

# READ 20 GOLD MEDALLION ENTRY



Submitted by Dr. Wayne Rodolfich,  
Superintendent

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Special Communication Project  
Category

Communication Staff Size: 1

Charter School System  
5000 Students





# SYNOPSIS

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Read20 is a comprehensive literacy, public engagement, branding, and marketing campaign of the Lake Wales Charter School System in Lake Wales, Florida.

With the sudden resignation of its superintendent, January 2021 began a tumultuous 18 months for LWCS, on top of the previous 12 months of COVID difficulties. After an often contentious period of uncertainty, the System needed to rebuild trust with teachers, students, parents, and the community; to rebuild its brand, make the news for positive reasons and give its stakeholders something new to rally behind and support. COVID had also taken a toll on reading proficiency levels. And thus, Read20 was born from the desire to unify LWCS and focus the entire community on literacy.

Read20 is a low-budget, grassroots campaign. One of the hallmarks of our charter system is a lean, decentralized administration. Funding goes straight to our schools rather than the Central Office. There is no Communications Department. As a Superintendent with experience in creating successful public relations campaigns, I decided to add Communications to my list of responsibilities.

The goals of Read20 are to create a culture of literacy in LWCS, engage parents, businesses, and the community in LWCS, increase LWCS' social media presence, market and brand LWCS as a model for literacy education, and make LWCS a positive, well-recognized state and national brand.

As a part of our Read20 campaign, we have visited the homes of 600 struggling readers, talking with parents about the importance of reading 20 minutes per day with or to their children, asking them to take the Read20 pledge, and providing them with a Read20 literacy packet. Over 60 businesses have partnered with us to take on the responsibility of providing reading-rich environments to students and parents. We have created a mobile billboard via the Superintendent's Read20-mobile. Schools, teachers, and students have taken the promise of Read20 to heart, making it their own, creating Read20 t-shirts, auctioning off book baskets, and building little libraries throughout the community. Read20 has expanded beyond LWCS and across the nation—we seek literacy testimonials from all over the country to inspire our students.



# SUMMARY

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## RESEARCH

### Historical Backdrop

LWCS is the only school system of its type in the State of Florida. In Florida, there is one public school system in each county. However, in 2003 the citizens, teachers, and parents in Lake Wales decided they wanted something different for their students and their community, and they created not a single charter school, but an entire charter system, which currently serves 5000 students in 4 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, and 1 high school.

Because the System was created by and for the community of Lake Wales, there has historically been strong community support and pride in its schools. However, COVID, the resignation of its longtime superintendent, and the prolonged search for a new superintendent severely tested that support.

### Research Strategies

We conducted anonymous stakeholder surveys in March and April 2022 to give staff and students an opportunity to share what was working well in their schools, big ideas, and challenges. Several common themes appeared; stakeholders identified communication, reading proficiency, low parental engagement, and lack of community buy-in as significant challenges.

I also conducted multiple face-to-face and telephone interviews with individual members of the Board of Trustees and asked them the same questions: What are your big ideas? What do you see as our System's biggest challenges? They cited low morale, lack of social media presence, low reading scores, and restoring trust in the System as major challenges.

We also researched national literacy trends and statistics and discovered the million-word gap for children who aren't read to at home as well as numerous studies that identify the benefits of reading to and with children--cognitive development, social-emotional development, language acquisition, and more.



# SUMMARY

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## ANALYSIS & PLANNING

### Our Approach

After meeting with our team of principals and leadership at the central office, we knew that our Read20 campaign had to operate on a limited budget with all of us working together to create and promote the campaign since we did not have a Communications Department.

We knew that free social media was our best resource to get the Read20 message to our audience, but the System's social media presence was non-existent. We discovered that the System's Facebook page had not had a post since August of 2021, and the post before that had been months prior as well. The page had few likes and few followers, so we decided to delete the old page and create a new one.

We chose to use our limited budget to create literacy packets and to distribute those packets to struggling readers by visiting student homes and to purchase signage for teachers so that the Read20 message was clearly visible throughout the System. We wanted to involve not just students, teachers, and parents, but the community as a whole, so we brainstormed ways to include business and industry in our campaign as well as ways to use volunteers in our schools to improve reading outcomes.

