

The Lakeland Letter

2022
June

1630 Bogie Lake Rd White Lake, MI 48383

3rd Edition

Hello Lakeland High School, and welcome to The Lakeland Letter! We are a student led organization, dedicated to writing stories about what is important to us as Lakeland Students. When we first started this newspaper, we really wanted to give updates on Lakeland happenings that are relevant to students, rather than force

the same old updates over and over, never actually reporting on what matters to us as teenagers. We hope to write a few issues every year, and report on topics like sports, entertainment, general Lakeland activities, and the arts. We are led by current juniors Lucy Martin and Katie Ginopolis

as founders and co-editors in chief. We want to make a difference at our school by having a student published newspaper, reporting on student issues. We promise to give everyone at Lakeland a voice to be heard, and can't wait to continue this journey!

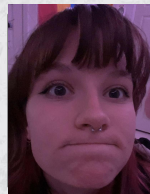
Meet the Staff



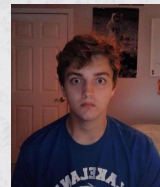
Lucy Martin (right) and Katie
Ginopolis (left)
Besties in Charge



Abby Deloney
Fire Enthusiast



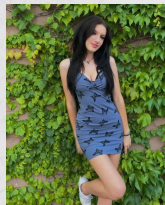
Jackie Gmyrek
Art Director TM



Kyle Krause
Resident Kyle
IT Guy



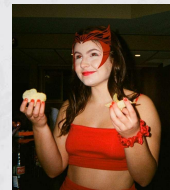
Sophie Mensch
The Rational One
Problem Solver



Sophia Paliy
Harry Styles and
Lana Del Rey Stan



Logan Iavelli
Music Superiority
Complex



Morgan Wright
A Person

We also love and appreciate our sponsor Ms. Tureff (Mrs. Hord).
We truly could not do this without her!

Dear Future Freshmen...

Advice From Your Upperclassmen

Abby Deloney

If an upperclassmen is asked about their freshman year experience, the response most likely to be received is a cringe or a grimace. For most people, freshman year can be difficult. The transition from middle school to high school is a difficult change for most people. Learning the entirely new culture and environment of high school can seem daunting to incoming freshmen, especially ones who do not have anyone they know in high school already. Hopefully, some advice from upperclassmen can help make the change easier.

Most upperclassmen recall feeling nervous and stressed their freshman year. The classes, homework, and social life of high school is both intimidating and almost overwhelming for freshmen. It is a very different experience than middle school, and such a sudden transition is hard to make for most people.

At the age of a freshman, everyone is trying to figure out their identity. junior Jackie Gmyrek remembers struggling with their identity: "I had no idea

"I had no idea of who I was or who I wanted to be"

who I was or who I wanted to be and it held me back."

Another anonymous junior describes a similar experience, saying "I struggled with trying to 'fit in' and then eventually realized it's best to be yourself and make friends from there." Almost everyone at that age struggles with their own identity. Whether it is interests, friends, or anything else, some parts will be questioned, and this can add a lot of stress on top of schoolwork. What is most important to remember is that almost everyone is going through the same thing as everyone else, and questioning identity is almost inevitable. Other struggles upperclassmen remember facing were time management, drama, and figuring out what classes/clubs were available.

Hindsight is 20/20.

Most upperclassmen regret at least one thing they did or did not do. Many regret not trying to make friends sooner, or not opening up more. One anonymous junior commented, "I regret not making more friends with people in my classes. It makes class so much better when you have people to talk to in them." Many other students regret not getting more involved or challenging themselves more. Junior Haley Norton recalls, "I regret not joining more clubs while I could, I wish I had gotten more involved." Other students mentioned similar sympathies, and often wished that they had taken more AP classes, gone to more football games and events, and had participated in more extracurricular activities. There are so many AP classes to take, and even more now for freshmen to take than before. Taking AP classes and doing extracurriculars all throughout high school can help with making new friends and looks good on college applications. Also, attending school events helps build social connections.

In high school, keeping up good grades takes much more work than it does in middle school. The content often gets harder, there is more homework, and finals are introduced. Maintaining high grades can prove to be difficult, especially in the beginning of freshman year. One piece of advice most upperclassmen give involves time management. An anonymous junior asserts, "Keep up with your work. Once you fall behind it is so much harder to get back on track. If you do your assignments in school, you barely get any homework. As long as you keep on pace, have an idea of what is going on in that class, and ask questions here when you're lost, you'll be all set!" Most upperclassmen emphasize staying on top of assignments and paying attention in class. Phones are becoming an increasingly larger problem, especially among freshmen, which can make focusing in class more difficult. However, putting down the phone, paying attention, and doing work during class will help make keeping up grades easier.

