in FULL MEASURE

a quality profile
Hello, Lakewood!

I am pleased and honored to begin my service as your Superintendent of the Lakewood City Schools. I hope to build on the successes of those educators and leaders who came before me and who helped shape your school district into the outstanding public school system it is today. I was drawn to Lakewood Schools because of its richness of opportunities for its students and the wonderful, steadfast support from the community.

The Ohio Department of Education will soon be releasing its annual Ohio School Report Cards for public school districts. While in the past we have done well as a District in such area as Value Added – the amount of learning done in one school year - the grades received on the District Report Card do not accurately reflect the kind of learning in and out of our classrooms that our students experience.

The Report Card may offer a good starting point to help our teachers delve deeper into the data to discover where we can provide better instruction, but it does not measure the extensive learning that happens in our fine arts classes, with our community service projects, in our extracurricular activities, in simply going to school with someone that comes from a country on the other side of the world.

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. In a survey earlier this year, 90% of respondents said they believe we are providing our students with a good or excellent education.

Inside this booklet, you will find what is happening in our District beyond test scores and some of the reasons why we achieved that 90% approval. Our community has voiced over and over again that it values that District programs that serve the many different type of students who come through our doors. These include the West Shore Career-Technical District, Gifted Services, English Learners program and our extensive arts programming. The completion of our Facilities Master Plan, made possible by voters passing three bond issues over nine years, is also testament to the support our community provides.

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. The District’s tradition of transparent leadership and fiscal accountability have earned the community’s trust. I hope to gain that same trust as your District’s leader.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Sincerely,

MICHAEL J. BARNES, ED.D

Each summer, the Board of Education adopts strategic goals for the coming school year with the top goal always being to improve student achievement. Our teachers will do so by actively engaging our students in their learning, giving them the support needed, building their ability to think deeply and critically, problem solve, and create while also building their volume of and stamina for reading and writing.

THE REMAINING GOALS ARE:

- **Build Upon the Confidence and Support of the Community**
- **Effectively Manage District Operations**
- **Foster Positive Relationships and Collaborative Working Environment with all Employees**
- **Ensure Fiscal Transparency and Stability, Transparency, and Public Accountability**

For more specific areas of focus under these goals, visit LAKEWOODCITYSCHOOLS.ORG
Fiscal Responsibility

The Lakewood City Schools has earned the trust of the Lakewood community with its sound fiscal policy that has allowed the District to operate on money from the 2013 levy that passed with overwhelming support. A sample of the financially beneficial moves made by the District in the last few years:

- Continued participation in the Suburban Health Consortium to keep premium increases below the industry average
- Capitalizing on the historically low interest rate environment, the District used lease purchase agreements for a lighting replacement program to reduce energy costs in our buildings constructed in the first two phases or our Facilities Master Plan
- Refunded an additional $80 million in bonds at a savings of $5.8 million
- Used business and community partnerships with First Federal Lakewood and University of Akron to defray operational and construction costs

High School Programs

Lakewood High School provides rigorous courses of study within a selection of more than 200 courses.

- 16 AP classes are available in subjects ranging from Art History to Computer Science. These classes allow students to earn college credit and advanced standing.
- On-site College Credit Plus classes enable students to earn high school and college credits while enrolled in Lakewood High School. CCP classes can be taken at LHS or at local higher education institutions. Students pursuing post-secondary classes often have exhausted available high school offerings and are seeking additional, rigorous courses.
- Foreign languages include Chinese, French, Spanish (all offered at middle school) and German. Language study is enhanced by regular opportunities to travel abroad.
- 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. Twelve programs offered range from Culinary Arts, and Construction Trades to Theatre Arts. Most are available as two-year programs beginning junior year. Project Lead the Way is a four-year series of engineering classes.
- Students have the opportunity to participate in approximately 60 extracurricular clubs and activities and 26 varsity sports teams. A number of our clubs and club sports teams participate on the national level.

College and Career Readiness

Lakewood High graduates are admitted to a wide range of colleges and universities each year, including some of the nation’s most selective universities. Many graduate with industry certifications through the West Shore Career-Technical District that allow them to move directly into career jobs in fields such as computer networking and health care.

- 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 a number of 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, College Credit Plus and Career-Tech classes enable our students to enter college with college credits, often enough to have sophomore standing as a first-year student.
Preschool

- Six of our preschool programs earned the highest 5 stars from the state’s quality ratings program.
- Curriculum is play-based and developmentally appropriate.

Gifted Services

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

- Qualifying elementary students may be identified for self-contained classrooms, which begin in Grade 3.
- Students integrate all subjects in the creation of extensive research projects.
- Middle school students may qualify for Advanced classes in Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.
- Students accelerated in Math have the opportunity to complete Algebra I and Geometry (and earn high school credit) while in middle school.
- Lakewood High students can study subjects in Advanced or AP classes and also have post-secondary class options.

Rec r eation

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

- More than 400 athletic, aquatic, sport teams and educational opportunities are available for all ages.
- Lakewood City School District works cooperatively with the City of Lakewood to staff and share the facilities that make the wide array of programming possible.
- Samples of youth activities include fencing, babysitter training and foreign language camps.
- Camps like Jazz Jam, Ohio Heritage, Preschool Potpourri and literacy camps provide a variety of activities for children over the summer.

Lakewood City Schools serves a diverse student population of approximately 5,000 students. The global tapestry of our district provides a rich environment for learning about the world.

Our students hail from 35 countries and speak as many languages, or more. 4% are refugees.

