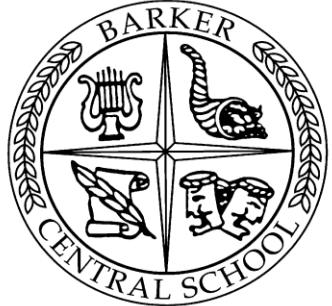


Barker Central School

1628 Quaker Road, Barker, New York 14012-0328



August 23, 2021

Hello Barker CSD students and families! Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year. This letter will provide our families and students with need-to-know information to start the school year. It is divided into sections for all grade levels, elementary grades, and high school levels. This is a somewhat lengthy communication; however, I recommend that the entire letter be read regardless of the grade level(s) your child(ren) is going into.

For All Grade Levels:

1. The first day of school is Tuesday, September 7th. The school day for all grades runs from 7:50 am to 2:28 pm.
2. 10th period will return this year as normal. However, only high school athletes can stay 10th period the first week of school. Beginning Monday, September 13th, all students can begin staying.
3. 10th period is from 2:30 to 3:05. 10th period can be used by students/teachers for extra help, clubs and activities.
4. The focus for the start of the year is going to be assessing where students are at academically. The last two years have been difficult in many ways for our kids. We are going to begin the year assessing students' academic abilities and then build the needed supports into their schedules and classrooms. This is for all grade levels.
5. Students will NOT be required to take their temperature or submit a health questionnaire form upon arrival each day. Students will be permitted to enter any of the staffed and open doors in the morning, unlike last year when we had designated doors. This includes the Pratt and bus loop doors; the Quaker Road main entrance; and the main gym entrance behind the high school.
6. Student drop off and pick up for elementary students will continue to occur in the district office parking lot. Drop off will occur from 7:50-8:00 am. Pick up at the end of the day will happen from 2:35-2:45pm. This pick up time is moved back a little from last year to help with traffic congestion. High school students can enter/exit at any of the doors on campus (see #5 above).
7. The district has hired a number of new faculty to assist with student academic and social/emotional support. We are pleased to welcome the following members to our team: Diane DeMarco and Amanda Cottle as reading specialists; Kyle Sosnowski and Karin Menz to our high school math department; Katie Snell as elementary math support; Megan Breier as a school psychologist; Bethany Duchow and Rene Kalynycz as teacher aides; Janelle McAdoo as a lunch monitor. We also are sharing mental health supports with other districts and still wrapping up some teacher aide hiring through the end of the month.
8. Open House is Wednesday, September 15th. PreK-6 is from 6:00 – 7:30 pm and high school is 6:30pm to 8:00 pm.

9. Homecoming is the week of September 27th – October 2nd. More details on the schedule and events are forthcoming.
10. If you have questions regarding your child's transportation, please call the busing garage at 716-795-3816.
11. In regards to transportation, the bus garage is short drivers. This may cause some slightly longer routes for the start of the school year. If you know of anyone who would be interested in becoming a driver, please have them call the bus garage at the number above.
12. Food service update for the year: all students in the district are eligible to eat free school breakfasts and lunches. However, we do encourage families to complete a Free/Reduced Lunch form if they are eligible. This form allows families to access the state's P-EBT payments. If you have questions, please contact Julie Fuerch at 716-795-3347 or jfuerch@barkercsd.net.
13. We encourage families to review the district's chain of communication. Often times, most issues can be resolved at the classroom teacher's level. This can also be found on the website under "Our District." <https://tinyurl.com/d3ktt352>

Elementary (Grades PreK-6):

1. PreK times: Morning is 7:50 – 10:35. Afternoon is 11:55 – 2:28. Transportation is provided both ways for all sessions.
2. If you are picking up your child, please complete the following form to receive your child authorization tags for your car. If you still have your tags from last year you do not need to complete this form again. If you misplaced your tags, please complete the form again. Thank you for your help with this safety process. The form can also be found under the elementary school section on the website. <https://tinyurl.com/52pyhx7a>
3. Elementary students will continue to take part in our SPARK character education program. Every six or seven weeks students who meet the academic and behavioral standards will take part in a special activity. An overview of SPARK will happen in classrooms during the opening days of school. Information for parents will also be posted to teachers' Google classrooms.
4. Students in grades 1st through 12th will be using Chromebooks again this school year. However, only students in grades 3rd and up will be permitted to take them home. Also, Prekindergarten and Kindergarten students will use iPads in their classrooms; these will not be taken home, either.

High School (Grades 7-12):

1. The Jr./Sr. High School will see the return of 10th period activities every day after school from 2:28 pm to 3:05 pm. This includes clubs, extra help from teachers, and intramurals. Guidelines for 10th period will be reviewed with students during the opening week of school. Students will need to be passing their classes and have no behavioral issues to attend intramurals.
2. We plan on bringing back the 8th Grade Washington D.C. trip for this year's eighth graders. There will be an informational meeting on Thursday, October 21st at 6:00 pm during parent/teacher conferences. More information to come.
3. We encourage all students and parents to join any pertinent Remind groups. This could include sports teams, grade level groups, or clubs/activities. We also encourage parents to use

PowerSchool Parent Portal to monitor their child's progress. This can be found under the Parent Resources tab on the district website.

4. For physical education class, students will not be changing again this year. Students should plan appropriately for the days they have gym.

We are really looking forward to the start of the school year here at Barker. Thank you all for your continued support of the district. We are excited to see all of our students on September 7th.

Sincerely,

Michael Carter

Michael Carter, District Principal