



Eagle Express

The Official Newsletter of the Lake Shore
Central School District Vol. 27, #3

January 2024

TAKE A LOOK!

We've set some goals.
Here's an update on
how we're doing.

School days are filled with academic lessons and tasks, and social-emotional skills are also part of the learning equation.

These students from Mrs. Connie Govenettio's and Mrs. Theresa Scholl's classes at A.J. Schmidt are participating in 1st Grade Fun Friday. That's when students can play with friends from another class. What a nice way to foster friendships and wrap up a busy week!

From front: Dani Schmidt, Morgan Taylor,
and Zinnia Parker.



- Photo by Mrs. Connie Govenettio

We've set ourselves some GOALS



**A message from
Superintendent Dan Pacos**

As we enter the second half of the academic year, I am pleased to report on the progress we have made toward the goals set by our Board of Education for the 2023-24 school year. The goals focus on the key areas of academics, health and safety, fiscal responsibility, technology, facilities, communications, and community engagement.

Our academic priority has been to review curriculum and align it across grade levels. This is to keep learning at each grade level paced properly, so students receive instruction in all the key concepts they need to learn before

graduation. We would like to remind parents to please have your children sit for all State exams in grades 3 – 8. The exams give us valuable information that we use to adjust our classroom instruction. Taking the exams also helps get children ready for the Regents exams they will be required to take and pass when they get to the secondary level.

To meet our goal for health and safety, the District applied for the “Community Eligibility Provision” under the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs. This simply means that ALL students can receive a free breakfast and lunch each day. Nutrition is a basic need—we know that students don’t learn when they are hungry. Providing breakfast and lunch to all students each day helps make sure that students arrive at class ready to learn. Our School Bus Safety Team has visited our school buildings and presented programs to our students about bus safety. Our District Data Protection Officer has scheduled presentations for students and parents on Jan. 17 with an FBI Community Outreach Specialist who will present information on protecting families from cyber crime.

In the area of fiscal responsibility, the District has begun building the budget for the 2024-25 school year. This will be the first budget built without the help of the Federal Covid Relief funding, so it promises to be a challenge. In order to maintain our programs for our students, we are analyzing our vari-

ous program offerings to verify the cost effectiveness of each, and to find areas for possible savings. We also continue to advocate for additional State Aid funding to support our programs.

The District continues to invest in technology for our students. District officials recently participated in a podcast sponsored by the Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association, spotlighting our Esports program at the High School. We continue to advocate for funding to expand high speed Internet access throughout the District and the Seneca Nation Cattaraugus Territory, so all students have Internet access at home.

We continue to maintain and upgrade our District facilities. We are phasing and planning the work to be done in upcoming capital projects. This year’s Capital Outlay Project will see the renovation of the High School Large Group Instruction Room. Phase 1 of the newly-approved project will see replacement of some emergency generators in school buildings and some roof replacements. We will add air conditioning to the High School along with rooftop solar panels. The bus parking lot will be repaved and have charging stations added in anticipation of the full conversion of our bus fleet to zero emission school buses. Phase 2 of the project will see artificial turf added to our baseball, softball, soccer/lacrosse fields, along with new lighting, stadium seating and a new announcing booth.

The last two goals go together hand-in-hand, communication and community engagement. The District evaluated numerous options to help create some much-needed space in our elementary buildings. We endeavored to include a wide range of stakeholders in discussions that originally began with looking at the possibility of moving all 5th grades to the Middle School. After various meetings and discussions, it was decided to leave the 5th grade classes in the elementary schools and create space by reducing the number of grade level sections with lower enrollment. The consensus was this would result in the least amount of disruption across the District. By engaging our various stakeholder groups, we arrived at a better decision than we had originally considered.

I wish you all the happiest of holidays. Please relax and enjoy time with your loved ones. We will see you after the new year, when we return to school re-energized with hope, good health, and prosperity!

SWIM, SOAR, ROCK & ROAR into '24



Youth Swimming Lessons

are coming to Lake Shore's beautiful High School pool on Saturdays, starting Feb. 24. Register today!