High school is often when students begin to have their first struggles with mental health. The pressure and stress high school puts on students can generate some feelings of

depression or anxiety. However, students learn coping skills to help make this easier. Many students claim that setting aside time for themselves helps. A junior expressed, "Stay at home every once in a while on the weekends. Trust me it may feel like you're missing out but you're not. There are so many things you'll experience and one weekend every here and there to focus on yourself is good for mental health."

"I regret not making more friends with people in my classes. It makes class so much better when you have people to talk to in them."

Another common piece of advice given focuses on setting boundaries with others. Junior Haley offers, "Set boundaries with yourself and the people who surround you. Don't let people walk all over you and make sure you are advocating and standing up for yourself. Allow yourself to make mistakes because it's going to happen and you can't let it tear you apart."

Focusing on yourself and standing up for yourself will elevate your own self-esteem, and that will help maintain positive mental health.

High school has some problems, and sometimes it can be difficult, but high school can also be exciting and fun. With high school comes a new sense of freedom, and so many opportunities to experience as a highschool student. Some of the upperclassmen favorites were spirit week, going to football games and other sporting events, and being able to meet so many new people and make new friends. Coming into high school is a difficult process, but some of the best memories can be made at Lakeland.

"There are so many things you'll experience and one weekend every here and there to focus on yourself is good for mental health."

NHS Donates for Change: the 2022 Blood Drive

Katie Ginopolis

This spring Lakeland's National Honors Society collaborated with the IA West's Red Cross Club to host a blood drive. Snikitha Periketi a sophomore at the International Academy was the main student coordinator of this event, with the help of IA teacher Mr. Brueck, Shannon Walters the blood drive manager and accountant, as well as the help from multiple NHS and IA volunteers and coordinators to help this event take place. The planning took place around March and the drive happened on May 2nd and 3rd in the auxiliary gym. Advertisements started later than usual for this event and the first sign up was two weeks before it happened. Periketi states "we managed

to get a total of 60 people to sign up, both from the community and courageous students from the school." We had a multitude of volunteers and donors show up to support and give back to the community. The day of the drive, beds were set up for donors and tables for snacks were set out. Volunteers helped both at the registration and snack table. Speaking with Christian Gonzalez-Ponce, a junior at Lakeland High School who donated, he recalls that "you had to fill out a form that had questions about personal life and medical history that could affect your blood. Then they check with you if everything you answered is true." He goes on to recount how the workers prep you and take the blood, followed by a 15 minute resting period to ensure no further complications. The two days the blood drive was held, a total of around 40 pints of blood was collected. Periketi explains "Ideally, each donation can save up to 3

lives, meaning the work we have done together could save nearly 120 lives" This amount goes to show the hard work and dedication our students put together and the love we want to spread in our community. Studies show that an estimated 4.5 million Americans every year need blood transfusions, and to have an impact on that statistic is heartwarming here at the IA and Lakeland. We'd like to thank everyone who participated, whether it be a donation, volunteering, or planning, for their efforts and dedication!



Lakeland Letter's Top Picks for Spring 2022

Books:

- ★ The Old Man and the Sea
- ★ Pride and Prejudice
- ★ It Ends With Us
- ★ Ninth House
- ★ Circe
- ★ The Inheritance Games

Movies/Shows:

- ★ Stranger Things
- ★ The Batman
- ★ Top Gun Maverick
- ★ Obi Wan Kenobi
- ★ Turning Red

Music:

- ★ The Queen is Dead (Album, The Smiths)
- ★ Harry's House (Album, Harry Styles)
- ★ Black Smoke Rising (Song, Greta Van Fleet)
- ★ No Surprises (Song, Radiohead)
- ★ Get Lucky (Song, Daft Punk)

Coming Soon: New Water for Lakeland

Logan Iavelli



Students of Lakeland High School and the students of Huron Valley Schools all have different and unique opportunities, being able to embark in different and unique electives, clubs, athletics, theater arts, and other social activities. The vast majority think it is a sufficient environment to learn and grow, however, that doesn't mean the place we learn has its own unique and otherwise mocked inconveniences and concerns. The problem of water has been the running joke for some time as one might put it "the water looks worse than Flint Michigan", or in the words of Huron Valley Schools business operations man Jeffrey Van "Our water tastes bad and looks bad". Just over the past several years, the water has been continuously shut off and fixed again, for several reasons. Most notably, Huron Valley Schools' water has tested positive for Coliform bacteria, which can cause illness if ingested. The school's temporary fix to this problem was to provide bottled water and large water coolers to students, covering up the water fountains and warning against drinking from them. But in recent events, the future of this notorious issue within Lakeland High School and the Lakeland campus as a whole (including White Lake Middle School and Lakewood Elementary) is

about to change. Starting after the current school year, the school aims to initialize the change to city water. The pipes lined across Bogie Lake Rd. and around the school you might see on your commute will serve to provide city water to the schools. With these pipes they are building a looped water system with iron filters throughout to ensure safer, cleaner, more appealing, and more trustworthy water.

