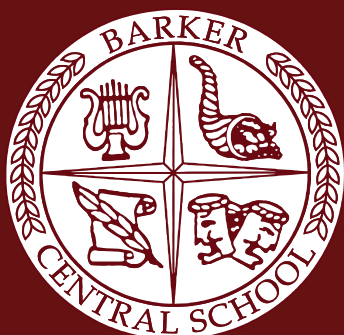


To be a leader in bringing out the best in each individual in our community.

August 2024 - Volume 40 No. 1

The Banner



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024-2025



(L-R): Mikah Podeszek, Chase Worrells and Emilia Farina exam images under the microscope.

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The official website and source for
Barker Central School District news and information:
www.barkercsd.net



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SUPERINTENDENT

Greetings Barker Learning Community,

The start of the 113th year for the Barker Central School District is just around the corner. Before we know it, our students will be walking through our doors to start another year of learning. For those of you in the community who are sending your little ones in, no matter their age, make sure they get to bed early and get ready for school when it starts!

Lately it seems that we continually have been dealing with changes, either at the national, state, or local areas, and this year will be no different. As you know we have been continuing work on our large capital project. Nearly all exterior work will be completed prior to kids arriving at school on September 3rd.

One aspect of this work is the reconfiguration of our parking lots. Please make sure to see page 10 for detailed information on how we have adjusted the ways we access buildings on campus. The changes were made to increase safety for everyone and to align with future interior work.

A large portion of the planned window work was completed over the last two weeks of August and our new boilers are expected to be completed by the second week of September.

The centerpiece of our exterior work, the multipurpose field, will be complete and ready for use prior to our first games. In fact, the new turf field was fully installed by the first week of August with all of the remaining fencing being finished just prior to school starting.

We are extremely excited for what these renovations will bring to our students and community. The work being done here is for our students and residents to use and enjoy to the fullest. Any time these facilities are not in use for school-related purposes, our goal is to have our facilities accessible for everyone to use. Please visit our website under the Athletics page for more information on when facilities are available and how to access them.

Over the last couple years, we have also continued to improve what we do academically as well. We are proud to have been identified as one of the top 15 High Schools in the Buffalo region and in the top 15% nationally, as ranked by the US News and World Report. By the time our kids leave the doors of Barker Central, they are ready to go out into the world and be meaningful contributors to our larger society. It is clear we are continually meeting our mission and vision, and we look forward to doing even better, well into the future.

Please know that these achievements are made possible through the support of our entire community. We truly hope you all can come out and continue to support all our students in all the things they do. Make sure to check the school calendar to see when events will be, including some night time games under the lights this fall!

I can't wait to see you all around campus!

Sincerely,

Jacob L. Reimer, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

FROM THE DESK OF MR. CARTER

Hello Barker Learning Community. Below is information about the voter-approved tax levy as well as details on paying property taxes.

The total tax levy for the 2024-2025 school year will be \$5,157,400, representing a 2.8% increase from last school year. Please understand that this does not mean your individual property tax bill will increase by the same percentage. This is due to each town's property valuations.

Tax bills are calculated and printed by Niagara County in mid-August and they will be mailed to you at the end of August. Please note the following when paying your tax bill:

1. Tax payments are due by September 30th without penalty. Payments are still accepted through October 31st, but there is a late penalty applied after September 30th.
2. The best way to pay your tax bill is to drop off your payment at the lock box outside of the District Office doors. This is at the parking lot next to the 1911 building. To the right is a picture of the lock box. This is checked several times a day and is the fastest way to ensure the district receives your payment.
3. You may also mail it to the PO box number that will be issued on your bill. However, please be aware of any delays that could occur with the postal service.
4. It can take up to 2-3 weeks to process your payment and bill. The reason for this is that we process all of our tax bills here in the district to save money. Many other districts contract this work out to a bank for an additional fee. We kindly ask that you hold any calls inquiring about the status of your tax payment for this duration.
5. Taxpayers can always check the status of their tax bill online at totalcollectionsolution.com/site/login. The username is "barker" and the password is "14012".
6. We do not accept cash payments for security and safety purposes.

More information regarding the approved budget and tax levy can be found on the district website under the "Business Office" section. Thank you for your continued support of the district.

Sincerely,

Michael Carter
Business Administrator
mcarter@barkercsd.net

Student artwork (L-R): **Landon Wakefield and Mariela Canales Reyes.**



FROM THE DESK OF DR. LOVE

Dear Barker Central School Community,

We are only a few short days away from beginning the 2024-2025 school year together at Barker Central School. We are so excited to welcome back our students, teachers, and families back into our building for another year of top-notch learning opportunities! We will continue to focus on our goals laid out in the Strategic Plan:

- Increase Student Engagement in the Learning Process: Through a collaborative process, stakeholders will be empowered to improve student engagement in the learning process through continual improvement.
- Improve Literacy for all Learners to be prepared for the 21st Century: Through a collaborative process, stakeholders will create an environment that supports increased student literacy including reading, writing, comprehension, and communication in all forms.
- Improve Instructional Outcomes for all Students: To sustain and expand student academic success by collaboratively reviewing data and developing data-driven processes which continuously foster improvements in instructional areas that impact student learning and achievement.



There are a few important dates to share with you as we prepare for the 2024-2025 school year:

- Welcome Back Night for students in grades 1-12 will be on Wednesday, August 28th from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. This will allow students and their families to meet the teachers, drop off supplies, and become familiar with the expectations of the upcoming school year.
- 7th Grade Orientation will take place during Welcome Back Night on Wednesday, August 28th, from 5:30 to 6:00 PM in the auditorium. If you are a family with a student in 7th grade, please plan to attend. This event will provide information to families and students regarding the transition into the JH/HS.
- Pre-K and Kindergarten Meet the Teacher Day will be held on Thursday, August 29th from 1:00 to 2:30 PM. This will allow our littlest learners and their families to meet the teachers, drop off supplies, see the classroom, and get acquainted with the Pre-K and Kindergarten expectations.
- The first day of school is Tuesday, September 3rd for all students. We cannot wait to see you!
- Opening kick-off on the new turf field will be under the lights on Friday, September 6th (Varsity Football Game vs. Medina).
- Homecoming Celebrations will be held the week of Monday, September 23rd through Saturday, September 28th. Please save the date!!!

Experiential learning and hands-on opportunities, such as project-based learning, STEAM exploration, field trips, and engaging assemblies, are important ways to bring education to life for our students. These experiences directly align with our district's strategic goal of increasing student engagement in the learning process. When students are actively engaged, they are more likely to succeed academically and social-emotionally.

In the 2023-2024 school year, our staff and PTO went above and beyond to connect students to interactive learning opportunities through field trips to local Barker treasures like the town hall and the library, to educational Niagara County hot-spots like Niagara Falls, the Aquarium of Niagara, state parks, and even to our closest city centers like the Explore & More and Buffalo AKG museums in Buffalo and the Strong Museum in Rochester, as well as countless other opportunities like band and choral competitions and trips, and club sponsored trips. We even brought field trips in-house and offered STEM mystery opportunities for our elementary students.

Our Pratt Assembly Team, which is a collective of staff members in the elementary school with ties across the district, planned and executed several engaging and fun assemblies this year for our Barker Students. There were class competitions to win field trips, a BMX guest speaker who talked to the entire student body about being kind and working hard, an animal expert assembly - and, thanks to your at-home participation in the

NFL Play 60 program, our elementary students won a dance party assembly which focused on being the best versions of ourselves. Members of our Barker Team also partnered with Niagara County Sheriff's Office and our own Somerset Police and Barker Fire Department to create an interactive traffic safety fair for our 11th and 12th grade students.

Each moment we can provide experiential learning opportunities for our students it helps deepen their connection to learning, the surrounding community, and to each other - creating life-long learners right in front of our eyes. We hope to continue this momentum into the 2024-2025 school year. One of my favorite moments of last school year was listening to our Pratt students on Moving-up Day talk about their favorite memories from the year - so many of them mentioned these key moments where they truly felt connected to their learning experiences.

We are looking forward to this new school year and are so grateful for all you do to support the Barker Central School learning community and bring learning to life for our students. We can't wait to see you soon!

Sincerely,

Micaela M. Love, Ed.D.
PK-12 Principal
mlove@barkerbsd.net
716-795-3832



(Clockwise from upper right): High School art class field trip to George Eastman House in Rochester. M & M field trip to the Niagara Falls Aquarium. Music field trip to Cleveland's Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame. Challenge Island group construction. Summer school outdoor science.



FROM THE DESK OF MR. LEARO

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year. We missed you while you were gone on summer vacation but we're so happy you're back! We look forward to the start of another wonderful and exciting year at Barker. I would like share several important pieces of information with you regarding Special Education and McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Information.

Our Instructional Services/Special Education Department is focused on supporting our diverse learners and fostering an inclusive culture within our schools and community. We are committed to a strong partnership with parents, families and school district personnel in the education of our children. Here at Barker we seek to educate the whole child in preparation for the transition into adulthood to support occupational and economic success as life-long learners. Please feel free to contact me with any questions: mlearo@barkerksd.net or 716-795-3350.

What is Special Education?

Special Education services are designed individualized or group instruction, special services, or programs to meet the unique needs of students with identified disabilities. Special Education programs and services are provided for eligible students, ages 3-21. If you believe that your school-age child may be in need of Special Education services and related programs, or young child (age 3 to school-age) may be in need of early intervention, screening and evaluation processes designed to assess the needs of the child and his/her eligibility are available to you.

Who can make a referral to Special Education?

A CSE (Committee on Special Education) or CPSE (Committee on Pre-School Special Education) referral is a written statement asking that the school district evaluate a child to determine if they need special education services. This written statement should be addressed to Mark Learo, and can either be hand-written or emailed (mlearo@barkerksd.net). A referral to Special Education can be completed by a child's teacher, other school personnel or by you as the parent.

