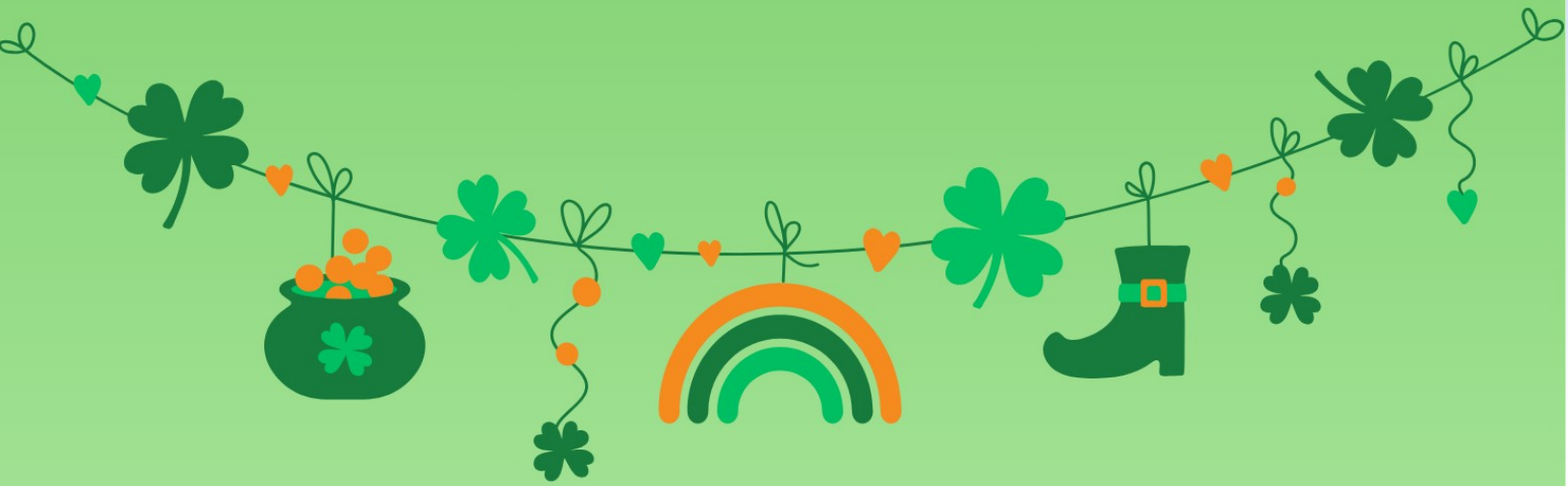


Burr Oak Community Schools
326 E. Eagle Street
Burr Oak, MI 49030



Oak Openings
Burr Oak Community Schools
March 2026



From the Superintendent's Desk: A Month of Discovery

Dear Burr Oak Families, Students, and Staff,

Welcome to March!

This is one of my favorite months of the year because we officially kick off “**March is Reading Month.**” This year, our theme is “**Passport to Adventure: Where Will Your Book Take You?**”

We are transforming our hallways into a gateway to the world. We encourage every student to dive into their books to earn stamps in their personal Reading Passports. These stamps aren't just marks on a page—they are tickets to our exciting culminating ceremony at the end of the month! We are thrilled to see our students' imaginations take flight.

Important Update: Our School Calendar As you know, this winter brought its share of inclement weather and unexpected disruptions. To remain in compliance with Michigan law—which mandates **180 days and 1,098 hours** of instruction—we must proactively make up for the time lost.

To protect our planned breaks and avoid extending the school year into June, we will be **adding 3 minutes to each class period starting Monday, March 16, 2026.** Additionally, we have submitted a waiver to the Michigan Department of Education for our allotted "snow days" in hopes of keeping our current end-of-year date intact. The updated daily schedule is attached to this newsletter for your reference.

A Day of Discovery: Belle Isle In the spirit of adventure, keep an eye out for permission slips for our upcoming district-wide expedition: “**A Day of Discovery: Belle Isle.**” We believe that providing our students with new environments and hands-on experiences is vital to a well-rounded education. We want our students to see that the world is their classroom.

