Welcome to Laker Schools
Laker Schools - a leading School of Choice

The Laker School District is known and respected for its high quality academic and extracurricular programs, excellent staff, and state-of-the-art innovation. The district is big enough to offer an impressive variety of great opportunities in and outside of the classroom, but small enough to offer extraordinary personalized attention for every student. It’s a winning combination that makes us Uniquely Lakers.

Fast facts:

Elementary: DK-5th grades; Secondary: 6th-12th grades

Enrollment: 900

Percentage of School of Choice students: 25 percent

Teachers: 52

Administrators: 7
Points of Pride — Laker Schools

*A caring, dedicated staff of teachers and support staff who work every day to help every child succeed not only as students, but as responsible citizens

*Students receive personalized attention to build their skills

*Top-notch facilities with state-of-the-art technology and security

*Excellent staff and programs that encourage and support positive behavior

*Multiple early intervention programs for struggling students

*Strong policies and aggressive action against bullying are in place

*Many hands-on, team-based classroom activities

*A Homework Club at the elementary and before-school and after-school tutoring at the secondary school to give students assistance in their classes

*A large assortment of after-school activities for elementary, junior high and high school students

*A progressive food service program that offers a variety of choices, a variety of homemade lunch specials, fresh produce selection, and other special offerings
Extracurricular activities

Lakers knows education isn’t just about what happens in the classroom from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Extracurricular activities play a significant role in a student’s school experience. No matter if the activity is in athletics, arts or sciences, students benefit greatly from their after-school pursuits (friendships, life skills, keeping their grades up, etc.). Lakers offers more than 50 extracurricular endeavors from elementary through high school. That’s more than what many other schools offer. Laker teams and groups are known statewide for their successes, as well. We even have a school spirit group, the Laker Loudmouths, that fosters positive support for our teams. With all of these wonderful opportunities, it makes being a Laker very rewarding.
iPad Program

Lakers is known for being innovative. It was the first district in the Upper Thumb to have a one-to-one iPad program from elementary through high school. A technology bond, approved by voters, covers the cost of this technology (as well as other high-tech items throughout the campus, such as security equipment). iPads are used in a variety of ways by teachers and students to connect classroom lessons with real world applications and individualize instruction. iPads add efficiency for teachers and students, as well, making class time more productive. iPads are a valuable educational tool that Laker students benefit from every day. In high school, students can choose between iPads and Chromebooks.
Laker Athletics

Lakers has 14 sports programs at the varsity level, and athletic opportunities abound at the elementary and junior high level, as well. While the district’s athletic program is known statewide for its successes over the years, being on a sports team is about much more than winning. It’s about teamwork and continually developing skills at each game. It’s about how to take a loss and turn it into a learning opportunity to improve success. It’s about exhibiting showmanship among teammates and with the opposing team. Laker athletes put their head and their heart into every competition. They demonstrate excellence on and off the field and court. In fact, many of our athletes earn Academic All State Honors for keeping their GPA at 3.0 or above. Laker athletes take pride in their team and their accomplishments and they don’t accept anything but the best from themselves as they grow as players, students and citizens.
Laker Arts

Art opportunities add countless benefits to the K-12 school experience. Laker students receive these splendid gifts daily with art and music classes in elementary, junior high and high school. Elementary students enjoy art and music classes and they can participate in fifth grade band. A majority of secondary students get involved in band and/or choir. Theater opportunities are offered, as well, through a class and after-school plays (at least three productions a year, including a musical, a one-act competition and an elementary production). Laker bands and the theater troupe are known and respected for their excellence. A strings group also is available for students starting in elementary. Junior high and high school students create many impressive works in their art classes. High school students can take a creative writing course (and write a novel!). A dance team also is offered for high schoolers. Art is very much a part of life at Lakers—we wouldn’t have it any other way.
Laker FFA

Being in the Laker FFA is so much more than “cows, plows and sows.” It’s about learning how to excel, how to become a positive leader for others and yourself. “Excellence is Expected” is more than a motto for the Laker chapter—it’s a belief that’s practiced at every event and competition. It’s helped make the chapter one of the top three in the state. Laker FFA members are never satisfied with the status quo—they’re dedicated to improving themselves and supporting other members as they grow their skills. They’re passionate about what they do. What they learn in FFA applies to many areas of life inside and outside the classroom. Being in the Laker FFA helps members be successful in everything they do and helps them be prepared for life after high school. Being in the FFA also means looking at the big picture and giving back to the community that supports them. Laker FFA members win numerous awards each year and many move up to be state officers. The future is very bright for the Laker FFA!
Laker Science