If you suspect that your 3, 4 or 5-year-old child, who has not yet entered kindergarten, has a disability and may need Special Education services, please contact me and I will assist with answering your questions about this process. For concerns about children under the age of 3, please contact the Niagara County Department of Health - Early Intervention program at 716-278-1691 or 716-278-8288.

What are the next steps after a referral has been made?

After a CSE/CPSE referral has been submitted, the committee will determine which evaluations are the most appropriate to conduct based on reported student needs. After the evaluation process is completed, parents will be invited to a meeting, as a member of the committee, to discuss the results. At the meeting, the committee will review the evaluation results. Based on that information, and information provided by the parents, the committee will decide if the child is eligible or ineligible to receive special education programs and/or services. In order to be eligible, a child must have a disability that affects their ability to learn. If the committee decides a child is eligible for services, they will identify the disability category and develop and implement an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to meet the child's needs.

New York State Education Department McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act:

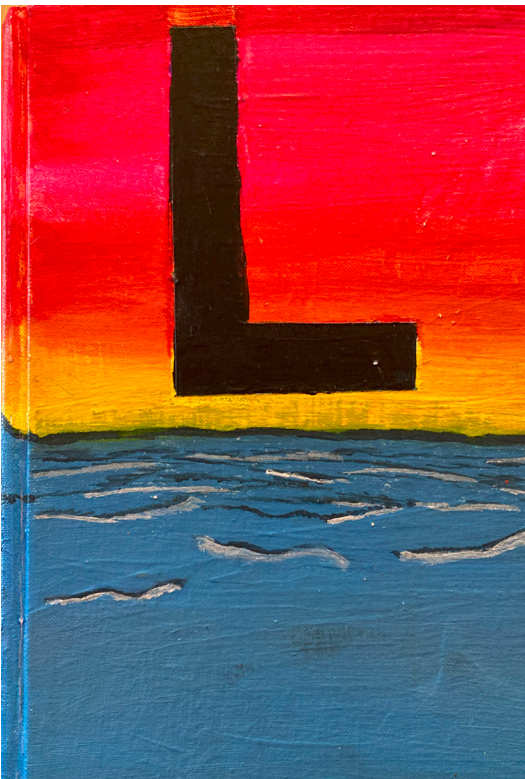
The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act guarantees educational rights and supports for students experiencing homelessness, and seeks to remove any barriers these students may face in succeeding in school.

Under this act, homeless children and youth are defined as A. an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and B. includes children and youth who are sharing the housing of another person due to loss of housing, economic hardship, are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations, are living in emergency or transitional shelters or who have been abandoned; C. children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodations for human beings; D. children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, or similar settings, and migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in any of the circumstances described previously.

McKinney-Vento provides protections that ensure children and youth are enrolled in school; have access to and receive educational services for which they are eligible; receive needed referrals to health care, dental care, mental health, substance abuse care, housing and other appropriate services; parents, guardians, and unaccompanied youth are fully informed of all transportation services available (including transportation to the school of origin, and are assisted in accessing transportation).

If you are experiencing 'homelessness' as defined above, please contact me to access any of the supports mentioned here.

Mark Learo
Director of Instructional Services/Assistant Principal
mlearo@barkerccsd.net
716-795-3350



Student artwork (Clockwise from upper right): **Samantha Buyea, Kaleigh Thuman, Brooke Weber, Leah Witkop and Melissa Outten.**



FROM THE DESK OF MR. CORNWELL

Welcome back to the 2024-2025 school year at Barker Central. I hope everyone had a fun, safe summer and enjoyed doing whatever makes you happy.

Over the past few years, as schools have continued to recover from the pandemic, our students at Barker have thrived in their academic achievements. Proficiency rates on Regents exams at the secondary level hover around the 90-95% range with mastery rates (earning a score of 85 or higher on the exam) in the 40-50% range. It is numbers like these that have helped Barker rank high in comparison to other schools in Niagara and Orleans counties. Our graduation rate has also remained consistently strong and student attendance levels are closer to where they were prior to the pandemic.

Our faculty and staff have also continued to shine! During the past 18 months, nearly all of our faculty have created a rigorous, standards-based curriculum that will help our students continue to achieve at a higher level. Faculty have also embraced a new initiative that focuses on analyzing data in a clear, consistent manner to guide their instruction and keep student learning at the forefront of all that we do.

Barker is also pleased to announce that starting in the 2024-2025 school year, graduating seniors can earn an additional credential on their diploma by earning a Seal of Civic Readiness. To earn this credential, students must demonstrate academic excellence by earning high marks on the commencement level history exams and developing and presenting a project on an issue that impacts the local community.

As we finalize our preparations for the upcoming school year, Barker is focused on the following goals:

1. Increase Student Engagement in the Learning Process
2. To improve Literacy for all Learners to be prepared for the 21st century
3. Improve Instructional Outcomes for all students.

Thank you for your continued support of Barker Central School District. Our students, faculty, and staff can't thank you enough!!

If you have any questions regarding your child's educational program, or the instructional program of our school, don't hesitate to reach out to me. You can email me at ccornwell@barkerbsd.net, or reach me by phone at 716-795-3388.

Yours in education,

Christian Cornwell
Coordinator of Curriculum & Professional Learning/AP
ccornwell@barkerbsd.net
716-795-3388

Student artwork (L-R): Makayla King and Fallyn Mescall.



SRO CORNER

Greetings to our Barker/Somerset Community.

The Somerset Police – Barker School Resource Officers hope everyone had a nice summer.

Another school year is starting. First, we would like to remind everyone, you cannot pass a stopped school bus with its lights flashing. Please pass this on to any student drivers.

Second, there has been some changes in the parking lots and drop off area. Please keep in mind, drive carefully and alertly around school areas, particularly the bus loop and student drop off area. These areas get busy with other vehicles and students on foot. The SRO and Somerset Police monitor the school area as safety and education is among our top priorities.

As always, your School Resource Officer is here to help. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact us at 716-255-0503.

Thanks for your cooperation and stay safe,

Barker School SRO's/Somerset Town Police



(Top-Bottom and L-R): Chief Jon Miller, Officer John Yotter, Officer Allison Parente.

BCS PROVIDES WELL-ROUNDED SUMMER PROGRAM

Over 125 students in grades PK-12 participated in the Summer School Program. The students in grades PK-8 received instruction in Math, ELA and Science. Students also had an opportunity to design artwork in Art Enrichment, play their favorite sports in Physical Education, create exciting projects in STEAM class, and participate in swim lessons as well as many more fun activities throughout the summer. Several high school students completed the necessary coursework in the Credit Recovery Program which allows those students to stay on pace for graduation.

The Challenger Learning Center out of Lockport also came to BCS to present the Mobile Planetarium experience. 2013 Barker graduate and Executive Director of the Challenger Learning Center, Michael Schian, gave an out of the world presentation! This summer the Barker Summer School Program participated in a Summer Food Service Program for all students, PK-12 that attended the Barker Summer School Program. The Program is managed by the Niagara County Youth Bureau through the New York State Education Department and the United States Department of Agriculture. We served over 4,000 meals (breakfast and lunch) this summer!



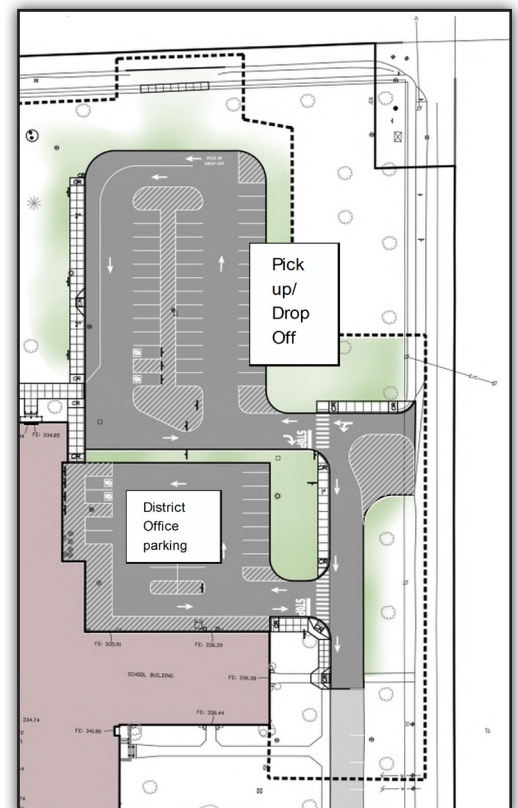
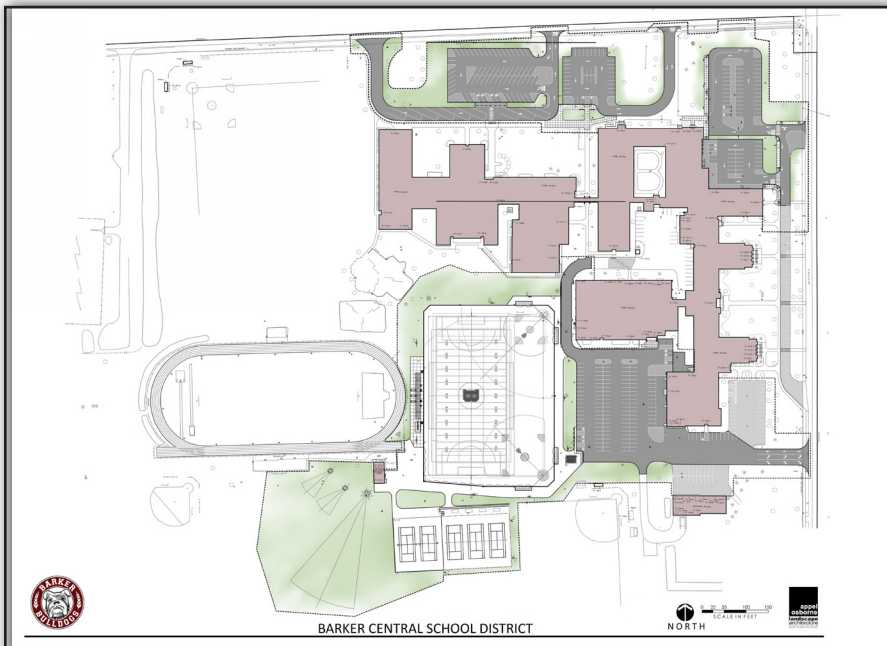
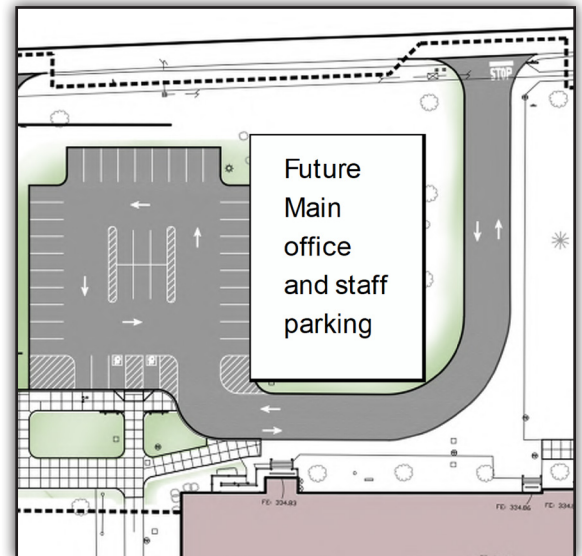
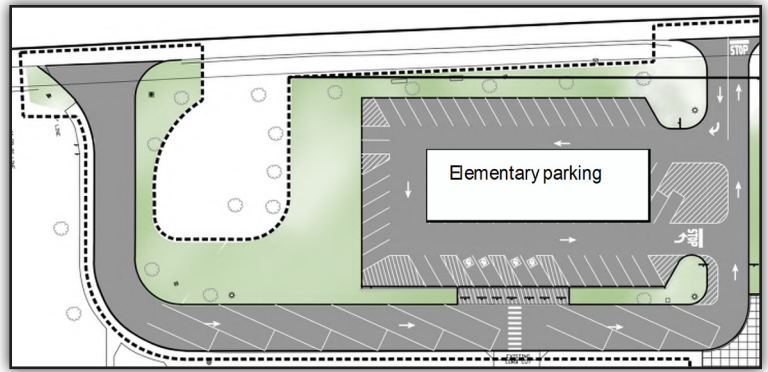
Mr. Bruning readies young swimmers for the backstroke.

