

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Daily attendance in each class is a critical element of the learning process. These policies and procedures are designed to help students learn responsibility and to increase their potential for success.

Responsibility for attendance

Students and parents must accept full responsibility for regular school attendance. Attendance and class participation is essential for academic achievement and success in school. We ask that parents call the attendance line on the day of their student's absence; otherwise an automated call will go to the parent. Parents will also receive a phone call when their student arrives to school tardy, without a note or prior call excusing

Absences

Students arriving late to school or class after the tardy bell rings, for any reason not described as an excused absence, will be counted as tardy. Consequences for first period are dealt with on a monthly cumulative basis through the attendance office.

- 3 Tardies: Detention
- 6 Tardies: Two detentions
- 9 or more Referral

Absence is only excused for these reasons:

illness, doctor/dental appointment, funeral, religious observance, court date, family emergencies, disciplinary actions, school - approved activities

Oversleeping is not considered an excused absence or late arrival, unless there is a valid reason given in writing (i.e. oversleeping because student is not feeling well).

Absences or late arrivals must be excused within 48 hours or they will be counted as unexcused.

Students with accumulated unexcused absences will become subject to the Becca Bill

(Washington State's Compulsory School Attendance Law, RCW 28A.225). Any failure to comply with the law may subject the student to legal sanctions.

Lakota Middle School is a closed campus.

Any student arriving late or leaving early must sign in or out at the attendance office. Students may not leave campus without written permission.

CONNECT-ED

Connect-Ed is the system the school district uses to call parents and staff in case of school closures and other emergencies, to disseminate information on school events, and to call when students are absent or tardy.

You will receive calls at the phone number you have on record with the school. You can have the messages sent to more than one number by contacting the school and having it added to your profile.

The system calls home when a student is absent or tardy. It will make three attempts to reach you or your answering machine. If it cannot reach you within two hours, it will stop calling and list the reason the message was undeliverable.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Weather surprises can cause disruption for schools and a great deal of confusion for parents and students. There are several ways to get information about school closures and changes

- Listen to local television and radio stations
- Sign up for email emergency notification.

If you have computer access, the district strongly recommends the email notification services. These services will email you the information regarding school late arrival or closure notices as soon as the school district reports them.

You can sign up at these websites:
www.schoolreport.org or
www.fwps.org/info/emergencies

DISCIPLINE POLICIES

Lakota Middle School utilizes a progressive and cumulative disciplinary system. A student with repeated misbehaviors and/or exceptional misconduct will receive more severe disciplinary consequences up to and including long-term suspension for accumulated offenses.

Students who receive more than one referral within a six-week grading period may be placed on temporary activity restriction.

Certain behaviors, which are considered exceptional misconduct, are subject to immediate suspension and/or expulsion at the first offense. These include the following:

Arson, assault, bomb threat, burglary, defiance, dangerous behavior, destruction of property, disruptive conduct, drug/alcohol/mind-altering substances, possession/use and/or sale of paraphernalia, tobacco possession and/or use, extortion, blackmail, coercion, false alarms, forgery, gang activity, hazing, intimidation, robbery, theft, verbal abuse, sexual harassment, and possession/ use/ transmission of weapons (including look-alike weapons).



FALCON DISCIPLINE PROGRAM

Lakota has adopted the “Falcon” discipline program. The philosophy is that students can and will act appropriately in and outside the classroom. The goal is to provide a safe classroom environment and optimum learning environment for all students. Students are expected to follow the four B’s.

- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Accountable
- Be Empowered
-

This is a step program that each teacher uses in his or her classroom.

Discipline Plan Steps

- 1 Verbal Warning
- 2 In or out of class timeout or other intervention
- 3 Removal from classroom (Buddy teacher)
- 4 Discipline Referral

Note:

Certain behaviors may result in a student being placed immediately on Step 4.

