

BURR OAK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
326 E. Eagle Street—P.O. Box 337
Burr Oak, MI 49030

Burr Oak Community Schools

Oak Openings

October 2021



Happy Fall

OWENS OUTREACH

August and September have been busy months for all of us at Burr Oak Community Schools!

If you follow us on social media you have seen that *The MakerSpace is very popular with both students and staff. The space includes a sewing section, a music section, and will soon have a videography section. The shelves are filled with a variety of supplies and tools that students have access to and they have the freedom to create **their ideas** from those. (Thank you to everybody that has donated items!)*

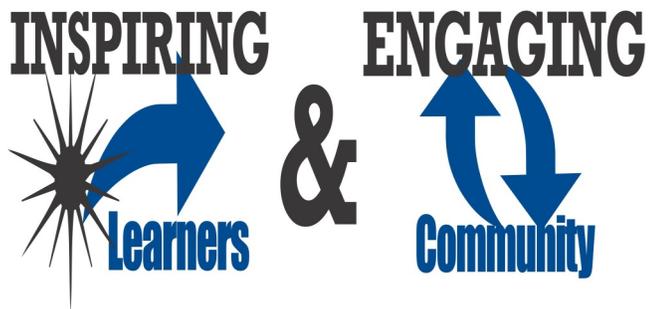
Students might start with an idea and/or prototype and then turn it into a hands-on project. Each month there is a different theme to get students started. Students can work alone or they can collaborate with other students. Simply put, it is a space where the fine arts meet STEM, otherwise known as: S (science) T (technology) E (engineering) A (arts) M (math)...STEAM.

Another topic we continue to focus on this year is learning more about how to support the mental health of students. Our teachers participated in TRAILS training in August, which is a mental health support system developed and provided by University of Michigan Health.

Our mental health system ties into our school behavior system, which is called restorative practices. Restorative practices is a system used to correct negative behavior. It leads students to the choice of accepting and admitting what they did wrong and then choosing how to fix the problem by making things right. This is done through age appropriate questioning. While it does not always work, we have seen many successes with these techniques already this year. When it is unsuccessful, then the discipline system is followed as stated in our student handbook. Our number one goal is to educate our students; therefore, we will do everything possible to keep them in the classroom. Restorative practice is meant to support that goal.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you to read through all of our student handbooks. We have one for MS/HS, another for Elementary, and a third for athletes. They can be found on our website (burroakcs.org) or we would be happy to provide you with a hard copy.

As always, I am available to answer any questions and listen to ideas! Feel free to contact me. kowens@burroakcs.org or 269-489-2213



Classroom News

Mrs. Lemley GSRP

Welcome to all of our GSRP children! Abigail, Alyna, Beckett, Kinsleigh, Kylo, Levi, Mariana, and Troy.

We use the HighScope Curriculum which is aligned with Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Pre-kindergarten (ECSQ-PK) and supports our belief that children learn through the integration of learning and play, as children learn best by doing. We strive for a balance between teacher directed and child-initiated activities. Child assessment is on-going and teachers develop meaningful experiences based on the needs of each child. Given opportunities to explore the world around them, your children become active, involved learners. September we were settling into our school routine. We acquired new friends. We learned that we need to clean our area before and after we eat and to wash our hands often to keep us healthy. We learned about fall and the coming of cooler temperatures.

October we will explore more about the fall season and Halloween holiday. October is also fire prevention month. We will be talking about fire safety for at home and school. I am excited to start the school year with all my wonderful new friends!!

Mr. Hernandez Kindergarten

This year's wonderful group of 11 kindergarteners includes- Elizabeth, Alex, Amayiah, Bayleigh, Tyler, Jacobi, Renesmee, Eva, Ender, Colton & Hudson. I am excited to have each one of these in our Burr Oak Kindergarten program.

Currently, we are previewing the alphabet and practicing the numbers 1-10. We need to work hard to master letter & sound recognition for all our letters. Please continue to practice letter rings & numbers at home.

