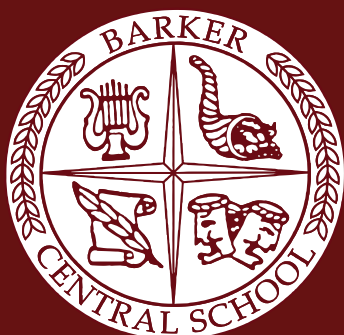


To be a leader in bringing out the best in each individual in our community.

December 2020 - Volume 36 No. 2

# The Banner



## Keeping the Spirit Alive at BCS



**Chace Atwater** participated in Celebrate the Seasons Spirit Week at BCS in September. Check out [page 9](#) for more pictures and information on spirit days this fall.

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The official website and source for Barker Central School  
District news and information: [www.barkercsd.net](http://www.barkercsd.net)

## A Message From Your Superintendent

Dear Barker Learning Community,

It is without question that this fall has been one of the most unique we have ever had, not just for the Barker community, but for our entire state, nation, and world. However, there does seem to be a light at the end of this tunnel that we have been living in for the last nine months. With vaccines on the way, and some already being administered by the time you read this message, I'm certain that we will return to normal in the near future.



Speaking of the future, it is something I'm very excited about. Throughout the fall, I have seen such resiliency from our students, staff, and our whole community. Even through the difficult times, which are undoubtedly being felt by all of our kids, as well as us adults, everyone is doing all we can to stay positive and move forward.

About a month ago, students in the Jr.-Sr. HS were given a survey about various aspects of the District this year and in that survey one of the questions asked of our students was "What is your favorite thing about Barker?" While the responses varied, a common theme of their responses related to feeling like they were part of school family. This response does not surprise me at all and it aligns perfectly with one of our Foundational Values of Family. The simple fact that our kids feel this way gives me such hope for what is to come, as it will only come with the collective efforts of all of us. I know that we will become stronger as we continue to move forward, and I can't wait to see where this takes all of us together.

On a final note, I recently watched a new holiday movie with my kids called 'The Christmas Chronicles 2.' In the movie there was a quote from it that I have really taken to heart, which is 'Someone really cool once told me that Christmas isn't about where you are, but who you're with.' I personally don't think this quote is just about the upcoming holiday season, but everything else that we've been going through. With all of the restrictions and other stuff going on, more than ever, I have come to appreciate the time I have with everyone, no matter how different the time spent together may be.

With this in mind, I truly hope that all of our families will be able to spend time with each other in a safe and healthy manner this holiday season and beyond. If we can all try to find ways to make lasting memories they will lead the way to all of the better things to come.

See you all in 2021!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Reimer'.

Mr. Jacob Reimer  
Superintendent



*Please continue to stay informed with up-to-date District information by visiting the Barker District website: [www.barkercsd.net](http://www.barkercsd.net)*



## From the Desk of Mr. Carter

Hello Barker CSD families. It is safe to say that this has been a unique, unpredictable and often difficult school year. We thank all of our students and families for your continued support, flexibility and dedication to the District as we continue to navigate through an ever-changing academic year.

As a reminder to all families, if your child is sick, please do not send him or her to school. While the District so far has done a good job of controlling the spread of the Covid-19 virus on the campus, it is not worth the risk of exposure or quarantine. The instructional model allows students to synch into their academic courses if they have to temporarily remain home.

If there is a situation in which the District has to go fully remote, the plan will vary depending on the grade level. Instruction for all ages will still take place Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday:

- PreK will have a set virtual meeting scheduled designed by the instructor.
- Grades K-4 will synch in to their classroom teacher's instruction for a morning meeting, literacy and math blocks, and an end of day meeting.
- Grades 5-6 will synch in for their core academic courses with their three teachers.
- Grades 7-12 will follow their daily schedule and synch in for their academic courses (English, Math, Social Studies, Science & Spanish).
- Special areas will have course specific schedules that work around these academic areas. This could include meeting times on Wednesdays and independent/asynchronous learning.

