

THE BURLINGTON BARK

Burlington, Iowa | Oct. 2, 2023



STEM teacher Jessica Dow looks on as a kindergartner launches her paper airplane Friday, Sept. 14, 2023, at Sunnyside Elementary School. Below, Abby Mumme shows off what she built Wednesday, Sept. 27, during free-build time in Devin Rohr's classroom at Black Hawk Elementary School.

K-4 STEM TAKES FLIGHT

On a recent Friday, students in Jessica Dow's classroom at Sunnyside Elementary School took turns throwing the brightly colored paper airplanes they had carefully folded and decorated through the air to see whose could fly the farthest.

It was a fun and seemingly simple activity, but it was one that followed a lesson in the principles of aerodynamics: lift, thrust, drag, and weight.

"They latched right onto it," Devin Rohr said of his students who did a similar activity after learning about the physics behind flight.

Dow is a second-year teacher who last year taught kindergarten, and Rohr is in his 10th year of teaching, the past three of which were spent teaching math at Edward Stone Middle School.

Now, the two are pioneering the Burlington Community School District's first year of K-4 STEM. Like music and art and P.E., STEM is a special class that students have either once or twice a week depending on the rotation, and Dow and Rohr each split their days between two buildings: Dow at Sunnyside and North Hill, and Rohr at Grimes and Black Hawk.



QUICK SIX

- 1. Oct. 5**
Homecoming Parade at 5 p.m. along West Avenue
- 2. Oct. 6**
Two-hour early out
- 3. Oct. 9 & 23**
School Board meets at 6 p.m.
- 4. Oct. 20**
No School
- 5. Oct. 26**
Family Resource Night from 3:30 to 6 p.m. at North Hill
- 6. Oct. 26**
Haunted Halls from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Ed Stone

INSIDE THE ISSUE

[Bracewell Stadium Wall of Honor sees 2 new names](#)

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GET INVOLVED

BHS Athletic Booster Club will meet at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18, at The Drake. All parents/guardians of athletes are welcome. Come for one meeting or become a board member. Everyone's help and ideas are needed.

THIS IS BURLINGTON



STEM teacher Devin Rohr shows off a hat he built Wednesday, Sept. 27, during one of his kindergarten class's free-build times at Black Hawk Elementary School.

"It's new and it's exciting," Dow said. "We went to a (STEM) conference over the summer and I was completely engrossed with it ... Me as an adult who didn't have technology growing up as much as these kids do, I was completely like OK, yes, if I can do this, these kids are just going to show me up. They're going to be teaching me things by the end of the school year." to help their students get comfortable with working as a team, trying new things, and failing.

"Right now, it's just all about teamwork, trying new things and taking risks and being OK with failure," Rohr said, reflecting on a recent lesson. "My question to them was why is failing good, and they're really responsive, like you learn from your mistakes. One girl said, 'My brother always said because he's a wrestler that if you always win, you never learn.' That was a third-grader."

The students have worked together to build towers out of index cards and Legos. Time is taken after each activity to discuss what worked well, what didn't, and what could be done differently. The activities, combined with the debriefing, help the students learn to listen to others' ideas, as well as to give and receive critiques in a constructive way.

With those lessons complete, second- through fourth-graders took it a step further, working in teams to build their dream home.

"We read the story, 'If I Built a House,' and it's this kid who just designs these elaborate rooms," Dow said.

After reading the story, each student was asked to design their own floor plan and their room in their house. Then they were told that their classmates at their table are now their roommates and instructed to combine their ideas and imaginations to design a single home. The homes have had everything from game rooms to Minecraft rooms to aquarium rooms.

"Our goal was to think outside of what a typical house has, which is a kitchen, a bathroom and at least a bedroom," Dow said. "Some people have guest rooms, so instead of a guest room or instead of a playroom, what would you have your room be?"

With their plans complete, the students then built models of the homes using 3-D shapes. Dow was pleasantly surprised to learn many of her students already knew what a rectangular prism is.