This is not only meant to renovate and modernize the school but also serves to boost the public interest of town members and parents alike and furthermore potentially gain funding for future projects. These steps being taken to fix the 47 year old building will hopefully lead to other student and teacher collective issues being fixed such as the climate control, gas leaks, and otherwise more dated aspects which need long overdue rejuvenation for the next millennium. It's important for you to voice your concerns and issues about the building with the board at their meetings as without you or your input nothing could ever get done about it. The initiative to finally fix the water is a promising hope that the future of the building isn't one where it coincides with collapsing or rotting away, rather one that can continue to foster bright minds and prosper as an credulous place of learning and knowledge for all.

Varsity Girls Tennis: An End to a Love-ly Season

Sophie Mensch

After last season's low turnout as a result of the pandemic, the team expected similar numbers this year as well. However, many were pleasantly surprised when over forty girls made it out to the courts for tryouts in early March. Compared to the previous year, a varsity team of nineteen girls was a substantial difference and in turn an encouraging start to the season.

Above-freezing temperatures are a rarity for this spring sport, yet somehow the Sun made an early guest appearance, allowing for tryouts to be held outside for the third consecutive year. But this suitable weather did not last long and by the second week, snow storms had returned, both preventing the girls from practicing and eventually canceling their first match.

Additionally, issues with uniform sizing and spirit wear shipping made it impossible for the team to maintain a coordinated appearance. Although they may not have looked the part, these girls truly played like a team, winning their very first match of the season against South Lyon.

Rain—per usual—forced various matches to be postponed for later dates, which caused the team's schedule to quickly fill up. One weekend in April, the team played back-to-back quads. On that Friday, Lakeland tied for second at the Brighton Quad, and further singles players all received medals. Fueled by this, the team took second place again at the Holly Quad on that Sunday—merely two days later. At this quad, the start time was continuously pushed back due to wet courts from the prior night's shower, yet the courts quickly dried as the Sun came out full force. Unlike the morning's cool temperatures, the girls began play in humid, eighty-degree heat; nonetheless, the team clearly did not let this affect their performance, and there are medals as proof.

Moreover, the girls were extremely effective in managing school and standardized testing in the month of May, finding a balance between the two despite the constant chaos. Singles players, Ava Assante and Alexis Guenther, both had first place finishes at the LVC Conference Tournament, taking home

their titles as LVC Champs. At the final home match, the team honored five seniors—Brooke Artinian, Ashley Brown, Liv Robins, Jessica Summers, and Isabella Tonkovich. The team's juniors planned out the event with decorations, pizza, and goody bags to commemorate the seniors for all of their hard work. The night was even more sentimental as these were the same girls Coach McClelland's had her first year coaching. In all, Lakeland dominated the courts, beating Hartland in eight out of nine games and successfully celebrated five senior players.

"Lakeland Tennis has been a blessing over the years! I'm so sad to leave that part behind, but I'm so excited to see what the girls can accomplish next season!"



Running All the Way to States: LHS Track and Field

Lucy Martin

Lakeland's Track team had a great season this year! Several events from both boys and girls teams were able to make it to states, and personal records were set and shattered the entire year long. Notable season highlights include the



Dual Meets that had Lakeland winning several times, including against Waterford Mott and South Lyon East. The distance runners did especially well this year, with high scorers in the 3200 m, the 1600 m, and the 4x800 m team. Several top competitors on the team are seniors, and are going on to run in college and continue getting better. When asked, senior Alex Sullivan said that his favorite part of the year was seeing his team excel and grow in their athletic abilities over the season. He cites watching freshman Matthew Verellen beat his own freshman times, and knowing that the team will be in good



hands when he leaves as something he feels really proud of. This sentiment was echoed with the other seniors, with each saying their favorite part of the track season was hanging out with their teammates and being together as a team. Overall, this year was a great success for Lakeland Track, and we are all looking forward to seeing how the team can continue to get better and better for the 2023 season.

