

The background is a light blue gradient. In the corners, there are clusters of pink cherry blossoms with green leaves. A bright sunburst is visible on the left side, partially obscured by the blossoms.

Burr Oak Community Schools
326 E. Eagle Street
Burr Oak, MI 49030

Oak Openings
Burr Oak Community Schools
April 2026

From the Superintendent's Desk

Welcome back, Burr Oak families! I sincerely hope you enjoyed a restful and rejuvenating Spring Break with your loved ones. As we return to the hallways this April, our focus shifts toward preparation, growth, and the final stretch of the academic year.

April is a pivotal month in the school calendar—a season of both preparation and standardized testing. We are eager to "jump back in" and support our students as they showcase the hard work they have put in since September. While this year has brought its share of challenges, it has been equally filled with exciting milestones, and I am incredibly proud of the resilience our students and staff have shown.

District-Wide Trip: Belle Isle

As we look toward our end-of-year celebrations, we are currently in the final planning phases for our **Belle Isle District-Wide Trip**. This is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to connect and explore together.

- **Chaperones Needed:** We are looking for volunteers to help make this trip a success. If you are interested in joining us, please visit the main office to pick up a volunteer/background check form.
- **Permission Slips:** Detailed permission slips will be sent home in the coming weeks.
- **Final Details:** A full itinerary and specific trip details will be finalized and shared by **Friday, April 10, 2026**.

A Strong Finish

As we wind down the school year, let's maintain our momentum. Attendance and focus during these next few weeks are critical for student success. Thank you for your continued partnership and for choosing Burr Oak for your child's education.

Dr. Kelvin Butts



Updated Daily Student Schedule

Elementary K-4	Middle School (5-8)	High School (9-12)
Drop off 7:20 to 7:45 At 7:20 students will be escorted down to the cafeteria for breakfast 7:45 School Starts 7:45 - 11:37 Block 1 11:37 - 12:05 Lunch 12:08 - 2:41 Block 2	Drop off 7:30 to 7:45 Students may enter class or go to the cafeteria for breakfast 7:45 School Starts 7:45 - 8:47 MS Specials 8:50 - 9:53 Core 9:56 - 10:59 Core 11:02 - 12:05 Core 12:05 - 12:33 Lunch 12:36 - 1:36 Core 1:39 - 2:41 MS Interventions	Drop off 7:35 to 7:45 Students may enter class or go to the cafeteria for breakfast 7:45 School Starts 7:45 - 8:47 1st Hour 8:50 - 9:53 2nd Hour 9:56 - 10:59 3rd Hour 11:02 - 12:05 4th Hour 12:05 - 12:33 Lunch 12:36 - 1:36 5th Hour 1:39 - 2:41 6th Hour



April 2026

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			1 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	2 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	3 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	4 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL
5 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 District Wide Field Trip to Belle Isle		



April Lunch

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6 Burrito Green beans Baby carrots Tropical fruit Apple slices Garbanzo beans	7 Pepperoni pizza Steamed corn Grape tomatoes Mandarin oranges Golden apples	8 Chicken sandwich Celery sticks Pineapple Grapes Cauliflower	9 Mac and cheese Cheese breadstick Cucumber Dragon fruit juice Clementine Strawberry & pineapple mix	10 Pepperoni pizza Green beans Broccoli Pineapple chunks Granny smith apples
13 Beef dippers Steamed carrots Baby sweet peppers Diced pears Clementine Cool ranch Doritos	14 Corn dog Cauliflower Pear Mandarin oranges Kidney beans	15 Cheeseburger Potato smiles Cherry tomatoes Diced peaches Gala apples	16 Chicken alfredo Baby carrots Banana Mandarin oranges Roll	17 Chicken drumstick Sweet potato fries Broccoli buds Diced peaches Banana Roll
20 Hamburger Diced peaches Apples Steamed green peas Baby carrots Chocolate chip cookie	21 Stroganoff with noodles Celery sticks with peanut butter Mandarin oranges Pear Cauliflower	22 Hot dog Broccoli Diced pears Slushy cup Baked beans	23 Beef nachos with Tostito chips Romaine ribbons Shredded cheese Baby carrots Black beans Banana Michigan apples	24 Popcorn chicken Baby carrots Steamed corn Pineapple Grapes Cheez-It crackers
27 Chicken nuggets Baby carrots Steamed peas Clementine Applesauce Cheetos baked puffs	28 Taco stick Diced pears Banana Baby sweet peppers Cauliflower Pinto beans	29 BBQ rib sandwich Steamed corn Pineapple chunks Fresh strawberries Celery sticks	30 Grape PB&J Cheese stick Strawberry kiwi sidekick Cucumbers Baby carrots Pears Heart pretzels	1 3 cheese pizza bites Broccoli Mixed fruit Grapes

Parent Notification: Spring 2026 State Assessments

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we move into the final months of the school year, we want to inform you about the upcoming Michigan state assessments. These evaluations help us understand how well our students are mastering Michigan's high academic standards and provide valuable data to help our teachers tailor instruction to meet every student's needs.

