

Barbers Hill

Summer 2025

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE . . . BY ANY MEASURE!



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 Board of Trustees

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Benny May
Fred Skinner

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Becky McManus
Finance

Barbara Ponder
Human Resources

Chloe Yowell
Curriculum and Instruction



Benny May



Mark Wilson

Trustees re-elected to three-year terms

The newest and longest-serving school board members were re-elected in May.

Mark Wilson was elected in 2022 and is now the board president.

Benny May has served on the school board since 1996. He has held the positions of president, vice president and secretary.

Best Year Yet!

Our theme to start this past year was "Generations of Greatness" and, indeed, we had a school year that was one for the ages!

Academically, athletically and financially our district excelled at a pace exceeding even our normal stellar results.

This year, for the first time ever, we received two sets of grades for our district and campuses because of legal actions by other districts that delayed the previous school year's results. On both report cards, **Barbers Hill earned A's in every possible category!**

We finished in seventh place in the state in the Lone Star Cup, an annual UIL award given to high schools that demonstrate the best overall team achievement in a variety of academic, athletic and music championships throughout the school year.

Financially, we just finished our fiscal year as one of the few districts in the state to have a budget surplus while still maintaining our area-leading low-tax levy while continuing to offer the highest teacher salaries in the state.



Dr. Greg Poole
Superintendent

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We are the best because of our staff, parents and children, and sustaining state-leading excellence is no small task. Our results start with the highest of expectations. **"We Can, We Will"** is no mere school motto ... it's a daily mantra we live by.

Anything is possible when you are a Barbers Hill Eagle. Our 536 graduates found this out first hand when they were surprised by the flying of an actual eagle at graduation! I am comforted that we gave those 536 students the skill set necessary to soar and prosper in their future lives.

Next year my youngest graduates (I hope), and we are drawing closer to 2029, our district centennial.

Indeed, we have something special, and we can and will keep it that way for generations to come!



Barbers Hill High School's One Act Play had another fantastic year and finished 5th in the state (out of 263 plays) which makes 23 state appearances for the cast and crew of Salt Dome Theatre. "The Caucasian Chalk Circle" was a true ensemble show - showcasing all 15 of the actors and actresses on stage for the entirety of the play.



Emma Goddard
Valedictorian



Clin Shaiju
Salutarian

Graduation flyover launches new Eagle tradition

The Barbers Hill High School Class of 2025 not only marked a record as the largest graduating class in school history with 536 students, but also launched a new tradition with the district's first-ever eagle flyover at Eagle Stadium.

To the awe of graduates and the cheering crowd, Clark, a 22-year-old bald eagle, made two graceful passes over the assembled Class of 2025.

Superintendent Dr. Greg Poole confirmed that the eagle flyover will now be a permanent fixture of future Barbers Hill graduations. *"Seeing these majestic birds in person affirms our forefathers decision 95 years ago to make it our mascot. They have a regal bearing that no painting or sculpture captures,"* said Dr. Poole.

Clark's lineage carries a unique historical weight.

He is the son of Captain, a bald eagle gifted to President Ronald Reagan in 1982 by then-West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. At that time, the bald eagle, America's national symbol, was an endangered species.

Clark's presence at the graduation carried an even deeper significance this year. Thanks to decades of dedicated conservation efforts, the bald eagle has been successfully removed from the endangered species list. Furthermore, on Christmas Eve 2024, President Joe Biden signed a law officially bestowing the honor of "national bird of the US" upon the white-headed, yellow-beaked bird of prey. While the bald eagle has served as a national emblem, appearing on the Great Seal of the US since 1782, this recent legislation formally designated its status.

Eagles soar in the 2024-25 athletic season where 11 programs reached state level



The Barbers Hill High School athletic program achieved an unprecedented milestone with 11 different programs reaching the state level. From cross country to the diamond, the Eagles and Lady Eagles showcased remarkable talent, dedication, and resilience, cementing their status as a true athletic powerhouse in Class 5A.

