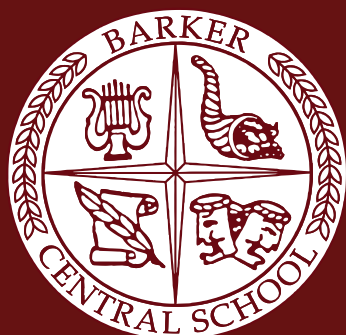


To be a leader in bringing out the best in each individual in our community.

May 2026 - Volume 41 No. 3

The Banner



Annual Budget Vote & Board Member Election

Tuesday, May 19, 2026 from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Herbert F. Ludwig Fine Arts Hall

To view all budget information please turn to pages 22-27 of this issue or visit: <https://www.barkercsd.net/district-67/business-office/budget-election-information>



Four of The Wizard of Oz main characters were Lucas Stephan (Cowardly Lion), Jillian Fisk, (Dorothy), Lincoln Wedekind (Tinman) and Jocelyn Schmitt (Scarecrow).

In This Issue

District	1-10, 28
Student Artwork	3, 5-7, 10, 13, 16, 21, 27-28
Pratt Elementary School	9, 13-15, 17-18
SRO	11
Jr.-Sr. High School	12-18
Athletics	19-21
Budget & BOE	22-27
Barker Library	23

The official website and source for Barker Central School District news and information:

www.barkercsd.net

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Barker Learning Community,

As we move through the Spring and reflect on the 2025–2026 school year, I want to take a moment to celebrate the many accomplishments of our students, staff, and community, and to share the exciting work that lies ahead for the Barker Central School District.



Since the opening of school this Fall, Barker has been a place of learning, growth, and pride. Across all grade levels, our students have demonstrated strong academic engagement and a continued commitment to personal excellence. Our teachers and support staff have worked tirelessly to provide high quality instruction, create welcoming classrooms, and ensure that every student feels supported and valued. From innovative classroom practices to meaningful student-teacher relationships, the heart of Barker remains strong.

Student achievement continues to be an area of focus and celebration. We have seen students rise to challenges and take pride in their progress. Whether in core academic coursework, career and technical learning opportunities through BOCES, or enrichment activities, our students are benefiting from a well rounded educational experience that prepares them for future success. We are especially proud of the resilience and determination our learners show each day.

Beyond the classroom, Barker students continue to shine in extracurricular activities, athletics, and the arts. Participation in clubs, performing ensembles, service organizations, and athletic programs remains strong, giving students opportunities to explore interests, build leadership skills, and strengthen connections with peers and staff. These experiences are an essential part of the Barker tradition and contribute greatly to school spirit and student well being.

We are also looking forward with great excitement to what is coming next for our District. We have received approval from the New York State Department of Education for the next phase of our facilities improvements that will focus on renovating areas in the 1911 building and the Pratt Elementary classrooms. This next project represents our community's commitment to supporting students today while thoughtfully planning for the future. More work in the High School and exterior of the building will be tackled after the next phase of work is complete.

None of this would be possible without the collective efforts of our staff, students, families, and community partners. Your support, dedication, and belief in Barker Central School District make a difference every single day. I am grateful for the trust you place in our schools and proud of the work we are accomplishing together.

Thank you for being an essential part of the Barker learning community. I look forward to finishing the school year strong and continuing the important work ahead.

Sincerely,
Jacob L. Reimer, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



FROM THE BOARD ROOM

Dear BCS District Residents:

I am pleased to report that the \$25 million capital project has been completed within the voter approved budget. Some work took longer than anticipated due to some unforeseen building conditions and the very tight construction labor environment. Work on the \$14 million project is anticipated to start in June. This project will be done in phases and should be complete sometime in 2027. These projects constitute a major updating of our campus to improve the instructional environment and the athletic facilities without any impact on local property taxes.

The Board of Education started having its regular monthly meetings in the new Library Media Center, which has much greater capacity than the old Board Room in the 1911 building. I hope you will join us sometime to enjoy the new setting and to learn more about our school and programs.

The Board and Administration are proud of the progress we are making academically and all are focused on continued improvement as documented in our board goals:

- Increase student engagement in the learning process
- Improve literacy for all learners
- Improve instructional outcomes for all students

Over the past five years:

- Our graduation rate has averaged about 90%
- The passing/proficiency rates on the Regents Math exams have averaged well over 90%
- The passing/proficiency rates on the Regents Science exams have averaged over 88%
- The passing/proficiency rates for ELA, Global and US History have averaged nearly 89%

These results have kept BCS ranked in the top 20% of schools in the USA according to US News and World Report.

The proposed expenditure budget for next year represents an increase in spending of 1.96% over the current school year for a total of \$22,916,892. This budget is anticipated to maintain all current programs. More details on the budget can be found later in this *Banner*.

As always, we appreciate the support of the community in so many ways.

Randall B. Atwater
Barker Central School District
Board of Education President



Student artwork (L-R): **Zoey Quiett** - *Thirty Mile Point Lighthouse Drawing*. **Alexis Carges** - *Thirty Mile Point Lighthouse Drawing*.



FROM THE DESK OF DR. LOVE

Dear Barker Central School Community,

This time of year offers a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the strength of our school community, especially during challenging moments. Our students continue to demonstrate resilience, compassion, and growth—both academically and as individuals. These experiences remind us of the importance of supporting one another. I want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate the many amazing things happening across our

District. Our students have had an incredible year filled with continued development, exploration, and accomplishment—and there is still more to come!

We have been fortunate to provide enriching assemblies for our students, including a visit from an Indigenous student dance group from Akron and most recently, Kevin McCarthy as part of our Pratt Elementary Trimester Two Celebration. In May, we will host our annual Safety Fair Day for students in 11th and 12th Grade in partnership with the Niagara County Sheriff's Department. We look forward to continuing to bring in additional performers and speakers throughout the remainder of the school year to further enhance the student experience.

Our music and arts programs continue to shine. *The Wizard of Oz* musical showcased incredible student talent, and our grades 3–8 band and chorus concerts highlighted the dedication and growth of our young musicians. Several of our students participate in NYSSMA adjudicated solo festivals and through their accomplishment are selected to perform in prestigious ensembles. Beyond the classroom, approximately 50% of our students participate in extracurricular activities, including band, chorus, and student clubs, with many involved in multiple groups and athletics teams. These experiences foster confidence, connection, and a strong sense of belonging. I am deeply grateful to our staff and families who go above and beyond to support our students in these programs.

Throughout the year, our students have engaged in meaningful field trips and experiential learning opportunities, including visits to Explore & More Children's Museum, the Palace Theatre, and the Buffalo AKG Art Gallery, as well as partnerships with local businesses and town organizations. These experiences help bring learning to life and connect students to the world around them. We are also excited to continue expanding hands-on learning through our new STEM lab, including Challenge Island programming and an upcoming traveling planetarium experience from the Challenger Learning Center.

Over the last several weeks, our 3-8 Grade students took the New York State assessments in Math, ELA, and Science. Our JH/HS students are preparing for AP exams, Regents exams, and end of year assessments. While these are important milestones and data points, we remain focused on supporting the whole child and fostering a love of learning. We are very proud of the hard work our students and staff put into supporting the development of confident and curious lifelong learners.

This year, we are proud to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America through classroom learning of our country's rich history and themed student performances. This includes patriotic-themed high school dance class performances on Wednesday, May 27th, and an elementary patriotic showcase for students in grades PreK–4 on Friday, June 12th (more information to come).

