

**District Administrator's Report
Mid-Winter BASD Newsletter 2019**



Academics and Curriculum

We are so proud of our amazing students and staff. Near the end of November, the state released the Barron Area Schools Report Cards in which the state gives each school an accountability rating. Almena was given the rating of Significantly Exceeded Expectations and Ridgeland Exceeds Expectations. Both schools out-performed the state in the area of Student Achievement. Woodland, Riverview and the Barron High School all Met Expectations, with both Woodland and BHS out-performing the state in the area of On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness. In addition, both BHS and Riverview out-performed the state in the area of Closing Gaps.

Our teaching staff across the district continues to prioritize the Wisconsin Academic Achievement Standards as we work toward creating universal expectations for students to improve instruction and find ways to differentiate and meet the needs for each child.

We are in our second year of implementing a new math curriculum kindergarten through grade 12 and in our second year of implementing new English/reading curricula in grades 6-12. With these new curricula, teachers have been participating in ongoing training to support implementation and maximize student learning. Currently, there are math trainings scheduled in February for all levels.

In addition, we just finished screening all students on our district selected assessments. This helps us see how we are doing overall and how our students score and grow in comparison to other students across the nation. These

assessments allow us to pinpoint areas of instruction to provide further differentiation to struggling or excelling students.

Elementary teachers are having productive conversations in grade-level curriculum meetings. Our continued goal is to prioritize and universalize our academic expectations for students, and to improve instruction through teamwork.

Woodland’s special education and early childhood teachers/professionals took time before the holidays to put a sensory path in our sensory classroom. The purpose is to build coordination and strength for students, to provide brain breaks, and to help increase students’ focus. The kids love it, and we’ve found it quite beneficial for many of our students. Now, our PTA is looking at the possibility of a very large sensory path in our hallway. Instead of “silent, swift and straight” little bears, we may be “silent, swift and stealthy” little bears!

With the sub-zero wind chills and no outdoor morning recess, Woodland is test-driving new options for students. Students have the choice of breakfast and/or Sesame Street in our big gym, or they can head to the small gym for some calm stretching to help prep their bodies for learning.

High School teachers continue to prioritize Wisconsin Academic Achievement Standards. We are in the second year of working with new math curriculum and English curriculum. These teachers are continuing to meet by department level and receive trainings to ensure we are teaching these classes with curriculum fidelity.

Assessment

With spring comes statewide testing! The language testing (ACCESS 2.0) window closed on February 1, 2019 but starting in February, there will be testing until May 10, 2019. Please see the types of statewide tests, dates, and grade levels.

| TEST NAME | GRADES | TEST WINDOW |
|---------------|--------|-------------------|
| ACT + Writing | 11 | February 20, 2019 |
| ACT WorkKeys | 11 | February 21, 2019 |

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|-----------------------|---|----------------------|
| Wisconsin Forward | 3-8 & 10 | March 18-May 3, 2019 |
| Dynamic Learning Maps | 3-11 (alternate assessment for about 1% of the district population) | March 18-May 3, 2019 |
| ACT Aspire | 9 & 10 | April 8-May 10, 2019 |

Winter Survival 2019: This year marks the 23rd year our Riverview Middle School students will participate in our famous winter survival unit. Our 7th grade students have been learning about life in sub-zero temperatures. In Science, students learn about fire starting, solar ovens for cooking, hypothermia, body heat conservation and basic first aid skills. In Social Studies, students learn about types of climate in Antarctica, the Tundra, and dog sledding. In English, students learn more about survival in arctic settings reading “To Build a Fire” by Jack London. In Family and Consumer Education, students learn how to sew neck gaiters, hand warmers, fleece hats and scarves. They also make healthy, non-perishable snacks for camp. This survival unit exemplifies teamwork across all academic areas.



Community and Parents

Child Development Day is Wednesday, February 27, from 9am to 7pm. We are mustering up parent & child involvement through radio ads, social media and posters throughout the Barron and surrounding communities. If you see the ad on Facebook (it has been and will continue to be posted weekly), please share, share, share.

We held a successful event called “Our Resilient Community”. This event allowed for a venue of hope and faith as we move forward together to understand how to cope with our recent events. We are looking to hold another community event this spring that will offer teachings on how to continue embracing our strengths and work to inspire one another for an even better future. Lastly, we are making plans for a third annual Community Cultural Feast which will be held in March at our Barron High School. The purpose of this Celebration will be two fold. It will serve as a thank you to all those in this beautiful community and beyond, who united together to sustain hope and supports for all those in need, during those difficult months prior to Jayme’s amazing return to her family. The celebration will also illustrate our efforts to share together in the richness that our diversity offers one another.

Starting on Tuesdays beginning February 19-April 2, 2019 between 6-8pm, there will be 7 sessions of Youth/Parent & Family Workshops at the Riverview Middle School. At 5:30pm, there is free dinner and daycare. This is hosted by the Strengthening Families Program and the Brighter Futures Initiative. In collaboration with the BASD and the Barron County Department of Health & Human Services, this is a very positive event for our community and district.

Extracurriculars

Winter sports are winding down and getting ready for WIAA tournament action beginning in February. Barron is hosting the WIAA Wrestling Regional on February 8th.

Our wrestling program enjoyed some individual success in January. Will Waldofski took first in his weight class at Merrill and Ladysmith. Tristan Massie took first at Ladysmith. Julia Cox finished third in her weight class for the Girls Badger State Wrestling tournament.