PARKING AND TRAFFIC CHANGES

As you know we have made a number of substantial changes to our parking lot areas as part of our ongoing capital project. The biggest changes made affect how the bus loops and the Elementary and District Office parking lots will flow. Please see the images on this page for these changes. The biggest daily change will impact those who pick up and drop off their students every day. Pick up and drop off (lower right) will occur in generally the same place as it has been the last couple years, but the entry and exit to the pick up and drop off loop has been moved to Quaker Road. This change allows for pick up and drop off to occur on a rolling basis and not be impacted by the release of busses in the afternoon. This also completely removes the pick up and drop off process from those parking each day.

The second big change is we have created a separate parking area that will align with the building office suites being constructed in the old middle school area. The entry to this area utilizes the old bus loop to access this newly configured parking area. Our existing bus loop was also reconfigured to exit differently in order to separate a portion of our parking lots from the bus loop.

We hope the images on this page show how these new spaces will flow, but we will also have temporary signage posted in all the new areas to help guide everyone through the changes until our permanent wayfinding signage is installed later in the fall.



BULLDOG PRIDE

As we get ready for a new year, we have been updating our logos all across campus. As you may recall, we started our process of finding a new logo almost a year and a half ago. We started with selecting our new Bulldog name from hundreds of submissions that were whittled down to our final selection over a number of rounds of voting. From there we asked for our community and students to provide their own renditions of what our new Bulldog logo could look like and the artwork of 4 students was selected to be the basis of our new mascot. The main Bulldog face was drawn by Addisyn Weller with supporting artwork by Lucas DerSarkissian, Eva Kelsey, and Julia Cimato being the basis for the additional supporting logos. Each student is shown below in some new Barker Bulldog apparel with the logos their artwork inspired. We could not be more proud of these 4 students and their dedication to our school and community and their artwork will live on all over our campus and elsewhere as the logos spread through the region on shirts, sweatshirts, and other apparel and goods. We will have a digital merchandise store set up on our website soon that will be open for purchasing many items with these new logos.



(Clockwise from upper left):
**Addisyn Weller, Eva Kelsey,
 Julia Cimato and Lucas
 DerSarkissian** model apparel
 with the new Barker Bulldogs
 logos.

TRAFFIC SAFETY FAIR A HUGE SUCCESS

On Wednesday, May 22nd, a Traffic Safety Fair was held on campus for members of the junior and senior classes. This was an all-day, hands-on, interactive event that was organized by the Niagara County Sheriff's Office with participation from other local and county community organizations and vendors. Mrs. Sara Thibault ran point in District to setup a schedule activities during the fair that included the Battle of the Belts Seatbelt Competition, distracted driving simulations and goggles, interactive displays from local companies and organizations, first responder and highway vehicles, road signs, pedal carts, a mock trial from the Niagara County District Attorney, impact speakers from SADD and the Somerset Police Department, and much more.

The Battle of the Belts competition was sponsored by Doug and Becky Thompson of Thompson's Insurance, a State Farm agent. Students signed up in teams of 4 and had to race to buckle up. The winning team received 4 prom tickets, a \$300 value!

Participants had the chance to also win door prizes which were provided by the Barker PTO and a picnic style lunch was provided for the students.



(Top-bottom and L-R): The Town of Somerset Police Cruiser. **Kayleigh Thompson** navigates the road course. **Ryan Jasco** and **Trent Dickinson** pose in the photo booth. Board of Education member, **Mrs. Virginia Voss**, supervises students competing in the Battle of the Belts Competition.

5TH & 6TH GRADE CAREER DAY PROVIDES OPTIONS

On May 23rd, grades 5 and 6 participated in Career Day. Students were given the opportunity to listen to 4 different speakers for 30 minutes each. There were 8 speakers who presented their career to the Pratt Elementary students. Each student was asked to select the 5 they would most like to meet. Below is a brief description of each person that volunteered to speak at Career Day. Thank you to all of the speakers for providing the students with insight on different career paths they could choose as they get older and make the important decision of what they would like to do for work.

- Levi Atwater: Mr. Atwater has a wide range of knowledge in Wildlife Management.
- Tim Hirschman: Mr. Hirschman is a lieutenant at a correctional facility. His job plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety, security, and effective management of the facility while upholding the rights and welfare of both staff and inmates.
- Amanda Collins: Ms. Collins is a Veterinary Technician and Certified Dog Trainer. She gets to help people keep their pets happy and healthy for their whole lives.
- Adam Kelemen: Mr. Kelemen is an officer with the New York State Police.
- John Kieffer: Mr. Kieffer is a Petty Officer First Class with the Navy. He currently is the local Navy Representative for the Buffalo Area. He has been in the Navy for the past 17 years having many responsibilities and has been able to travel the world and visit countries, such as Italy, Scotland and Egypt.
- Dave McAdoo: Mr. McAdoo is the co-owner of the business Custom Covers & Canvas out of Niagara Falls.
- Denny Nestoros: Mr. Nestoros is a Pilot for JetBlue Airlines. Mr. Nestoros discussed the requirements for becoming a pilot, the science behind flying a plane, and the daily aspects of flying.
- Xavier Riley: Mr. Riley is currently the Senior Video Editor at Roswell Park. He shoots and edits video content for their website, TV, social media, events and internal communications. He has past experience working at the University at Buffalo in the Athletics department and as a video editor for the Buffalo Bills and Buffalo Sabres.



(Top-bottom): **Mr. McAdoo** discusses the canvas making process. **Mr. Atwater** presents *Wildlife Management*.

HONOR SOCIETY ADDS MEMBERS

On Monday, June 17th, the Barker chapter of the National Honor Society added 11 new members. The following students (Below, L-R) were inducted into the organization:

- Donovan Hefferon
- Daniel Goodwin
- Luke Fay
- Nick Heidemann
- Julia Kalynycz
- Hailey Dodge
- Samuel Liuzzi
- Rebecca Thering
- Kaya Lloyd
- Kaylee Stoll
- Jocelyn Schmitt

The following NHS members spoke during the ceremony:

- Lillia Peace - Character
- Emma Evans - Scholarship
- Alexander Detschner - Leadership
- Natalie Brandel - Service

The information below was taken from the program provided at the event.

The National Honor Society (NHS) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to honor those students who demonstrate excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginning in 1921.

Today, it is estimated that more than one million students annually participate in activities of NHS and its middle level counterpart, the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). NHS chapters are found in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, many U.S. territories, and Canada. Chapter membership not only recognizes students for their accomplishments, but also challenges them to develop through involvement in school activities and community service. Both NHS and NJHS were founded by and are programs of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).



DANCE CLASS STUDENTS PERFORM AT RECITALS

On May 29th, 11 students participated in a dance recital showcasing different dance styles learned by Mrs. Phillips' dance class during the 2023-2024 school year. The following students performed two-30 minute shows.



(L-R): Cheyann Walker, Cherish Potter, Ella Gancasz, Brooke Dunkelberger, Chloe Duchow, Makayla King, Fallyn Mescall, Ava Kelemen, Lauren Zglinicki, Jillian Fisk. *Not pictured: Alayna Weeks.*



EARTH DAY POSTER CONTEST

Congratulations to the following 7 Pratt Elementary students who were recognized as grade level winners of the Senator Robert Ortz Earth Day Poster Contest:

- Kindergarten - Karla Sanchez Ocampo
- 1st - Adeline Wahl
- 2nd - Arabella Zastrow
- 3rd - Estevan Stymus
- 4th - Daniella Carnes
- 5th - Nora Gow
- 6th - Kasey Thering



(L-R): Mrs. Phillips, Daniella Carnes, Adeline Wahl, Estevan Stymus, Arabella Zastrow, Nora Gow, Karla Sanchez Ocampo, Kasey Thering, Dr. Love.

