

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



It seems just a short time ago we were watching as students left another school year behind. And now, we are just a few short weeks away from welcoming them back.

While we are always ready for a little break over the summer, the real joy for me is seeing students return, hearing laughter in hallways, seeing friends reunited after the break, and seeing the beginnings of another year of learning and growth. It's a fresh start for all of us.

But before we jump into the new school year, let's celebrate this past school year and all we have accomplished. Our students and staff won more awards and accolades than we can mention. We included a few highlights inside.

Our students traveled the country, appeared in nearly 40 concerts and other performances, created artwork on display around our community and beyond, and impressed in the classroom and on the playing field.

The Lima Senior Class of 2023 earned \$1.5 million in scholarships and members are now headed to college, the military and into the workforce to do great things. You can read about this amazing group of young adults inside.

One very special night came when we named our Lima Senior auditorium after South High School graduate and jazz legend Joe Henderson. This was a long overdue nod to one of the Lima City Schools' most accomplished graduates. It was truly an incredible night as Henderson family members from around the country traveled to Lima for the dedication. Please read more about Joe and the event inside.

We also honored a Family of the Year from each of our buildings, a first time doing so but certainly something we will do again in future years.

We have some exciting things coming soon, beginning with Friday nights! Coach Bill Lawrence comes to us from Kenton to take over our football program. He arrives as we join the Toledo City Athletic League, another exciting venture for our

athletic program. Coach Lawrence answers some questions for us inside.

We also welcome a new treasurer. Heather Sharp returns to the district she began her career with. Inside, you can learn more about her and the district's current finances.

We have begun work on the former Edison site to construct two buildings to house our Career Tech Agricultural and Outdoor Occupations and Engineering Technology programs. The buildings will give us much-needed space to expand these two programs. Paid for by CARES Act funds, the project will be completed in time for the 2024-25 school year.

We also continue to collect names and donations for the Veterans Wall of Honor that will be constructed in front of Lima Senior. Inside you will find details on how to get a name on the wall, as well as how to donate to make this project happen. No district money is being used.

The 2023-24 Spartan school year kicks off Wednesday, Aug. 16, and we can't wait!

If you haven't registered your child for this school year yet, please do so soon. Students cannot come to school until they are registered. Existing families, go to <https://lima-oh.finalforms.com> and log in with your FinalForms email address and password. If you have forgotten your password, use the "forgot password" link to reset password. Please call your school if you are having trouble or have questions.

New families to the district will need to set up a new account for registration by going to <http://lima-oh.finalforms.com> and clicking "new account."

As we move through this 2023-24 school year, you will repeatedly hear us use the word "Together." It's going to be our mantra, the thing we turn to in good times and bad.

It really is simple, but so important. We are all in this together – students, staff, parents and community. Without each piece working side by side, we cannot be successful. But when we are in it together, we can do and overcome anything.

Let's do this year right, and let's do it together!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 419-996-3422 or jackerman@spartan.limacityschools.org.

Go Spartans!
Jill Ackerman, Superintendent

LIMA SENIOR AUDITORIUM NAMED AFTER JAZZ GREAT JOE HENDERSON

It was a special night of celebrating the life of Jazz legend and Lima's own Joe Henderson, as Lima Senior named its auditorium after the South High School graduate.

The Joe Henderson Auditorium was dedicated April 27 with a special program, jazz music, and a grateful Henderson family.

"What we are doing here tonight is a long-time coming and I thank all those who have made it possible," Superintendent Jill Ackerman said during the program. "It is important for our students to know about the successful graduates who have come before them and their contributions to their communities, and in Joe's case, the world."

Joe was born, April 24, 1937, one of 15 children in a family that encouraged him to study music. He graduated from Lima's South High School in 1953. It was during his time at South that a teacher introduced him to the tenor saxophone.

Joe was playing in the Detroit jazz scene by the time he was 18 years old, and after college and serving in the U.S. Army, moved to New York City, where his career took off.

His first album "Page One" was released in 1963 under the Blue Note Records label. Joe led four other sessions and appeared on nearly 30 albums during the next four years.

During his 40-year career, Joe performed and recorded with some of the greatest jazz musicians around the world, including Freddie Hubbard and Herbie Hancock. He also played with Blood Sweat and Tears and other Rock and R&B groups. Joe was nominated for Six Grammy Awards and won four.