### Objectives

- To create a culture of literacy in LWCS
- To engage parents, businesses, and the community in LWCS
- To increase LWCS' social media presence
- To market and brand LWCS as a model for literacy education
- To make LWCS a positive, well-recognized state and national brand



# SUMMARY

## IMPLEMENTATION

### Introducing READ20

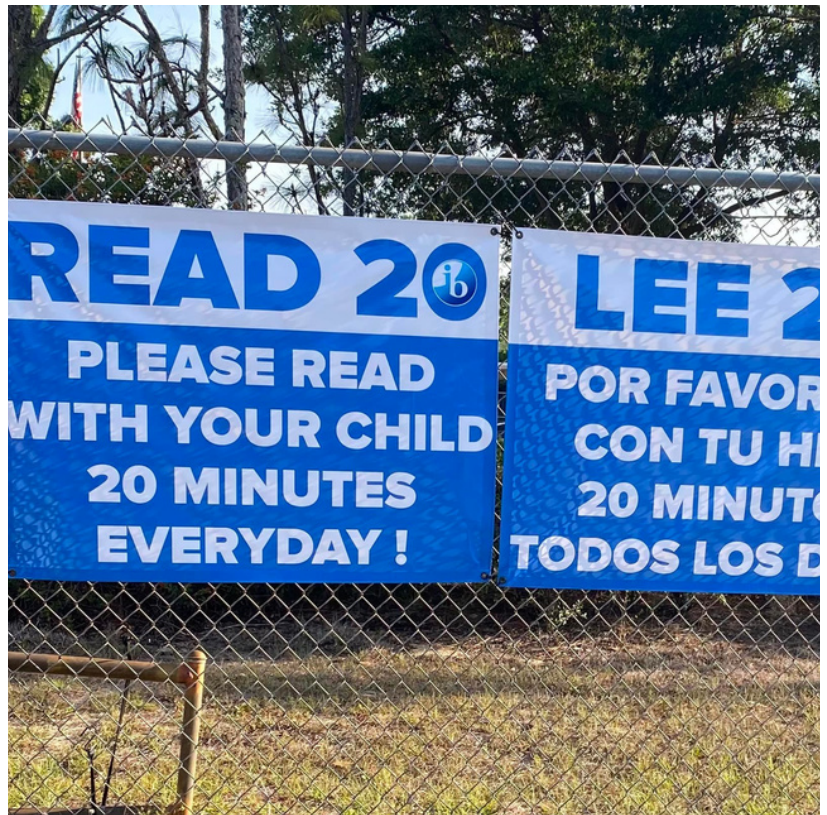
We unofficially launched the Read20 campaign even before my tenure as Superintendent of LWCS began in July 2022. In April and May 2022, I connected with each of our seven principals and explained the concept and goals of Read20. They took these ideas and ran with it, creating Read20 signs for their campuses in their own school colors.

I also had Read20 hats and t-shirts designed and began using my personal social media to start building our new LWCS brand. I also began the process of turning my personal vehicle into the Read20-mobile. So before I even arrived in Lake Wales, we had introduced the concept of Read20.

Officially, the campaign started on June 23, 2022 when I was introduced to the community as the Superintendent at the Lake Wales Chamber of Commerce Power Luncheon. As the keynote speaker, I laid out our plan, including The Power of Read20. Then on June 27, 2022, we held the annual Board Retreat with

Trustees and Principals where I [outlined our vision for Read20](#), the research showing the need for a literacy campaign, and the strategies we would use to achieve our goals. On June 28, 2022, I met with the Lake Wales Charter School Foundation, which is a group of community supporters who represent the fundraising arm of the System. To them, I introduced the concept of a Read20 Accelerated Reader Incentive for our students.

We introduced the wider community to Read20 with the first issue of our new newsletter, [The Lake Wales Lead](#) and distributed it via email and social media on [our System's new Facebook page](#). Finally, we introduced Read20 to the best ambassadors of LWCS, our teachers and staff during our [August 2022 Convocation](#), where each teacher was given a Read20 sign for their classrooms.





# SUMMARY

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## IMPLEMENTATION

### **Books with Barbers and Business Book Partners**

We want to help provide as many pathways to reading as we can in Lake Wales. Our goal is to eliminate any barriers like time or access our students may have in reading on grade level.

We began by actively recruiting local barber shops and salons: we provided the books so students and patrons can read while they are waiting on a haircut. Once we published that partnership, other businesses began to reach out to us asking to partner with them as well. We quickly realized that barbershops and salons were just the tip of the iceberg, and we began recruiting restaurants, doctors' and dentists' office to partner with us as well. Soon businesses such as Taco Riendo and others began sharing Read20 on their own social media platforms.

### **READ20 AR Incentive**

Generous donors from the Lake Wales Charter Foundation agreed to fund our Read20 Accelerated Reader Incentive. A review of data from 2021-2022 showed that only 112 elementary students earned more than 100 AR points in the previous school year. If students aren't earning points, then they aren't reading.

