

CELEBRATE!

Special Edition

**A Celebration of the Successes of 2017-18  
for the Barron Area School District**

This edition of our Newsletter is dedicated to the litany of successes that our students, staff and community experienced this year.

I want to thank all of our stakeholders for working as a team to raise up our students to their greatest potentials.

If anyone would like to come in and visit with me about any or all of these accomplishments, please feel free to call or email me at your convenience.

I would be more than happy to entertain a conversation with you.

Sincerely,

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**Academics and Curriculum**

Our Department of Public Education school state report cards this year were an indication that we are **meeting our district's mission**. We received scores that significantly exceeded state standards, and as a whole district, we hit the marks for meeting all expectations according to our state's high requirements.

We are closing the academic achievement gaps between students with disabilities and English Learner students at high rates which are well above the state average.

Our Almena Elementary school received Title I School of Recognition Accolades for their exceptionally high math and reading scores.

Our students experienced innovative 21st century learning this year through several new equipment and curriculum adoptions including robotics units at our elementary school, a science program called Labster at our middle school, cutting edge welders at our high school, a new K-12 math program called GoMath and much much more.

We held PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) Celebrations at the elementary schools because our students met school-wide behavioral goals. These

included Pie-in-the-Face Celebrations, Minute to Win-it, popcorn parties, music and recess, and many other kids-friendly fun days.

Our student's Wisconsin history projects were proudly displayed for our community and for Dr. Evers, our state superintendent. In addition, many of the projects were selected to be displayed at Pioneer Museum.

Our High School Academic Decathlon team successfully completed and received regional recognition and we were quiz bowl champs this year too.

We focused on social emotional learning in our schools. Our students learned through a program called Zones of Regulation as part of their guidance curriculum. The zones help them understand their feelings and learn healthy outlets for dealing with different emotions.

Our music program had a stellar year. We had thirty three students compete at the state level for Band and Choir Solo and Ensemble.

Our High School Chamber Choir Large Group Festival received unanimous 1st Ratings in Class A. One of our entries received 'Best in Site' at District Solo and Ensemble. Our students had an opportunity to sing in the Clearwater Choral Festival/Honor's Choir at UW-Eau Claire. We also had middle school students sing in the Shell Lake Arts Center Honor Choir and three students received scholarships. We had one student audition and gain acceptance into the music program at UW-Eau Claire for Choral Music Education. Lastly, we had students receive scholarships from Federated Music Club to attend Summer Camp at our high school and middle school.

## **Community and Parents**

We had the State Superintendent, Dr. Tony Evers, from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction visit us on March 20, 2018. He congratulated our community for our academic successes. We had over 500 folks in attendance for this awesome community event. We shared history, food, music and great conversation with one another.

We hosted the Keys to Success Conference on April 21, 2018 where close to 100 participants attended. This program focuses on family and school partnerships and how we can all work together to have healthy communities.

Our parent support groups continue to thrive and grow. In addition to that, our local professionals join our group monthly to address student and parent needs.

Our reliable and compassionate STEP (Serving together as educational partners) volunteers provided invaluable support in our district this past year.

Our elementary parent groups raise funds for our students to attend field trips, to hear motivational speakers and to enhance educational opportunities. Activities to raise funds

include the Almena Brat Feed, the Ridgeland Carnival and Lasagna Feed, and the Woodland Fall Fundraiser and Book Fairs. All great events!

Community members participated throughout our entire Senior Exposition event. In these expositions of our Seniors showcased their achievements and future plans. Our eighth graders also completed their exit interviews.

### **Extracurriculars**

Riverview Middle School FCCLA was awarded the Outstanding Middle School Chapter Award. Our Middle School Forensic students received a Blue-First Place award in Eau Claire, WI.

At our high school we received state awards and invitations to FCCLA, FFA, Band, Forensics, Destination Imagination and Interscholastic Fishing Association. This included over 100 of our students receiving recognition.

Our boys soccer team was Regional Champions. Our girls golf team received 1st place HON conference sportsmanship award. Our doubles teams and singles advanced to sectionals in girls tennis. Two of our athletes competed at the State Wrestling tournament.

### **Facilities**

We boosted our school spirit this year by kick starting a campaign called “We Back our Bears”. Our students came up with this great slogan and they have plenty of signs to sell if you are interested in purchasing one for your yard or business. We placed banners up throughout every campus and in the community. We want our students to know that we are behind them every step of the way. We added a beautiful new track sign and soccer sign this year too.

