

National Merit scholars named

Class of '21 has 2 Semifinalists and 3 Commended

Lakewood High School seniors Gina Marjanovic and Nina Seckers have been named National Merit Semifinalists in the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Corp. competition. This designation recognizes Gina and Nina as among the top students in the nation.

Based on their PSAT score from the 2019-2020 school year, Gina and Nina join the group of 16,000 Semifinalists who represent less than 1% of the U.S. high

school seniors and the highest-scoring entrants in each state. They will have the opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$30 million, offered next spring.

To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. Over 90% of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and more

than half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship.

National Merit Scholarship Corp. also recognizes Commended Scholars, who are among the top 5% of PSAT scorers. This year, Lakewood High School celebrates three Commended Scholars: seniors Sean McHugh, Aidan Peck and Kathryn Spilsbury. These students do not move on in competition however they are academic standouts among their peers. Congratulations to all!

Class of 2021 National Merit Scholars



Gina Marjanovic
Semifinalist



Nina Seckers
Semifinalist



Sean McHugh
Commended



Aidan Peck
Commended



Kathryn Spilsbury
Commended

Superintendent Message

Dear Lakewood:

When we closed schools so abruptly last March, never did any of us think that we would be starting our new school year the same way we ended the last one. It is an unfortunate situation that we all must cope with and do our best to provide your children with the high quality education they deserve, despite the challenging circumstances. I know that Lakewood City Schools is up to that challenge.

Last March, our teachers were forced to abruptly switch their instruction to remote. This time around, our staff has had ample professional development in online instruction and are much more familiar with the tech tools that were new to some staff last spring.

As I think about the environment we are all living through, a recent article I read in School Administrator magazine comes to mind. The article talks about a concept I learned years ago at a leadership conference at the U.S. Army War College. It is a concept that reassures me that we as a school community will emerge from this pandemic stronger and more resilient. The concept VUCA was developed by the military to describe the state of international affairs following the conclusion of the Cold War. It stands for Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous. We certainly are living in a VUCA world right now! There are strategies to survive and even thrive in times like today, and I believe that the foundation that our Dis-



trict and community is built on is one that can withstand the VUCA vortex.

Rising above the four components of VUCA takes a strong vision to weather the volatility, knowledge of your strengths to temper the uncertainty, courage to tackle the complexity of issues, and agility to manage the ambiguity. Our Vision of a Lakewood Graduate keeps our focus

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64 Lakewood High students AP Scholars

The robust selection of 18 Advanced Placement Courses at Lakewood High School has led to 64 current students and recent graduates being honored as AP Scholars by College Board. The Scholars included two National AP Scholars, who scored an average of at least a 4 on all AP exams taken in addition to scores of 4 or more on eight or more exams.

Congratulations to our 2020 AP Scholars:

National AP Scholar

Class of 2020: Evan Bell, Aidan Bohac

AP Scholars with Distinction earn their award by averaging at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken,

and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams:

Class of 2020: Evan Bell, Aidan Bohac, Halina Dreger, Maxwell Gilliland, Emily Gowan, Alice King, Cameron Levis, Sean Mahoney, Emily McIntire, Colin Meehan, Tristan Rumsey, Colin Sabo, Audrey Stahl, Alexander Weber, Sydney Wilhelmy, Tully Worrone, Jack Wynn, Sammi Zhang

Class of 2021: Gina Marjanovic, Sean McHugh, Anastasia Seckers, Simon Thompson

AP Scholars with Honor earn their recognition by averaging at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken and grades of 3 or

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Can't hide that Ranger Spirit!



AIMEE GUZOWSKI

Our Lakewood High School Fresh Start mentors didn't let a pandemic hold them back from showing their Ranger Spirit and bringing the enthusiasm to the new students' orientation program. Students were brought into the building in small groups and maintained their physical distance while still being able to learn all about their new school home.

New administrators in at Grant and Treasurer's Office

Foote takes the reins at Grant

Lakewood City Schools' Teaching and Learning Coordinator Christine Foote has taken over as the Grant Elementary School Principal. Foote replaces Kait Turner, who moved to a new position with the District.

Foote, who has teaching and administrative experience from elementary to college over the span of her career, joined Lakewood City Schools in 2005 as an elementary instructional coach. Prior to that she spent six years working as a middle school teacher in New Orleans and an elementary teacher for the Cleveland Municipal School District.