Testing Schedule

Our school will be administering the following assessments during the month of April:

- **Grades 3–7: M-STEP** (English Language Arts and Mathematics)
- **Grades 5, 8, & 11: M-STEP** (Science and Social Studies)
- **Grade 8: PSAT 8/9**
- **Grades 9 & 10: PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10**
- **Grade 11 (Michigan Merit Exam): SAT with Essay, ACT WorkKeys, and M-STEP**

How You Can Help

While these tests are just one measure of your child's academic journey, we want them to feel confident and prepared. You can support your student by:

1. **Ensuring a Good Night's Sleep:** A well-rested mind performs best.
2. **Providing a Healthy Breakfast:** Students should have plenty of energy to focus.
3. **Prompt Attendance:** Please ensure your child arrives at school on time.
4. **Charging Devices:** For digital testing, please remind your student to charge their school-issued Chromebook the night before.
5. **A Positive Attitude:** Remind your child that this is simply a chance to "show what they know."

Important Reminders

- **Electronic Devices:** Per state security guidelines, cell phones, smartwatches, and other Bluetooth-enabled devices are **prohibited** in the testing room. We recommend students leave these items at home or in their lockers.
- **Attendance:** Please avoid scheduling doctor's appointments or out-of-school activities on your child's designated testing days.

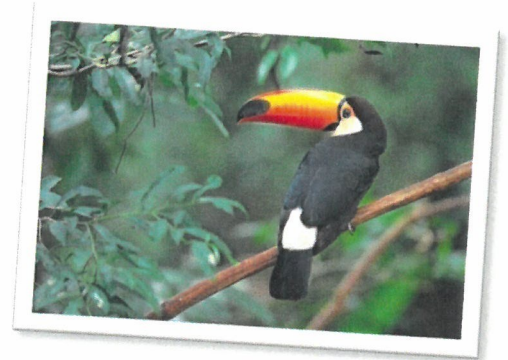
We are so proud of the hard work your students have put in this year. Our goal is to make the testing environment as stress-free and productive as possible.

April

2026

Burr Oak Community Schools

Assessment Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
SPRING BREAK						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 (3-7 TH GRADE) MSTEP ELA (8-10 TH GRADE) PSAT (11 TH GRADE) SAT	15 (3-7 TH GRADE) MSTEP MATH MAKE UP (8-10 TH GRADE) PSAT MAKE UP (11 TH GRADE) SAT	16 (5, 8, 11 TH GRADE) MSTEP SCIENCE MAKE UP (8-10 TH GRADE) PSAT MAKE UP (11 TH GRADE) SAT	17	18
19	20	21 (5 th GRADE) MSTEP Social Studies (11 th Grade) WIN Work Readiness	22 MAKE UP (5 th GRADE) MSTEP Social Studies MAKE UP (11 th Grade) WIN Work Readiness	23 MAKE UP All Assessments	24	25
26	27	28 MAKE UP All Assessments	29 MAKE UP All Assessments	30		

Weather Information

In the event school is closed or delayed due to severe weather conditions, or for other reasons the following radio and television stations will be informed by 6:30am, or as close to that time as possible.

Radio:

WBET: 99.3

WLKM: 95.9

Television

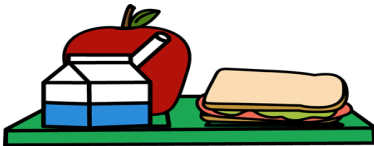
WWMT: Channel 3

Burr Oak Community Schools will also notify families of cancellations and delays through our automated system that will call and/or text.

If bad weather develops during the day, administrators use technology and other resources available to make the best decision for the safety and welfare of the students. However, students are not sent home before regular dismissal time unless there has been significant notice given through radio broadcast.

Free/Reduced Lunch

Great news! All students enrolled at Burr Oak Community Schools will receive free breakfast and lunch everyday for the 2025/2026 school year.



