

Warhorse Pride

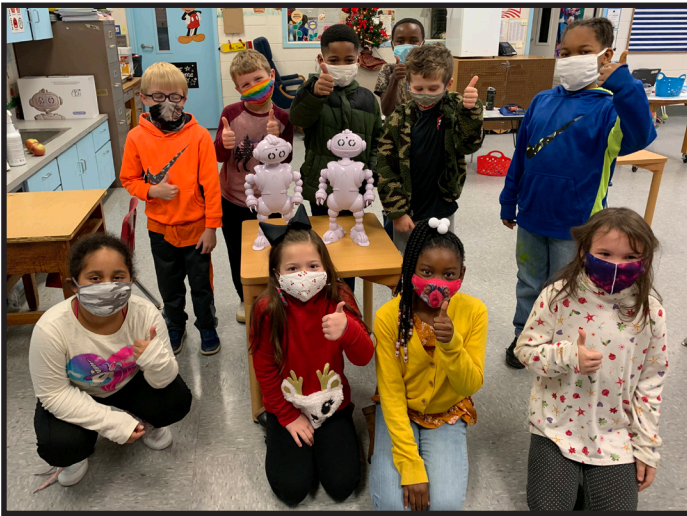
Barnwell School District 45



Parent and Community Newsletter

Winter 2021

Meet ABii, Our Newest Addition to the Second Grade Family



Barnwell School District 45 is excited to announce a partnership with Van Robotics, a South Carolina-based company leading the way in the field of artificial intelligence to enhance classroom instruction. Through this partnership, Barnwell Primary School has incorporated ABii artificial intelligence robots in every second-grade class. The district partnered with Van Robotics to be a part of their new research study with the focus on K-2 ELA instruction, which allowed some classrooms to receive ABii free as part of the research program, and the district purchased the additional robots so all second-grade classes would be able to use them. These classes are also serving as a pilot initiative for future opportunities to expand the use of ABii to other grade levels.

ABii, recently named one of Time magazine's best inventions of 2020, uses a camera to monitor student attention and then adjusts its tutoring approach to reach each individual learner. This revolutionary desktop-size robot is paired with online skills-based lessons customized to help students successfully master standards-based proficiencies. ABii also now has new capabilities to include social-emotional learning, health, and leadership lessons.

In December, all second-grade teachers trained with Wendy Wells, Chief of Educational Business for Van Robotics, and learned how to utilize the online program, as well as making ABii come alive for their students. This professional development will continue with sessions throughout the school year to expand upon how ABii is used in the classroom and to learn to better utilize reports from the online program. When asked about the training, Superintendent Stapleton said, "Her eyes lit up as ABii started engaging with the teachers in the training session. The advancements we have at our fingertips are amazing, and I left the training that day so excited for the students to have the opportunity to learn with ABii, too." After the training, the district delivered the ABii robots to the classroom as a surprise for each class, and the students were thrilled!



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"In times of adversity and change, we really discover who we are and what we're made of."

WARHORSE STRONG

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

For employment opportunities in Barnwell School District 45, please visit www.barnwell45.org.

Barnwell School District 45 Announces Website for Essential Standards Videos and Practice

Barnwell School District 45 is excited to offer instructional videos for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The videos, which were created by Barnwell District 45 curriculum coaches, focus on essential standards found in both English Language Arts and Mathematics. Each video provides a short review along with the opportunity for independent practice.

When you visit the website listed below, just make sure you are logged in using your bsd45.net email address: <https://sites.google.com/bsd45.net/essentialstandardspractice/home>. Then, you can click on the English Language Arts or Mathematics tab, followed by the specific grade level to gain access to all of the instructional videos.

You will notice that some of the videos have extra practice included in them, whereas others have a link provided below the video that will take you to a website for independent practice. After you view the video, simply click on the practice link.

If you need to be reminded of any material, it may be beneficial to look at the videos from the previous grade level. For example, if you are an eighth grader working with negative exponents, you will find it extremely helpful to work through the seventh grade video on laws of exponents. Or, if you are a fourth grader working on inferences, you may find it very helpful to work through the third grade video on supporting inferences.

