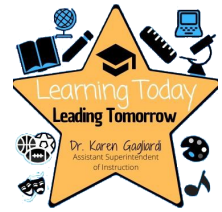




Lakeland's Latest on Curriculum and Instruction

November 2020 EDITION



A Note From Karen Gagliardi

The departments within curriculum and instruction have been immersed in the details of teaching and technology combined. Administrators, Instructional Coaches, Coordinators and DOCs have all worked together to support the use and roll out of Benchmark...more to come as the year unfolds. At the elementary level, teachers have been utilizing the new ELA resource Benchmark, and while no resource can claim to be panacea, Benchmark, thus far have been yielding fairly positive feedback. The instructional coaches have shared a "Benchmark Collaboration Classroom" through Google. It is a forum for teachers to share lessons, pose questions and share practices. Across elementary schools, PBIS is alive and well, as each school has maintained its support and use of PBIS through virtual assemblies, student of the month and incentives. This support is afforded to our students through creative uses of technology. Secondary has been equally as committed to delivering high quality instruction, and celebrating students. Student recognition includes those who have made the honor roll, were named commended students on the 2021 National Merit Scholarship, and were named National Merit Semi-Finalist in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program. All of these partnerships occur through skillful and purposeful use of technology.

In the spirit of celebrating Thanksgiving, we have decided to coin this month "Techs-giving". Technology has become such an integral part of school life, and this year has been the year that has proven it to be so! We are ever thankful that we have leveraged our instructional technology and devices to continue to educate our students. Being one of the largest suburban school districts, making that a reality for all students and staff was no small accomplishment. In retrospect, we started the school year in the remote model, and then we migrated to a hybrid model, ready to pivot at a moment's notice. Currently, pivoting and flexibility seem to be the norm. The new normal has also given rise to many new tech phrases. The field of education has long been one that purports its own phraseology, and some are so familiar like GPAs, CSTs, IST, and preps, specials, ENCORE, and PLCs to name but a few. The new normal has brought about new phrases and meaning to commonly known words like, Meets, Zoom, turn-off your mute button, break-outs, virtual classrooms, gallery view, chat, polls, the list is almost endless, but I believe you get the point. It may be safe to say that more and more change, and new inventive phrases and meanings are on the horizon.

As the first quarter and first trimester are upon us, we will be reporting our students' progress thus far in both and/or a combination of remote and hybrid models. Lakeland as a whole, has responded to the new demands of remote and hybrid and our students' progress will give testament to that. The use of technology has given us a way to meet students where they are in their learning. Classes that I have visited both in-person and virtual have shown that we are dedicated to continuity of instruction. The many departments across the district have utilized technology to support, connect, instruct, assess, council, and conduct school business – thanks to the staff/faculty, technology and its use.

I wish you all a safe, happy and healthy "Techs-giving" to all!



DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Teachers at the elementary level continue to unpack Benchmark and implement the multiple resources within the Benchmark Universe. STAR and NSGRA reading assessments have been completed and teachers are working on differentiating instruction to meet the needs of their students.

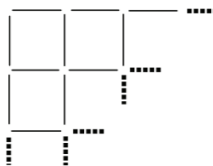
Teachers in Grades K-5 had the opportunity to meet with Patty McGee, the writing consultant, at Benchmark.

MATH

Focus on: *THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION 8*

November marks the month during which middle school students across the United States compete in the American Mathematics Competition 8 (AMC 8). This involves a rigorous test where students in Grade 7 and Grade 8 at LCBMS engage in a timed exam. Here are a couple of examples of the questions:

Toothpicks are used to make a grid that is 60 toothpicks long and 32 toothpicks high. How many toothpicks are used altogether?

