

Lakeside Kicks Off First Soccer Season

Lakeside Academy fielded its first ever boys' soccer team this fall. And despite the team's 2-5 won-loss record, all involved said the season was a big success.

"When Steve Laidacker [Lakeside executive director] said he wanted to field more athletic teams, my first thought was cost and accessibility," said Michael McKinley, Lakeside Academy teacher and athletic director. "Soccer came immediately to mind."

McKinley was able to submit the required paperwork to the Michigan High School Athletic Association and the team, coached by Gavin Snyder, began twice weekly practices. Scheduling games was more difficult, however, because most schools already had their schedules set. The Titans managed to play seven games (all on the road), including a close loss to nearby Kalamazoo Loy Norrix High School attended by a supportive crowd of Lakeside students, staff and teachers.

Few of the 22 players had ever played on an organized team. McKinley said his top priority during games was making sure players were always accounted for and safe. "I also wanted the students to understand the big picture, which is the team comes first and sportsmanship overrides winning or losing."

"We received a lot of compliments about our players' good sportsmanship," said Lakeside for Children CEO Don Nitz. "I personally witnessed many Lakeside players rush to the aid of fallen opponents to help them back to their feet. It was very rewarding to see that behavior and it speaks volumes about our students and staff."

McKinley agreed. "My comments to the boys after the district tournament loss [to Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic

High School] was that their efforts and attitudes didn't go unnoticed. Everyone watching that game praised their sportsmanship, which made me proud. The players understood they were representing more than themselves; they were also representing Lakeside Academy."

One grateful student told McKinley that "playing in front of a crowd and under the lights at Loy Norrix was an experience he will never forget. He only wished his family and friends back home could have seen him play."

McKinley expressed his thanks to everyone who supported the Titan soccer team this year and said he hopes to schedule at least 10 games next year. In the meantime, he's eager to see the boys' basketball team tip off its second season.

"We're really looking forward to playing in the new Health and Wellness Center when it opens in early 2017. I'd also like to implement a sports program for girls next year, too. Maybe volleyball or basketball."

The Good Sportsmanship Award Goes to the Titans

Lakeside received numerous comments from parents, coaches and school officials of opposing soccer teams, commenting on the good sportsmanship of Titan players. Here's an excerpt of an email from the mother of an opposing team player who attended a game:

The Titans played a good game and are talented soccer players. I had one parent from our team turn around and say to me that, out of all the teams we played this season, the Titans were the most respectful, good-sportsmanship team we have encountered. If a Titan student knocked over [one of our players] during the game while battling for a ball, MANY of the Titans would extend a hand to help our player up. I don't recall that EVER happening when we played other high schools this season. After the game was over, and the teams did their normal fist bumps all in a line and many people had dispersed, several of the Lakeside students came over and shook our players' hands and complimented them on a good game. It was an amazing night



Lakeside for Children

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Lines from Lakeside

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Lakeside for Children

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We couldn't do it without you.

Lakeside for Children has been changing lives for the better since 1908.

But we haven't done it alone. Generous individuals, families, corporations and foundations have been with us every step of the way.

Your gifts have helped troubled teens heal, learn and grow into responsible citizens. They even help several students each year attend college or technical school after they leave us.

Your gifts have also helped build our campus into the best of its kind in the state of Michigan, with treatment programming second to none in the country. Your continued gifts to our endowment help maintain this level of excellence.

Your gifts truly make a difference. Please consider making a gift to Lakeside by returning the envelope in this newsletter. Learn more about making an estate planning gift by contacting Lakeside for Children Foundation Director Debra Mixis at dmixis@sbcglobal.net or 269.501.7756.

A big THANK YOU and HAPPY HOLIDAYS from all Lakeside students, teachers, staff and board members!



A Holiday Gift for Lakeside

Excitement is growing on the Lakeside for Children campus as the new Health and Wellness Center takes form. In just a few short months, contractors from Miller-Davis and other companies have turned a hill of sand into a beautiful structure.

"It's hard to imagine that we put a shovel in the ground on June 15 and are now only weeks away from completion," said Lakeside for Children CEO Don Nitz.

Jarvon, a student from Michigan, said the building's exterior "looks awesome and I can't wait to see the inside!"

The 12,500-sq. ft. center is fully enclosed with roof, windows and doors installed. Interior fixtures, floor and wall coverings are going in now.

"Architects from Eckert-Wordell did a terrific job of matching the building's brick exterior to the administration building next door," said Nitz. "Teachers are especially eager to see the three new classrooms and use the new built-in interactive technologies."

Storm, a Lakeside student government representative and consistent role model on campus said: "Our entire dorm is looking forward to new classrooms and space for cool activities. It's been fun to watch the changes."

All 124 Lakeside students will soon be able to participate in healthy activities inside a wonderful new space while learning about lifelong wellness options and healthy lifestyles. The Center will house three classrooms, a multipurpose room and a regulation size high school athletic court.

The new Center and the programming that will take place inside it is the result of a successful "Sound Mind. Sound Body" campaign that raised more than \$2.1 million from generous donors.

"If all goes well, we may be able to 'put a bow' on the building during the holiday season," said Nitz.



Lakeside Academy 2016-17 Boys' Basketball

Come out and cheer the Titans! HOME GAMES (marked with an *) will be in our new Health & Wellness Center – still under construction!

