

Barton Open School Parent Handbook



**CLARA BARTON
OPEN SCHOOL**

Fostering a
Community of
Active Learners
in Minneapolis,
Minnesota

*Written **BY** Barton Parents **FOR** Barton Parents*

Hey parents, what did you learn today? What mistake did you make that taught you something? What did you try hard at today?

Author and researcher Carol Dweck asks those questions, and here at Barton, these are the same questions we ask your children day in and day out. These are the important questions our staff grapples with, too. How do we learn from our mistakes in authentic ways? How can we teach our children that their mistakes can be some of the best ways they learn? How do we translate those mistakes into beautiful discovery about a topic and about ourselves?

Every new school year, is one of transition, but beautiful discovery can be found around every corner. There is much to celebrate at Barton Open, where we remain grounded in a holistic, transformative, constructivist learning environment that is rooted in student-led, student driven culturally responsive curriculum that focuses on social justice issues. Barton students learn using an equity lens to better understand and change our world.

At Barton we believe, children are capable learners, and that the classroom and the school are microcosms of democracy in action. Teachers and students engage together in the learning experiences of being readers, writers, artists, scientists, mathematicians, and thinkers exploring the world. As a progressive school, we're intentional about being student-centered and focused on the whole child.

This Parent Handbook has been created by Barton parents and staff alike to welcome, inform, and engage you, whether you are new to our school or whether you've been part of the Barton community for years. Please come in and talk with us about any questions, concerns or ideas you may have. **Special thank you to Kristi Smith Knutson, Barton parent, who is the original author and creator.**

Carol Dweck also says, "This is hard. This is fun." Yes. Learning can be both of those, and here, with your child at the heart of our work, we take conscious steps toward creating a community where mistakes and learning are partners, where hard *and* fun growth happens.

We're glad you and your family are a part of it.

Sincerely,

Diane and Maria-Barton Administration
Barton Leadership Council
Elizabeth Christensen-Open Program(s) Coordinator

Table of Contents

I • Welcome to Barton

- Barton Values
- We Offer
- Open Education Philosophy

II • Building Community

- School Calendar

III • Getting Involved

- Barton Bugle
- Barton Leadership Council
- Barton PTO
- Fundraising/Foundation
- Your Child's Classroom
- Volunteering and School-Family Connections

IV • Getting Answers

- Important Barton Resources, Contact Information

V • Barton Dictionary

- A Collection of All Things Barton

I • Welcome to Barton

Barton Values

What makes Barton special? At the heart of Barton Open:

- We instill a love of lifelong learning through passionate engagement and meaningful experiences.
- We value each child for his or her perspective, and create a safe, caring and reflective environment that values each child.
- We offer an interdisciplinary curriculum and culturally responsive instruction. Using the Responsive Classroom model, we encourage choice, critical thinking, independence, arts expression, social skills and intellectual engagement.
- We develop an atmosphere of mutual respect and equity through our diverse learning community.
- We encourage creative, courageous and collaborative inquiry for all by developing learners who think independently and thrive in a global society.
- We involve children in decision-making and self-directed learning. Their voices are an essential part of the process.
- We educate for a democratic society by valuing personal voice through curriculum that strengthens community and a sense of citizenship.

I • Welcome to Barton

We Offer:

- A curriculum that combines strong academics and social development
- Multi-age classrooms and cross-age teaching
- Emphasis on multiple intelligences and multiple learning styles, with a whole-child approach
- Student/teacher/parent goal-setting conferences twice a year in K-6
- Portfolio sharing in grades K-6 twice a year; no letter grades in K-6
- A 7th and 8th grade Uppers Program that prepares Barton students for the transition to high school
- Uppers Exhibition Night twice a year for grades 7-8 (letter grades in 7-8)
- Morning meetings and other Responsive Classroom strategies that create a positive classroom climate
- Extensive field trips, hands-on and outdoor learning experiences and a schoolyard garden that can be used as an outdoor classroom
- Many opportunities for project-based and collaborative learning
- Student-centered leadership development opportunities
- Integration among arts, language, music, dance, social studies and sciences
- A diverse student and family community that reflects today's world
- An ELL (English Language Learner) program
- Active parent community and classroom involvement
- A climate of mutual respect among students, teachers, and administrators, including a tradition of adults and children addressing one another using first names
- A buddy system matching older and younger students for the year, with frequent opportunities to read to one another or sit together at all-school assemblies
- An emphasis on proactive problem solving

II • Building Community

School Calendar

Your voice matters! Please join your fellow parents/guardians and Barton students at the following community events. These gatherings strengthen our Open program, highlighting the dynamic interplay of ideas that are at the core of Open — and well, are just plain fun. See the **Barton Dictionary** for event descriptions.

August

- Meet Your Teacher
- Party on the Playground
- Tears and Cheers Kindergarten gathering

September

- Curriculum Night
- 1st Goal Setting Conferences (ongoing through fall)

October

- Barton Fund Campaign (through end of school year)
- Kindergarten Family Dinner

November

- Wild Rumpus Book Fair

December

- Choir Concerts

January

- 1st Portfolio Sharing (for K-6)
- 1st Uppers Exhibition Night
- 2nd Goal Setting Conferences

February

- African American Parent Involvement Day
- FUNdraisers

March/April

- Community Education Play Performances
- Plant Sale Launch
- Student Author Night
- Book Bazaar
- Family Skating Night at Roller Garden

May/June

- 2nd Portfolio Sharing (for K-6)
- 2nd Uppers Exhibition/Portfolio Sharing
- Band Concert
- Bike to School Day
- Leadership Council Endorsements
- Plant Sale - Pick Up Days
- Strings Concert
- Uppers Dance Performance
- Lake Day
- 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony
- Teacher/Staff Appreciation Breakfast

III • Getting Involved

Barton Bugle

The Bugle is our weekly online newsletter . You'll receive a weekly email from Barton Open School, Subject: The Barton Bugle communicating school Leadership Council minutes (if there was a recent meeting), volunteer opportunities, important announcements and the latest school news, which is also listed on the Barton website. If you are not receiving the Bugle via email, please contact Becky Patton to get signed up - rebecca.patton@mpls.k12.mn.us. You can also request a paper copy if email isn't an option. If you signed up and still aren't receiving it, check your spam folder, or contact the Main Office to resolve the issue. Reading The Bugle each week is very important as it is the main communication link between school and home. Please make time to read this email every week and refer to it often!

