



OAKLAND CRAIG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MARCH 2026 PRINCIPAL REPORT

District-Wide Initiatives

1. Our district has continued to move forward in our English-Language Arts development. At the elementary, teachers in kindergarten through third grade, are continuing to implement the Orton-Gillingham (OG) phonics curriculum in their classrooms to support strong foundational reading skills. Mrs. Rennerfeldt is partnering with ESU 2 to support instructional growth. Through this collaboration, we are utilizing Instructional Practice Guides (IPGs) and collecting data to identify instructional trends and areas of need across grade levels. Looking ahead, teachers in grades three through six will receive professional development this summer focused on morphology. These strategies will be implemented in classrooms beginning next fall to further strengthen students' vocabulary development and reading comprehension. At the high school level, we are finishing necessary staff members and myself taking the Secondary Science of Reading Course through NDE and ESU 2. In addition, we are also utilizing the IPG Reading walkthrough guide to identify strengths and areas of higher focus for our ELA classes. Our department will continue to receive ongoing training. Mrs. Burton is also working more intensively with ESU 2 and NDE to further embrace this next-level effort for our junior and senior high school students.

Elementary

1. **Shout-Out** - I'd like to recognize and thank Elyce Peterson who has thoughtfully planned a fun and engaging Month of Reading for our students. Last week, students and staff participated in dress-up days and other exciting reading activities to celebrate literacy. Also, through her dedication and initiative, every elementary family will receive a copy of *Mr. Popper's Penguins* to read together at home. Providing this shared reading experience reflects our continued commitment to fostering a love of reading and strengthening literacy within our school community.
2. [March Newsletter](#)
3. **Book Blast**- Last week we also launched the Book Blast literacy initiative. Families received information about how students can build their home libraries through this program, with every dollar raised going directly toward books for students. Students can earn books aligned to their grade level, and once goals are met, the books will be delivered to the school for a celebration event. This initiative supports our continued focus on strengthening literacy and increasing access to high-quality, engaging books for every student.

4. BINGO Night- We had a wonderful turnout for our recent Family BINGO Night, with nearly 140 family members in attendance. The evening began with a brief overview of our Title I Reading program, allowing us to share important information about the supports and resources available to our students. Following the presentation, families enjoyed dinner together—hot dogs, chips, and cookies—before participating in several rounds of BINGO. The event was filled with laughter, prizes, and meaningful family engagement. It was a great opportunity to strengthen the connection between home and school while reinforcing our commitment to literacy and student success.

5. Parent Teacher Conferences Attendance

Spring '26	
Grades	Attendance Percentages
Preschool	29/30 = 97%
Kindergarten	30/33 = 91%
1st Grade	30/31 = 97%
2nd Grade	18/19 = 95%
3rd Grade	28/29 = 97%
4th Grade	28/29 = 97%
5th Grade	23/25 = 92%
6th Grade	29/33 = 88%
Total	215/229 = 93.9%

**Attendance last spring was 94.8%. This fall was 96.1% attendance.

6. After School Recess- This school year, we have offered an after-school recess program that allows students to remain at school until 4:00 p.m., providing families with additional flexibility at dismissal. On average, nine students participate daily, with attendance ranging from three to twenty students depending largely on weather conditions. Given the relatively low and inconsistent participation, I am wondering if we should re-evaluate this program. While we value providing flexibility for families, it is important that our staffing allocations align with consistent student needs.

7. 2025-2026 Enrollment

2025-2026	
Grade	As of 3/2/26
Preschool	30(-1)
Kindergarten	33
1st Grade	31
2nd Grade	19
3rd Grade	29(-1)
4th Grade	29(-1)
5th Grade	25(-1)
6th Grade	33
Total	229(-4)

8. Total Enrollment (Preschool-6th):

March 2025	238
April 2025	239
May 2025	239
June 2025	239
July 2025	239
August 2025	241
September 2025	235
October 2025	236
November 2025	234
December 2025	232
January 2026	234
February 2026	233
March 2026	229

Oakland-Craig Junior-Senior High School Report

• Staff shoutout

- I would like to give a positive shout out to Mr. Menish, Mrs. Veskerna, Mrs. Jacobsen, Mrs. Fisher and Mr. Guzinski for a job well done with our Next Gen Navigators Mental Health Week the final week of February. The three counseling interns provided great leadership for our students to plan the week, Mrs. Fisher presented on the importance of seeking mental health care, and Mr. Guzinski presented on the role of mental health in sports. Our students were highly engaged and participated well throughout the week. They also learned how to be UNSTOPPABLE!

