

THE BURLINGTON BARK

Burlington, Iowa | Sept. 5, 2023



April Anderson slowly sinks into the swimming pool as her boat capsizes June 15, 2023, at Camp Eastman in Nauvoo, Illinois.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE JOURNEY

BCSD summer programs offer new experiences to Burlington students.

NAUVOO, Ill. — April Anderson paddled furiously as she and her Camp Journey co-counselors raced to be the first to reach the other end of the pool at Camp Eastman in Nauvoo, Illinois.

With each stroke of her paddle, Anderson's cardboard vessel propelled forward.

Then sideways.

Then down.

Despite the effort, hard work and duct tape her team of students had put into waterproofing the boat, it was taking on water, pitching Anderson into the cool, clear depths below. Her paddle now useless, Anderson trudged on, tugging the waterlogged vessel behind her.

As the captains went down, the students who had crafted the boats stood along the pool's edge, urging them to keep going.

QUICK SIX

- 1. Sept. 5**
First day of PiCES
- 2. Sept. 11 & 25**
Burlington School Board meets at 6 p.m.
- 3. Sept. 14**
Mark Perna community seminar
- 5. Sept. 15**
No school - professional development
- 5. Sept. 18**
School Improvement Advisory Committee at 5:30 p.m.
- 6. Sept. 19**
Homecoming Nomination Assembly

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THIS IS BURLINGTON



While not a single craft made it as far as halfway across the pool before at least partially sinking, the counselors managed to get each and every boat to the other side.

Very few boats have made it across the pool in what has become a last-day tradition for Camp Journey, and that's OK, because like most everything at the two-week-long summer camp, the boat activity's educational value is in the journey, not the destination.

"We learn other people's strategies," said Zaleigha Larson. "We took everybody's ideas, put them together and tried to get along with each other."

Larson was one of about 70 Burlington sixth- through eighth-graders participating in the camp this year.

Spots at Camp Journey are limited, so participation relies largely on teacher referrals.

"We ask the teachers at Ed Stone and Aldo who they think would benefit from leadership opportunities maybe that they don't always get at school but they see something within those kids that we can capitalize on here," said Michael Carper, instructional coach and summer program coordinator.

Camp Journey is far from your typical summer school program. As its name implies, it's a summer camp, but with a twist.

The program's focus is on the "7 Habits of Highly Effective People," a step-by-step framework to adapt and achieve personal effectiveness in all areas of life. The "7 Habits" are a cornerstone



Top: Counselors try to catch a sponge thrown by a student June 15, 2023, during the last day of Camp Journey in Nauvoo, Illinois.
Above: Ray'Mear Fredricks tries to dump cold water in his partner's bucket without looking June 15, 2023, during the last day of Camp Journey.



Instructional coach and summer program coordinator Michael Carper braces for another cup of dye to be poured on him June 12, 2023, at Camp Journey in Nauvoo, Illinois. Carper is always sure to bring an extra shirt to camp on tie-dye day.

of the Leader in Me curricula at both Aldo Leopold Intermediate and Edward Stone Middle schools.

“We incorporate those into everything we do and then it becomes kind of a thread of our conversations that we have with the kids,” Carper said. “We do it away from school so it doesn’t have a school feel, and what we see, especially the second week, they really start to come together as a group. We mix the groups up on purpose so it’s not all their best friends, and maybe by the end of the week they’ll be friends with people they didn’t expect they would be.”

Camper Ray’Meair Fredricks said he especially enjoys the diverse opportunities offered at the camp and that kids can feel safe while getting outside of their comfort zone.

“I think it’s a really good opportunity for children,” Fredricks said. “This gave me the opportunity to open up to more people I wouldn’t normally talk to.”

Each morning of the camp, campers gather in teams to do their morning cheer, with each team having come up with their own.

After the morning cheer, teams spread out across Camp Eastman to discuss the habits and how they could be applied to real-life scenarios. After that comes a team-building challenge requiring skills like collaboration, conflict resolution and critical thinking.