Joe was inducted into the Lima City Schools Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame in 1993. Joe recorded his last album "Porgy and Bess" in 1997 and a year later suffered a stroke that kept him from performing. He died at the age of 64 in San Francisco, on June 30, 2001.

The dedication program included remarks from Henderson family members, a video tribute from Lima Senior graduate and jazz musician Brandon Monford (Sax B), music from the Lima Senior Jazz Band, and the unveiling of a painting of Henderson.

Artist Frederick J. Brown created the "Young Joe Henderson" painting during a visit to Lima in 2008. He was here doing a residency with students in the Lima City Schools. Brown was a nationally known artist who did an extensive portrait series of jazz and blues musicians and had done a Henderson portrait before coming to Lima. Brown died in 2012. The painting hangs outside the auditorium.



The Henderson family joins the Lima City Schools and Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce to officially dedicate the Joe Henderson Auditorium.



'OUTSTANDING' STAFF HONORED

The Lima City Schools began recognizing the "Outstanding 11" staff members in 2011 after a visit from nationally-known educator Ron Clark, author of "The Excellent 11." Staff members nominate their peers.

The winners demonstrate Clark's 11 qualities to motivate and educate children: enthusiasm, adventure, creativity, reflection, balance, compassion, confidence, humor, common sense, appreciation and resilience.

This year's recipients were (from left) Shane Doyle, Barbara Coffey, Nicole Lanning, Jody Webb, Brandi Lisi, Sydney Mault, Marcia Barnett, Amanda Johnson, Angela Meyer, Tamara Slaise, Megan Long and Kyra Cobb (Outstanding Service to LCS).



WITH NEW LIMA SENIOR FOOTBALL COACH BILL LAWRENCE

Why were you interested in the Lima Senior coaching position? When I say it is my dream job, I mean I wanted to go somewhere where I could build a program. I wanted to be some place where I could make the biggest impact in kids' lives. When this position came available, I knew this was where I wanted to be. I definitely believe there are plenty of athletes walking the halls at Lima Senior who are going to make us a successful football program. Building relationships is very important to me. I love people, I love kids. The players have been awesome. They're excited to be a part of the new era of Lima Senior football.

When looking at our current athletes and team, what do you see? What are the positives and what needs worked on? We have a great group of young men. They work very hard in the weight room and we are setting records with

attendance so far this summer. We have great team speed and we are preparing to get better every day. We need to work on doing the little things right on and off the field. Doing things the SPARTAN Way.

We've heard you talk about running a pass-dominated offense. Tell us more about that and why that should be the focus for this team. Our offensive system produces an exciting brand of football where fans love to come watch and players love to practice every day. We will be going at a crazy pace and it will even put pressure on the referees to get going faster. We want to get the ball to our athletes and let them make plays. We want to stretch the field horizontally and vertically to put pressure on the defense.

How will you work to build relationships with current players and the next

generation of Spartan players? We are looking to build relationships with our players by being involved with them all year round. Not just about football, but about their lives and families. Our program will be K-12. We want all of our future Spartans to know us as coaches at the high school.

How will you grow the Lima Senior football program? Everything we do comes back to relationships. It will be what we do outside of the football season where we will see program growth. I will say that when you are winning everyone wants to be a part of the Friday Night Lights. We cannot wait to see the crowd at the first home game (Sept. 25) when we take on the Findlay Trojans. It will be a great atmosphere against a great opponent. We want people to know we are working hard and WE'RE COMING!



COACH BILL LAWRENCE

Began coaching career in 1996 as head varsity football coach at Lake Christian Academy in Florida.

Associate head football coach, offensive coordinator and assistant coach at Kenton High School since 2006. Also coached in middle school football program.

Kenton head softball coach for 15 years. Also served as assistant varsity girls basketball coach and middle school boys basketball coach while at Kenton.

RENEWAL LEVY NOT A NEW TAX, NO ADDITIONAL COST TO TAXPAYERS

Voters will see a renewal levy for the Lima City Schools on this November's ballot. It is not a new tax and will not cost taxpayers any additional money.

The 10-year, 7.68-mill renewal levy will raise \$2.27 million for the district to be used for general operations.

