

BARBERS HILL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Barbers Hill

Summer 2023



# We can, We will!



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 School Board

Clint Pipes  
President

Benny May  
Vice President

Mark Wilson  
Secretary

George Barrera

Fred Skinner

Becky Tice

Eric Davis



#### Barbers Hill ISD Administration

Greg Poole, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

#### Assistant Superintendents

Kristen Davis  
Technology

Sandra Duree  
Deputy Superintendent

Stephanie Martin  
Special Services

Becky McManus  
Finance

Barbara Ponder  
Human Resources

Chloe Yowell  
Curriculum and Instruction

#### Trustees re-elected

School Board elections in May maintain incumbents

Clint Pipes  
4 years of service



George Barrera  
21 years of service



# The power of **We can, We will!**

*"They've got the style, the smile, the winning way, and everywhere you go you'll recognize and say ... there's a Barbers Hill boy/girl."*



Dr. Greg Poole  
Superintendent

**These 90-year-old sentiments from our school fight song ring just as true today!**

Our theme for the upcoming year is **"The Power of We"**, and our students exemplified the traits that theme implies throughout the past year. Two recent annual events affirmed these words.

**1:** Our annual **Top 10 percent banquet** showcased 44 Barbers Hill ISD seniors focused on their future and they all gave accolades to the Barbers Hill instructor that had the greatest impact on their scholastic career. Anyone that has concerns about the direction our world seems to be heading would have been comforted that these 44 students were articulate, poised and

genuinely gave others the credit for their ample successes. I'm also comforted that one-third of the top 44 graduates are attending Texas A&M (Whoop!)

**2:** Our graduation ceremony on May 26 was equally impressive. **Four-hundred and forty-five students graduated in front of 8,000** and every student was respectful displaying poise and gratitude. **Small wonder an anonymous donor gave each student two \$50 bills because he said all our students are deserving of recognition. The students were encouraged to give one \$50 bill to someone equally deserving, emphasizing the benefits of receiving and giving.**

Our world needs a healthy dose of "team" and these two events emphasized, even in the midst of events focusing on our students, our students shifted the focus to others.

This emphasis on unity will be especially important as **we continue to lead the Houston area in enrollment growth and are predicted to double in size in 10 years.**

Our Board of Trustees are determined that the ingredients that comprise our successful recipe are not altered or removed. For example, **we instruct architects building new schools they can utilize any color they wish ... as long as it is blue and white.**

When our schools compete against each other ... the Eagles always win! Late board member Carmena Goss emphasized to me as a new superintendent almost two decades ago "the school colors are blue and white and that's not open for debate." **The power of WE is the power of team. There is a pure and almost mystical power to be part of something bigger than oneself. I am proud to proclaim, at the conclusion of the 2022-23 school year, the Barbers Hill brand and the unity it represents is as strong as it has ever been!**

I previously referenced our fight song, and I close with reference to our "gospel" song. Our football contests close with "glory alleluia" and the refrain "I'm so glad I go to Barber Hill." I'm so glad for every one of the 7,413 students that made 2022-23 a record year, and I'm so glad to be at a district that says and understands the power of **WE can, We will!**

#### Just a few accomplishments include:

- UIL Academics district champions for the 27th year in a row
- Every boys and girls athletic team except one advanced at least two rounds in the playoffs
- Our end-of course high school test results indicate across the board improvement and are among the highest scores in the state
- State runner up in One Act Play
- Numerous state academic qualifiers



# Congrats to our 2023 Teachers and Principals of the Year!



Elementary Teacher of the Year (ISN)  
**Lacy White**



Secondary Teacher of the Year (MSS)  
**Nici Mendez**



Elementary Principal of the Year (ISN)  
**Amy Wallace**



Secondary Principal of the Year (DAEP)  
**Heron Thomas**



## Sixth-grade students from Intermediate School North and Intermediate School South participated in a Day of Service in May

Students were sent in groups of 15 and a teacher to about 20 sites across the community to take part in service projects. Some of the sites included Mont Belvieu Rehab, Hilltop Senior Center, Bay Area Rehabilitation and Mont Belvieu Parks and Rec. The students finished the day back on campus in an assembly where they shared their experiences and reflected on how to serve their community in the future.