Finally, I want to extend my sincere thanks to this community for your continuous support. Together, we strive to **provide an environment where every student is challenged, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential.**

Proud to be a Bobcat,

Dr. Kelvin Butts

Superintendent, Burr Oak Community Schools



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



March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 8th Grade Exit Interviews at 6:00 P.M.	11	12	13 End of 3rd Marking Period	14
15	16	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	28 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL
29 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	30 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	31 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	1 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	2 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	3 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	4 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL

March Lunch

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Beef dippers Steamed carrots Baby sweet peppers Diced pears Clementine Cool ranch Doritos	3 Corn dog Cauliflower Pear Mandarin oranges Kidney beans	4 Cheeseburger Potato smiles Cherry tomatoes Diced peaches Gala apples	5 Chicken alfredo Baby carrots Banana Mandarin oranges Roll	6 Pepperoni Pizza Green beans Broccoli Pineapple chunks Granny smith apples
9 Hamburger Diced peaches Apples Steamed green peas Baby carrots Chocolate chip cookies	10 Stroganoff with noodles Celery sticks with peanut butter Mandarin oranges Pear Cauliflower	11 Hot dog Broccoli Diced pears Slushy cup Baked beans	12 Beef nachos with Tostito chips Romaine ribbons Shredded cheese Baby carrots Black beans Banana Michigan apple	13 Popcorn chicken Baby carrots Steamed corn Pineapple Grapes Cheez-it crackers
16 Chicken nuggets Baby carrots Steamed peas Clementine Applesauce Cheetos baked puffs	17 Taco stick Diced pears Banana Baby sweet peppers Cauliflower Pinto beans	18 Grape PB&J Cheese stick Strawberry kiwi sidekick Cucumbers Baby carrots Pear Heart pretzels	19 BBQ rib sandwich Steamed corn Pineapple chunks Fresh strawberries Celery sticks	20 3 cheese pizza bites Broccoli Mixed fruit Grapes
23 Chicken tenders Diced pears Clementine Steamed corn Baby carrots Sun chips	24 Pulled pork sandwich Tropical fruit Apple slices Broccoli Black beans	25 Cheese omelet French toast Mixed fruit Blueberries Cucumbers Dragon juice	26 Goulash with roll Petite banana Pineapple Baby sweet peppers Celery sticks	28 NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK
30 NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK	31 NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK			

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.

Student Testing

What Parents Can Do to Help Students Prepare

As a parent and your child's first teacher, you can help your child understand and prepare for the assessments they will take in school. Here are some points that will help your child perform their best:

Find out the facts: To start, review the Michigan Department of Education website for the test(s) your child will take. These pages include valuable information on state assessments and the Spring testing calendar:

[Michigan Merit Exam \(MME\)](http://www.michigan.gov/mme) (www.michigan.gov/mme)

[M-STEP](http://www.michigan.gov/mstep) (www.michigan.gov/mstep)

[MI-Access](http://www.michigan.gov/mi-access) (www.michigan.gov/mi-access)

[Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark](http://www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath)
(www.michigan.gov/earlylitandmath)

[WIDA web page](http://www.michigan.gov/wida) (www.michigan.gov/wida)

Talk to your child about testing: Let them know that assessment is a regular part of learning. Make sure they understand why they are being tested and how it is important to their future.

Keep state tests in perspective: Reduce your child's anxiety about the test by reminding them that it is just one measure of learning, and another way to find out where their academic strengths and weaknesses are. Remind them of what they do well, and how they have improved with effort.

Take a look at the state practice opportunities and encourage your child to practice at home: Not only will this help you better understand the types of questions your child will be answering, it will help familiarize your child with the test format and features. If your child is struggling, let the teacher know so when your child takes the test, the focus can be more on test content and less on test navigation.

- M-STEP, MI-Access, and Early Literacy and Mathematics Benchmark Assessment Online Tools Training and M-STEP sample test items can be found on each test's web page
- PSAT™ and SAT® sample test items can be found on the [College Board website](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat) (<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>)
- WIDA offers family engagement resources on the [WIDA website](http://wida.wisc.edu/teach/learners/engagement) (wida.wisc.edu/teach/learners/engagement)

Make sure that your child is well rested and eats a high protein, low sugar/carb breakfast: Children who are tired, hungry or have too much sugar and carbs are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of a test.

Remember—Attending school matters: Tests reflect children's overall knowledge and achievement. Missing school means missing instruction.