- **February Parent-Teacher Conference Attendance**

P-T CONF 3Q 2025-2026			
Grade	Enrolled	Parent Attended	% of attendance
7	28	19	67.86%
8	30	19	63.33%
9	28	18	64.29%
10	34	22	64.71%
11	20	15	75.00%
12	34	22	64.71%
Totals	174	115	66.09%

- This is down 4% from the fall and up just 2% from last spring.
- Historical Data can be viewed here: [Parent-Teacher Conference Attendance](#)

- **March Newsletter**

- Please see the OCHS March newsletter here: [March 2026 Newsletter](#)

- **Spanish Curriculum Update**

- After working with Mrs. Okereke, we are working on a formal bid for approval at the April meeting. We will request a 7-year license for the following for a total of \$18,161.10, as long as the formal bid aligns with the online costs:
 - [Senderos](#) - This is the core curriculum material that we are proposing for each course.
 - Books and student licenses - \$10,941
 - Instructional Resources for Instructor - \$1,334.85
 - Workbooks - \$1,799.70
 - [Cojuegemos](#) - \$490 for 7-year package, (Can only purchase annually)
 - [Senor Wooly](#) - \$1393 for 7-year package
 - [Scholastic](#) - This is the reading piece that aligns with the courses.
 - Ahora - \$1258.60 for 7-year package, (Can only purchase annually)
 - El Sol - \$943.95 for 7-year package, (Can only purchase annually)
- Next year's Spanish numbers for course requests at this time are:
 - Spanish 1 - 24
 - Spanish 2 - 20
 - Spanish 3 - 10
 - Spanish 4 - 0
 - This is an extremely rare occurrence for our program. Due to small numbers within the grade and higher levels of interest in students going straight to the workforce, we are not seeing the interest that we normally do for a 4th year.

7-12 Historical Enrollment:

March Enrollment for 2025-26

7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Total
29	30	28	34	19	34	174

March Enrollment 2024-2025

7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Total
30	29	33	22	34	36	184

March Enrollment 2023 - 2024

7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Total
27	32	24	33	36	28	180

March's OCHS and Community Activities:

March 1st - Swedish Heritage Lunch

March 2nd- HS Spring Sports Practices Begin - JH Boys Wrestling @ Winnebago and JH GBB Home Tournament

March 3rd - FFA CDEs @ West Point, Art Club Meeting

March 4th- Girls State Basketball

March 5th - End of 3rd Quarter

March 6th - No School for Staff and Students Girls State Basketball and JH Boys Wrestling @ Fort Calhoun

March 7th - Girls State Basketball Championship Day

March 9th - JH Boys Wrestling @ West Point-Beemer, FFA Labor Auction, School Board Meeting

March 10th - JH Boys Wrestling @ Pender

March 11th - WSC Junior High Music Festival, ESU 2 Quiz Bowl

March 12th - Close Up Parent/Student Meeting for 2026 Trip Attendees

March 16th - District Speech @ Twin River

March 17th - Speech Exhibition Night - Please note schedule change

March 19th and 20th - No School for Staff or Students

March 24th - ACT Testing Day and 7th-8th Downtown Business Engagement Day

March 25th - FFA State Convention

March 26th - FFA State Convention

March 27th - FFA State Convention / State Speech

March 30th - JH Track at Wisner - Pilger Boys Golf @ West Point-Beemer

March 31st - HS Track at West Point - Beemer, HAL Restore JH Field Trip