## Two new principals on The Hill

- Barbers Hill High School Associate Principal **Dr. Tina McCorkle** has been named the new principal at Intermediate School North, replacing Amy Wallace. Prior to her arrival in Barbers Hill in 2022, McCorkle served as an elementary principal, junior high principal, and high school associate principal at Alvin ISD. She was named principal of the year in 2020 in Alvin ISD. Dr. McCorkle started her career in education as a Fort Bend ISD teacher coach in 2007.
- Barbers Hill ISD has named **Jackie Brown** the new principal at Elementary School North, replacing Hollie Hanks. Brown was the assistant principal at George Washington Carver Elementary School in Baytown for two years before accepting the top job at Elementary School North. This fall, Brown will start her 27th year in education. Most of those years were spent in the classroom as an ELA teacher, followed by an ELA Campus Academic Specialist for several years, and then school administration.



**Dr. Tina McCorkle**



**Jackie Brown**

## A Salute to Our Retirees



**Deleta Barlow**  
ISN



**Kary Barrios**  
MSS



**Staci Bonnin**  
ECC



**Stan Frazier**  
Planning & Operations



**Lesley Kindaid**  
Special Services



**Robin McDaniel**  
ISN



**Charles McManus**  
HS



**Chylle Miles**  
MSS



**Richard Miles**  
HS



**Cindy Riley**  
Transportation



**James Riley**  
Maintenance



**Britt Wendell**  
Police Department



**Carol West**  
ESN



**Suzie Wilburn**  
Technology



**Standing with Smitty:** The Barbers Hill High School softball team and coaching staff honor their assistant coach **Jared Smith**, who is recovering from a lung transplant.



Barbers Hill High School girls soccer team made the first regional semifinal appearance in district history.

The Barbers Hill girls golf team captured the district tournament title.



Barbers Hill High School senior **Kaci Andrus** placed 7th in high jump and 8th in pole vault at the state meet.



Eagles of the Year  
**Jacie Meredith and Bryce Smith**

Barbers Hill High School track teams celebrate district championships.







BH senior **Ethan Mott** earned six first place awards out of eight events in the U.S. Academic Decathlon Online National competition. Ethan is the first national champion for Academic Decathlon in district history.

BHHS seniors **Sara Dixon**, center, and **Sophia Lannie** were named National Merit Scholarship finalists. Congratulating them is Principal **Lance Murphy**.



Barbers Hill High School captured their 27th consecutive UIL Sweepstakes award.



Scholar of the Year  
**Ryan Dagley Jr.**

Eagle Educator Intern and Senior **Dawn Lonneberg** was awarded GOLD in Elementary Interactive Bulletin Board at the Texas Association of Future Educators state competition.



Barbers Hill High School thespians kicked off the year with the musical, *Into The Woods*, and it was a hit!

The Barbers Hill Special Services Department hosted the district's inaugural Unified Show with students with special needs partnering up with middle school and high school ag students to show livestock at the high school arena.







**On May 26, the Barbers Hill High School Class of 2023 – all 445 students strong - received a Barbers Hill diploma in front of close to 8,000 spectators.** Valedictorian Sara Dixon urged her classmates to follow their values by stating, "Whether you prioritize money or family or security, a fulfilling future cannot be attained without consistent adherence to those people, plans, and principles you cherish the most. We've always heard that you should 'be the best that you can be,' but before you can make any self-improvements, you must determine what 'best' means for you. Tonight, we celebrate our newfound freedom to make those choices," Dixon concluded.



## Top10

1 - Sara Dixon 2 - Fenecia Shaiju 3 - Sophia Lannie 4 - Ryan Dagley 5 - Ryan Northrup  
6 - Michael Easley 7 - Alexis Ruiz 8 - Aaron Thompson 9 - Avery Balderas 10 - Kerolyn Heng

## Summer a busy time on The Hill

**There is an illusion of inactivity in Barbers Hill ISD during the summer, clearly attributable to the absence of students. While the district is not fully operational in terms of schools and educational programs, there is plenty of work going on.**

For example, modifications and enhancements to the security vestibules at both middle schools, the Early Childhood center, and both elementary schools are well underway.

