the family drive the cattle through the mountains. City Slickers, Lorain style.

CURRENTLY IN OUR SCHOOLS . . .



Longfellow Middle School Robotics Teams brought home three state trophies, winning three of the top seven awards at the State of Ohio VEX Championships competing against 42 Middle School teams from across the state. A Longfellow Team will participate in the World Championship April 25-28 in Louisville, Kentucky. Forty-two countries will be competing at this event.

LHS Titans Basketball Season/Awards. The Titans were 12-0 Champions of the Lake Erie League this past season. They were ranked number 4 in the state in Division I and finished their season at 23-2. Senior Devon Grant was named First Team All Ohio and Mr. Basketball of Lorain County. Teammate Taevon Pierre-Louis was named Third Team All Ohio.

Mya Cordova, of Southview Middle School, was a Gold Key Art Award Winner at the Lorain County Region Scholastic Art Awards, displayed in the gallery at LCCC.

Palm Avenue Elementary Chess Team competed at the 2019 Ohio Elementary Chess Championships at Solon Middle School finishing in 1st Place for the Grades 4-6 Reserve Division. They swept the top three individual places with Demian Perez, 1st Place; Eric Barhams Jr., 2nd Place; and Rocco Hernandez, 3rd Place. Others with multiple wins were Alex Manriquez, Charles Thomas Jr., Bryce Lowe, and Darrell Witten. Bob Brdar, team advisor and Fourth Grade teacher, notched his fifth First Team win at these championships.

Highly Rated Pre-K Sites. Seven of the ten Lorain Pre-K building sites are rated at five stars under the Step Up to Quality rating system used by the Ohio Department of Education. The additional three sites are currently rated at four stars and working towards that additional star.

Spring State Testing, testing, testing. Good luck to all!



TITAN COLLEGE

Lorain High School's Early College High School Graduates 22

Students have been taking college courses for dual high school and college credit since the Postsecondary Enrollment Options law was passed in 1989. In the mid-1990's, Lorain's three high schools all began offering the opportunity to take PSEO courses right at their high school site by partnering with Lorain County Community College. Many students have earned hundreds of college credits for free under this partnership. A few years go, a new goal was established to allow for completion of an entire two year Associate of Arts degree at the high school site. Each year a handful of students achieved their goal to simultaneously earn an Associate's degree from LCCC and their high school diploma. In 2014, the PSEO law was changed to CCP, or College Credit Plus, expanding dual credit to grades 7-12. Lorain City Schools ramped up efforts to offer more college courses at what was now their one remaining high school. A new administrative position was created to oversee these ambitious students. The results have been very impressive! This May, 22 LHS students will receive dual degrees. As alumni, we are proud of this accomplishment and congratulate the following students:

Skyler Ferguson

Marlena Laboy

Maya Pappas

Alexis Garcia

Daymiah Leyva

Kaitlyn Ramey-Rowland

Tyler Gargas

Karina Medina

Isabella Teter

Hannah Hilko

Jaiden Morales

Kelvin Torres

Carissa Holcomb

Emily Negron

Julissa Vargas

Gabriella Jackson

Alivia Nimene

Omar Vargas

Zachary Keene

Daniel Ortiz

Jazmin Vasquez

Molly Kodman

Lorain Schools Alumni Association

LORAIN HIGH SCHOOL 2018-19 BASKETBALL

Following the 2018 season where the Lorain Boys Basketball team made the State Final Four, the 2019 version of the Lorain Titans had sky high expectations and almost lived up to them!

The Lorain Titans' boys basketball team finished 23-2 on the season, going 12-0 in the Lake Erie League with losses only to state runner-up, St. Vincent St. Mary's, and a 60-53 loss to Olmsted Falls at the Elyria District Final. Lead by Senior All- Ohio selections in Devon Grant and Taevon Pierre-Louis, the Lorain High Boys Basketball finished ranked 4th in the state in the final AP Poll.

After this outstanding season, Grant was named a finalist for the prestigious Ohio Mr. Basketball, 1st team All-Ohio, Player of the year, and 1st Team All-North East Lakes District, 1st team All-Lorain County and Lorain County Mr. Basketball. Meanwhile, Pierre-Louis was 3rd Team All- Ohio, 1st team All North East Lakes District, and First Team All Lorain County. Grant finished the season averaging 26 points per game, with a team record 44 scored against Elyria Catholic. Pierre-Louis finished with an outstanding 18.1 point per game average and was also an outstanding rebounder at 7.4 points per game. During the two years that Grant and Pierre-Louis were starters, the teams went 45-8 overall and an incredible 21-3 in a tough Lake Erie League Conference.

Devon Grant has committed to play basketball at Division I Miami of Ohio, and Pierre-Louis is entertaining several offers from Junior Colleges and Preparatory Schools around the country. While the Titans were unable to achieve their goal of winning a state championship, they represented the hopes and dreams of the entire Lorain community during their 2018 season!

Complete results for the season can be found at <https://lorainathletics.org/teams/2456090/boys/basketball/varsity/schedule>.



Bottom row: (L-R)

Aaron Whitehead (11), Deonte Benejan (11), Kam Davis (12), Luis Suarez (12), De'Vonte Jackson (10)

Top Row: (L-R)

Devon Grant (12), Kamron Thomas (10), Taevon Pierre-Louis (12), Aiden Brown (10), Jordan Jackson (11)

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI RECOGNITION BREAKFAST

Lorain Schools Alumni Association is hosting the second annual Distinguished Alumni Induction Breakfast on Saturday, June 29, 9:00-11:30 A.M. at the Antlers Grand Ballroom, 300 Washington Avenue. Tickets are \$15.00 per person for a breakfast with a waffle station, a bread station, scrambled eggs with or without cheese, sausage, ham, fruit bowl, and coffee, juice, and water. For tickets contact any board member (see contact information in this newsletter).