With a solid grasp of teamwork instilled in their students, Dow and Rohr now are focusing on the scientific method with a series of kid-friendly experiments — magic pepper, lemon volcano, building a lava lamp, catapult and boat, among other things — to build a basis of understanding for things like surface tension, chromatography, chemical reactions, and physics.



STEM teacher Jessica Dow shows a very enthusiastic kindergartner how to grip his paper airplane before takeoff Friday, Sept. 14, at Sunnyside Elementary School.

As the year progresses, Dow and Rohr plan to further stratify their lessons on a grade-level basis so as not to underwhelm older students or overwhelm the younger scholars. Thus far, however, students have been eager to engage in whatever challenge is put before them.

“In my head I’m thinking, OK, they’re 5, so maybe two layers,” Dow said of her kindergartners when they did the index card towers. “There were kids who were building seven, eight layers tall because they just figured it out and they’re like, ‘This makes sense in my brain.’”

Dow and Rohr are excited about the impact that earlier exposure to STEM will have on their students down the road.

“I have a friend who’s an architect and he said if we never had any of those (engineering) courses in high school, he would have never decided to go into that,” said Dow, a 2018 Burlington High School graduate. “It was just because of the opportunities we had. So I think if we start exposing children as young as kindergarten and working our way all the way up, even if we don’t hit technology super hard in K-4, but just the basics of what is STEM, and then when they get to middle school, they get even more of it, I mean, some of these kids, we’re going to have astronauts from this group.

“We can think as big as we want when it comes to it because we never know. We have great minds here.”

Rohr said he hopes K-4 STEM will help to empower students to



Kindergartner Treyson Coleman shows off a flying car he made Wednesday, Sept. 27, during free-build time in Dev Rohr’s STEM class at Black Hawk Elementary School.

take advantage of the wide variety of opportunities they’ll encounter down the road.

“My hope is that by exposing kids this young to STEM and by giving them so many opportunities to be creative and think outside the box and be able to be hands-on in all these projects, they can then go on to Aldo, and Aldo has their computer science stuff, so they’ll have some coding background and be a little more comfortable going into it, and so it’s going to ease that stress later on. As (their experience) builds up, they’re going to find their niche and be able to go in whatever direction and follow our career pathways.”



Emily Murphy stands between her parents, Derrick Murphy and June Kauder, Friday, Sept. 29, at Bracewell Stadium after being inducted onto the Bracewell Stadium Wall of Honor.

NEW NAMES ADDED TO WALL OF HONOR

History was made Sept. 29 as Emily Murphy became the first woman to have her name inscribed on the Bracewell Stadium Wall of Honor.

Accompanied by her parents, Derrick and June, Murphy stood near the 50-yard line ahead of the varsity football game as the Purple & Gray Foundation introduced her to the crowd and awarded her with a framed picture marking the milestone.

Murphy, a 2018 graduate of Burlington High School, was recognized for her accomplishments, dedication and skills in soccer.

Her soccer career began at the Southeast Soccer Academy (SESA), setting the stage for her future success.

As the captain of the BHS team throughout high school, Murphy

left a lasting legacy, amassing 73 goals and 45 assists in the Mississippi Athletic Conference. She earned numerous accolades, including all-conference honors and All-State recognition.

After high school, Murphy made her mark at Indian Hills Community College in the NJCAA Division 1, setting records for goals in a game (5), goals in a season (37), and career goals (71).

Her versatility on the field was evident as she also contributed 23 assists and excelled in game-winning moments.

Her collegiate career was marked by national recognition, ranking among the top scorers in the nation and earning awards like NJCAA All-American and Iowa Community College Athletic Association Athlete Player of the Year.

Transferring to the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay, Murphy

continued her leadership as team captain. She was a vital part of the team's success, earning All-Tournament Team recognition in the Horizon League.

Beyond her soccer prowess, Murphy excelled academically, graduating summa cum laude while consistently making the President's List and Dean's List.

In 2023, Murphy signed her first professional contract with Volsungur in Iceland, swiftly becoming a dominant force, leading in goals and assists.

Murphy's soccer journey is an inspiration, showcasing her dedication, skill, and leadership on and off the field. With a bright future ahead, she continues to inspire female athletes and capture the hearts of soccer fans worldwide.