The best way to learn about science is to actually do it. From the time they enter DK until they walk out the green doors as high school grads, Laker students are awarded with countless hands-on science projects. Students become scientists as they conduct experiments, develop and test hypotheses, problem solve and work as teams. Laker High offers a stellar selection of science classes (physics, chemistry, forensic science, lab science, ag science, etc.). The updated science labs at the high school make the science experience even more robust. Lakers also has after-school science opportunities, such as Underwater Remote-Operated Vehicles (ROV), Science Olympiad, Robotics and more. Many Laker science endeavors tie in math, engineering and technology. One science project, developed by a group of hard-working junior high students, was selected to go into space in 2013-14! Lakers has world-class education down to a science. Come check it out!
Special Education Inclusion

At Lakers, special education students are included in general education classrooms. This is called inclusion. In this program, special education and general education teachers take turns teaching and providing support to students (co-teaching). There are slight differences in how the program is carried out among the elementary, junior high and high school, but teachers and administrators are pleased with how inclusion has been working. They report increased test scores among the special education student population along with decreased discipline issues. Teachers said special education students are more motivated to do well when they are included with general education students. This program is working so well that other schools have visited to see how it’s being done. In addition, high school special education students enjoy a fun out-of-state annual field trip of their own. The location rotates between four different cities, so students get a different experience in each of their high school years. Few schools, if any, offer this kind of reward for special education students.
Points of Pride — Laker Elementary

* Ranked in the top 5 percent of elementary schools in the state - we're an Academic State Champ (2015, Bridge Magazine)

* Behavior Interventionists and a counselor work with at-risk students to address specific needs and ensure success

* Music and gym offered daily, and art and computer classes offered each week

* Breakfast in the Classroom to fuel young minds for learning

* Small class sizes (low 20s and under)

* A very active PTOC that provides helpful resources for students and teachers

* Wonderful field trips for all classes

* An on-site nurse every day

* Consistent assessments in reading, math to gauge students’ progress
Elementary Specials

Laker Elementary students are awarded with “specials” each school day. Music and gym are offered every day, and students have art and computer classes every week. Many schools have had to cut these types of classes, but Lakers has kept them with the knowledge of how important they are to round out children’s education. These valuable programs exercise the body and mind and build self confidence. Students learn skills in these classes that they might not obtain otherwise. The music program involves students preparing for some very popular elementary events, such as the Christmas program and the Grandparents Program. They learn to play a variety of instruments—not just recorders. All of the specials prepare students for life after elementary as they pursue classes and extracurricular activities in junior high and high school. Students really enjoy these “specials” - they have so much fun, they don’t realize they are learning marvelous things.
Academic Support Time

Every school day for about 45 minutes, Laker Elementary students have Academic Support Time. During this portion of the day, students are placed in small groups and each group does a different activity, depending on what the students need. If a student is struggling in a certain area of math or reading, he or she receives extra support in that area during Success Time. Students also have an opportunity to explore new lessons, advancing their knowledge and expanding their horizons. Whether students use an iPad or a computer, read a book, do exercises on whiteboards, or another activity, Academic Support Time offers a wonderful opportunity for students to grow academically. Teachers and parapros work together to carry out the lesson plans during this time, ensuring students are kept busy with activities that fit their skill level.
Positive Behavior Programs

Academic success is what Laker Elementary works toward every school day, but that’s only half the story. Elementary staff also work to ensure student behavior is on target. The school hosts a variety of positive behavior programs to encourage all students to do what’s right and to treat others the way they’d like to be treated. As some examples, Lighthouse Awards are given out daily for positive behavior in the classroom, Laker Bucks are awarded to those who show good behavior outside the classroom, and the Spotlight Breakfast program rewards students who work hard and achieve wonderful things in the classroom. To further positive behavior support and behavior intervention initiatives, Laker Elementary received a federal $1.83 million School Climate Transformation grant. The grant allowed the school to employ multiple staff members to work with the most at-risk students so they can get the assistance they need as early as possible. Helping to prevent significant behavior issues is a very important goal because of the positive effect it has on the entire student body. Laker Elementary truly cares for the whole child.
Early Childhood Education

Laker Elementary houses two early childhood programs: Pigeon Children’s Discovery Center and Head Start.

*The Pigeon Children’s Discovery Center is open year round. It is a licensed child care center serving infants through fifth grade. A tuition-based preschool program and daycare services are provided. Developmental assessments done on infants through preschoolers. Find out more info at www.pigeon discoverycenter.com or call (989) 453-2111.