Fall Season Highlights

The **Boys Cross Country** team made their first trip to the 5A state meet since 2016, marking their sixth state appearance. They captured their seventh consecutive district championship before finishing 13th at the state meet.

Winter Season Triumphs

The **swim program** made significant waves at the 5A UIL State Championship Meet. Freshman Gwyn Chen secured a bronze medal in the 100-yard backstroke and placed 4th in the 100-yard butterfly, setting new personal and school records in both. Freshman Ethan Miguez finished 21st in the 100-yard butterfly, also setting new personal and school records.

The **Lady Eagles basketball team** continued their tradition of excellence, embarking on a 16-game winning streak that culminated in a dominant 57-32 victory over Bryan Rudder for the Region 3, Division 2 Regional Championship, earning them a coveted berth in the state championship semifinal round. The No. 17 Eagles, boasting an impressive 32-8 record, battled valiantly before falling to No. 12 Liberty Hill.

Spring Season Successes

The **Lady Eagle soccer team** advanced to the state championship semifinal round, showcasing an incredible defensive effort throughout their playoff push. They won 12 consecutive matchups, pushing their record to 24-3-2 while conceding only one goal over those 12 contests.

History was made on the links as the **Boys Golf team** became the first Eagles boys' team to qualify for the State tournament as Region 3-5A Runner-ups.

The **Track & Field program** enjoyed an exceptional showing at the UIL State Track &

Field Meet. Senior Jayden Thrower earned his second consecutive first-place state championship in the Triple Jump with a leap of 51 feet 3.25 inches, shattering his previous school record. Senior Zoe Williams finished second in the 100M hurdles, setting a new school record of 13.61 seconds.

On the tennis courts, the **senior-sophomore boys doubles duo of Jason Soto and Dallas Alegria** finished 2nd at Regionals to advance to the State tournament, where they finished within the top 12.

The **Eagles baseball team** concluded a remarkable 2025 season with a hard-fought 4-3 loss to Smithson Valley in the Class 5A Division I state semifinals, finishing with a stellar 30-10 record.

Perhaps one of the most captivating narratives of the year belonged to the No. 3 nationally ranked **Lady Eagles softball team**. Their unforgettable run led them all the way to the UIL Class 5A Division I state championship game, where they fell to the No. 1 Melissa Cardinals in a 4-2 decision. The Lady Eagles finished the season with a 35-4 record.



The Eaglettes brought home an impressive collection of awards this contest season. Competing against top teams, the Eaglettes showcased incredible talent, precision and dedication, earning high honors across multiple categories including Best in Show, Best Overall, Sweepstakes Awards and numerous officer and solo awards.



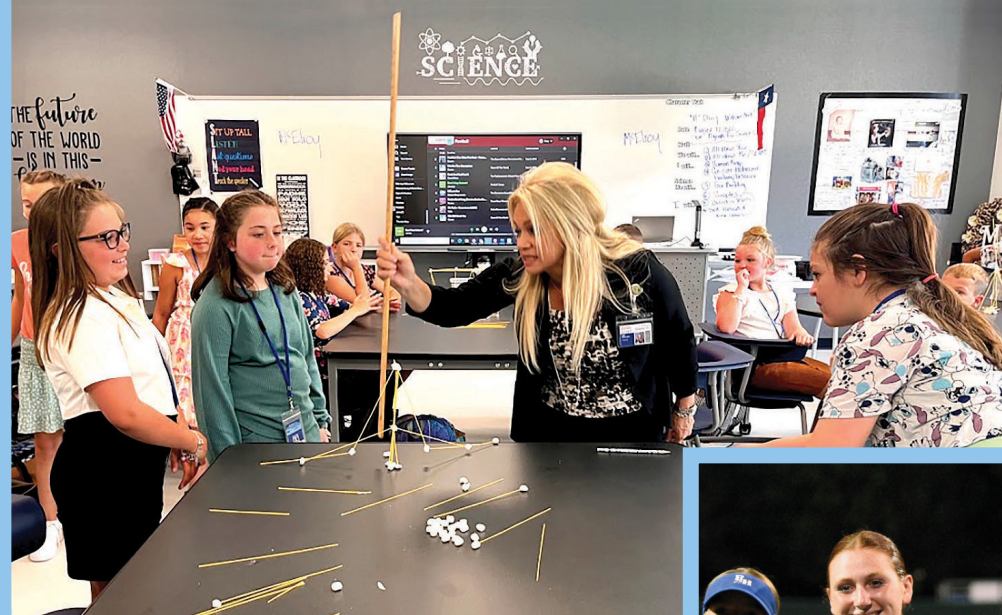
Robotics – After the dust settled on the regional/state competition, one BHHS robotics team, **No Solutions**, earned a trip to the World Championship contest. No Solution team members are Josh Zamora, Kobe De La Cruz, Carlos Coello, Clin Shaiju, Jacob Smith and Hunter Deatherage.