Over at the fieldhouse locker rooms for MSN boys and volleyball are undergoing extensive renovations. Work is also underway to renovate the boys locker rooms at MSS.

### Other summer projects to be completed before school starts:

- At Eagle Stadium, the track is being resurfaced and repaired.
- The press box is also getting a makeover with a fresh coat of paint and new Eagle graphics.
- Furthermore, there are numerous behind-the-scenes activities that have been occurring without student participation, but undertaken in anticipation of their arrival such as numerous staff development opportunities and trainings for teachers and administrators.

### So much for the perceived inactivity during this summer





## Hall of History: A step back in time

From the early days as a rice farming community to the oil boom that established Mont Belvieu as a major industrial hub, the newly opened Hall of History preserves the unique story of the area known commonly as "The Hill." Created through a partnership between the City of Mont Belvieu and Barbers Hill ISD, the Hall of History museum features rotating exhibits of Mont Belvieu's and Barbers Hill's rich histories, including two exhibits showcasing our Sports Hall of Honor inductees. Located at the back of the BHISD Leadership Center, the Hall of History is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



## Education Foundation launches 'Tradition of Giving'

The Barbers Hill Education Foundation provides many ways to make a meaningful gift to support the education of Barbers Hill students now and in the future. Its mission is to distribute resources to assist the district in enhancing its educational programs and processes. This year, the foundation is launching a "Tradition of Giving" project to recognize major donors with engraved plaques placed inside the Hall of History at the Leadership Support center. Donor levels are \$25,000 – Blue, \$10,000 – White and \$1,000 – Silver. Consider making a gift today, for the future of our children. Please contact Foundation Coordinator Amber Young at [amber.young@bhisd.net](mailto:amber.young@bhisd.net) to discuss the many ways to give.

The BH Education Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization operating independently of the school district while maintaining a collaborative relationship.

New & Returning  
student registration is  
July 19 - August 9.

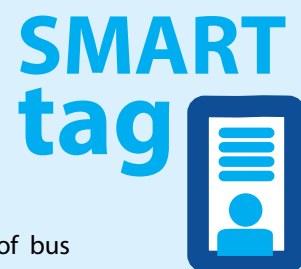
**\*Reminder:** If your student isn't registered by the August 9 deadline, they will not report to school on the first day. For more information, please visit the Student Services tab under Departments on the district website.

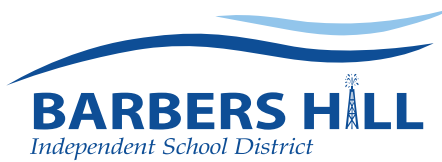


## District to introduce SMART tag system in August

BHISD will be implementing a new transportation software called SMART tag in the upcoming school year. This innovative technology will allow for real-time tracking of bus routes and provide parents with up-to-date information on their child's transportation status. The ID system will require each student bus rider to have a BHISD SMART tag ID card, which they will use every time they enter and exit their school bus. Buses will be equipped with a tablet that will read student IDs, providing real-time information for bus drivers, school administrators and parents.

The student ID cards utilize encryption and security protocols to ensure student ridership is accurately tracked and individual information is secure.





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# Back to School August 16th!



After the storms and tornadoes of Jan. 24, the Sunshine Squad of Barbers Hill Elementary School South organized a tornado relief drive to benefit Deer Park Elementary. The students and their families at this school were greatly affected by

the storms and tornado that hit the area. Deer Park Elementary students are also The Eagles and ESS teacher Courtney Orasco imagined how much it would mean if another elementary school helped out ESS if it had seen such damage. "Eagles

Helping Eagles in the best way, she said, and a drive was born.

The school delivered eight overflowing boxes of various donated supplies including soap, shampoo, socks, wash rags and deodorant.