



BARRE TOWN MIDDLE AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**70 Websterville Road
Barre, VT 05641
(802)476-6617
FAX: (802)479-5723
btmes.org**

February 2022



Barre Town 8th Grade Step Up Night

Thursday, June 16th

6:00pm

More information to follow.

A decorative border consisting of two rows of yellow stars. The top row contains 25 stars, and the bottom row contains 24 stars, with the last star on the right positioned slightly lower than the others.

★ **Attention all 8th Grade Parents and Guardians -**

- ★ We are putting the wheels in motion for planning this year's 8th
- ★ Grade Step Up Night.

★ Our hope is to have a student reception and dance following
★ the evening's program . As always, our hope is to host the
★ event here in our courtyard. We will plan to move the event
★ inside if the weather looks questionable.

★ If you are interest in helping plan/prepare for these events,
★ please feel free to send your name, phone number and email
★ address to my attention at kbensbte@buusd.org. More infor-
★ mation to follow.

- ★ As we know, all of these events will be dependent on the current guidelines and Covid restrictions at that time.

★ Fingers crossed for a fun and sunshine-filled event!

★ Kim Benson



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Crops by Kids

Good news! After a hiatus from the seed fundraiser, we are going to have the fundraiser this year.

If you have been waiting for the order form to order your seeds, it will be forthcoming SOON. So sorry that we are a little behind. This year the money we make from the seed sale will go towards funding to get water to the garden and chicken coop. Right now, a long hose needs to be attached at the garage.

Although the seed orders are a bit later than in some years, we hope that you will still consider ordering from us. Your support is appreciated.

A few fun facts about veggies: Peppers come in all shapes, sizes, flavors, and degree of hot-ness. Peppers are usually started inside several weeks before the last frost. They prefer rich soil and full sun.

Did you know chili peppers get their heat from the alkaloid compound capsaicin? According to the Whole Seed catalog, "in 1912 an American pharmacy professor, William Scoville devised a way to measure the amount of heat producing alkaloids in chili peppers. The Carolina Reaper retains its place at the top of the super-hot hierarchy, with a rating of 2.2 million Scoville units. The Death Spiral comes in at 1.3 million units". A jalapeno is rated as 10,000 units and a bell pepper is 0.

Did you know there is a black tomato? According to the Whole Seed catalog, the Black Beauty is the world's darkest tomato. It has the same antioxidants as blueberries. The description is, "so dark that some tomatoes turn solid blue-black on the skin. Deep red flesh is among the best tasting of all tomatoes."

Barre Town Logo Gear

It's back!



The Barre Town Logo Gear storefront is open. This is a great time to pick up a new t-shirt or sweatshirt. How about a new winter hat? The deadline for orders is Sunday, February 13th.



<https://btmesapparel.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>

Message from the Middle School Counselor

To All 8th Grade Parents/Guardians,

Though it may seem early to begin discussion regarding next year, here in “school time” the planning for your 8th grader’s high school career has already begun!

Save the Date:

High School Course Registration Meetings for 8th graders April 4th and 5th- Virtual meetings

Course Registration Meetings are 20 minute meetings when parents, students, and their high school counselors meet to choose courses for their freshman year. These meetings will take place via Google Meet. Each 8th grade students will be excused from class to attend these virtual meetings in Mrs. Goodrich’s area. Spaulding High School counselors will be contacting families in March to schedule these meetings.

8th grade Information Night March 22nd-Virtual event

This will be a virtual event put on by Spaulding High School. High school staff will be reviewing class offerings, Spaulding’s schedule, graduation requirements and more.
More information to come!

Additionally, you should know that in March, all 8th grade students will be receiving direct instruction from me regarding transitioning to high school during their health class. During this 2-3 week period, we will focus mainly on Spaulding High School; answering any and all questions about high school, reviewing courses offered, and developing a Freshman year schedule. If you have any questions about this process, or about high school in general, please feel free to call me at 476-6617 ext. 6240 or email me at sgoodbte@buusd.org.