Due to safety concerns, the step system will not apply to students in out-of-classroom environments such as hallway passing, the cafeteria, and before and after school. Infractions during these time periods may result in an immediate referral.

GOTCHA!

You’ve been caught exhibiting excellent behavior at Lakota! When the staff of Lakota observes a student, showing respect and support for fellow students, demonstrating Falcon pride for the school building and environment, being helpful and supportive to staff and/or taking responsibility at Lakota for their actions, they give a Gotcha!

The slip can be redeemed on Fridays during the student’s lunch. When redeemed the student is entered into a regular drawing for rewards on the Gotcha Wheel. The Gotcha program is one of the many ways that Lakota celebrates student successes. So, if your student gets a Gotcha, make sure to celebrate with them. It means that should take great pride in their accomplishments and we Gotcha doing something good.

VANDALISM/GRAFFITI

Writing inappropriate words, symbols, phrases or graffiti on a student’s body, clothing items, building surfaces, furniture items, books or other school materials, book covers, notebooks, back packs, or book bags is not suspension from school, and may also be responsible for restitution in the event of any property damage.

ATHLETICS

Athletic Code

In order to represent Lakota Middle School through participation in activities or athletics, students must abide by all provisions of the **Student Athletic/Activity Code** throughout the entire school year. Specifically, students must refrain from using drugs, alcohol, and/or tobacco products as outlined in the Athletic/Activity Code. In addition to any other corrective action or punishment described in the Federal Way School District Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, students who violate the rules of the A/A Code will be subject to disciplinary sanctions and immediate suspension from eligibility.

Eligibility

All students must have a current physical examination and a parent permission slip to participate in sports at Lakota Middle School. In addition, students must meet and maintain the academic eligibility requirements in order to compete in athletics.

1. The student must be enrolled in at least four classes.
2. The student must have earned a C- or better at the semester in each class in which he/she was enrolled.
3. At the six-week progress report check of each semester, the student must be achieving a C- or better in each class in which he/she is enrolled OR a 2.6 GPA with no failing grades.

Students who fall below the C- grade standard shall be ineligible for competition. Students shall regain eligibility as soon as the teacher verifies that the student's grade meets the established standards. Ineligible students may continue to practice, but may not participate in any interscholastic activity, competition or performance during the period of ineligibility.

Other Eligibility

Federal Way Public Schools require students to pay a fee in order to play sports. This fee helps to pay for coaches, transportation, uniforms and officials. The fee schedule is listed below. Student athletes must also purchase an ASB membership every year they are playing sports.

Season I	Football Girls' Softball
Season II	Wrestling Girls' Basketball
Season III	Boys' Basketball Gymnastics
Season IV	Boys' Baseball Volleyball Boys' & Girls' Track

STUDENT FEE SCHEDULE

All student fees are set by the school district. If you are on free or reduced lunch, your fees may be reduced.

ASB Card	\$15
Annual	\$25
Instrument Rental	\$60/semester, \$100/year
Percussion Rental	\$35/semester, \$55/year
Athletic Participation	\$70/ sport up to \$210
Free/Reduced	\$30/sport up to \$90
No cut basketball:	\$30
Cultural Fair Supplies	\$5
Music Uniform Cleaning Fee	Actual Cost
PE Uniforms	Actual Cost, \$9 to \$20
Workbooks	Actual Cost

NUTRITION SERVICES

Breakfast and lunch are available daily at Lakota. 2008-2009 meal prices are:

Elementary lunches	\$2.50
Secondary lunches	\$2.75
All student breakfasts	\$1.50
Milk	\$.50
Adult breakfast	\$2.50
Adult lunch	\$3.75

Free and reduced-price meals are available to those who qualify. For more information, call Nutrition Services, 253-945-5555.

GET INVOLVED, JOIN PTA

LAKOTA PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

More than ever, it is important to be involved with your student during the middle school years. The opportunities and challenges of adolescence require strong partnership between school and home.