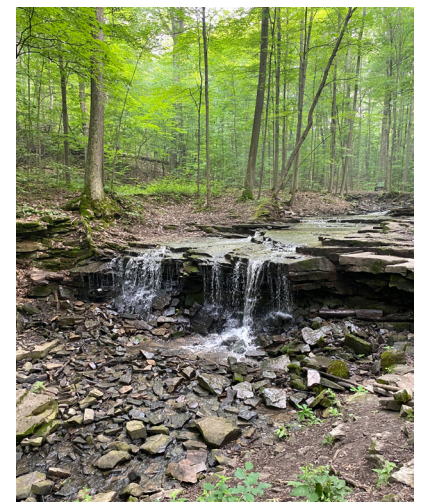
We look forward to continuing the Bulldog tradition by welcoming our youngest learners into the Barker community. PreK registration is now open for students who are 4 years old or will be turning 4 before December 1, 2026. The registration information can be found on the District website. Our UPK program is full-day, from 7:50 AM to 2:30 PM. Placement is not guaranteed, and spots will go to District residents before non-resident students. Busing is available for all students who are District residents. Please share this information with any families you know who have a child eligible for PreK this year. Please contact Rachel Anderson at 716-795-3600 for any assistance in the registration process for students of all grade levels.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- 7-12 Honors and Awards Ceremony on Monday, June 1st at 6:00 PM in the Auditorium
- JH/HS Chorus Concert on Tuesday, June 2nd at 6:00 PM in the Auditorium
- Elementary Band and Chorus Concert on Wednesday, June 3rd at 6:00 PM in the 1911 Parking Lot (location weather permitting)
- JH/HS Band Concert on Thursday, June 4th at 6:00 PM in the 1911 Parking Lot (location weather permitting)
- Prom on Wednesday, June 17th
- Pratt Field Day on Thursday, June 18th
- Pratt Elementary Moving Up Ceremony during the final week of school (Stay tuned for more information)
- NCTEC BOCES Completion Ceremony - Monday, June 15th at 6:00 PM at Niagara Falls High School (Invitations forthcoming)
- OCTEC BOCES Completion Ceremony - Tuesday, June 16th at 6:00 PM at Roy-Hart Central School Auditorium (Invitations forthcoming)
- 114th BCS Commencement Ceremony on Friday, June 27th, at 6:30 PM in the Auditorium

None of this work happens without the dedication of our staff, who consistently go above and beyond to create meaningful experiences for our students. I also want to thank our families and community for your continued support. Our schools are truly the heart of this community, and we are grateful to partner with you in supporting our students. When we show up for one another—in both the small moments and the profound ones—we are reminded of the ties that bind us and carry us forward as a Bulldog Family.

Yours in learning,
Micaela M. Love, Ed.D.
PK-12 Principal
mlove@barkercsd.net
716-795-3600



Student artwork (L-R): Jackson Jordan - Watercolor Painting. Fiona Dalton - Drawing. Sara Meza Ray - Photography, "Stone Symphony".

FROM THE DESK OF MR. CORNWELL

Happy Spring from the Office of Curriculum and Professional Development! Hopefully this update finds you enjoying our Western New York Spring weather, with the promise of warmer and sunnier weather to come.



The Professional Development Day held on March 13th for our teachers and staff was a success. Faculty attended a half-day session on Explicit Instruction, presented by a facilitator from BOCES. Explicit Instruction focuses on five major areas of instruction: segmenting complex skills, promoting successful student engagement, focusing student attention on critical pieces of content, providing opportunities to receive feedback, and giving students purposeful practice of a skill. Our faculty also met with their instructional team leaders to review student data and develop plans to adjust their instruction based on the data.

Our Juniors took the ELA Regents exam back in January. We had a Proficiency (passing) rate of 96%, which is the second highest Proficiency rate over the past 7 years. Congratulations to our students and the secondary ELA teachers for a job well done.

End of year assessments for students are also in full swing. By the time you read this article, the NYS 3-8 assessments in the areas of ELA, Math, and Science will have been administered. Regents exams will take place throughout the month of June.

Work has also been completed on the District's technology plan for the next three years (2026-2029). Three major goals around the areas of learning, teaching, and infrastructure were developed. This plan will be sent to New York State Education Department for final approval and posted on the District website.

If you have any questions regarding your child's educational program, or the instructional program of our school, don't hesitate to reach out to me. You can email me at ccornwell@barkerccd.net, or reach me by phone at 716-795-3388.

Yours in education,
Christian Cornwell
Coordinator of Curriculum & Professional Learning/AP
ccornwell@barkerccd.net
716-795-3388



*Student artwork: **Madison Stephan** - Pencil Drawing, "Family Pets". "In these portraits I wanted to capture all of the animals that are a special part of my family. I wanted to capture the spirit of each pet in their respective drawings. I chose photos that I loved and felt showed each pet and their personalities well. I used pencils to capture these moments, and I focused a lot on their fur texture, eyes, and expressions."*



FROM THE DESK OF MRS. LINGLE

Dear Families,

We are focused on building a positive school community at Barker Central School. It can be tempting for students to respond to hurt with hurt and to “get even” when they feel wronged. While this reaction may feel justified in the moment, it often makes situations worse rather than better.

At Barker Central School, our vision is to guide our students to be leaders and in bringing out the best in each individual in our community. When students choose retaliation, conflicts can escalate, relationships can be damaged, and it becomes harder for individuals to show their best selves. Small issues can quickly grow into larger disruptions that impact the entire school environment.

Our mission reminds us that we strive to foster respect, compassion, and tolerance while developing life-long learners. Instead of responding with retaliation, we encourage students to communicate, seek support, and work through challenges in a constructive way. At BCS, we also emphasize restorative conversations, which allow students to reflect, take responsibility, and repair relationships in a meaningful way.

Our foundational values including accomplishment, accountability, communication, community, compassion, family, and honesty guide how we respond in difficult moments. Choosing to pause, reflect, and resolve conflict respectfully reflects these values and strengthens our school community.

Thanks to our incredible School Counseling Department, the majority of our students have identified at least one trusted adult they can go to in times of need. This support system is essential in helping students navigate challenges in a healthy and productive way.

Choosing not to “get even” is not weakness, it is strength and leadership. By supporting students in making positive choices, we continue to build a school environment that brings out the best in everyone.

Warmly,
Deborah Lingle
Assistant Principal
dlingle@barkerbsd.net
716-795-3600

Student artwork: Eva Kelsey - Photography, “Into the Unknown”. “For this photo I wanted to invoke thoughts of wonder but also the unknown. I wanted to create a fantasy and whimsical vibe. I used my sister as the model because I thought she would fit perfectly with my vision. I wanted to depict the wonder and beauty of the creek but also show the mysteriousness of what’s beyond the tunnel.”



FROM THE DESK OF MS. MINER

Barker Learning Community,

The process of creating a school district budget is a comprehensive, year-long effort that involves multiple stages. It requires strategic long-term planning, careful preparation, formal presentation, and thorough review by both the Board of Education and the Budget Advisory Committee. The process also includes official adoption of the budget and continued communication with the public, culminating in the annual budget vote and Board of Education Election on May 19, 2026.



Summarized below are highlights of the 2026-2027 budget, as well as a comparison of changes from the current 2025-2026 budget.

The total proposed budget for the 2026-2027 school year is \$22,916,892.