Volunteering and School-Family Connections

Volunteering opportunities are numerous at Barton, and we encourage you to get involved. Look frequently in the Bugle for volunteer opportunities, too, as many program and event coordinators send out volunteer requests via the Bugle. Elizabeth Christensen, Barton Open Program Coordinator and parent, can help you get involved outside your child's classroom. Contact her at bartonparentinvolvement@gmail.com

You can stop in the Barton Office to get a paper volunteer interest form or fill out an online volunteer interest form: http://barton.mpls.k12.mn.us/volunteer_form_2

Your Child's Classroom

So many wonderful, creative endeavors happen in your child's classroom. Your child's teacher is the place to start for questions and concerns, and how to get involved in the classroom. Teachers handle parent involvement in a way that best suits their classrooms and their particular needs. Volunteer Parent Representatives (Reps) may also help coordinate parent volunteers in and out of the classroom. Parent Reps in each classroom send monthly emails to class email lists with classroom news, opportunities, and school updates.

Barton Leadership Council

The Leadership Council, consisting of parent and staff representatives, fulfills the combined purposes of a (state-mandated) site council and a PTA (parent-teacher association).

The Council is responsible for promoting and building Open school values throughout our community, monitoring school improvement plans, guiding overall program decisions, overseeing the Foundation budget and encouraging broad participation from all members of the school community.

Please come to a Council meeting! They're open to all members of the Barton community.

Leadership Council meetings for 2019-20: Thursday 10/10, Thursday 11/14, Thursday 12/12, Thursday 1/9, Thursday 2/13, Thursday 3/12, Thursday 4/9, Thursday 5/14 from **5-6 PM** in the Media Center

The Leadership Council works to reflect and represent the diversity of our school community and to represent the different perspectives of families and students. In the spring, parents interested in joining the council do so by signing a Commitment Agreement. If a parent attends three meetings in a row, an invitation to join the council will be extended.

Teachers/staff are on the Council, too. Teacher/staff representatives to the Leadership Council are selected from each team in the school—Primary (K-2), Older Primary (3-4), Middles (5-6), Uppers (7-8), Specialists, Support Staff and at-large. The Leadership Council is co-chaired each year by one parent and one or two teachers/staff. The Council co-chairs for the 2019-2020 school year are Mary Scavotto (parent) and Sarah Hippert (3-4 teacher).

Barton PTO

Newly forming this school year Barton Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO) is comprised of parents and staff members who plan and implement community building, advocacy and fundraising activities, and encourage broad participation from all members of the school community. PTO meetings for the school year will follow the Leadership council meetings from ***6:15-7:30 PM***, one Thursday each month.

Meetings for 2019-20: Thursday 10/10, Thursday 11/14, Thursday 12/12, Thursday 1/9, Thursday 2/13, Thursday 3/12, Thursday 4/9, Thursday 5/14 from 5-6 PM in the Media Center

Fundraising/Foundation

Barton's commitment to many enrichment programs would not be possible without YOUR generous donations and fundraising efforts. Barton parents participate at Barton in different ways, and fundraising is an important opportunity to get involved in our school. Programs like MIA (Minneapolis Institute of Arts) Art Adventures, classroom materials for teachers, field trips, overnight trips, for example, are generally not funded by the Minneapolis Public Schools.

The Barton Foundation, a 501©(3) nonprofit corporation, is funded through three big fundraisers and various smaller ones. The Foundation manages the money, and the Leadership Council distributes it to support Barton in its mission. More information about the Barton Foundation can be found at www.bartonopen.org.

Our three big fundraisers are:

- 1) **FALL • Barton Fund Campaign:** Donating to the Barton Fund Campaign is the most efficient way to help every student and teacher at Barton. It's fast and it makes a huge difference without creating additional time-intensive fundraisers. Donations are accepted throughout the year. Write a check, donate online, or become a sustaining member. <http://www.bartonopen.org/barton-fund>.
- 2) **WINTER • FUNdraisers:** These activities and outings are hosted by Barton parents to raise funds for our school. Get creative and host an event, or get out and meet other Barton parents and families, all while supporting Barton's mission. Visit www.bartonopen.org/fundraisers for more information.
- 3) **SPRING • Plant Sale:** For over 34 years, Barton students have sold plants each spring to raise money for our school. Invest in Barton's mission by buying plants and supporting your student in selling plants. Pick up days in May are a great way to donate a small amount of time, too, as the sale is completely volunteer dependent. And being at the sale is a way to connect with other Barton families and staff, which also helps strengthen our community. Visit www.bartonopen.org/plant-sale or www.BartonPlantSale.com for more information.

In addition to these three big fundraisers, there are a number of smaller fundraisers that are sponsored by classrooms or individuals in the community (www.bartonopen.org/other-fundraisers).

Here are a few:

- **King of the Log:** This Minnesota Renaissance Festival fundraiser runs from mid-August to the first weekend in October. Volunteer half the day and enjoy the Festival the other half. Check out www.kingofthelog.com.
- **Wild Rumpus Book Fair:** Typically held on the 2nd Wednesday in November, the book fair is a much-loved, long-standing tradition for Barton. Teachers, specialists and support staff provide "wish lists" of books for families to buy and donate to classrooms during the sale so it's a win-win. On top of that, the bookstore donates to Barton 20% of all sales on the day of our event to be used as store credit. This fundraiser provides Barton with thousands of dollars worth of books for the Media Center and classroom libraries. Many families know about Wild Rumpus, a wonderful children's bookstore in Linden Hills — if you have never been there, it's worth a family field trip.

- **Book Bazaar:** Held during the days leading up to Student Author Night, this book fair provides families an opportunity to bring in used books to share and to purchase used books at a very low price. Affordable books for all!
- We also participate in school fundraisers via **Kowalski's receipts** and some classes collect **Box Tops**.