The Academic Decathlon advanced to state contest for 13th straight year, and placed 5th, the highest finish by any BHHS team. Team members are Josh Zamora, Georgia Keene, Kolbe Pool, Carson Caldwell, Brandon Glynn, Jared Bingham, Annalise Bergen-Henengouwen and Blake Armstrong.



The BHHS Eagle Cheer team reached an incredible milestone, earning a spot as State Finalists and securing 14th place out of 78 teams. Competing against some of the best teams in the state, the cheerleaders showcased their talent and perseverance. Placing 14th in such a highly competitive field is no small feat and speaks volumes about their hard work and commitment to excellence.



Amy McElroy, a dedicated sixth-grade science teacher at Barbers Hill Intermediate School North, was named the Outstanding Elementary Science Teacher of the Year by the Science Teachers Association of Texas.

"I am blessed to do what I love," McElroy said. "I get to teach kids every day. Not subjects. Kids. Kids who will change the world. Kids who will make a difference."



In a season where they reached a national ranking of No. 3 and compiled an impressive 35-4 record, the **Lady Eagles** proved they belonged among the nation's softball elite. Their unforgettable run led them all the way to the 5A state championship game, where they ultimately fell short to the nationally ranked No. 1 Melissa. Their journey to the state final game, their first since securing the 2021 5A crown, was a powerful testament to their dedication, talent and teamwork.



Barbers Hill ISD celebrated the inaugural "We Are One" Week in 2024 for students to learn and celebrate "The Eagle Way" by discussing Tradition, Dedication, Commitment, Excellence and We Are Eagles. This coming school year, the new weeklong tradition continues Sept. 8-12.



Five students were selected this year as Texas All-State musicians, a prestigious honor that highlights their exceptional talent and dedication to music. Isabella Davis, Molly Aslin and Alyssa Williams earned spots in the All-State Choir, and Dane Genghini and Jordan Smith represented Barbers Hill High School in the All-State Band.

Straight A's for District and Schools

Barbers Hill ISD celebrated a significant achievement this year, earning an "A" rating for the district and every single one of its campuses in the Texas Education Agency's 2023 A-F Accountability Ratings. This remarkable accomplishment comes even as the state implemented a more rigorous STAAR assessment in 2023.

The 2023 STAAR assessment underwent a substantial redesign, introducing several key changes that increased its difficulty. These changes included the incorporation of writing components within the Reading assessment for grades 3-EOC, requiring students to revise and edit as well as produce short and extended written responses. The assessment also transitioned fully online for grades 3-EOC, and new item types now comprise 25% of the test, with multiple-choice questions capped at 75%. Furthermore, the percentage required for students to meet College, Career, and Military Readiness standards was raised.

Despite these significant changes and the heightened rigor of the STAAR redesign, Barbers Hill ISD and all eight of its schools not only maintained but excelled, each receiving an "A" grade.

