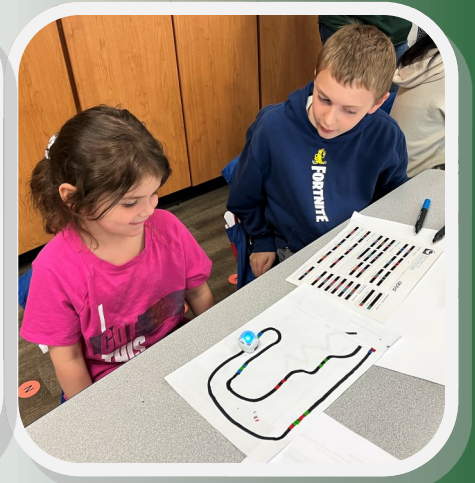




# Welcome to **Laker Schools**





## 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; Middle School: 6th-8th grades;

High School: 9-12th grades

Enrollment: 1,000+ (includes SAIL Academy, shared-time students)

Percentage of School of Choice students: 25 percent

Teachers: 57



## **Laker Schools are awesome! Here are some reasons why:**

- \*We have 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 academic, health, and social-emotional support.**
- \*Lakers has top-notch facilities with state-of-the-art technology and security, including two security officers.**
- \*The Capturing Kids' Hearts program strengthens bonds between staff and students and encourages positive academic and behavior outcomes.**
- \*Multiple early intervention programs assist struggling students.**
- \*Students enjoy many hands-on, project-based learning activities at all grade levels.**
- \*Full-time counselors at the elementary and secondary buildings, plus school nurses at both buildings.**
- \*Many community projects are led by our students and staff.**
- \*We offer a wide variety of extracurricular activities (50+) from elementary through high school.**
- \*Strong community support**



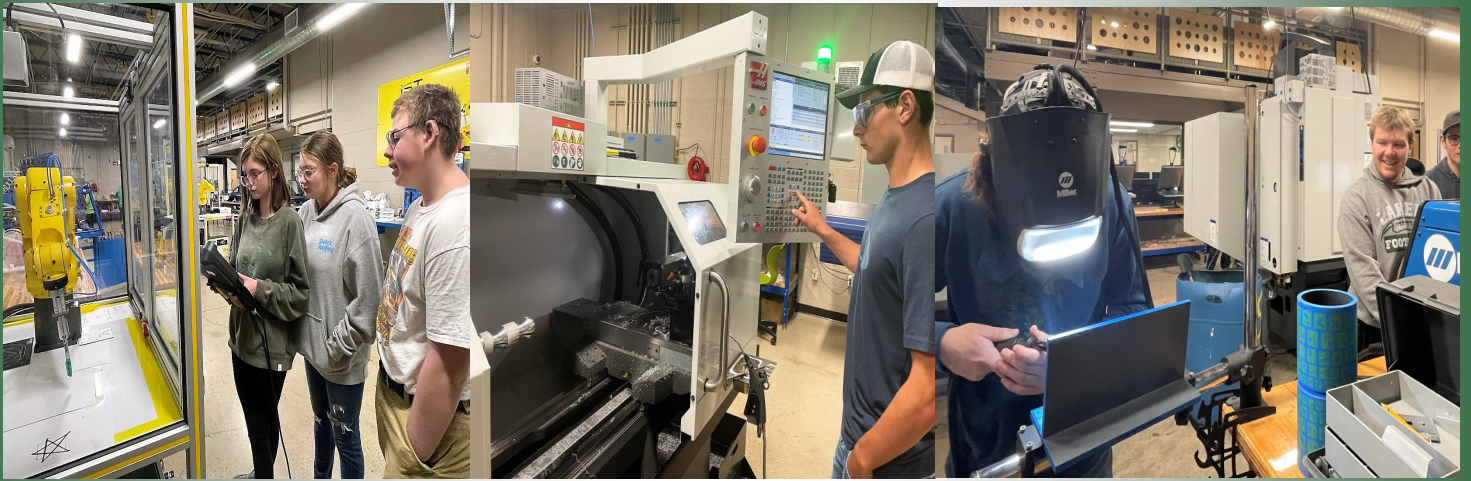
## Extracurricular activities

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. With all of these wonderful opportunities, it makes being a Laker very rewarding.



## Technology

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. Today, the middle and high school have a one-to-one Chromebook program, and elementary students continue with the iPads. A technology bond, approved by voters, covers the cost of this technology. Lakers also has full-time technology support right on campus. Technology is used in a variety of ways by teachers and students to connect classroom lessons with real world applications and individualize instruction. At Lakers, technology doesn't replace instruction—it enhances it! Lakers also is the only school in the area to have an Innovation Center, which is filled with an impressive array of technological tools—see the next page for more information.