III • Getting Involved

Here are some of the many events, programs and projects (and their coordinators) that make Barton a rich place to learn (in alphabetical order):

Art Adventures (October-January)

Arwen Wilder

arwenwilder@gmail.com

Barton Fund Campaign (October-December)

Meg Paschall

megypaschall@yahoo.com

Barton FUNdraisers (December-February)

Eli and Jennie Houghton

eli.houghton@gmail.com

jennie.houghton@gmail.com

Josh Krohn

joshkrohn@gmail.com

Elizabeth Christensen

elizabethchristensen@msn.com

Barton School Tours (November-February)

Jerri Clark-Wagner

jerriwagner@gmail.com

Book Bazaar (April)

Angie Endo, Media Specialist

angie.endo@mpls.k12.mn.us

Eighth Grade Graduation (June)

Ali Rubin, Uppers teacher

allison.rubin@mpls.k12.mn.us

Free Forest School

Sarah Cooper Evans

sarahcooperevans@yahoo.com

Family Roller Skating Night (April)

Jeni Heineman

jeni_heineman@yahoo.com

Kindergarten Family Dinner (October)

Andy Timmons

aptimmons@gmail.com

Naomi Mechels

nemechels@gmail.com

Kindergarten Round Up (May)

Erin Riley Strong

erinfriley@gmail.com

Carolyn Ramberg

cramberg@earthlink.net

III • Getting Involved

Parent Reps (ongoing)

bartonparentinvolvement@gmail.com

Party on the Playground (August)

Barton PTO

bartonopenpto@gmail.com

Plant Sale (March-May)

Heather Cholat

Michelle Pryce

Tony Siebenaler-Ransom

Kris Woelber

Kari Sharff

Zach Carlson

htcholat@yahoo.com

michelle.pryce@hotmail.com

asransome@me.com

kfamily90@gmail.com

karisharff@gmail.com

Spirit Garden and Native Garden (ongoing)

Sheila Eldred

Erin Klug

Savana Reese

Marnie Peichel

seldred@gmail.com

E_Klug@msn.com

savana.mena@mpls.k12.mn.us

dmpeichel@gmail.com

Student Author Night (April)

Danielle Sells

Jessie Krohn

dsells@bitstream.net

jessiekrohn@gmail.com

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Breakfast (June)

Mary Bjork

mary.a.bjork@gmail.com

Tears and Cheers (August)

Barton PTO

bartonopenpto@gmail.com

Wild Rumpus Book Fair (November)

Travina Leaks

travinaleaks@gmail.com

Yearbook (ongoing)

IV • Getting Answers

Important Barton Resources and Phone Numbers

Wondering who to contact with your burning questions? Start here.

- **Activities in your child's classroom, your child's individual learning program, or a potential problem with a teacher?**
Start with the classroom teacher
- **Attendance**
Jennie Smith, Health Assistant jennie.smith@mpls.k12.mn.us 612/668-3588
- **Buses (bus routes and/or pick-up stop issues)**
Tricia Silpala tricia.silpala@mpls.k12.mn.us 612/668-3597
- **Buses (concerns)**
Maria Rollinger maria.rollinger@mpls.k12.mn.us 612/668-3586
- **Communication with Somali families**
Zeinab Omar, Family Liaison zeinab.omar@mpls.k12.mn.us 612/668-3580
- **Community Education**
Dawn Sjoquist, Coordinator dawn.sjoquist@mpls.k12.mn.us 612/668-3585
- **ELL Program (English Language Learners / ELL teachers)**
Karen Karis karen.karis@mpls.k12.mn.us 612/668-3580
- **Health, Medications, Vaccinations, and OTC Drug Usage**
Licensed School Nurse Jeanne Freiburg or Jennie Smith, Health Assistant 612/668-3580
- **Minneapolis Kids**
Central Office 612/668-3890
- **Nutrition Services**
Patsy Solon, Food Services Coordinator 612/668-3584

IV • Getting Answers

- **Special Needs**

Start with the classroom teacher first, then Beth Conway, Social Worker 612/668-3586
beth.conway@mpls.k12.mn.us

- **Uppers Program**

Ali Rubin Forester, Uppers Program Team Leader 612/668-3580
allison.rubin@mpls.k12.mn.us

- **Uppers Program**

Ali Rubin Forester, Uppers Program Team Leader 612/668-3580
allison.rubin@mpls.k12.mn.us

- **Volunteer, Involvement, Connecting, and Navigating Barton as a Parent**

Elizabeth Christensen, Barton Open Programs Coordinator
bartonparentinvolvement@gmail.com

- **Other Concerns Large and Small**

Diane Bagley, Principal diane.bagley@mpls.k12.mn.us 612/668-3587
Maria Rollinger, Assistant Principal maria.rollinger@mpls.k12.mn.us 612-668-3603

V • Barton Dictionary

Here's a collection of all things Barton -- written by parents, for parents. Grab some tea and get comfy.

Academic Choice

A goal-centered lesson in which students are given a choice of how to learn and/or what to learn. A foundation of both Responsive Classroom and Open School.

After-School Activities

There are many opportunities for your child to get involved in fun and meaningful activities after school. Community Education classes, choir, language classes, theater, and athletics are great ways to get involved. Our Debate program runs October-March for grades 6-8. MPS offers Middle School, Co-ed Soccer (fall, grades 7-8) and Girls and Boys Basketball, separate teams (winter, grades 7-8), Contact Barton Athletic Director and Community Education Coordinator Dawn Sjoquist at dawn.sjoquist@mpls.k12.mn.us (612-668-3586) with questions.

After-School Language Classes

Languages classes are offered through Community Education for students in grades K-5. Scholarships are provided for families who qualify for free/reduced lunch. In the past, Spanish, French and Chinese have been offered.

All-School Morning Meetings

Every month or so the whole school body gathers in the DeLapp Commons to sing and share special work. These start at 8:45 a.m., so it's extra important to be in school on time or a little early. While these gatherings are designed for students and teachers/staff, parents can watch, too, if there is room, and if your child is performing in some way. Allow the kids to enter and sit first, and it's likely you'll need to stand off to the side, at the back or watch through one of the second floor windows. Parents are welcome at Morning Meetings but they should never take a seat from a student. And, as in any facility, it's important to be able to leave the area safely if needed!