Murphy's is not the only new name to appear on the Wall of Honor.

CARL JOHANNSEN

The late Carl C. Johannsen taught physical education and coached a variety of sports at Burlington High School.

His 43 years as a full-time physical education teacher at one school is believed to be a national record. Johannsen also was the head track coach until he retired in 1968.

He came to Burlington in 1927. In 1967, the high school gymnasium was named Johannsen Gymnasium. A street leading to the high school also bears his name.

His awards include Drake University Double D Award given to those graduates that excel in their fields. He is a member of Iowa Track Coaches Association Hall of Fame Award as well as in the Iowa High School Directors Association.

Johannsen's track teams compiled outstanding records, including a 1949 state championship. His former athletes agree that much of their success was due to the encouragement they received from their coach.

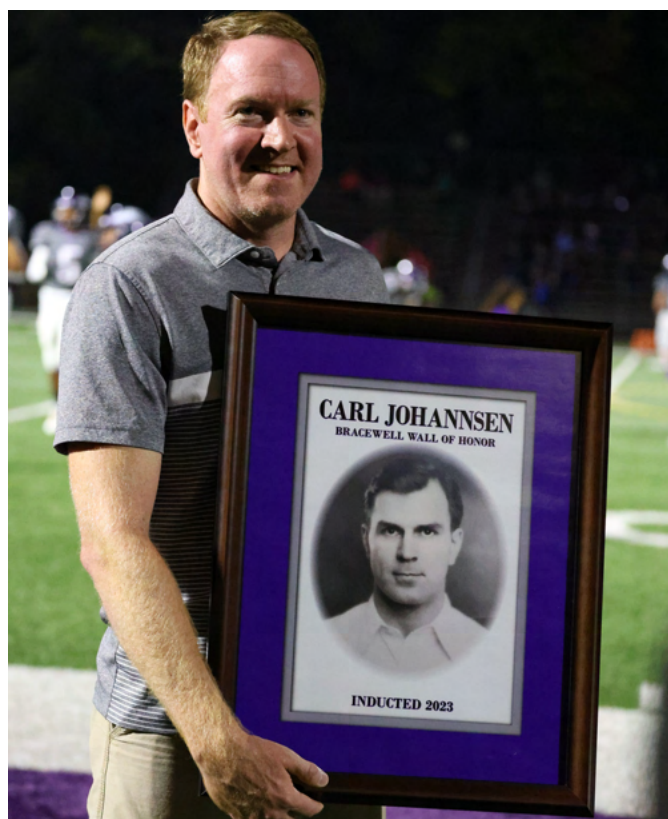
Johannsen coached many sports including football, basketball, wrestling and swimming. He also coached the Burlington Blackhawks to a state basketball title in 1946.

Prior to his death in 1990, he returned to the BHS track staff as the shot put/discus coach.

In his final year, he coached a state championship shot putter at age 87.

Thousands of young men benefited from Johannsen's positive influence and fair-mindedness. Beyond the impressive accomplishments, he is remembered for humility and modesty. His kind and gentle nature enabled him to see the best in others. He was a role model for all ages.

Accepting the prestigious Bracewell Wall of Honor on Johannsen's behalf were his grandchildren.



Jason Johannsen holds a framed photo of his grandfather, Carl Johannsen, Friday, Sept. 29, 2023, commemorating his induction onto the Bracewell Stadium Wall of Honor.

ABOUT THE WALL OF HONOR

In 2011, 12 individuals met with a common goal to bring Bracewell Stadium back to a place everyone could enjoy and be proud of. This group of individuals adopted the name of the Purple & Gray Foundation.

They set the timeline of upgrades and reconstruction into three phases. First, construct a state-of-the-art press box, including a conveniently located concession stand, restroom facilities and a parking area. Second, totally refurbish the football field, lighting and landscaping to be used, not only for football, but for soccer, outdoor music events and other high school activities as appropriate. Third, construct a new locker room and shower facility.

All three phases have been completed. This was an expensive endeavor, but through generous financial assistance of the Burlington High School Alumni, businesses, the school district and friends, the money came in to pay for this dream.