DAVID JOHNSON WINS HOLOCAUST CONTEST

On Tuesday, May 28th, the Holocaust Education Resource Organization of Buffalo and the judges of the 2024 Arts & Writing Contest recognized Barker Jr.-Sr. High School sophomore, David Johnson, at the HERO of Buffalo awards ceremony for his entry in the annual contest. Johnson (pictured at right with ELA teacher Mrs. Dudek) received 2nd place in the 10th grade writing category and was also named Best in Show in the high school writing category. The ceremony took place at Congregation Shir Shalom on Sheridan Drive in Williamsville.

David's poem, titled "Broken Hearts and Strong Souls," was published in the July/August edition of The Jewish Journal. This prestigious honor showcases Barker Central School District as an outstanding beacon among all Western New York Schools. In recognition of this, our District has been awarded \$250.00 to be used for Holocaust related educational materials.



Mrs. Dudek stated, "Thank you David for representing our District in such a profound way: promoting human rights, social justice, and civic responsibility."

Students were tasked with describing the challenges faced by parents and/or children of the Kindertransport. The Kindertransport (German for children's transport) took place between 1938 and 1940 and involved a series of rescue efforts. Thousands of refugee children, mostly Jewish, were rescued from Nazi Germany and moved to Great Britain.

This year marked the 85th anniversary of Kindertransport! Submissions for the writing contest required the following criteria: Entries could be fiction or non-fiction writing, such as poetry, journal entries, editorials, letters, or short stories. Writing entries could be a maximum of 750 words. All copyright-protected sources had to be cited and a bibliography of all sources was required to accompany all research entries.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)

BAND BEGINNERS

Many students are excitedly getting ready to start a band instrument in September. Students are eligible to participate in band starting in 4th grade, but many 5th and 6th grade students also begin instruments. The target start date for lessons is the 2nd week of school, the week of September 9th. If your student has already registered to begin a band instrument, please be sure you:

- Acquire the instrument and lesson book so they are ready to start lessons on time. Please refer to info your student received in June.
- Join the Primary Band Remind group: @barkerpri



If you have any questions about acquiring the instrument or book, or if you still need to register your student, you can contact Ms. Johnson on the Remind app, or email/phone: cjohnson@barkerpsd.net, 716-795-3201 x5303. We are looking forward to seeing our budding instrumentalists very soon!

David Johnson's award winning entry:

Broken Hearts and Strong Souls

Invasion and chaos bring separation and fear. Packing and deciding lead to loss and confusion. Goodbyes and sorries bring sadness and tears.

The train whistle splits the Air.
The wheels Chugging and tracks Screeching.

New environments and new people cause anxiety and unease.
Men and women lose their love and life. Boys and girls lose family and friends.
Searching and shouting brought destruction and theft.
Children scared and screaming reminds them of the tracks screeching to a halt for the bad men

Kapos and Germans destroy and steal.
Greed and hatred without thought or remorse.
People and children slaughtered like cattle and lambs. Fire and smoke infect the air with sadness and disgust.

Remorse and acceptance was forgotten and lost.
Children were gathered and many were lost.
Angry Germans and scared parents left broken-hearted children lost.

Questions and confusion for what without answer or reason.
Hitler and soldiers- pure evil and poorly guided souls.
Kindertransport and rescue but at what cost?
Most siblings are gone with no idea of their fate.
Risks taken, prices made, lives taken none that shouldn't have started.
Children were afraid but they have strong souls.
Respect for the strong and remembrance of the undeserved deaths.

ART CONTEST WINNERS

The Western New York Federation of Women's Clubs Art Show is held annually for students in grades 9-12 in the eight far western counties of New York State. Barker Central High School was awarded 16 ribbons for student work.

1st Place:

- Andreas Nestoros, Animation
- Brooke Dunkelberger, Altered Book
- Lucas DerSarkissian, Digital Photography Unenhanced
- Andreas Nestoros, Ceramic Sculpture
- Eva Kelsey, Colored Pencil

2nd Place:

- Gabriel Nestoros, Animation
- Makayla King, Altered Book
- Moira Dwyer, Digital Photography Unenhanced
- Lucas DerSarkissian, Watercolor
- Moira Dwyer, Ceramic Sculpture
- Kylie Lemise, Scratch Art

3rd Place:

- Xavier Holland, Animation
- Gabriel Nestoros, Printmaking
- Cherish Potter, Watercolor

Honorable Mention:

- Lynnea Delgrollice, Glass Painting (pictured at right)
- Makayla King, Scratch Art



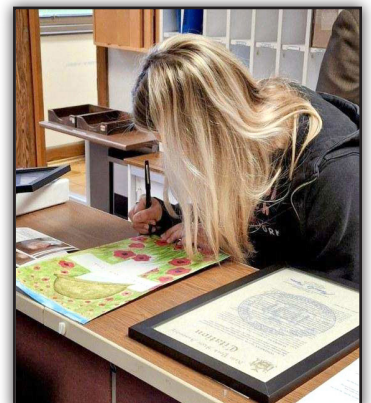
GANCASZ WINS FREEDOM ISN'T FREE POSTER CONTEST

Ella Gancasz was selected by Assemblyman Mike Norris to be the 2024 Memorial Day Poster Contest Winner for her talented and thoughtful interpretation of the theme "Freedom Isn't Free." Ella was presented with an official New York State Citation from Assemblyman Norris. The painting will be displayed in the State Legislative Office Building and Assemblyman Norris's district office.

Miss Feltz was also presented with a proclamation for her work supporting the Memorial Day Poster Contest over the years.



(Clockwise from upper right): Ella Gancasz's contest winning artwork. Gancasz signs her artwork for Assemblyman Norris. Assemblyman Norris presents a proclamation to Miss Feltz. Gancasz and Norris display Ella's citation and artwork.



TEACHER APPRECIATION AWARDS PRESENTED

Two BCS teachers received special commendation from the New York State Assembly during Teacher Appreciation Week (May 6-10). Mrs. Joy Dabill and Mrs. Jessica Monaco both received a New York State Assembly citation.

Mrs. Dabill is the 2024 Assemblyman Mike Norris Teacher Appreciation Week Award winner at the elementary level. Mrs. Dabill is a special education teacher at Barker Central School who services our students in grades 5 and 6. She truly goes above and beyond to meet the needs of all of the students in the classroom. Mrs. Dabill is a collaborative teammate and places students at the center of all she does. Her genuine care for each student's success is inspiring!

Mrs. Monaco is the 2024 Assemblyman Mike Norris Teacher Appreciation Week Award winner at the Jr.-Sr. high level. Mrs. Monaco is a high school history, Participation in Government, and Economics teacher at Barker Central School. The relationships Mrs. Monaco forges with students profoundly impact their success. Mrs. Monaco works tirelessly to ensure students are prepared to be productive citizens and is leading the charge to create new history and social studies programming for our high school students. Her passion for developing life-long learners is impressive!

Assemblyman Mike Norris paid a visit to BCS on Monday, June 10th to present some well-deserved awards to members of the Barker staff. Teacher Appreciation Awards were presented to:

- Aileen Gilbert
- Christine Donovan
- Jamie Schwab
- Meghan Black
- Alicia Montesanti
- Adam Norris

Congratulations to all of the recipients for their hard work and commitment to the Barker Central School District.

(Middle-Bottom): **Mrs. Schwab** with Assemblyman Norris. **Mr. Norris** with his class and **Assemblyman Norris**.



(L-R): **Mr. Learo** (Director of Instructional Services/ Assistant Principal), **Mrs. Dabill**, **Mr. Cornwell** (Coordinator of Curriculum & Professional Learning/ AP), **Mrs. Monaco**, **Dr. Love** (School Principal).





SPORTS DESK - LETTER FROM THE A.D.

We had an extremely successful 2023-2024 year in athletics celebrating several championships, winning seasons, scholar-athlete teams, individual scholar-athletes, record-breaking athletes and sportsmanship team awards. Throughout the past year we successfully implemented an electronic registration process using Arbitersports/Family ID and created a new school mascot and logo with the help and input from our students and community. We also continued with our Athlete of the Week program that was started in the spring of 2023 recognizing 38 well-deserving student-athletes for their accomplishments in their seasons. We would like to once again thank our community businesses for their support: Crosby's,

The Grain House Eatery and Taphouse, Harris Farms, and the Barker Cafeteria. These businesses continued to graciously donate many items weekly and posted pictures within a display of these standout athletes at their locations.

I am also pleased to announce that the building of our new turf complex, upgrades to our outdoor concession stand, tennis courts and throwing areas for track and field was a huge success. I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the project a success.

Moving forward into the 2024-2025 year, we have many exciting things in the works and changes in our athletic programs that parents, student-athletes, staff, and the entire community should be aware of. First, we are bringing football back to our campus where the majority of Varsity and Modified football games and practices will now be played on our new turf. We are also bringing more JV and Varsity girls' soccer games back to Barker. In addition, we are in the process of bringing back our cheerleaders for home basketball games. Lastly, permanent tee boxes from the leftover turf and signage created by Mr. Mallon and his students will be installed on our campus disc golf course by the end of fall.

I look forward to the upcoming school year where we will continue to work hard at stressing academics, attendance and the rebranding of our new Bulldog mascot. It is surely going to be an exciting year in Bulldog Athletics! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Athletic Department and we will be happy to address them promptly. GO BARKER!