- Dale R. Fair Babson Park Elementary--58 (11.8%) students read over 100 points
- Hillcrest Elementary--40 (5.7%) students read over 100 points
- Janie Howard Wilson Elementary--3 (0.7%) students read over 100 points
- Polk Avenue Elementary--10 (1.8%) students read over 100 points

The Foundation donated up to \$4000 to super a Read20 AR incentive, and our principals worked together to create the parameters of the program. Each school then held an Read20 Kickoff to introduce the incentive to students.



# SUMMARY

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## IMPLEMENTATION

### **Read20 Volunteer Tutors**

In August 2022, we learned that two of our elementary schools would need to submit a School Improvement Plan to the State of Florida and our sponsor district, Polk County Public Schools based on low reading scores from the 2021-2022 school year.

We began recruiting volunteers to come in to our elementary schools and tutor students who teachers and administrators identified as struggling readers. By September 1, 2022, we had over 30 volunteers working on reading skills with these students.

### **READ20 Home Visits**

One of the most important parts of our Read20 campaign was getting out IN the community and meeting with parents. Principals and teachers create a list of students who are struggling academically. My leadership team and I then visit the homes of these students. We are able to connect with about 60% of the parents during those visits, give them a Read20 literacy packet, and ask how we can help them and their children. For those that we do not speak with in-person, we call them while we are in the driveway and either speak with them over the phone or leave a message. Our Bilingual Specialist, Dr. Julio Acevedo, accompanies me on these visits to meet the needs of our parents with limited English proficiency.

Not only is this strategy important to meet our goal of establishing a culture of literacy in LWCS, but it is an important part of re-establishing trust with our parents and the community. We get to look parents in the eye, tell them that we are here to help, and give them an opportunity to share their concerns.

The literacy packet includes a Read20 branded bag that holds a book for the student, information about adult and family literacy programs in Lake Wales, a Read20 Pledge card, and a handwritten note on Read20 stationary.



# SUMMARY

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## EVALUATION

- **To create a culture of literacy in LWCS**

- Students are creating community service projects based on literacy and building Little Free Libraries
- Students have created award-winning book baskets to auction at county-wide Youth Fairs
- Even our PreK students are excited and have made Read20 bracelets to distribute to their friends

- **To engage parents, businesses, and the community in LWCS**

- As of March 2023, we have 61 business partners that have books and literacy materials available to their customers
- As of March 2023, we have made over 600 literacy home visits
- The Read20-mobile was invited to lead both Lake Wales High School's Homecoming parade and the City of Lake Wales' Mardi Gras parade that had over 30,000 people in attendance
- America's Sheriff, Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd has endorsed the Read20 campaign
- Businesses are finding their own ways to participate, such as reading to their horses and sharing about it on social media

- **To increase LWCS' social media presence**

- We have increased our Facebook page from 0 to 892 followers
- We have increased the number of posts from once every 6-12 months to 2-3 each week
- We have increased engagement exponentially

- **To market and brand LWCS as a model for literacy education**

- An assisted living home in Lufkin, Texas has adopted Read20 as a model for reading daily to its patients
- A PreK program in Alaska that serves an indigenous population has adopted Read20

- **To make LWCS a positive, well-recognized state and national brand**

- Read20 has been presented at statewide conferences in Florida and administrator training sessions at William Carey University in Mississippi
- Read20 testimonies have been shared on social media in over 10 states



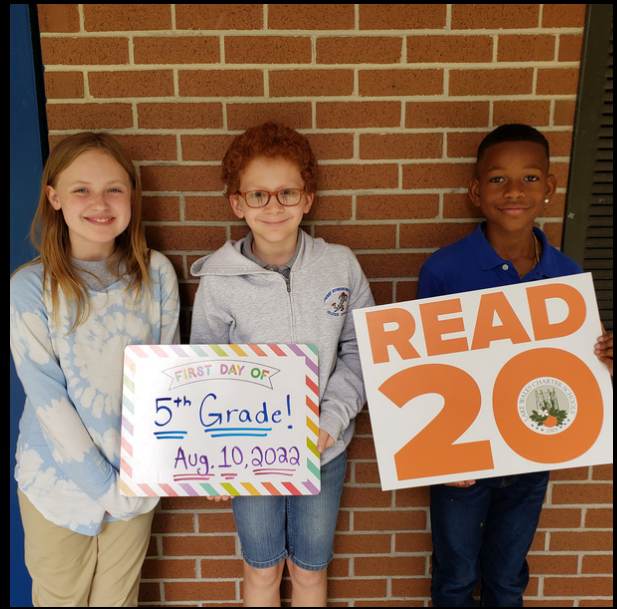
# ARTIFACTS

Hillcrest Elementary (1361) Reads!  
In this school year, students have read...  
**21,491** Books  
**43,970,928** Words  
for **23** minutes/day!  
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE Accelerated Reader



