

**YOU
KNOW
YOU'RE A
LAKEWOOD
TIGER
IF...**



**JOHANNA LANDMARK
AND DANI URBINA**

...YOU HAVE A FAVORITE ATRIUM

On opposite ends of the school, different students spend their time in the East atrium than in the West. No matter which atrium somebody favors, one thing remains constant throughout -- everyone swears that they belong to the better atrium.

Whether a student prefers the East or West atrium, their choice is likely not by coincidence. The East atrium gives direct access to the gym and is a shorter walk to the wrestling gym. It also happens to be where the cheerleaders hold their rehearsal. The East atrium is more readily available to anyone who prefers to spend their time athletically. The West Atrium is closer to the band, art, and theater rooms. The Marching Band holds their rehearsal in the West parking lot and the Winter Guard rehearses in the West atrium. For any student who prefers to spend their time creatively, the West atrium is a more convenient place to go.

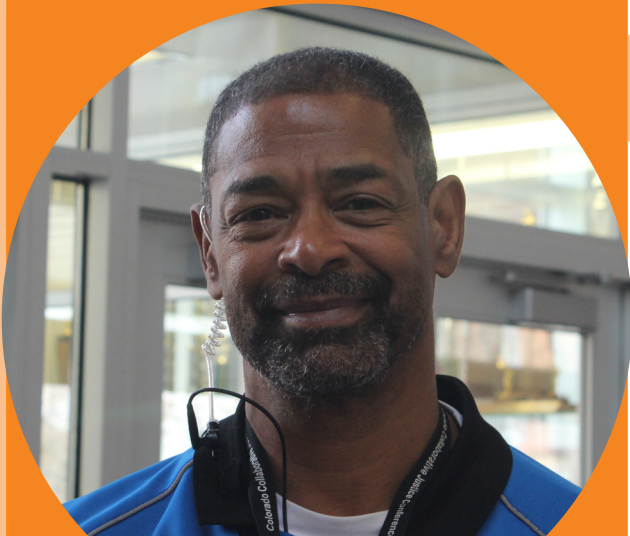
Students in the West atrium can often be described as a more academic crowd than those found in the East. "It's not a bad thing," said Senior Brian Simpson. "Just based on a statistical fact, people tend to wait longer to go to class if they're standing in the East Atrium than the West atrium."

Throughout high school, as students start to feel more comfortable

around their peers and more at ease in their environment, they might move from the more introverted West atrium over to the extroverted East. "I feel like older students tend to be in the East," said senior Kevin May. "I feel like, from freshman to senior year, people migrate because I started in the West atrium and now I'm in the East."

For someone looking for a place to finish their homework and isn't looking to socialize with a big group, the West atrium usually has a quieter environment and less people. Junior Emily Truong feels intimidated by the East atrium. "It's just more calm in the West, said Truong. "I'm short and there's a lot of tall people in the East atrium."





...YOUR SECURITY GUARD IS THE FIRST TO GREET YOU EACH MORNING

Security guard Sam Hawkins has worked at Lakewood for five years, monitoring cameras, sifting through visitors, greeting students, and assisting the staff and students when various issues inevitably arise. He offers any kind of support that he can and treasures the interactions with kids and the problem-solving involved in his daily routine.

“Seeing kids work through problems, that’s pretty cool,” said Hawkins. The students “look inside themselves, and see what they’re actually capable of doing on their own.” He is the first responder to conflict, which can involve students, teachers, or a single individual. These incidents often imply underlying personal struggles that call for special attention. “[I] talk with them and identify what the problem is and see if there’s anything I can do. If not, [I] try to get them to some sort of resource or somebody else who’s available or better suited to handle the problem.” In short, he facilitates the vital connection between students and administration.

Hawkins has worked for Jeffco Public Schools for the past 15 years, aiding Jefferson High School students for the prior 10 years. Before that, he started at a correctional facility in 1994. “Over the years, I’ve just found different things that interest me, instead of working in corrections, trying to help the kids who have no incentive versus kids who want to do better. So, that’s how I started working in academics.”