“(The first week of camp), we had a little race track opportunity

THE 7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE

1. Be Proactive. Focus and act on what you can control and influence instead of what you can’t.
2. Begin with the end in mind. Define clear measures of success and a plan to achieve them.
3. Put first things first. Prioritize and achieve your most important goals instead of constantly reacting to urgencies.
4. Think win-win. Collaborate more effectively by building high-trust relationships.
5. Seek first to understand, then be understood. Influence others by developing a deep understanding of their needs and perspectives.
6. Synergize. Develop innovative solutions that leverage differences and satisfy all key stakeholders.
7. Sharpen the saw. Increase motivation, energy and work/life balance by making time for renewing activities.

*“The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People” is a book written by Stephen R. Covey in 1989 and has sold more than 20 million copies worldwide.

which was like a STEM activity with physics where they were given challenges to accomplish as a team,” Carper said.

Another challenge used tie-dye to emphasize Habit #2: Begin with the

A student helper works with students during the elementary summer school program at North Hill Elementary School.



end in mind. Instructional coach Melissa Nelson-Chiprez showed students how to create different tie-dye patterns before the campers set off to do their own. The students were to think about the pattern they wanted to create and then use rubber bands and dye to create those patterns accordingly.

While the campers dyed their shirts, Carper prepared himself for yet another of Camp Journey's traditions. After each team finished their dye jobs, campers filled a cup with a dye the color of their choosing and splattered them onto Carper.

"Every year, they dump all the tie-dye on me," Carper said with a laugh. "I figure I have to be able to take it if I'm the one that gives them the grief the rest of the time."

The afternoons are for structured free time, and campers are able to choose between activities such as fishing, kayaking and swimming.

"My goal at this camp is if there's a kid who says I'm not getting on a boat, I get them out on a boat and they realize oh my gosh, this is so much fun, and then when you see them sign up for it in the afternoon and they're actually out there kayaking on their own, that's a great feeling," Carper said.

One of those kids was Larsen, who went kayaking for the first time this summer.

"It was OK," she said with a laugh and a huge grin.

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF EDUCATORS

It's not just the campers who have fun. Camp Journey is something the counselors and the high school helpers look forward to each year.

"Both summer school opportunities that I get to be a part of I'm very proud of because we are building Grayhounds from the bottom up all summer long and showing support for these kids," Carper said, referring to Camp Journey and the elementary summer school program that follows. "It's all about giving these kids opportunities they might not otherwise have, and it's all about building relationships with these guys."

The elementary summer school program is for students who have finished kindergarten through fourth grade and takes place at North Hill Elementary School.

There are a couple of high schoolers who help out with lifeguarding at Camp Journey, and about a dozen who help with the elementary summer program.

"My favorite part about that program is I get high schoolers to come in and I buddy a high schooler up with each teacher," Carper said. "We're trying to grow our own teachers to try to get these high schoolers who maybe weren't interested in education before that maybe they realize they like this."

The strategy appears to be working.

Julia Wegler, who has been a summer school helper for the past three years, said she wants to become a teacher because she likes working with the kids in the program. Annika Cook, who now is a long-term Spanish substitute at Burlington High School, also was a summer school helper, as was elementary STEM teacher Jessica Dow.

"To see them now in education is a very rewarding feeling," Carper said. "So slowly I think it's working that we're building our own."



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Much of my first year as Superintendent of Burlington Community School District has been spent listening to and learning about this community that bleeds purple and gray.



I've heard from administrators, teachers, support staff, students, parents and other community members about what makes our schools great and what we could do to make them even better, and I look forward to continuing and building upon these conversations.

In addition to remaining accessible, my priorities include investing in STEM by adding a STEM rotation at the elementary buildings; expanding learning opportunities at the high school, such as by adding a Public Safety CTE pathway; increasing student participation in a growing number of extracurriculars; and continuing to reduce barriers for our students and families.

It's been so exciting to see the talent of our teachers and staff members. Every time I walk into a building, I am struck by the level of kindness, tremendous effort and commitment that staff have for our Grayhounds as they prepare them for life outside of our classroom walls.

I take great pride in our district — so much so that my blood now runs purple and gray, too. Go, Grayhounds!