Bear Ice Fishing Club competed in three tournaments so far - The Bone Lake, Lake Amacoy, and Rice Lake Tournament. Plenty of fish have been caught.

Barron High School Music Department hosted The Barron County Talent Show as a fundraiser event.

Barron High School Art Club is sponsoring Paint Along sessions for anyone interested.

Middle School hosted the Middle School Solo Ensemble in January.

Facilities

(Pam please add great photos here!!)

Our agricultural, band, and choir students and staff are moved into their new classrooms. This is an exciting time for these departments. While this has been a challenging process as construction was completed during the school year, the reward will be fantastic facilities available for our students for decades to come. We are so thankful for the community support given to improving our learning facilities. This was phase one of our facilities project.

The planning continues for the 3rd and final phase of the remodel, for our art department and multi-use 21st century spaces are in progress.

Our facilities department is doing a beautiful job dealing with our recent polar vortex where our temperatures ranged from -50 to +40 temps in less than a week. Winter survival on a grand scale! A great testament to the fine people on our facilities and grounds team. Their efforts made this happen.

Thanks to the Facilities, Maintenance, and Grounds team members for their help and extra time in making our recent community events, Gathering of Hope and the lighting of Jayme's Tree of Hope.

Our wood boiler is running with little trouble after the repairs this summer, but with the changes in product and the hospital helping with their boilers all is smooth as silk.

Finance

Believe it or not, planning for the 2019-2020 school year is already underway. We continuously evaluate our operations to put our students and teachers in the best learning environment possible. BASD continues to be actively engaged in new

funding proposals to learn how it will impact our district and provide educated input to our representatives. Along with our facilities team, we are extremely excited to open the doors to our newly renovated band, choir, and agriculture areas of the High School!

Food Service

Weekend Backpacks are packed weekly by volunteers. If anyone has a need, please contact the Woodland office. Big THANK YOU to Cupboard and Closet, they sent home a hat and 2 pairs of gloves in each bag in December 2018!

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant is running at Almena Elementary. They are enjoying awesome fresh fruits and vegetables all year long.

Health and Safety

The mission of the Barron Area School District Wellness Committee is to establish and maintain an environment that promotes general health at work and home by supporting attitudes of positive well-being and providing information, activities, and services designed to support healthy lifestyle choices.

As part of the wellness program, all staff members were offered a free biometric screening to gain information about their health. Other activities have included a cooking with pumpkin class, meal prepping class, and a holiday hold. Some of the upcoming events include a healthy heart presentation for American Heart Month and a presentation on how to maintain good mental health.

BASD also holds monthly meetings with our Health Insurance representatives in order to best serve our employees and become effective users of the multitude of benefits that our National Insurance program has to offer.

Pupil Services

Special Education

In January, the Special Education Department completed a training that focused on carrying out consistent protocol for all due process actions within their field. Two members from the department, Katie Hanson-Mizer & Brooke Kucko, also shared helpful techniques on how to write good College & Career Ready (CCR) IEPs. In December 2018, these two members were invited by DPI to present how the district works with students and staff when carrying out required due process. This

invitation came as a follow up from our successful completion of the Self Assessment!

Calculations regarding space for students, open enrolling to BASD, with special education needs has been completed and numbers show that we are full in all Special Education Programs in the district except for Early Childhood and Secondary Speech/Language.

21st Century Community Learning Center

The first mid-year report has been completed for the 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Grant. Data shows that we have students in the Boys & Girls Club that have attended more than 30 times since September. That is positive. We still need to increase our total number of students. We hope that with the purchase of Goggles and Cubelets, the learning and interest will stream into the club. It is free and open 5 days/week with transportation home every night.

School Board

Our BASD School Board attending the annual Wisconsin Association for School Board's annual convention. Our district hosted a reception as a gesture of appreciate for all the support we were given the past three months. Many area districts joined us to celebrate Jayme's safe return and our gratitude for all the support.

This convention also provides many opportunities for us to learn together in the areas of financing, referendum, safety initiatives, innovative programming and much more.

Staff Talent/Development

Members of the BASD Trauma Team went to a training on Resiliency on January 15, 2019. This is the second such training as part of the plans through the awarded Safety Grant in becoming a Trauma Sensitive School District. The third and last training this year is on April 20, 2019. The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) is the host for these trainings and the trainers are Pete Hall & Kristin Souers. Wonderful and engaging learning!

The Department of Justice will be working with our Trauma Team to provide PREPaRE Training and resiliency training to help support our students, staff and community.

Technology

It's hard to believe that we are already planning for the 19-20 school year. January brings about student information system software updates and rollover preparation to begin the course selection and scheduling process at RMS and HS. We are also in full planning and prep mode for the upcoming spring state testing season which involves working with different vendor testing platforms to bring unique testing environments and dedicated browsers to our student devices along with technical readiness trainings for the IT staff. The CITI team is hard at work developing a new Digital Citizenship curriculum for online safety/data privacy for students of the BASD with a plan to roll it out Fall 2019. We encourage families to visit the BASD website (www.barron.k12.wi.us) for additional tips on how to help keep children safe online.

Transportation

With the challenges of the cold winter temperatures this past month, it is important to note that each one of these chilling days, when I touched base with our director of transportation, our buses were ready to roll day or night regardless of the subzero temps.

We will be holding an upcoming training for our dedicated drivers regarding situational awareness, de-escalation strategies and first aid. This training will be led by our School Resource Officer, Deputy Dave and our School Nurse, Doug Schoenke.