

BARBERS HILL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

BarbersHill

Summer 2020



*BHHS Class of 2020 celebrated a
modified but heartfelt graduation
on May 29, 2020.*

VISION STATEMENT

Barbers Hill ISD envisions academic excellence characterized by goal-driven, college/career ready graduates who are responsible, accountable, contributing members of society.

Barbers Hill ISD Administration

Dr. Greg Poole

Superintendent

Sandra Duree

Deputy Superintendent

Stan Frazier

Assistant Superintendent of Planning and Operations

Becky McManus

Assistant Superintendent of Finance

Barbara Ponder

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Sue Garcia

Assistant Superintendent of Special Services

Kristen Davis

Assistant Superintendent of Technology

Directors

Tom Westerberg

Athletics

Jami Navarre

Community Relations

Becky Johnson

Operations

Susan LeBlanc

School Nutrition

Barbers Hill ISD School Board

George Barrera

President

Fred Skinner

Vice President

Cynthia Erwin

Secretary

Eric Davis

Benny May

Clint Pipes

Becky Tice

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Dr. Greg Poole, Superintendent

What a school year! We had a superb start and finish with our convocation and graduation respectively, but what happened in between was one for the record books. A typical Barbers Hill year of continued success rocked along until spring break took on a whole new meaning. Life as we know it was put on hold and our nation grappled with how to perform essential tasks in the midst of a life-or-death pandemic. Our spring UIL activities were

canceled resulting in no spring state championships for the first time in the University Interscholastic League's history. Yet, in the midst of uncertainty and fear, Barbers Hill ISD continued to meet the needs of our students, staff and community, and we kept the focus on the contagious nature of hope.

Our staff served over 20,000 meals to students in need even at peril to their own health. All of our teachers gathered in person (at an appropriate distance) for a day of training to help implement an outstanding distance learning program with the help of Assistant Superintendent Kristen Davis and her superb technology department. Many Barbers Hill employees worked throughout the pandemic keeping our grounds and buildings maintained. Assistant Superintendent Becky McManus and her department helped execute the first-ever bond election to take place in the midst of a pandemic! The record voter turnout and an 87% approval gives powerful testimony to the phenomenal support our community has always demonstrated for our schools.

We concluded the year with an in-person graduation in a spectacularly organized and safe way, with most of our senior class attending. We Can, We Will... was never a more appropriate description of our school and community while the rest of the nation contended with -- and often failed to work in a concerted effort to overcome -- COVID-19. The Barbers Hill Board of Trustees and the Mont Belvieu City Council worked together to maintain operations and meet needs. I don't have 20/20 eyesight, but the year 2020 drew sharp focus on our ability to adapt and overcome, and I have never been prouder of our staff, students and community. The Barbers Hill brand was enhanced during arguably the biggest crisis of a lifetime, but just between you and me... I'm ready for some normalcy!



Online Fall Registration

Returning and New Students

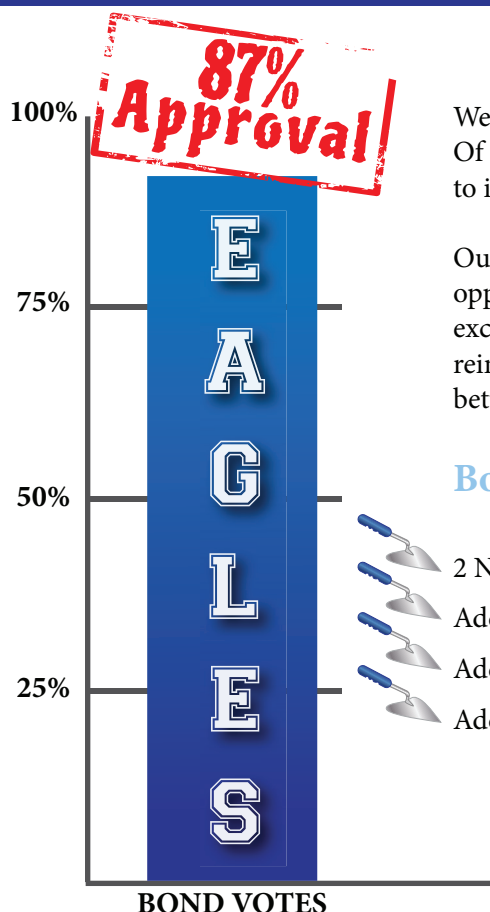
JULY 13-26



Complete online registration for each student by logging in to Skyward Family Access from our website, bhisd.net.