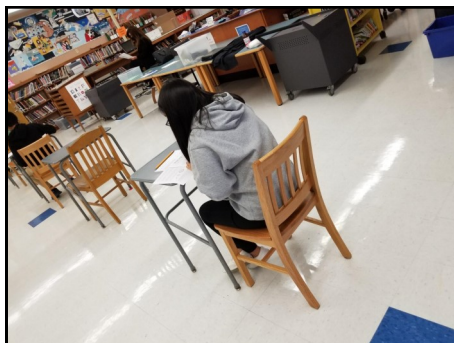
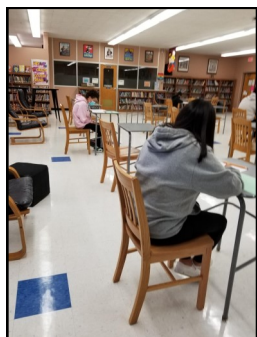
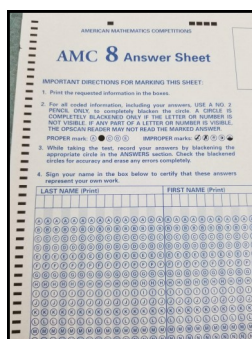
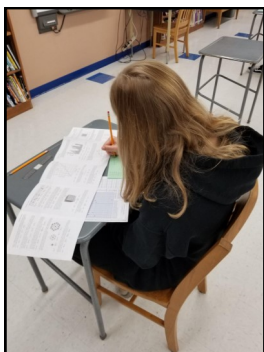


(A) 1920 (B) 1952 (C) 1980 (D) 2013 (E) 3932

A 1×2 rectangle is inscribed in a semicircle with the longer side on the diameter. What is the area of the semicircle?

(A) $\frac{\pi}{2}$ (B) $\frac{2\pi}{3}$ (C) π (D) $\frac{4\pi}{3}$ (E) $\frac{5\pi}{3}$

Serious business, right? Undaunted, LCBMS students signed up to bear down, wrestling with challenging math in a challenging time. We tip our hats to them. Results are expected from the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) in December 2020 or in January 2021.



SCIENCE

Elementary:

All schools have begun teaching the Science 21 Units. PNWBOCES has shared some additions to the units to assist in remote learning and/or the hybrid model.

Secondary:

The teachers are using a variety of resources to assist students in practice and assessments. Castle Learning is one example of a tool that many science teachers find helpful to create assignments electronically for students.

In their classes teachers are working hard to create assignments and projects that not only meet state standards, but are also interesting and engaging for our students. Some highlights of these include:

Webquest lab activities

Researching and writing about famous scientists. (The list of scientists included many modern and more diversified types of scientists)

In Grade 6 the students worked through a THINK PIPE lab. The students were called to be designers in a toy company. They needed to design, plan, and execute an experiment on a type of toy ball. They utilized many skills stated in our New York State Science Standards.

In our Astronomy class students are greeted by a picture related to an astronomical phenomenon. Their first assignment is to ask questions based on the picture shared with them. Learning how to ask good probing research questions is another skill highlighted in our science standards.

Our district is a member of the Hudson River Teacher Center Located at PNWBOCES. We have access to the courses and programs that are offered through the center. Here are the latest remote classes. Some are offered synchronously and some asynchronously. They can all be found on My Learning Plan or follow this link. (<https://conta.cc/3m6JrRh>)

ENL

The ENL Department is continuing to explore ways to better connect with ELLs and their families in this hybrid learning model. The Talking Points app has been an indispensable resource for us this school year. We are able to frequently check in with parents and guardians in their native language to keep them up to date on their child's academic success and needs, as well as sharing information on community resources for the whole family. Connecting with families and building a trusting relationship has been key to keeping our ELLs actively engaged, especially those who are learning remotely.



SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies Lessons and Activities

PNW BOCES Integrated SS/ELA Curriculum offers several online learning lesson plans for grades K-8. Click [here](#) to access the following online lessons.

K-2 Mini Unit/Lesson Plans: "Understanding Myself and My Community: Where I Live and How We All Work Together"

3-5 Mini Unit/Lesson Plans: "Changing the World Around Us: People, Governments and the Environment"

6-8 Mini Unit/Current Event Tasks: "Social Justice: Us, Them, We: How Do We Treat Others? How Do We Build Community?"

The National Constitution Center brings students from all over the country together for weekly Scholar Exchanges on aspects of the Constitution. These sessions are part lecture and part lively discussion, encouraging civil dialogue, critical thinking, and active listening. Students, teachers, and parents are welcome to join the sessions. 30 minute sessions take place on Monday and Wednesday, with sessions for middle school level at 12 p.m. and high school at 2 p.m. Additional sessions on Fridays at 1 p.m. are open to learners of all ages. You can view the full schedule of upcoming Scholar Exchanges [here](#).