BARKER BUDGET EXPENDITURE SUMMARY 2026-2027				
EXPENDITURES	2026-2027	2025-2026	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
GENERAL SUPPORT	\$ 2,695,672	\$ 2,585,904	\$ 109,768	4.24%
INSTRUCTION	\$ 12,111,147	\$ 12,278,607	\$ (167,460)	-1.36%
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$ 1,573,312	\$ 1,472,126	\$ 101,186	6.87%
COMMUNITY SERVICE	\$ 46,600	\$ 33,600	\$ 13,000	38.69%
UNDISTRIBUTED	\$ 6,490,161	\$ 6,105,473	\$ 384,688	6.30%
TOTAL	\$ 22,916,892	\$ 22,475,710	\$ 441,182	1.96%

The Capital Outlay Project of \$100,000 is consisting of renovations to door, security, safety, communication, masonry repairs, and entry enhancements at the Central School, 1911 Building, and Elementary Building.

BARKER BUDGET REVENUE SUMMARY 2026-2027				
REVENUES	2026-2027	2025-2026	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
STATE AID	\$ 14,523,372	\$ 14,244,935	\$ 278,437	1.95%
TAX LEVY	\$ 5,434,764	\$ 5,283,993	\$ 150,771	2.85%
OTHER PROPERTY TAX ITEMS	\$ 1,245,449	\$ 1,348,449	\$ (103,000)	-7.64%
PILOT	\$ 36,449	\$ 36,449	\$ -	0.00%
OTHER	\$ 491,551	\$ 389,551	\$ 102,000	26.18%
FUND BALANCE	\$ 1,185,307	\$ 1,172,333	\$ 12,974	1.11%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 22,916,892	\$ 22,475,710	\$ 441,182	1.96%

The calculated tax levy limit for 2026-2027 is \$5,434,764.

The local property tax levy will be \$5,434,764, which is an increase of 2.85% from the current year and stays below the property tax cap. The actual year-to-year expenditures increase by 1.96%, which is less than the inflation rate currently at 2.4%.

A detailed explanation of what constitutes expenditures and revenue categories is found on page 24 of *The Banner*. This year, employee health insurance premiums are increasing 5.5%. Additionally, other increases for transportation and salaries are increasing at a rate of 3% over last year. Despite these increases, careful planning and eliminating unnecessary expenses enabled the District to maintain all instructional and athletic programs with only a 1.96% budget increase over last year.

From a revenue perspective, the District anticipates a State Aid increase of 2%. State Aid is estimated based on historic increases since the NYS Budget has not been adopted at the date of publication. The District will also use fund balance to balance the budget and increase the tax levy by 2.85%, Barker continues to make necessary capital improvements to the buildings using its capital outlay project allocation, and shortly will commence the \$14M capital project, which was approved by voters in 2025. The capital outlay project does not impact local property taxes due to the aid received from New York State.

District residents, who wish to learn more about the budget, are encouraged to attend the public hearing on Monday, May 11th at 6:30 PM in the High School auditorium. The annual vote will be held on Tuesday, May 19th from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the auditorium.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 716-795-3113 or via email at cminer@barkercsd.net. Thank you for your continued support of the Barker Central School District.

Sincerely yours,
Connie Di Cristofaro-Miner, MPA, SDBL
School Business Administrator
cminer@barkercsd.net

THIRD GRADE ACT OF KINDNESS

3rd grade students (pictured below) were very happy to give the gift of warmth and love this past holiday season to people in need. The students from Mrs. Pavlock's and Mrs. Calandra's classes were able to deliver over 70 packages of warm socks and goodies to Lockport CARES Inc. (Eastern Niagara Homeless Shelter). Each child brought donations from home and put them together in packages with homemade cards of comfort and caring.





FROM THE DESK OF MS. DUERR

Dear Barker Families,

Since November, my days have been filled with meaningful work and steady progress in strengthening our special education programs and supports. A significant focus has been on connecting directly with teachers, students and families, including observing and visiting students in out-of-district placements to ensure their needs are being met and to maintain strong lines of communication.

Facilitating CSE and CPSE transition meetings has been another key priority, helping to guide collaborative, student-centered decision-making and ensuring smooth transitions for our youngest learners entering school-age services. These meetings, along with ongoing collaboration with outside stakeholders, have reinforced the importance of teamwork in supporting student success. Equally important has been the continued focus on relationship-building with both staff and students. Establishing trust and maintaining open communication has helped foster a supportive and responsive educational environment.

Internally, I have worked closely with staff by supporting professional development opportunities, conducting team meetings within the Special Education Department, and contributing to the English Language Arts Targeted Skills Group. These efforts are aimed at building capacity, sharing best practices, and ensuring alignment across programs.

Behind the scenes, attention to budgeting and meeting NYSED data collection deadlines has ensured that our programs remain compliant, well-resourced, and positioned for continued growth.

Overall, this work reflects a commitment to supporting students, empowering staff, and strengthening systems to better serve our school community.

Julia Duerr
Director of Instructional Services and Special Education
jduerr@barkerccsd.net
716-795-3350

*Student artwork: **Mirabelle Strong** - Oil Pastel Drawing, "Apple Orchard". "I chose to use oil pastels as my medium because I absolutely love using oil pastels. With pastels I find that it's easy for me to represent different light values and make my projects more realistic. This piece took me three weeks to complete. I spent forty plus minutes every day trying to make it as detailed as I could get it. Oil pastels are my favorite medium to use when I make any nature or landscape art piece. I find it relaxing to see all of the shading and detail take place when I work. The number one reason I chose to create this piece was because apples are my favorite fruit and they are so fun to draw."*



SRO CORNER

Hello Again Barker Community,

With Spring approaching, students often start considering summer job opportunities. When in pursuit of these job opportunities it is important to consider a few of the qualities and skills that potential employers will find desirable in a candidate. The list below is just a few examples of what employers are looking for when considering a new applicant:

1. Can I work well with others in a team environment?
2. Do I verbally communicate with others inside and outside of an organization?
3. Am I able to make smart decisions and solve problems as they arise?
4. Am I able to obtain and process the information that is needed to perform my job?
5. Am I able to plan, organize and balance my work schedule while maintaining healthy relationships with my friends and family?
6. Am I interested in the job that I am applying for, and do I possess the skills necessary to adequately perform the job?
7. Can I sell or persuade others?
8. Am I able to take constructive criticism?

As individuals, no two people's skill sets are alike, as we each possess unique characteristics and motivations that will set us apart from each other. In your job search, reflect on the skills and accomplishments that you have achieved as a student at Barker Central School. By applying this knowledge and skills, it will provide you with a solid base to begin your employment journey and make you an asset, not only for your chosen employer, but also in the community.

Good luck on your endeavors and as always if you see it, hear it, please report it.

Your SRO Team



(Top-bottom): Chief Jon Miller, Officer Bill Nagel, Officer Dean Adamski, Officer Cortez Bradberry.



BARKER CTE STUDENTS MOVING ON TO NYS SKILLSUSA COMPETITION

Two of our Barker CSD students represented Orleans/Niagara BOCES at the New York State SkillsUSA competition. Over 100 students traveled to Alfred State College on March 3rd to represent the Orleans Career and Technical Education Center (OCTEC) and the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center (NCTEC) at the Area 1 SkillsUSA Regional Conference. Congratulations to our winners Julia Cimato and Matthew Maines! We are so proud of them.

The Orleans/Niagara BOCES SkillsUSA students competed in several contests after preparing the last several months in their career and technical education programs. The SkillsUSA Championships begin at the local chapters across the country. Local winners advance to the New York State competition, testing their skills against competitors from other schools. The gold medalists then compete at the National SkillsUSA competition in June where they hope to earn gold, silver and bronze medallions, scholarships, tools of the trade and even job offers! The SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference is one of the largest hands-on workforce development events in the world that features 6,700 state champions across the United States who compete head-to-head in over 114 skilled and leadership competitions.



