



Lakota East Upbeat Club Meeting **Tuesday, March 17, 2026/ 7:30 p.m.** **Lakota East High School Media Room**

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

Called to order: 7:34 by Christie Wethington

Director Reports:

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

- New member meeting was successful
- The winter concert was in February and March for all five bands Sorry for the mixup with the times for High School bands
- Main campus bands performed at Mason HS on March 7 and had a clinic after each performance
- 4 bands performed at OMEA district event at Fairfield HS
 - Symphonic Band and Symphonic Winds performed Friday March 13
 - Both Freshman bands performed Saturday March 14
- Symphonic Winds plays a combined concert with the Cincinnati Wind Band and Southeast Missouri State University at 6pm in Music Hall
 - This is a ticketed event, information on tickets was sent to parents
 - Students will be bussed to Music Hall, and will need to find their own transportation home
- Spring Musical in April, many band students are involved
- Leadership team and drum major interviews are currently ongoing
 - Results will be posted next Friday, 3/27
- Spring training for rookies is beginning the week before spring break with another week in April
- Placement auditions for next year are due 3/20
- On 4/29 there will be a rehearsal open to the public, featuring a clinician for each main campus band where Winds will be performing after
- 85" TV was installed in band room
- The new marching band season meeting and reveal is on Monday 4/27
- The trip to Indianapolis for Grand Nationals will be a 1-2 overnight trip
 - Band participation Fees will remain \$300, Additional fees will remain for trips and other marching equipment
 - There will be no other travel fees for the season

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

- Freshman Spring band concert May 13

Aaron Todahl – Jazz Band Director

- Not present, please see attachment 1 – report read by Jim Clary

Mr. Ethan Davis - Color Guard/Winter Guard

- Winterguard went to Indy twice and sat in on Scholastic world rehearsals
- Circuit sendoff March 23 at West Freshman
- April - Varsity competes in WGI Championships in Dayton

Mrs. Maggie Whaley – Band Director, Liberty Junior School

- Spring concert is May 14

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

- Spring concert is May 14

Secretary Report: *Jim Clary*

- All 2025/2026 season meeting minutes can be found on the band website under the Upbeat Club tab.
- Motion to approve the February 18 Upbeat Club Meeting Minutes: motion by Aimee Donnellon/seconded by Dave Payne**Approved**

VP Student Activities: *Jess Scribner & Mary Kuhlman*

- Volunteers
 - Will sent out a QR code with all activities for the year that need volunteers
 - We will have a table at the season meeting to recruit new parent volunteers
- Kids will be fed at Music Hall at 4pm March 22
- Senior Picnic
 - Saturday May 17 from 1:00 to 3:00 at Keehner Park
 - Will ask for donations for food from parents
- Spiritwear Store will open in April
 - Jazzfest t shirts will be going out for sale so get yours before the show
 - This years design is a student design from Deven Duong

Vice President of Ways and Means: *Dawn Ritzu*

- Looking for someone to shadow so they can take over the role next band season.
- Jazz Fest - Looking for Raffle baskets and donations
- Corporate Sponsors are being contacted about upcoming season to see interests with the end of May being the deadline
- Dine and Donate will be at Shake shack April 7 with 25% sales going back to the band

Treasurer Report: *Tina Wright*

- February report, see QR code below



- The current cash amount is \$195,809
- We have a surplus of cash for the fiscal year
- Recent transactions:
 - Net about \$1079 for swing dance
 - Cost of guest conductors
 - Band trailer repair -\$5000
 - Winter guard prop spruce up -\$400
- April meeting is the final meeting of the year, please get all reimbursements to Tina by that time (or before the end of May)

Committee Chair Reports

Marching Band Uniforms – Sonya Clary

- All sessions of uniform seam ripping were successful leaving only 10 left
- Alex Ince is looking for someone to shadow her to take over MB pinning along with sewing/alterations for MB, Symphonic Winds
- Stephanie Hewitt will become Uniforms #2 person for this upcoming season

Christa Sexton – Butter Braids/Cookie Dough sale

- We need someone to take over fundraising roll
- 587 items sold
- Total profit \$4109
- October 19- November 2nd are the future dates for the next fall Cake Roll fundraiser

Christa Sexton/ Aimee Donnellon – Chaperones

- There is a meeting for new chaperons on April 6 from 6:00-7:00 PM

Christa Hobe - Photo

- Took pictures of all winter guard members, including composites
- Would like a current junior parent to help with senior posters for next year

Mike Rutherford – Jazz Fest/Senior Slide Show

- Saturday May 9th, 5:00-9:00 in the East parking lot
- We currently have 4 food trucks scheduled
- Need donations for raffle baskets, please check with Dawn
- Need donated baskets
- Need pictures for the senior slide show by April 1, information will be sent out soon

President Report: Jessica Pike and Christie Wethington

- Guard - Saturday 3/28 - Nutter Center - final guard competition of the season
- Jeff Durham Scholarship due April 1
- 2 LEUC Senior Scholarships due April 15
- Tonight is deadline for nominations to be on the board, we have received 2 nominations for Dawn's position
 - Election will be held at April 21 meeting
- Questions

Meeting adjourned:

Motion to adjourn by Amy Coons /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 April 21, 2026 at 7:30pm. Thank you so much for your continued support of the Lakota East Band Program and the Lakota East Upbeat Club.

Attachment 1

Jazz Band Updates Aaron Todahl

Thank you so much to everyone for all of your help in making the Swing Dance a success this year! I am so glad we were able to reschedule, and I think we handled the logistics of having the event at the Freshman building really well. Shoutout to Sonya Clary for doing such a great job chairing this event.

A few weeks ago, I began hosting a student teacher from CCM. His name is Andrew Brown and he has been doing a great job so far with the jazz bands. He spent the first seven weeks of his student teaching placement at Liberty Junior with Mrs. Whaley and will be finishing out the year with me at East/West.

Audition materials for next year's bands are due this Friday, March 20th. For jazz, students will use the provided Google Forms links to submit their materials.

The Eastside Jazz Orchestra will be performing as the opening act for the Cincinnati Contemporary Jazz Orchestra (CCJO) at the Redmoor next Thursday, 3/26. This will be a great opportunity for these students to perform a "real world" gig and to see the best musicians in the city of Cincinnati perform a great program of music. Eastside students do not need tickets, but the CCJO is asking parents to purchase a ticket for the evening. This concert will sell out, so make sure to buy your tickets asap if you haven't done so already. Performing with the CCJO this concert is Grammy Award winning drummer Dan Pugach!

East Jazz Fest 2026 is on Saturday, May 9th from 5pm-9pm. The performance order for the evening is listed below:

5:00-5:20 – Liberty
5:30-5:50 – Hopewell
6:00-6:30 – East Freshman
6:40-7:10 – East Jazz Lab Band
7:20-7:50 – East Jazz Ensemble
8:00-9:00 – Eastside Jazz Orchestra

Thanks!