Lakota is fortunate to have an active Parent Teacher Association. Through the PTA, parents and families are actively engaged in many aspects of our school. All parents and families are encouraged to participate in ways that are meaningful and manageable to them. Currently, the PTA raises funds by selling Otis Spunkmeyer cookies to students and staff to support some of these programs:

- ♥ Student Programs
- ♥ Clothing Bank
- ♥ 8th Grade Project
- ♥ Staff Appreciation
- ♥ Library Support
- ♥ Parent Info Nights
- ♥ Reflections
- ♥ Spring Fling
- ♥ Grants
- ♥ Assemblies
- ♥ WASL snacks
- ♥ Year-end Activities

Parent involvement is a key to student success. Please support the Lakota community by joining PTA today! Your participation is welcome and valued. For more information about Lakota PTA, phone Tina Bomgardner, 253-874-3268.

2008-2009 PTA Officers

President	Tina Bomgardner
Vice President	Dave Bomgardner
Secretary	Janet Crahan
Treasurer	Leone Eakman
Membership	Tina Garcia
Watch Dogs	Jerry Garcia

The PTA is present at most evening activities, including Open House. They sell Lakota Wear tee shirts and sweatshirts at those times, as well as memberships.

Meeting dates next year are: Sept 17, Jan 21, April 22. Meetings are held in the Lakota library at 6:30 p.m.



**WATCH D.O.G.S. AT LAKOTA
(DADS OF GREAT STUDENTS)**

We are very excited to have a new program at Lakota this year. **WATCH D.O.G.S.**® is the safe school initiative of the **NATIONAL CENTER FOR FATHERING** that was founded by Jim Moore, a concerned father who chose to take action in response to a 1998 middle-school shooting in Jonesboro, AR. Moore wanted to help prevent violence from occurring at his children’s school or at any school. The first program was launched at George Elementary in Springdale, AR, the school of Moore’s oldest child. Today, more than 500 programs in 25 states participate in **WATCH D.O.G.S.**®

The goal of **WATCH D.O.G.S.** is to help every school in America be positively influenced by the committed involvement of fathers and father figures in lives of their children and students.

WATCH D.O.G.S.®, a K-12 program, invites fathers, grandfathers, uncles, or other father figures to volunteer at least one day all day at their child’s/student’s school during the school year. Individuals sign up at a kick-off event such as a “Dads and Kids Pizza Night” or “Donuts with Dad” or in the office at any time throughout the school year. The program is overseen by a “Top Dog” volunteer who partners with the school administrator to coordinate scheduling and identify opportunities for **WatchDOGS** to provide assistance at the school. **WatchDOG** volunteers perform a variety of tasks during their volunteer day including monitoring the school entrance, assisting with unloading and loading of buses and cars, monitoring the lunch room, or helping in the classroom with a teacher’s guidance by working with small groups of students.

Jerry Garcia has taken the initiative to begin a **WatchDOGS** group here, and we are very excited to have this program at Lakota. Please call Jerry if you are interested in volunteering as a **WatchDOGS** member, 253-941-5120.



THE COMMUNITY OF LAKOTA

At Lakota Middle School, we work hard and we play hard! We recognize students and their families for all they do for the school, and we celebrate our community!

Family Appreciation Night – April 9, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., we appreciate you! All Lakota families are invited for dinner and fun! There are presentations, entertainment, and our big thanks to the Lakota Community!

WASL Reward – All students who are at school every day of the WASL and take the test while here, are rewarded once testing is over. This year students will receive a free period and ice cream to enjoy with their friends on May 7, 2009.

Eighth Grade Project Night, Seventh Grade Culture Fair, Sixth Grade Science Fair – These take place during the week of May 18, 2009. All of our students have the opportunity to demonstrate their learning for family and friends. Culture Fair, 5:30 p.m., Science and Project nights, 6:30 p.m.