Please keep in mind that this plan could change due to a variety of factors, including guidance from the State. The school's intention is to stay open for in-person hybrid instruction for as long as we are able.

We also understand that there are points in a family's school year when they may make the decision to transfer their child from the hybrid model to the fully remote model. While this transition is seamless, the move from fully-remote back into the hybrid model is not. The ease of the transition depends on the number of students in rooms and courses; we can only physically fit so many people into a room based on the guidance from the State.

The school is also aware of how an after-hours academic workload can affect a student's and family's home life during this time; this was previously touched on in the "Close the Chromebooks" letter regarding the pause over Thanksgiving. This is especially true at the high school level. Please trust that we are continuing this discussion within our leadership groups. We want to make sure students are still learning the necessary skills and content but doing so in a way that respects the unique aspects of this year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate Mrs. Melissa Bundrock on her new role as Assistant Principal at Starpoint Middle School. She has served as the Instructional Support Specialist for this year and last, and a classroom teacher prior; overall, she has served the Barker students for 14 years. We wish her luck as she moves into the next phase of her career.

Lastly, we can't stress the importance of communication enough. If you have a question, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher(s), guidance counselor, Mrs. Thibault, Mrs. Bundrock, or myself. Communication is always important, but especially so in this disjointed year.

Thank you for all of your help. We wish you all a healthy holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Michael Carter  
District Principal, PreK-12

## From the Desk of Dr. Kramer

Dear Barker Community,

What a year 2020 has been. I don't think anyone would have thought when it started 12 months ago that we'd be finishing the year in the midst of a pandemic and that school would look very different! We thank everyone for partnering with us as we do what's best for our children while following all the guidelines from the New York State Education Department.



Throughout this year, and in years past, I am often asked, "How can I help my children be better readers?" This is a great question and there are some very easy things you can do at home that will reinforce your child's learning.

1. **Print Rich Media Homes:** First, literacy learning starts before children enter school! Studies have shown that children are learning based on print-rich environments at home. All this means is kids read things they see at home. From identifying letters on cereal boxes to understanding the giant yellow M represents McDonald's, kids are always reading. So, when at home, point out words on boxes. Identify letters with your children on mail or on packages. Getting a lot of Amazon boxes this time of year? Work on letter identification by pointing out the different letters in the word Amazon. Ask kids what sounds go with those letters? While in the car, point out billboards and ask what letters they recognize. Any words they know? What sounds go with those letters? This will reinforce to your children that reading can happen anywhere and everywhere!
2. **Watching TV:** For students who are already identifying letters and letter sounds, consider adding subtitles or closed captioning when they are watching TV. Adding this feature will put the words on the screen for the kids. People can't help but be drawn to print when it is in front of them. If your children are going to watch TV anyway, why not help them read more at the same time?
3. **Read to your kids.** Being read to really does help increase students' reading ability. Kids as early as 9 months old benefit from being read to. Reading to kids exposed them to richer vocabulary than they usually hear from adults who speak to them. If you are struggling to find a book that you think your child would enjoy, reach out to his or her teacher. They would be able to help. Also, reach out to Mrs. Morrow, our librarian, and to the Barker Public Library. They will be able to offer suggestions for good books.
4. **Ask your child to tell you a story.** Write down what they tell you and then read it aloud to them. Point to the words as you read them or point at them as your child reads the story back to you. Have them illustrate and now they've become an author and an illustrator! This doesn't need to be done on anything fancy. Extra paper and a three-ring binder can work.

Check out the Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment page (located under Our District) on the District website. We will be updating soon with a reading corner and suggestion tips to help students become better readers. In the meantime, check out the International Literacy Association's Children's Choices Reading List for ideas on books your child might enjoy:

- <https://www.literacyworldwide.org/get-resources/reading-lists/childrens-choices-reading-list>

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I wish you and your family the best this holiday season and for the new year. From my family to yours, stay safe, healthy and happy.