Meet with your child's teacher as often as possible to discuss progress:

Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home to increase and reinforce student learning.

Learn what your child should be learning in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies: Michigan learning standards can be found on the [State Standards web page](http://tinyurl.com/mistatestandards) (<http://tinyurl.com/mistatestandards>). In addition, the PTA has developed the PTA Parents' Guide to Success, which gives descriptions of the skills and knowledge your child is expected to gain every year.



Testing Facts to Share with Your Child

- Tests are just one way teachers, schools, districts, and states use to measure what students know and how well they are learning what is taught.
- The purpose of a state assessment is to ensure our state's schools do the best job possible in preparing students to become successful, based on a set of agreed-upon standards.
- Because the state test is exactly aligned with Michigan's standards, test questions should be a natural extension of what students are learning every day in their classrooms.

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

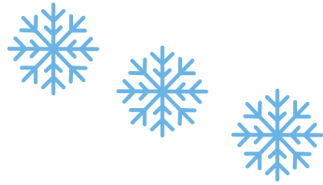
WLKM: 95.9

Television

WWMT: Channel 3

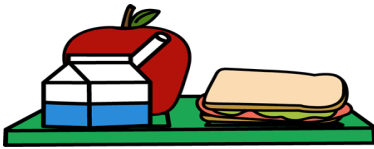
Burr Oak Community Schools will also notify families of cancellations and delays through our automated system that will call and/or text.

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.

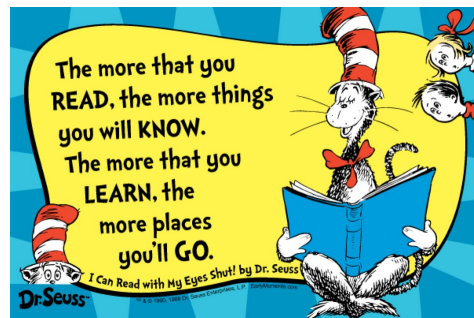
These are both free options for all students

www.myvirtualacademy.com



Looking Ahead

March Is Reading Month
March 1—31, 2026



Spring Break
March 27—April 3, 2026

Burr Oak Community Schools

Freshman Orientation

March 10, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.

Welcome Mr. Rick Ultz
-**Career Prep Coordinator**

Invocation Mr. Rick Ultz

Buffet Supper Prepared by the 8th
grade class

High School Expectations Dr. Kelvin Butts
-**Superintendent**

Presentation Craig Tournquist
-**Comedian**

Exit Interviews



Classroom Announcements

GSRP Ms. Theresa Solis

Spring is just around the corner, and there's a buzz of excitement in the air! March is National Reading Month, and we have a variety of activities planned to celebrate the joy of reading. Our preschoolers will engage in fun storytelling sessions, innovative reading challenges, and a chance to explore their favorite books in creative ways.

In addition to reading, our little learners are eager to dive into the world of gardening this spring. They'll discover how seeds grow and even have the wonderful opportunity to observe the magical transformation of caterpillars becoming butterflies!

Exciting things are happening at GRSP, and we can't wait to share these experiences with our community. Stay tuned for more updates and let's make this Spring a season of growth and discovery!

Kindergarten Ms. Hernandez

During these months after winter break, the time seems to go by so quickly in the Kindergarten classroom. The students love to read, sing, count, draw, participate in story time, and interact with each other. They have been very busy practicing to increase their math and language skills. We had a great Valentine's Celebration. There were plenty of sweets to eat, and the students loved passing out their valentines to their classmates. March is the month of reading. To celebrate, we will be doing many things to encourage reading throughout the month of March. Please keep reading to your child as often as possible! Enjoy the month, and hopefully Spring will be here before we know it!



Classroom Announcements

First & Second Grade - Mr. Hunt

In ELA, second grade has been learning about silent letters. "K", "GN", "MB" and "WR" were the majority of the focus this week. In ELA, first grade has been learning about many vowel teams like "oi" and "oy" and also "ai" and "ay". They also spent a day on turning "y" to "i" when adding suffixes.

In writing we have continued to write personal narratives, true stories that have happened to them. We wrote about a day they will never forget, a favorite holiday/birthday, a time they got hurt and more.