## Innovation Center

The Laker Innovation Center is part of the district's "Next Generation Bond", which includes a \$19.1 million bond for 25 years. A 1-mill sinking fund also helps pay for the equipment. The Innovation Center is where imagination, experimentation, and creation flourish every school day. It is an open space where students dive into hands-on projects that develop skills in science, technology, engineering and math, among other academic areas. A variety of classes are conducted here, including Mechatronics, 6th Grade Engineering and 6th Grade Design/Thinking, 7th Grade Computer Coding, and 7th Grade Robotics. The goal of the Laker Innovation Center is to give students important skills needed by today's businesses, such as problem solving, communication and working as part of a team. Lakers is ensuring students are getting the skills they'll need to be successful in the workforce.



## Laker Athletics

Lakers has 15 sports programs at the varsity level, and athletic opportunities abound at the elementary and middle school levels, 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.

*Football photo courtesy of Quad N Productions, softball photo courtesy of Logan Richmond*



## 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, middle school and high school. Elementary students enjoy art and music classes and they can participate in fifth grade band and/or the elementary musical. A good portion of middle and high school students get involved in band, theater, and/or choir. Theater opportunities include a fall musical for high school and middle school, a winter one-act for high school (which includes competitions), a dinner theatre production for high school and middle school, and the elementary musical in the spring. The Laker Bands and the Laker Theatre Company are known and respected for their excellence. Middle school students enjoy Theater Arts and Fine Arts classes, and high school students can take art class and media class, in which they work on the yearbook and make movies, along with other projects. 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 and engineering classes (physics, chemistry, forensic science, lab science, ag science, Mechatronics, etc.). The updated science labs at the high school make the science experience even more robust, and of course, our Laker Innovation Center brings science and engineering to a whole new level with robotics, CNC machines, woodworking tools, and much more. Lakers also has after-school science opportunities for middle and high school students, such as Science Olympiad, FIRST Robotics, and VEX. Lakers has world-class education down to a science.





## Laker Elementary School is awesome!

### Here are some reasons why:

- Laker Elementary offers a continuum of early childhood education, from preschool through 5th grade.
- Laker Elementary School is a two-time Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase School, which means the school is exemplary in cultivating a relationship-driven culture for staff and students.
  - Laker Elementary boasts 20+ paraprofessionals who provide one-on-one support for students in reading, math, and other areas.
  - Elementary students enjoy daily "specials" classes, which include gym, music, and art.
- Laker Elementary has a school nurse, a psychologist, a counselor, and other support staff to provide a full spectrum of support.
- Elementary students enjoy up-to-date technology, but they also learn important writing skills, including cursive writing.
- The Laker Elementary PTOC is a parent-teacher group that organizes a variety of fun family activities each year, such as a carnival, book fair, mother/son and father/daughter events.
- Laker Elementary students enjoy a wide variety of field trips each school year, and many of these are supported by the PTOC.
- Regularly-scheduled assemblies celebrate student successes and fire up school spirit and student connectedness.
- Elementary students have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of extracurricular activities, both athletic and non-athletic.
- The elementary features a large, beautiful library and designated library time for each classroom.
- Various grade levels, including fourth and fifth grade, have students switch classrooms for specific subjects (i.e. reading/writing, science/ social studies, and math), giving them a more in-depth education and more time to finish lessons.
  - Laker Elementary students who consistently meet behavior expectations enjoy monthly Fun Days, which is an hour of structured fun activities in various classrooms, so students can select which activities they want to do.



## Elementary Specials

Laker Elementary students are awarded with one hour of “specials” each school day. Each grade level rotates between music, art, and gym classes (one day, a class will be in art, the next day, music, the next day, gym, as so on). 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 Veteran’s 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 middle school and high school. Students really enjoy these “specials” - they have so much fun, they don’t realize they are learning marvelous things.



# Capturing Kids' Hearts®

*Powered by Flippen Group*

## **Capturing Kids' Hearts**

In 2021, Laker Schools invested in the Capturing Kids' Hearts program, which is focused on social-emotional wellbeing, a relationship-driven campus culture, and student connectedness to school. The program encourages character building and helps students take ownership of their behavior. CKH also fosters stronger teacher-student relationships through various activities, such as sharing “good news” at the start of each class period. The core belief behind this program is once students feel connected to their school culture, their academic performance and behaviors will improve. The goal for Lakers is to have students feel safe and secure while learning, so they can focus on what they should be focused on (classes, friendships). The campus is so devoted to this program, that Laker Elementary and Laker Middle School are both National Showcase Schools, which is not an easy award to receive!



## Early Childhood Education

Laker Elementary houses multiple early childhood programs. In the 2022-23 school year, Lakers debuted its Little Lakers GSRP program for 4-year-olds. This program offers free preschool (for those who qualify) four days a week. Tuition-based openings also are available. In-district busing is available for students in this program.

Head Start is a free preschool program for families that qualify and is for students ages 3 to 5 years. In-district busing is available for students in this program.

\*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.