In September we took a class field trip to the fair. In October we will be discussing Fire Prevention week and we will also begin our Family Projects. We are looking forward to another exciting month of learning!

Miss. Inman First Grade

Hi, I am April Inman and this year I am teaching first and second grade English Language Arts. The first graders have me for the first two and a half hours of the day where we have breakfast, have calendar time, and then we spend two hours doing reading and writing. After a short recess, they go to Mr. Hunt's for two hours where they learn math and the second graders come to me for reading. After lunch, I do a read aloud with the first graders right before specials where you can find me in the maker's space creating art with elementary students. At the very end of the day the first graders come back for some more reading time.

This year the first graders have started off strong in reading. They have already started identifying sight words. They have also had some practice sounding out non-sense words. They have also started talking about vowels, nouns and punctuation. Students love to listen to stories on Epic when we have free time.

The second graders have already taken two spelling tests this year. They've spent a lot of time working on silent/sneaky e or vce words. They have started to learn how to write a personal narrative and I have already received so many interesting stories from all of them.

Mr. Hunt Second Grade

In math, the second grade class has been reviewing some items from first grade. They have been working on topics like number lines, number grids, double facts and even turn around facts. We will continue reviewing for a few more weeks and then start jumping into place value.

In science they have been learning about Earth's surface. They have learned about different bodies of water and the difference between fresh and saltwater. They have also learned about different land formations. Mountains, valleys, hills, plains and even islands are just a few. They will even get to make their own mountain/valley during class in a week or so.

First grade has been learning about how to use a number line and number grid. They are also reviewing some basic adding and subtracting. Writing numbers to 20, including the tricky teen numbers, is what they started the year with. The next unit will be on adding and subtracting within 20.

In science they have been learning about the earth, moon and sun. We have started by looking to the sky. Exploring where the sun is located at different times of the day. We then discovered that our sun is also a star and that it is so close it blocks out the other stars during the day.

Mrs. Zebolsky Third Grade

Third and fourth grade ELA is up and running full speed. The students have a lot of choices and do a lot of independent work. They are learning a lot of responsibility, and doing a great job. We will soon have multiple pieces to put in our writing portfolios for this quarter. Nearly every student has published a story and we are nearing the end of writing poems similar to a high school project I had seen. It has been super fun seeing the students' creativity emerge. We do a lot of vocabulary and comprehension work this year as well and the students have been quite successful, and have had great attitudes. Cultural studies is fun as always. We just finished a unit about Uganda. Amidst our study we were blessed to have Rev. and Mrs. Gerber from Grace Church in Sturgis for a presentation for each elementary class. They have visited there 27 times and are a part of coordinating the Ugandan Children's Choir. It was very interesting and I know from speaking to the students at subsequent "specials" days that they absorbed a lot of the fascinating information. We concluded our unit with making paper beads and stringing them onto necklaces and using our imaginations to fly back to the U.S.A. until we fly out again next week to our next destination! :O)



Mr. Johnson Fourth Grade

Time is flying by as we move along into October learning! I am so proud of the students and how they have adapted so well to this new school year. We are starting new units in Math in October. We will be going at a moderate pace to ensure that students are able to follow along and feel confident in their abilities. I have high expectations and a high belief that these students will do well!

MATH
The 4th grade will begin Multiplication and Division!!! This is the foundation of SO much that we do in 4th grade is built upon. 3rd grade will begin solving story problems with triple numbered subtraction and addition problems.



SMILE
Fall School
Pictures
Tuesday,
November
7th



Classroom News

Mrs. Summey M.S. Science

The new school year has begun and I think we are all trying to adjust to in person again! I have a new curriculum this year called Explore Learning and so far it has been great! It has many interactive activities for the kids and they like to explore with them! I also teach STEAM class (Science Technology Engineering Art Mathematics). I can always use any extra items you have laying around and would like to donate. Items as easy as toilet paper rolls to hand saws would be great! If you're not sure send it anyhow and if I don't need it I'm sure I can find a home for it! Thank you in advance!