Happy Holidays,

Dr. Mariah Fiona Kramer  
Director of Instructional Services

## BCS Adult/Community Education Update

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic effect on our school and community. With the utmost concern for the health, wellness, and safety of our participants and staff, we have made the difficult decision to delay the start of the [Adult/Community Education](#) program for this winter semester. We are looking to offer a modified schedule as soon as it is safe to do so in the spring. We will share the most up-to-date information on our website. Any questions or concerns please call or email Jim Cantella:

795-3201 ext. 7228

[jcantella@barkercsd.net](mailto:jcantella@barkercsd.net)



## SRO Corner

Greetings Somerset/Barker Community.

The Somerset Police/SROs are hoping everyone is doing well. As the new year approaches things hopefully will look a little brighter.

Our main goal is to keep our school, students, and community safe. We are here to protect and help our students and parents not only physically but mentally as well. Working with school staff and the Principal, we help find solutions to solving problems affecting students and their families.

These days are stressful and can take a mental toll on anyone. If the school SRO or Somerset Police Department can help in any way please do not hesitate to contact us: 716-255-0503.

Here is a list of phone numbers that may be helpful.

- New Directions Youth and Family Services: 716-439-1179
- Family Support: 716-439-1179 ext. 493
- Family Counseling: 716-282-2351
- Niagara County Department of Mental Health: 716-439-7410
- Domestic Violence Hot Line: 716-433-6716
- Peer Support: 716-433-3780

Stay Safe,

Somerset Police/Barker School Resource Officers



(L-R, Above with **Mr. Jacob Reimer** and **Mr. Michael Carter**): **Officer Erica Herlofson**, **Chief Jon Miller**, **Officer John Yotter**. (Below): Mentors & mentees work together at a recent meeting in the Pratt Tech Lab.



## M&M Program Returns

The Mentor & Mentee program (Big & Little M's), which began last year under the direction of Mrs. Bundrock and Mrs. Thibault, is back for another year. There are 24 mentor/mentee matches this year. Mentors from the Jr./Sr. High School meet with Pratt Elementary school mentees once a month as a large group. Mentors are asked to reach out when possible during the school day. Meeting in person during a study hall, having lunch together, and attending a virtual meeting are just a few of the activities that have taken place so far.

## Pratt Elementary Hard Workers of the Month

*September Character Trait - Honesty (Below L-R):* **Thomas Fulwell**, PreK; **Adia Nestoros**, Kindergarten; **Avery Snell**, Grade 1; **Shawnalee Hill**, Grade 2; **Fisher Strong**, Grade 3; **Owen Volkosh**, Grade 4; **Elise Monaco**, Grade 5; **Sintia Reyes-Aguilera**, Grade 6.



*October Character Trait - Ambitious (Below L-R):* **Blaise Janese**, PreK; **Benjamin Wakefield**, Kindergarten; **Cimari Street**, Grade 1; **Landon Wakefield**, Grade 2; **Malik Wearen**, Grade 3; **Diarra Taliaferro**, Grade 4; **Adeline Atwater**, Grade 5; **Isabella Gatto**, Grade 6.



*November Character Trait - Reliable (Below L-R):* **Thorne Stanley**, PreK; **Danielle Raduns**, Kindergarten; **Jakob Wahl**, Grade 1; **Emilia Farina**, Grade 2; **Madalene Carpenter**, Grade 3; **Fiona Dalton**, Grade 4; **Evelin Reyes-Reyes**, Grade 5; **Anthony Taliaferro**, Grade 6.



## High School Student Council Organizes Turkey Drive

The Barker Senior High Student Council organized the annual turkey drive to support the Barker Food Pantry. Groups were asked to donate “turkeys” valued at \$10 each to help local families in need. Money collected was used to purchase holiday turkeys and other perishables for the Barker Food Pantry. In addition to the contributions received from several groups, collection jars were also placed in the Jr./Sr. High School and the Pratt Elementary offices for two weeks to collect from interested staff members.



A special thank you to the following clubs, organizations, and sport teams for their generous donations: Varsity Club, Freshmen Class, Golf, Baseball, Cross Country, Yearbook, International Club, Senior Class, Junior High Student Council, Senior High Student Council, National Honor Society, Barker Singers, Barker Support Staff. The HS Student Council was able to present a check for \$1,070 to the Barker Food Pantry.