In math, second grade has been learning about telling time on an analog clock. The second grade standard is to know how to tell time to 5 minute intervals. This class has done such a great job that I taught them down to the minute! I figured if they can do down to 5 minute intervals, it isn't a big step to go down to the minute. In math, first grade has also been learning about clocks and telling time. We have been focusing on telling time to the hour and half hour. We discussed why it's called half-past, why there are only 12 numbers on a clock and more.

In science both classes have been learning about different habitats. The 3 main ones are the desert, rainforest and coral reef. They learned about the different varieties of plants and animals that live in each habitat and some of their special features that help them survive there.



Classroom Announcements

Third Grade - Mrs. Tom

3rd Grade News

Third grade students have been building their reading and writing skills through biographies, narrative nonfiction, and informational texts. They are learning how to identify important details, understand key ideas, and use text evidence to support their thinking. In writing, students have had lots of practice using adjectives and adverbs to make their sentences more detailed and engaging. They are also strengthening their opinion writing by clearly stating their viewpoints and supporting them with strong reasons. In Social Studies, students are exploring the history of Michigan, learning about important events and how the state has changed over time.

4th Grade News

Fourth grade students have been strengthening their reading skills through biographies and informational texts, with a special focus on text features such as headings, captions, maps, diagrams, and bold words that help us learn and locate important information. Students are practicing using these features to support their answers with text evidence. In writing, we have been working on basic grammar skills along with exploring poetry and developing strong opinion writing pieces. Students are learning how to clearly state their opinions and support them with thoughtful reasons and examples. In Social Studies, students are learning about the Underground Railroad and its impact on our nation's history.

Fourth Grade Mr. Johnson

Hello Families,

March is a month full of hands-on math learning, real-world practice, and growing confidence. Here's what each grade will be exploring.

3rd Grade: Telling Time & Measurement

Our 3rd graders are diving into two big math skills this month: reading clocks and measuring the world around them.

What We're Learning

- Telling time on analog and digital clocks
 - Reading to the nearest minute
 - Understanding a.m. and p.m.
 - Solving elapsed time problems
- Measuring length (inches, feet, yards, centimeters, meters)
 - Measuring weight (grams, kilograms)
 - Measuring liquid volume (cups, pints, quarts, liters)
- Choosing the right tool for the job (ruler, yardstick, measuring tape)

÷ 4th Grade: Fraction Foundations

Fourth graders are building strong fraction sense through visual models, number lines, and real-life applications.

What We're Learning

- Understanding unit fractions
- Comparing fractions using models and number lines
 - Finding equivalent fractions
- Adding and subtracting fractions with like denominators



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.

Mr. Rick

History of Foods

The 8th graders are busy getting ready to make supper for their parents on March 10th. On that night, they will prepare supper and serve their parents. We then will have a comedian present a program. The 8th graders then will present their portfolios to a staff member and their parents.

World History

We are studying the Renaissance period of history. Next, we will study the growth of notions. Outstanding students are Audrianna Ahlgrim, Hudson Boyles, Jersie Cornejo, Hope Keyer, Hanna Perry, Anita Ultz, and Ivan Vargas.

Government

We are just finishing up going through the U.S. Constitution. We will be studying how a bill becomes a law and the system of Checks and Balances.

Outstanding students are Braxton Boyles and Keyton Kelley.

Career Prep

Freshman Orientation

On March 10th at 6:00 p.m., the 8th grade students will serve supper to their parents. They will have prepared the meal during school hours.

After the meal, Craig Tournquist will have a comedy show involving students and parents. Following the show, the 8th grade students will present their portfolios to a staff member and their parents.

Parents, please reserve this date to see what your student has accomplished in middle school!



Classroom Announcements

High School Math Mr. Shilling

In Math, we are starting to work on using real world examples of problems to show that math can model just about anything in the real world if you try. The seniors are learning the ins and outs of how loans function, in that they are learning that if you pay extra on your loans then the amount of interest you pay over time is much less and that is beneficial. The Juniors are just now entering the trenches of preparing for the SAT in the hopes we can achieve some high scores. On an unrelated to math news, the wrestling team concluded their season this last Saturday as we had one wrestler make it to regionals and then sadly not move on to state. I hope in the future we can take more kids to wrestling competitions!

Mr. Cook Middle School Science

In Middle School Science the 5th grade has been learning about molecules and how they break down different substances. They have also been learning about how the atoms move around in a solid, liquid and gas. We have just started talking about the water cycle and the functions of evaporation, precipitation and condensation.