Art Adventures

Art Adventures is an engaging program sponsored by the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Barton parent volunteers attend a 2.5 hour training at the MIA in October, then visit grade 3-4 classrooms with posters of art relating to a common theme, such as animals, celebrations, or relationships. Volunteers often involve the students in a hands-on project about the artwork. It concludes with a visit to the museum. A great local treasure for our kids.

Attendance

Don't forget to report your child's absence or illness. Call Jennie Smith at 612/668-3588 and be ready with the following information:

1. Child's name
2. Homeroom number or teacher's name
3. Reason for absence

If your child arrives late to school, she or he needs to sign-in at the Health Office upon arrival, as attendance information from the classroom is sent to the office early in the day.

If you are picking up your students early from school, please go directly to the Health/Attendance office to sign your student out. Jennie will call your student down for you.

Band and Strings Music Program

Barton offers an instrumental music program in strings and band for students in grades 4 and above. A limited number of students in grade 3 are also allowed to participate depending upon instrument availability and permission of the instructor. Instructors visit classrooms in the fall of each year and provide interested students with program information and sign-up forms.

Instructors offer small group classes one day a week throughout the school year. Instrumental music students are expected to practice regularly. They perform in a spring music concert for families and friends. The band and strings program is funded by donations to the Barton Foundation; this is a great example of your donations in action.

Barton Bugle

Yes, another chance for us to remind you to read the Bugle! The Bugle is Barton's weekly newsletter, distributed through an email linking you to content on the Barton website. Look for it in your inbox each week, and read it right away or you might forget. We're speaking from experience here, folks. (Or contact Tricia in the Main Office, 612/668-3597, if you need a paper copy instead of an email version.)

Reading The Bugle each week is very important as it is the main communication link between school and home. Please make time to read this email every week and refer to it often!

Barton Fund Campaign

The Barton Fund Campaign is The Barton Open School Foundation's fund drive which typically takes place in the Fall of the school year, though donations are gladly accepted year-round. It is the best way to donate money to Barton because 100% of donations go directly to the school. Visit www.bartonopen.org for more information.

Bike to School Day

Held in the spring, this is a great chance to for kids and adults alike to bring out the bikes and welcome spring.

Birthdays

Students at Barton go to the Main office on the morning of their birthdays and get the well-loved bright red "happy birthday" ribbon. Please don't bring in edible birthday treats, in accordance with MPS policy and the wishes of many Barton families.

Book Bazaar

Families clean out their shelves and donate books by the bags and boxes. The main hallway is lined with tables covered in books for all reading levels. Kids shop with their classes and go home with affordable, fun and new-to-them books. Parents can stop by and shop, too. Money raised goes to a special cause selected by the students involved. Everyone's happy!

Break (Take a Break)

When a child is showing, in a small way, that he or she is losing self-control or focus, the teacher says, "Take a Break." The child moves to a chair in the classroom, sits, takes a few breaths and then goes right back to work. It's not a punishment. It's a way to keep little behaviors from escalating into big behaviors. From, *The Responsive Classroom* practice.

Big Buddies / Little Buddies

Students in the Middles and Uppers (Big Buddies) are paired with K-2 students (Little Buddies) for project work and a chance to build special relationships across the grades. Big Buddies experience the adoration of the Little Buddies while learning how to be good role models. Little Buddies love feeling important and valued by the older Barton kids. It's a great chance for learning good citizenship — another Barton example of how to mentor and be mentored.

Blacktop

That's what everyone calls the lower playground area, next to the Barton Spirit Garden.

Buddy Room

Sometimes your child may need a time out away from the class and will be sent to a buddy room. The teacher will get your child shortly, and have a short conversation about the behavior in question.

Bulldog

Yep, our mascot is a lovable, energetic, brave and loyal bulldog. Go Barton Bulldogs!

Bus Passes

You'll need one of these if your child is riding home with a pal on another bus, and you can now submit them online **BY 12:00PM**. Find the form at our school website:

http://barton.mpls.k12.mn.us/bus_pass_form

If online isn't an option, send a note to the Main office asking for a bus pass. You'll need to provide: your student's first AND last names, destination address (if going to a friend's house, the office needs the friend's first AND last names, no nicknames), destination phone number, and your child's homeroom.

Camping and Outdoor Education

Experiencing the great outdoors and connecting with the natural world is a cherished tradition at Barton. Camping trips are held in the spring (varies by grade and year) and they are a great chance for children to learn first-hand about the environment and build confidence if the whole camping scene seems like a mystery. It's all amazingly organized. Parent volunteers are always needed for camping trips. Ask your child's teacher.

Checking Out Library Books

Students can check out library books. K-5 can have 1 book at a time and 6-8th graders can check out 2.

Classroom Placement

Each spring, teachers and administration carefully and intentionally collaborate to make the placements for the following year's classes. It's Barton school practice that decisions about class assignments are made without input from parents regarding teacher preferences. The school's overarching commitment is to create classrooms that are well-balanced according to age, gender, race, ability level and student needs. Over the summer you'll receive your child's class assignment, including the name of your child's teacher.

Community Education

Community Education involves creative and fun after-school classes for students and evening classes for adults and families. Like what? Past classes have included yoga, soccer, drawing, art, STEM, babysitting, chess, ballet, singing, theater and hip-hop dancing, to name a few. Forms come home in your child's backpack for fall, winter and spring sessions. Release Day options are provided for families throughout the year as well. Contact Barton Community Education Coordinator Dawn Sjoquist at dawn.sjoquist@mpls.k12.mn.us with questions.

Community Education Student Play

A full-length play, produced and directed by Barton parent Karen Bair and run through Community Education, is open to all Barton kids (grades 2-8) as an after-school program. Rehearsals begin in early winter, with a late winter performance.

Crossing Guard

Keeping our kids safe in the crosswalks during pick-up and drop-off times is a big job! Currently staff are our crossing guards. Crosswalks are stationed on both 43rd and Bryant and 43rd and Colfax. It is imperative that students do not cross in the middle of the street either alone or with a parent. We are hoping to begin a Barton Open Crossing Crew this school year. Tra Carter, our new Student Support Associate Educator will be the advisor and lead for students that become involved.