The renewal first appeared on the ballot 10 years ago when the district combined two existing levies that voters had been supporting separately every five years. The decision was made then to move to a 10-year issue to provide more financial stability for the district.

The money is used for general operations, including supplies, utilities and staffing.

The renewal levy will be on the Nov. 7 ballot.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS ABOUND FOR LCS STUDENTS, STAFF

It was another year of recognition and honors for the Lima City Schools, its students and staff. Here are just a few of the many.

- The Lima City Schools received an Ohio School Boards Association Community Service Award for its annual Back to School Celebration and School Supply Giveaway. This year's event is 4 to 6 p.m. Aug. 8, at MLK Park.



- Lima Senior's Maddie Emerick won the Lima Rotary Club's Four-Way Speech Contest.
- Lima Senior Director of Choral Music Amy Phillips has been elected President-Elect of the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) District 3.
- Chase Hipsher was re-elected president of the Senate at this year's Ohio YMCA Youth and Government High School State Assembly. This is the seventh consecutive year that a Lima Senior student has been elected to a state office. Also, Nikolai Brumowski-Szostakowicz received the Outstanding Statesman Award.

- Lima Senior Early Childhood Education Student Bailey Hoover qualified for the Educators Rising National Competition. She is the first Lima Senior student to advance to Nationals.



- Math Curriculum Leader Cathy Collins was the 2022 winner of the Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics Linda M. Gojak Middle School Award.
- Culinary Seniors Zoey Barnes and Sir Horrison qualified for the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) National Competition in Denver.
- Lima Senior Softball Coach Rob Nelson receive the Ohio High School Athletic Association's Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award.
- Lima Senior Art Teacher Kay Wilusz received an Ohio Art Education Foundation Grant to study glass work at the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts.

- After 26 Lima Senior students qualified for the International DECA competition, Ti'ana Spivey and Tatum Twining finished second in the world. Charlese Ferris, Emma Schick and Kaitlyn Thompson also made the finals at the International contest.



- The following LSH students won music awards: Dakota Lewis, National School Orchestra Award; Makenna Guthrie, Woody Herman Jazz Award; Paul Duncan, Louis Armstrong Jazz Award; Wren Terry, Patrick Gilmore Award; Maddie Emerick, National School Marching Band Award; Evan Large, John Phillip Sousa Award; and Dakota Lewis and Evan Large, National School Choral Award.
- Noelle Warnement and Zachary Warnement earned Superior ratings at the Ohio Music Education Association's High School Solo and Ensemble Contest. Dakota Lewis and Ava Sniffin earned Good ratings. Josiah Phillips earned Superior ratings at the Junior High Solo and Ensemble Contest, and was selected to the OMEA District 3 Honors Concert Band and the OMEA District 3 Honors Jazz Band.

- Nevaeh Fletcher had a piece of artwork (a glass necklace) accepted into the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition. She is the first from Lima Senior to make it to the final state exhibition in a very long time.



- In sports, Zion Jackson qualified for the OHSAA State Track Championships in the 110 meter hurdles. Matilda Nelson was named the TRAC Softball Player of the Year and All State Honorable Mention. Football player Anthony Mosley also earned All State Honorable Mention.

KEEP UPDATED WITH LCS!

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You Tube

www.limacityschools.org

CLASS OF 2023 MAKES ITS MARK, READY FOR THE FUTURE

The Lima Senior High School Class of 2023 did not disappoint, earning \$1.5 million in scholarship dollars and much-deserved recognition.

Lima Senior's 68th Commencement took place May 27, at Spartan Stadium, where about 180 graduates received their diplomas.

Those attending the ceremony cheered as they listened to the group's long list of accomplishments: Academic awards, athletic recognitions, art and music highlights and much more.

"Think of these and all the other things you have already accomplished in your short lives," Superintendent Jill Ackerman told the graduates. "Now imagine what's ahead. Think about what the world has in store for you, and what all you have to offer it."

This year's Valedictorian was Matilda Nelson, who will study biology and play softball at the University of Chicago. She plans to become an orthopedic surgeon.

The Salutatorian was Evan Large, who will be an English major at Ohio Wesleyan University. He wants to become a screenwriter.

Ackerman reminded graduates that they now join a 'mighty army of Spartans' who walked the same stage and then went out into the world excited yet also a little nervous about the future.