*Head Start is a federal program that offers free early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services for qualifying children. Several factors impact eligibility. For information, visit www.greatstarthuron.com or call (989) 269-3485.
Points of Pride — Laker Junior High

*Spanish and French offered starting in sixth grade

*Technology class that teaches students how to be safe online

*Homework assistance program and tutoring offered to help students, as well as a Guided Study program

*Class field trips offered in sixth, seventh and eighth grades, which includes the Washington, D.C. trip that's been a 35+ year tradition

*Daily seminar time that allows for students to catch up on homework or do unique activities with teachers

*Fun weekly assemblies that focus on school spirit, character building and rewarding excellent effort

*Kid Witness News program
Points of Pride — Laker High School

*Accredited through AdvancED, the global leader in advancing education excellence

*Offers unique courses such as forensic science, psychology, sociology, theater, woodworking, peer mentoring, computer-aided design, advanced agriculture, Senior Strategies and more

*After-school homework assistance program and tutoring offered to help our students

*Strong SAT Prep program prepares students for the SAT exam in their junior year, leading to some of the highest scores in the Thumb

*Modified block scheduling format affords students an opportunity to complete 8 courses each year so they can enjoy more electives and advanced coursework.

*Highly respected FFA program and music/arts program that propels students to many successes
Hueschen Science Scholarship

Many scholarships are offered to Thumb area graduates, but the Gordon W. and Loyse B. Hueschen Scholarship is for Laker High School students only. This wonderful scholarship is available to Laker seniors accepted into a school of science at MSU. It provides up to four years of full tuition, fees, room and board, as long as the recipients maintain appropriate academic standing in a qualifying science curriculum and appropriate progress toward a bachelor’s degree. To apply, Laker students need to meet other qualifications, such as being in good academic standing (i.e. a strong SAT score and grade point average in science and math courses). On the basis of these qualifications, semi-finalists are selected. The semi-finalists submit a 300-word essay and have an interview with a panel of judges. The panel includes Laker representatives and local business representatives. Typically, two or three students are chosen to receive the scholarship each year. Parents are invited to the school to receive the wonderful news. Tears of joy are not uncommon!
Job shadowing program

It’s one thing to have an idea of what you’d like to do as a career. To have an idea of what that career will entail is a different ball-park. That’s why Laker High School offers a job shadowing program. Students work with coordinator Tami Krohn to get the experiences set up. Laker students have received some very valuable experiences in health care, agriculture, law, sports event planning, business and much more. For some students, the job shadowing experience leads to a job! Students speak with people they job shadow with to gather helpful information, such as what duties are involved and how to best prepare for such a career. The job shadow program is unique — few schools offer such an opportunity. The program puts Laker students in a wonderful position to know for sure if they want to pursue a certain career. They also learn important life skills that can help them get the opportunities they desire.
College Direct

Upon graduation, about 20 to 30 percent of Laker students finish their high school career with a diploma and a valuable bonus—at least one year’s worth of college credit. Many have close to two years’ worth. This is because Laker students are taking advantage of the College Direct program, offered at the Huron Area Technical Center. The classes are offered by Mid-Michigan Community College. Students earn high school and college credits while taking the challenging courses. The college credits earned are transferrable to almost any college or university program and they’re free to the students and their families. This cuts down on the costs for college, which is a wonderful benefit. Students also get a taste of what college classes are like. If they are having a tough time, Laker teachers are there to help. The courses are considered honors courses with a weighted GPA, which allows Laker students to earn above a 4.0. While the College Direct program is offered to all Huron County schools, Lakers offers significantly more opportunities for their students to enroll.
A brief Laker history

The Laker family is made up of three rural communities—Elkton, Pigeon and Bay Port — that are working together to offer positive educational opportunities for our future leaders. Our communities are very supportive of our school and we are grateful for this collaboration.

Years ago, each town had its own school system. The schools were built in the late 1800s-early 1900s. Over the years, the schools underwent multiple additions/improvements. Unfortunately, fires ravaged the schools in each of the three towns, but new buildings were erected.

As of the 1950s, a school consolidation plan was under consideration. Elkton and Bay Port agreed to annex with Pigeon in 1958. The Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker High School graduated its first class in 1961.

In 1979, a new junior high school was completed.

The last step of consolidation came in 2002, when Laker Elementary opened. The secondary school currently is undergoing major renovations, thanks to a sinking fund. A technology bond is paying for upgrades to security and state-of-the-art technology for students and staff, such as iPads.
Laker contact information

Central office:
(989) 453-4600 option 6

Laker Elementary
(989) 453-4600 option 2

Laker Secondary
(989) 453-4600 option 1

www.lakerschools.org

Find us at these social media sites

at EPBP Lakers