DeLapp Commons

The big, auditorium-like space in the center of our school used for special events and gatherings. It's named after our longtime former principal, Steve DeLapp. Good things happen here!

Directory (now online)

A sense of community is vital at Barton. MySchoolAnywhere is an online resource that provides Barton families contact information for each student. It's produced each year by parent volunteers and paid for by the Leadership Council. While the Directory is an opt-in choice for Barton families, we hope you take advantage of the community building tool! It is safe and secure and accessed by passwords. It's very simple to complete and submit. It is also printable. Use this link to provide your family's information.

<https://bartonopenschool.membershiptoolkit.com/home>

You'll want to have your family listed to facilitate arranging those play dates!

Drop Off (Morning)

Safety at Barton is a top priority, especially during arrival and departure from school. As a community, we need to follow these procedures so that safety of students are maintained with integrity at all times. Parents job are to model citizenry and safety of our students to support their growth in our democratic society.

Morning Arrival: Buses pull up and drop students off on both Bryant Ave and Colfax Ave.

Parent Drop Off: On 43rd Street ONLY and students will enter the building through door 4.

NO DROP OFF on Bryant or Colfax Avenue South.

English Language Learner Program (ELL)

An English Language Learner program is available for students of all grade levels whose second language is English and who need additional support learning to speak English.

Engagement

The “Holy Grail” of teaching and learning! It is that moment when kids are “into” their learning, eager to keep going, and excited for new challenges. Teachers use every tool and strategy they can to help your children engage with their learning. When they do, success follows.

Facebook

There are two ways to connect with Barton via Facebook:

- [Clara Barton Open School Minneapolis](#) -- This is the school-specific Facebook page to find calendar events and times, organized in a user-friendly way. For all official school-related information, please go to the official Barton website! www.barton.mpls.k12.mn.us
- [Barton Open School Parents Group](#) - All parents/guardians and staff in the Barton community are welcome to participate in this group. While not officially a school-sponsored group, this parent-administrated Facebook page is for celebrating, announcing upcoming events, and for fruitful, respectful discussion about Barton and progressive education topics.

Family Skating Night at Roller Garden

Light up the fancy globe lights! Crank up Sia! This school-wide, Barton-only skating night at Roller Garden in St. Louis Park is another cherished, annual tradition. Held in the heart of winter, it's a great chance to warm up with a few laps around the rink with your kids. (Or without your kids, if they're older and too cool for you. Ahem.)

Field Trips

Field trips are an important part of life as a Barton student. Students must have a signed permission slip or note from a parent/guardian giving permission to go on a trip. Some field trips involve fees, but students won't be denied the opportunity to participate if they can't afford the fee. Talk with your teacher if you have concerns about field trip fees. If you are able, please contribute financially to assist other families so that all children can participate. In addition, the Leadership Council allocates money to the help fund field trips, if needed.

Food

Per MPS policy, classrooms are not permitted to serve food as incentives or for personal celebrations (birthdays). Teachers may serve food as part of the curriculum, though. Let your child's teacher know about **allergies or other food-related** issues so we can keep all kids safe.

Fundraising

Really important! All money raised through our various fundraisers goes directly to the Barton Foundation, which in the past has funded arts-in-residences, and in-school artistic performances, field trips, camping trips, and the Taxi Fund, to name a few, school supplies, and classroom supplies. Read more and donate at www.bartonopen.org/barton-fund.

Foundation (aka The Fund)

The Barton School Foundation is a 501©(3) nonprofit corporation which provides financial support for the mission of Barton Open School. Money raised for the foundation is used for programs that enhance the education experience at Barton that are not funded by district or state money. The Barton Leadership Council elects the board of the Foundation and sets priorities for distribution of funds. Read more at www.bartonopen.org or email katenissa@gmail.com.

FUNdraisers!

Barton parents host various activities and gatherings to raise funds to support our school. Tickets are sold in advance and all proceeds go to the Barton Foundation. A fun way to meet people and support the school!

Free Forest School Free Forest School ignites children's innate capacity to learn through unstructured play in nature, fostering healthy development and nurturing the next generation of creative thinkers, collaborative leaders and environmental stewards. At Barton most classes in K-4 participate in this program 1 time a week at the Rose Garden/'Bowl' off Kings Highway.

Goal Setting Conference

The process of goal setting, and monitoring those goals, is an important part of the Open school program at Barton, focusing on non-competitive, student-centered evaluation. Students, parents and teachers participate together in Goal Setting Conferences at least two times (fall and winter) during the school year for students in grades K-6. Students in the Uppers Program have a Goal Setting Conference with their homeroom teachers in the fall and then additional conferences as needed during the year with other teachers. Students are asked to take an active part in identifying learning goals that are important to them academically and personally. Parent engagement is critical in the conference.

Graduation Ceremony

How do you capture all those precious years of growth in one ceremony? Enter 8th Grade Graduation. Held in the afternoon on one of the last days of school, it's a chance for families, teachers, staff and the graduates to marvel and celebrate their years of achievement and change.

Health and Meds

Any medication administered by school personnel requires a medication consent form signed by you and your child's physician and must be in a prescription bottle. The consent forms are available in the Health Office. Over the counter medications (like Tylenol or cough medicine) must be supplied from home and also require a signed medication consent form from a doctor.

Homework

Barton relies less on daily homework to show students' learning and more on ongoing and integrative ways in the classroom for students to explore a topic in-depth, to show their knowledge and foster multiple intelligences. Homework increases appropriately by grade level. An example of optional homework in first grade might be to take a walk at home and count squirrels; in fourth grade, a student may observe the moon at home; by sixth grade, a student will likely be responsible for daily math work (to be completed at home or in free choice time at school) and monthly book reports; in seventh and eighth grades daily homework is typical.

Interdisciplinary Curriculum

Lessons and activities in the classroom are sometimes organized around a central, universal theme. Teachers connect reading, math, science, social studies to that theme. Students learn the basics and how to apply them at the same time.

