



Lakota East Upbeat Club Meeting Tuesday, January 20, 2026 / 7:30 p.m. Lakota East High School Media Room

Elected Officers present: Jessica Pike, Christie Wethington, Tina Wright, Dawn Ritzu, Mary Kuhlman, Jim Clary

Called to order: 7:30 by Christie Wethington

Director Reports:

Mr. Rob Tanis – Director of Bands, Lakota East High School

- Gift of Music Recap
 - Thanks for feeding the students, decorating and setting up the theater
 - Apologies for cancelling the show but it felt like the safest thing to do
- Honor Band was this past weekend at Mason HS
 - Encourages more students to audition next year
- Side by sides with junior high students begins (1/28), the students will meet with the Symphonic Bands
- Pep band is down to 4 opportunities left
- Placement auditions for next year are due Friday March 20th
- Some of the kids have begun working on Concertos
- Solo and ensemble is 2/7 at Blanchester HS
 - Encourages more students to participate next year
- All bands are playing at Mason HS on March 7 for MFA
- Symphonic band will perform at the district OMEA event at Fairfield HS on March 13 and freshman on March 14th
 - Winds and concert band will have the choice of whether they want to play or not
 - This concert qualifies them to play at the OMEA state event
- Main campus bands winter concert is 2/26 at main campus from 7pm-9pm
- Freshman bands winter concert is 3/5 from 7-8pm
- Symphonic Winds will perform at Music Hall on 3/22
- Marching band schedule for 2025
 - BOA Grand Nationals in Indy will be a 2 day overnight event the weekend of 11/12-11/14
 - Other possible BOA events are Central Ohio and Louisville
 - Waiting for OMEA and MSBA shows to be released
 - Tag day is 8/22
 - New design crew, including Leon May, will be in charge of Choreography in the show

Mr. Andrew Desmond - Assistant Band Director, Lakota East High School

- Solo/Ensemble recitals are Feb 2nd at 6pm
- Winterguard parent preview show on 1/22 at 8pm
- All competitions are on the band calendar

Aaron Todahl – Jazz Band Director

- Swing dance is Friday 2/6 from 7-10, details sent to jazz bands last week with report times, signup genius, what to wear, food donations, performance times, etc
 - o Set up begins at 3:00 PM
 - o We have new instructors for the kids to learn from this year
- Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Lab bands are playing in Beavercreek on 2/28, after the performance students will receive written and recorded feedback, along with a clinic, schedule TBA
- On March 10, Jazz lab band concert/clinic
- On March 26, Eastside Jazz Orchestra will play at the Redmoor 6pm-9pm as an opening act
 - o Kids and parents will be in charge of transportation
- Placement audition information was sent to Main campus and freshman students, auditions will be submitted through google forms, due Friday 1/23

Mrs. Maggie Whaley – Band Director, Liberty Junior School

- Not present, on 2/25 is the Liberty Junior Winter Band Concert

Mrs. Kat Eroskey-Mitchell – Band Director, Hopewell Junior School

- Not present, on 3/5 is the Hopewell Junior Spring Band Concert

Secretary Report: Jim Clary

- The last four meeting minutes can be found on the band website under the Upbeat Club tab.
- Motion to approve the November 18th Upbeat Club Meeting Minutes: motion by Christa Hobe/seconded by Alexandra Ince**Approved**

Vice-President of Ways and Means: Dawn Ritzu

- Looking for someone to shadow and take over role as this is my last year
- Corporate sponsorship renewals is in February, commitments are due April, May
 - o Let Dawn know if you know any business interested in being a corporate sponsor
- Jazz Fest raffle baskets
 - o Let Dawn know of any businesses who may like to donate a basket or basket items
- New Fundraiser to pair with Butter Braids is Cookie Dough
 - o Starts Feb.9th
 - o Ends March 2nd
 - o Delivery March 16th

Treasurer Report: Tina Wright

- November and December treasurer reports, see QR codes below



- The current cash amount is \$202,000
- Start of year amount was \$160,000
- Recent transactions:
 - Gateway Refund from Orlando trip \$19,000
 - Craft show fundraiser, net profit \$5000
 - Gift of Music, profit of \$8600

Committee Chair Reports

Co-Vice Presidents of Student Activities: Jess Scribner and Mary Kuhlman

- Seventh grade side by sides in January 28/29, Might need volunteers

Christa Sexton and Aimee Donnellon– Chaperones/Travel

- Nothing new to report

Christa Sexton (presented by Dawn Ritzu)– Butter Braids/Cookie Dough sale

- Start Date: Monday February 9
- End Date: Monday March 2
- Submit Order Date: Friday March 6th
- Delivery Date: Monday March 16

Christa Hobe - Photo committee

- Winter guard has 9 shows
- Will have picture booth at Swing Dance
- Families if you never picked up pictures from marching band season please reach out

Swing Dance – Sonya Clary

- Sign up Genius for the swing dance is in the Band App
- Is looking for some lights and help to hang them for the dance starting at 3pm Feb 6th
- Dance competition winners get a trophy and gift cards
- Would like to increase donations to Reach Out Lakota

Marching Band Uniforms – Sonya Clary and Alexandra Ince

- Planning to rip all uniforms prior to fittings for next year
 - Looking for help, students can help also
 - Signup genius coming out for dates in Feb. and March
- Would like to have another member to help lead the committee since next year is Alexandra's last year
- Any parent volunteers who would like to help or shadow for the upcoming band season would be greatly appreciated.

President Report: Jessica Pike and Christie Wethington

- Side by Sides, Hopewell 1/28, Liberty 1/29
- Jeff Durham Scholarship & LEUC Scholarship

- o Jeff Durham scholarship is updated and available on the website, is now two \$1000 scholarship
- The new band trailer is out getting repairs done
- Open Executive Board Positions for 2026/27 - VP of Ways and Means
 - o Nomination forms will be at the next meeting
 - o All board positions are up for a vote and can be put in for if interested
- Looking for someone to take on the sale of props and costumes from Marching Band and Winterguard seasons.
- Questions

Meeting adjourned:

Motion to adjourn by Alexandra Ince /seconded by Aimee Donnellon**Approved**

Please see the Google Calendar on the Lakota East Bands website www.lakotaeastbands.org for the latest information and follow us @lakotaeastbands

***The next Lakota East Upbeat Club Meeting will be Tuesday February 17, 2026 at 7:30pm.
Thank you so much for your continued support of the Lakota East Band Program and the
Lakota East Upbeat Club.***