BOND 2020

RESULTS

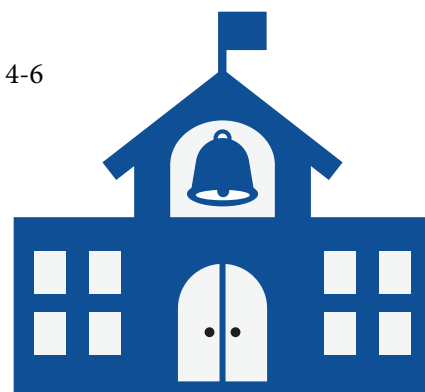


We extend our sincerest thanks to BHISD voters for supporting the 2020 Bond on May 2. Of the 1,827 votes cast, 87% (1,580) voted in favor. We are grateful for your continued desire to invest in our community, schools and students, even in the midst of a health pandemic.

Our district mission is to provide the highest quality of instruction, and educational opportunities that produce motivated and successful learners. We seek to promote excellence and teamwork, to maintain a commitment to continuous improvement, and to reinforce the Barbers Hill tradition. Because of your support, we will now be able to do this better than ever before. Thank you, voters!

Bond 2020 will include:

- 2 New Intermediate Schools (North and South) for grades 4-6
- Additions to Elementary Schools North and South
- Additions to the Early Childhood Center
- Addition of a Ninth Grade Center to the High School



Barbers Hill School Board Elections



George Barrera

George Barrera has served on the BHISD Board of Trustees since 2002. He ran unopposed in the May 2020 election and will continue to serve as Board President during the 2020-21 school year. George and his wife, Kelly, are the grandparents of two young BH Eagles. Congratulations, Mr. Barrera!



Clint Pipes

Clint Pipes was elected to his first full term on the BHISD Board of Trustees in May. A Barbers Hill graduate of the Class of 1987, Pipes completed the term of a retiring school board member before being elected this spring. He and his wife, Stacy, have 2 children in Barbers Hill ISD. Welcome to the Hill, Mr. Pipes!



Barbers Hill voters approved a bond in 2017 that included the construction of a new Administration building, to be named the Barbers Hill Leadership Support Center. The new 55,000 sq. ft. facility will house 50+ offices and a new Board meeting room to accommodate our growing district. The facility, located along Eagle Drive, will open in summer 2021. In partnership with the City of Mont Belvieu, the facility will house the new Mont Belvieu Museum as well as the BH Sports Hall of Honor.



BARBERS HILL CLASS OF 2020



The Barbers Hill Class of 2020 faced unprecedented challenges as they completed their coursework this spring during the COVID-19 pandemic. In spite of missed traditions and events, the students were taught and celebrated in new and creative ways that built upon and honored their years of hard work as Eagles. Graduation ceremonies were held May 29, 2020, at Eagle Stadium for a limited audience with many safety precautions in place.



GOOD LUCK
SENIORS!

MEET THE TOP THREE

1.

Gerardo Bote
Class of 2020
Valedictorian



Future: Attending University of Texas at Austin, majoring in Computer Science, Math and Business

Favorite Teacher: Cayla Hunt, AP Calculus

Favorite Activities: Student Council, UIL, and Robotics Club

Favorite Memory: Designing a rocket for a graded project that, after multiple failed attempts, “finally, before the bell rang for 5th period, flew up as high as the theatre’s ceiling!”

2.