AND

Lake Shore's Open Swim

continues on Saturdays, 7:30-9:30 a.m., at the High School during January and February!

Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration and a receipt are necessary for entry.

For dates, times and registration details for these programs, see <https://www.lakeshorecsd.org/domain/1108> or call 716-926-2270.



HELP IS AVAILABLE in All LSHS Subjects

High School students looking for extra help in ANY subject can turn to the Peer Tutoring Program provided by the Future Educators Club every Tuesday from 2:40-3:15 p.m. in Room 222 at the school. No need to struggle, just drop by and get the help you need to soar!

- Video by Travis Bernhard and London Nickolai at <https://rb.gy/9gr1lp>



CURTAIN UP, Lake Shore! It's Theater Season!

Middle School Musical: *Disney's Lion King Jr.*

(7 p.m., Jan. 25, 26, 27) Get tickets at <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/78600>

High School Musical: *All Shook Up*

(Feb. 8, 9, 10) Tickets on sale in early February.



2023-24 GOALS

for the Lake Shore Central School District

District Mission Statement:

The Lake Shore Central School District in partnership with our students, families and school community, will cultivate engaging, diverse, and challenging educational opportunities and learning environments to promote life-long learning and achievement in preparation for high school graduation, college and careers.

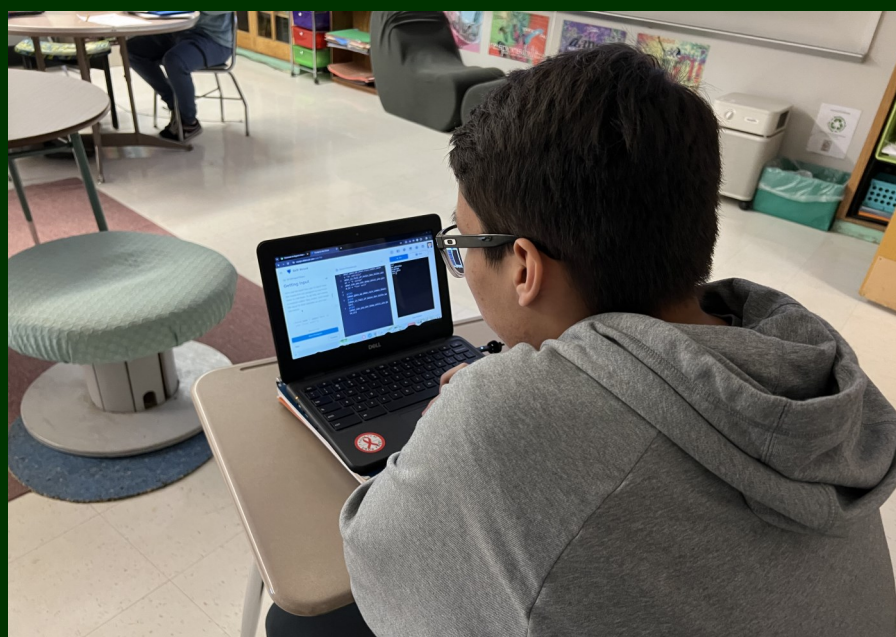
1. Implement a rigorous curriculum and high-quality instruction to advance the learning of all students.
2. Provide school community members with opportunities to support their mental and physical health and safety.
3. Utilize state and federal funding to maintain and expand educational opportunities.
4. Advocate for digital equity of technology at the local, state and federal levels for all students.
5. Continue to maintain our facilities at the highest level, and demonstrate fiscal responsibility in all areas of operation, including Capital Construction Project Plans.
6. Develop family-school-community partnerships to improve academic outcomes.
7. Maintain and improve communication to parents and families.

GOAL

1

ADVANCE Learning

Implement a rigorous curriculum and high-quality instruction to advance the learning of all students.



Projects early on at the elementary level— such as this introduction of Botley robot technology for Kindergarteners and 1st graders at Highland Elementary School—set the stage for increasingly complex learning through the years.