Sincerely,

Robert Scott

BCSD, GBP PARTNER TO BRING MARK PERNA TO DES MOINES COUNTY

The Burlington Community School District and the Greater Burlington Partnership are partnering to bring generational expert, keynote speaker and bestselling author Mark Perna to Des Moines County.

Community members are invited to attend Perna's seminar, "Unleashing Passion, Purpose, and Performance in Younger Generations," from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Sept. 14 at the Capitol Performing Arts Center.

Perna has worked with districts and companies from throughout the U.S. on how to engage with and motivate younger generations.

The founder and CEO of TFS Results in Cleveland, Ohio, a full-service strategic consulting firm at the forefront of the national paradigm shift in education and workforce development, Perna is an international expert on the Millennial and Z generations and has devoted his career to empowering educators and employers on unleashing the potential of today's youth.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to bring Mark Perna to Greater Burlington so that he can work with our students, parents, teachers, and business/community leaders to build stronger partnerships that empower our youth and young adults," Curriculum Director Cory Johnson said. "The Burlington Community School District strives to have a profoundly positive impact on each student's adult quality of life. Collaboration with the Greater Burlington Partnership and other community and industry leaders is an important part of our work to fulfill our vision and mission, and our critical role as part of Greater Burlington's workforce pipeline."

The free event is open to the public, and parents of middle and high school students are especially encouraged to attend.

Parents Learn How To:

- Motivate your child to achieve at a higher level
- Move them from static to active purpose
- Forge a deeper human connection with your teen

Free To Attend & Open To The Public

6:30 - 8 PM | Doors open at 6 PM

\$100 Gift Card Drawings

PRESENTED BY



Unleashing Passion, Purpose, and Performance in Younger Generations

WITH MARK C. PERNA

September 14

Capitol Performing Arts Center

markperna.com



WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR AT BCSD

Burlington schools are off to a great start to the school year, and it's only going to get better from here.

From technology to sports, here's a look at what's new to the district this year.

E-SPORTS, GIRLS WRESTLING ADDED AT BHS

BCSD is adding two new sports teams to Burlington High School.

The Burlington School Board on Aug. 14 approved job descriptions for girls wrestling and e-sports coaches. It will be the first year for both sports in the district's history.

Activities Director Jay Huff told the board students expressed significant interest in both sports via a Google Form that was issued in the previous school year.

There will be three seasons of e-sports — fall, winter and spring — and two games will be played per season. Both the games and the console type(s) have yet to be determined.

E-sports will take place in a computer lab at BHS, and events may be held virtually or in person.

The addition of girls wrestling comes just one year after it was sanctioned by the Iowa High School Girls Athletic Union. Its season will mirror that of boys wrestling, with practice beginning in October and meets beginning in November.

The addition of both sports is part of a larger effort to get more students involved in extracurricular activities, and BCSD is proud to provide opportunities that meet the interests of a diverse student body.

ED STONE GETS CTE MODULES

Edward Stone Middle School has been equipped with 10 Career and Technical Education simulation modules that will allow seventh- and eighth-graders to explore CNC, robotics, digital audio, CAD, engineering structures, plumbing, electrical, flight transportation, machines and graphic design.

Students will work in pairs, spending 10 days at each station. The lab supports a new curriculum that will expand the middle school industrial tech experience beyond engineering and encourages students to further explore and develop their interests before they start to build their high school schedules.

PUBLIC SAFETY AT BHS

Students at Burlington High School have yet another CTE pathway to explore.

Brian Carper, who retired from the Burlington Police Department after a 28-year career in law enforcement, now is teaching Public Safety.

The newly added pathway aims to expose students to the training, tasks, and job skills needed in fire and emergency medical services, as well as in law enforcement careers.

ELEMENTARY STEM ROTATION

STEM has been added to the specials rotation at each of Burlington's elementary buildings.

Teaching those classes are Devin Rohr and Jessica Dow. So far, the students are loving it. They especially enjoyed a STEM challenge involving a worm named Fred who went on a boat ride.

Fred's boat capsized, his life preserver trapped beneath the watercraft, which was actually a cup. The students had to get Fred to his life preserver using only paperclips.