# ARTIFACTS



Wayne Rodolfich

May 6, 2022 · 🌐

Read! Read! Read! Let's Go To Work! #pgsd #lwcs  
#janiehowardwilsonselementary



Bri Rodolfich, Richard Crosby and 40 others



Wayne Rodolfich

June 23, 2022 · 🌐

Today I was able to speak at the Lake Wales Power Luncheon sponsored by the Lake Wales Chamber. The event was held at the Lake Wales Arts Center. It was great to speak to such an enthusiastic group of community members who are focused on the future of their school system. I shared my commitment to literacy and how I will drive everyone crazy about reading an extra 20 minutes a day with their children or grandchildren. READ20 will be a common phrase in this community. I do not officially begin until July 1, but I am working daily to have a foundation laid for Day 1. #READ20.

Thank you all for  
joining us today!



Welcome  
Dr. Wayne Rodolfich  
Lake Wales Charter  
School Superintendent

# ARTIFACTS

**Lora Donley** added 3 new photos to the album: **Simple sense.**  
June 23, 2022 · 🌐

Congrats to the [Lake Wales Area Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Council](#) for an amazing event! The Power Luncheon with Dr. Wayne Rodolfich - Lake Wales Charter Schools New Superintendent was exactly what Lake Wales needed. Folks who had previously chosen their seats based on politics found themselves sharing lunch tables.

And sharing laughs from his stories. And sharing pride for his unwavering respect for veterans. And sharing tears as he spoke of his former student who lost 3 limbs while serving. And sharing a kinship as he made it clear: no one works for him; everyone works with him.

And sharing hope as he spoke of his vision for our students.

Attendees left feeling energized and eager for the 2022-23 school year. I wish Dr. Rodolfich's presentation could be made available to the LWCS website so the public could share in the excitement.

Great things are coming for LWCS and they're coming in a black 4Runner you can see from a mile away 📍

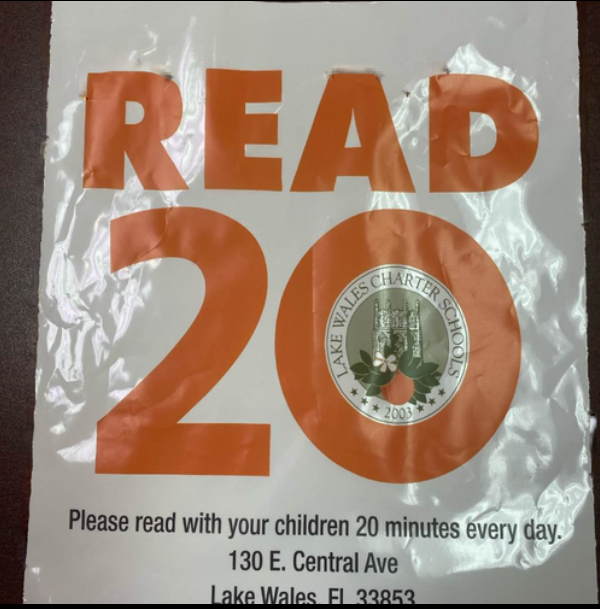


**Jennifer Nanek** is with **Thomas Mccance** and 6 others at **First United Methodist Church of Lake Wales.**  
September 21, 2022 · Lake Wales · 🌐

At the Lake Wales Family Literacy Academy board meeting.

Our new Charter Schools Superintendent, Dr [Wayne Rodolfich](#), came and shared about efforts to encourage families to read 20 minutes a day.

Everyone should do this!





**READ 20**

Please read with your children 20 minutes every day.

130 E. Central Ave  
Lake Wales, FL 33853

**Post Insights** ✕

 We sure have enjoyed seeing all our elementary students and parents this week in the drop off lines! Have a grea...  
March 10 at 2:00 PM · 🌐