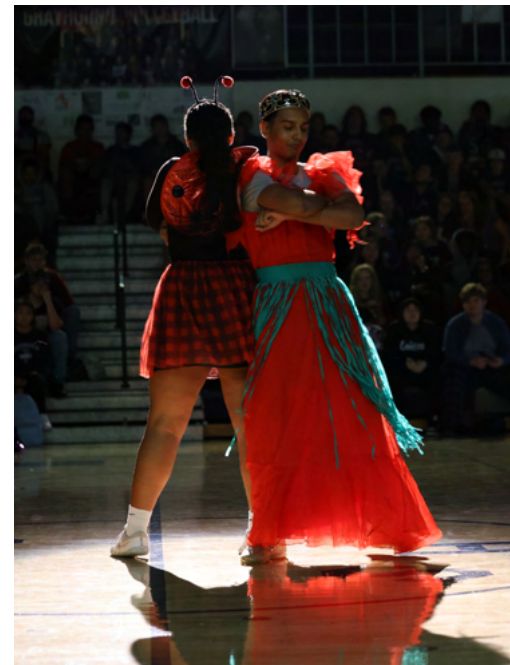
Even having accomplished these goals, the members of the Purple & Gray Foundation still felt there was something missing: a way of recognizing and honoring, football, track, soccer and cheerleader athletes and coaches who have made exceptional contributions to their respective sport, while competing here at Bracewell.

The P & G group set up specific selection parameters for identifying these individuals and honor them by placing their names on the Bracewell Stadium Hall of Honor.

2023 Homecoming Assembly



Introducing Burlington High School's 2023 Homecoming Court! King candidates are Caden Schisel, Jack Hanks, Rafe Butherus, Dimitri Donald, William Klatt, and Xzavion Baker. Queen candidates are Madison Taeger, Sofia Ball, Lauren McDowell, Alana Yaeger, Gabrielle Tolliver, and Lariyah Bobbitt. This year's theme is "A Night of Fright." Schools are celebrating the week with dress-up days and events. See the Events page for details.





TELL YOUR SCARY STORY

Staff from throughout the district are teaming up to hold a creative writing contest for students, with winners' work to be published in a digital book just in time for Halloween.

The Halloween Creative Writing Contest is open to all K-12 Burlington students through Oct. 16.

Submissions will be judged according to building level. Participants can write their own story or use the following prompts to get started:

Grade K-4: 500 words max

- Imagine your new toy starts talking to you in the middle night.
- The ghost had been haunting this circus for years and you have to stop it.

Grade 5-6: 750 words max

- Walking through the cemetery one night I heard a sound, "Creek". I looked over and saw a vampire rise from a coffin.
- Everything was fine until the Johnson's moved in next door. Then odd things started happening.

Grade 7-8: 1000 words max

- Start your story with the words, "Everything was ready for the ritual."
- Write about when you were dared to spend the night in the haunted house at the top of the hill.

Grades 9-12: 1500 words max

- On her deathbed, your grandmother looked at you and said, "One year. You're next." Now it is one year later.
- While exploring an abandoned laboratory, you accidentally release an experiment gone wrong.

Winners will be announced Oct. 25. In addition to having their work published, winners also will receive prizes.