## Jr./Sr. High Hard Workers of the Month

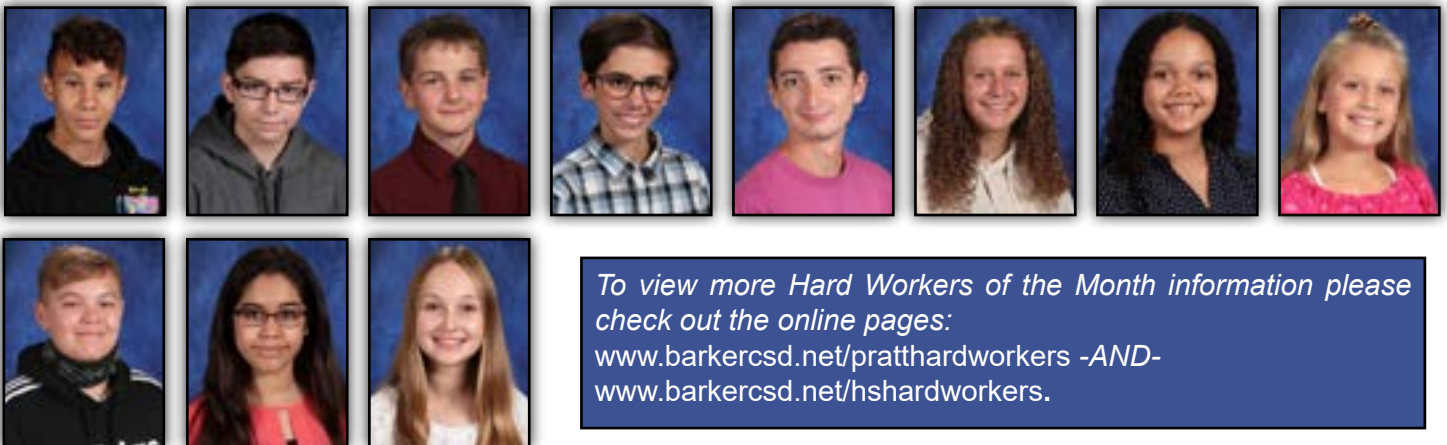
September Character Trait - Honesty (Below L-R): **Angelina Delgrolice**, Grade 10; **Barbara Jary**, Grade 7; **Michael Kalynycz**, Grade 8; **Hunter Witckop**, Grade 8.



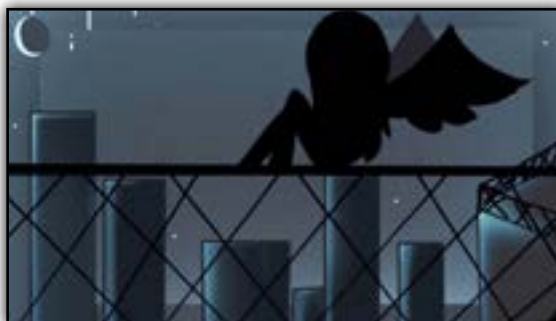
October Character Trait - Ambitious (Below L-R): **Catherine Mallon**, Grade 10; **Meghan Mallon**, Grade 8; **Julia Munn**, Grade 10; **Jocelyn Schmitt**, Grade 7; **Carla Stoloski**, Grade 12.



November Character Trait - Reliable (Below top to bottom and L-R): **Mason Allee-Castro**, Grade 10; **William Dyet, V**, Grade 8; **Luke Fay**, Grade 7; **Ryan Fisk**, Grade 8; **Cameron Kiner**, Grade 11; **Chloe Lee**, Grade 12; **Kaya Lloyd**, Grade 7; **Hannah Mages**, Grade 7; **Duke Redsteer**, Grade 9; **Ariana Reyes Aguilera**, Grade 8; **Mikala Woock**, Grade 8.