Post Impressions	Post reach	Post Engagement
4,776	4,203	836

**Interactions** 1

Reaction	Count
👍	109
❤️	46
😂	0
😮	0
😭	0
😡	0

📄 Reactions 154

💬 Comments 6

# ARTIFACTS

## Page overview

### Discovery

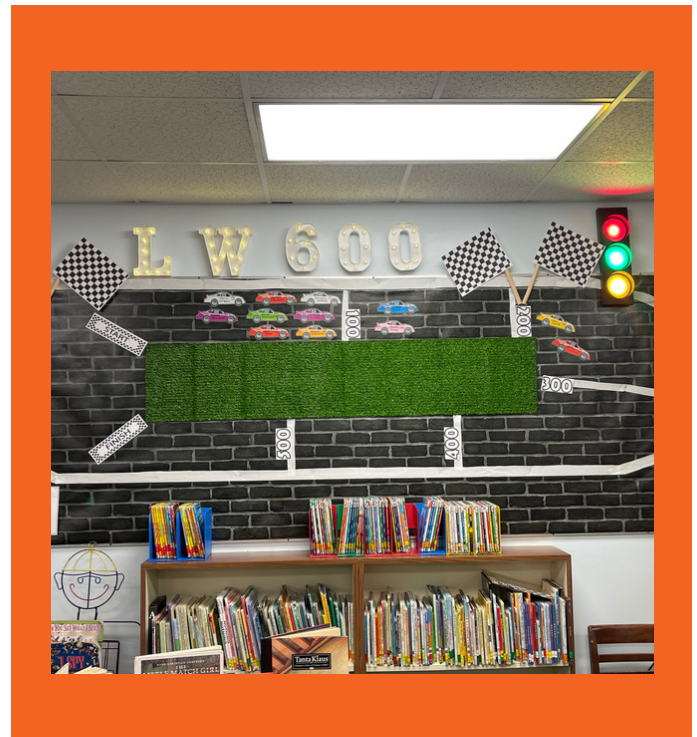
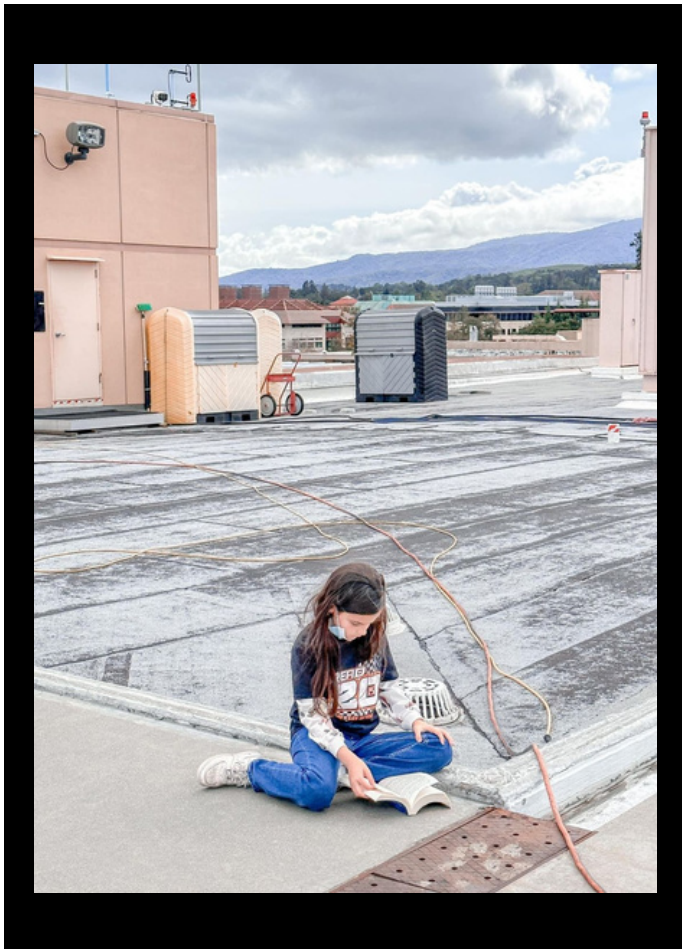
🌐 Post reach	6,058
👤 Post engagement	1,293
👍 New Page likes	8
👤 New Page Followers	16

### Interactions

😊 Reactions	290
💬 Comments	17
➦ Shares	33
📷 Photo views	620



# ARTIFACTS



# ARTIFACTS



Lake Wales Charter Schools

March 10 at 2:00 PM · 🌐



We sure have enjoyed seeing all our elementary students and parents this week in the drop off lines!

Have a great Spring Break, LWCS--stay safe, and don't forget to [#read20](#)

[#chooselwcs](#)



## THE LAKE WALES LEAD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
LAKE WALES CHARTER SCHOOLS

Volume 1, Issue 1, July 5, 2022

### THE 1.4% LITERACY COMMITMENT

Good day! This is your new superintendent Dr. Wayne Rodolfich. Welcome to the inaugural edition of *The Lake Wales Lead*—our LWCS newsletter! If you knew that spending 20 minutes a day reading with your child could change their life, would you do it? There is no better investment you can make in your child's future than developing the habit of reading.

The investment to READ 20 minutes each day represents 1.4% of your 24 hour day. The best part is, you can choose what to read—choose something you and your child love! READ books, magazines, technical manuals, or comics. Just READ!