Mr. Sutton M.S. Social Studies

The 5th grade U.S. History class is still learning about Native American culture and the differences between the different Native American regions in North America. Soon, students will begin to study the interactions between Native Americans and European explorers. In 6th grade, students are learning about the geography of North America. Students are creating thematic maps, identifying physical features, and researching information about the lands of United States, Canada, and Mexico. The 7th grade social studies class is learning about the geography of Africa. Students are studying the unique aspects of Africa's physical features. The 8th grade is studying the creation of the United States and the War for Independence against England. Next, students will learn about the structure of the United

States government and some of the big events of the early 18th Century in the United States.

Ms. Randol M.S. ELA

The beginning of the school year has flown by! I cannot believe it is almost fall. In English, for all middle school grades, we will be focusing quite a bit on writing. We have pledged as a school for an improvement goal to make our students stronger writers this year. All grade levels have completed at least one writing assignment and one writing prompt so far this year. Along with learning the mechanics of writing, the students are also learning how powerful their writings could be not only as a story but as a way to get things changed for the better. Students have had the chance to identify problems with our school, in their opinions, and we will continue to work together to perfect those writings in hopes we can use them to make some of the changes they see as necessary occur. Along with writing, we will be starting book studies in each grade level. 7th grade has already began their study reading Maze Runner and 8th grade will join them with the same book next week. 5th and 6th grade will work on picking books that are a "Just Right" fit before we pick a class book for them to study.

Mrs. Rifenburgh M.S. Math

Welcome Back!
It is great to see all the students in attendance and in person again. Everyone is trying their best to have some resemblance of normal. I would be remiss if I didn't admit that at times it is difficult. It's almost as if some young people have forgotten how to be students

and that their primary focus should be on their education. Please talk to your son or daughter about your expectations of them at school. Your expectations have the greatest impact on their behavior. 5th Grade students began the year with studying volume. They are a great group of students and are always ready to do whatever I ask. We have now started to work with place value: the ones on the right side of the decimal. They are working to understand and I know they will have this down in no time at all.

6th Grade students began their year with calculating areas. There were students that did their best to understand the formulas and then there were those that went through the motions and did not fare well on the assessment. It is so important to be focused on the work and not allow themselves to be distracted by the social aspect of school. If you have a 6th grade student, please talk to them about the importance of focusing. We are now working on integers and have begun to add and subtract negative and positive numbers. 7th Grade students began with similar figures and indirect measurement. I think it was a pretty successful unit as students were able to apply some of the skills they learned to a real life situation. Their study of integers from last year is continuing with multiplication and division becoming a focus. They don't seem to be having any problem with this concept and have been a pretty good group to begin the day with.

8th Grade students are just finishing a unit on transformations. The unit did take longer than it normally would due to lack of attention and focus. We will be continuing with a review of numbers and operations and fractions to decimals.

I use a variety of internet resources such as Prodigy, New Jersey Curriculum, ThatQuiz, Quizizz, Math Antics to name a few. When these are assigned, their completion will only be recorded on that website and not in the Google Classroom. If a student marks that it is completed, one needs to see it in the website to know for sure.

Please encourage your students to do their best while at school. Your encouragement and academic expectations are the most powerful influences they have.



**Pupil
Count
Day
October
6th**

Classroom News

Miss Adams HS English

The focus for English this year is writing, we will be focusing all of our units towards writing skills. 10th and 12th graders are almost done with their poetry unit for the beginning of the year! 9th grade is reading *The Glass Castle* and focusing on memoirs and 11th grade is reading *Tuesdays with Morrie* and focusing on narratives. Intro to Psychology is working on the history of psychology, dreams, and phobias. In creative writing we are expanding our writing skills and will be starting our first large project this month. Things to look forward to would be independent reading and we are orchestrating a high school spelling bee! Contact me at aadams@burroakcs.org for any questions.