Race and Diversity and Girls Facing History clubs help bridge the racial and cultural gap between students.

Students with disabilities make up 13% of the population. 100% receive services.

8% of our student body are English learners. 100% receive services.

Embracing Diversity

Fine Arts 🎶

Arts education is integral through a curriculum rich in visual arts, theater and music programming.

- Elementary students receive grade-appropriate art and music instruction with classes in band and orchestra beginning in Grade 5.
- Middle school students can participate in band, orchestra and choir and a variety of extracurricular ensembles.
- Lakewood High School offers five orchestras, three bands and five choral ensembles. In addition, students may participate in extracurricular music groups, including Marching and Pep Bands, Chamber Choir, and nationally acclaimed electric rock orchestra The Lakewood Project.
- Middle and high school music groups routinely earn ratings of Superior in Ohio Music Educators Association competitions. Students are named to honors bands, orchestras, and choruses annually. Students often earn positions in state and national performing groups.
- The District earned its second straight Best Communities for Music Education designation in 2018.
- Lakewood High students can study in a four-year art sequence and develop an extensive portfolio. AP Art Studio, digital art, interactive media and design round out our comprehensive offerings.
- Students of all ages regularly receive recognition in the National PTA Reflections art competition and Scholastic Art & Writing Contest.
- West Shore Career-Tech District offers an extensive Theatre Arts program
- The Barnstormers drama club produces three plays annually.
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 six of the last seven years.
- West Shore Media Art & Design student Micah Inak won several regional art competitions and was honored nationally in the Scholastic Art & Writing awards.
- Our high school Academic Challenge team has competed in a national tournament for six years straight.
- Our athletic teams in 2017-2018 earned two conference/division titles and a sectional title. Individually, the Rangers had five conference champions, a regional champion, two state qualifiers and a nationals qualifier in hurdler Tyler Hannah.

Outstanding Faculty

- 99% of Lakewood faculty members are designated as “Highly Qualified” according to Ohio Department of Education standards and three members hold doctorates.
- Lakewood teachers average 11 years of experience.
- More than 100 applications are typically received for each teaching position with Lakewood City Schools.
- Our faculty routinely win awards as innovative educators and leaders in their field such as Culinary Arts instructor Devan Corti, who was named 2018 Chef Educator of the Year for Ohio.
- The staff at Roosevelt Elementary helped the school earn a 2018 High Progress School of Honor award from the Ohio Department of Education.

Technology

The Lakewood City Schools’ Technology Department continues to build and foster a more collaborative and mobile tech environment for our teachers and students. Computer labs have been replaced with mobile computer carts that bring technology to the classroom.

- Students have access to tablets in grades K-2 and Chromebooks in Grades 2-5.
- Every middle schooler is assigned a Chromebook beginning in Grade 6. The 1:1 Chromebook project has been expanded to include Grades 9-11 with a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) program available for students in Grade 12.
- Core classroom teachers are provided laptops to promote mobility, allowing them to bring resources to the students in a small group setting while working with interactive projection units for larger groups.
- Using Google Apps for Education, every student has access to a word processor, spreadsheet, presentation software and unlimited online storage that they can access from anywhere.
- With wireless buildings, our students and teachers have access to resources and content from any location and any device when they need it.
- Our technology infrastructure allows our students to connect with students and classrooms around the world, providing a global perspective critical to success post graduation.

I LOVE teaching in Lakewood because the focus of our collective energy is ALWAYS on the students.

ANN MICHAELS PESTA, LHS CLASS OF 1984
LHS Science Teacher
Lakewood City Schools recently completed its Facilities Master Plan. The new academic and athletic/performing arts wings at Lakewood High were completed in January and August 2017, respectively. The high school gym was completed in November 2017. All District students are now learning in buildings that have been renovated or rebuilt within the last 13 years!

Early in 2018, the District sold its headquarters property on Warren Road to Liberty Development Co. Liberty will renovate the former Recreation Department Building (built in 1879 as one of our first schools) to modern office space that is expected to be leased by the Board of Education for its administrative operations.

Lakewood City Academy
The District-sponsored community charter school serves students in Grades 6-12 who receive alternative education services. The success of LCA has been demonstrated by the 227 students who have graduated since the inception of the school in 2005. The school offers special services such as:

- **Credit Recovery** – Courses students may take in addition to their regular courses outside of their scheduled day to make up lost credits.
- **Credit Flexibility** – A plan created by students, and parents with approval from school administration for student to work at a fast pace to complete high school earlier than their expected graduation date.
- **College/Career Readiness** – Students who qualify may take post-secondary courses to earn high school and college-level credit.

Since 1984, the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation has distributed over $4 million dollars in supplemental funding to the Lakewood City Schools to support innovative teaching projects, student clubs, the fine arts, athletics, scholarships as well as District initiatives including capital projects and art preservation. The Foundation raised more than $100,000 in its inaugural Purple & Gold Gala. Guided by its mission that every Lakewood student is entitled to a world-class public education, the Foundation raises funds to provide the resources to enrich the educational experiences of all students and elevate excellence in the Lakewood City Schools. For more information or to make a tax deductible donation, visit: lakewoodrangers.org/support-lref
While the multitude of STEM courses that I took at LHS made me sure of my major, they never came at the expense of the arts. I was always able to make time for Choir and Drama Club.

LUCY KRESS, LHS CLASS OF 2017
Biomedical Engineering, Univ. of Pittsburgh