Top left: Technology integrator Ms. Deann Poleon and librarian Mrs. Kathryn Pope introduce tots to Botley robots.

Top right: Students in the AP Computer Science Principles class taught by Ms. Devon Asboth and Mr. Mike Drezek code with Python using a program called Skill Struck.

Bottom right: Life Skills students cut out designs created by Mr. Mike Seivert's Advanced CAD class.



GOAL

2

PROVIDE Health & Safety

Provide school community members with opportunities to support mental and physical health and safety.

PHYSICAL SAFETY

Lake Shore's community partners work directly with the schools in various capacities, such as local fire companies teaching about fire safety, and Town of Evans Police raising awareness for drug-free living.

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Area professional sports teams, such as the Buffalo Bandits and Buffalo Sabres, work with students in the District's robust physical education programs, adding another dimension of fitness and skills to the PE units in lacrosse and hockey.

In addition, we provide fitness opportunities for the community (more info at 716-926-2270) through our Community Education program:

Fitness Center ... The Fitness Center hours are MONDAY – FRIDAY, 6 – 7:30 a.m. and 6 – 9 p.m. SATURDAY hours are 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Members must live in the Town of Evans, Town of Brant, or be a Lake Shore Central School District resident. You can register at www.lakeshorecsd.org under Community Education. Full Membership is \$80/year (includes track and weight room). Track Only Membership is \$20/year. Students must be 13 years old to have a full membership. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by a member parent or legal guardian during community hours.

Open Swim ... Open Swim is held Saturdays, 7:30-9:30 a.m., at the High School during January and February. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration and a receipt are necessary for entry.

MENTAL HEALTH

Lake Shore is committed to ensuring the mental health and well-being of our students. These efforts help increase attendance and academic success, reduce disciplinary referrals, and improve students' sense of belonging.

In addition, the District partners with Harmonia to provide in-school mental health counseling at the High School, and with Compeer in the Best Self program, which advances the importance of friendships in mental health.

CYBER SAFETY

We're partnering with several agencies to provide our first-ever Cyber Crimes Informational Night on Jan. 17. Please see details on the next page.



Members of the Buffalo Bandits taught lacrosse skills in District PE classes

At left, J.T. Waugh teachers Mr. Bryce Parker-Norton and Miss Dyllon Gartley pose with several members of the Buffalo Bandits and students (from left) Sebastian Salmon, Bentley Nouioua, Isaiah Alhariri, Mason Corieri-Brownell, Easton Muj-Snow, Gabriella Lutz, Logan Alberta, and Kason Stahlman.

*Parents and guardians of Lake Shore
students are invited to a*

CYBER CRIMES INFORMATIONAL NIGHT

**6:30 p.m.,
Wednesday, Jan. 17
W.G. Houston
Middle School Auditorium**

*This is an adult-only event.
Free childcare will be provided for
children under 10.*

*This event is provided in conjunction with
the Evans Police,
Citizens for Responsible Choices,
WNY United Way, Compeer,
Evans Insurance Agency,
and the FBI.*



Above: 1st grader Wyatt Tretts had a few moments to spend with his step-dad, Mr. Matthew Jackson, when firefighters visited Highland Elementary School during Fire Prevention Week.

- Photo by Highland teacher Mrs. Sue Serena

Left: Faculty past and present, and Evans PD officers current and retired, participated in a Red Ribbon Week basketball game at J.T. Waugh to raise awareness about substance abuse and foster a commitment to living drug free.

- Photo by J.T. Waugh Principal Mrs. Andrea Cwynar



GOAL

3

Use STATE & FEDERAL Funds

Utilize state and federal funding to maintain and expand educational opportunities.

With grant funds under the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Lake Shore reduced class size, and increased electives and special education services, as well as art, physical education, and social worker staff. ARP grants funded social-emotional learning programs, summer school, after-school tutoring, elementary academic intervention services, and teaching assistants.