It's never too early or late to read with your children—start the day they are born, or start today! Find a common time, perhaps bedtime, and read everyday. Not only are you creating a great habit of reading, but you are making memories with your child.

Not sure where to start? Our local public library has a great selection and will help make sure there is a steady supply of books available to your families.



One of the best resources for finding a good book is to ask other people: What are YOU reading right now? Here's what the Rodolfich family is currently reading:

Dr. Rodolfich to kindergarten son: [The Very Hungry Dinosaur](#)

Mrs. Rodolfich to elementary aged daughters: [Anne of Green Gables](#)

I can't wait to hear what YOUR family is reading! And I'll definitely ask when I see you, so be ready!



## THE LAKE WALES LEAD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
LAKE WALES CHARTER SCHOOLS

Volume 1, Issue 6, July 19, 2022

Dr. Ro is currently reading  
*Zero to One* by Peter Thiel

### READING IS A TEAM SPORT!

Our first newsletter outlined the importance of reading 20 minutes a day, but let's dig a little deeper into the WHO, WHY, and HOW of Read 20.

First, this goal is for ALL students from ages birth to infinity—not just elementary students! Yes, we want middle and high school students reading 20 minutes a day, too.

WHY? Well, reading, especially reading aloud to children

- improves language and listening skills
- activates the imagination
- increases and improves vocabulary
- and students who read 20 minutes a day typically score in the 90th percentile on tests like the ACT, which means scholarship dollars for your student!

HOW can we work together to Read 20? There are so many ways to get the whole family involved and reading together:

- Did you know you can have books sent to your house for FREE through the public library system? Visit [mycpc.org](#), click on PLUS Accounts, and follow the instructions to login and use your child's student ID number as their PIN and password to checkout!

- You can also get a FREE book each month from Florida's New Worlds Reading Initiative! Check your child's eligibility and enroll here: <https://www.newworldsreading.com/fl/en/enrollment.html>

- Choose books based on topics you and your children love: dinosaurs, time travel, animals, etc. Don't worry about reading level—just reading interest!

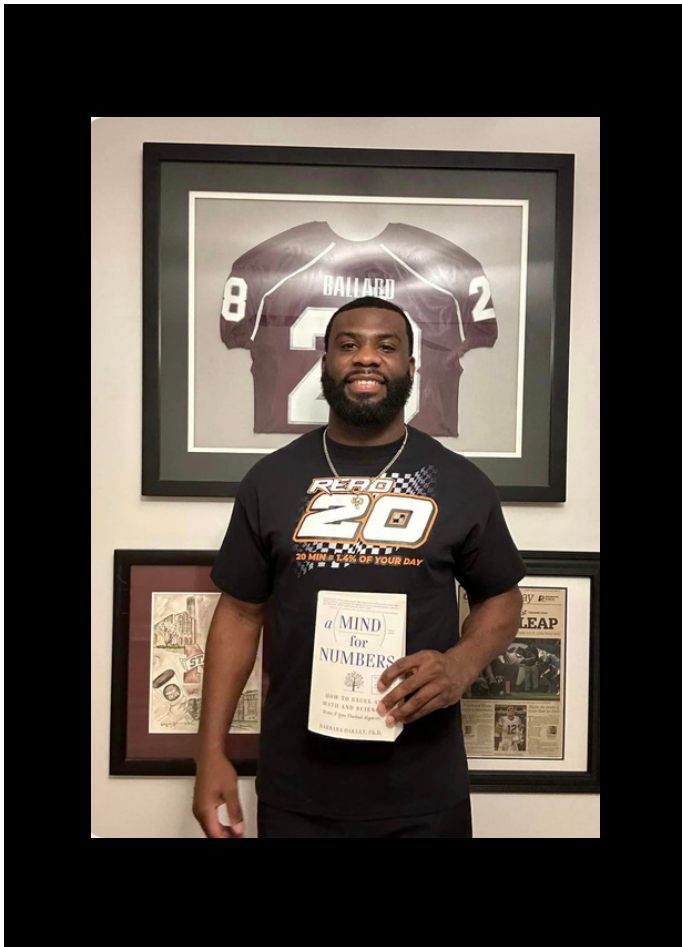
- Choose a reader--no one is too old or too young. Make it fun by using different voices for the characters.

- Finally, it's ok if your children interrupt the reading to ask questions—asking questions as they read is what good readers do!

As summer winds down and we start thinking about the new school year, I invite you to take this Read 20 Pledge with us:

- I PLEDGE to read TO my child 20 minutes a day before they can read.
  - I PLEDGE to read WITH my child 20 minutes a day while they are learning to read.
  - I PLEDGE to have my child read TO ME 20 minutes a day once they learn to read.
  - I will do this DAILY from BIRTH to INFINITY! \*20 minutes requires an investment of 1.4% of my day.
- Let's Read 20, Lake Wales!