These newly released ratings, reflecting data from the 2022-23 school year, were delayed due to ongoing litigation initiated in 2023 by approximately 120 school districts. These districts raised concerns that the revamped accountability system could unfairly lower their ratings. However, a state appeals court ruled in April that the ratings could finally be made public.

Foundation awards Mills Family Scholarship

Barbers Hill High School senior Jason Lane Farish is the second recipient of the Mills Family Scholarship, an annual \$10,000 award from the Barbers Hill Education Foundation for any K-12 Barbers Hill student who wants to pursue a degree in the oil and/or petrochemical business.

After high school, Farish plans to finish his certification at Lee College in process operations.

His family connections to the petrochemical industry run deep. Farish's father has worked at Lubrizol in the Bayport area for 18 years. His grandfather worked at Exxon for 46 years and retired there.

The scholarship is named after longtime Barbers Hill ISD ambassador, supporter and Barbers Hill Class of 1959 member Al Mills who passed away in 2022.

Mills was best known as the chairman and master of ceremony of the Barbers Hill Sports Hall of Honor. Mills' father, George, was a Barbers Hill school board member, serving from 1945 to 1963.

New Principals: Aslin at ESS, James at MSN

Barbers Hill ISD has named **Amanda Aslin** the new principal at Elementary School South, replacing Michelle James. Aslin was previously the principal at Anahuac Primary School.

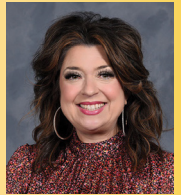
Michelle James has been named the new principal at Middle School North, replacing Matt Barnett who has been elevated to Director of Campus Leadership, reporting to Superintendent Dr. Greg Poole.

Aslin has 17 years of service as a teacher at the elementary level, including two years as a first grade special education teacher in Barbers Hill. Prior to her current position, Aslin served as principal at Anahuac Elementary School.

"I am so excited to return to ESS to continue the work set in place by Mrs. James," Aslin said. "To be able to lead such a strong campus alongside such a talented and passionate group of teachers and staff is truly an honor. Our teachers are the driving force behind our students' success, and I am committed to supporting them as we work together to provide the best possible learning environment for every student."

"I look forward to building on the strong foundation already in place and continuing the tradition of excellence at ESS."

Aslin earned her undergraduate degree from Abilene Christian University. She earned her master's degree from Lamar University.



Michelle James



Amanda Aslin



Teaching grants bestowed across district

And the winners are...the nearly 8,000 students who will reap the benefits for years to come in grants awarded by the Barbers Hill ISD Education Foundation. The Foundation's Grant Prize Patrol took turns delivering grant money to 71 educators, totaling \$287,100.50 this past school year for a wide range of educational projects. It was the foundation's 15th round of funding for innovative teaching programs. Established in 2010, the Barbers Hill ISD Education Foundation has distributed more than \$2 million to teachers since its inception.

Students and teachers in all Barbers Hill schools were visited by one of three "Grant Prize Patrols," made up of foundation board members, administrators and community members.

Both instructional and non-instructional grants awarded ranged in subject matter, covering art, science, math, educational technology, reading, Safe Schools initiatives, athletics and much more.

These grants provide a substantial boost to individual teachers and the district as a whole in strengthening student achievement.

The foundation checks ranged from just under \$400 for a specific classroom initiative to nearly \$20,000 for technology enhancements spanning grade levels across the district.

Each of the grants awarded will support initiatives during the 2025-2026 school year and beyond.



Congrats to Our 2025 Teachers and Principals of the Year!