Julia took second place in the Nail Care competition at the SkillsUSA Competition at SUNY Alfred. Julia is a Senior in the Cosmetology program at the Orleans Career and Technical Education Center. "I was so happy when they called my name at the awards ceremony," she says. "I really was not expecting it. I love my Cosmetology class and my teacher Mrs. Carnahan. She has taught me so much. I am excited about competing at the New York State SkillsUSA competition in Syracuse at the end of April." Julia says she plans on pursuing a career in cosmetology after graduation. "I plan on taking a hair extension program and working in a salon."

Matthew is a Senior in the Welding program at the Orleans Career and Technical Education Center. He placed third at the SkillsUSA competition and will also be moving on to the New York State competition as well. "I really like the welding program a lot," he says. "It's a lot of fun and I really enjoy it. I was so happy that I placed and I am really excited about going to the state competition." Matthew plans on going into the pipeline industry after graduating.

(Top-bottom): **Julia Cimato and Matthew Maines.**



LYNC LEADERS

Congratulations to Naomi Bish, Melodi Murphy, Jillian Fisk, and Ava Kelemen who recently graduated from Leadership Niagara's LYNC (Leadership for the Youth of Niagara County) youth development program.

The program is open to all interested high school students from Niagara County and Grand Island who would like to discover and strengthen their leadership skills. It also helps to maximize students' potential while learning about our community. Participants analyze complex social trends and issues affecting our region, nation and on a global scale through mentorship by a team of leadership experts and community leaders.

Congratulations to the Class 2026! We celebrate an amazing year of growth and development and cannot wait to see the impact you have on the community and beyond!



(L-R): Naomi Bish, Melodi Murphy, Jillian Fisk and Ava Kelemen at the graduation ceremony in Niagara Falls.

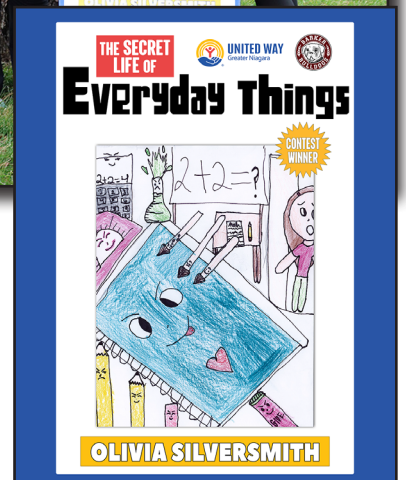
UNITED WAY OF GREATER NIAGARA DRAWING CONTEST

United Way of Greater Niagara partnered with Barker Elementary School to host *The Secret Life of Everyday Things* drawing contest, inviting students to use their imagination to bring ordinary objects to life through art. Students from across the school submitted creative, fun, and imaginative drawings that gave personality and stories to everyday items.

Following an online community vote, the winning artwork by Olivia Silversmith was selected and transformed into a large banner that will be proudly displayed at Pratt Elementary School. The contest celebrated creativity, storytelling, and student expression while bringing families, friends, and the community together in support of local youth.



(L-R): Mrs. Allison Finitz (Pratt Elementary School Counselor), Dr. Micaela Love (Barker Central School District Principal), Olivia Silversmith, Mrs. Melissa Phillips (Pratt Elementary Art Teacher), and Mrs. Andrea Gray (United Way of Greater Niagara President & CEO). Olivia Silversmith's winning design.



BARKER HOSTS FIRST NCMEA ALL-COUNTY FESTIVAL

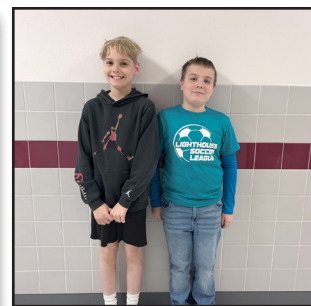
Our very own Barker High School welcomed local school musicians to the NCMEA (Niagara County Music Educators Association) All-County Festival this January. It was the first festival of the year and Drew Burke, the Director of Choral Activities at the District, said it was a huge honor to host schools all over the county who sent their most talented students. "We hosted the Elementary Band, Junior High Chorus and the Senior High Vocal Jazz Groups," Burke stated. "We had several students who represented us and performed which filled us all with a tremendous amount of pride." These students were selected based on prepared solos that were judged by a NCMEA adjudicator during the audition process.

Pratt Elementary Band students included Adam Grabowski and Peyton Green while Chace Atwater, Kasey Thering, Cerenity Street and Jeremy Weakland, Jr. were part of the Junior High Chorus.

The second festival was held at the Royalton-Hartland Central School District. Our very own Adia Nestoros, who was selected as a soloist, and Daniel Aguilera were in the Elementary Chorus. The Senior High Band included Addisyn Weller (Clarinet/Sophomore), Ivy Feuersanger (Flute/Sophomore) and Riley Marciszewski (French Horn/Junior). Music teacher Jeffrey Rappold said, "The experience was fun and they loved Director Amy Steiner's (Buffalo Niagara Concert Band) high-energy rehearsal pace."

Festival III was held at the Newfane Central School District. The four Senior High Chorus members from Barker were Addisyn Weller, Naomi Bish, Julia Kalynycz and Jillian Fisk. In the Junior High Band, Barker was represented by Lydia Atwater and Diarra Taliaferro.

On April 18th, twelve Barker students participated in the NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) and the regional level solo festival. Addisyn Weller, Olivia Voss, Naomi Bish, Jillian Fisk, Ava Kelemen, Trenton Tillinghast, Chace Atwater, Jeremy Weakland Jr., Cerenity Street, Kasey Thering, MaKenzie Hill, and Ariane Watts represented Barker with pride and class.



(Top-bottom, L-R): Addisyn Weller, Ivy Feuersanger, and Riley Marciszewski. Adam Grabowski and Peyton Greene. Diarra Taliaferro and Lydia Atwater. Adia Nestoros and Daniel Aguilera. Addisyn Weller, Naomi Bish, Jillian Fisk, and Julia Kalynycz. Cerenity Street, Jeremy Weakland, Jr., Chace Atwater, and Kasey Thering.

WIZARD OF OZ CASTS SPELL ON PRATT STUDENTS

The talented cast from the Barker Musical Theater production of *The Wizard of Oz* spent some time in our Pratt Elementary School. The students loved interacting with their favorite characters from the beloved musical and hearing them sing some songs. Likewise, the cast members enjoyed visiting their former Elementary teachers and the students.

First year Barker Musical Theater Director, Mrs. Katie Fisk, was impressed by her incredible cast. Fisk stated, "We sold 667 presale tickets and more at the door with over 800 attending the shows. The online sales was an amazing success."

The cast, crew and pit band included over 35 JH/HS students.

- **Cast members:** Jillian Fisk, Zoey Quiett, Karl Hill, Lincoln Wedekind, Jocelyn Schmitt, Lucas Stephan, Ava Kelemen, Melodi Murphy, Julia Kalynycz, Robert Clark.
 - **Ensemble:** Emilia Farina, Ivy Feuersanger, Isabella Gatto, Makenzie Hill, Stephen Lee, Hattie Lunde, Lucy Lunde, Reagan Lunde, Piper McAdoo, Jordyn Meyers, Brionikah Mussell, Areanna Reinard, Kasey Thering, Sophia Thompson, Olivia Voss, Ariane Watts, Elyza Wedekind.
 - **Pit Band:** Chase Baker and Riley Marciszewski.
 - **Stage Crew:** Madelene Carpenter, Autumn Draper, Lilah Kelemen, Riley McAdoo, and Rebecca Thering.
- Spotlights:** Alexis Carges, Ava Crenshaw, Raya Degener, Chloe Duchow.