Fifth Grade Parent Night – Families of students coming to Lakota in the fall are invited for dinner and an evening of entertainment. Students help serve, model various Lakota uniforms, and demonstrate the courtesy and warmth that is the trademark of Lakota. May 26, 6:30 p.m.

Other end of the year events include:

- May 5 Lakota hosts the School Board
- May 6 Honor Society Induction
- May 29 ASB Elections
- June 5 Eighth Grade Dance
- June 8 Eighth Grade Promotion
- June 9 Grade Level Awards Assemblies
- June 11 Spring Fling

Put them on your calendar now!

OPEN HOUSE

Lakota's Open House is Thursday, October 2, 2008. This is our first community event and we invite you to join us that evening. You can meet your student's teachers, counselors and administrators, and support staff at Lakota. We are looking forward to seeing you!



PORTFOLIOS

Every student at Lakota compiles and maintains a portfolio that will accompany them to high school.

They work on the portfolios throughout the year, adding items that highlight the skills they are learning.

Portfolios will contain their 13-year plan and 8th grade project work. Other work may include papers done for reading and writing, math assessments, science assessments, and PE goals and reflections.

WASL scores are added each year, as are reading scores and end of course assessment results.

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

Students in all Federal Way Public Schools participate in student-led conferences. This year they will be held October 30-31, 2008 and March 14-15, 2009. Teachers will send home a letter to schedule a block of time for students and parents/guardians to meet for a conference. While a teacher or staff member will serve as the facilitator, the student will lead the conference.

Prior to that conference, students will collect work that reflects what they have learned. Students will be taught how to select work samples and how to evaluate their work to determine their strengths and areas for improvement. This work will usually be assembled in a portfolio or folder. As the students conduct the conference, they will explain skills they have learned and goals they have set for themselves.

UNIFORM POLICY 2008-2009

Lakota Middle School uniform standards are intentionally conservative to help students focus on learning.

Only the articles listed below can be worn for the Lakota Uniform.

If it is not on the list, it may not be worn to school.

Clothing may not be tight, oversize, or revealing. Clothing must be neat in appearance and worn appropriately. All staff is responsible for monitoring uniform compliance. Hats, scarves and gloves are worn outdoors only, not in the classroom or building. Coats are not allowed to be worn in the building during school hours (**7:55 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**)

Shirts – Colors: solid red, white, or black.
Only (standard 3 to 5 button) short or long sleeved polo shirts.

- No emblems, logos or writing.
- Polo may be worn un-tucked if no longer than fingertip length (arms and fingers extended at the side). If shirt is longer than fingertips, shirt must be tucked in.
- All shirts may be no shorter than waist length.
- Layering of shirts is not allowed.
- Shirts are not to be worn inside-out.
- Lakota Gear is allowed

Sweaters/Vests/Sweatshirts – Sweatshirt Colors: solid red, white or black.

- No cardigans, sweaters or vests are allowed.
- No emblems, logos or writing.
- Sweatshirts cannot be longer than fingertip length (arms extended at the sides).
- Lakota Gear Sweatshirts are allowed.
- Sweatshirts are not to be worn inside-out.

T-Shirts – Colors: solid red, white or black.

- T-Shirts must only be used as an undergarment.
- No emblems, logos or writing.
- Sleeves of t-shirt should not be longer than polo sleeve.
- Bottom hem of t-shirt used for undergarment must not be seen.
- T-shirts must not be worn inside-out.
- Lakota Gear t-shirts maybe worn in place of polo.

Pants/Capris – Colors: solid tan/khaki or black.
Length: at the top of the shoe, may not brush the floor.

- Pants are to be worn at the waist. Pants must be correct size, no sagging, not form-fitting and no more than one size larger than waist.
- Cargo pants are acceptable.
- Pants must be hemmed, no frayed or torn items.
- No jeans or denim material is allowed.
- No sagging of pants allowed.
- No logos, writing, adornments, accessories, straps or decorative stitching on pants.