Barnwell 45 Curriculum Support Coach Kelly Shealy states, "Parents, this is an awesome opportunity for your children to be able to review topics and to clear up any problem areas. Watching a short video will allow your child to process the material in a way that makes sense to them. Then, they can practice to make sure they understand, and if your child needs to go back through the material again, just replay the video as many times as needed."

To Our Warhorse Families

We need your help!

- If your child is experiencing any of the following symptoms, with or without fever of 100.4, he or she should remain home and not come to school. These symptoms include shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new or worsening cough, and loss of taste or smell. Additionally DHEC recommends testing if you or your child exhibits two or more of the following symptoms: headache, fatigue, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, muscle pain or body aches, nausea/vomiting, or diarrhea.
- If your child or anyone in your household is awaiting a COVID test result, your child should remain home until results have been determined. Upon a result, appropriate protocols should be followed if the test is positive. The best way to protect yourself and others is to stay home for 14 days if you think you've been exposed to someone who has COVID-19.
- Your child must have a mask when boarding a school bus, when entering any school or district building, and when walking the hallways or moving within the building or classrooms.
- Our schools are not administering COVID tests. If you or your child exhibit any symptoms, please find a local testing site and be tested.
- Please remember a close contact and a possible contact are different. A close contact is an individual who was within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more with an individual who has tested positive. Exposure to this includes the 48 hours prior to a positive test result or the onset of symptoms.
- If your child has been quarantined because he or she was a close contact to anyone with COVID, he or she should stay home until 14 days after last exposure and maintain social distance (at least 6 feet) from others at all times.
- If we determine any student was a close contact to a positive COVID case, that student must quarantine for the appropriate period of time. Our school nurse will notify you when the 14-day period begins and ends.
- Our schools have been revisiting all safety measures with our students throughout the school year and making sure they understand the importance of practicing those safety measures for face-to-face instruction. We have shared on several occasions during our board meetings, in messages home, and through various school or district communications in detail regarding our safety measures in place. If you have any questions about safety measures in place, please contact us. You may also visit our COVID-19 information page on the district website.
- The district updates the COVID-19 dashboard every Friday outlining any positive cases from that week. We have reminders on the page about the guidance used when reporting cases to DHEC and outlining what cases are reported to DHEC.
- We implore our families and community members to follow all of DHEC's recommendations. If you have questions, please call your child's school.

 **Healthy Warhorses**

Guinyard-Butler Middle School Named National Beta School of Distinction

National Beta is proud to announce Guinyard-Butler Middle School as a 2019-2020 National School of Distinction. This award is an honor for Beta Clubs striving towards academic achievement, exemplary character, demonstrated leadership and service to others. With an ongoing quest to instill these qualities in more students, the National Beta School of Distinction Award is designed to award those schools that show an increase in membership for the current school year.

According to Beta Club Sponsor, Heather Peters, “Junior Beta Club honors our students who have exemplary grades, but being in Junior Beta Club goes beyond academic achievement. Being a Junior Beta gives students opportunities to serve their community, gain interpersonal skills, and learn that they can make a difference in the world around them. It is a huge honor for me as the sponsor to see a student take those skills and qualities that are closely valued by Junior Beta, apply them to their lives, and use them to change the world.”

Superintendent Crissie Stapleton stated, “We are so proud of GBMS being named a National Beta Club School of Distinction and School of Merit. We thank Mrs. Heather Peters and Mr. Thomas Taylor, club sponsors, and the entire GBMS staff for supporting the success of our middle school students. Our Junior Beta Club at GBMS provides our students with unique learning experiences in order for them to achieve lifelong goals,

and we are thrilled to see the work they do.”

Award recipients received a National Beta School of Distinction banner to proudly display as a symbol of their accomplishment.

“This prestigious honor is a true indication of Guinyard-Butler Middle School’s dedication to academic excellence, leadership development and commitment to celebrating their students’ achievements,” said National Beta’s Chief Executive Officer, Bobby Hart.