Mrs. Sutton H.S. Science

Physical Science - Students have been learning how to calculate density, mass, and volume. They will do a penny lab and they will discover that pennies prior to 1982 have a different composition than pennies after that. We will be learning about the periodic table next. Life Science - We have been learning about the different types of symbiotic relationships. Ask your students to give you examples of mutualistic, commensalistic, and parasitic relationships. We will continue to look at different parts of the ecosystem and the food webs that exist.

Earth Science - Students have been learning about different types of maps. We will be moving into a mineral unit next.

Spanish 1 - Students are taking an online Spanish class through Edmentum. Students will need to complete Spanish 1A by the end of the 1st semester.

STEAM - We have been brushing up on our graphing skills. We will be having some fun with robots next!

Mr. Herrmann HS History

Wow, I can't believe how fast the year is going! The trees are starting to change color, the days are getting shorter and hopefully cooler, and the students are learning more. You may not know yet, but I am no longer teaching Algebra 1 and 2, and Geometry at Burr Oak High School. I am now teaching Government and Economics, Personal Finance, U.S. and World History, and a Phys Ed/health class. I am also teaching a math recovery class. All of the classes have started smoothly and are progressing forward. My students know that my door is always open for questions and help and I hope that they continue to take advantage of this. Please feel free to stop by if you want to say hi or speak with me about any concerns you may have regarding a student's progress.

Mr. McCollough HS Math

OMG back to school time already. At the moment things are going very well over all classes. A few students are readjusting to life back in school once more. Mostly though they are all getting to know me better and I am striving to understand each and every one of them too.

Algebra 1 is working hard to update and build on the knowledge that they already have, while I throw a few new knowledge monkey wrenches at them.

Geometry is working and striving to adjust how they have looked at some parts of math while remembering a few things that are buried deep in their memories.

Algebra 2 is recalling a lot of repressed knowledge from years past and is remembering and relearning how to apply that knowledge.

Spanish 2 students I am ecstatic to inform that many of them are ahead of the assigned work and are talking to their online teacher when they are struggling.

Intro to business is uncharted territory for some of the students and all of them are rising to the challenge. Many of them are learning the technical aspects of business decisions that they have already experienced.

All students are encouraged to ask me any questions that they might have. If something doesn't click for you ask and I will try to help you understand.

Mr. Rick Life Skills/Drama

Middle School Living Skills - Rick Ultz - Teacher

The first seven weeks of the school year I have half of the 6th grade. The energy level of these students can be daunting at times. They are all so eager to be in the class. One of the goals in this time together is that students learn to follow directions, both written and verbal. Another goal is to have students be able to repeat the project at home. Many of the students say they have made supper or breakfast at home from what we created at school. Some outstanding students are: Hudson, Jersey, Emma, Michael, Kolt, Anita, and Linda

Drama - Rick Ultz - Teacher

After changing the schedule around the second week of school, we finally got around to have students be able to sign up for drama. The students look through the plays to choose one that fits our class size. Ordering and receiving, it takes another week. The play is set for Nov. 20th @ 7:00 PM in the little gym.

High School Living Skills - Rick Ultz - Teacher

The high school class has been husking, boiling, cutting and freezing corn for the Thanksgiving Feast. It is amazing how much corn gets left on the cobb when I told them they could eat whatever was left on the cobb. We have several new students this year who have never been in living skills before. We are trying to get everyone on the same level of skill so we are repeating projects that we completed last year.

We will be processing squash to make our world-famous squash bread. We will be making about 40 loafs of bread and freezing them so they are oven fresh on Thanksgiving Feast day. Thanksgiving Feast is on Nov. 24th starting at 11:00 AM

Ms. Wolfe Art

Thank you for all the donations for our Makerspace. Students in all grades are enjoying making a variety of creations. This month we will

focus on our high school makers. Lucy Marks learned to use the sewing machine and sewed a B for Burr Oak. Cadence West comes by during lunch and makes our guitar come alive with her lovely music. Ariel Conklin learned to hand sew and made an adorable stuffed bear. Out of the kindness of her heart she gave her creation to Laurali for her birthday. Lucky Laurali! Damian Johnson challenged himself to a very detailed deer for his string art project. His finished project was incredible.

