

1:1 Technology & Stuff the Bus Food Drive

Technology is a part of everyday life. As we continue to improve upon the student-centered education Lakota Local Schools provides, it is important to expand the opportunities offered to our students with regards to technology. In September, we launched our WE are Empowered initiative, through which our seventh and eighth grade students received a district-owned Chromebook.

As a first step in our one-to-one (1:1) technology initiative, this pilot is offering our students the opportunity to expand their personalized learning and empowering them to take ownership in their education.

Technology is an educational tool and should be treated as such. It will never replace the high-quality teaching our staff provides each and every day. The 1:1 program complements in-school instruction by offering opportunities to continue learning and collaboration with peers in new and exciting ways once students leave the classroom, and even the school.

This week, we announced to our high school families that we are ready to launch the 1:1 pilot at Lakota East and West, as well as the freshman campuses, in January. Given the limited amount of school left at the time of the launch, and our commitment to long-term financial sustainability, the high school phase of the pilot will focus on students in grades 9-11. Our seniors will still have the same learning opportunities as our underclassman by utilizing the devices available at our buildings, as well as bringing their own devices to school.

In conjunction with the 1:1 program, we have also launched our WE are Connected initiative. As you travel around our community, you may notice WE are Connected stickers in the windows of local businesses. These community partners are showing their support for Lakota students by welcoming them as patrons and offering WIFI connectivity. Our students lead active lives and are often out and about in the community after school hours. Through this initiative, students are able to connect to WIFI and complete assignments, collaborate with peers or further research topics that interest them. We are excited to continue expanding the WE are Connected initiative throughout West Chester and Liberty townships.

October brings about our annual "Stuff the Bus" food drive to benefit Reach Out Lakota. The month-long event kicked off at the East versus West football game and continues through Oct. 26. Buses from our Child Nutrition department are traveling to all of our buildings this month to collect donations. The district-wide food drive is the single largest source of donations for Reach Out Lakota. In fact, over 60% of the pantry's donations come from food drives sponsored by Lakota Schools.

This year, a twist has been added. Lakota is up against Mason and Middletown city schools as each district collects donations to help a community organization of their choosing. The winner will truly be all three organizations, but a friendly wager has been placed between the three

superintendents. The “losing” superintendents will be wearing spirit wear from the “winning” district on a to-be-determined date. The big reveal will take place on Oct. 29, when the winner will be announced.

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