Pesticide Notification

In compliance with the Department of Agriculture and Plant Management Division, Regulation No. 637, Burr Oak Community Schools is providing notification when each building in the district is treated with pesticide. All buildings are routinely treated with a pesticide by Orkin Pest Control the first Friday of each month. Any questions please feel free to reach out to maintenance supervisor Trent Conklin (269)-489-2213

School Supplies

Basic school supplies will be provided to the students by the school district.



Alternative Education Options

Step Up – Students that may qualify for Step include, but are not limited to students who are academically behind, beyond traditional school age, pregnant, or teen parent.

My Virtual Academy– For those students that do not fit in a traditional brick and mortar school environment.

These are both free options for all students

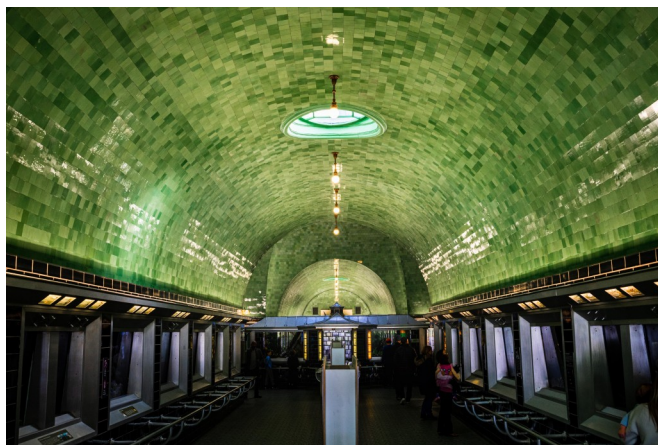
www.myvirtualacademy.com



Looking Ahead

Belle Isle District-wide Field Trip

April 30, 2026





Classroom Announcements

GSRP Ms. Theresa Solis

Spring is just around the corner, and the GSRP kids are buzzing with excitement! This season, we will dive into the fascinating world of seeds and explore how plants grow. Our caterpillars are set to arrive, providing a wonderful opportunity to learn about their transformation into beautiful butterflies.

But that's not all! We'll also kick off preparations for our graduation program. When you hear the children singing new songs at home, be sure to ask them about it!

It's an exciting time filled with learning and growth.

Thank you for your continued support!

Warm regards
Ms Theresa

Kindergarten Ms. Hernandez

The Kindergarten class is truly starting to improve their reading skills. Each student receives a small book to take home each week to read to their family.

The students shared their favorite math activities in Kindergarten.

Geoboards are exciting for Allison, Jacob, Gunnar, Blake, Jupiter, and Remi.

Working with teddy bear counters is enjoyable for Levi, Lilly, and Curtis.

Pattern blocks are the choice for Cohlton, Ryan, and Asher.

Connecting it together with linking cubes is the favorite for Gabby, Alvin, and Serenity.

Math is enjoyable for these students with all the hands-on manipulatives.

Have a great spring break, everyone.

Happy Easter to our special Kindergarten bunnies- Allison, Ryan, Jacob, Jupiter, Cohlton, Alvin, Asher, Lilli, Gunnar, Remi, Levi, Lilly, Blake, Gabby, Curtis, and Serenity.



Classroom Announcements

First & Second Grade - Mr. Hunt

First grade has been learning about measuring and shapes in math. They used blocks to measure items around the room during the measuring unit. In reading they have been working on a variety of vowel teams that make long "u" and "o" sounds.

Second has been learning about counting coins/money in math. They started by learning how to identify each coin and how much it is worth. In reading they have been working on VCCCV words and prefixes "un" and "re".

Both classes in writing have been working on writing opinion stories. Each day they are given a new prompt to write about.

In science both classes have been learning more about animals and their habitats. They learned about some of the unique characteristics animals and plants have that help them survive in harsh environments like the desert, arctic, etc.

Third Grade - Mrs. Tom

3rd Grade News

Third grade students will begin the month with M-STEP test preparation as they get ready to show all they have learned this year. After testing, we will start a novel study of *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown. During this unit, students will review and apply key reading skills such as comprehension, identifying important details, and using text evidence. In writing, students will create their own short stories, bringing together grammar, structure, and descriptive language. In Social Studies, students will learn about Michigan's economy and how it impacts our state today.