Above the Bar and Under Par: Boys Varsity Golf

Abby Deloney

The golf team has had a great season so far! The boys golf team began their season in April, and is ongoing. The team has won against Waterford United, Walled Lake Northern, Walled Lake Western, and Walled Lake Central. They have also finished 6th at the Charger Invitational, 3rd at the LVC Pre-Season tournament, and 5th at the Division 1 Oakland County Tournament. It is clear that the boys have been

putting in a lot of hard work into improving themselves and their sport, and it is showing through their records throughout the season thus far.

Lakeland is currently ranked 17th overall in the state for division 1. McCoy Biagioli, one of Lakeland's lowest scoring players, will play in the state tournament on June 10th and 11th. Biagioli has been a notable player over the past couple of years, consistently bringing in some of the best scores and really helping Lakeland carve out a name for ourselves over the golf season. Over the course of the past couple of years, the boys golf team has climbed

up the ranks in the Lakes Valley Conference. They were ranked 6th out of 8, but now hold the 2nd ranking overall. In the next few years, it is very likely that the team will rise up to the 1st place position and win the postseason Lakes Valley Conference tournament.



Hitting it Out of the Park: Lakeland Varsity Baseball's Incredible Season

Abby Deloney

The Lakeland varsity baseball team has had an overall good season so far with their current record of 15-7. The team recently swept Walled Lake Northern and then won two of three games against Milford. Throughout the season, there has been numerous cancellations and postponed games because of weather, but it has been a successful season in the long run. Junior Caden Glennie, a pitcher, described "It has been exciting, we started out a bit slow but to see improvement from then to now is very encouraging," Senior Jake Held, a pitcher and an outfielder, gave a very similar season summary: "It's been a good season I mean we had to figure some things out at the beginning but we're cruising now."

There have been multiple season highlights for the team, most notably sweeping Northern and then winning the majority of games against Milford. However, some players also note the progression of the team's skills. Senior Matt Hanneman, a 3rd baseman, described a highlight for him was "Just the way the team has improved all together and how much better we have gotten through the first half of the season." Other players mentioned some personal highlights they

“...we bring a lot of energy to each game no matter the circumstances and that energy translates into our success.”

they were proud of from the season, like senior Andrew Potter, a pitcher. He commented on his strikeout of a final batter “against Walled Lake Central to win an important league game.” The team mentions very few lowlights, and they mostly consist of personal obstacles that were overcome during the season. Senior outfielder Nolan Hull recalls being “in a slump for a couple of series.” However, he has also made “several diving catches to save runs” during the season. The most commonly shared low point was the loss of the 2nd game against Milford, but the team still came together and defeated Milford in the 3rd game to win the overall series.

The team is overall very strong, but most players report three main strengths of the team: hitting, pitching, and energy. As senior pitcher Mason Brown expressed, “I feel that we bring a lot of energy to each game no matter the circumstances and that energy translates into our success.” Andrew Potter discusses the skill-based strengths of the team, “So far this season I think our pitching has been really good. We are



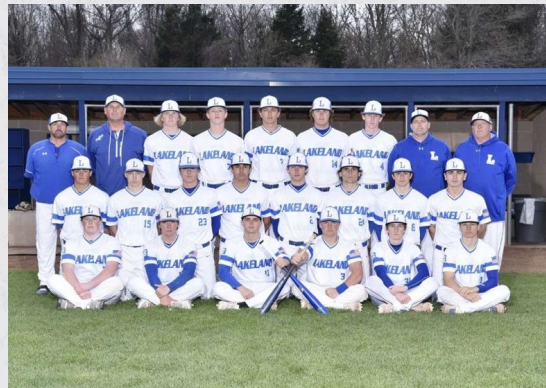
throwing strikes and making the other team put the ball in play. I also feel like we are starting to find a groove with hitting. We are hitting a lot of hard line drives and scoring a lot of runs.” Similarly to reported lowlights, very few weaknesses were reported of the team. Junior pitcher Brandon Lengers said, “Our fielding can be a little rough every once in a while but usually pretty good otherwise, I think we don’t have many.” The confidence in the team reflects a strength senior first baseman Brandon Abray mentions, which is the bond that the team has with each other.

When asked what sets the Lakeland baseball team apart from others, each player had a different response. Junior infielder Trey Rowley attributed the difference to “The chemistry between everyone on the team and the brotherhood we have.” However, senior first baseman and right fielder Caden Duryea attributed it to something entirely different. He explained that other teams play more challengingly because of the team’s record, and “it forces us to play at our best all the time.” Other players credited the difference between Lakeland and others to team energy, coaching, and similar gameday mentalities.