Superintendent Robert Scott said the addition of STEM at the elementary level aims to get students excited about more advanced STEM opportunities that will be available to them in later years.

"We wanted to hire STEM teachers to provide the expertise to start developing skills for students prior to them getting to the junior high and high school where the opportunities for those are greater," Scott said. "We're trying to create a base skill set for every student to have that prior to getting to middle and high school."

VISITOR MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

BCSD has implemented a new visitor management system aimed at increasing school security.

Visitors to school buildings wishing to go beyond the office now must show ID upon entry. IDs will be scanned using Raptor Technologies equipment, which will immediately tell if an individual is flagged on any databases.

"It helps us provide one more layer of security for our families," Scott said.

COMMUNICATIONS

BCSD also has launched a new communication app called ParentSquare.

The app is aimed at boosting family engagement and allows for two-way communication between teachers and parents/guardians.

District staff already are getting creative with the app. Kahri Plein at Aldo Leopold Intermediate School has been recording and posting the morning announcements in ParentSquare, while Alex Cushman, also at Aldo, used extra recess time as an incentive to get more families to register on the app.

While parents do not have to be registered to receive messages and posts sent through the app, they do need an account to be able to engage in two-way communication.

Those needing to register may do so by going to [parentsquare.com](https://www.parentsquare.com) and signing up using the phone number or email address associated with their Infinite Campus account.

STILL TO COME

Coming later this year will be the new district website and the Don't Quit Fitness Center that Aldo was awarded this past spring.

BCSD PROVIDING FREE MEALS REGARDLESS OF INCOME WITH COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROGRAM

Kindergarten through 12th grade Burlington students are eating for free this year.

By participating in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service's Community Eligibility Program (CEP), the Burlington Community School District is able to provide free breakfast and lunch to all enrolled K-12 students.

"We're really excited about the opportunity and the ease that this program will provide to our families," BCSD Superintendent Robert Scott said.

Meals that qualify for the program must include at least three of the four to five meal items being offered and one of those items must be a fruit or vegetable.

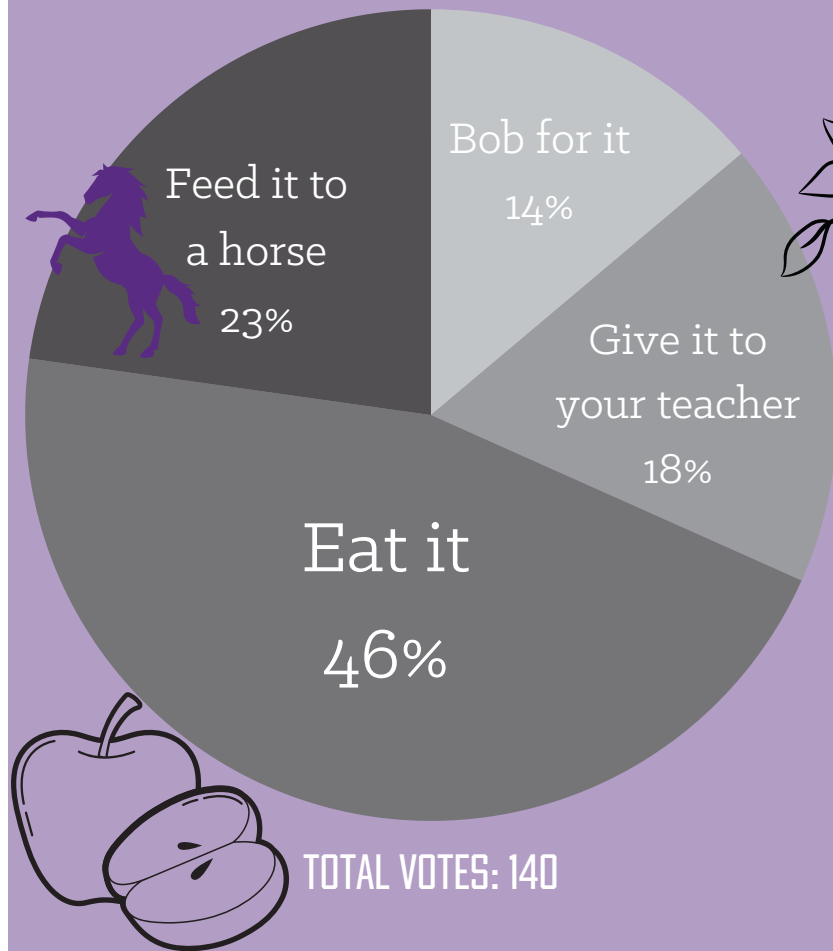
"We will get reimbursed from the USDA for that meal for a percentage of all our students," said Food Service Director Brian Johnson. "All students eat breakfast and lunch for free so long as they take the reimbursable meal."