Grants also funded computers in the High School's rapidly expanding eSports program. The Middle School's Terra Science in Education Grant purchased 3D printers and a laser engraver for the STEM curriculum. The school's Olweus anti-bullying program is funded by a grant from Mitigating the Impact of Trauma in Schools.

The District also leverages federal support through these grants: **Title 1** (academic intervention teachers, professional development, and materials to support K-8 reading instruction); **Title IIA** (professional development, mentors); **Title III** (materials for English language learners); **Title IV** (K-12 educational activities), and Universal Pre-Kindergarten.



Various grants help fund the resources to provide all students with sufficient access to technology.

Above: Grants fund computers for the growing eSports program.

- Photo by LSHS Senior Travis Bernhard

Far left: Middle School students Dylan Bernhard, and, **near left,** Evelyn Knight and Emily Castle, work with devices in the school's Robotics Club.

- Photos by social studies teacher Ms. Lesa Beehler

GOAL

4

ADVOCATE Digital Equity

Advocate for digital equity of technology at the local, state, and federal levels for all students.

With technology identified as the most significant catalyst for change in K-12 education in recent years, Lake Shore has aggressively pursued funding to make sure Internet resources are accessible to all students and teachers.

“Providing adequate resources is essential to ensure that all students have equal

access to robotics, coding, and other technology programs that are integral to education today,” says Director of Technology Jeffrey Barnes.

“Whether due to affordability or, in the case of some streets in Brant and the Territory, lack of Internet providers, the biggest issue we face is lack of adequate Internet access at homes throughout the District,” says Mr. Barnes. “To address that, we used a combination of Smart Schools Bond Act funding, T-Mobile Project 10Million, and Emergency Communication Funds to acquire some 300 hotspots to be used by students off site for Internet access.”

To acquire the equipment and devices necessary for technology in the schools, Lake Shore also has pursued multiple avenues such as local hardware, BOCES hardware, and Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA) funds.

In addition, carts have been deployed in grades K-2 to allow access to Chrome-books for younger students.

“We also used SSBA funding to replace desktop computers in various labs and libraries to give students even more access to technology,” notes Mr. Barnes. “Last year we purchased iPad carts for our K-5 music programs and this year purchased three more carts of iPads for our K-5 Library program. We also used Capital Project funding to host an eSports lab to allow our High School students to compete with local and national teams and qualify for college scholarships in eSports.”



These J.T. Waugh students are in the 4th Grade Lunch Bunch, working on robotics with librarian Mrs. Karleen Derrick and technology integrator Ms. Deann Poleon.

They are using a problem-solving program that links directly to Lake Shore’s Sphero BOLT bots, a programmable robot ball that you can drive and code. Their challenge was to figure out different routes to avoid crashing their bots into obstacles.

The iPads used in the District’s K-5 library program were funded through the Smart Schools Bond Act.

From left: John Weeden, Mary Smaldino, Laina Ramierez, Nevaya Conant, Aryanna Powless.

GOAL

5

MAINTAIN Facilities

Continue to maintain our facilities at the highest level, and demonstrate fiscal responsibility in all areas of operation, including Capital Construction Project Plans.

Capital Construction projects this year cover a broad scope of work for student programs, as well as increased security measures and energy savings. There have been parking lot, sidewalk and drainage improvements at A.J. Schmidt, Highland, and Hoag. Playground improvements have been completed at all elementary schools. With savings from the projects, additional roof, floor, ceiling and light replacements are planned, along with more mechanical, plumbing and electrical upgrades.



Above:

There's nothing but smiles for the new playground used by students at J.T. Waugh Elementary School and the Hoag Educational Center. From left are 4th graders Kaelyn Pawelek, Nevaya Conant, and Paislee Mackey.

At left:

Solar arrays are being installed on school rooftops as an energy capturing measure to reduce costs.

GOAL

6

DEVELOP Partnerships

Develop school-community partnerships to improve academic outcomes.