His background working with teenagers and his own experience as a young person motivate him to help better students’ lives. “I went to school in northeast Denver... I grew up in that area, a real rough area, poverty-stricken,” said Hawkins, “Coming over here, I try to help remind kids that there are so many things you can do. The possibilities are endless.”

During his time at Lakewood, he has noticed the far-reaching effect that Lakewood’s best teachers and students have on the school as a whole. In his opinion, the “high standard of education” challenges all students, even those outside the IB program, “to do better”. “I love Lakewood. I love all Jeffco public schools, but probably Lakewood is my favorite.”

...WE ARE FAMILY... LITERALLY

From freshmen to seniors, the same phrases circulate the hallways day to day. There’s the ‘It’s a great day to be a Lakewood Tiger’ that plays on Tiger TV twice a week. And there’s the one that brings the student body together -- We are family. For some, the phrase becomes literal.

For the Seelbachs, Shultzs, and Gonzalezes, working alongside their spouses turn family and colleagues into the same person. Although it may seem strange for a married couple to teach in the same building, it does not differ much from a couple working in two different places. “We only ever see each other at lunch or if we pass each other in the hall,” said Social Studies teacher Eric Seelbach. “I think some people assume that we just bring all of our home stuff here and work stuff there, but I operate in my world and she operates in her world.”

The Seelbachs feel indifferent toward working together because they think that it has very little impact on their work and home life, aside from a few minor perks that they would miss out on otherwise. “During the non-lacrosse time frames, we drive together,” said Eric. “We save gas money. I don’t want to say there’s benefits, but there’s also not drawbacks. We’re living in a modern capitalist society. We both have to work somewhere. It’s kind of nice that we can look out for each other at times. I can see an email that may be impacting her and make sure she’s aware of it or something like that.”

Social Studies teacher Katie Seelbach worked at LHS six years before her husband and five years before the two were even married. She informed Eric of the open job position when she heard of it. “At the time, there were like five or six married couples working here. It was just kind of normal. I didn’t think ‘Oh god, what am I doing?’” During Eric’s interview, the administrators pointed out that the ‘We are family’ motto is in some ways literal.

The Seelbachs share a passion for history that works its way into their relationship. “One of our first fights was about whether the American Revolution was an actual revolution or a war for independence,” said Katie, “Like it was an actual fight. I didn’t talk to him for two days. We fight over things like that that are incredibly dorky and no other humans on the planet would bring into a relationship. When he pushes my buttons, it’s more about history and social movements.” The Seelbachs first met over an AP argument session debating whether the Constitution or Articles of Confederation are a better system of government.

...YOU GO “BEAR HUNTING”

The boys' first home basketball game versus Bear Creek turned out crowds that spilled out onto the floor and into the parents' sections on both sides. Games against Bear Creek consistently attract the highest attendance in fans (decked in camo per tradition) of the entire basketball season. “[I look forward to] the Bear Creek game,” said sophomore basketball player Isaac Lacy, “Because it’s Bear Creek and nobody likes them.”

For boys' basketball, the genesis of the Lakewood/Bear Creek rivalry lies in the notorious 2017 game. Since achieving a status among Lakewood legends, the hype around this game continues to attract a large audience. For those who don't know the story, a then sophomore tackled Bear Creek's mascot at halftime, causing a fight which emptied the stands into the atrium, escalating into a police escort out of the game for both student sections.

The players, who had been in the locker room during the incident, returned to a stark increase in intensity between the opposing crowd. After comfortably leading the whole game, the Tigers barely escaped with a victory over the Bears 70-67.

Since the last game against Bear Creek in that season, the boys team has been on a 0-3 losing streak against the Bears, most recently losing 47-49. These losses only continue to fuel the fire. “We kinda just hate Bear Creek for the spite of hating them,” said Andrea Aye.