The season is not yet over, and there is even more to look forward to as the team continues to progress. Sophomore catcher and outfielder Sean Latham looks forward to “Spending time with the rest of the team and winning a conference!” Junior outfielder Luke Weinberger, senior pitcher and outfielder Tate Farquhar, and junior catcher and third baseman Gabe Schneider all mentioned looking forward to playing more, winning more games, and then moving onto winning the district championship. The confidence and growth of the team will continue to grow, and their ability to continue to win districts becomes even more apparent as the season continues.



“... we are different because of the chemistry between everyone on the team and the brotherhood we have. It sets us apart from the rest.”



A Magical Musical: The Little Mermaid Spring Shows 2022

Sophia Paily



This year the Lakeland Theater performed their musical The Little Mermaid. We are all beyond proud of the hard work they put into this play and we want to congratulate our seniors on their last performance at Lakeland High. Lakeland students put so much effort into making and designing the set, painting, and practicing every day to memorize their lines. Their hard work paid off on April 22nd on the Little Mermaid opening night.

With Covid-19 restrictions, everyone in the program was ecstatic to be able to perform again. A senior Elianna Harvey states that her favorite memory from this year's musical was "seeing my name next to Ursula when the cast list was finally released and bowing with my best friend for my last and final bow." When asked about how it feels to perform without COVID restrictions for the first time in two years, Elianna says "it was definitely weird. I mean you see all these people and you're talking to them so close, and hugging them,

and spending, sometimes, 8-9 hours a day with them? It was weird switching back to that after all the precautions we had to take for so long. It felt amazing to be able to say goodbye to everything without a mask covering half my face." COVID had a huge impact on most of the theater's high school experience. A senior commented on how it affected them, stating, "My first year doing theater with Lakeland we put on Mamma Mia. It was going to be an amazing show that we were all super excited about, and then Covid hit. It took away my first show with Lakeland and a lot of my friends' first big roles. It was heart-wrenching and it's still hard to look back on. Then the next year came around. The love I will forever have for our first post covid show: Working. Although it wasn't well known...it was so beautiful, simply because we got to say "we did it!" when a lot of people weren't able to. So no matter how hard it is for most people in the department to look back on Mamma mia, we still will forever get to say that we were able to do a show that

following year, we were fortunate. It made me realize this company and the department would do great things. If we were able to perform in such a hard time, we could do anything." From all of the seniors in the LHS Theater program, Elianna Harvey includes this: "I think all I can say is I never thought it would be this hard to say goodbye. A quote I read off during my senior speech, and one that I'm sure my graduating class feels for, reads: "How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye, so hard" That's the simplest way it can be put. These people, this place, our shows...it's hard to believe it's all done and gone. My advice is, to get involved. This company is like family, and the most accepting group of individuals I've ever met. I will forever remember my fellow Thespians. Good luck to all of you, forever!!"



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for supporting the Lakeland Letter!**



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The Info Center

Katie Ginopolis

Who's Your Counselor?

- Last name A-G: Christa Warner
- Last name H-O: Jenny Alfano
- Last name P-Z: Thomas Kasprzak

Calendar

- Dec 7, 2022: Early Release - Teacher Inservice
- Dec 20-Dec 31, 2021: Holiday Break
 - December 17th is the last day of school, first day back is Jan 3
- Jan 17, 2022: No school: MLK day
- Jan 26-28, 2022: Exams
- Jan 28, 2022: ½ Day - Teacher Inservice
- Feb 8, 2022: Early Release - Teacher Inservice
- Feb 21-22, 2022: No School, Mid-winter break
- March 8, 2022: No school - Teacher Inservice
- Mar 28-April 1, 2022: No school, spring break
- Apr 13, 2022: Early Release - Teacher Inservice
- Apr 15, 2022: No school, Good Friday
- May 3, 2022: No school - Teacher Inservice
- May 30, 2022: No school, Memorial day
- June 14-16: Exams
- June 16, 2022: ½ day - Teacher Records

Who are Your Class Officers?

Class of 2022

- President: Caiden Carlson
- Vice President: Will Dungan
- Treasurer: Tim Pearson
- Secretary: Marco Azzopardi

Class of 2023

- President: Everet Ross
- Vice President: Kyle Krause
- Treasurer: Katie Ginopolis
- Secretary: Lauren Haring

Class of 2024

- President: Jade Pham
- Vice President: Jasmine Davis
- Treasurer: Kristen Conrad
- Secretary: Elaina Cotton

Class of 2025

- President: Lydia Fogelman
- Vice President: Label Bedini
- Treasurer: Jake Verbick
- Secretary: Tyler Buback