Lake Shore has developed multiple partnerships to ensure support and guidance for our students:

Through the Family Support Center, three agencies provide counseling within school: Best Behavioral Health, Gateway-Longview, and Harmonia. For information, contact family.support@lscsd.org or 716-926-2270.

Citizens for Responsible Choices:

On the first Thursday of every month, from noon –1 p.m., school representatives meet with local agencies and concerned citizens to discuss ways to combat addiction and encourage healthy choices among our students. The meetings are open to the public at Evans Town Hall.

The Eagles Closet:

The two locations, at W.T. Hoag and the High School, provide beautiful and functional clothing, including shoes, socks, belts, hats, coats, athletic wear, tops, jeans

and dresses. Contact your school's social worker to make an appointment to browse.

Lenscrafters Gift of Sight:

This program offers free eyeglasses to students who do not have health insurance or whose insurance does not cover glasses. Lake Shore partners with the Lenscrafters store in McKinley Mall.

Contact 716-926-2321 if your child is in elementary school, or 716-926-2381 if your child is at the Middle School or High School.

Food Pantry Resources:

Operation Good Neighbor/Angola, located at Most Precious Blood Church, Tuesdays, 1-5 p.m.

Partnership with the Seneca Nation Health

Department: Includes providing Seneca language instruction, education in the history of Boarding Schools, participation in administrative liaison weekly updates, and full participation in Native Voices and the Native American Regional Forum.

Parents of Teens: Would you like to join A Teen Health & Wellness Committee?

Parents of teens are invited to join the High School's recently formed Committee on Teen Health & Wellness. The group will work to provide supports and opportunities for students to make healthier choices, such as modifying/improving vaping consequences to help end addiction, and creating mental health learning opportunities and awareness within our community.

Please contact Mrs. Kim Himes at 716-926-2308 if you are interested in participating. Monthly meetings will be held via Zoom.



SNI Hosts Youth Summit

At the Annual Youth Summit hosted by the Seneca Nation of Indians (SNI) Education Department, Middle School students learned about nutrition with a smoothie tasting, and enjoyed traditional story-telling with scary legends, and corn husk doll making.

A dance social followed lunch.

GOAL 7

COMMUNICATE

Maintain and improve communication to parents and families.

There are many initiatives, old and new, for schools and families to engage. Here are some examples:

1. At AJS, a newsletter on social-emotional learning goes home to parents on a regular basis.
2. In addition to its D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) volunteer program, J.T. Waugh welcomes parents as Mystery Readers, as does the Middle School.
3. The High School holds its Annual Freshman Fun Night, which involves fun for freshmen and their families.
4. In January, Highland launches its after-school initiative in which parents come in to run sessions to share skills with students ...painting, crafts, woodworking, fishing, outdoor skills ... all are welcome.
5. The Middle School's annual Back-to-School Carnival is a bash hosted by both staff and parents.



LEARNING ... about caring & community



Above: Mrs. Maureen Canonico was a guest at A.J. Schmidt's Veterans Day Breakfast, in honor of her late husband who served our country. The little ladies at her side are her granddaughters, Marin Canonico, at left, and Piper Dutchess, right.
- Photo by Ms. Alexandria Salansky, A.J. Schmidt 5th grade teacher

Right: 7th graders from William G. Houston Middle School drop off donations collected at the school for Operation Good Neighbor.



We're LEARNING ... in classrooms, in the



Top left:

It was another busy day at A.J. Schmidt for these 3rd graders working with nouns, adjectives, and action words. It's amazing how one day this all comes together as they write their way through adult life: be it term papers, analytical reports, college entrance essays, or a touching letter to their own children one day. From top left, counter clockwise: Bailee Williams, Kylo Vega, Caelan Gordon, Summer Neil, Gabriel Stocklosa.

Bottom left:

Science gets very exciting when explosions are involved. A.J. Schmidt's Maker Maniacs made volcanos from used pop bottles, string, paper towels and paper mâché. They painted their volcanos and used crayon shavings for grass and land features. Everyone wore safety goggles, the fire extinguisher ready just in case, and KABOOM went the glorious eruptions, bringing students an early introduction to chemistry and earth science.