Skirts/Shorts/Jumpers – Colors: solid tan, khaki or black.

Length: skirts/shorts/jumpers must not be shorter than fingertip length (arms extended at the sides).

- Must be worn at waist.
- Must be hemmed, no frayed or torn items.
- No jeans or denim material allowed.
- No accessories on clothing.

Belts – Color: red, black, white, or brown solid colors

- Must be worn through belt loops
- Belt end may not hang down more than three inches
- No logos, printing, or insignias on belts or belt buckles.
- No spikes, chain loops or hanging wallet chain.

Shoes:

- Athletic, tennis shoes, leather type shoes, or sandals are acceptable.
- Shoelaces must be matched and tied.
- Shoes must match.
- No flip-flops, soccer sandals, slippers or house shoes.

Socks – Colors: red, white, gray or black.

- Athletic, dress, or knee socks must be solid colors.
- Girl’s tights must be solid red, white, or black and **cover the entire foot**.
- Girls may wear skin-tone/natural pantyhose.
- No fish net stockings.
- No leggings or leg warmers.

Jewelry:

Only one item per wrist, neck or ankle allowed.

- No nose/eyebrow/lip/tongue jewelry is to be worn on school grounds.
- No spiked or sharp edged items.
- No sweatbands (unless playing in an athletic event and sweat band is part of the uniform).
- No chains may be worn.
- No large chains are allowed hooked to wallet, belt, keys, etc.

Hair:

- Coloring must be natural.
- Excessive/extreme hairstyles are not acceptable.

Hats/Head Coverings – Headband Color:

solid red, white or black.

- Headbands must be functional and no larger than two inches wide.
- No hats, bandannas, sweatbands, caps, scarves, doo rags, or any other head coverings are allowed.

Unacceptable Clothing and Accessories

- No tight, “low-cut”, or revealing clothing. No clothing that reveals bare torso or undergarments when student bends over or raises arms.
- No oversize, baggy sagging clothing.
- No pants dragging on floor or overly bunched around ankles.
- No pants, shorts and skirts worn lower than the top of the hipbone.
- **No Denim!** Of any color or denim looking material.
- No stretch pants, overalls, sweatpants, stirrup pants, spandex, nylon parachute pants or flannel pants.
- No hats, gloves or scarves are to be worn in the classroom or building during the school day.
- No writing on student’s body or clothing is acceptable.
- No see through or transparent clothing.
- No face painting, excessive makeup (no black lipstick or thick eye makeup), etc.
- No leggings or leg/arm warmers.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON’T WEAR
UNIFORM CLOTHES?**

When you arrive at school in the morning, in dress other than uniform, it is your responsibility to go to the clothing bank and find uniform pieces that you will wear for the day. (They will need to be returned before you leave school that day.)

There are also consequences:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1st time | One lunch detention |
| 2nd Time | Two lunch detentions |
| 3rd Time | One day after school community service assigned by Mr. Miller |
| 4th Time: | Progressive Discipline |

So if you show up not in dress code, you will end up wearing it anyway, and receiving consequences!

The first week of school the first consequence will be a verbal warning.

**TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICES
FWPS POLICY 3243**

All students are strongly encouraged not to have in their possession at any time on any school district property any electronic or telecommunication device. However, in recognition of parents' decisions regarding the safety and communication needs of their families, the following procedures are placed into effect so as to establish and create as positive a learning atmosphere as possible.

While on school property or while attending school sponsored or school-related activities, students may possess and use personal telecommunication devices. The possession and use of such devices must not pose a threat to academic integrity, disrupt the learning environment or violate the privacy rights of others.

These conditions must be followed:

All telecommunication devices may not be in visible sight or operated during school hours. Telecommunication devices may be displayed and/or operated only before and after the regular school day, unless an emergency situation exists that involved imminent physical danger, or a school administrator authorized the students to do otherwise.