Sincerely,



News From the Art Department



Ava Christman, *Farm Scene*, collage, 3rd grade.

We are pleased to announce the return of the annual Barre Unified Union Art Show!

This exhibit brings student artwork to the public in celebration of artistic achievement. Students in grades K-12 will have work showcased in the Milne Room at the Aldrich Public Library. The show runs from Saturday, February 12 through Wednesday, March 30th. Students with featured art will soon be receiving a letter of congratulations recognizing their good work. We invite everyone to stop by the library to celebrate the creativity that is happening in our schools!

Enjoy,
Ms. Leeds and Mr. Pope

Vote Before Vacation!

VOTE BY MAIL OR VOTE IN-PERSON

Call **802-479-9391** or go to **mvp.vermont.gov** to request a ballot to be mailed to you.

Tuesday, March 1, 2022
7:00 AM to 7:00 PM
 Barre Municipal Auditorium
 or Barre Town School

Understanding The Ballot When You Vote

BALLOT

Shall the voters of the Barre Unified Union School District approve the school board to expend **\$53,254,319**, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,252 **per equalized pupil**. This projected spending per equalized pupil is **5.99% higher** than spending for the current year.

When calculating spending per student, Vermont uses "equalized pupils" rather than an actual headcount. The formula gives less weight to pre-kindergarten pupils and extra weight to students in secondary schools, those from economically deprived backgrounds, and those whose first language is not English. The principle behind the weighting is that it costs more to educate students in certain categories.

\$53,254,319 includes approximately \$6,000,000 of grant funding. This funding operates two elementary and middle schools, a high school, an alternative school, and a central office. This value provides economical and quality education for approximately 2,300 students.

Your educational taxes are **not** going up **5.99%**. 5.99% is the percentage increase in spending per student from FY 2022. Our expenses are only increasing by **1.95%**, but because of lower tax rates, **educational taxes are actually going down**, as you can see below.

HOW WOULD THIS PROPOSED BUDGET AFFECT YOU?



If your household makes **less than** \$136,900

Household Income	FY 2022 Taxes Current Year	FY 2023 Taxes Proposed Budget	Annual Difference
\$50,000	\$1,100	\$1,050	-\$50
\$60,000	\$1,320	\$1,260	-\$60
\$70,000	\$1,540	\$1,470	-\$70
\$80,000	\$1,760	\$1,680	-\$80
\$90,000	\$1,980	\$1,890	-\$90
\$100,000	\$2,200	\$2,100	-\$100
\$110,000	\$2,420	\$2,310	-\$110



If your household makes **more than** \$136,900

Property Value	FY 2022 Taxes Current Year	FY 2023 Taxes Proposed Budget	Annual Difference
\$100,000	\$1,426	\$1,357	-\$69
\$150,000	\$2,139	\$2,036	-\$103
\$200,000	\$2,852	\$2,714	-\$138
\$250,000	\$3,565	\$3,393	-\$172
\$300,000	\$4,278	\$4,071	-\$207
\$350,000	\$4,991	\$4,750	-\$241
\$400,000	\$5,704	\$5,428	-\$276

The figures listed in these charts represent VT educational taxes.

Barre City =

Barre Town =

Vote Before Vacation!

On January 13, the Barre Unified Union School District Board approved a budget of \$53,254,319 for fiscal year 2023. This represents an increase of **1.95%** over the current year's spending plan. Approval of this budget by voters would give us the resources we need to address our children's social emotional well-being, how they will learn coming out of the pandemic, and keep and attract high-quality staff for our schools.

Please take a look to the right at how our student spending compares to our neighbors. Our budget is clearly a step in the right direction toward addressing the imbalance you see in student spending in our region. ➔



HOW DOES INCOME SENSITIVITY WORK?

Income sensitivity is a form of tax assistance which allows homeowners to pay property taxes based on their income, rather than the value of their home.