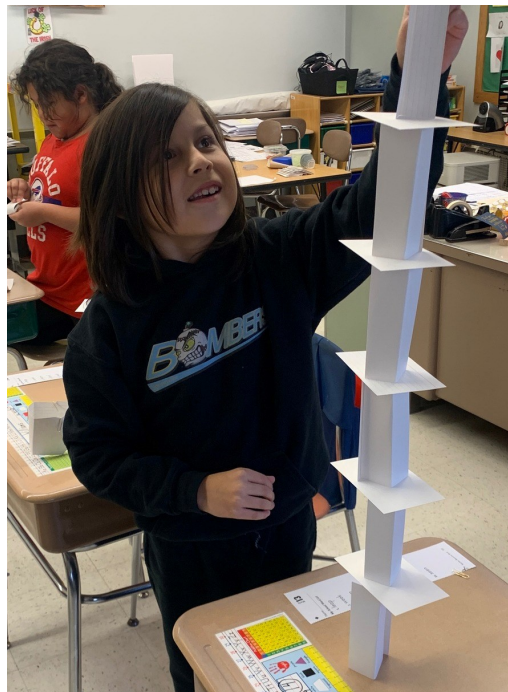


Art teacher Mr. Chuck Ruffino combines art and science with his Maker Maniacs at A.J. Schmidt Elementary School.

hallways & even outside, too!

Top, near right:

One day he'll be in high school and the class may be physics or mechanical design. Cyrus Williams and others in Mr. John Renzo's 2nd grade at J.T. Waugh are preparing for that day with this challenge: building the tallest and strongest tower using a limited number of index cards.



Top, far right:

Highland Kindergarteners parade the hallways, wearing their handmade paper vests featuring a letter of the alphabet. Who could forget their ABC's once you've been one! Leading the parade are Ian Travis, Madison Eagan, and Kennedy Illig, accompanied by teacher Mrs. Traci Smardz.



Bottom right:

They will be reading all their lives so why not instill a love of reading right from the start! Superintendent Dan Pacos was a guest reader at Highland. Mr. Pacos regaled Kindergarteners with one of his favorite stories, "There was a Cold Woman Who Swallowed Some Snow," by Lucille Colandro.





Lake Shore Central School District

Where Every Week is Computer Science Education Week

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Every week is Computer Science Education Week at Lake Shore as classrooms prepare for the launch of new NYS Learning Standards for Computer Science and Digital Fluency in 2024. For the smallest tots to the most advanced seniors, computer science and digital fluency skills are part of daily learning.

Mr. John Renzo's 2nd graders leveled up their digital fluency with a trip to the High School's new Esports lab. Using Gwoop, they built their skills in mouse movement; reaction time; visual memory, timing, speed, and accuracy.

In AP Computer Science Principles, students participated in a virtual field trip through Microsoft Flip with robotics technologist Kamak Ebadi from NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab. Kamak discussed NASA's Artemis missions and the power of coding in shaping future careers.



During a field trip to the High School Esports lab, these J.T. Vaughn 2nd graders saw how AP Computer Science students build coding skills

The Minecraft Education team demonstrated how students can expand their coding journey with Minecraft's Artemis Missions, developed in collaboration with NASA.

Computer Science students also enjoyed a Skill Struck (<https://www.skillstruck.com>) Dev Team Virtual Site Visit with Senior Software Engineer

Colleen King, who shared her computer science journey and her day-to-day work helping to build Skill Struck to empower a new generation of coders.

Learn about these and other initiatives as we prepare students for their futures in this Goals Edition of the Eagle Express.

Photos and narrative contributed by technology integrator Mr. Michael Drezek

Students from the High School's HOOP Club mentored J.T. Vaughn library students in coding with Sphero Bolt in 3rd grade and coding with Scratch in Kindergarten and 1st grade.