4th Grade News

Fourth grade students will also begin the month with M-STEP test preparation. After testing, we will move into a novel study of *Holes* by Louis Sachar. Throughout this unit, students will review and apply important reading skills, including comprehension and the use of text evidence. In writing, students will create their own short stories, combining grammar, organization, and creativity. In Social Studies, students will explore the automobile industry and how it continues to impact our lives today.



Classroom Announcements

Fourth Grade Mr. Johnson

3rd & 4th Grade Math Updates

Hello Families,

April is a month full of growth, new skills, and hands-on math learning. Here's what each grade will be exploring.

3rd Grade: Graphs & Pictographs

Our 3rd graders are diving into data! Students will learn how to collect information and display it in clear, visual ways.

What We're Learning

- Reading and creating pictographs
- Understanding keys and symbols
- Making and interpreting bar graphs
- Using data to answer real-world questions

How Families Can Help

- Create a simple survey at home (favorite foods, games, pets) and graph the results together.
- Point out graphs you see in everyday life—weather apps, sports scores, or store charts.

4th Grade: Fractions & Decimals

Fourth graders will continue building strong fraction skills and begin connecting them to decimals.

What We're Learning

- Comparing and ordering fractions
 - Finding equivalent fractions
- Adding and subtracting fractions with like denominators
 - Understanding tenths and hundredths
- Writing fractions as decimals and decimals as fractions

How Families Can Help

- Use money to show decimals (1 dime = 0.1, 1 penny = 0.01).
- Ask your child to explain how they know two fractions are equivalent.
- Practice reading decimals on price tags or measuring tools.



Classroom Announcements

Social Studies Ms. Lester

10th Grade- The Political Development of Imperial China is the upcoming lesson. Students will describe the reunification of China under the Sui and Tang dynasties. Thus explaining how the imperial state developed, and evaluate different methods of selecting officials in imperial China. Minor practice away from the textbook is how to interpret timeline questions.

9th Grade- We are finishing the reading of articles and amendments of the Constitution, labeling the three branches of government and how they keep each other in check. With us being close to the last semester, I let the students vote for the lesson from the textbook. The vote was overwhelmingly, "The Course and Conduct of World War I."

8th Grade- We have paused our work in the textbook to start preparing students for their Junior High Graduation. Students have been making their first resume, creating business cards of their summer jobs, and creating their Portfolio Slideshow to present to parents at the 8th grade dinner on the 10th. I look forward to seeing everyone!

7th Grade- Students also got to vote on their next unit in the text book and we were deadlocked between the units, Ancient Rome and Ancient Greece. To avoid disappointing educational interest, I agreed to do two lessons out of each unit for the remainder of the semester.

6th Grade- Students have covered United States work ethic and consumption patterns, while evaluating the effect it has on international markets and GDP. The lesson going forward will start to move into Latin America. We will review the human & physical geography of the region, hurricanes in the Caribbean, ending with land use conflicts in the Amazon Rainforest.

5th Grade- With little minds in mind, we reviewed Slavery in the Americas and the effect it had on both West Africa and America. The next lesson we will jump to the last unit in the textbook, Manifest Destiny to Today. The theme in this unit is Americans settling out West, causes and battles in the Civil War, ending in the second Industrial Age.



Classroom Announcements

Mr. Rick

History of Foods- 5th Grade

A new batch of students who have little experience in the kitchen. My goal is to give them that confidence to be able to feed themselves and their families with basic food items. It takes a lot longer for each student to do the project of the day than it did the 6th-8th grade students.

World History- 10th Grade

We are studying the American and French Revolutions now. Next, we will study the Industrial Revolution. Outstanding students are: Audrianna A., Hudson B., Jersie C., Blake G., Michael H., Hope K., Spencer M., Hanna P., Raegan S., and Ivan V..

Government- 11th Grade

We are studying what the duties of the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate members are. We will be studying how a bill becomes a law. Outstanding students are: Brayden B., Braxton B., Keyton K., Coen M., Louis R., Lance S., Jasyme W., and Payten D..

Career Prep

On April 15th and 16th, the seniors have to successfully present their portfolios to a 2 person panel. This is a graduation requirement of BOHS. The students are evaluated on 12 different criteria. These criteria range from how they dress, to how well they communicate. The portfolio presentations are designed to show that our graduating seniors have the skills to make it in the real world.

High School Math Mr. Shilling

In the high school math room we are fully shifting to our final content areas to wind down the semester. The Algebra 1 students are making generalizations about the many kinds of transformations that can be applied to any function. The Geometry students are thinking about position and movement using vectors. Algebra 2 is very deep in their studying and preparing for the SAT. The seniors in consumer math are wrapping up learning about CD accounts and other similar investments that put their money to work for them. I have been very happy with student participation and work this semester so far and hope they all stick with it and finish strong.