Kindergarten Family Dinner

This annual and cherished fall tradition links Barton kids big and small. Building community, welcoming new families, eating pizza, and watching our kindergarten students shine. Ahhh, the best. Pay it forward and volunteer at this heart-warming event when your child is no longer in kindergarten.

Kindergarten Round-up

In the spring, future Barton kindergarten kids and their families are invited to school to meet their fellow students and visit a classroom, while the parents meet in the DeLapp Commons to learn more about their new school home.

King of the Log

A Barton fundraiser held each year during the Minnesota Renaissance Festival.

Kings and Queens Day

While the 1st-8th graders travel to the Bandshell for the annual end-of-school celebration--Lake Day--the kindergarten students have a party of their own back at school. As Kings and Queens of the building, they get special sneak peaks of the older kids' classrooms and hallways. And it feels pretty special.

Lantern Walk

Once an honored tradition among certain first and second grade classrooms, this annual event is now in its second year of being a school-wide activity. The lantern walk is a way to honor the end of the light and welcome the darker days that can also provide lots of fun and fulfillment. Please join us at Farmstead park near the "bowl" and celebrate welcoming the darkness into our lives as the seasons change. Treats provided and community singing will occur. Watch the Barton bugle for confirmation of dates and times and more information about this treasured community event.

Lake Day

A day-long celebration of the school year, it's a huge hit with kids grades 1-8. (Kindergarten students get their own special day. See Kings and Queens Day.) Classes walk from Barton to the Lake Harriet Bandshell and park for a program, a picnic, and lots of fun activities for the kids. Parent volunteers are always needed to make this day a success.

Leadership Council

Barton Leadership Council is comprised of parents and staff members who meet once a month to identify school improvement priorities, guide overall staffing, program and budget decisions, and encourage broad participation from all members of the school community. Council meetings are held on one Thursday each month from ***5:00-6:00 PM*** in the Media Center. Council Meetings for 2019/20 school year: Thursday 9/19, Thursday 10/10, Thursday 11/14, Thursday 12/12, Thursday 1/9, Thursday 2/13, Thursday 3/12, Thursday 4/9, Thursday 5/14

Lowbrow Night

The Lowbrow is a scratch-made restaurant on Nicollet/43rd, close to school. Each Monday night they host a Dine Out/Give Back night, where 10% of the total proceeds go to a school or non-profit organization. A typical Lowbrow Fundraising Night earns \$400 for our school.

Lunch

Because Barton has a small kitchen and no cafeteria, K-6 students eat both breakfast and lunch in their homerooms under the supervision of their classroom teachers. In other words, teachers hang with the kids during lunch. Dare we say it's calmer than a loud and packed cafeteria? It's one more opportunity to build relationships and connect with students. The Uppers students eat at cafeteria tables in the Commons. See also Nutrition Services.

Magnet Schools

Schools that are part of the Minneapolis Public School system, but have a special emphasis (like Barton's "Open" emphasis) and generally have a wider attendance area than a community school.

Math Masters

This is a program for 5th and 6th graders who want to compete in the district Math Masters competition. Parent volunteers help make this happen. Ask your child's teacher.

MCAs

MCAs stands for Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments. They're designed to measure Minnesota students' achievement with regard to the Minnesota Academic Standard. For more information, ask Diane or Maria.

Meet Your Teacher

This event is the chance for your child (and you) to go into your child's classroom before the school year begins. Meet the teacher, drop off school supplies, and meet classmates new and old. And right after Meet Your Teacher, head outside to the Party on the Playground.

Midwest Food Connection

If your child comes home talking about eating kohlrabi or raw beets with Uli, you know the Midwest Food Connection paid a classroom visit. Barton partners with this local organization committed to educating children about natural foods, local sustainable farming, and the cultural origins of our food. Pass that plate of veggies! www.midwestfoodconnection.org

Minneapolis Kids

Minneapolis Kids after-school care program has a Barton site for a limited number of children. Many Barton students also ride the bus to Minneapolis Kids sites at other Minneapolis Public Schools. Contact the MPS Minneapolis Kids office for more information.

Morning Meeting

A daily ritual where students greet one another, share about their lives, enjoy fun activities and read a morning message together. Morning meeting meets students' needs for significance, belonging and fun, and provides practice time for social skills that lead to academic growth. It's a key part of the Responsive Classroom approach.

Multi-age Classrooms

After kindergarten, we have two grades per class at Barton, 1-2, 3-4, and 7-8. (and there are lots of advantages to this model. Each child's needs are met individually, older students show leadership and younger ones have role models. Teachers get to know their students quickly and keep them for two years. Multi-age classrooms are part of the Open School philosophy. New this year, to meet the evolving needs of 5th and 6th graders, are stand alone 5th grade classrooms and stand alone 6th grade classrooms.

Native Garden

The thoughtful, peaceful garden of native plants and grasses located on the lower level of the playground, near the Barton Spirit Garden. The garden was designed and created by students, parents and the Barton community to honor beloved 3rd-4th grade teacher Felicity Miel Crosby, and her love of teaching, nature, books and children. Take a moment to admire the heartfelt mosaic, designed by Barton kids, and check out the creative Little Free Library.

Nutrition Services

School breakfast is *free* for all students. K-6 students eat both breakfast and lunch in their homerooms under the supervision of their classroom teacher. Free and reduced-priced lunch is available for qualified families. Qualification is confidential so kids receiving free or reduced-priced lunch won't be identified in any way. Applications for free or reduced-priced lunch are available in the school office. You can pay for school meals online via the www.schoolcafe.com

MPS has made considerable improvements to their menus and offerings in recent years, with a focus on whole, fresh and locally-sourced foods. Menus can be found here:

http://nutritionservices.mpls.k12.mn.us/current_menus

Open School/Progressive Education

A school that prepares students for active participation in a democratic society, in the context of a child-centered environment and with an enduring commitment to social justice." It is in these definitions we prepare our students to actively participating in our democratic world, using a holistic approach in developing independent, creative and analytical thinkers, writers and speakers. Open schools: emphasize learning how to learn, interest-based teaching, interdisciplinary learning, project-based learning, a high level of teacher and student engagement in curriculum decision-making, authentic and meaningful parent/teacher/student partnerships, and an emphasis on social-emotional learning. Teachers go by their first names, and we have multi-age classrooms. Competition, grades and traditional testing are de-emphasized. Cooperation, mindfulness, connection, community and equity are emphasized.