To view more Hard Workers of the Month information please check out the online pages:  
[www.barkercsd.net/pratthardworkers](http://www.barkercsd.net/pratthardworkers) -AND-  
[www.barkercsd.net/hshardworkers](http://www.barkercsd.net/hshardworkers).



(L-R): **Sarah Outten's** "Still Life," and "Rain Still" by **Sarina Drake**.

## Mallon Wins Writing Awards

Congratulations to Catherine Mallon on her poem, "Figure Skating," winning 1<sup>st</sup> place for Poetry in the Western New York Federation of Women's Clubs Greater Western District Creative Writing Contest. From there, her poem was judged by the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs at the state level, where it won first place. Catherine is also the recipient of the Wanda Odrobina Award for Excellence in Creative Writing, an award named in honor of the former Director of the Greater Western District. Catherine wrote her poem and created an illustration to go with her writing in Studio Art class.



**Catherine Mallon**, accompanied by **Ms. Krista Beth Feltz**, accepts her award from **Mrs. Karen Davis** (left).

## Broecker's Mural Selected

Students in Ms. Feltz's high school art class created artwork for a local equine sanctuary. Love Always Equine Sanctuary is a local charity located at 2305 Carmen Road in Barker that's purpose is to save abused, neglected or unwanted horses, donkeys and ponies. Angelina Broecker's horse mural design won first place. Angie painted her mural design which is now displayed on the side of the Love Always Equine Sanctuary barn.

The following artists were also winners and several students painted their artwork on large canvases which are hanging on the paddock fencing at the sanctuary for display. Winning artists include Sophie Alexander, Albert Cimato, Emily Donner, Laci Giarla, Abigail Heidemann, Allison Hotaling, Samantha Howes, Sarah Outten, Lisbet Lopez Paz, Emma McGrath, Morgan Phillips, and Phoebe Rignall. To find out more, visit the sanctuary's website and Facebook page: [www.lovealwaysequinesanctuary.com](http://www.lovealwaysequinesanctuary.com).



(L-R): **Morgan Phillips** shares her artwork. **Angelina Broecker's** 1<sup>st</sup> place horse mural design.



## New Ways of Celebrating

Words and phrases of the pandemic have become “the new normal”: wash your hands, unprecedented, uncharted, flatten the curve, quarantined, and abundance of caution. Even during these “trying times” when many events have been canceled, the staff and students at Barker Central have found ways to participate in activities by following “social distancing” and “wearing a mask.” A back-to-school spirit week in September to celebrate the seasons, Buffalo Bills spirit days, Christmas sweater & sock day, and Christmas pajama day created opportunities to unify the staff and students, both in-person and remotely. Costumes and trick-or-treating at Pratt Elementary School gave staff and students the chance to celebrate Halloween in late October. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders decorated pumpkins which lined the sidewalks and entrances of Pratt Elementary during the week of Halloween. Candy and trick-or-treat bags were donated by the Barker School community. Students from the Jr./Sr. High School along with staff members volunteered to help with the candy distribution to elementary trick-or-treaters. A living history museum in the Jr./Sr. High School took place as staff and students dressed up as their favorite historical figure. Also, the bands have been working on preparing for virtual concerts. Please be sure to check out the Music Department page on the BCS website to listen.

For more pictures of these and other events, please visit our website photo gallery page:

[www.barkercsd.net/photogallery](http://www.barkercsd.net/photogallery)



(Clockwise from upper left): **Adalyn Snell**, does her best impersonation of **Officer Erica Herlofson** during Halloween trick-or-treating; **Kiana Abrams** practices for an intermediate band virtual concert; **Robert Mason, Kathleen Babcock, and Virginia Alexander** volunteered to hand out candy; **Ella Taylor and Madilyn Detschner** both portrayed **Rosie the Riveter** for the living history museum; **Willard Nellist** dressed for summer during the back-to-school spirit week; **Ashlin Cole and Mr. DerSarkissian** “celebrate the seasons” with their fall attire; **3<sup>rd</sup> grade pumpkins**.