We are in the midst of a construction project at our high school. We completed phase one this year, which included our woods, metals, mechanical and CAD labs. We are now moving into phase II, which will include our band, choir and agriculture departments.

Our construction project was a wonderful, authentic learning opportunity to show the students a real time, real life project from start to finish. This also offered them learning opportunities regarding careers in construction.

### **Finance**

We have successfully adopted a new health insurance policy through WEA Trust that has brought energy to our staff compensation package. Researching and finding sustainable insurance for employees is one of the greatest challenges that school districts and businesses face and that is why we are excited that we secured a great plan for our staff moving forward.

We are writing grants to assist our students who are English Learners, a 21st Century Grant to run an after-school program at Riverview Middle School and for a Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant at the elementary schools. We are also applying for a safety grant through the Department of Justice that would assist us financially with a remodel in our entryway of our High School.

We have had more than \$57,000 generated to support our teachers innovative ideas through a site called Donors Choose. This funding comes through corporate partners nationwide. This program raised over 135 million dollars for classroom projects nationwide.

### **Food Service**

We successfully completed our State review of our food service program this past year.

Our food service does a beautiful job helping us with many celebrations and initiatives. They catered and assisted with our NHS, FFA, STEP, senior banquets, provided snacks for all the students during testing and for field trips and school picnics. In addition to those items they helped with food for the Benjamin House, Meals From the Heart and packed over 110 weekend backpack meals and much much more!

### **Health and Safety**

We are working diligently, in partnership with our police and sheriff's departments, to revise and improve our Crisis Management plans in our district. We also made plans in collaboration with a neighboring district to increase our Resource Officer presence.

We have completed ALICE training with all staff and students and in addition, we conducted and documented drills for all Crisis plans K-12.

We have 30 staff members that have been trained in the CPI program(Crisis Prevention Institute). We also have a certified CPI instructor employed in our district so we continue to be efficient in our efforts to provide a safe, non-violent culture at BASD.

We completed health screens for students in K-4, kindergarten, first, third, fifth and eighth grade. In total, we worked with 448 students, referring 55 students for vision and 30 for hearing. We vaccinated 197 students with flu shots in K-4 through 12th grade. We had 294 students sign up for the North Lakes Dental Clinic, and they received cleaning and sealants.

### **Pupil Services**

We successfully completed our 4th year of the five district Early Childhood Consortium and our student numbers are on the rise.

We collaborated and met with neighboring districts to continue our planning for our Mental Health Consortium Program. The purpose of this program is to provide a high quality children's mental health, day-treatment program for those students in need.

We applied for a school wide Title I designation, so we can be flexible and efficient to provide reading and math supports district wide.

We successfully completed the first step of the Procedural Compliance Review (Self-Assessment) for Special Education and completed the Title I Homeless Compliance Audit. These audits are a tremendous amount of work and their purpose is to insure that our district is meeting all state standards.

### **School Board**

Our 9 member school board has gone through a three member transition this year. We have a fabulous team on board. Our board worked hard all year to insure that we are doing what is best for our students as a whole! They provide effective leadership in school governance.

Our board has also worked diligently this year to complete an adoption resolution for new district policy revisions. In addition to this, we are transitioning to a new innovative online system called Boarddocs. Put simply, this means that all of our new policies will be housed on our district website visible for public reference.

### **Staff Talent Development**

Our staff successfully began a district wide audit of our Golden Standards to ensure meaningful, relevant, intentional and sequential learning for all students in all disciplinary areas K-12.

We successfully completed an outside review and observation of high school ELA (English Language Arts) teachers as part of an efficacy study. Our teachers engaged in active learning strategies, which is great for our students.

Our K-12 staff has completed the first year of implementing our new GO Math Mathematics Curriculum Resource. They have participated in professional development trainings throughout the year. This program is proven to increase student engagement and achievement.

Our CITI Team (Curriculum, Instruction, Technology, Interventionist) has been fully trained in a new program called eduCLIMBER, and this is going to create effective procedures for making data-driven decisions at all levels.

### **Technology**

We completed a BadgerNet Transformation project in order to provide additional internet bandwidth to the entire district.

We introduced and implemented a new management software called Faronics Insight for middle school and high school classrooms in order to enhance the ability of teacher management for student devices.

We upgraded the CIPA system to a more aggressive and protective system to combat inappropriate and non-educational web browsing.

We placed new PA systems in our Almena and Ridgeland elementary schools. The new systems partners with our district security system/measures and therefore insures their safety.