Students who violate the policy will be subject to progressive disciplinary action up to and including confiscation of the device and/or losing the privilege of bringing the device onto school property. A device that has been confiscated shall only be returned to the student's parent/guardian. The first step in all cases shall be a verbal warning to put the device away.

Students are responsible for devices they bring to school. The district shall not be responsible for loss, theft or destruction of such devices brought onto school property even when confiscated.

PROMOTION POLICY

Grade level to grade level promotion will occur when a student has attained established standards for academic achievement and demonstrated acquisition of required knowledge and skills as evidence or preparedness to be successful at the next level. Promotion standards will include district assessments as well as classroom based evidence provided via the student report card.

Promotion Requirements for Students Entering Grades 7 and 8: Final promotion decisions for students entering grades 7 & 8 will be made by the school-based team prior to the fall. The team's promotion decisions will take into consideration the analysis of the district and state assessments, reading and math grades on the report card, minimum middle school demonstrations for promotion in reading and math, and student portfolios with evidence of approaching standard.

Promotion Requirements for Students Entering Grade 9: Promotion decisions for entering grade 9 will be based on:

- Scoring 388 or above on the reading and math sections of the 7th or 8th grade WASL; or
- Scoring 70% on math, 80% on computation, and 70% on reading, on the 8th grade reading and math course assessments in May (parents may request to have the district course assessments administered to their child at any time during the school year); or
- Scoring any combination of WASL and District Course Assessments

Retention letters will be sent to parents at each grading period if the student is at risk of being retained. Mandatory summer school is required for all students who do not meet these promotion criteria. This will be a student's final opportunity to reach minimum standards identified.



AVID

Avid is a new program at Lakota, beginning in the fall of 2008. AVID targets students in the academic middle – B, C, and even D students – who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. These are students who are capable of completing rigorous curriculum but are falling short of their potential. Typically, they will be the first in their families to attend college. AVID pulls these students out of their non-challenging courses and puts them on the college track: acceleration instead of remediation.

Not only are students enrolled in their school's toughest classes, but also in the AVID elective. For one period a day, they learn organizational and study skills, work on critical thinking and asking probing questions, get academic help from peers and college tutors, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities that make college seem attainable. Their self-images improve, and they become academically successful leaders and role models for other students.

The AVID curriculum, based on rigorous standards, was developed by middle and senior high school teachers in collaboration with college professors. It is driven by the WICR method, which stands for writing, inquiry, collaboration, and reading.

In 2008-2009, AVID will only be available to 8th grade students, and the class is full.

For the 2009-2010 school year, 7th and 8th grade students will be able to apply to enter the AVID program. The process will begin in the spring, and includes an application and interview.

More information about AVID is available on their website: <http://www.avidcenter.org>

THE CAMBRIDGE PROGRAM

The Cambridge Checkpoint Preparatory Academy is a middle school advanced academic program for academically talented students sponsored by Cambridge University in England and is offered to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students.

Checkpoint offers a rigorous and relevant curriculum and prepares students to take a series of comprehensive examinations at the end of their 8th grade year. Checkpoint develops skills for success that lead directly into Cambridge Preparatory Academy at Federal Way High School, and an Advanced International Certificate of Education through Cambridge University.

The Checkpoint program includes:

- Spiraling curriculum, which enables the school to condense Cambridge curriculum to accelerate student learning
- Advanced academic curriculum in math, science, and English.
- Enhanced learning environment.
- Foreign language at 6th, 7th, and 8th grade.

Cambridge students are selected using the following criteria:

- Recommendations from two current teachers.
- Core Academic GPA of 3.0 or better.
- WASL scores of 400 or better.
- Complete essay in three paragraphs, no longer than one page, "What are the qualities of a successful student?"
- Copy of most recent semester report card.

Checkpoint prepares students for the demands and expectations of specialized, advanced academic programs in high school; and provides students the opportunity to excel beyond state grade level expectations.