Date	Opponent	Time
Dec 3	@ Comstock HS	4:30 pm
Dec 6	@ Howardsville HS	4:30 pm
Dec 13	@ Phoenix / Maple St.	4:30 pm
Dec 14	@ Covert HS	6:00 pm
Dec 20	@ Hartford	5:30 pm
Jan 20	@ PHX/Maple St	4:30 pm
Jan 31	@ Battle Creek Academy	6:00 pm
Feb 1	* Covert	5:30 pm
Feb 7	* Dream Academy	4:30 pm
Feb 9	* Battle Creek Academy	6:00 pm
Feb 17	* Heritage Christian	6:00 pm
Feb 21	@ Countryside Academy	6:00 pm
Feb 24	* Dream Academy	4:30 pm

Varsity Coach: Michael McKinley
JV/Assistant Coach: Lee Gardner

The Lakeside Titans Boys' Basketball Team is scheduled to play its first home game in the new Center on Feb. 1.



Lakeside Charter School Board: "...a role we wholeheartedly embrace."

It is an honor to serve on the board of Lakeside Charter School. As president, my role is to make sure our team of board members is always looking out for Lakeside students. We are here to make sure education is always at the forefront of each individual's development. We are not here to manage operations, but to make sure the school operates well. It's a role we wholeheartedly embrace.

Kalamazoo Regional Educational Services Agency (KRESA), our educational partner and authorizer, continues to give us guidance, helping to make sure we meet all state requirement and ensure the school is operating well. KRESA continues to monitor and advise us on many administrative issues. Our partnership with KRESA has continued to evolve and has developed into a great working relationship.

We would like to thank the teachers, first and foremost, for the outstanding job they have had in the continued development of our students. Students continue to show improvement in every area of study. We have had many students graduate this last year and many more receive their General Educational Development, or GED.

We could not be more proud of the teaching staff and the work they are doing for our students. The board would also like to thank the school administrators for their outstanding leadership.

With the students continued improvement and the school in a solid financial condition, the board cherishes the opportunity to be working with such an outstanding group of partners and colleagues for the benefit of our students and their futures.

*Sincerely, Rob Pennock
President, Lakeside Charter School Board*

A Lakeside Education

All Lakeside for Children students attend school at Lakeside Academy, the charter school on our campus authorized by KRESA and governed by a five-member independent school board. Lakeside Academy, which has its own independent board of education, focuses on four core disciplines: English, Math, Science and Social Studies.

After analyzing an incoming student's transcripts, school administrators create an educational plan that follows the graduation requirements of the student's home district. This allows the courses that a student takes at Lakeside to transfer back to the student's home district. In addition to coursework, students can also work to complete a GED.

All students attend school for 6.1 hours a day, five days a week (30.5 hours per week). The school is a year-round program and maintains a flexible schedule that permits enrollment at any time in the year. School attendance is required and all missed work must be made up.

Perhaps the most celebrated days on our campus are when students complete their graduation requirements. We hold a ceremony with special guests, including students' families. Our graduates speak, as do their teachers and administrators. It gets pretty emotional.

Meet New Lakeside Board Member Eric Wimbley

The Lakeside for Children board of directors welcomes Eric Wimbley as its newest member.

Born and raised in Kalamazoo, Eric attended Kalamazoo Central HS and Kalamazoo Valley CC, before earning a B.A. in criminal justice from Siena Heights College.

He served six years in the U.S. Army Reserve while attending college, then embarked on a 25-year career with the Michigan State Police, retiring in 2012 as post commander.

Eric didn't stay retired for long. He became a volunteer safety consultant for Gull Lake Public Schools, taught high school in Allegan Intermediate School District and worked as director of security at Kalamazoo College.

He became executive director of Pretty Lake Camp in spring of 2016, continuing a connection to the camp that began at summer camp as a youth. In high school, he was a kitchen worker, lifeguard and counselor at Pretty Lake. In

the 1990s, he returned as a board member, serving twice as president.

Eric also served in the Wayland Kiwanis, as a basketball coach for Michigan Special Olympics, an organizer of the Battle Creek Torch Run and a Habitat for Humanity volunteer in Benton Harbor.

He and his wife have two children, both in college.

"I have a passion for any organization that believes in supporting and helping youth develop into the best adults they can become," said Eric. "My passion to help young people is driven by the fact that throughout my life, an organization and an individual has been there for me when I've needed them."



Lakeside Students Help Put the Fun in Oshtemo Fun Day

Lakeside for Children students keep busy on our campus.

They attend classes year-round at Lakeside Academy charter school. They work daily with counselors to develop the social skills they need to be successful in life. And they play, like teens everywhere.

Students also go into the community on supervised trips to movies, the mall, cultural and sporting events.

They also volunteer at community events like Oshtemo Fun Day, a day of family activities, rides, concessions, music and displays sponsored by the Oshtemo Rotary that draws more than 5,000 people each August.

Lakeside students arrive early and stay late for setup and teardown. In between, they direct parking, empty trash, and pitch in with other duties, like delivering water to the petting zoo animals.

"Interacting with community members is important to students," said Sam Campbell, one of the counselors that accompanied students to Fun Day. "Volunteering at events like Oshtemo Fun Day helps them put into practice the interpersonal skills they've been developing on campus. It helps them feel good about themselves and builds self-confidence."

"And it helps the community learn more about Lakeside. We get a lot of positive feedback from community members."

Kitty Gelling, who chairs Oshtemo Rotary's Fun Day, is one.

"We are extremely grateful for the dedicated and orchestrated hard work of the Lakeside students and staff," Gelling said. "The students are polite, eager to work and respectful of the guests and environment."

"Lakeside Academy is a true community asset."

