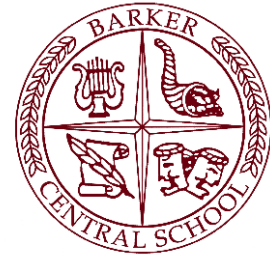


# Barker Central School

1628 QUAKER ROAD, BARKER, NEW YORK 14012-0328

Fax 716.795.3394



**Jacob L. Reimer**  
Superintendent of Schools  
716.795.3832  
[jreimer@barkercsd.net](mailto:jreimer@barkercsd.net)

7/31/2020

Dear Barker Learning Community,

As you all know, the District has been working tirelessly to develop our plans for reopening school this fall. While we still do not know exactly if or how we will be allowed to reopen, as that decision is currently scheduled to be made by Governor Cuomo between August 1 and August 7, 2020, we have developed plans that will allow us to continue instruction for students no matter what decision is made by Governor Cuomo.

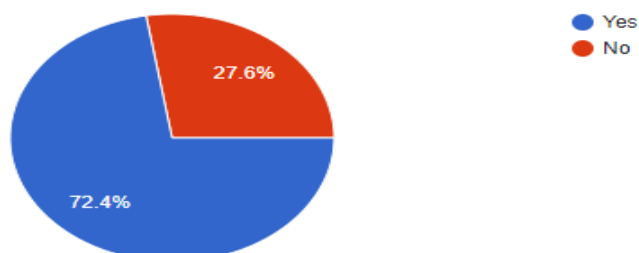
A huge thank you must go out to the entire community for your responses to the survey sent by the district on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. As of today, we have received 410 responses relating to 709 students. This means the input provided represents the feelings of almost 95% of our student body. This input was crucial for the district to use in developing our plans for reopening school.

First and foremost, I want to provide you with some of the information from the survey as it frames the context for the decisions made to reopen school in September.

The five charts below (along with the question from the survey) show the number of students that potentially will and will not return to school this fall as well as the preferred methods of instruction for those who submitted responses to each particular question on the survey. As you can see, there is a diverse belief in what is the appropriate direction for the district moving forward.

If school is offered in person next year, no matter how instruction is structured, would you send your child(ren) to school if state guidelines for maintaining a safe learning environment are implemented by the district? (Guidelines could include but are not limited to requiring students and staff wearing masks throughout the campus for most of the school day, requiring periodic washing of hands/sanitizing hands, sanitizing of frequently touched surfaces, implementing acceptable social distancing precautions, and daily temperature checks/verification of being symptom free of COVID-19.)

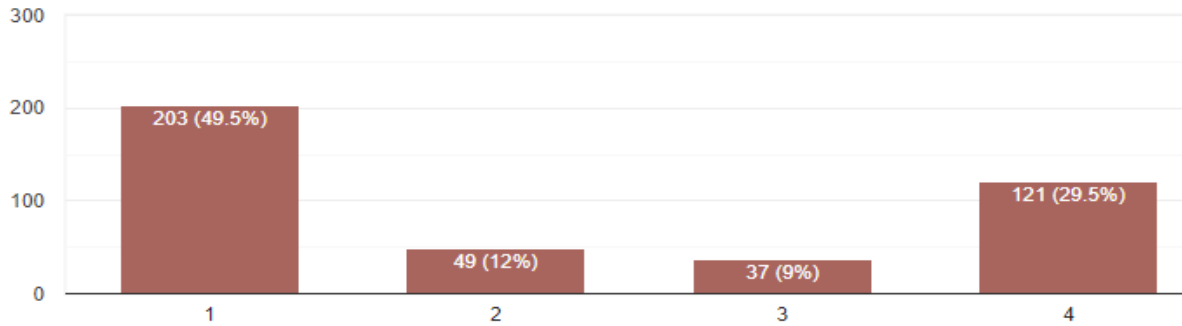
410 responses



For the next four items, please rank your preference for how instruction could be delivered this fall. Please mark your highest preference as 1 and your least preferred method as 4.