(Top-bottom and L-R): Julia Kalynycz (Glinda), Lucas Stephan (Cowardly Lion), Jillian Fisk, (Dorothy), Lincoln Wedekind (Tinman) and Jocelyn Schmitt (Scarecrow). The Cast & Crew of the show.



PAVLOCK & TALIAFERRO RECEIVE AWARDS FOR ARTWORK

The 39th Storrs All High Art Show at the Kenan Center Gallery in Lockport featured work by students from 28 high schools from across Western New York. Madelina Pavlock was awarded Best Color Photography with her enhanced photo "The Waterfall" and Diarra Taliaferro received Honorable Mention for her colored pencil drawing "Nothing But Vibes."

When asked how it makes her feel to have her work on display and win an award Diarra responded by saying "To receive an award is amazing. I'm very happy that it is displayed at the Kenan House because I really like people looking at my artwork and feeling inspired."



Student artwork (Above): Madelina Pavlock - Photography and Digital Art, "The Waterfall". "This is a photo I took of the Medina Falls in Medina, New York that was digitally enhanced with the idea of levitation and walking on water to the falls." (Left): Diarra Taliaferro - Colored Pencil Drawing, "For this colored pencil drawing I wanted to draw a leopard in a tree because I really liked the way the leopard's face looked. It looked really relaxed and a bit silly. I also choose to draw a leopard for this project because I love drawing the intricate details of the spots that they have on the fur. I also liked the details of the tree. The colored pencil blending techniques I used to draw the tree made the tree come out looking really realistic. I like the angle of the composition of the leopard and the tree."

ECLUB MEMBERS HELP NIAGARA HOSPICE WITH SPRING BOUQUET SALE

EClub members appreciated the support of everyone that purchased a bouquet or donated a bouquet to a current Niagara Hospice patient or a Niagara County veteran. Sixty five bouquets were purchased helping EClub to raise \$750 for an organization that truly makes a positive difference in our local community by caring for end of life patients and their families.

"I sold and delivered flowers for Niagara Hospice to raise money. It felt very heartwarming to give back," shared EClub member, Leah Witkop.

"I helped sell and deliver flowers for Niagara Hospice to raise money and give back to others," stated EClub member, Lauren Zglinicki.

EClub treasurer, Jillian Fisk said, "I helped with Niagara Hospice flowers because delivering flowers to others and seeing their happy faces makes me smile."



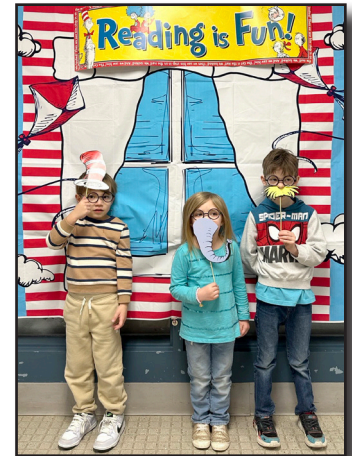
(Top-Bottom, L-R): Leah Witkop, Brooke Weber and Lauren Zglinicki. Nicholas Heidemann, Hailey Dodge and Jillian Fisk.

BARKER STUDENTS ENJOY READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK

Is there anything better than curling up with a good book on a chilly Winter's day? Our students at the elementary level embraced Read Across America Week with much enthusiasm.

The festivities kicked off on March 2nd, which happened to be the birthday of beloved author Dr. Seuss. Our students had a great time during their Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.) times, participating in fun theme days like wear a hat or stripes, wear crazy socks, wear different patterns and wearing green in honor of "Green Eggs and Ham", being surprised by mystery readers, a Shrek visit and having our very own principal Dr. Love stop in for story time.

Thanks to our Reading Specialists, Mrs. Amanda Cottle, and Mrs. Diane DeMarco who made this such a magical time for our readers!



(Top-bottom and L-R): Bryson Waterbury, Ashlynn Walker, and Kayne Washburn in the Dr. Seuss photo booth. Owen Forney, Amelia Ruty, and Carter Annecharico during D.E.A.R. time. Everett Glaubitz, Ellie Carrier, Vera Hofer, and Jaxton Kleitz celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday.

FUN CROSSOVER PROJECT

Students in Ms. Cieslewicz's/Mrs. Weber's 12:1:1 Kindergarten and 1st Grade class teamed up with 8th Grade students from Mrs. Papia's Family and Consumer Sciences class for an illustration monster project. The Kindergarten and 1st graders created illustration monsters and then the FACS students brought the illustrations to life by sewing stuffed animals. The older students also made Easter egg rice crispy treats for a Spring party with the younger students.



Illustration Monsters Team: (Front, L-R): Alex Moen, Abigail Maziol, and Jameson Ficarella. (Middle, L-R): Tristan Hertel, Veronica Hill, Vaida-Lee Thompson, Mark Hollfelder, and Paisley Schaner. (Back, L-R): Kyle Rounds, Dylan Oliver, Jordan Spearin, Trent Tillinghast, Bryce Hirschman, Christopher Martin, Malik Wearen, Lilah Kelemen, Erinn Lanighan, and Alexa Reyes Farias.

PI DAY CONTESTS

Congratulations to Madelene Carpenter for memorizing 236 digits of pi, but when it came down to the round robin finals, Kasey Thering was the overall winner. Carpenter finished in 2nd place, Amelia Ross was 3rd place, Fiona Dalton was 4th place, and Parker Lefever was 5th place. They all received \$3.14 on their lunch accounts.

Congratulations to the following students that won a pie by finding one of the Einstein pictures: Jack Schwab, Madelina Pavlock, Sara Meza Ray, Logan Wagner, Chloe Duchow, Melodi Murphy, Ely Brownlee, Marshal Demonico, and Drew LaGreca.



(L-R): Pi Day Winners - Parker Lefever, Fiona Dalton, Amelia Ross, Madelene Carpenter, and Kasey Thering.

JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS HATCH AN EASTER EGG HUNT

Our Junior High School Student Council sponsored an Easter egg hunt for our PreK and Kindergarten students the week before Spring break.

Did you know that the custom of Easter egg hunts originated in Germany with its origins dating back to the 16th century? Men would hide eggs for the women and children to find. Eggs were symbolic of Spring and new life.



Our littlest students had a great time looking for their goodies and enjoyed taking part in this fun tradition.

(Clockwise from upper left, L-R): Ryley Cieslewicz won a bunny at the Easter egg hunt. Mrs. Donovan's class with Jr. High Student Council members. Students in Mrs. Weller's class made Leprechaun traps for St. Patrick's Day (Front, L-R): Brayden Houtz, Everett Glaubitz, Maggie Demonico, Paisley Hurtgam, Remi Washburn, Axel Botting, Aubrianna Holm, and Ella Parsons. (Back, L-R): Kamiyah Hill, Iris Hathaway, Abigail Trakas, Jaxon Miller, Vera Hofer, Ellie Carrier, Ethan Rackmil, Bryson Waterbury, and Jaxton Kleitz.



SPORTS PAGES

The Barker Bulldogs Athletics Department is proud to recognize the following teams and athletes for their Winter sport season accomplishments:

Niagara-Orleans League Champion: Luke Fay, Wrestling

Scholar-Athlete Teams: Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, and Girls Swimming

Individual Scholar-Athletes:

- Wrestling - Luke Fay, Jordyn Kinne, Max Liuzzi, Taylor McGovern, and Noralie Pierce
- Swimming - Oscar Dergel



STUDENT-ATHLETES FIND THEIR VOICE THROUGH SAAC

Student-athletes across the Niagara-Orleans League have a unique opportunity to share their perspectives and help shape the future of athletics through the SAAC (Student Athletic Advisory Committee). The committee brings together student representatives from schools throughout the league to discuss important topics, share ideas, and provide feedback on the student-athlete experience.

