

# About



## Lakota West High School

Lakota West High School opened in the fall of 1997. It is one of two high schools, grades 10 through 12, in the Lakota Local School District. Located twenty miles north of Cincinnati in West Chester and Liberty Townships, Lakota is the 8th largest school system in the state with a student population of more than 18,000. The enrollment at Lakota West is approximately 2,000. We pride ourselves on offering a wide range of quality instrumental experiences, with the concert program at the core. It is the belief of the entire music faculty that a well-rounded education, including challenging musical experiences, encourages a lifelong love of music, as well as responsibility and growth in character that continues into other aspects of the students' lives.

### **Junior School Program**

Lakota Plains Junior School and Lakota Ridge Junior School are the two schools that feed into the Lakota West Freshman School. Directors teach two or three seventh and two eighth grade bands, with these bands meeting five days per week. Both schools offer after-school jazz band programs for eighth graders and second-semester for seventh graders. Near the end of their eighth grade year, students may audition for the Marching Firebirds.

### **Freshman School Program**



## Lakota West Freshman School

Lakota West Freshman School has two concert bands and a jazz ensemble that meet daily during school hours. All ensembles perform in fall, winter and spring concerts.

In addition, many freshmen are members of the Marching Firebirds. Freshmen, however, who are not members of the Marching Firebirds as well as 8th graders, participate in [Lakota West Band Day](#) at a fall football game – an experience during which they get to perform alongside the Marching Firebirds.

### **High School Program**

At Lakota West High School, there are three concert bands that meet daily during school hours:

- Symphonic Winds (Class AA)
- Symphonic Band (Class A) and
- Concert Band (Class B).

In addition, the Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo meet daily during school hours.

The Marching Firebirds, consisting of about 250 members, is a grades 9 – 12 extracurricular opportunity meeting for rehearsal three days per week. Marching Firebirds also participate in band camp during the summer, and home football games and marching band competitions in the fall.

Pep Band and Pit Orchestra are offered seasonally as after-

school experiences.

## **A Tradition of Excellence**

Symphonic Winds has received straight superiors in OMEA class AA Large Group Contest in all years of participation. The Symphonic Bands and Concert Band have also earned superior ratings at OMEA district and state adjudicated events. In 2006, all four bands earned superior ratings at OMEA state contest for the first time, a state record.

Major Symphonic Winds performances include:

- 2019 Symphonic Winds performed at Cincinnati Music Hall at Wind Fest 2019
- 2017 Symphonic Winds performed at the Washington Artillery Park Amphitheater, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 2015 Symphonic Winds performed at Cincinnati Music Hall
- 2011 Symphonic Winds selected to perform at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, December, 2011 (first band in Ohio to be invited for a third time)
- 2010 Dixie Classic Music Festival in Washington, D.C., and Rutgers University
- 2006 Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago (one of six high school bands chosen to perform)
- 2004 Chamber groups performed at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago and Symphonic Winds also served as a rehearsal clinic band
- 2004 European Tour with performances in Paris, Brussels, and London
- 2004 Ohio Music Education association (OMEA) convention
- 2002 Capital University New Concert Band Music Reading Clinic
- 2001 30th Annual Ohio Band Directors Conference, University of Akron
- 2000 Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago (one of just five bands in the nation chosen and the first ever from the Cincinnati area)

- 1999 Music in the Parks Festival in Chicago
- 1998 Dixie Classic Music Festival in Atlanta
- 1998 Bowling Green State University New Music Reading Clinic

Marching Firebirds achievements include:

- more than 40 Grand Champion awards since the formation of the school in 1997;
- superior ratings in class AA at state finals each year, as well as superior ratings at every OMEA marching band competition entered;
- 1999 Hollywood Christmas Parade;
- 2003 Sugar Bowl in New Orleans;
- November 2005 Holiday Parade in Waikiki, Hawaii;
- January 2008 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California;
- December 2010 Disneyworld and Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida;
- November 2013 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City; and
- January 2015 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California.
- November 2017 First appearance at Bands of America Grand National Championship
- December 2017 Disney World, Orlando, Florida.
- November 2019 First time at at Bands of America Grand National Championship Semi-Finals

Jazz Ensemble received a superior rating at the inaugural OMEA state jazz contest in 2003. It was also one of just ten high school groups in the nation invited to the 2003 North Texas Jazz Festival. The group also performed at the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) convention in 2005 and at the Tri-C JazzFest in Cleveland, Ohio, in 2007. Bands in the jazz program participate in competitions throughout the region, host an annual Jazz Swing Dance, and perform at the annual Jazz 'n Cakes fundraiser.

## **Student Growth and Achievement**

We encourage private study and participation in honors groups. In a typical year, more than 10 Lakota West instrumentalists are placed in All-State honor groups (band, jazz band, and orchestra). More than 95% of our students participate in the annual OMEA Solo and Ensemble Contest. Many leading Lakota West student musicians participate in the Cincinnati Youth Wind Ensemble and Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra. Since 2016, four Lakota West students have performed with NAFME's National Honor Band – an amazing honor!

## **Support**

Our band program is supported in part by the parent booster group, The Upbeat Club, and by the Lakota Board of Education.