Come and enjoy each inductee as they receive their plaques and hear their stories. Be inspired by what our Lorain graduates have accomplished!

LORAIN SPORTS HALL OF FAME

The Lorain Sports Hall of Fame is celebrating its **50th Anniversary** this year. Here is the list of the current inductees:

Regular

Jesse Hernandez Southview (1991)	BOWLING
Ricky Quiles Southview (1988)	BOXING
Ron Mantini Lorain Catholic (1995)	BASEBALL California University of Pennsylvania
Roger Smith Admiral King (1983)	BASKETBALL/FOOTBALL Ohio University
Scott Zimmerman Admiral King (1984)	BASEBALL Indiana University

Senior

Chris Cowie Lorain Senior (1968)	TRACK/FIELD Cleveland State University
Victor Guerrieri Admiral King (1968)	BASKETBALL Oberlin College

Special

Larry Reardon Admiral King (1977)	BASKETBALL OFFICIAL
John Rositano Admiral King (1981)	BASKETBALL COACH

Team

Admiral King High School Basketball 1979-1980

The Lorain Sports Hall of Fame Enshrinement Banquet for our graduates also with Theresa Feldkamp Brannen from Amherst (2001) will be held at German's Villa on May 11, 2019. Tickets can be purchased by calling Ron Feldcamp at 440-244-2449 or Tom Bauer at 440-213-8719 or emailing Tom at tbauer0403@gmail.com. The cost is \$30 per ticket.

LORAIN IS NOT A FAILING DISTRICT

Viewpoint by **Paul Biber**

The Lorain City Schools is not a district of failing schools. In fact, it is anything but a failing district. The LCS faces far more daunting challenges than most districts and is aware of that.

By its own internal testing, the district has found that the vast majority of students enter kindergarten with fewer skills than is the norm for 5-year-old children, some at the skill level of a 3-year-old child. One would expect that with this data, the State Department of Education would rush to provide LCS with assistance and funding to deal with these challenges. This has never happened. Instead, these challenges have largely been ignored.

Worse yet, when to no one's surprise mandatory state testing reveals that approximately three-quarters of third-graders score below grade level, LCS is labelled on the state report card as a "failing" school district. If this "report card" were turned in as a project in a statistics class it would receive a grade of "F" itself. It takes incomplete data, compares unlike entities and comes to, not unexpectedly, inaccurate conclusions.

Remarkably still, over the course of 13 years, 80-90% of LCS students catch up, pass the state tests, and graduate. In fact, the third-grade tests indicate that LCS has already made a 15% improvement on entry level scores. Yet, despite all of this, the State of Ohio with its flawed measurement tools - insists on inaccurately labeling LCS a "failing district."

What is the motivation for this chicanery? In one word, profit. The goal of the tests, for years, has been to pave the way for laws like H.B. 70 and the privatization of public education, a process already underway via charter schools, etc. Public schools are potentially one of the biggest businesses in America — and one completely funded with public money. A perfect example is ECOT, the so called educational classroom of tomorrow. Created to magically educate at-risk students via online instruction, it failed miserably — defrauding Ohio taxpayers of millions of dollars.

How could this impact Lorain? Our school budget is around \$100 million per year. If our elected Board were to make cuts, layoffs, etc. amounting to \$10 million, that money would go into next year's budget. However, a private operator would pocket that money. With over 600 districts in Ohio, simple math shows how lucrative this business of education can be.

What gets lost in all of this important information is the quality educational opportunity and instruction provided daily to LCS students. The heartfelt testimony of dozens of LCS students at a recent Board of Education meeting was a glowing testament to that. This "failing district" — which starts out far behind — graduates most of its students and sends them on to college or advanced vocational training. Graduates yearly receive hundreds of thousands of scholarship dollars, and many students earn LCCC college credits or an associate's degree while enrolled at LHS or Titan College at no cost to their families. One of our sophomore students scored a perfect 36 on the ACT, and our robotics teams regularly receive awards at statewide competitions. None of this is the hallmark of a "failing district."

The extra curriculum at LCS is absolutely outstanding. The LHS band, under the leadership of Tim Sivik, is the envy of the area. In sports, under John Rositano, LHS boys basketball has become a perennial state power; Dave McFarland leads a football program that regularly makes the playoffs. These programs yearly send players on to college programs including Ohio State University and Miami University. This is just the short list of accomplishments, and a failing district does not do this.

On the bright side, our Board of Education, mayor, other public officials, and the community have united to fight H.B. 70. As we move forward, I urge all concerned citizens to do two things: first, recognize and laud the successes of LCS while fighting unjust criticisms; and second, join the fight against H.B.70 and the privatization of public education. American democracy and tax payer supported public schools have been the light of the world for over two centuries. We must work to save and improve both.

I close as I began, the Lorain City Schools is not a "failing school district."

Paul Biber is a 1966 graduate of Admiral King High School and a Lorain City Schools retired teacher.

MEMBERSHIP

At this point, there is no cost for membership for the Lorain Schools Alumni Association. However, any donations that you wish to make to either the scholarship fund or costs of running the organization would be gladly accepted! Visit our website at to download our membership application at lorainschoolalumni.com. Mail completed forms to Lorain Schools Alumni Association, 5733 Normandy Dr., Lorain, OH 44053 or [email to admin@lorainschool.com](mailto:emailtoadmin@lorainschool.com).

If you choose to donate, please write the check to Lorain Schools Alumni Association and indicate to where the donation should be applied. Checks can be sent to Lorain Schools Alumni Association, PO Box 954, Lorain, OH 44052. Thank you so much!