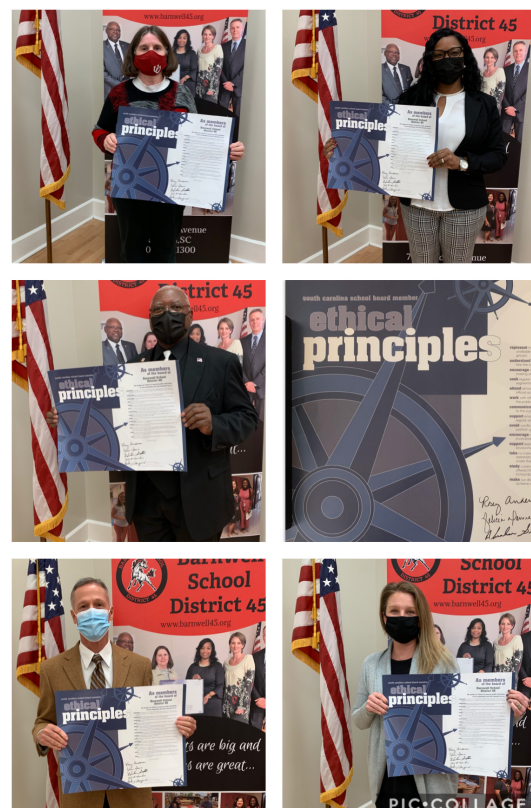
About National Beta: National Beta is the largest independent, non-profit, educational youth organization in America. Since its beginnings in 1934, National Beta has been committed to providing students with a positive experience in a supportive manner in grades 4-12. The organization recognizes outstanding achievement, promotes character and social responsibility, encourages service involvement to school and community, and fosters leadership skills.

For more information about National Beta, visit <http://www.betacub.org/>.



Ethical Board Principles

Each year the South Carolina School Board Association asks School Board members to reflect upon the Ethical Principles guiding their decisions and actions. At the January 2021 Board of Trustees meeting, Mrs. Rosey Anderson read the ethical principles, and then each school board member signed them.



Barnwell School District 45 Teacher of the Year

At the October Board of Trustees meeting, the Superintendent and Board of Trustees announced Mrs. Keri Schneider as the Barnwell School District 45 District Teacher of the Year. Each school-level Teacher of the Year was recognized and received a plaque, in addition to the gifts delivered to their homes when they were announced during the closure in the spring.

Our new District Teacher of the Year believes in the importance of promoting the health and well-being of her students and everyone around her. She has always been that person who encourages her students, friends, family, co-workers, and community members to stay positive for their personal health and the health of others. She recently said her challenge to others, including her students, is to take time and change your mindset to a positive manner or approach to see how it feels to you and how it makes others feel when they react in a positive way. According to this educator, this can make a world of difference in your life and in the lives of others. And, on behalf of the district, we agree.

During the meeting, Superintendent Stapleton said she and the Board of Trustees were thankful to have such amazing educators representing our schools as this year's Teachers of the Year. She shared with the Teachers of the Year from each school, "We are regretful we were not able to have the entire district staff celebrate with you in May and to make the announcement of the

District Teacher of the Year at that time; however, I am glad we were able to find creative ways for each school and the district to recognize you in your yard and on social media during the closure. The Board of Trustees and I are so overjoyed to celebrate our district's Teachers of the Year alongside each of you this evening. I speak on behalf of our entire district when I say how proud we are of the teachers within this room and for all of the teachers and staff members you represent."

As District Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Schneider will attend events and meetings throughout the year as a representative of the district. The State Department of Education will honor all District Teachers of the Year at an annual ceremony where the new State Teacher of the Year will be announced.



Congratulations to Our Golden Apple Award Winners!



Jared Thrasher - BES



Susan Gardner - BES



Paige Black - BPS



If you did not see their segments on the news, you may access them on the WJBF website under the Community tab.