"But they did what Spartans always do – they showed courage and self-discipline – the definition of a Spartan," she said. "And then they went out and made their mark on the world. Now it is your turn to follow in their footsteps while also creating your own unique path."

The Class of 2023 had a busy few weeks heading into graduation, including completing senior projects, and attending the school's Honors Banquet, Academic and Military Signing Day, Career Tech Honors Night and Convocation.

Thanks to the generous support of Lima Senior graduating classes, families, organizations and businesses, the Class of 2023 graduated with having earned \$1.5 million in scholarships.

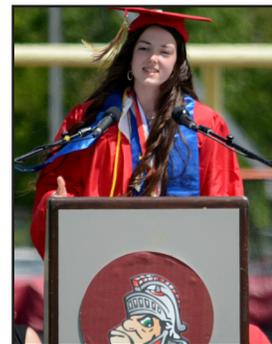
In addition, seniors in the district's 12 Career Tech programs were recognized for earning credentials, doing internships, joining the workforce and more. Several in the graduating class secured work in their Career Tech field and started working during the school year.

Wearing shirts and caps from their future schools, more than 60 students participated in the school's Academic and Military Signing. Students signed ceremonial certificates and also a large banner that now hangs in Lima Senior with similar banners from past graduating classes.

Included in the signing event were students athletes who also participated in athlete signings held throughout the school year. Eleven students signed National Letters of Intent to continue their education and playing careers at the collegiate level.



The Class of 2023 earned \$1.5 million in scholarships.



*Valedictorian
Matilda Nelson*



*Salutatorian
Evan Large*



Students move their tassels and celebrate at the conclusion of Lima Senior's 68th Commencement.

Our YEAR in PICTURES



South Science and Technology Magnet student Calen Oen let South teacher (and grandpa) Leonard Owen have it on the last day of school. Calen earned the opportunity to pie someone from the school. He did the same to Superintendent Jill Ackerman and teacher Brandi Lisi.



Lima Senior Masterworks Choir traveled in the spring to New York City, where they saw two Broadway shows and NYC sights, attended workshops and sang at the Cathedral of St. John Devine.

The Spartan Inn hosted people from business and industry and others from the community for two "A Taste of Career Tech" events last spring. After lunch and an overview of Lima Senior's Career Tech program, visitors toured each of the 12 programs.



For the third year, students of all ages attended free summer camps at our schools. Started as a result of loss time and experiences due to COVID, the camps offer hands-on activities, new experiences and fieldtrips.



The district's first International Resource Fair was a huge success. The event included games, food, prizes, information and community resources for the district's non-English speaking students and their families.

After ordering 500 "We Love Our Spartans" yard signs last school year, we quickly ran out and needed another 250. Thanks to all our supporters who put signs out, and please keep them up!



Elementary students from around the district gathered to honor local law enforcement with a National Police Week Pep Rally at Heritage Elementary School. Law enforcement from around the county joined the district's School Resource Officers at the event.



National and International reps from Airgas visited Lima Senior's welding lab. LSH is part of the company's High School Welding Education Initiative, which has meant donated materials and equipment, training for staff and other resources.



Eighth-grade football players each honored their favorite staff member during a game last season. These honorees from Liberty Art Magnet School came ready to support their Spartans.

The district unveiled its new Spartan Lunch Express this summer. The van brought free lunches to area parks and apartment complexes, allowing the district to reach more students through the Summer Food Program that has for many years provided free lunches during the summer.





A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

I began my professional career 21 years ago right here with the Lima City Schools, and am thrilled to return as the district’s new treasurer. I’ve been back since May, catching up on the district’s finances and getting reacquainted with this amazing staff.

A little about myself: I came to the Lima City Schools in 2002, working as an administrative assistant. In 2013, I moved to the Treasurer’s Office as the accounting supervisor.

I made the decision to leave the district in 2018 to become the assistant treasurer at the Western Buckeye Educational Service Center in Paulding County. Most recently, I served as the assistant treasurer at the Allen County Educational Service Center.

I am committed to this district and leading it financially into the future. I believe in transparency and vow to be a good steward of your taxpayer dollars. Our number one priority will always be students and providing them the best education and experiences possible. I believe we can do that while still being fiscally responsible.