Opting Out

Standardized tests are given to all MPS students. At Barton, they are seen as one measure to help parents and teachers gauge a child's learning. If you have concerns about standardized testing delivered at school, please email Diane: diane.bagley@mpls.k12.mn.us or Maria: maria.rollinger@mpls.k12.mn.us. All parents have the right to opt a child out of a test. Opt-out forms are available online at <http://rea.mpls.k12.mn.us/assessments>

PTO

Newly forming this school year Barton Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO) is comprised of parents and staff members who plan and implement community building, advocacy and fundraising activities, and encourage broad participation from all members of the school community. PTO meetings for the school year will follow the Leadership council meetings from ***6:15-7:30 PM***, one Thursday each month. Meetings are: Thursday 9/29 Thursday 10/10, Thursday 11/14, Thursday 12/12, Thursday 1/9, Thursday 2/13, Thursday 3/12, Thursday 4/9, Thursday 5/14

Parent Information Night

In early September, parents are invited to attend an evening event with an informational talk from our principal. We then go to our child's classroom and learn more about the teacher and the year's curriculum. Look in the Bugle each fall for more information.

Parent Reps

Parent Reps are volunteer parents who assist teacher with classroom communication, community building, volunteer recruitment, and supply donations.

Party on the Playground

Held directly following Meet Your Teacher, this new event is a great way to connect, or reconnect, with classmates and friends. Snow cones featuring flavors inspired by the Barton Spirit Garden (and summer!), local musicians, lots of smiles and a great way to welcome in the new school year.

Plant Sale

This is Barton's biggest fundraiser! It provides a large portion of the Barton Foundation's operating budget. Students are encouraged to sell high-quality plants (perennials, annuals, vegetables, etc.) from mid-March through mid-April, with ordered plants picked up at Barton on Mother's Day weekend. There are also cash-and-carry plants to purchase during that time (the hanging baskets and beautiful succulents always go fast). This is a great way to meet other Barton families and get involved. We need a whole lot of volunteers to make it a success.

Popcorn Fridays

A delicious project run by students, teachers and parents of ¾ classrooms. One Friday a month, children throughout the school can buy 25 cent bags of fresh-popped popcorn. The school smells great, and the kids happily crunch away.

Portfolio

A collection of significant student work that shows progress over time, the portfolio is an important assessment tool used in place of grades for K-6. Students in grades 7-8 also keep portfolios and share them during Uppers Exhibition Night. You will see your child's work at the end of each theme, and take much of the portfolio home at the end of the year. A Longitudinal Portfolio with highlights from each year is kept for each student and returned upon graduation from 8th grade, to highlight the progress made along the entire path at Barton.

Portfolio Sharing

An event held at school in which children and parents take a systematic look through the portfolio so far. Usually happens prior to a goal setting conference and at the end of the year. Also see Uppers Exhibition Night.

Recess

Barton students (K-5) get 30 minutes of recess daily, all outdoors, unless it's terribly rainy, snowy or bitterly cold. Students in grades 6-8 students get a combined lunch/recess of 30 minutes. Even on some pretty cold days, kids get out and play in the winter, so make sure your student is dressed warmly in the winter months. The recess coordinators help kids problem-solve and redirect if needed, and they also lead games and activities using the Active Recess approach. Since students go outside often in very cold weather, the school can always use donations of snowpants, jackets, hats/gloves/mittens. Please contact Elizabeth Christensen if you have things you'd like to donate to Barton. (elizabethchristensen@msn.com)

Red, black and white

Our school colors! Every few years, the school offers Barton sweatshirts and t-shirts for sale. The clothing samples are displayed in the main hallway and ordering forms are sent home with your child.

Responsive Classroom

Our approach to behavior management, academic choice and attending to our school community is based on Responsive Classroom. Learn more at www.responsiveclassroom.org

R.O.T.

Reduce Our Trash -- our organics recycling program! It's where kids sort their trash into red, green and blue bins. Ask your child or refer to the posted directions near each station. Barton kids have saved TONS of trash through this program.

School Tours

School tours are offered November - February to prospective and interested parents. Please contact the Main Office for a tour schedule if you are interested.

Screenings

Hearing, vision, scoliosis and growth screenings are done for students periodically at different ages. Parents are informed if there are any problems and are given a referral to a physician.

You can always ask the Health Office for screening at any time if you feel there may be a problem.

Security

To enter the building during the school day, enter at door # 4 (by the playground on Colfax) and check in at the Main office. All visitors must sign in at the office upon arrival and wear a visitor name tag.

Sharing

Part of Morning Meeting. Students verbally share thoughts, experiences and ideas. It's not the same as show and tell, and objects from home are usually not part of sharing. The goal of sharing is to practice important social rituals and get to know one another on a deeper level. It also gives students regular chances to listen, ask questions, show respect and interest, and speak in front of their peers.

Signal for Quiet

Speaker raises a hand and waits for quiet. A chime may be used as an auditory addition to the signal.

Specialists

Our plan this year has students seeing all five specialists once a week on the same day of the week. Students meet daily for rotations in Art (K-8), Music (K-8), Dance (7-8), Physical Education (K-8), Media and Information Technology (K-8), and Health/Movement (K-8).

Special Needs

If your student has learning difficulties, disabilities, behavioral challenges, or has speech articulation and language challenges, assessment and services are available. Contact Beth Conway, Social Worker, 668-3586.

Spirit Garden

This lovely outdoor education garden along the south side of the building was created several years ago by committed parents, named by students, and further enhanced in the 2014-15 school year with beautiful mosaics created by kids and adults in the Barton community. Its overall goal is to enhance the well-being, health and educational experience of students, families and the community at large. It's a wonderful place for hands-on learning, student curiosity and exploration. Students spend time planting, tasting, playing and caring for the garden.