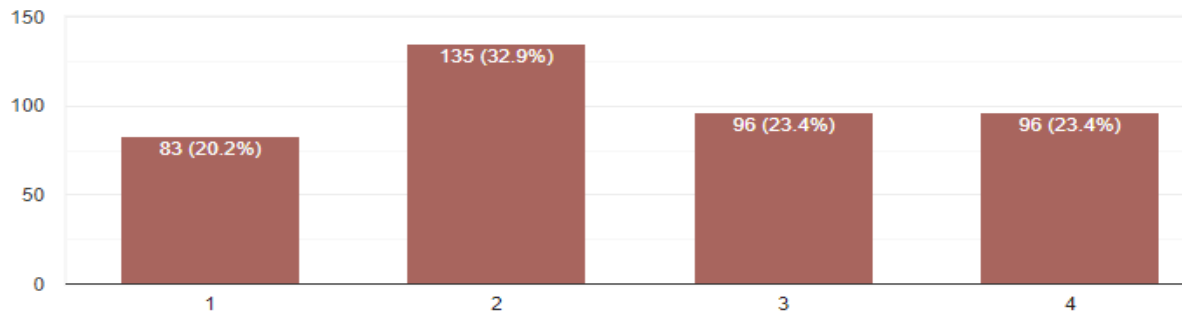
In person instruction with all students on campus while following all required safety regulations, which could include wearing masks throughout the day, social distancing, and frequent washing of hands/sanitizing hands, and sanitizing frequently touched surfaces.

410 responses



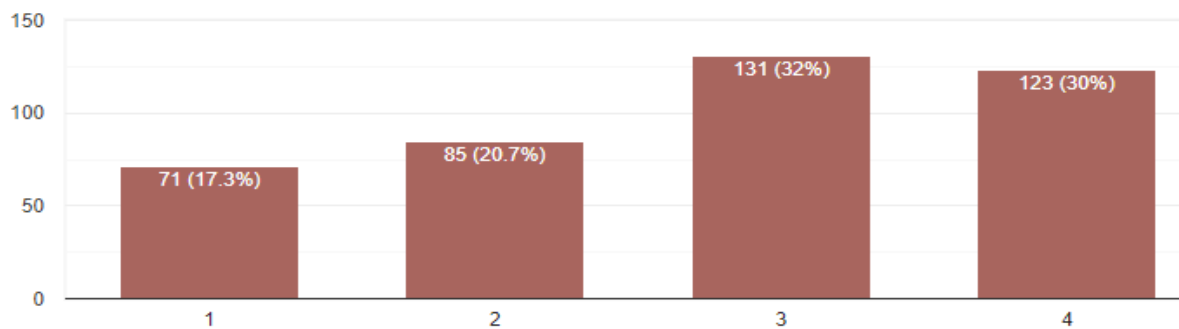
Hybrid instruction in which half of the student population attends school in person Monday and Tuesday with remote instruction required Wednesday-Friday. The other half of the student population will attend school in person Thursday and Friday and have remote instruction required Monday-Wednesday.

410 responses



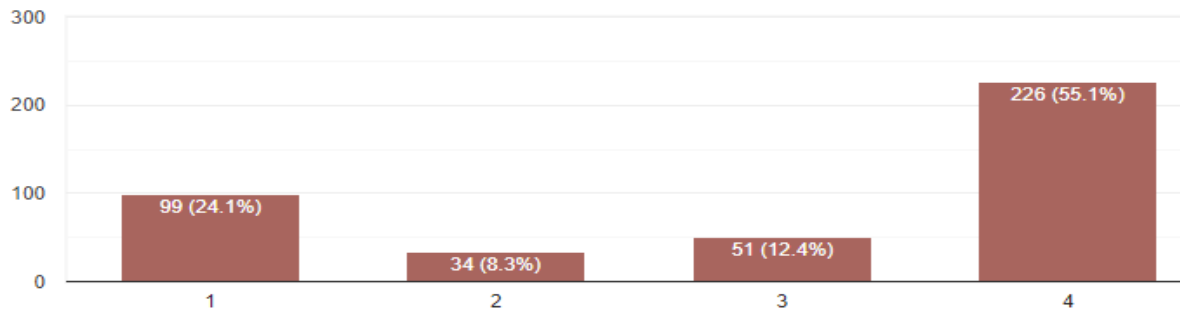
Hybrid instruction in which half of the student population attends school in person Monday-Thursday one week then remote instruction is required the following week. The other half of the student population will attend school in person Monday-Thursday the following week. Every Friday will be remote instruction for all students for deep cleaning to occur. (Students attend every other week for in person instruction with remote instruction occurring during off weeks.)