Students interested in the Cambridge program for 2009-2010 can see their counselor to begin the application process.



ALGEBRAIC THINKING

The AT program helps students become engaged in the classroom and learn not only how to do math, but more importantly to understand the reasoning behind the answers they receive when they solve problems. AT uses staff development and unique methodology to ensure that students will experience hands-on learning and engagement in math class.

Algebraic Thinking is taught to students who have not passed the WASL, but are very close. About half of Lakota students are in AT.

The AT website allows parents to stay involved with their children and what they are learning each day. Video clips on daily lessons, lesson notes, and daily homework assignments are available for extended instruction and guidance on homework and concepts outside of the classroom.
www.algebraicthinking.com

ON-LINE GRADES

<http://grades.fwps.org/> is the website to login and check your student's grades. You will need his or her student number and password. That information was handed out at the student schedule pick up evenings, but is also available by calling the Lakota office, 253-945-4800.

ASB FUNDRAISING

The all-school fundraiser this year will be a student performance-based fundraiser, which will rely on students collecting pledges and money for activities they will engage in on our Lakota-Thon day. This will keep students from selling and making money for a commercial company. Fundraising money goes directly and only to student activities. Many activities, including sports, are heavily subsidized by ASB funds, and allow our students to participate.

ASSESSMENT

The district uses a variety of assessment procedures and measures to assess student performance, including norm-referenced and criterion-referenced tests as well as district5-level and classroom-based performance assessments. Middle school assessments include:

Reading Instructional Assessment

Gate-MacGintie
Given September 2008, May 2009
Norm-referenced test for level of student's reading ability in vocabulary and comprehension.

Washington Assessment of Student Learning

Reading and Math Grade 6
Reading, Math and Writing, Grade 7
Reading, Math and Science, Grade 8
Given April, 2009

Standards-based test used to show the level of proficiency of students relative to the Essential Academic Learning Requirements.

FWSD Course Assessment

Given January, March, May 2009
Pre and post tests that measure knowledge of subject. Determines proficiency in reading, math, history and science.



LOST AND FOUND

It doesn't take long for the Lost and Found to start piling up. Please take a few minutes to mark your student's jackets and sweaters (and shoes) with their name or initials, so that when there are 15 similar sweatshirts in the Lost and Found, you can find the one that belongs to you!

If your student is missing an item of clothing, please have the check the lost and found – and you are welcome to come and look through it as well!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT LAKOTA?

Lakota is a very busy place! During the school day, our students and staff are very focused on learning and growing – and then when the school day ends, our students and staff continue to focus on learning and growing!

Here are some of the programs at Lakota, some of them are highlighted in our handbook, and more information is available in our newsletter, on our website, and from any of our staff members.

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- "GOTCHA" program
- A World of Difference—Peer Leadership
- Academic, Sports and Attendance Awards
- Algebraic Thinking Math Program
- ASB/Ambassador Leadership
- Band Programs for all grades
- Boeing Science and Math workshops
- Cambridge Program for Highly Capable Students
- Career and 13th Year Plan project (8th Grade)
- Choral Music for all grades
- Computer Club
- Counseling center
- Cultural Fair (7th Grader)
- Drama Club
- ELL (English Language Learner) Program
- ELO (Extended Learning Opportunities) ELO bus after school
- Intramural Sports
- Jazz Band
- Math Night (all Grades)
- National Junior Honor Society
- Orchestra Program for all grades
- Presidential Physical Fitness Program & Awards
- Science Fair (6th Grade)
- Sports programs—Football, Softball, Basketball, Gymnastics, Volleyball, Track & Baseball
- Student Equity Team / Staff Equity Team
- Student Portfolios and Student-Led conference
- Student support services
- Yearbook Club

LAKOTA GIVES!

Lakota students are very generous and contribute to our community. Here are a few examples:

Leukemia Donation – By collecting and donating pennies and nickels, Lakota was the #9 Top Fundraising School in this year's Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Washington/Alaska's Chapter's School and Youth Campaign. Students and staff raised \$4,664.57, part of \$336,000 raised by over 180,000 students in the region.