However, beneath the bristly surface of the relationship between Bear Creek and Lakewood, there lies an expansive common ground that result in a perfect school rivalry. The proximity of the two schools allows both student bodies to easily attend the games, for example. More significantly, most of the students come from the same community. “I feel like the rest of Lakewood doesn't know, but a lot of people on the teams are friends with each other because we play together for club,” said senior varsity player, Kevin May, “So, I'm better friends with the Bear Creek kids than with any other team.”

These commonalities place the two schools on a level playing field to battle out their differences. However, these differences may not be as large as they seem. “The players are friends with each other,” said May, “but the student sections and the schools themselves are rivals.”

...THESE ARE THE MEMORIES YOU MAKE

“

I remember my sophomore year, when the girls were in the State basketball tournament for the first time, and we lost the game, but we had like triple the student section. I will always remember that. They had to open another area for our student section to sit.”

-Emma Holdren (12)

“

Orange outs with the free pizza... And the Homecoming Picnic. [I like] the pizza. At the end, they just give it away. And they also have ice cream there. And nachos.”

-Christian Glatz (12)

“

There was this one time this kid brought in a TV to play video games. I didn't play, but I watched.”

-Emily Truong (11)



...THIS IS WHERE YOU GO TO LUNCH

KOLACHE

Incomplete without Starbucks of course.



LOS ARCOS

Home to some really good breakfast burritos.



...YOU'VE MADE IT ON @LHSPARKING



...WE ARE UNIFIED



...THIS IS YOUR SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT

...YOU BELONG TO ONE OF 70 CLUBS

“I’m in **GSA**. It’s a place where you’re welcome whoever you are. When you look in the mirror, and when you see that person, you can walk into **GSA** and just be that person. Because it’s hard to find yourself at school...We talk about **how to be accepting** with everyone and talk about our problems. A lot of my friends are there.”

-Micky Rodriguez (9)



...YOU OWN AN ABNORMAL AMOUNT OF TRAFFIC CONE ORANGE SHIRTS

14 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU GRADUATE

1. Be in a "It's a great day to be a Lakewood Tiger" video on Tiger TV
2. Sneak away to the gas station as a freshman because you're really cool
2. Enjoy Afterprom more than the actual Prom
3. Get pushed off of the bleachers during "Orange, orange orange, orange, blackblackblackblackblackblackblackblack" cheer
4. Work harder on your senior pants than your actual homework
5. Lose on the first day of the Spoon Game
6. Join a club as a freshman and never go back
7. Boo the freshmen because you were booed as a freshman
8. Become fluent in IB acronyms
9. Almost ruin your friendships over your plans for Homecoming
10. Go to the Bear Creek basketball game
11. Take bowling as your gym credit
12. Run out with your sports team during the assembly

...THIS IS YOUR PLAYLIST

Roar - Katy Perry



In 2013, Katy Perry chose Lakewood's lip-dub "Roar" video as the winner of her nationwide contest. Our spirit earned national recognition when she gave a televised concert in our gym. "Roar" dominated the assemblies' soundtrack for the few years after, and her visit is immortalized in the West atrium with the larger-than-life signed album cover. The winning video currently has **1M views on YouTube**.

Eye of the Tiger - Survivor



Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger" probably ingrained itself among Lakewood's anthems some 37 years ago when it was last taken seriously by the class of 1983. This *Rocky III* theme song compliments the Guns 'N' Roses lyric ("Welcome to the Jungle") that adorns the gym's North wall. Safe to say, **80's glam rock** left its impact on Lakewood culture.

Bohemian Rhapsody - Queen



When Queen's vocal masterpiece closes out the dance, it signifies a memorable **Lakewood tradition**. In the name of carrying on this tradition, we finish every dance by holding up our hands in unison and singing to the famous rock ballad.

Fight, Lakewood down the field...



Fun Fact: We have the exact same fight song as **CU Boulder**, save the black and gold.