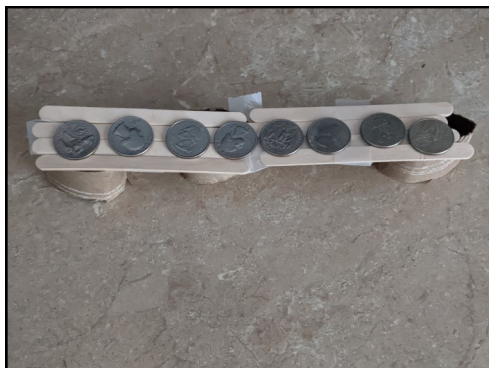
Social Studies Spotlight

"Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you." -Pericles
Students in many Social Studies classes participated in the *2020 National Student Mock Election*. Students were able to cast votes for President, House of Representatives, and State Senate. They also shared their opinions on issues such as the Electoral College, the Green New Deal, Medicare for All, Limitations on Free Speech, and Making Election Day a Holiday. See the results [here](#).

STEAM

The STEAM Coordinators have reviewed the feedback from all eight Lakeland buildings and are moving onto the next steps in working towards creating a cohesive and comprehensive K-12 STEAM Program for Lakeland students. Collectively, we are constructing a mission statement, K-12, and establishing goals for this school year based on recent data collection. In the elementary buildings, students have been applying design thinking to build everything from Bone Bridges (to hold eight quarters) to Candy Conduits (to safely hand out candy) for the Halloween season.

At the secondary level, teachers and students are applying the Design Thinking Process into various projects across grade levels and interdisciplinary classes.



WORLD LANGUAGE



This month many classes in our department learned about the holiday, El Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). The holiday, which takes place on November 1st and 2nd, is an important holiday celebrated mainly in México. The holiday is a very festive celebration honoring the deceased loved ones that families and friends have lost. It is a time for them to remember and honor their loved ones. Display cases and classrooms were decorated. Students designed calaveras (skulls) with traditional Day of the Dead colors and designs and created graphic organizers showcasing their knowledge.

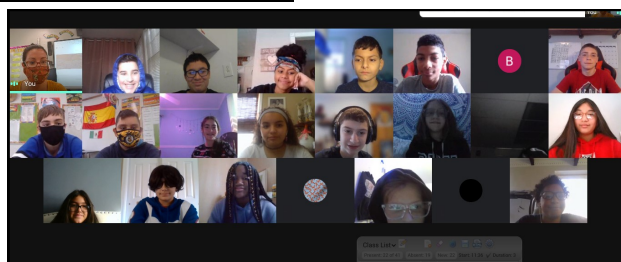


Students in the Spanish Honors Society at Lakeland High School participated in the United for the Troops annual 'Operation Defend the Holidays.' Over 10 boxes of supplies that will be sent to our troops were collected this year.

For more information on this great cause, please visit their website at www.unitedforthetroops.org.



Here are Mrs. Coppola's Spanish and Italian classes taking a moment to pause and smile for the camera in between warm-up questions in the target language. During the warmup, students have the opportunity to use their speaking skills while talking about themselves and others in their studied language.



Spanish 7 - Period 8



Spanish 7 - Period 4

The Spanish Honors Society at Walter Panas High School has been hard at work. They created a book for 'El Día de los Muertos' that contained over 100 slides of activities for the students in the middle school to complete! They have also started a digital tutoring center using Google Classroom where students can sign up for appointments (1:45-2:20) to receive help from their peers.



Students in Mrs. Elmouchtari's Spanish Language & Culture class worked on a political project to learn about the Guerra Civil Española. Students had to choose two propaganda posters, one for each political group; Nationalistas and Republicanos. They had to add a link explaining the poster and attach a video explaining their findings. It was a great project for this month since our presidential election took place here in the US on November 3rd.



ART

Thomas Jefferson Elementary celebrated their artists this month with a virtual Gallery One, congratulations to all featured artists. Next month will be artists from Ben Franklin Elementary. Elementary Artists are continuing to explore the Elements of Design with creations based on Texture, Color and Shape. Teachers welcomed the return of all the Kindergarten students with an exploration of lots of new materials and mediums.