# ARTIFACTS



## THE LAKE WALES LEAD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
LAKE WALES CHARTER SCHOOLS

Volume 2, Issue 12 September 16, 2022

Dr. Rio is currently reading:  
The Leadership Secrets of  
Nick Saban by John Talley

### READ, READ, READ!

Check out the current progress in our System goal to promote and encourage reading. We have completed the first full cycle of home visits. That means we have now visited homes from every school in our System and brought READ 20 pledge cards to 200 homes. People are not always home; they do not always answer the door or the phone, and it may not be ordinary for educators to make house calls, but we are still coming because we want to be extraordinary when it comes to the success of your children in our schools!

On every home visit, we ask parents what we can do to better serve our children in the Lake Wales Charter School System. You may have seen READ 20 bags full of books and resources hanging on doors. Maybe you have seen my READ 20-wrapped 4Runner driving around town, or maybe you've seen READ 20 signs in businesses or on school marquees. Literacy is a community commitment, and Lake Wales loves to READ! Even our preschoolers at Little Highlander Academy are involved in our READ 20 campaign!

We have been fortunate to acquire 25 business book partners who are helping us to encourage reading. These are businesses who allow us to place books in their waiting rooms and lobbies for students to read. If you already do this in your business, send us a picture, so we can add you to our list of literacy-friendly businesses.

Don't forget to read with your children 20 minutes today! 20 minutes - 14% of your day.



# ARTIFACTS

March 7 at 9:28 PM · 🌐

Thank you to the Lake Wales High School National Honor Society for donating several hundred books to our READ 20 campaign today as one of their projects. It is awesome to have our students helping to support our program. #READ20



Mr. Dale Ebcas has his READ 20 shirt and is ready to read!

Meet Mr. Dale Ebcas. In order to educate the children of Alaska, he travels by plane or boat to their communities. Dale is helping to spread the word about the importance of literacy. Thank you to Dr. Patti Permenter for helping with this testimonial.

Dale Ebcas has been a special education teacher for almost eight years and is currently teaching in one of the rural schools in the State of Alaska. Mr. Ebcas firmly believes that reading is the core foundation of education. He sees reading stories in the classroom as an avenue for him to connect with his students and bond with them. He strongly supports the idea that reading ignites creativity, sparks curiosity, and stimulates the imagination of young children. He is excited to continue his twenty minutes daily reading commitment to his students in Alaska. His words,

"Just today I started the 20 minutes commitment with preschool students at Joseph Olinga Gregory Elementary School." "It was awesome, the kids love to listen to adults read to them especially if they can relate to it."

Thank you Dale for your commitment to children and literacy.

#read20 #chooselwcs





# ARTIFACTS

Dr. Wayne Rodolfich  
Superintendent  
Lake Wales Charter Schools  
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**READ  
20**

Lake Wales Charter Schools  
Our Vision Is One Learning Community Of Great Schools Where All Students Flourish

*Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help your child in the Lake Wales Charter Schools.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'W. Rodolfich', is located at the bottom right of the handwritten note.

# ARTIFACTS

**GOOD COOKING**  
Sunshine & clouds  
Local nutritionist Tim Scallon's recipe for Chicken and Rice Soup a tasty example of the balance that's key to diet. life. PAGE 5A



**ONLINE THURSDAY**  
Cutting glass  
The city of Lufkin is discontinuing glass recycling at the end of the month due to continued contamination.



**SPORTS**  
PCA clips Central in thriller  
It was going to take a special performance to knock off a determined Central Lady Bulldogs team on their Senior Night. Pineywoods Community Academy was up to the task. PAGE 1B

## THE LUFKIN DAILY NEWS

LUFKINDAILYNEWS.COM WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023 \$2.00

CITY OF LUFKIN

### 2 more ambulance servers to operate

By JESS HUFF  
The Lufkin Daily News

Years after the COVID-19 pandemic sent into U.S. and local hospitals still struggle with capacity issues. As a result, the city of Lufkin permitted two new ambulance companies to transport patients to out-of-town hospitals. City ordinances require medical transportation services to obtain certificates of public convenience and necessity to operate within city limits, city manager Kevin Goe said. Two ambulance companies applied to provide non-emergency ambulance services: Team Ambulance Company and City Ambulance Company.

The city currently permits Acadian Ambulance Services and Allegiance Ambulance Services, but their certificates expire in June 2023, Goe said.

And both companies said they would be unable to expand their operations to address hospital capacity issues, Lufkin fire chief Jesse Moody said in a memorandum to the city council.