Spring Festival

A volunteer run festival with food trucks, live music, and activities held on the first day of the Barton Plant Sale Pick Up Days. A wonderful way the community comes together to celebrate a great school year, during our biggest school fundraiser.

Student Author Night

You may be familiar with Goodnight Moon, In the Night Kitchen, or A Midsummer Night's Dream, but if you have not heard about Barton's Student Author Night, you're missing out on another classic! Held in the spring Student Author Night offers students of all ages an

opportunity to read from their own writing (academic, creative, accompanied by drawings, etc.) in a uniquely supportive and collaborative environment consisting of peers and parents in a small group setting. Look for information in the Bugle in the spring.

Student Teachers

Barton's "co-teachers" who are in their final phase of a teacher education program, often at Augsburg or the U of M. They work under teacher supervision, eventually co-teaching the class. They are not only an extra pair of hands; they help teachers improve their work by giving them a connection to current best practices.

Swimming

Barton students (3rd-5th grades) go swimming multiple times each school year at the Blaisdell YMCA. Students take the bus as a class, learn how to be responsible for their own swimming things and get great exercise in the process. Some proudly pass the deep-end test, while other tentative swimmers are encouraged by teachers and fellow students alike to literally jump in (safely and at their own level) and try something new or even take a lesson.

Taxi Cab Transportation Fund

Parent and family member attendance at school events is a high priority for us at Barton. The Leadership Council allocates funds each year to support a Barton School transportation account with the Minneapolis Yellow Cab Company. It's meant to help any Barton parent/family member attend school events and conferences.

If you need assistance getting to school, please contact the main office at 612/668-3580 to make arrangements for a taxi.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Events

Parents organize a winter breakfast, coffee and an end of the school year, parent volunteers put on a big breakfast spread in the Commons for teachers and staff as they wrap up for the year. There is often some form of entertainment that involves parents singing, acting and dancing, and generally making fools of themselves. All to entertain and honor our beloved teachers and staff.

Tears and Cheers

This new Barton event is held the first day of kindergarten, right after drop-off. It's a chance for parents to gather together for coffee after their children become official students, because this day definitely calls for some cheers. And there might be a few misty eyes, too.

Tears and Cheers

This new Barton event is held the first day of kindergarten, right after drop-off. It's a chance for parents to gather together for coffee after their children become official students, because this day definitely calls for some cheers. And there might be a few misty eyes, too.

Telephone Use and School Phone Policy

For emergencies only, but if you need to contact a teacher or child, call the office and leave a message for them to call you.

At Barton, we want students to learn how to use technology responsibly. We do have technology access for students available to their classroom teachers and students do not need to bring a device to school. We as a school received updated technology and any questions you may have regarding use should be a conversation with their teacher.

At Barton, we follow the district cell phone policy: • **K-5 families** need to notify and request approval by administration for any student to have their cell phone. At school the phone is the responsibility of the student and misuse will result in a family conference and possible loss of privilege. • **6-8 families** need to be aware that students may only use their cell phones before or after school. During the school day, phones should be off and locked in their lockers or off and in their pocket. Students may not use their phones during lunch and recess. This is a time of the day to enrich relationships through conversation and play.

Uppers

Our 7th and 8th grade program, still strongly grounded in Responsive Classroom techniques and Open school values. Uppers students change classrooms for each subject, choose electives, receive letter grades in their classes each semester, keep their belongings in a locker, and manage their schedules and homework in preparation for high school.

Uppers Exhibition Night

Celebration and entertainment, such as from Allison's Dance students or Flory's Spanish students, kick off the evening. Then Uppers students pair off with their families to share their portfolios.

Visiting Classrooms

Parents and families are welcome to visit classrooms at any time, but please check-in through the main office first. You'll be asked to sign-in and you'll get a visitor button to wear during your visit.

Washing Hands

Winter means piling up snow in mounds and forts, bundling up in layers upon layers, and fighting off the endless flow of germs coming home from school. Gross, we agree. Seems obvious, but have those kiddos wash hands the second they go to afterschool care, when they come home, and encourage them to wash frequently during the day. And did we mean just in winter? Heck, no. Start now. Viruses and bacteria don't care what season it is. Let's keep our kids healthy!

Weather

School will be open every school day unless there are severe weather conditions. If the school does close, announcements will be made before 7:00 AM on local radio and TV stations, and on the MPS website. Check the radio, TV or MPS website, and if there is no announcement, school is open. If weather is severe but not impassable, use your own judgment about sending your child to school.

Websites

We have two websites, one through Minneapolis Public Schools that is devoted to all things school-related, and another that is run by The Barton Foundation and is devoted to fundraising. Thanks to our webmasters for all their work!

- **Barton Open's website:** www.barton.mpls.k12.mn.us. The place to look for pictures of school events, newsletters, homework, and forms and documents that have come home but you might have lost.
- **The Barton Foundation's website:** www.bartonopen.org. The place to learn about fundraising activities, how donated dollars are spent, and how to get involved with fundraising.
- **Barton Plant Sale** has its own website for online ordering. <https://bartonplantsale.com/>

Wild Rumpus Book Fair

Barton receives 20% percentage of all sales in store credit during this fall event plus it's a fun day to connect with Barton families at a local favorite kid haunt. The Uppers Choir has performed in the past and there are treats and snacks, and don't forget all the nutty critters at the store. (We're talking about Sumo Mouse/Tilly/Pip/Mr. Skeeter, not the kids. But the argument could be made.) Teachers also post lists of books for families to buy and donate to classrooms during the sale.

Yearbook

Wonderful photos of a whole bunch of really super kids and the adults who help them learn and grow. Help recall all the great memories of being part of the Barton community. Order your yearbook early and save a little cash.

Youtube Channel

Barton life captured on video. All-school Morning Meetings, Choir performances, 8th grade graduation, video shorts from classroom projects. Spend some time here and you'll leave inspired. A thousand times better than the very best cat video, although we love those, too. <https://www.youtube.com/user/bartonopen>

Zoom

We had to have a Z. The years go by so quickly. Before you know it, high school is on the horizon. Get involved, meet and engage with this incredible group of teachers, staff, parents and students. We're glad you are here!