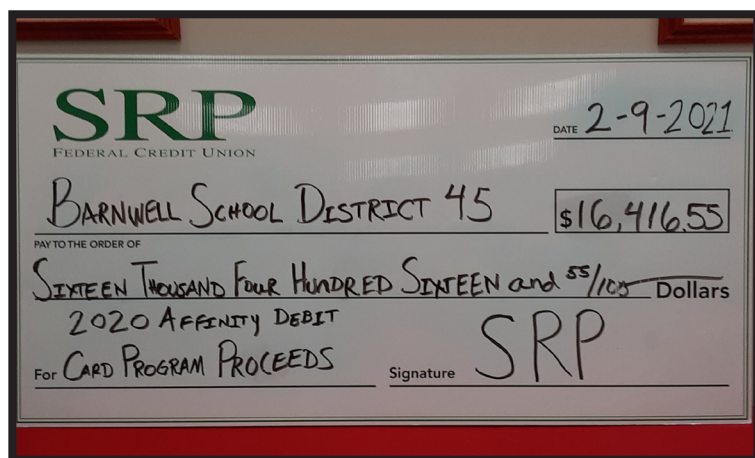
SRP Partnership

The district thanks SRP for their continued partnership with our Warhorse Debit Card. To date, Barnwell School District 45 has received \$16,416.55. This money is allocated for Barnwell High School, per the Affinity Debit Card program's guidelines. BHS is currently using these funds to purchase band equipment for our Scarlet Knights.

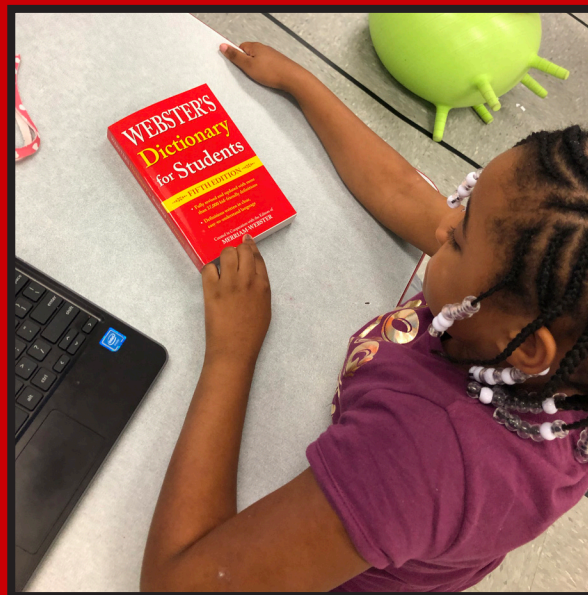
Our district is extremely grateful to SRP for their continued partnership and support. Their commitment to giving back to the communities they serve has had such a great impact on our district, especially Barnwell High School. It is a wonderful example of our community and stakeholders working together for the betterment of our schools and district. These are the types of partnerships we value and seek to create.

SRP's Affinity Debit Card program shows their commitment to community and education. The funding they provide our high school through their debit card program allows Barnwell High School the flexibility to provide for the needs of different programs within the school.

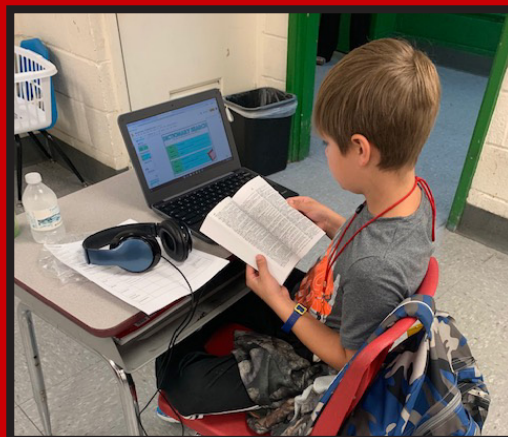
We are so thankful for our partnership with the SRP Credit Union. From the design of the Barnwell Warhorse Debit Card to the financial literacy opportunities available to our students, the SRP Credit Union has gone above and beyond their financial commitment to positively impacting the educational community.