"COVID really caused issues in the health care system with capacity," Moody said in an interview with The Lufkin Daily News. "Employees left, and at the same time, the colleges and training schools that had trained all the replacements closed."

As a result, hospitals have had a rough time finding enough employees to staff the hospital while also facing the same call volume they had, he said. There have been 12- to 14-hour waits to get patients to hospitals, even on routine calls.



HEALTH CARE

### Reading remedy



Southland Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center receptionist Mary Grider reads "Where the Wild Things Are" by Maurice Sendak Tuesday to facility residents and their therapy dog Brons.

### Nursing facility introduces READ 20 program to boost residents' well-being

By KATLEY FRAZE  
The Lufkin Daily News

Receptionist Mary Grider sat in a chair reading "Where the Wild Things Are" to a group of residents at Southland Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center. The facility recently introduced READ 20 — a commitment to read to and with their patients every day — because it improves sleep and reduces anxiety, stress and symptoms of depression, administrative training Joe Morales said.



The program was started by Wayne Rodolfich, superintendent of Lake Wales Charter Schools in Florida. Morales and Rodolfich attended Delta State University together, which is how Morales discovered the program.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### Grand jury indicts man in heist of ATM, heavy equipment

By JESS HUFF  
The Lufkin Daily News

An Anglin County grand jury in late January indicted a local man accused of using heavy equipment in 2018 to haul a stolen ATM away from Regency Bank and open it behind Anglin College's baseball field.

Adam Clark Crews, 36, had not been arrested by any local law enforcement agency as of 2023 on Tuesday, county records show. He is accused of theft of property worth between \$150,000 and \$300,000.

Crews reportedly stole between \$150,000 and \$300,000 from Regency Bank, a dump truck from Miller Brown, a lift from The Artline Corporation and a truck box from Anglin's Excavating. Each piece of equipment was listed as valued between \$30,000 and \$150,000.

College officials discovered the stolen

SEE GRAND JURY, PAGE 7A

NARANJO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

### Dancing with Dinos on tap for Saturday

By KATLEY FRAZE  
The Lufkin Daily News

The Narano Museum of Natural History will be taking the community back in time by about 200 million years Saturday during its Dancing with Dinos Gala. Dancing with Dinos — set for 6 p.m. at the Piner Garrison Convention Center — is the museum's annual event to raise money for museum maintenance, exhibit

**If you go**  
What: Dancing with Dinos Gala  
When: 6 p.m. Saturday  
Where: Piner Garrison Convention Center  
Admission: Tickets are \$75 per person or \$400 per table and can be purchased online at times.

8A WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023 THE LUFKIN DAILY NEWS

Reading

Continued from Page 5A  
"It's not an adult experience for our residents," he said. "Our ultimate goal is to provide an experience that will benefit our residents socially and also health-wise."



Southland Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center administrator in training Joe Morales discusses READ 20, a commitment to read to and with patients every day.



Southland Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center receptionist Mary Grider reads "Where the Wild Things Are" by Maurice Sendak Tuesday to Brons the therapy dog and residents at the facility.

"Some of these people had dogs in their homes before they came here so they enjoy having the company of a dog again," she said. "It's rewarding for them to be able to pet."

Receptionist director Maria Harbeck said the program helps with the residents' mental health and allows them to stay active.

"Any kind of mental activity they do — listening to music, word searches — helps," she said. "They benefit from so reading to them and they benefit from reading independently."

READ 20 was introduced at Southland Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center last week, she said. "We are trying to figure out what works best for the residents. Morales said she encourages other facilities to implement this program because it has been

Gala

Continued from Page 5A  
event manager Clark Harbeck said. "The evening will consist of dinner provided by Trout Catering, a live DJ, dancing and an open bar," Harbeck said. There also will be a silent auction, a live auction and a dessert auction. All proceeds will help fund Narano Museum summer camp, Artfest Identification Workshops, Piner Lake Projects and Spring Break at the Narano Museum.



Supporters of the Narano Museum of Natural History mingle during the 2023 Dancing with Dinos at the Piner Garrison Convention Center. Photo: KATLEY FRAZE

Lake Wales Charter Schools  
November 18, 2022 · 🌐

Sheriff Grady Judd and his deputies understand the importance of reading and encourage you to #READ20 every day!

#chooselwcs #daregreatly #lifelongreaders



See insights and ads

Boost post

👍❤️👍 56

2 comments 8 shares

to me ▾

Dr. Rodolfich,

I am so sorry that missed you on Tuesday for Maggie's home visit. She loved the little Read 20 bag and the book! Thanks so much for going out of your way to make our students and families feel important! Happy Friday!