

District Administrator's Report
APRIL 2019



Academics and Curriculum

Our New Curriculum Platform which will be showcasing our Golden Standards, Maroon Standards and “barely there” standards will be going live this month. This will be a living document that will undergo continuous improvement throughout the years.

Seniors are wrapping up their expositions. Comments from evaluators has been positive. We have fantastic students at BHS!

Community and Parents

More meetings have occurred this past month including our current day care facility director and area businesses, all in order to reinforce the data which highlights that our city of Barron is in need of more daycare. Due to this, we are going to take a comprehensive look at the future feasibility of our district helping to provide this service to our families.

BHS will host the final rescheduled parent/teacher conferences of the year on April 25.

Our elementary PTA's continue to enhance what we do for our students and community. The Lasagna Supper at Ridgeland brought in many community members as did Pastries with Parents at Woodland. Up and coming are the May 2 Almena Brat Feed and Book Sale, the May 23 Ridgeland Carnival, and the last day June 7 Woodland Picnic with Families.

Our once every two weeks parent support group coordinated by Cari Colegrove at Woodland continues to thrive. We have a large diverse group of parents that attend, mostly from within our school district.

Extracurriculars

Spring sports are hit and miss on whether they can play. Golf has yet to hit the links. Baseball has played once, softball and soccer have played twice. Track has missed the weather by competing in four indoor meets and was also able to host our outdoor invite on April 8th.

The city was able to turn on the water for the restrooms and concessions.

Water does not sound like a big deal; however, here in Wisconsin to have water for a sports event the first part of April is kind of a big thing. Our restrooms and concession stand are heated making water for the event possible. Thank you to the City of Barron Water Dept. for helping with this.

We've hired Katie Covey as our new varsity volleyball coach and Axel Berger as our new boys' varsity soccer coach. Both coaches come with quality coaching experience and a passion for their sport.

The Winter Heart O'North Sportsmanship rankings were announced and boys' basketball finished first and our girls' basketball and wrestling programs finished second.

Four of our Barron High School student-athletes competed at the Special Olympics State Basketball tournament and won the Gold! Congratulations to Isaiah Tallman, Justin Allen, Chance Dexter, and Jonathan Oldenberg. (if you need a picture, please let me know)

Results from State FCCLA -

20 students attended including the 5 from Riverview

Michael Nichols and Cecelia Prentiss - Gold

Reda Stokes and Madeline Mickelson - Silver - advanced to Nationals

Andrea Bates - Silver - advanced to Nationals

Madeline Mickelson - Silver

Kami Zurn and Lilly Davison - Silver

Kesha Palmquist and Delaney Willers - Gold - advanced to Nationals

Abby Vaughn - Gold

Isabel Massie - Gold - advanced to Nationals

Ashlynn Harmon and Emma Thompson - Gold - advanced to Nationals

Ethan Amundson - Silver

Winona Schneider - Gold

Aniya Holmes - Gold

Facilities

The plows, broom, salter, and blower are still on the equipment anticipating the possibility of yet another storm this spring.

Phase 3 Art remodel is the big project at its beginning stages. Mrs. Vergin has had great input and is working closely with our architect. She developed a scaled layout that makes it easy to understand, share and see her ideas.

The flooring people have been on site preparing for the fitness room flooring. Patching and filling concrete in anticipation that the flooring material will soon be here. They will be doing some grinding too in order to assure a smooth finish. Fan installation in in motion also.

We are already starting to wind up for the Montessori move to Almena. Many things need to be done to make it happen. A big shout too Jake Schneider for taking on this moving initiative already. Our team is meeting on Tuesday, May 16, to organize all classrooms that need to be moved. Montessori is headed to Almena, and our multiage program will gain space by moving into the vacated classrooms currently used by the Children's House. Headstart will then be moving into what are now our multiage classrooms.

Finance

At our annual spring superintendent's convention last week, we continued to discuss the importance of budget advocacy. We are systematically educating our legislators about our challenges as we transfer fund 10 to 27, and as we all continue to struggle with the mental health needs of our students, which as a result affects our safety initiatives if we are not proactive in our approaches.

Just to review, the 2019-20 state biennial budget request from Tony Evers of a \$1.4 billion increase in education has caused quite a stir of conversations regarding a history of decreases that we have all sustained either through reductions of necessary resources or operating referendum. There is a great deal of opposition at this time from the GOP, but both sides have indicated support for new k-12 investments.

Food Service

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant has been submitted for all elementary schools. Nicole met with Head Start and visited their lunchtime in preparation for them joining Woodland.

The Backpack Program is running strong with about 60 bags being sent home weekly.

The Summer Feeding Program Contact has been approved for June and August sessions.

Commodities have been ordered for 2019-2020 school year and we have a commercial contract again with Reinhart Foodservice.

High School staff had a great time working the Unity event!! Event went great!!

Health and Safety

Due to the responsible use of our generous new Health insurance policy, we have experienced a decrease in our renewal. This is simply awesome and necessary if we are to continue with this program and be able to sustain it financially. This is a team effort, and we appreciate everyone's responsible use.

Deputy Dave Kuffel and Principal Stralka met with Barron County Day Development Center Director Joe Wacek on April 8th, 2019. This was a great meeting as we discussed our partnership and my appreciation for utilizing their building for our evacuation location for Riverview Middle School students and staff. We were able to tour the facility and determine specific locations for each grade level for our parent reunification process. On April 18th, as part of our in-service, we as a staff will walk down to the Day Development Center and walk through the process of the evacuation and re-unification. We are very fortunate and grateful for this partnership with the Day Development Center to help ensure our staff and students are safe during an evacuation.

Health Services is creating new "field trip" medical backpacks to cover the medical needs when students are off school property.

Pupil Services

State testing at BHS will be almost complete. ACT Aspire testing for 9th and 10th graders will occur the week of April 22. Both the Riverview and the elementary schools are well into WI Forward testing. Things are going well and students and staff are working very hard.

ACCESS (language test) scores will be available on April 23, 2019. Title III Parent Outreach Activities will be carried out on May 7 & 9, 2019 where results will be shared and discussed with parents.

School Board

We will be receiving and working on our next set of policy updates this coming month. Our process for policy updates and reviews utilizing NEOLA has become a smooth and necessary process that assures we are up to date legally with all governance. It is nothing short of hard work but well worth the efforts.

Staff Talent/Development

Support Staff will be participating in Trauma Awareness on April 18. This will include how to best understand behaviors and support students, as well as, self-care for themselves. The training will be conducted by Katarina. Teaching staff is continuing to work on Golden Standards on April 18.

Technology

Between device replacement, fast moving technology innovations, state testing adjustments, and phone upgrades, our tech department is navigating our district through this in order to keep us up on 21st century learning and communicating.

Transportation

We are in need of additional drivers to help out with this busy spring season. Jack and Dale have been troopers as they fill in the gaps for driving routes. We will soon be working on summer school routes and are also starting to look into transporting Montessori to Almena next year.

We will be waiting for warmer weather again to start paint repairs on buses, cars and vans.

We have bids completed for new camera systems for our buses and will map out a plan to begin this replacement process. Also, we need a stop arm camera so we can get license plates of vehicles that are doing stop arm violations.