William Cheshire
Class of 2020
Salutatorian



Future: Attending Duke University, majoring in Physics and Linguistics

Favorite Teacher: Cayla Hunt, AP Calculus: “We always learned lots in her class, but we still had tons of fun.”

Favorite Activities: Band (Drum Major), UIL, Academic Decathlon

Favorite Memory: Time spent on the band buses when coming back from far away games

3.

Charis Strickland
Class of 2020
Summa Cum Laude



Future: Attending Texas A&M University in College Station, majoring in Biomedical Engineering

Favorite Teachers: Sarah Guarnere, AP Language; Cassidy Gardner, AP Chemistry; Lisa Andrus, AP Literature; Cheyne Cox, Pre-AP Physics and Academic Decathlon

Favorite Activities: PALS, Academic Decathlon, Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Favorite Memory: Re-enacting a Civil War Hospital in Mrs. McElroy’s 5th grade U.S. History class. In high school: pep rallies, football games, Special Sandwich Thursday, and PALeeds.

CLASS OF 2020 VS. COVID 19

Top 3 Seniors weigh in on Distance Learning

What was your biggest surprise during Distance Learning?

Gerardo: How everyone missed each other. In my very first Zoom call, everybody was screaming and talking over each other and constantly laughing; they were so glad to see each other after 3 weeks since we’d last met.

Colby: How much time there really is in a day when you don’t have to go to school

Charis: I’ve been writing lots of letters to friends recently; therefore, I went to the post office to replenish our supply of stamps last week. Stamps are expensive.

What was the biggest challenge?

Gerardo: Figuring out how to maintain that rigorous pace of practice of skills and concepts I needed for the AP Exam.

Colby: Keeping to a good schedule

Charis: Making the best use of my time. It was too easy to stay up late, rendering the next day somewhat of a lost cause. For me, making the most of it looked like going to the farm with my Dad, spending all day with my head in a book, or driving the girls I babysit to look at (and moo at) cows in Wallisville.

What did you enjoy most?

Gerardo: My personal schedule became more flexible with distance learning; in addition to my daily schoolwork, I became more fond of collaborating with other people around the U.S. in organizations like Coding4Kids and the College Board’s Youth Advisory Council.

Colby: Freedom to set my own routine

Charis: I was very grateful for getting to spend so much time with my family before leaving for college this fall. We ate supper together every day and often played dominoes or went for walks in the evening.

What helped you the most?

Gerardo: The fact that the Barbers Hill community did an “Adopt-A-Senior” project was really encouraging and helpful for us seniors. They gave us hope that we are not alone in this fight against COVID-19.

Colby: A big supply of books

Charis: My new morning routine. I woke up at 6:30, spent some time in prayer with a very large mug of green tea, then went for a two-mile walk with my mother. I was more productive and joyful for it!



BH Instructional Techs Jennifer Stephens, Suzie Wilburn, and Lisa Kana



Building Cyber Schools

When global stories of havoc wrought by the COVID-19 began to reach the U.S. in early March, Barbers Hill ISD instructional technologists began to plan, even before school was canceled.

That planning soon enabled them to assemble the elements of distance learning for more than 6000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, in the daunting span of 10 days.

BH instructional technologists, under the direction of Asst. Superintendent of Technology Kristen Davis, spent hours tweaking the plan from Friday to Sunday over spring break.



The team first turned to an education Facebook page for global feedback on how teachers were adapting classrooms in other countries. Their guiding principles in online platform selection were simplicity, familiarity with platforms they had previously given instruction on, and consistency between subject matter and grade levels, since many parents would be helping more than one child.

With those principles and fresh global input, they settled on four online platforms: Google Classroom (for grades 4-12), SeeSaw (for PreK - 3), Zoom, and Screencastify.

But even as the instructional technologists prepared to train teachers, they recognized limitations.

“We could help the teachers learn how to use the new platforms,” said Suzie Wilburn, instructional technologist for elementary grades, “but we couldn’t tell them what they needed to teach.”