410 responses



Fully remote learning is required which would include at least 3 hours (180 minutes) of direct instruction via video conferencing over the course of a school week.

410 responses



Additionally, when reviewing concerns submitted by the community per the survey for returning to school, underlying themes emerged related to the district ensuring a safe and healthy environment for all students and staff, as well as for the district ensuring adequate technology is available for remote learning, if needed by families.

As the reopening team analyzed input from the community, staff, and the guidance provided by both the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the New York State Department of Education (NYSED), it became clear that if we are allowed to open for in-person instruction, the district would need to provide instruction in different ways in order to meet the varying needs of our students and families.

(Please feel free to view the guidance posted by the NYSDOH and NYSED to get an idea of the multitude of limitations and restrictions imposed on schools across NYS. Links to this guidance can be found on the district website homepage at [www.barkercsd.net](http://www.barkercsd.net).)

With this in mind, and if allowed to do so by Governor Cuomo in his decision next week, we will be opening the Barker Central School District for students on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in a hybrid model. We will begin school by splitting our students into three cohorts. All families and students who wish to have in-person instruction will be broken into two of these cohorts, One (1) and Two (2). Cohort One (1) will attend in-person instruction on Mondays and Tuesdays and will then supplement their learning through remote instruction Wednesday through Friday. Students in Cohort Two (2) will attend remote instruction Monday through Wednesday and then attend in-person instruction Thursday and Friday. Cohort Three (3) will be comprised of students who are completely remote learners, Monday through Friday, and will be made up of students whose family voluntarily chooses this method of instruction. Wednesday's will be fully remote for all students. All students from the same family who attend in-person instruction will be assigned to the same cohort to ensure all students in each family are able to attend in-person instruction at the same time.

This model will allow us to provide in-person instruction for those that desire it while also being able to provide remote instruction for those who choose that option. Please note that our goal is to return to full in-person instruction as soon as possible. As such, if we find that we are able to increase the amount of in-person instruction we will do so in a way that is safe and logistically viable. We will review this potential change every two weeks after the start of the school year. If any changes are to be made, at least two weeks notice will be provided to families before the change is made.

Over the next few weeks we will be working out the final logistics of this plan that include completing course schedules, teacher assignments, transportation, and much more.

**In order to assist the district with developing final details, we are asking all parents and guardians to complete a survey that will let us know specific information related to your children. Information collected will include if they will be returning to school in September for in-person instruction under the hybrid model or if they will be attending fully remote instruction. Additionally, information about transportation to and from school will be requested. This information is *imperative* for us to develop our final details for reopening school. As such, we are asking that you please complete this survey by August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The survey can be found on the District website at [www.barkercsd.net](http://www.barkercsd.net).**

We know that there will be questions about the reopening plan, which can also be found on the district website at [www.barkercsd.net](http://www.barkercsd.net). As such, we will be holding two informational sessions for families on August 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. You can sign up for one of these sessions by contacting Mary Eadie at 716-795-3832. Please know that there will be limitations in the number of individuals able to attend each session due to social distancing requirements. If needed, additional sessions may be scheduled on a later date.

We know that no plan will meet all of our community's and student's needs, but we believe the one chosen is going to allow us to move forward and meet as many of the needs as possible for our entire learning community. We thank you in advance for your understanding as we continue to navigate these turbulent waters toward our return to normal school as soon as we can.

As always, if there are questions about our plans or anything related to school in general, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

I know we will overcome all the challenges that come in front of us and we will continue 'To bring out the best in each individual in our community.'

I hope you all stay safe and healthy, and I cannot wait to see our students in the fall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JR', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jacob Reimer