At the Middle School some eighth grade art students are wrapping up the first quarter with Kandinsky inspired Abstract Expressionist watercolor paintings and created projects based on the Principles of Design. Seventh graders are exploring the world of Pop-Art with inspiration from Wayne Thiebaud and Andy Warhol. Some art students also created a work of Neurographic Art; they used a variety of art materials to create a mesmerizing landscape of line, shape and value. Sixth graders have begun to learn about Perspective by creating cities that they personalized.

High School Students are working in a variety of 2D and 3D mediums with hands-on projects. Enhancing drawing and painting skills, photographing, sculpting and digital media. The Drawing classes (LHS) are utilizing the Playlist Model that was learned during our PD day to work on an abstract value & space project. Students are working at their own pace and taking responsibility in their learning. This model requires and encourages more independence and time management.

2 students from Lakeland High School, Emily Milano and Audrey Proctor were selected to attend the Graphic Design Workshop at The Katonah Museum of Art.



Jacey C. loading film to develop in Photography Class



Jae B. working in Painting class , LHS



Olivia M. AP Art self portrait



Allison L. working in Painting Class

GUIDANCE

The high schools are in full swing with the college application process with two early admissions deadlines (November 1 and 15) tucked away. December will have another set of early admissions deadlines (December 1 and 15) before heading into the new year. 11th grade students have begun post high school planning sessions that include the use of Naviance, our web-based tool for college and career research. This will lead into our virtual College Planning Panel presentation on December 3.

10th and 11th grade students who took the PSAT will be able to access their score reports during the first week of December. More information to follow!

9th grade students have been meeting with their counselors as part of their transitions to high school. These meetings are great ways to connect with the counselor!

In the middle school, counselors are creatively engaging students in a variety of activities that include Red Ribbon Week, Wellness Wednesdays, and Halloween Flipgrid challenges.

In addition, the middle school counselors have been visiting classrooms to continue their work with students.

As we continue through an unprecedented year, our counseling staff has been expanding the ways we connect and communicate with students to ensure opportunities for students to access their counselor.

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

A warm welcome to Elaine Alden who steps in as Districtwide Instructional Technology Coach while Scott fills in at Van Cort!

Some effective tools to use with breakout groups in Google Meet

<https://www.hollyclark.org/2020/10/13/effective-breakout-rooms-and-group-work-3-tools-to-take-collaboration-further/>

LIBRARY

Elementary:

Now more than ever, all students need digital citizenship skills to participate fully in their online communities and make smart choices online and in life. Through grade appropriate lessons, librarians at the elementary level are teaching a wide range of topics to kindergarten through 5th grade students. Key topics include media balance, privacy, internet safety and cyberbullying. Students learn how to be good digital citizens as we prepare students to take ownership of their digital lives!

Secondary:

English 9 Regents classes worked on Stations for Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare. This all virtual, week long unit focused on four different topics to help students obtain prior knowledge about everything Shakespeare prior to reading the play. They learned about his life and works, his use of language, and watched scenes from West Side Story to learn about the forbidden love story. Engaging in these pre-reading activities will allow students to make a better connection to the play as they are reading it.

MUSIC

The Lakeland Central School District Music Department continues to develop innovative ways to teach music to students. Although this year is like no other, students are learning more about performance techniques, instrument-specific skills, music history, music theory, and many other areas of the field of music. Students across all grades and age levels are strengthening their love of music and the arts, as well as solidifying the importance of music education in their lives.

Fifth grade band students are doing great, despite the challenges of learning an instrument remotely! This week, students learned two new notes and are now mastering the first five notes of the Concert B flat Major scale. We have just started working on popular songs such as Hot Cross Buns and Jingle Bells. Next lesson cycle students will begin Band Karate where they practice and perform specific exercises from their lesson book to earn "belts".



4th and 5th grade students at TJES are studying African music and World Music Drumming. Our **3rd graders** are learning about instrument families, and **K-2** has been working on "spooky" music like "Danse Macabre" and the music from Peer Gynt.