SAAC is made up of student-athletes who serve as liaisons between their schools and the league. These representatives gather feedback from teammates and fellow athletes, bring that information to league discussions, and report back to their schools about important events, changes, and ongoing conversations. In this role, SAAC members help ensure that the voices of student-athletes are heard when decisions are made that affect them.

The committee's main goal is to provide a positive experience for students who participate in interscholastic athletics. By encouraging student involvement in league discussions, SAAC promotes leadership, communication, and collaboration among athletes from different schools. Members also help enhance the overall student-athlete experience by promoting positive sportsmanship, strengthening the image of student-athletes, and encouraging greater engagement in school athletics.

SAAC serves several important purposes within the league. The committee helps generate a strong student-athlete voice, provides feedback on potential changes or issues affecting athletics, and creates an avenue for student representation across the Niagara-Orleans League. It also acts as a bridge between student-athletes, coaches, and administrators, helping all groups better understand the needs and perspectives of student participants.

SAAC meets three times each year, bringing together student leaders from across the league and section. Through SAAC, student-athletes have the chance to go beyond the field or court and play an active role in shaping the future of athletics in their schools and across the Niagara-Orleans League. By sharing ideas, discussing challenges, and celebrating successes, SAAC helps ensure that the student-athlete experience continues to grow in a positive and meaningful way.

Barker SAAC members are: Naomi Bish, Luke Fay, Madyson Flint, Drew LaGreca, Madelina Pavlock, Noralie Pierce, Salvatore Ruvio, and Peyton Wagner.



(L-R): Salvatore Ruvio displays the SAAC shirt. Madyson Flint and Madelina Pavlock play Tic-Tac-Toe with other SAAC members.

BARKER SENIORS HONORED WITH NIAGARA PAL AWARDS

Two Barker High School Seniors were recently recognized with the prestigious Niagara County Police Athletic League (PAL) Sports Award, an honor presented annually to one male and one female student-athlete who demonstrate leadership and success across multiple sports rather than specializing in just one.

This year's recipients from Barker are Madelina Pavlock and Luke Fay, both of whom have made a lasting impact on Barker athletics through their dedication, versatility, and leadership.

Pavlock has been a key contributor in field hockey, swimming, and softball throughout her high school career. Her commitment to competing in multiple seasons each year has helped set a strong example for younger athletes, while also highlighting her ability to excel across different sports environments.

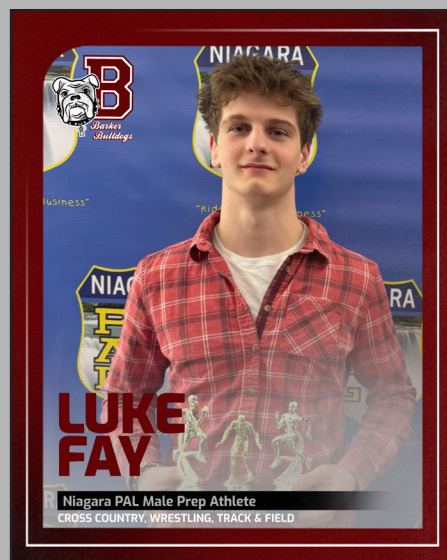
Fay has also demonstrated outstanding versatility as a three-sport athlete, competing in cross country, wrestling, and track & field. His dedication to year-round competition and willingness to take on the challenges of different sports reflect the determination and work ethic that the Niagara PAL award seeks to recognize.

The Niagara PAL award celebrates student-athletes who embody the values of teamwork, commitment, and leadership while contributing to multiple teams during their high school careers.

Niagara PAL was founded on a simple but powerful belief: that positive relationships between youth and law enforcement can change lives and strengthen communities. From its earliest days, the organization has focused on providing opportunities for young people through sports, mentorship, and community engagement.

Over the decades, Niagara PAL has grown from a small local effort into a cornerstone of youth engagement across Niagara County. Thousands of children and teens have participated in its programs, building confidence, character, and community pride along the way.

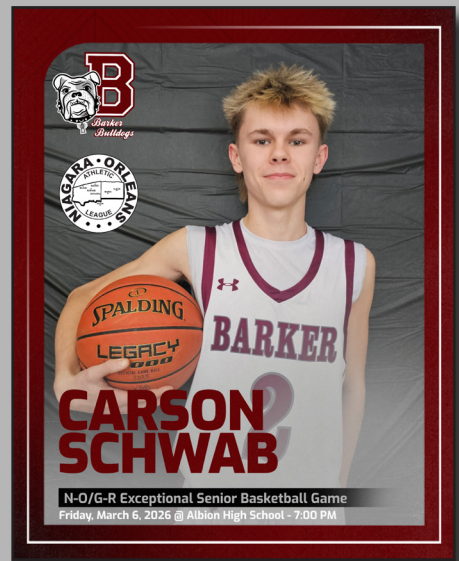
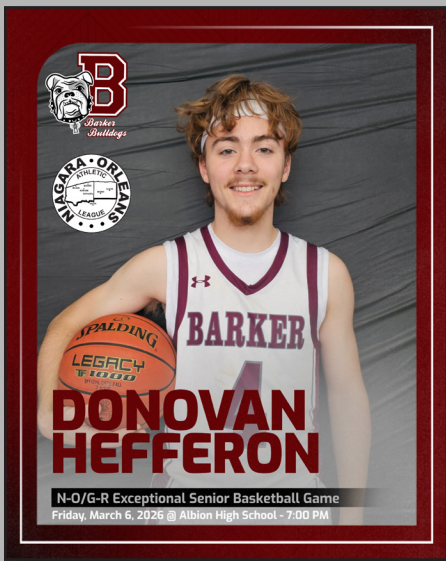
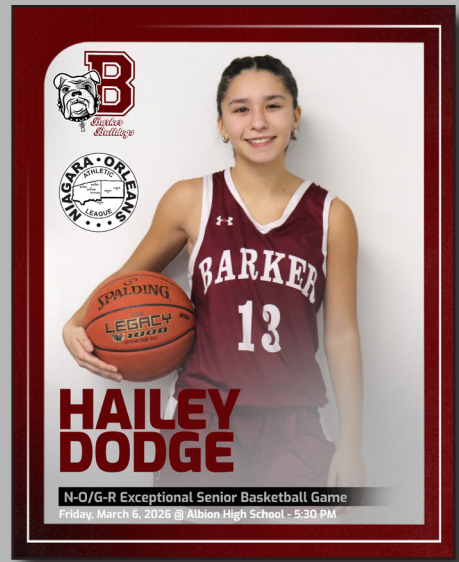
Pavlock and Fay represent the spirit of the award—well-rounded student-athletes who compete with determination, lead by example, and proudly represent Barker across multiple sports seasons. Their recognition highlights not only their individual achievements but also the strength of Barker's athletic program.



Follow Barker Bulldogs Athletics on X: @BarkerBulldogs

Visit the Barker website for more Athletics information:
<https://www.barkerccd.net/athletics/welcome/welcome-to-athletics>

To view the Athletes of the Week, visit:
<https://www.barkerccd.net/athletics/athlete-of-the-week/athlete-of-the-week>



(L-R): Jack Schwab - Blotted Ink Drawing. Sophia Pavlock - Blotted Ink Drawing.

ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 19, 2026
12:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Herbert F. Ludwig Fine Arts Hall



The ballot will contain four (4) items which you may vote on:

PROPOSITION NO. 1 – Adopt 2026-2027 Budget

To adopt the annual budget of the School District for the fiscal year 2026-2027 and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the District.

- Yes
- No

ELECTION ITEM NO. 1 – Election of Board Members – Vote for up to Two

To elect two (2) members of the Board for a 3-year term commencing July 1, 2026 and expiring on June 30, 2029, to succeed John Sweeney, Jr. and Emily Gow, whose terms expire on June 30, 2026.

- John Sweeney, Jr.
- Renee' Atwater
- Write In _____
- Write In _____



PROPOSITION NO. 2 – Adopt Library Budget

To adopt the funding for the Barker Public Library, which is raised by annual levy of a tax upon the taxable real property within the Barker Central School District be increased from \$98,834.00 to \$108,717.40. This is an increase of \$9,883.40.

- Yes
- No

ELECTION ITEM NO. 2 – Library Trustee Election - Vote for up to One

To elect one (1) Trustee to the Barker Public Library Board for a 5-year term commencing July 1, 2026 and expiring June 30, 2031 to succeed Cynthia Harris.

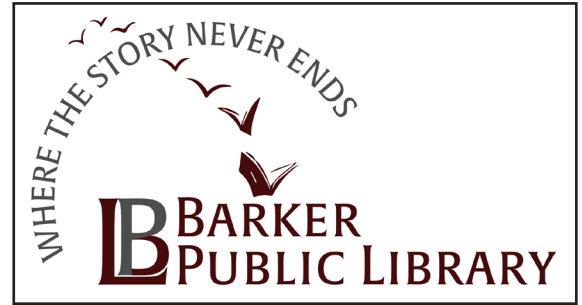
- Cynthia Harris
- Write In _____



SUPPORTING BARKER PUBLIC LIBRARY: INVESTING IN A STRONGER COMMUNITY

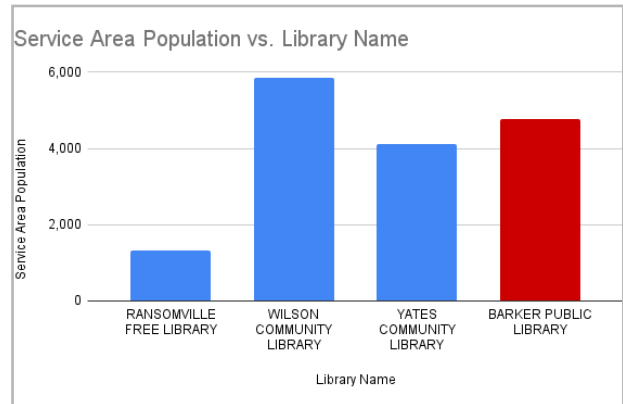
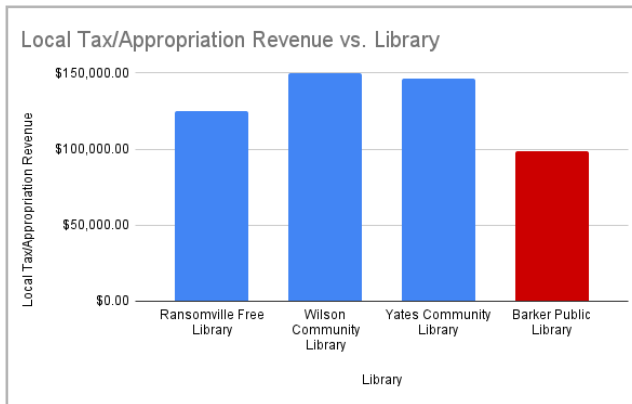
Hello!

As the Barker Public Library Board of Trustees, we would like to take this opportunity to reach out to the community about the upcoming budget vote. Like many organizations, the library faces rising costs for utilities, technology, materials as well as minimum wage. To address these rising costs, the library is proposing a total increase of \$9,833.00 to its tax levy. What does this proposed tax increase mean for the Barker community? For most residents, this represents \$3-\$6 per year. This amounts to less than the cost of a single meal at McDonald's or a specialty drink from Starbucks.



The library serves as one of the few public gathering spaces available to residents as well as offering access to books, audiobooks, digital materials, free internet, computers, and programs that support education, lifelong learning, and community connection. The Barker Public Library operates with a small but dedicated team of just four part-time staff members. Wages are kept minimal to ensure the library operates as efficiently as possible while continuing to provide quality services to the community.

When compared to other libraries serving similar rural populations, the Barker Public Library operates with one of the smallest budgets in the region, while serving a population equal to-or larger than-some neighboring libraries. The comparison charts included below show that Barker continues to provide strong services with fewer resources.



With this investment, Barker Public Library can remain a viable asset for future generations.

President: Kathie Smith
 Vice President: Cindy Harris
 Secretary: Ashley Grabowski
 Trustee: Vernetta Kenyon
 Trustee: Roy Anderson



PROPOSED 2026-2027 BARKER SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET



The 2026-2027 proposed budget reflects a continuation of current program and opportunities for students in the current 2025-2026 budget. The majority of the increased expenses relate to contractual obligations. The social/emotional health teams, student support teaching positions, programs and extra-curricular activities have been maintained for the next year.

BARKER BUDGET EXPENDITURE SUMMARY 2026-2027					
EXPENDITURES	2026-2027	2025-2026	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE	
GENERAL SUPPORT	\$ 2,695,672	\$ 2,585,904	\$ 109,768	4.24%	
INSTRUCTION	\$ 12,111,147	\$ 12,278,607	\$ (167,460)	-1.36%	
PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$ 1,573,312	\$ 1,472,126	\$ 101,186	6.87%	
COMMUNITY SERVICE	\$ 46,600	\$ 33,600	\$ 13,000	38.69%	
UNDISTRIBUTED	\$ 6,490,161	\$ 6,105,473	\$ 384,688	6.30%	
TOTAL	\$ 22,916,892	\$ 22,475,710	\$ 441,182	1.96%	

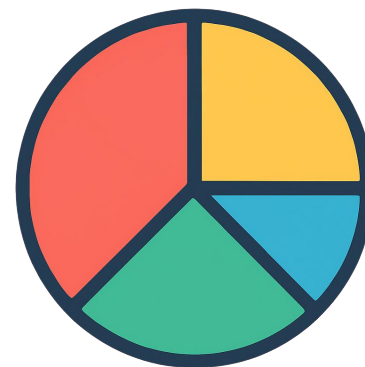
The Capital Outlay Project of \$100,000 is consisting of renovations to door, security, safety, communication, masonry repairs, and entry enhancements at the Central School, 1911 Building, and Elementary Building.

For additional information, see also: Tri-Component Budget at: <https://www.barkercsd.net/district-67/business-office/tri-component-budgets>

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES

General Support consists of: Board of Education, Central Administration, Finance, Staff, Certain BOCES expenses, and Special Items. This also includes Maintenance and Operation of Plant, (including all maintenance and grounds salaries, supplies and materials, and utilities), Central Printing/Mailing, and Central Data Processing.

Instruction consists of: Instructional Administration and Improvement (principal’s salary and supplies, curriculum development, research and planning, and professional development for all professional staff), Teaching Regular School (all regular school teaching salaries, supplies and materials, equipment, textbooks, and BOCES services for regular students, including Occupational Education), School Library and Audiovisual, Technology Services, Attendance, Guidance, Health Services, Psychological Services, Extra-classroom Activities, Athletics, and Special Education (special education teacher salaries, supplies and materials, textbooks, CSE and CPSE Committee expenses, contractual costs, private schools tuition, and BOCES special education costs).