Thank you for all the donations for our Makerspace! It takes a village to keep our space going. Here are some of our needs currently:

- Paper towel/wrapping paper tubes
- Cotton balls/craft pompoms
- Plastic circles (ex: caps to drink bottles)
- Flattened colorful cardboard boxes (ex: cereal, granola bar boxes, etc)
- Pearler beads
- White thread
- Large needles for embroidery thread
- Embroidery thread
- Felt of any color
- cotton fabric with masculine prints or colors
- Duct tape (colorful or grey)
- Small glue sticks to refill glue guns
- Thimbles for sewing



News from the Athletic Office
Troy Sutton

It's hard to believe that the month of September is almost over. Soon, both the trees and weather will change to set the mood for an exciting fall season of Burr Oak sports.

The Varsity Football Team started off their season with some tough losses. They are continuing to work hard and hope to get into the win column soon. Homecoming is coming soon on Friday Oct, 1 against St Phil and parent senior night is Friday Oct 15th against Litchfield. Come out and support the boys!

The Varsity Volleyball Team is off to a great start. Highlights include taking first place at the Tekonsha Tournament to open the season, a win over Three Rivers in the County Tournament, and a 3-1 record to start league play. Parent Senior night for volleyball is October 12th against Colon. Come cheer for our girls!

The Junior High Football and Volleyball team's seasons are in full swing. Football's first home game is coming up the 22nd of September against North Adams. They also have home dates on the 6th and 13th of October. Upcoming home dates for Junior High Volleyball are 10/18 and 10/20.

We have a lot of first time athletes on our teams this year so remember sports fans, sportsmanship is a must! Come out and show your class and support for our Burr Oak Bobcats this fall!



GO BOBCATS!



October Home Sporting Events

10-1 HOMECOMING! Varsity Football vs. Battle Creek St Philip 7:00

10-5 Varsity Only Volleyball vs. Jackson Christian 5:30

10-7 JV/V Volleyball vs. Battle Creek Academy 5:30

10-12 JV/V Volleyball vs. Colon 5:30

10-15 Jr High Football vs. Litchfield 5:00

10-18 Jr High Volleyball vs. Climax Scotts 5:30

10-20 Jr High Volleyball vs. Battle Creek St Philip 5:30





October 2019



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

					1 HOMECOMING Varsity Football vs Battle Creek St Phillip 7:00pm	2 Var . Volleyball Tournament @ Homer 8:00am
3	4 Elementary Beef Stick Fundraiser JH Volleyball @ Colon 5:30pm	5 Elementary Beef Stick Fundraiser V Volleyball v. Jackson Christian 5:30pm	6 Count Day Elementary Beef Stick Fundraiser JH Volleyball @ Athens 5:30pm JH Volleyball @ Athens 5:30pm	7 Elementary Beef Stick Fundraiser School Pictures Prater Studios JV/V Volleyball vs Battle Creek Acad- emy 5:30pm	8 Elementary Beef Stick Fundraiser Fire prevention- Firefighter visit V.Football @ North Adams 7:00pm	9 V. Volleyball tourn. Concord 8:30am
10	11 Elementary Beef Stick Fundraiser Vision Screening Grades 1-9 School Board meeting 7:00pm	12 Elementary Beef Stick Fundraiser Vision Screening Grades 1-9 JV/V Volleyball vs Colon 5:30pm	13 Elementary Beef Stick Fundraiser JH Football vs Litchfield 5:00pm JH Volleyball @ Litchfield 5:30pm	14 Elementary Beef Stick Fundraiser	15 Elementary Beef Stick Fundraiser Varsity Football vs Litchfield 7:00pm	16
17	18 JH Volleyball vs Climax-Scotts 5:30pm	19 Smiles on wheels J/V Volleyball @ Bellevue 5:30pm	20 Smiles on wheels JH Volleyball vs Battle Creek St Phillip 5:30pm	21	22	23 V Volleyball @ Litchfield Tourn. 8:00am V Football @ Portland St Pat 2:00pm
24	25 Scholastic Book Fair	26 Scholastic Book Fair	27 Scholastic Book Fair End Of Marking Period	28 Scholastic Book Fair JV/V Volleyball SCAA League Crossover @ TBD	29 Scholastic Book Fair	30
31 						