Chorus students at LCBMS are learning how crucial correct breathing is while singing and playing other instruments (seen in picture: Ms. Delli Carpini's 6th Grade Chorus Class, 3rd period B/D Days engaged in a breathing exercise, using a hoberman sphere). LCBMS' young singers are also focused on an Opera Unit this month, exploring how this rich genre has influenced the music we all listen to and appreciate today.



6th grade exploratory music students are learning to listen closely to musical elements and are creating their own songs in major and minor keys.

7th grade band finished the month of October learning about the elements of music that can make it scary. This new knowledge of tonality, dynamics, articulations, and tempo was applied to practice of the song "In the Hall of the Mountain King" by Edvard Grieg. They also played some other spooky songs from movies and TV, such as Jaws, Ghostbusters, and The Adams Family.

8th grade band students are learning about musical improvisation. They are studying three scales—the minor pentatonic, the minor blues scale, and the dorian scale. Using the web-based digital audio workstation (DAW) BandLab, students are recording their own improvisations over a backing track recorded by their band teacher.

7th grade students are surveying musical genres and sampling blues music in Soundtrap and Bandlab to create their own tracks.

8th grade students in Mrs. Holmes' classes are studying musical lyrics and creating their own song lyrics and background track that expresses a topic or issue that is important to them. 8th grade students in Ms. Butz's classes are completing a Contemporary Music audio project in Edu.BandLab, a digital audio workstation website, where they composed in the minimalism style of Steve Reich.

The **LHS Orchestras** have been experimenting with a model for synchronous hybrid rehearsals during the first quarter of the school year. Using ideas that were presented in a webinar by the American String Teachers Association, they have been using a website called SmartMusic to prepare and rehearse daily. As a culminating project, students have submitted videos of themselves performing their individual parts, which will be assembled into a virtual performance to be shared with their families later this month.

Chorus and Orchestra students at WPHS are learning about different components of music each day of the week. We follow the schedule of: Music Theory Mondays, Sight Reading Tuesdays, Sectional Wednesdays, React Video Thursdays, and Free Discussion Fridays. Students also record themselves singing and playing once a week with the goal of creating a "Flipgrid Recital" to showcase our tremendous talents.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

High School Health:

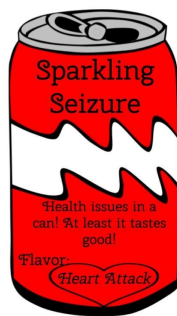
Ms. Lombardo's classes have recently completed discussing and learning about the Loss and Grieving Process. The focus during this topic was everyone's purpose in life, as well as coping skills that help students to deal with loss in all aspects. They have recently moved on to Mental Health Disorders.

Ms. Petrucci's classes are also working through their Mental Health unit and have completed various activities which include Mindful Meditation and the discussion of both positive and negative coping strategies. They are beginning to dive in on specific Mental Health Conditions, where students will each choose one and conduct research on that specific condition. They will then create an artistic representation of the condition. An example of this that has been done in the past was on Body Dysmorphic Disorder, where the student recorded all of their research on a large mirror. Some other ways that Ms. Petrucci's class has learned to combat poor mental health within her classroom are by using music as a stress reducing strategy, writing scripts that portray both positive and negative relationships, conducting "Mental Health Minutes" where the students turn away from their screens for just a few minutes to meditate, as well as "I" statements in relation to communication.

Middle School Health:

Ms. Bloom's eighth grade students have been learning about caffeine and the other ingredients contained in energy drinks that make these beverages dangerous for teens.

Ms. Barone's seventh grade students learned about various diseases including AIDS and COVID-19. Students designed original disease awareness stamps centered around this topic. Classes then went on to learn about the changes that happen during puberty. Eighth graders have been learning about substance abuse and created vision boards about how drugs could impact their future. The students then went on to learn about disease prevention and the reproductive system. It was a fantastic quarter and the students did a phenomenal job!



High School PE:

Students at **Lakeland High School** are still participating in tennis, frisbee golf and walking. Singles Badminton and Ping-pong will be introduced to the students on rainy days and in the coming weeks. The PE department is anxious to offer these activities to their students once again!