As we close out Fiscal Year 2023, I am happy to report that our revenues are higher than what we forecasted in November, and our spending is estimated to be \$6.5 million lower than originally projected in November.

We have several ongoing projects expected to be completed in Fiscal Year 2024, including a contained ADA-compliant All Abilities Playground at Heritage Elementary School. We will also continue with ongoing building maintenance projects and updating our infrastructure.

You will see a renewal levy for the district on the ballot in November. It first appeared on the ballot 10 years ago when we combined two existing renewals. The money assists with the general operations of the district. It will not cost taxpayers any additional money.

I invite you to attend our monthly school board meetings where the finances for the past month are discussed in detail. If you have questions or concerns, I can be reached at 419-996-3448 or hsharp@spartan.limacityschools.org.

Thank you for your support!
Heather Sharp, Treasurer

EFFORTS TO BRING VETERANS WALL OF HONOR TO LSH CONTINUE

The Lima City Schools continues to accept names and donations for its Veterans Wall of Honor to be located in front of Lima Senior High School.

Graduates of Lima Senior, South and Central High Schools who served active duty in the military are invited to sign up to have their names on the black granite wall that will stand six and a half feet tall.

A short form is required to be included on the wall. It can be accessed and completed digitally by going to www.limacityschools.org. Go to the “Community” tab and find “Veterans Wall of Honor.”

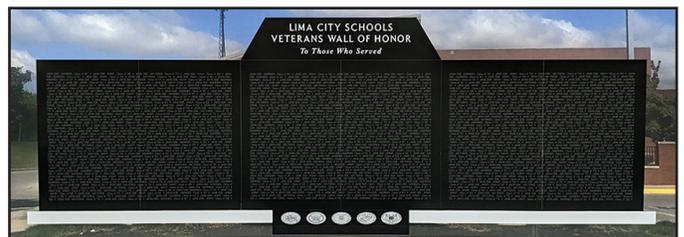
Family members are also invited to submit names of deceased veterans. For questions, please contact Patrick Horstman at 419-996-3486 or email phorstman@spartan.limacityschools.org.

Construction of the wall will not begin until the money is raised. No district, taxpayer money will be used. A fundraising campaign has begun in hopes of raising \$75,000. This will cover the initial build as well as leave funds to continue to add names to the wall well into the future.

The district is looking for individuals, businesses, organizations and others to donate. Those donations exceeding \$5,000 will be recognized on a plaque that will hang inside Lima Senior.

Checks should be made out to the Lima City Schools Foundation, with “veteran wall” written in the memo box. Donations can be sent to: Lima City Schools, C/O Beth Jokinen, 755 St. Johns Ave. Lima, OH, 45804.

Questions about donations should be directed to Beth Jokinen at 419-996-3411 or bjokinen@spartan.limacityschools.org.



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SPORTS & ACTIVITIES
LOCATED ON OUR WEBPAGE: **WWW.LIMACITYSCHOOLS.ORG**

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Aug. 8	Back to School Celebration 4 to 6 p.m. at MLK Park
Aug. 16	First Day of School
Sept. 4	Labor Day; No School.
Sept. 22	No school; Staff In-service
Oct. 19	End of First Estimate
Oct. 25 (PM) and 26 (AM)	Parent-Teacher Conferences
Oct. 26 - Oct. 30	Fall Break
Nov. 22 - 24	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 21 - Jan 2	Christmas Break
Jan. 3	School Resumes
Jan. 12	End of Second Estimate
Jan. 15	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day; No School
Feb. 1 (PM) and 2 (AM)	Parent-Teacher Conferences
Feb. 2	No school
Feb. 19	Presidents' Day; No School
March 18	End of Third Estimate
March 29 - April 1	Spring Break
April 8	No School; Staff In-service
May 22	Last Day of School
May 25	Commencement, 11:30 a.m.

**April 1 is designated a calamity make-up day if needed

2023

VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

All games start at 7 p.m. Home games in bold

Aug. 18: at Piqua

Aug. 25: Findlay

Sept. 1: at Withrow

Sept. 8: Sylvania Northview

Sept. 15: at Bowsheer, 6 p.m.

Sept. 22: Woodward (Homecoming)

Sept. 29: at Rogers

Oct. 6: at Waite

Oct. 13: Scott

Oct. 20: Start