Students wanting a la carte items still must pay for them as they are not included in the reimbursable meal. If, for example, a student brought a sack lunch but wants milk from the cafeteria, they will have to pay for the milk. If that student was to get a milk and two other items, including a fruit or vegetable, all items will be free to the student.

While CEP does not require the collection of household applications, Johnson said families who otherwise would complete and submit free and reduced price lunch applications should still do so as they are used to determine whether fees should be waived.

INSTAGRAM POLL RESULTS WHAT'S THE BEST THING TO DO WITH AN APPLE?



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BURLINGTON ACTIVITIES DEPT.

To view the Activities schedule [click here!](#)

THE RECAP





UPCOMING EVENTS

BURLINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Sept. 5 - Orchestra Recruitment Night at 6:30 p.m. at Aldo Leopold Intermediate School
- Sept. 11 - School Board meeting at 6 p.m.
- Sept. 14 - Band Recruitment Night at 6:30 p.m. at Aldo Leopold Intermediate School
- Sept. 14 - "Unleashing Passion, Purpose and Performance in Younger Generations" with Mark Perna from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Memorial Auditorium
- Sept. 15 - Teachers Appreciation Reception at 7:30 a.m. at Blackhawk Recreation Center, Southeastern Community College
- Sept. 15 - No school
- Sept. 18 - School Improvement Advisory Committee at 5:30 p.m.
- Sept. 25 - School Board meeting at 6 p.m.
- Oct. 2-6 - Homecoming Week
- Oct. 5 - Homecoming Parade at 5:30 p.m.
- Oct. 6 - Two-hour early out
- Oct. 9 - School Board meeting at 6 p.m.

BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

- Sept. 11- Picture Day
- Sept. 19 - Homecoming Nomination Assembly
- Oct. 12 - Parent-Teacher Conferences at 4 p.m.
- Oct. 19 - Fall Vocal Concert at 7 p.m. at Edward Stone Middle School
- Oct. 18 - All State Piano Auditions

EDWARD STONE MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Oct. 10- Parent-Teacher Conferences at 4 p.m.

ALDO LEOPOLD INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

- Sept. 14: Band recruitment night at 6:30 p.m. at Aldo Leopold Intermediate School
- Oct. 19: Parent-Teacher Conferences at 4 p.m.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS & CORSE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

- Sept. 19 - Sunnyside PTO meeting at 4:15 p.m.
- Oct. 3 - Sunnyside Picture Day
- Oct. 4 - Black Hawk Picture Day
- Oct. 4 - Corse Early Childhood Center Picture Day
- Oct. 4 - North Hill Picture Day

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

[Click here to view the PiECES Calendar and activities!](#)

Saturdays with PiECES

- Saturday Movie: Sept. 9 at 1 p.m. at the Capitol Theater
- Brick Masters: Sept. 16 from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Burlington Public Library

NO PiECES

- Sept. 15, Oct. 6

CONNECT WITH US! →



@BurlingtonCommunitySchoolDistrict

@bcsdgrayhounds



AT BCSD, WE ARE RAISING GRAYHOUNDS!



Welcome back!



BURLINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NONDISCRIMINATION NOTICE

It is the policy of the Burlington Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the district's Equity Coordinators at the District Administrative Office, 1429 West Avenue, Burlington, IA 52601; (319) 753-6791.

For Educational Programs: Cory Johnson, Director of Curriculum, cory.johnson@bclds.org

For Employment: Laci Johnson, Director of Human Resources, laci.johnson@bclds.org