The **Walter Panas** Physical Education

Department has developed numerous workout videos encompassing each component of fitness. All students, whether Hybrid or Remote, have been doing an outstanding job performing the workouts during physical education class. The positive attitudes, effort, and cooperation among the Walter Panas student body have been exemplary. The Panas Physical Education Department is looking forward to continued success with students during the 2nd Quarter.

LCBMS PE:

In Gym A, students have begun the walking program and will be given pedometers at school when they are in-person, so they may log their steps. Students at home will be doing the same, however have been encouraged to utilize their smartphones (if they have one) to track their step counts. If a student does not have a way to track their steps, they will log and submit the length of time they walked for.

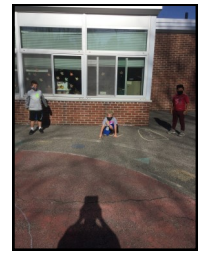
In Gym B, students have begun the Bocce unit. Teachers are currently reviewing the rules for bocce, and students are working on how to roll the bocce ball, demonstrating proper grip, and playing games in order to work on accuracy and stepping with opposition. Other activities that will take place within the bocce unit will include playing bocce games, pin bowling and bocce golf.



HEALTH & PHYS ED (cont.)

Elementary PE:

At **TJ** in Physical Education, students are currently finishing up the Health Components of Fitness unit! Students have created chalk obstacle courses in order to improve muscular strength and endurance. Next up, Mr. Meadows and Mr. Anderson will focus on the Skill Components of Fitness, while also introducing their basketball unit to their students.



At **Ben Franklin**, the Phys Ed program has recently wrapped up a muscular endurance unit and has moved on to a flexibility unit. During the muscular endurance unit, students were taught how to identify various muscle groups. They also learned different exercises they could complete to improve the muscular endurance of those specific muscle groups. During the flexibility unit, they will be highlighting a 'stretch of the day,' in which students will learn how to complete a non traditional stretch to improve their flexibility. Students will also be taught the benefits of being flexible as it pertains to sports and athletics. In an effort to continue being able to engage their students at home, as well as their students in the gym simultaneously, Mr. Auerbach and Ms. Janik have continued performing "Would You Rather" fitness videos with each class. Recently, they also created their very own "Would You Rather" fitness video, starring staff members at BFES. The students were very excited to see many of their teachers on this exercise video! Below is the link if you'd like to check it out! https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ekb7yBWhrd-gU_6ZidVHo7VyuqSQ6usv/view?usp=sharing

Van Cortlandtville Elementary School PE classes just wrapped up their last physical fitness component, muscular endurance. The students have been working hard at home and in the gym. Students learned about Tabata workouts and really got their muscles and hearts working! They are about to get started on their next unit which will focus on reaction time and soccer concepts. Coach Colsey and Coach Connolly love to see their students active and having fun!



The students at **LT** have been learning about the components of physical fitness in PE class. They have learned numerous ways to work on and improve their cardiovascular endurance, flexibility, muscular strength and muscular endurance. While they have been somewhat limited in the activities that they can participate in, they have certainly been hard at work getting their hearts and muscles strong! Pre-K and first grade students have also been working hard on locomotor movements, such as walking, skipping, running, galloping, slide/shuffle, jumping, hopping and leaping!

Students at **GW** have been taking part in a variety of activities over the past month. They have just completed their ball skills unit and are now moving into their hockey/pillow polo activities. Mr. Macchi and Mr. Schiff have been taking advantage of the beautiful weather by giving students the opportunity to run outside around the GW campus. Each week, they have been focusing on a different Component of Fitness, as well as the benefits of improving each of those components. So far, the students have learned about muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, cardiovascular endurance, agility and coordination. The students will continue to learn about their bodies and how exercise can improve their overall health.



Thank You to This Month's Contributors: Elaine Alden, Rebecca DiSisto-Leslie, Marcy Davidson, Tiffany Dyckman, Karen Gagliardi, Frank Gizzo, Candie Lorenz, Sue Lozinski, Kathy Mills-Hastings, Kate O'Connor, Kelly Rampola, Chris Ruggiero, Rick Russo, Mike Schaper, Scott Staub, Jaime Stroffolino, Carol Verrino, & Patty Viggiano

"Technology will never replace great teachers, but technology in the hands of a great teacher can be transformational."

-George Couros