Sincerely,

Rob Mucha
Director of Athletics
716-795-3201 x5242
rmucha@barkerccsd.net

Follow Barker Bulldogs Athletics on X:
[@BarkerBulldogs](https://twitter.com/BarkerBulldogs)

Visit the Barker Athletics channel on our website to view more athletics information including schedules, archives, pictures, Sports Stories, and more:
www.barkerccsd.net/athletics



Spring All-WNY Scholar-Athletes:

- Lucas DerSarkissian
- Emma Evans

Spring Scholar-Athlete Teams:

- Baseball
- Softball
- Tennis
- Boys Track & Field
- Girls Track & Field

THE SPORTS PAGE

Since the last issue of *The Banner*, several outstanding athletic performances have taken place, including 7 Niagara-Orleans League championships, all 5 of our spring sport teams being Scholar-Athlete teams (see page 20), 8 additional Athletes of the Week, a Sportsmanship Award, and 5 All-League 1st Team members. The Softball team was also ranked in the top 10 of the Buffalo News Softball Small Schools Poll during the season and the Tennis team won the programs first ever Team Sectionals match with a 5-0 shutout of Depew.



N-O League All-League Track & Field Champions:

- Keira Dalton - Discus
- Emma Evans - 3000m Run
- Jordyn Kinne - 100m Hurdles
- Ilianna Manning - Shot Put
- Zackary Santarsiero - Shot Put

Niagara-Orleans League, 1st Team All-League:

- Anna Bowerman - Softball
- Peyton Bradley - Softball
- Kaylee Stoll - Softball
- Lucas DerSarkissian - Tennis
- Daniel Goodwin - Tennis

N-O League Tennis Doubles Champions:

- Lucas DerSarkissian & Daniel Goodwin

N-O/G-R Exceptional Senior Baseball Game:

- Charles LaGreca

N-O League Sportsmanship Award:

- Charles LaGreca, Baseball

N-O/G-R Exceptional Senior Softball Game:

- Anna Bowerman

To view the Athletes of the Week, visit www.barkerco.net/aotw



2024 N-O League Undefeated (12-0) Softball Champions (L-R): Head Coach Aileen Gilbert, Anna Bowerman, Macie May, Petra Bish, Madelina Pavlock, Natalie Brandel, Madyson Flint, Elise Monaco, Kaylee Stoll, Rachel Sutter, Michayla Greene, Peyton Bradley, Arianna Sturtevant, Samantha Murphy and Assistant Coach Bill Moeller.

IMPORTANT DISTRICT INFO

Transportation

The Barker Central School District contracts with Student Transportation of American for bus services. Transportation requirements will be sent to all families once all requirements are known.



Questions regarding bus services can be directed to Lynn Walker at 716-795-3816 at the local bus garage.

Written Notification at Barker Jr.-Sr. High School

If a family is making a busing change request, they need to submit that request to the high school office at least 1 day in advance. This will give enough time to ensure we can meet the request.



Student Registration

School registration will be coordinated with Ms. Rachel Anderson at the Barker Central School District. To receive a registration packet and more information on the process please contact her. The packet is also available for download on Guidance Department page of the Barker Central School website. Once the packet is complete, please mail the packet to Ms. Anderson at Barker Central School, 1628 Quaker Road, Barker, NY 14012 or send via email: randerson@barkercsd.net. You will be contacted once the packet has been received and processed. If you have further questions, please contact Ms. Anderson by calling 716-795-3237.



Emergency Information Cards

Pratt Elementary students will bring home an emergency information card the first week of school. Jr.-Sr. High School students receive the card in the mail. It is very important that you fill out the card and return it to the health office as soon as possible.



In case of an emergency, this information is used to get in touch with you or another designated person listed on the card. Please contact Ms. Sarah McKee or Mrs. Shelby Watry in the health office at 716-795-9322 to notify them of any changes in the information during the school year so we may keep our records current.

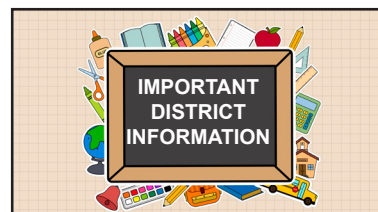
Additionally, it is very important that your phone information and email address is up-to-date in the event of a school closing. **The District will use the Blackboard Connect system to notify residents of school closings/cancellations and other important information.**



Provision for Educationally Disabled Children

The Barker Central School District complies with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the regulations of the New York State Commissioner of Education relating to the education of educationally disabled children. The District seeks to search out and provide educational programs for Barker children under 21 years of age who may have a handicapping condition as defined by NYS regulations.

Any parent who suspects that their child may have a disability is encouraged to contact the District by phone at 716-795-3350. All information is kept confidential and every effort will be made to provide for disabilities so that the child may reach his or her full potential.



District Phone List Reminders

Barker Central School District Phone Numbers	
Athletics Department Phone	716-795-3201 x5242
Attendance Office Phone	716-795-3201 x5187
Bus Garage Phone	716-795-3816
Business Office Phone	716-795-3113
Cafeteria Office Phone	716-795-3347
District Office Phone	716-795-3832
Guidance Office Phone	716-795-9260
Health Office Phone	716-795-9322
Jr.-Sr. High School Office Phone	716-795-3201
Pratt Elementary School Office Phone	716-795-3237
Special Education Office Phone	716-795-3350

Barker Central School District Fax Numbers	
Bus Garage Fax	716-795-9337
Business Office Fax	716-795-3283
District Office Fax	716-795-3394
Guidance Office Fax	716-795-9665
Health Office Fax	716-795-3678
Jr.-Sr. High School Office Fax	716-795-3911
Special Education Office Fax	716-795-9437
Pratt Elementary School Office Fax	716-795-9330



BUSSING & PICK UP CHANGES AT PRATT ELEMENTARY



If a family is making a bussing or pick up change request, they need to log in to PickUp Patrol by 1:00 PM and make any necessary changes. Please include the address where the child will be riding the bus to, and the name and phone number of the adult at that address. If a child is being picked up, please include the name of the adult picking the child up. If a child needs to leave early, please enter it under "Early Dismissal" and include the time they need to be excused and the name of the person picking them up. If you do not have a PickUp Patrol login, please contact Ms. Rachel Anderson at 716-795-3237 or randerson@barkercsd.net.

MY SCHOOLBUCKS INFORMATION

Barker Central School is pleased to inform you of a service to pay for school meals online using a credit/debit card or electronic check called "MySchoolBucks".



What is MySchoolBucks?

MySchoolBucks is an online payment service that provides parents the ability to securely pay for meals, monitor student cafeteria purchases and receive email notifications for low account balances.

How do I enroll?

1. Go to www.myschoolbucks.com and register for your free account.
2. Add your students using their school name and student ID or birthdate.
3. Make a payment to your students' accounts with your credit/debit card or electronic check.

A program fee of \$3.25 will apply. You will have the opportunity to review any fees and cancel if you choose, before you are charged.

If you have any questions, please visit www.myschoolbucks.com and click the "Help" link or call MySchoolBucks Customer Support at 1-855-832-5226.

FROM THE SERVING LINE

Pages 23-26 contain information from Mrs. Julie Fuerch, Food Service Manager.



Filling out the Community Eligibility Provision Household Income Eligibility Form on page 25 is important for our District and it benefits the families to establish student individual eligibilities. Doing so will help the District continue to stay CEP and for other government benefits. Filling out the form could help with a free status for college application fees, P-EBT benefits, percentage off Spectrum and possible other options. Please consider filling out the form and returning to the Barker Central School District.

For questions regarding breakfast and lunch program information please call Mrs. Fuerch at 716-795-3347 or email jfuerch@barkercsd.net



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

Office of P-20 Education Policy
Child Nutrition Program Administration
89 Washington Avenue, Room 375 EBA, Albany, NY 12234
(518) 473-8781 Fax (518) 473-0018
www.nysed.gov/cn/cnms.htm

Letter to Parents for School Meal Programs Community Eligibility Provision

Dear Parent or Guardian:

All students enrolled at **Barker Central School** are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at school at **no charge** to your household each day of the **2024-2025** school year. No further action is required of you. Your child(ren) will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit an application.

If you have any further questions, please contact, **Julie Fuerch, Food Service Director 716-795-3347** or jfuerch@barkercsd.net

Sincerely,

Julie Fuerch

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
- (2) fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Barker Central School is participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). All children in the school will receive meals at no charge regardless of household income or completion of this form. This form is to determine eligibility for additional State and federal program benefits that your child(ren) may qualify for. Read the instructions on the back, complete **only one** form for your household, sign your name and return it to the school named above, **Attn: Julie Fuerch 716-795-3347** if you need help.

1. List all children in your household who attend school:

[illegible]

2. SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Benefits:

If anyone in your household receives either SNAP, TANF or FDPIR benefits, list their name and CASE # here. Skip to Part 5, and sign the application.

Name: _____

CASE # _____

3. Household Gross Income: List all people living in your household, how much and how often they are paid (weekly, every other week, twice per month, monthly). Do not leave income blank. If no income, check box. If you have listed a foster child above, you must report their personal income.

[illegible]

4. Signature: An adult household member must sign this application.

I certify (promise) that all the information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the information is being given so the school may receive federal funds. The school officials may verify the information and if I purposely give false information, I may be prosecuted under applicable State and federal laws, and my children may lose meal benefits.

Signature:

Date:

Email Address:

Home Phone

Work Phone

Home Address

**Annual Income Conversion (Only convert when multiple income frequencies are reported on application)
Weekly X 52; Every Two Weeks (bi-weekly) X 26; Twice Per Month X 24; Monthly X 12**

SNAP/TANF/Foster

Total Household Income/How Often:

Household Size:

Free Eligibility

Reduced Eligibility

Denied Eligibility

Signature of Reviewing Official



CEP/Provision 2 Non-Base Year Household Income Form INSTRUCTIONS

PART 1 ALL HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE STUDENT INFORMATION. DO NOT FILL OUT MORE THAN ONE FORM FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD.

- (1) Print the names of the children, including foster children, for whom you are applying on one form.
- (2) List their grade and school.
- (3) Check the box to indicate a foster child living in your household, and check the box for each child with no income.

PART 2 HOUSEHOLDS GETTING SNAP, TANF OR FDPIR SHOULD COMPLETE PART 2 AND SIGN PART 4.