Pupil Count Day October 6th

**Please make sure your student(s) are in
attendance or check in with their teacher(s).**

*****This is how we get our funding*****



October 2021



BURR OAK COMMUNITY SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT K - 12 BREAKFAST MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
4 Choc Chip Oatmeal Bar Strawberry Yogurt Chex Apple Juice 1% White or Chocolate Milk	5 Mixed Berry Cereal Bar Super Donut Orange Juice 1% White or Chocolate Milk	6 Blueberry Nutrigrain Bar Fudge Pop Tart Grape Juice 1% White or Chocolate Milk	7 Banana Bread Loaf Cheddar Cheese Stick Apple Juice 1% White or Chocolate Milk	8 Cinnamon Teddy Grahams Cinnamon Bun Orange Juice 1% White or Chocolate Milk
11 Scooby Snacks Apple Nutrigrain Bar Grape Juice 1% White or Chocolate Milk	12 Strawberry Delight Bar Apple Cinnamon Muffin Apple Juice 1% White or Chocolate Milk	13 Banana Choc Chunk Bar Orange Juice 1% White or Chocolate Milk	14 Mini Powdered Donuts Grape Juice 1% White or Chocolate Milk	15 Triple Cherry Yogurt Grape Filled Crescent Apple Juice 1% White or Chocolate Milk
18 Chocolate Graham Gripz Trix Cereal Bar Orange Juice 1% White or Chocolate Milk	19 Mozzarella Cheese Stick Chocolate Chip Muffin Grape Juice 1% White or Chocolate Milk	20 Raspberry Rainbow Yogurt Cinnamon Poptart Apple Juice 1% White or Chocolate Milk	21 Rich's Breakfast Round Orange Juice 1% White or Chocolate Milk	22 Oatmeal Chocolate Chunk Bar Grape Juice 1% White or Chocolate Milk
25 Choc Chip Oatmeal Bar Strawberry Yogurt Chex Apple Juice 1% White or Chocolate Milk	26 Mixed Berry Cereal Bar Super Donut Orange Juice 1% White or Chocolate Milk	27 Blueberry Nutrigrain Bar Fudge Pop Tart Grape Juice 1% White or Chocolate Milk	28 Banana Bread Loaf Cheddar Cheese Stick Apple Juice 1% White or Chocolate Milk	29 Cinnamon Teddy Grahams Cinnamon Bun Orange Juice 1% White or Chocolate Milk

This institution is an equal opportunity employer

FREE BREAKFAST TO ALL STUDENTS K - 12

*Please join us every day or just to try something **NEW***



Burr Oak Community Schools

My Fair Redneck
November 20th
More Details To
Come



ELEMENTARY FUNDRAISER

The elementary students will be taking orders from October 4th-15th for Country Meat Smoked Snack Sticks. They are \$1 each. You may order from any elementary student and/or elementary teacher. We appreciate your support!



COMMUNITY

Trunk Or Treat

Burr Oak Mother's Club would like to invite all members of the community to join us for free trunk or treat in the church parking lot.

- Trunk or treat will be from 5:30-6:00pm on October 30. Costume Judging at 6:00pm (must be present to win)

If you are interested in passing out candy from your trunk, please arrive at the church by 5:15pm