Holiday Toy Drive – Starbucks at Dash Point is our business partner and Lakota Middle School joins them each year to collect new books and toys for the Starlight Foundation. This Foundation provides toys and books to children who are very ill and sometimes in the final phases of a terminal illness. A new or gently used book or toy really brightens them up as they may have to be in the hospital during the holiday season. Last year, we were able to collect 1500 new books and toys to donate to our Starbucks partner, managed by Becca Badger, a former Lakota student. 1500 books and toys brought 1500 smiles to some very sweet faces. Our goal is 1600 for 2008. The grade level who brings in the most items has a Starbucks hot chocolate and cookie party after winter break. More details will be announced later in the fall.



Honor Society Food Drive – Lakota Middle School's National Junior Honor Society holds its annual food drive every holiday season.. Their goal each year is to donate more baskets to the community. In 2006 the Society donated thirteen (13) baskets to the Lakota community. In 2007, Lakota was able to donate twenty-three (23) food baskets and give donations out to our community center. The sky is the limit for next year. Ms. Collins, the NJHS advisor, assists the students with their worthy project. There will be more information on this a bit later in the year.

FWPS BUS RULES

- The driver is in full charge of the bus and passengers at all times. Passengers must obey the driver promptly.
- Students shall give their correct name promptly and willingly when asked by the bus driver.
- Quiet conversation will be permitted while students are riding the bus, unless this privilege is abused.
- Students are to remain seated while the bus is in motion, and are not to stand up until the bus has come to a full stop.
- A student may be assigned a seat in which he/she will be expected to remain at all times while on the bus.
- No student will smoke, ignite matches or lighters, or use any type of flame or sparking device on the school bus.
- Items that may cause injury to others, such as sticks, breakable containers, any type of firearms, straps or pins extending from clothing, are prohibited.
- No animal is permitted on the bus except service animals.
- Students will refrain from pushing, shoving or striking other passengers while on or near the bus, or engaging in other unsafe activities.
- Students are not to extend head, hands, or arms out of the windows, whether the bus is in motion or standing still.
- Students must refrain from throwing objects on or at the bus or out of bus windows.
- Students will refrain from using vulgar or obscene language and/or gestures.
- Students shall have a "Bus Pass" issued by the appropriate school authority prior to being allowed to:
- Board or leave the bus other than at his/her regular stop.
- Ride a bus other than the one to which they are assigned.
- Ride an activity or late service bus.
- Students are not to sit in the driver's seat at any time, nor shall students be to the immediate left or right of the driver while the bus is in motion.
- Eating on a school bus is not permitted except when specifically authorized and supervised, i.e., field trips.
- In the event of an actual emergency, students must follow emergency exit procedures as established in emergency exit drills.
- The parent/guardian will reimburse the Federal Way Public Schools for damage to school buses resulting from student misconduct.
- Bus passengers should arrive at the bus stop no less than 5 minutes and no more than 10 minutes before the bus's scheduled arrival time. Buses will promptly depart all schools 5-7 minutes after the school dismissal times. For safety, once bus doors are closed, drivers will not stop for late arriving students nor shall students chase their bus.
- While waiting at the bus stop, students are expected to stand a safe distance from the street and avoid activities that could injure themselves or others. Students are expected to respect other's property. When the bus approaches, students must observe the instructions of the driver.
- It may be necessary to cross the road to board the bus. Students are expected to observe the driver's instructions and to always cross in front of the bus with the aid of the flashing stop sign and crossing arm.
- Safe, respectful conduct is expected of all passengers to insure safety.
- Obey the driver's instructions when first requested.
- Remain seated.
- Respect other's property.
- Keep your hands to yourself.
- Keep noise level down.
- Keep aisles clear.
- Keep bus clean.