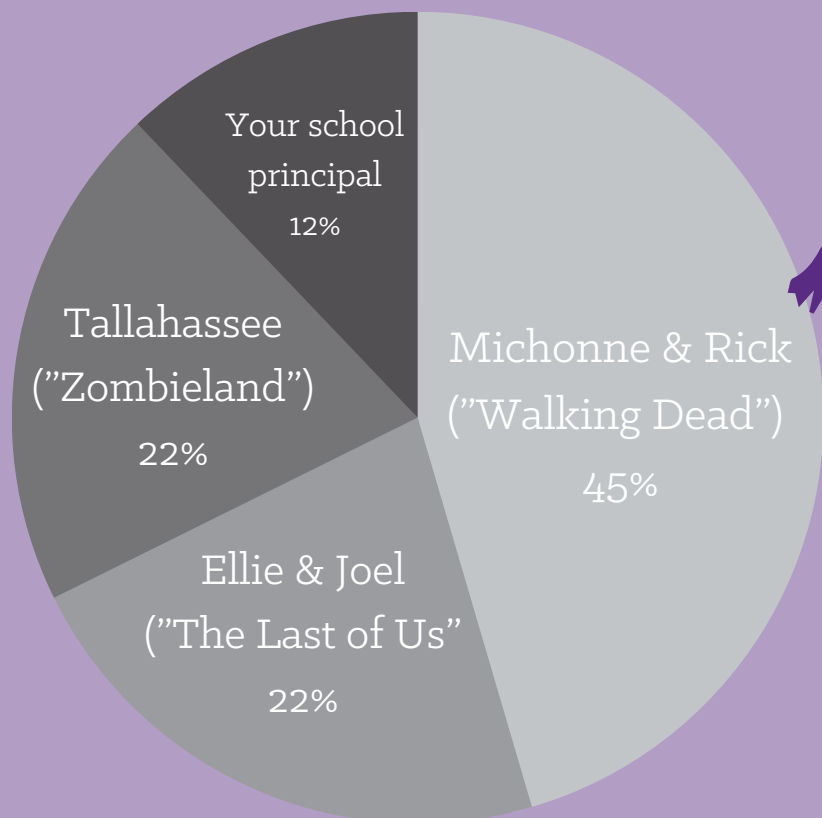
Submit your story here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOLYavuFjYUm4FUPin7i75xSxK-Uwx4ri7UtijjWjDOv3LXQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Have questions? Email Michaele.niehaus@bcstds.org.

INSTAGRAM POLL RESULTS

YOU'RE IN A ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE.
WHO DO YOU WANT ON YOUR TEAM?



TOTAL VOTES: 100



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BURLINGTON ACTIVITIES DEPT.

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

THE RECAP



UPCOMING EVENTS

BURLINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Oct. 2-6 - Homecoming Week
- Oct. 5 - Homecoming Parade at 5:30 p.m.
- Oct. 6 - Homecoming game at 7 p.m. at Bracewell
- Oct. 6 - Two-hour early out
- Oct. 9-13 - Fire Prevention Week
- Oct. 9 & 23 - School Board meeting at 6 p.m.
- Oct. 11 - Parade of Excellence
- Oct. 20 - No school
- Oct. 23-27 - Red Ribbon Week
- Oct. 26 - Family Resource Night from 4 to 6 p.m. at North Hill Elementary School

BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

- Oct. 5 - Homecoming Pep Assembly and King Coronation at 8 p.m.
- Oct. 6 - Queen Coronation at halftime of varsity football game
- Oct. 12 - Parent-Teacher Conferences from 4 to 7 p.m.
- Oct. 19 - Fall Vocal Concert at 7 p.m. at Edward Stone Middle School
- Oct. 30 - Picture make-up day

EDWARD STONE MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Oct. 10- Parent-Teacher Conferences at 4 p.m.
- Oct. 26 - Haunted Halls from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

ALDO LEOPOLD INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

- Oct. 16 - Don't Quit Ceremony at 9 a.m.
- Oct. 17 - Fall Orchestra Concert at 7 p.m.
- Oct. 19 & 23 - Parent-Teacher Conferences at 4 p.m.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS & CORSE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

- 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
- Oct. 24 & 26 -Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences from 4 to 7 p.m.



AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

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

Saturdays with PiECES

- Starr's Cave with PiECES: Oct. 7 from noon to 3 p.m.
- Saturday Movie: Oct. 14 at 1 p.m. at the Capitol Theater
- Brick Masters: Oct. 7 and 21 from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Burlington Public Library

NO PiECES

- Oct. 6

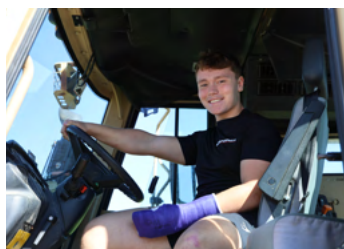
CONNECT WITH US!



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AT BCSD, WE ARE RAISING GRAYHOUNDS!



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@bcstds.org

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