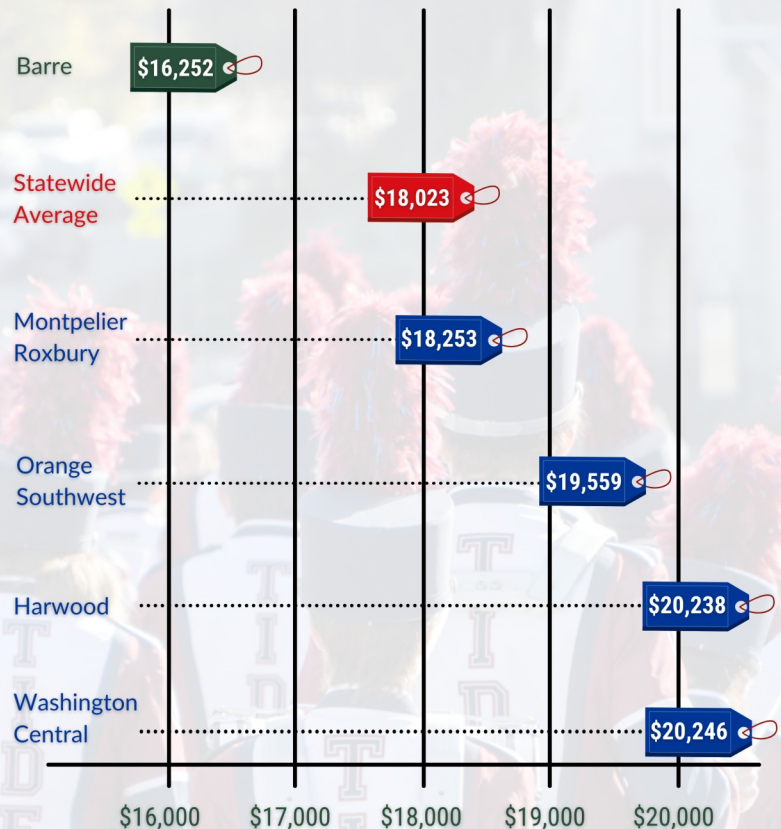


Approximately **66%** of Barre households make less than \$136,900 a year and meet eligibility requirements to qualify for a property tax credit. This allows them to pay their taxes based on their household income, instead of the value of their home.

Visit tax.vermont.gov/property/tax-credit or scan the QR code to the right for more information.



SPENDING PER EQUALIZED PUPIL BY DISTRICT



THE BOTTOM LINE

Given the unprecedented challenges our schools are facing now and in the future, we are proud to present a budget that is fiscally responsible and meets the needs of our students. Barre has historically had the lowest per-student spending in the region by far, and we are proud to begin addressing this gap in the best interests of the children of Barre. **The bottom line is that our community will still be looking at lower educational taxes this year because of our efforts.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Other Events and Happenings



a multi-level fun and invigorating
Dance-Theater Production Camp

WINNIE THE POOH DANCE-THEATER CAMP

**A REVUE OF THE SAME OL' STORY
BUT REMADE BRAND NEW BY YOU!**

in one-week, create an original dance-theater show,
complete with songs, then shared with audiences!



New this Year! A two-tier camp that makes room for younger students
(starting age 6) during morning sessions, then fully focuses on older
and more experienced students (up to 18yrs) in afternoons.

**Theater FOR Kids BY Kids!
led by Taryn Noelle**

FEBRUARY 21-26, 2022

LOSTNATIONTHEATER.ORG PRINTING COURTESY OF CAPITOL COPY



BASA Spring Soccer

Registration Now Open

Ages: 6 to 18 Girls & Boys

Visit Our Website: www.barresoccer.com

February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
		Winter Vacation		
28				
Winter Vacation				



March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 Town Mtg. Voting at BTMES Winter Vacation	2 Return to School	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16 NAEP Testing for Grade 4	17 NAEP Testing for Grade 8	18
21	22 8th Grade Information Night—Virtual Mtg.	23	24	25 Staff Development Day—no school for students
28	29	30	31	