Elementary Teacher of the Year (ECC)
Leslie Mulkey



Secondary Teacher of the Year (MSN)
Jessica Vass



Elementary Principal of the Year (ISN)
Tina McCorkle



Secondary Principal of the Year (MSS)
Cliff Horn

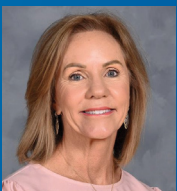
A Salute to Our Retirees



Ginger Alexander
Registrar, ECC



Carol Baker
Teacher, DAEP



Kimberly Bell
Counselor, MSN



Kelly Boyd
Teacher, BHHS



Joy Crow
Teacher, ISN



Carrie Daniels
Teacher, ISS



Lilly Ellis
Transportation Clerk



Ashley Gilmore
Teacher, ESN



Colleen Goundrey
Coordinator of Health Services



Tonya Haag
Teacher, MSS



Julie Jannise
Teacher, BHHS



Lisa Kana
Instructional Technologist



Karen Moore
Bus Driver



Denise Naiser
Aide, BHHS



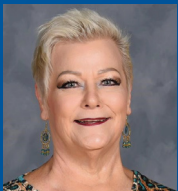
Wendy Oden
Teacher, ISS



Becky Oneal
Bus Driver



Natalie Seymour
Teacher, ISN



Sabrina Stratton-Ashworth
Teacher, MSS



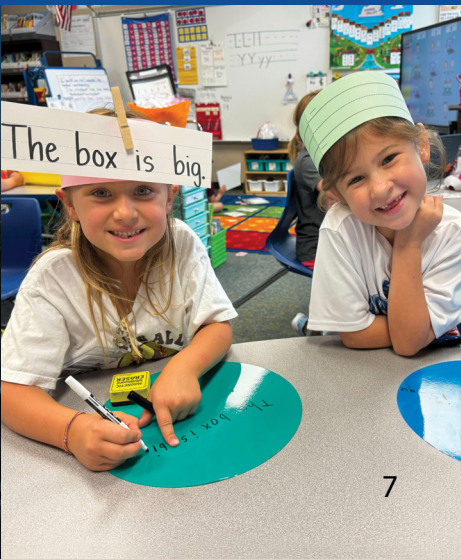
Tom Taflinger
HVAC Technician

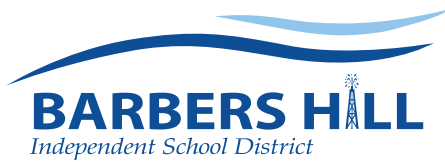


Robin Waller
Associate Principal, ECC



Kirven Tillis
Coordinator of Student Compliance





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Back to School August 13th!

Registration period for school year opens on July 7

Scan QR code for procedures and documents required



Baseball coach notches 600th career win!

Barbers Hill High School baseball coach

David Denny earned his 600th career win this year. Denny now has an overall mark of 620-228, which includes baseball teams at Kingwood and Barbers Hill.



David Denny

"Six hundred is a big number, and I don't get there without lots of help," Denny said. "I've been very fortunate to coach in communities that prioritized athletics. I've worked with good parents, good administration and obviously with great coaches and players." Denny took over as baseball coach at Barbers Hill High School in 2010. He has tallied over 350 wins at Barbers Hill since then.

Denny has led two different high school programs to state championships in a career that has spanned nearly 30 years. In 2005,



The 30-10 Eagles baseball team concluded a remarkable 2025 season with an appearance in the state semifinals.

Denny won his first 5A state title at Kingwood High School before moving on to Barbers Hill High School and winning the 5A title in 2021.

The 2025 Eagles (30-10) earned a berth in the state semifinals.

In 2023, Denny was inducted into the University of Texas Athletics Hall of Honor.

The Longhorn baseball record holder for career hits, doubles and runs batted in, Denny put together one of the most accomplished

hitting careers in program history from 1982 to 1985. Denny racked up hit after hit, helping lead the Longhorns to four-straight College World Series appearances and the 1983 National Championship.

His 296 total hits, 78 doubles and 228 RBI have stood as Texas records for nearly 40 years while countless other All-Americans and program greats have suited up in the Burnt Orange during that time.