Classroom Announcements

Mrs. Everett
Middle School ELA

As we approach Spring Break, all is in flux here at Burr Oak Middle School. We have changes in schedules, weather, and sports seasons, to name a few.

Amidst all of this, unless properly opted out, your students will be administered M-Step testing shortly after Spring Break.

Please monitor the school calendar pertaining to the testing dates. It is recommended that your students get plenty of rest prior to testing. Students at this age require 8-10 hours of sleep per night. It is also helpful to have a healthy breakfast. We always provide breakfast at the school as well, at no charge to our students. One last thing that would be helpful is to send a water bottle with your student. Hydration is important for brain power!

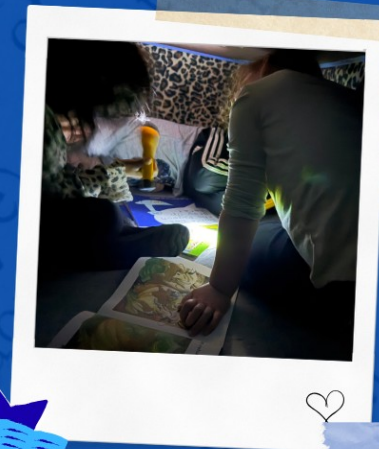
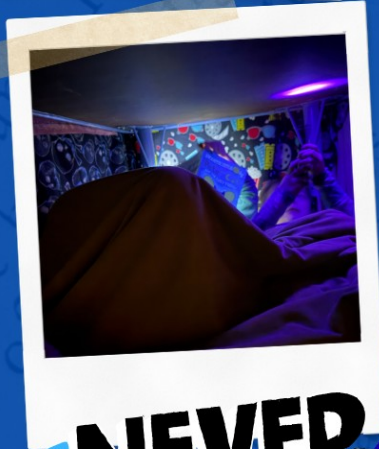
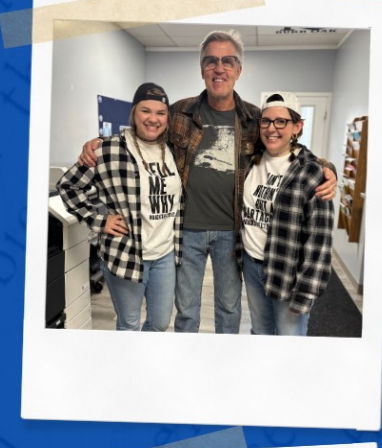
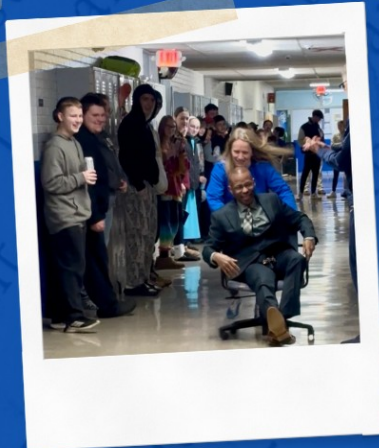
As the final few weeks of school are flying by, please take some time to make a game plan for summer reading. The priority of summer is family time and exposure to lots of experiences that time and weather do not allow at other times of the year.

Everything we expose our kids to builds a foundation for future learning, so these experiences are extremely valuable. Also, staying exposed to reading keeps the brain primed for learning for the fall. :O) I always encourage families to keep reading fun. Read together, have read-alouds, find reading in public, and have fun and interesting things to read such as comic books, graphic novels, kids' magazines, and develop your kids' interests with further information.

Lastly, we have been blessed, once again, through the "Donors Choose" program with 20 copies of "How to Eat Fried Worms". My students are super excited about this novel, particularly my fifth graders. This is going to be a fun way to start our year in the fall, and I am very grateful for the donors of this program who have blessed us with fun learning materials.

MARCH IS READING MONTH ACTIVITIES

A
READER
LIVES A
THOUSAND
LIVES



NEVER
STOP
READING

MARCH 2026

*District-wide
trip to*

Belle Isle

- Charter busses will be taking Staff and Students to the Belle Isle Aquarium on April 30, 2026.
- Busses will leave at approximately 8 AM and return around 4 PM.
- Lunches will be provided.
- Permission slips and more information will be coming soon.