- (1) List a current SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) or FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) case number of anyone living in your household. Do not use the 16-digit number on your benefit card. The case number is provided on your benefit letter.
- (2) An adult household member must sign the form in PART 4. **SKIP PART 3 -** Do not list names of household members or income if you list a SNAP, TANF or FDPIR number.

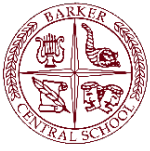
PARTS 3 & 4 ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE ALL OF PARTS 3 AND 4.

- (1) Write the names of everyone in your household, whether or not they get income. Include yourself, the children you are completing the form for, all other children, your spouse, grandparents, and other related and unrelated people living in your household. Use another piece of paper if you need more space.
- (2) Write the amount of current income each household member receives, before taxes or anything else is taken out, and indicate where it came from, such as earnings, welfare, pensions and other income. If the current income was more or less than usual, write that person's usual income. **Specify how often this income amount is received: weekly, every other week (bi-weekly), 2 x per month, monthly. If no income, check the box.** The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care and Development Block Grant, TANF and At Risk Child Care Programs should **not** be considered as income for this program.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT



Student artwork (Clockwise from upper left): Victoria Poyfair, Madelina Pavlock, Madison Stephan, Ethan Gancasz.



Community Education Program Fall 2024 Classes

Please register by September 10th

to ensure that your class is not canceled due to low enrollment.

Most classes begin September 16th and conclude by the end of November.

No classes October 14th, November 11th, November 27-29, 2024.

New Registration Process! Welcome to CourseStorm!

Community Ed has an online platform for its registration and payment processing starting this semester! Check website for more information and to register at: www.barkercsd.net/adulted

As so many classes are social occasions, the new platform has a friends and family registration component available which will enable one person to easily register their family members and circle of friends with just a click to participate in a class together. Even better, you are able to register for as many classes as you or they'd like at the same time. Registration can be done on a computer or, if you are on the go, your phone.

As security is of highest concern, the platform provides the technical details like security certificates, encryption, and PCI compliance. Credit card information entered is in a completely PCI compliant manner and encrypted such that even the platform company cannot see the full credit card number. Registrants who choose to store their credit card for re-use are protected by Stripe's on-disk AES-256 encryption. Stripe is a Level 1 PCI DSS Compliant service provider.

As up to date class information is important, the instructors and the Community Ed director will now be able to communicate with the participants through email in a timely manner. Discounts, credits, class information will all be provided through the platform quick and easy.

If you have any questions about using CourseStorm and/or registering please contact Mary Eadie at 716-795-3110 or meadie@barkercsd.net

To Register - Go to: Barkercsd.net

Click on District section, then Community Ed and follow the links.

Special Programs

Community Band	Band Room	Mondays, 7:00–9:00 PM
The Barker Community Band has been performing music in Barker and neighboring communities for over 40 years. This ensemble makes appearances at charity events, churches, parks and schools. It is a year-round course and is open to anyone with a background in instrumental music. Questions – contact Marcia Frost at rmfrost88@yahoo.com		
Contact: Marcia Frost	Free but must be registered.	

AARP Smart Driver	High School Cafeteria Use Middle School Entrance	Working on scheduling the class. Check website for when date is set.
The AARP Smart Driver™ Course includes a focus on areas where drivers could benefit from additional training. This program is beneficial for all ages! A minimum of 15 people are required to hold this class. Participants must attend both evenings to qualify for discounts. Participants of the course will qualify for a discount on their automobile insurance. Participants will also qualify for a 3-point reduction on their driver's license for any points previously accrued for moving violations. <u>Check with your insurance provider for specifics.</u> There is no Barker Senior discount for this course.		
Cost: \$30.00 AARP Members/\$35.00 Non-Members. To received reduced cost, the participant must include AARP # with registration.		Usually 2 Classes, 3 hours each class
American Legion Post #425 Military Museum		Available Upon Request
The American Legion Post #425 has a classroom across from the High School cafeteria. It is a Military Museum, which was started in the Yorker House south of the school. It contains memorabilia from the Civil War through today. You can see pictures of Barker Veterans starting with WWI, uniforms from different wars, books, pictures and hundreds of artifacts. This room is a great history resource room for all teachers and students, and the community. Set up an appointment for anyone who would like to look back in history of our country, please contact Donald Coates at 716-778-5291 or Mary Eadie at: meadie@barkerksd.net.		

Regular In-House Classes/Programs

Annuities	High School Cafeteria	One Day	Tuesday, November 19, 6:00–7:30 PM
What are annuities? Why do people invest in them? What kinds of guarantees can they provide? What different kinds of annuities are available? What are the pro's and con's of owning them? What role can they play for retirees or those approaching retirement? Chartered Financial Consultant, Jason Myers, will explore these questions and more in this this class which is only a presentation.			
Instructor: Jason Myers	Free – you must register to attend.		
Antique Auto Restoration	Room 161	Starts 9/17	Tuesdays, 4:00–6:00 PM
Come and explore the various techniques used to accomplish sheet metal work, welding, painting, cleaning and other tasks necessary to restore antique automobiles. No formal instruction given. There will be a charge for all materials used. Lab Fee: Participants will be charged for, and will be responsible for, all supplies used in course.			
Instructor: Tom Mallon	\$40.00 (Seniors \$20.00)		8 weeks
Basketball	High School Gym	Starts 9/16	Mondays & Wednesdays, 7:00–9:00 PM No Classes 10/14, 11/11
Competitive basketball for the recent and not-so-recent player. A congenial atmosphere is maintained to ensure that all participants have an enjoyable evening. No instruction will be provided. Sorry, adults only, No STUDENTS, and you must be registered to participate.			
Instructor: Jared Morgan	\$50.00 (Seniors \$25.00)		8 weeks
Body Sculpting	Elementary Gym	Starts 9/24	Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7:45–8:45 PM No Classes 10/14, 11/11
This fast-paced class will help you strengthen, tone and shape your body. Following the interval training concept, low impact movements are alternated with weight-bearing exercises to challenge and meet your fitness goals. You will need a mat and weights. Trisha is a certified and experienced fitness instructor.			
Instructor: Trisha M. Hoock	\$45.00 (Seniors \$22.50)		8 weeks

Ceramics	Room 183 (Art Room, HS)	6:00-8:00 PM Classes: 9/26, 10/3, 10/17, 10/30	
Create functional and decorative pieces with a variety of hand-building techniques. Class is for beginners. No experience is necessary. There is a separate \$25 lab fee for materials to be paid with registration. Lab Fee: \$25 - no discount for lab fee, fee due upon registration and is included in overall cost.			
Instructor: Krista Beth Feltz	\$25.00 (Seniors \$12.50)	4 weeks	
Crochet For All Skill Levels	Room 183 (Art Room, HS)	Starts 9/16	Mondays, 6:30-8:00 PM No classes 10/14, 11/11
<i>Twisted and hooked!</i> For experienced and beginners. Learn the basic steps in crocheting and how to read a pattern to create your own special treasures! Each class will cover different parts of crocheting. We will discuss additional materials you will need to buy for a specific project that you could make during the remainder of classes if you so choose. You will need to bring a skein of medium yarn and an “H” hook to start.			
Instructor: Demerise Eadie	\$40.00 (Seniors \$20.00)	8 weeks	
Family/Lap Swim	Pool	Class starts 9/16	Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM No Classes 10/14, 11/11
Family or individual swim time. An area will be designated for lap swimming. Please note if you will lap swim, family swim, or both when registering. Family Swim must register each participant – one cost per family for family swim. <i>Parents must accompany students and stay in the pool area at all times.</i>			
Staff Lifeguards	\$45.00 (\$22.50 Seniors)	8 weeks	
Greeting Card Class	Room 183, (Art Room, HS)	Thursdays, 6:00-8:00 PM Classes: 9/19, 10/10, 10/24, 11/7	
Do you enjoy stamping, coloring and scrapbooking but don't have the time to do large projects? Come join us and make greeting cards! Each week we will demonstrate cards using stamping, coloring with Copic markers, watercolor, embossing and more. We provide all of the materials to make 5 complete cards with envelopes. You will need to bring a tape/dot runner with refills or a bottle of liquid glue. Dot runners may be purchased at Walmart or any large craft store. Lab Fee: \$13 per class for materials, pay at class, no discount for lab fees			
Instructor: Mary Kersch	\$25.00 (Seniors \$12.50)	4 weeks	
Hall Walking	Starts 9/16	Mondays – Thursdays, 6:00-8:00 PM No classes 10/14, 11/11	
What better way to exercise than walking! Come walk with us in the halls of Barker Central School. Please wear comfortable clothing and good, comfortable walking shoes or sneakers. You may bring a water bottle, or water fountains are available. This exercise is designed for all ages and levels. Coat hooks are available by Room 161 near the art rooms with the skylights. If you bring your child to walk, they must be with you at all times. Hall walkers must be registered and sign-in each night at the High School south side entrance.			
No Instructor	Free	8 weeks	
Knitting For All Skill Levels	Room 183 (Art Room, HS)	Starts 9/17	Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00 PM
Learn the creative and fun activity of knitting! This class is for experienced and beginner knitting. Each week will focus on a different topic, including tools, stitches, patterns and history. You will need to bring a pair of single-point knitting needles and a skein of yarn (any size will do for this first practice session). We will discuss additional materials you will need to buy for a specific project that you will make during the remainder of classes.			
Instructor: Karen Davis	\$40.00 (Seniors \$20.00)	8 weeks	