## Laker Middle School and High School are awesome!

### Here are some reasons why:

- Laker High is accredited through AdvancED, the global leader in advancing education excellence.
- Laker Middle School is a Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase School, which means the school is exemplary in cultivating a relationship-driven culture for staff and students.
- Laker High is the county leader in offering dual enrollment opportunities for families! Juniors and seniors have the opportunity to take dual enrollment courses to earn free college credits - up to an associate's degree - while earning a high school degree. (College Direct program, offered at the Huron Area Technical Center by Mid-Michigan Community College)
- Laker Middle and High Schools offer unique courses in arts, sciences, engineering, robotics, etc. in state-of-the-art facilities, including our spacious Innovation Center that features CNC machines, robots, woodworking machinery, a welding simulator and many other hands-on learning tools.
- Students receive academic support to help them bring up struggling grades, or just to get a better understanding of a lesson.
- Laker Middle School students have homeroom time (just under a half hour) each day for character building, homework assistance, and/or free time (if properly earned).
- The SAIL Academy is an arm of Laker High School, and it offers credit recovery, online courses, work-based learning, and much more. The academy is for all kinds of high school students, and not just for Laker students.
- Laker Middle School students enjoy several fun activities throughout the school year, such as field trips. Each grade level has a week-long trip, as well, including a trip to Washington, D.C. for 8th graders.
- Regularly-scheduled assemblies celebrate student successes, team successes, and fire up school spirit and student connectedness.
- Both the middle and high school offer a wide variety of extracurricular activities in athletics, science, arts, etc.
- The high school's modified block scheduling format affords students an opportunity to complete 8 courses each year so they can enjoy more electives and advanced coursework.
- Lakers is the only school to offer the Hueschen Science Scholarship, a full four-year scholarship to MSU for qualified graduates entering a field of science.
- Laker Middle/High School boasts a health clinic provided by Scheurer Healthcare, as well as counselors, social workers and others to help with social/emotional needs, college readiness, and more.





## 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!



## SAIL Academy

No other school in Michigan has something like the Laker SAIL Academy. SAIL stands for Student Apprenticeships and Individualized Learning. The academy strives to help students find their place within the community and their future, while putting the focus on them and their individual needs. The SAIL Academy works to connect students to their preferred field of interest, and through work placements, students gain real-life experience and future employment. SAIL Academy students also can catch up on credits by taking online courses, and they can earn a high school diploma through Laker High School. SAIL Academy students also can take elective classes at Laker High School and/or take classes at the Huron Area Technical Center. Flexibility is the name of the game! Every application at SAIL begins a conversation about life skills, goals, and our students' strengths. At the initial intake interview, the academy will create an educational roadmap to fit each students' goal and abilities.



## Legacy Center

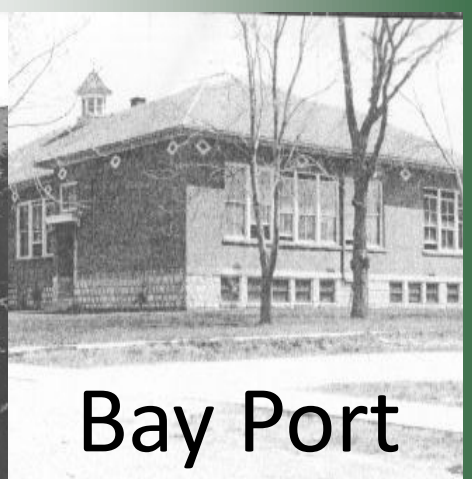
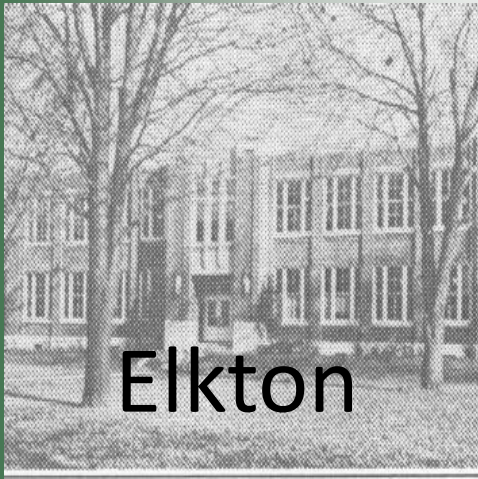
When people enter the Laker Legacy Center for the first time, their jaws drop. And for good reason—it's impressive! The Laker Legacy Center is unlike any other sports-related facility in the Thumb region – and beyond. It's an impressive sight and it pays homage to the many teachers, coaches, community members and others who have played a significant role in Laker's history, helping shape our district to what it is today.

The Legacy Center, which opened in May 2021, is enjoyed by students and community members alike. It offers plenty of space for sports teams to practice, either in the massive turf bay or on the expansive court area. A circular track runs above the court area, accessible from upstairs. A gym, featuring a wide variety of equipment, also is upstairs. The beautiful lobby area provides a spot for people to mingle and features a wall made from wooden bleachers that were once in the high school gym. The Legacy Center also includes a concession area for football season and other events/activities.



## 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 (now the middle school).

The last step of consolidation came in 2002, when Laker Elementary opened. In May 2018, Laker voters passed the \$19.1 million Next Generation Bond Project. This paid for many renovations, including the auditorium, a brand new 3,000 sq ft weight room, the Laker Innovation Center, and the Laker Legacy Center.



# 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.lakersschools.org](http://www.lakersschools.org)

Find us at these social media sites

at EPBP Lakers