Throughout her career with Lakewood, Foote has focused on literacy and equitable education for all and has provided staff training to address these issues. She has done considerable

work with the District's English Language Learners program and was instrumental in developing resources and a professional learning hub for staff for the remote instruction period of the 2019-2020 school year.

"I feel honored to join the Grant Elementary School community as their principal," Foote said. "I'm excited to continue building on the positive relationships established over the years with the Grant staff. I look forward to working collaboratively with this talented team as we support our students."

Superintendent Mike Barnes praised Foote for her broad experience and professionalism:

"Mrs. Foote is a seasoned professional who brings a wealth of teaching and administrative experience."



Christine Foote (above) and Emily Weisbarth



New asst. treasurer joins team

The Board of Education approved the appointment of Olmsted Falls City Schools Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer Emily Weisbarth as the District's assistant treasurer. The new position is part of a restructuring of the Treasurer's Office after the retirement of Accounting Manager Maria Gregg.

Weisbarth, who begins her new post on October 12, has held positions at all levels within a treasurers' office and enjoys collaborating within a team to improve the operational and reporting processes relating to district finances. Her career spans 12 years and multiple districts.

Weisbarth, who started her career as an accountant after graduating from Walsh University, values creating financial transparency and clear communication across all levels

of stakeholders. Her accomplishments include developing and leading a District Finance Committee, being a member of the Olmsted Township Economic Development team and assisting in running multiple successful levy campaigns.

Weisbarth is looking is eager to be part of the Lakewood team.

"I am excited to be part of the Ranger family! Lakewood has an experienced leadership and a dedicated staff that will make coming to work everyday a rewarding experience. I am excited to apply the knowledge and skills I have gained in my career so far to Lakewood City Schools to continue making the district fiscally stable and transparent for the taxpayers," Weisbarth said.

District responds to call for focus on anti-racism efforts

When the country reacted to the death of George Floyd back in May, organizations across the country reacted by vowing to be better advocates and change agents when it comes to eliminating systemic racism. Our District has made that commitment and is following through with action that began in August with diversity, equity and inclusion training for our teachers and a resolution passed by the Board of Education that challenges the Ohio Department

of Education to revise current core content standards to be more inclusive. The resolution also asks Lakewood administrators and faculty to begin reviewing and revising local courses to better reflect the diversity of cultures that have contributed to our country's history and to enhance or current robust and diverse course offerings.

With the Board and administrators' support, teachers at Lakewood High School have proposed to add courses on Native

American and African American history beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. Adding these courses will assist teachers in presenting our history through multiple lenses and allow for adequate exploration of the contributions of Americans of all cultures and races that is challenging under the current curriculum requirements

On Sunday, October 12, Superintendent Barnes will be the guest of the Lakewood High School History Club and will give a

presentation titled "From DuBois to Steele - The Struggle for Liberty and Equality and the Diverse History of Black Political Thought." The event begins at noon on the LHS front lawn, with the Civic Auditorium as a backup in case of weather.

These initiatives are the beginning of an ongoing effort to focus on making sure that all of our staff and students feel safe, supported and heard and that our students are all given equal opportunity to achieve.

A different kind of school-year start

Life has not been the same since last March and that holds true for our schools as well. Although our students started the new school year learning from home, our staff has done their best to keep students connected with their school community whether that means bringing our kindergarteners in for screenings and treating them like rock stars or teachers making home visits to bring supplies and assignments and get a little face time with their students. We are proud of how both our families and our staff have risen to the occasion to #FocusForward and make the best of a challenging situation while maintaining focus on the goal of educating and keeping our children safe.



Harrison preschool event makes national publication

Congratulations to Harrison Elementary's preschool classroom, led by Sarah Holokai and Greg Stormer, for the inclusion of their Dad's Day celebration last March in a national publication that celebrates partnerships between schools and communities. John Hopkins University publishes "Promising Partnership Practices" annually and Harrison, a member of John Hopkins' National Network of Partnership Schools, was one of only 40 schools from across the nation included in this year's publication.

Holokai submitted the entry for Dad's Day, which was a culminating celebration of the classroom's unit on fitness and nutrition. In their classes,

students learned about the major food groups, the parts of the body, and the workings of the circulatory system, digestive system, muscular system, and nervous system. The topics were linked to focus on healthy foods to help a body grow.