Medicare 101 Understanding Your Options	High School Cafeteria	One Day	Tuesday, October 1, 6:00–7:30 PM
Medicare is Confusing! What are Parts A, B, C & D? When do I have to enroll? What will I pay? What is a Medicare Advantage Plan? What is a Medicare Supplement Plan? What about late enrollment penalties, Extra Help, EPIC or Medicare Savings Programs? What kind of plans might work best for me? This one-day class will help people understand how the federal Medicare program works and provide a general overview of the variety Medicare insurance options available to beneficiaries.			
Instructor: Jason Myers	Free – you must register to attend.		
Quilting – Create or Finish	Room 183 (Art Room, HS)	One Day	Saturday, October 26, 9:00 AM–3:00 PM
This quilting class will be to work primarily on unfinished projects - maybe you have a project from a prior class...such as blocks that are featured in Edyta Sitar's Alaska quilt, or another project. You could also receive help on a new project idea. It will be a fun and relaxing day to share ideas between other quilters of all level of experience as you work on a beautiful keepsake!			
Instructor: Janice Stoll	\$25.00 (Seniors \$12.50)		1 Day
R.A.D. Defensive Systems Course	Cafetorium/ Elementary Cafeteria	Ladies Only	Tuesdays, 6:00–9:00 PM Classes: 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12
The RAD system of self-defense is specifically tailored 4-week course offered by the Town of Somerset Police Department that is designed for women to develop and enhance their options for self-defense. The course is broken down into 4 sessions of 3 hours each and consists of both PowerPoint instruction and hands on tactics. Additional information can be received at the Somerset Police Department. Fee includes materials provided for course. Free to any High School female student.			
Instructor: Somerset Police	\$40.00 (Seniors \$20)/Free to Female HS Students		4 Weeks
Stretch and Tone Your Body	Elementary Gym	Starts 9/24	Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:45–7:45 PM No Classes 10/14, 11/11
This class is for everyone - men and women! Do you want to feel better, get active and have fun too? Come join Trisha for this class that focuses on stretching, joint movement, flexibility, and strength training. All exercises are done standing or sitting in a chair. There is no exercising on the floor. We have a good time socializing and exercising. Trish is a certified fitness instructor.			
Instructor: Trisha M. Hoock	\$45.00 (Seniors \$22.50)		8 weeks
Volleyball	High School Gym	Starts 9/17	Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7:00–9:00 pm
Mixed volleyball for all skill level players to participate in a fun environment so all have an enjoyable evening. Sorry, adults only, No STUDENTS, and you must be registered to participate.			
Instructor: Jim Harris	\$50.00 (Seniors \$25.00)		8 weeks
Water Aerobics	Pool	Starts 9/16	Mondays & Wednesdays, 5:30–6:30 PM No Classes 10/14, 11/11
This water aerobics class will instruct participants through very low impact aerobic exercise that encourages cardiovascular fitness. Come firm and tone those muscles through water resistance workouts using rhythmic exercises put to music for you. Instructors are certified lifeguards. All workouts will be in the shallow end of the pool. Class size is limited to 30 participants.			
Instructor: Beth VeRost	\$45.00 (Seniors \$22.50)		8 weeks
Wine Glass Painting	Room 183 (Art Room, HS Entrance)		Thursday, December 5, 6:00–8:00 PM
Painting is not just for the canvas! Create your own custom wine glass, hand-painted by you! Price includes 2 wine glasses & glass paint. Examples provided, but feel free to bring in your own ideas! This class is designed for those that don't have much painting experience, to an advanced painter. The process is simple and you will love your finished product! Supply fee of \$10 per person. Please bring a small box or container to bring your glasses home in. Lab fee: \$10.00 - no discount for lab fee, fee due upon registration and is within the overall fee.			
Instructor: Krista Beth Feltz	\$15.00 (Seniors \$7.50)		1 Night

Yoga	Room 446 (Elementary Building, behind the Library)	Starts 9/25	Wednesdays, 7:00–8:00 PM
In this class, postures are practiced to align, strengthen and promote flexibility in the body. Breathing techniques and meditation are also integrated. You can expect an emphasis on simplicity, repetition, and ease of movement. Full-body relaxation and balance are the goals, as we make a full circuit of the body's range of motion. Please bring a yoga mat with you.			
Instructor: Molly Burke	\$40.00 (Seniors \$20.00)		8 weeks

Online Classes/Programs

Year-end can be hectic and stressful while still joyful. Join an online class in the comfort of your home and take some time just for you or with someone! Information will be sent to you after registering as to how to connect, most use Zoom.

Vitamins & Herbs: Facts & Fallacies	Online	Wednesday, September 25, 7:00–8:30 PM
Confusion abounds about vitamin supplements. Do you need them? Which ones are best? How do you choose? In this workshop, you will learn the 7 guidelines that determine if a supplement is well balanced or a waste of money. (The instructor DOES NOT sell any supplements). Also, we'll discuss what current research says about: antioxidants, phytochemicals, anti-aging nutrients, colloidal minerals, chelated minerals, sustained release formulas, as well as Collagen, Glucosamine Chondroitin, Melatonin, Ginkgo, Ginseng & Echinacea.		
Instructor: Janice Novak	\$30.00 (\$15.00 Seniors)	1 night
Soothe Those Achy Joints	Online	Thursday, September 26, 7:00–8:30 PM
Do you have joints that ache – a knee or hip or back? Whether you have arthritis, bursitis or just creaky joints, this workshop is for you. Joint lubrication exercises are quite simple and easy to do yet produce rather remarkable results by helping to free your joints of pain. We'll also discuss which nutrients are needed to help keep your joints healthy.		
Instructor: Janice Novak	\$30.00 (\$15.00 Seniors)	1 night
Acupressure to Relieve Stress, Anxiety, Insomnia & More	Online	Monday, October 28, 7:00–8:30 PM
Acupressure is an ancient healing art and self-help tool. It can offer great relief with no side effects and help you feel your best. Along with the specific points to help relieve stress, insomnia, anxiety, irritability and even weight gain, learn the Nine Master Pressure Points which are the most helpful and most frequently prescribed to help and assist every system in your body.		
Instructor: Janice Novak	\$30.00 (\$15.00 Seniors)	1 night
The Art of De-Aging: Peel Years Off Your Bio Age	Online	Monday, September 30, 7:00–8:30 PM
Your chronological age is the number of years you have been alive. It is a fixed number and cannot be changed. Your biological or bio age, however, is measured by how well your organs and body systems work. And there are many things you can do to affect your biological age. You have more control over how your body ages than you may think. Research has shown us that you can peel years off your bio age. In this workshop, you will learn simple, scientifically proven things you can do right now to decrease your body age. Also, you will learn facial acupressure points to help erase years from your face naturally.		
Instructor: Janice Novak	\$30.00 (\$15.00 Seniors)	1 Night
Just Emotional Release For Inner Peace	Online	Monday, September 30, 6:30–9:00 PM
Inner peace is impossible to maintain while we still hold on to the very feelings and beliefs that keep us from being peaceful to begin with. Trapped negative emotions like fear, anger and sorrow can disrupt the flow of vital energy in our bodies and actually sabotage our inner peace. In this single evening course, you will learn simple yet effective techniques for getting in touch with, understanding, accepting and releasing the emotions that keep us from ourselves. Nobody wants to suffer. Come learn to rest in the peaceful state of loving acceptance that is our true nature.		
Instructor: Jesse Wicher	\$50.00 (\$25.00 Seniors)	1 Night

Just Breathe! Techniques to Calm, Center & Balance	Online	Monday, November 11, 7:00–8:30 PM
Breathing in specific ways can have amazing and powerful healing benefits on mind and body. Breath work is the single most powerful thing you can practice for improving energy levels, health, and well-being. In this workshop, you will learn ancient breathing exercises that will: neutralize stress by reprogramming your nervous system; increase energy and vitality; increase brain function; improve immune response; decrease depression and anxiety; and help strengthen your back and abs from the inside out. This powerful technique for optimum health of mind and body is literally right under your nose.		
Instructor: Janice Novak	\$30.00 (\$15.00 Seniors)	1 Night
Thyroid Things You Need to Know	Online	Monday, October 14, 7:00–8:30 PM
If you currently take thyroid medication but are still gaining weight and still have a variety of symptoms, there's more you need to know. Fatigue, weight gain, depression, anxiety, rising cholesterol levels, inability to focus, thinning hair, digestive problems, abnormal blood pressure, reduced sex drive, and heart palpitations are only some of the symptoms. We'll discuss the 5 things that need to be measured, but usually aren't; why the #1 thyroid replacement may not be helping you; foods that help or hinder; commonly misunderstood rules of how and when to take thyroid meds; environmental triggers and info you need to discuss with your doctor.		
This workshop is a source of information only and should by no means be considered a substitute for the advice of a qualified medical professional.		
Instructor: Janice Novak	\$30.00 (\$15.00 Seniors)	1 Night
Acupressure Face Lift & Skin Savvy	Online	Monday, December 2, 7:00–8:30 PM
Here's a facelift you can do at home. Acupressure is an ancient Chinese healing method that works with the energy that flows through your body. Stimulating facial acupressure points can help erase years from your face naturally, bring a healthy glow to your skin; increase firming; even decrease headaches, relieve eye strain, soothe nerves, and increase relaxation. Learn how to make your skin as healthy as possible from the inside out.		
Instructor: Janice Novak	\$30.00 (Senior \$15.00)	1 Night
Women, Weight & Hormones	Online	Wednesday, November 6, 7:00–8:30 PM
Are you finding no matter how well you watch what you eat or how much you exercise, your weight is not budging? Your inability to lose weight probably has more to do with hormone levels than anything else. Until imbalances are corrected, trying to lose weight will be like shoveling sand against the tide. We'll discuss which hormones are involved and what can be done to correct imbalances; concrete solutions for controlling appetite and cravings; major sources of hormone mimicking chemicals and how to get rid of them; what HRT or birth control pills have to do with weight gain; how to have your hormone levels checked reliably; what steps need to be taken to safely break the vicious cycle of hormone related weight gain.		
Instructor: Janice Novak	\$30.00 (Senior \$15.00)	1 Night
Guitar for the Hopelessly Busy Person	Online	Saturday, November 16, 1:00–3:30 PM
In just a few hours you can learn enough about playing the guitar to give you years of musical enjoyment, and you won't have to take private lessons to do it. This crash course will teach you some basic chords and get you playing along with your favorite songs right away. Fee includes the online book, online follow up lessons, a recording of the class and also an optional periodic question and answer session. Class is held online using Zoom and is partly hands on instruction and partly lecture/demonstration. Students take the online class and then follow that up with their own private study and practice by using our follow up video lessons and the online book which they begin using in the first seminar. Optional monthly question and answer session after the class is held is offered for any interested students. Ages 13+		
Instructor: Craig Coffman	\$60.00 (No Senior Discount)	1 Morning
Piano for the Hopelessly Busy Person	Online	Saturday, November 16, 9:00-Noon
In just a few hours, you can learn enough secrets of the trade to give you years of musical enjoyment. Learn to play piano the way professionals do-using chords. The chord method is LOTS of fun and dramatically easier to learn than reading notes. Class is held online using Zoom and is partly hands on instruction and partly lecture demonstration. Fee includes the online book, online follow up lessons, a recording of the class and also an optional periodic question and answer session. Students take the online		

