



BARROW
HIGH SCHOOL

— *Striving For Excellence* —

Highlighted School Report March 2022

Hello Everyone,

Thank you for the opportunity to report out on what is happening at Barrow High School. Even though we are a year and a half past our last shut down, we are still rebuilding from COVID. But the key word here is rebounding. By any indicator you would like to choose, we are getting stronger and better day by day.

First, here are just some current facts about Barrow High School

- Our current enrollment is:

Freshman	84		
Sophomore	66	Males	143
Juniors	61	Females	124
Seniors	<u>56</u>		
Totals	267		
- We expect to graduate 50+ Seniors.
- BHS is staffed with two administrators, one guidance counselor, and 22 FTE Teaching positions and six Para pro positions.
- We began the hiring season needing to fill eight teaching positions for next year. One has been filled and by the time of the board meeting we should have a second position filled and maybe a third filled.
- Those positions are three special education, one math, one ELA, Art, and Wood Shop.

In December two of our students, Uatahouse Tu'ifua and Manusiu Muti, both juniors, were crowned state champions in wrestling. Congratulations to you both.

The community high light of the year concerning Barrow High School was undoubtedly hosting the first Kivgiq held in about four years. What an event. What many people might not realize is BHS continued to have school during that week. But it was certainly not a regular week. We knew attendance would be down but we still wanted to make those days useful and fun. We asked teachers to come up with projects or activities for the three mornings. We also conducted some credit recovery and make-up work. In the afternoons students were released to attend Kivgiq if they wished.

We were very pleased in January when David Elavgak joined us as our new ILT teacher. BHS has been without the services of an ILT teacher for a year. In a very short period of time David has reinvigorated the program and all of his classes were just about filled overnight. (Language x 3, Art, and Dance). If you were lucky, you got to see the Barrow High School dance group perform at Kivgiq. His dancers and drummers have also begun performing during half times of basketball games. Welcome David!!!

Athletics tend to receive much of our attention, but we have other noteworthy student activities taking place at BHS. Our Student Council has become very active and productive. They have put on dances, spirit/theme weeks, and other events. Emmanuel Samuelu is bringing back the BHS yearbook and you should see the first yearbook in three years sometime this spring. One last sign of BHS bouncing back is the rebirth of the BHS and HMS music programs. Under the direction of Mr. Christian Roseboro, we have growing band program. It is only his first year and the band is still small, but I think you will see great things in the next few years.

Both of our basketball teams have had productive seasons so far. Going into the Regionals the weekend of March 9-11, our Lady Whalers are seeded #1 and the boys are seeded #2. We all know nothing is guaranteed with sporting events but as the top two regional school advance to States we are optimistic both teams will play in Anchorage March 22-25.

We have had both army and navy recruiters with us this year as well as providing students the opportunity to take the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery).

Much of our staff development time this year has been dedication to learning more about the practice of Restorative Justice. One definition of the practice is:

“A philosophy and a theory of justice that emphasizes bringing together everyone affected by wrongdoing to address needs and responsibilities, and to heal the harm to relationships as much as possible.” Restorative justice in school settings is being used to replace traditional punishment practices with a community-oriented approach that involves all stakeholders finding a solution.”

Half of one of our two upcoming in-service days will be spent with a RJ presenter. Other topics the staff will be working on these two days at the end of March will be: Analyzing the results of the MAPs winter testing cycle, determining scheduling needs for next year, other planning for next year, and in general, work out the plans to bring this school year to a successful conclusion.

In closing, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve the community as principal of Barrow High School these past three years. In many ways it has been a difficult three years for all of us, but all indicators seem to moving in a positive direction and I wish you all of the very best in the future.

Sincerely,

Mark Jenkins