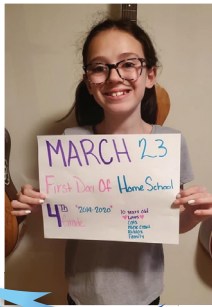
So the team met with district leaders, including campus principals, academic deans, campus technology personnel, central administrators and curriculum specialists, for many hours that weekend. Each person had a role in helping to prepare teachers to flip their classrooms to digital instruction.



“It was truly a collaborative environment,” said Middle Schools Instructional Technologist Jennifer Stephens. “We could not have done this without the support of so many others!”

For more of this story, visit our website at bhisd.net/news





ZOOMING AHEAD

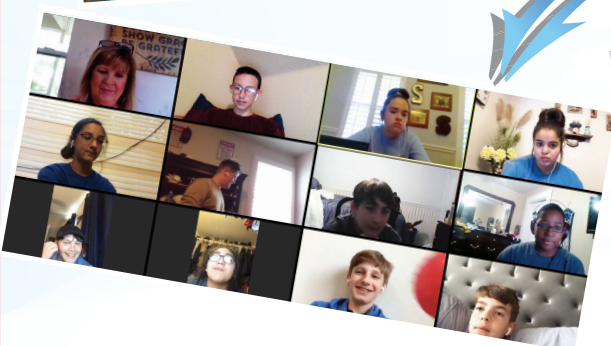
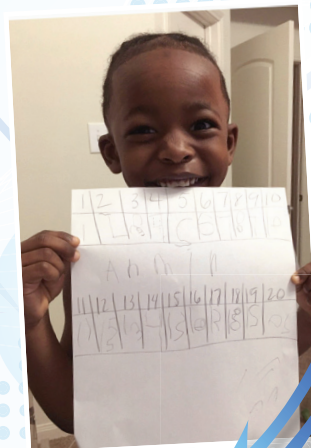


40 Days to Learn What Matters Most

Barbers Hill students and staff alike learned new lessons this spring with the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic. From learning how to use Zoom and a webcam, to recording lessons on Screencastify, to posting assignments, grading, and getting feedback in Google Classroom and SeeSaw, Barbers Hill teachers and administrators went the distance to teach lessons and enable learning in spite of the odds.

For students, their education went far beyond spelling words and math assignments. It included unexpected lessons in time management, family life, and handling new emotions. But after nearly 40 days of distance learning, students and staff who completed surveys agreed on one significant lesson learned on both sides of the screen: we need each other. In person. Sharing a smile, a hug, a concerned look.

Distance learning will likely continue in many ways in the future, pandemic or not. And we are grateful for the technology that expands our reach and our learning. But we are even more thankful for loving teachers, staff, and students at Barbers Hill who are excited to return in the fall, in vibrant person.



Barbers Hill Athletics Eagles of the Year

AMY BUNTIN

CASEY COLLIER

LONDON KING

Athletic Academic
Award

District Champions

Volleyball

District Champions
Undefeated Season

Football

District Champions
Undefeated Season

Team Tennis

District Champions
Undefeated Season

Girls Basketball

District Champions
Undefeated Season

Boys & Girls Cross Country
District Champions



EAGLE RETIREES

Thank you for your years of service to
Barbers Hill ISD!



Cheryl Abshier
28 Years



Chuck Russell
40 Years



Deborah Tucker
30 Years



Denise Owens
26 Years



Elaine Bushnell
32 Years



Gracie Yzquierdo
20 Years



Jaimi Law
32 Years



Jodi Leggett
31 Years



Joni Koonce
20 Years



Karen Gifford
30 Years



Karen Webb
35 Years



Laura Johnson
30 Years



Sandy Nelson
20 Years



Tammy McCall
28 Years

Back To School

August 19th

Barbers Hill will begin the school year according to the calendar approved by our Board in February, unless new executive orders instruct otherwise.

Please monitor our website and parent emails for updates as we draw closer to August.

For a list of school supplies, please visit our website at
www.bhisd.net/parents-students/school-supply-lists or scan the QR code below.



Please scan for
school supply lists



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