class and then follow that up with their own private study and practice by using our follow up video lessons and the online book which they begin using in the first seminar. Optional monthly question and answer session after the class is held is offered for any interested students. Ages 13+			
Instructor: Craig Coffman	\$60.00 (No Senior Discount)		1 Afternoon
Churros & Handmade Corn Tortilla Taco Fiesta!	Online	Tuesday, October 15, 7:00–9:30 PM	
Dive into the world of creating a masterful fiesta where everything from the churros, the corn tortillas, and everything in between, even the spice mix is handcrafted from scratch! You have only truly experienced tacos if you have enjoyed them with handcrafted corn tortillas. A restaurant quality homemade fiesta packed with protein, and naturally gluten free. Store bought tortillas will become a thing of the past, and your favorite tacos will be the ones YOU make! The only thing missing from this fiesta will be lively music and a piñata, unless you bring those to the party too! On the Menu: Delicate and delightful Churros that are crispy-on-the-outside, soft-and fluffy-on-the-inside, coated in warm sweet spice, and dunked in luscious velvety chocolate sauce! Handcrafted corn tortillas, over-the-top guacamole, taco meat seasoned to perfection with homemade taco seasoning and delicious re-fried beans that are nothing like the canned beans!			
Instructor: Tess Georgakopoulos	\$45.00 (No Senior Discount)		1 Night
Copycat Cinnabon® Cinnamon Rolls, Basque Burnt Cheesecake, & Hot Cocoa Bombs	Online	Saturday, December 14, 5:00-7:30 PM	
Homemade sweets and treats are always wonderful around the holidays and throughout the year as well. Add three wonderful treats to your holiday celebration as you learn to create freshly baked homemade Cinnamon Rolls, luscious Basque Burnt Cheesecake, and velvety Hot Cocoa Bombs! Make them for your family for a memorable holiday breakfast or wrap them up with bows and gift them to those you hold dear. Or better yet, create memories by starting a new holiday. You will love these billowy, warm, luscious, gooey, rolls topped with cream cheese frosting that is out-of-this-world-delicious. In addition, you will learn Tess' version of Basque "Burnt" Cheesecake. The exterior resembles that of a crème brûlée, and the interior is lighter, airier than a New York Style Cheesecake, and has a "mousse like" consistency. Also, if interested, learn how to create a wonderful winter treat known as Hot Cocoa Bombs perfect for warming up during the cold WNY Winter or any time of year. NOTE: Equipment needs listed on the website.			
Instructor: Tess Georgakopoulos	\$45.00 (No Senior Discount)		1 Night

WAIVER AND RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS:

By registering and participating in the Community Education Program, registrants agree to this agreement. The agreement is between named participant registered and the Barker Central School District (including the Barker Central School District Community Education Program, its Community Education Director/Coordinator, its Community Education Instructors, and other related members, agents, authorized guests, and affiliated organizations.) The participant will be participating in the following Community Education activities and/or classes as acknowledged here and through registration process. The participant further agrees to abide by the policies of the Barker Central School District and its Community Education Program, including the Code of Conduct.

Registrant hereby states that s/he does not have any ailments or physical condition that would prevent or inhibit her/him from fully participating in the specified activities and/or classes. Participant understands that there is a risk of injury inherent in the foregoing community education classes and/or activities. Participant hereby accepts and assumes all risks inherent in the specified Community Education classes and/or activities. Participant undertakes this activity at their own risk. Participant voluntarily assumes full responsibility for any losses, property damage, or personal injuries sustained in the specified activities and/or classes. Participant further agrees to hold harmless and indemnify the Barker Central School District from any and all claims, demands, actions and costs that might arise out of participation in the specified activities and/or classes.

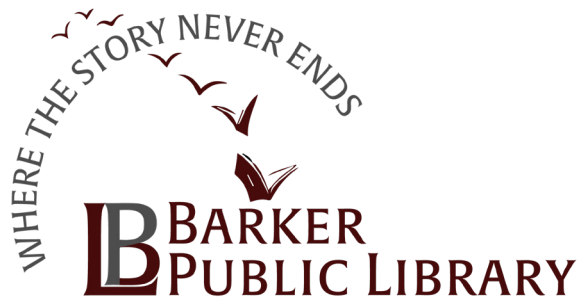
In consideration for the opportunity to participate in the Barker Central School District Community Education Program, to the maximum extent permitted by law, the Participant hereby releases the Barker Central School District, its Board of Education members (in their official and unofficial capacities), its employees, and its volunteers from any and all liability, claims, costs, expenses, attorney fees, demands, actions, and causes of action, whatsoever, arising out of or related to any losses, damages, or injuries (including death) that may be sustained during participation in the Barker Central School District Community Education Program or while on the premises of where the classes and/or activities are conducted.

Participant further agrees that the Barker Central School District will not be liable to the Participant for any damages, losses, personal injury or property damage, caused by or resulting from any cause whatsoever, including but not limited to the negligence of the Barker Central School District, the Barker Central School District Community Education Program, its Community Education Director/Coordinator, its Community Education Instructors, or other related members, agents, authorized guests, or affiliated organizations.

Post Office Box 261
8708 Main St.
Barker, NY 14012
716-795-3344

www.barkerpubliclibrary.com

2023 Board of Trustees
Kathie Smith - President
Cindy Harris - Vice President
Jessica Monaco - Secretary
Brian Carmer - Trustee
Ashley Gradowski - Trustee



Hours of Operation

M, W & F 10-5
T & Th 10-6
S & S Closed

Barker Library Staff

Lisa Thompson - Director
Kathy Price - Library Clerk
Carrie Wright - Library Clerk

Vision Statement:

To provide a free and equal access to varied resources while celebrating creativity and promoting a vibrant community.

Mission Statement:

To inspire, empower, educate and support our community.

2023 Annual Report to the Community

2023 By the Numbers

Library
Visits
3,459

1,594
Library Card
Holders

Inter Library
Loans
Borrowed: 1,000
Loaned: 1,760

22,030

Total Materials Owned by
the Barker Public Library

1,987 Adult Books
2,386 Children Books
4,373 Total Cataloged Books
237 Total Magazines
1,273 Audio Materials
715 Videos
15,432 Total electronic material

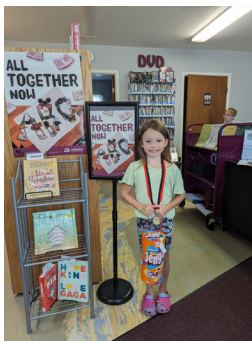
Website Visits
1,912

www.barkerpubliclibrary.com

49
Total
Programs

419
Program
Attendance

Library
Transactions
10,028



Financials

Sources of Funding- Public Funds, Grants, Donations and Fundraising

Receipts - Regular Operations:

Public Funds - \$84,915
 County Funds - \$5,119
 System Cash Grant - \$2,678
 Gift & Endowments - \$1,492
 Investment Income - \$15
 Library Charges - \$680
 Other - \$500
Total - \$95,399

Expenditures - Regular Operations

Staff - \$55,744
 Collection - \$9,407
 Building - \$6,689
 Telecommunications - \$2,537
 Office & Library Supplies - \$2,537
 Professional/Insurance Fees - \$5,775
 Other - \$2,165
Total - \$92,082

Capital Fund (Fire Account)

Ending balance for Fiscal Year 2023 - \$503,910

Services Provided

Our Wi-Fi service is complimentary, available 24/7, with no password needed. We also provide access to computers, a fax machine, a copier, as well as printing, scanning, and laminating services.

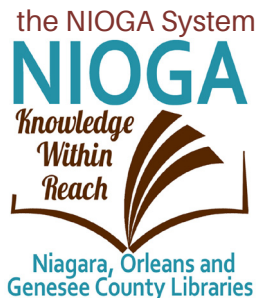
follow us on



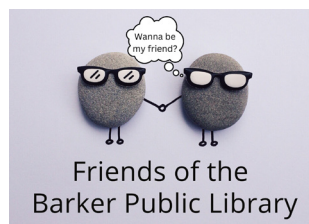
Book Club -
 3rd Monday of the month



InterLibrary Loan with 21 libraries in



Members Needed



1000 Books
 Before Kindergarten



BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
1628 QUAKER ROAD
BARKER, NY 14012

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 3
MIDDLEPORT NY

POSTAL CUSTOMER
BARKER, NY 14012

Barker Central School District
1628 Quaker Road
Barker, NY 14012

Board of Education

Randall B. Atwater, President
John E. Sweeney Jr., Vice President
Deanna Carnes
Candice Gancasz
Emily Gow
Jennifer Harris
Virginia Voss

Superintendent of Schools

Jacob L. Reimer, Ed.D.

Principal

Micaela M. Love, Ed.D.

**Coordinator of Curriculum &
Professional Learning/Assistant**

Principal

Christian Cornwell

**Directory of Instructional
Services/Assistant Principal**

Mark Learo

Business Administrator

Michael Carter

District Clerk

Mary Eadie

District Mission Statement:

We will provide a school environment that fosters respect, compassion, tolerance, and nurtures life-long learners who make meaningful contributions to society.



(Above): Artwork by **Cherish Potter**.

DID YOU KNOW? Capital project information and images are available on the BCS website at:
<https://www.barkercsd.net/capitalproject>