In 6th grade, they have been learning about weather and weather patterns. We have been learning about thermal energy and kinetic energy. We learned that solar blankets are warmer than wool blankets and when solar blankets are to be used.

In 7th grade, the students have been learning about rock formation. We have talked about the copper, gold, and oil reserves around the world. We have talked about Pangea and how fossils have been dispersed around the world and how the continents broke up. We also talked about the different layers of the earth.

In 8th grade, we were really focused on Newton's 3rd Law. We've talked about mass and motion and the effects when you add force to it. We have talked about and designed different bumpers cars.



Classroom Announcements

Mrs. Everett
Middle School ELA

In middle school art, I have very much enjoyed having the 5th grade for the third quarter. We have only one week left before they transition to their first year with Mr. Rick in Living Skills, which they are very excited about. Our greatest lesson this past quarter was to understand that, like any other skill, our first attempt at any art skill will not be perfect, but that is OK. Art is to be enjoyed, developed, and every students' piece will look different, which is what makes them all so beautiful. Moving from frustration to enjoyment was our greatest accomplishment.

In fifth grade ELA we are reading "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe", the second book in "The Chronicles of Narnia". This is my favorite series and I always enjoy sharing it with my classes. The students are usually surprised at how much they become enveloped in the story as well, as we work our way through the books. In sixth grade ELA we are beginning the book "Maniac Magee". Seventh grade and eighth grade are continuing "The Hobbit" and "The Fellowship of the Ring". "The Fellowship of the Ring" will be the next to the last novel for the eighth grade, and they will finish the unit with viewing the movie and a comparison study between the novel and movie.

Intervention hour students are working their way through 5th-7th grade sample MSTEP tests. They also enjoy free reading time and work at Khan Academy. This program appears to have helped boost student ELA scores in recent testing.

MARCH IS READING MONTH

Passport To Adventure: Where will your book take you?

Pack Your Bags - wear your favorite pajamas!  2	Travel Gear - wear your favorite hat and sunglasses!  3	Reading Maps - wear a shirt with a map, location name, or words on it.  4	Jersey Destination - wear your favorite sports jersey!  5	Postcard from the Past - Dress like a character from a classic book or a historical figure!  6
Safari Sightings - wear animal prints or a shirt with an animal on it.  9	Camouflage Day - wear camo to blend into the "Jungle of Books."  10	Campfire Stories - Bring a small blanket and a flashlight for a cozy classroom read.  11	National Park Day - Wear green or brown to celebrate the great outdoors.  12	Tacky Tourist Day - Wear your best tourist outfit (Hawaiian shirts, fanny packs, etc.)  13
The Future is Bright - Wear neon or "futuristic" metallic colors.  16	Decades Day - Pick a decade (50's, 60's, 70's, etc.) and travel back in time.  17	Mystery Solvers - Dress like a detective or wear mismatched clothes.  18	Legendary Heroes - wear a superhero shirt or a cape.  19	Career Destination - Dress for the job you want when you grow up. 
Read Around the World - wear a shirt from a place you have visited or want to go.  23	Patterns and Flags - wear stripes, polka dots, or colors from your favorite flag.  24	Team Burr Oak - wear Blue & White to show we are "Rooted in Reading!"  25	Final Landing - we end where we started: Cozy PJ's and a district wide Read-In.  26	SPRING BREAK BEGINS

Scholarship Opportunity

The Burr Oak Community Foundation announces the opening of applications for its Burr Oak Community Scholarships by current Burr Oak Community School Seniors who are in-person students and past alumni who are planning to further their education, following a planned program of instruction in the 2026-27 academic year.

Applications may be obtained at the school district office or online at:

burroakareachamberofcommerce.com/burroakfoundationscholarships

Applications are due March 31, 2026 at the school district office, by emailing the application to arolin@burroakcs.org, or by mailing to:

Burr Oak Community
Foundation
P.O. Box 183
Burr Oak, MI 49030.



Oaks Openings Are Digital!

You can find them on our school
website: burroakcs.org

If you would like to receive a paper copy, please
fill this out and return to the school. You can
also contact Ms. April at 269-489-2213 or
secretary@burroakcs.org

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