Pupil Transportation consists of: All bussing and fuel costs.

Community Services consists of: Summer Programming and Adult Education.

Undistributed consists of: Employer contributions to the employees’ and the teachers’ retirement systems, social security, workers’ compensation premiums, unemployment insurance, health insurance, and terminal leave payments. It also includes payments of principal and interest on school bond payments and the capital outlay project.

2026-2027 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2025-26 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2026-27 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 22,475,710	\$ 22,916,892	\$ 22,766,211										
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$ 441,182	\$ 290,412										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.96 %	1.30%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 5,283,993	\$ 5,434,764											
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ 98,834	\$ 108,717											
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ 0	\$ 0											
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0											
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 5,382,287	\$ 5,543,481		\$ 5,283,993									
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 0	\$ 0											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 5,283,993	\$ 5,434,764											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 5,283,993	\$ 5,434,764											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 0	\$ 0											
Administrative Component	\$ 2,284,152	\$ 2,333,474	\$ 2,282,703										
Program Component	\$ 16,862,525	\$ 17,087,015	\$ 17,087,015										
Capital Component	\$ 3,329,033	\$ 3,496,403	\$ 3,396,403										
<p>* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2026-27 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.</p> <p>The Capital Outlay Project as well as equipment classified as contingent have been eliminated. Reductions have also been made in materials and supplies as well as conference attendance and association dues.</p>													
<p>** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 80%;">Description</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Description	Amount		\$		\$		\$		\$
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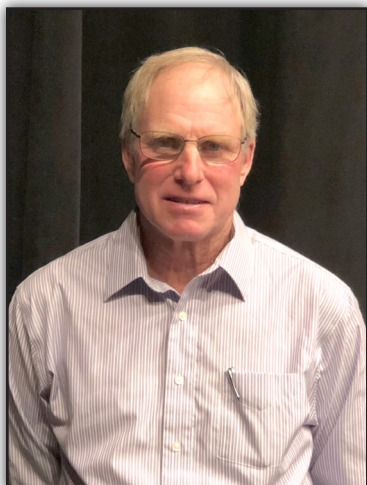
***NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgt@nysed.gov**

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$ 378

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-27 by the qualified voters of the Barker Central School District, Niagara County, New York, will be held in the Herbert F. Ludwig Fine Arts in said district on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 between the hours of 12:00pm and 8:00pm, prevailing time in the Barker Jr/Sr High school, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

MEET THE BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES



John E. Sweeney, Jr.

I am a 1978 graduate of Barker Central School and a 1980 graduate of Alfred Ag and Tech with a degree in Animal Husbandry. After graduation, I came home to work on the 116-year old family owned Maple View Dairy and am co-owner of the West Somerset Road farm. I am a member of the Upstate Niagara Milk Cooperative, the Niagara County Farm Bureau, Treasurer of the Barker Alumni Association, member of Cornell Cooperative Extension, Farm Bureau, Faith United Methodist Church as well as its Finance Chairman, Secretary of Somerset Masonic Lodge #639, and co-leader of the 4-H Dairy Cattle program. My wife Deborah and I have three children that have graduated from Barker School.

With the challenges facing education today, I want to make certain every child receives the best education possible while balancing the fiscal responsibilities the position holds. My history with the system from being a Barker graduate to having my children experience a variety of programs, gives me a unique perspective

on the board. I have seen that when today's youth are well-rounded individuals by participating in the arts, academics, athletics, and community service, they become the leaders of tomorrow. My dedication to the school and community, my leadership style, and my experience with a variety of people, make me an excellent candidate for re-election as a Board of Education member.



Reneé Atwater

My name is Reneé Atwater and I have proudly called Barker, NY home for more than 15 years. My husband, Seth, and I are raising our three children here, and this September all three will be students in the Barker Central School District (BCSD). I am deeply invested in the future of our schools and our community.

I am a full-time mom, actively engaged in raising my family and staying closely involved in their education. I also take pride in supporting my husband's work on our family's dairy farm, Atwater Farms, which has been a part of the Barker community since 1852. This has given me a strong appreciation for hard work, responsible decision making, and the importance of supporting local families.

Faith and service are central to my life, and I am committed to supporting children both at home and in my community. I have volunteered in children's ministries since I was in junior high and currently teach Sunday school and assist with my church's midweek children's program. My passion for helping young people grow and succeed extends into our local schools as well. During my professional career, I had the opportunity to teach a Junior Achievement financial literacy class at Barker Senior High School, an experience that reinforced my belief in preparing students for real world success.

I am running for the BCSD board because I care deeply about our children, our schools, and our community. As a parent, volunteer, and community member, I am committed to listening, learning, and working collaboratively to support educational excellence while being mindful of the needs of families and taxpayers.

I would be honored to serve and to help ensure that Barker remains a place where students are supported, challenged, and prepared for the future.

QUALIFICATIONS OF A VOTER

You qualify as a voter if: you are a citizen of the United States; you have been a resident of the Barker Central School District for at least 30 days prior to the school budget vote and election held on May 19, 2026; you are at least eighteen (18) years of age; you are qualified to register for an election in accordance with Section 5-106 of the Election Law. In addition, you do not need to be a property owner to be eligible to vote.



TRI-COMPONENT BUDGET INFORMATION

For information about the budget please visit the Barker website at: <https://www.barkercsd.net/district-67/business-office/budget-election-information>

The Tri-Component contains the line-by-line breakout of the budget as well as the property tax report card and other information and can be found at: <https://www.barkercsd.net/district-67/business-office/tri-component-budgets>

You may also scan the QR Code to the right.



*Student artwork (L-R): **Gabriel Nestoros** - Oil Painting, "The Quintessence of Life". "This piece is influenced by the movie *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*. The main character works at Life magazine as the negative assets manager. The character depicted in the painting is Sean O'Connell. He is the main wildlife photographer for life and has sent Walter his best work, photo #25, where he believes he captures the "quintessence of life." Walter can not find this photo. Walter goes on a long journey to find the photo. By finding Sean he learns that the photo is something that he overlooked. His journey is less about finding the photo and benefits him by making him go outside his comfort zone. Photo #25 is Sean's best work, his quintessence of life and this painting is my best work, my quintessence of life. **Hailey Dodge** - Colored Pencil Drawing, "Rose Street". "The beautiful scenery of the building and mountains really stood out to me. I love the way they all fit together. I feel that all of the colors combined complement each other very well. This drawing means a lot to me because of my major next year, Landscape Architecture. It shows the very precise lines needed to correctly convey the picture."*

BARKER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
1628 QUAKER ROAD
BARKER, NY 14012

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 3
MIDDLEPORT NY

POSTAL CUSTOMER
BARKER, NY 14012

Barker Central School District
1628 Quaker Road
Barker, NY 14012

Board of Education

Randall B. Atwater, President
John E. Sweeney Jr., Vice President
Deanna Carnes
Candice Gancasz
Emily Gow
Stephanie Mason
Virginia Voss

Superintendent of Schools

Jacob L. Reimer, Ed.D.

Principal

Micaela M. Love, Ed.D.

**Coordinator of Curriculum &
Professional Learning/Assistant**

Principal

Christian Cornwell

Assistant Principal

Deborah Lingle

**Director of Instructional
Services/Special Education**

Julia Duerr

Business Administrator

Connie Miner

District Clerk

Mary Eadie

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.



Student artwork: Madison Stephan - "I loved being able to share my art on display with my family, it was great hearing what they thought and it made me feel very proud of my work". Turn to page 6 to read more about Madison's artwork which is on display at the Kenan Center in Lockport.