The celebration was led by Harrison preschool dad Josh Ingraham and his wife Emily Christescu, who are co-owners of Go Buddha restaurant. Students invited their dads (and some moms) to join in some fun nutrition-focused activities to learn more about how healthy eating fuels healthy brains for learning. The highlight was a scavenger hunt to find ingredients to make a healthy banana-avocado pudding!

Winter sports All-Conf. corrections

In our March 2020 issue, the article on All-Conference selections mistakenly listed honorees from the previous year. Here are the corrected selections:

Boys basketball: Nate Mims (1st Team); Antonio Crockett and Dante Wahba (Honorable Mention)

Girls basketball: Morgan Harper and Asia McAuliffe (2nd Team); Ava Clause and Gianna McAuliffe (Honorable Mention)

Bowling: Megan Ashley, Cole Dockus and Nate White (Honorable Mention)

Cheerleaders: Hannah Keyes

and Leila Abderrazzaq (Honorable Mention)

Gymnastics: Lydianna Trudel and Lindsay Trautman (Honorable Mention)

Ice Hockey: Will Holden and Rob Holden (1st Team); Eli La-Due and Alex Blinky (Honorable Mention)

Swimming & Diving: Charlotte Beno and Sistina Simcox (Honorable Mention)

Wrestling: Milan Jackson and Jayden Jackson (1st Team); Brandyn Bates (2nd Team); Spencer Reynolds and Shamique Bryant (Honorable Mention)

The Lakewood Board of Education

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All courses and programs offered by the Lakewood City Schools and the West Shore Career Technical District are without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, creed, gender, marital status, disability, or age in its educational programs, activities, employment policies or admission policies as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The district provides equal access to Boy Scouts and other designated groups. Jeffrey Schlade serves as Title IX Coordinator and Lisa Bruening as 504 Officer.

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Welcome to the neighborhood!



The neighborhood around the Taft Center for Innovation now has a fresh new playground to enjoy! The playground was designed for the District's new preschool classrooms at Taft and opened in late August for the students and families in the community.

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higher on four or more of these exams:

Class of 2020: Lillian Bacon, Emma Hirsch, Jane Kalinowski, Sophia Miranda, Sean O'Donnell, Kathryn Oleksa, Claire Schuppel, Matthew Shinn, Julia Szentkiralyi

Class of 2021: David Gramo,

Jack Holian, Jayden Jackson, Arturo Orso-Giacone, Aidan Peck, Kathryn Spilsbury

AP Scholars is an award earned by completing three or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher. The AP Scholars are:

Class of 2020: Christina Auck, Halle Breudigam, Ava Clause, Autumn Cruz, Charles Cuffaro, Miabella Doerr, Taylor Heckelnh, Harlan Hoegner,

Nicole Hudak, Grace Kraidich, Dalton Lammers, Mohamed Manaa, Savannah Monroy, Nikena Norris, Emma Pagsuyoin, Anna Rigdon, Malik Shahin, Aurora Thurman, Albert Wilhelmy

Class of 2021: Sydney Heckeler, Emily Kompier, Sophie Lipka, Emma Owens, Willow Rosser, Madelyn Tumbleson, Hayley Welsh, Aidyn Zingale

Message

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forward. Our faculty and staff and spirit of inclusivity are the strengths that will shepherd our students through. Our principals and Central Office administrators will continue to tackle the seemingly endless difficult issues that arise. Our Board of Education continues to provide the steady hand of leadership and support. And all of us must remain agile, flexible and adaptable in a time when the answers to the many questions are so ambiguous.

So I propose we flip the VUCA script and instead view it as an acronym for Vision, Understanding, Courage and

Agility. Yes, we are in a VUCA environment, but it's an environment that we will embrace and use to Focus Forward for the 2020-2021 school year.

Thank you for your enduring support and patience during these past months. I look forward to what the new school year will bring and to see what the connection between our staff and students will create. While this will be a very different school year, our commitment to your children's well being remains the same as always.

#OneHeartbeatOneLKWD

Dr. Michael Barnes,
Superintendent

Ranger Shop now online

Wondering how to get your Ranger spiritwear and other goodies but you are unable get to the The Ranger Shop? Well, now you can shop from the comfort of your home as The Ranger Shop is now online! Visit bit.ly/LHSrangershop for all of your Ranger gear needs! Local pickup and out of town shipping is available.

For masks and specialty items not available in the LHS Ranger Shop, including alumni shirts and our limited COVID edition shirt - #InThis-TogetherLKWD - visit our partner shop with RYCO Sports on Madison Avenue at bit.ly/RangerShop-Sales.