## Athletes Excel In Return To Play

Athletes of low and moderate risk fall sports were permitted to return to practice on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Seven individuals received Niagara-Orleans League and/or Section VI recognition while [two teams won championships](#). All five Barker Raiders varsity level teams received recognition as [NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete Teams](#): Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Field Hockey, Golf, and Girls Soccer.

(Top to bottom L-R): **Sydnie Luckman**, Soccer - N-O League 1<sup>st</sup> Team; **Chloe Lee**, Soccer - N-O League Sportsmanship Award; **Lena Fazzolari**, Field Hockey, N-O League 1<sup>st</sup> Team; **Madison Gancasz**, Field Hockey - All New York State, All Western New York 1<sup>st</sup> Team, N-O League Player of the Year, N-O League 1<sup>st</sup> Team; **Ashlin Cole**, Field Hockey - N-O League 1<sup>st</sup> Team; **Carla Stoloski**, Cross Country - NYSPHSAA State Qualifier.



Varsity Boys Cross Country - Section VI Class D Champions & NYSPHSAA State Qualifiers (L-R): **Logan Harris**, **Evan Taylor**, **Mason Allee-Castro**, **Bradford Cantrell**, **Aidan Voss**, **Robert Mason**, **Dawson Donovan**, Head Coach **Paul DerSarkissian**. Not pictured: Assistant Coach **Sharon Lamb**.



Varsity Field Hockey - Niagara-Orleans League Co-Champions (Front L-R): **Mackenzie Dodge**, **Lena Fazzolari**, **Ashlin Cole**, **Ella Gooding**, **Macie May**, **Mia Herman**, **Laci Giarla**. (Back L-R): **Aaliyah Wheat**, **Addison Szafranski**, **Alexa Zglinicki**, **Madison Gancasz**, **Courtney Hillman**, **Natalie Bruning**, **Kaedynce Schumacher**, **Rachel Sutter**, **Lilly Monthony**. Not pictured: Assistant Coach **Karin Menz**, Assistant Coach **Bill Moeller**, Head Coach **Jeff Costello**.

# Remote Meal Distribution Consent Form Updated

The consent form that parents MUST sign/submit to receive remote meal distribution has been updated. Meals are delivered on Wednesdays. As per New York State the following form MUST include a signature. Please return to Mrs. Julie Fuerch.



## Barker Central School Consent Form Requesting Meals for Remote Learning

11-6-2020  
Barker Central School District  
1628 Quaker Rd.  
Barker, NY 14012

Dear Parent or Guardian,

**USDA has extended Free meals to all students until June 2021!** All students may receive breakfast & lunch at no charge for both on site and remote meals. Parents must return this form to request free meals for delivery by bus to their home. Pre-ordered meals will be delivered on Wednesdays – once a week. Students in Cohorts A & B may receive 3 days meals, students in Cohort C may receive 5 days meals. Parents are responsible to pre-order and be home to receive the meals from the bus from 3:00-4:00 PM.

**You must return this signed letter if you wish to receive school meal benefits for remote learning.**

I would like to preregister for school meal benefits:

Student Name(s) and Address

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Cohort# 

---

By signing, I understand I have to be home to receive the meals from the bus delivery. Parents may stop receiving school meals by notifying the school.

Signature: 

---

Sincerely,  
Julie M. Fuerch  
Food Service Director  
Barker Central School District

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form:](http://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf)

[http://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain\\_combined\\_6\\_8\\_12.pdf](http://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf), (AD-3027) found online at:

[How to File a Complaint http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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1628 Quaker Road  
Barker, NY 14012

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**1628 Quaker Road**  
**Barker, NY 14012**



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Mariah Kramer

**Principal**

Michael Carter

**Barker Central School  
District Mission  
Statement:**

We will provide a school environment that fosters respect, compassion, tolerance, and nurtures life-long learners who make meaningful contributions to society.

**Parent Portal**

Looking for the Barker Central School District Parent Portal? Please head to the following web address to access the login information, including code, and download .pdf instructions for the portal:

[www.barkercsd.net/parentportal](http://www.barkercsd.net/parentportal)



*"Bike Drawing" by  
Madison Allee-Castro.*