Rotary Club of Barnwell County Delivers Dictionaries to Barnwell 45's Third Graders



We would like to thank the Rotary Club of Barnwell County for their generous support. Each year Rotary members visit our 3rd grade classrooms, but this year they shared their message virtually with our students and sent the dictionaries to our primary school for our staff to hand out to students. Every 3rd grader at Barnwell Primary School received a dictionary thanks to Rotary's community service efforts!



Marine Corps League Leadership Awards Barnwell High Students



The Marine Corps League awarded two Barnwell High School students the Marine Corps League Leadership award. Noah Balz, was recognized as the award winner as a junior, and Kari Branch was recognized as the senior scholarship winner of \$500. In order to be recognized for the Senior award, cadets had to be in the top 25 percent of

their class academically. They also had to demonstrate outstanding qualities in military leadership, discipline, character and citizenship. The requirements for the Junior award specified that cadets had to exhibit the highest standards of leadership bearing and excellence.

Kari Branch is currently attending Charleston Southern University, and Noah Balz continues to serve the JROTC Warhorse Battalion.

Senior Army Instructor at Barnwell High School, Jeffrey Gor-

don, stated, "Both Kari Branch and Noah Balz demonstrated remarkable leadership and character values that define the mission of the JROTC program and exhibited excellent courage and candor for other cadets to emulate throughout their JROTC careers. They made a profound impact on the cadets they were charged to lead and a legacy that will thrive many years after their graduation from BHS. SFC Smith and I are proud to have taught them over the past three to four years and they will be sorely missed by us and the cadets of the JROTC Warhorse Battalion."

Superintendent Stapleton stated, "We are so proud of Kari and Noah for being recognized by the Marine Corps League. Our district is so fortunate to have a strong JROTC program at Barnwell High School, and we look forward to their continued success."

In the picture to the left, Noah Balz accepts his award. To the right, Kari Branch's father accepts the award on her behalf.



Annual Canned Food Drive at Barnwell School District 45

Barnwell School District 45 is proud to announce the success of their annual canned food drive. This year, BHS Student Council and sponsor of the drive, Lisa Wyndham, decided to do a District 45 School Competition in order to contribute more to the community. Each school collected canned foods and non-perishable food items. With every school having a different number of faculty, staff and students, the winner was determined by calculating a ratio of the items per person (total donated items/total people in school which included faculty, staff, and students) to ensure the competition was fair to all.

The school donating the highest ratio was declared to be Barnwell Elementary School with over 3,000 cans collected. Barnwell Primary School came in second place collecting 420 cans, Guinyard-Butler Middle School came in third collecting 382 cans and Barnwell High School came in fourth collecting 182 cans. Due to the success of the drive, Barnwell School District 45 donated to two different organizations. The first half of canned goods was donated to First Baptist Church in Barnwell. It took many loads to fill the trailers and two vehicles to make the delivery. The contact at First Baptist, Mrs. Still, was nearly in tears when she was notified of the donation and was extremely appreciative. The second half of canned goods was donated to Shrub Branch Church in Barnwell, and they were also very appreciative and wanted to make sure everyone knew how thankful they were to

receive the gift.

Superintendent Crissie Stapleton rewarded Barnwell Elementary School for all of their hard work with a grand prize of two coupons that can be used until July 2021 at each student's leisure. One coupon was for a one topping personal pan pizza from the local Pizza Hut in Barnwell and the other was a cupcake or cookie from Hansel and Gretel's Bakery in Barnwell. Superintendent Stapleton stated, "It is always so encouraging to see our students contributing to a great cause and positively impacting the community around them. I thank the BHS Student Council, along with their sponsor Mrs. Wyndham, for fostering partnerships and projects to allow us to give back to the community. It is so heartwarming to see compassion in action!"



WARHORSE ATHLETICS



Congratulations to Marcus Robinson for signing to play football at Erskine College!



Congratulations to Russell Branch for joining the 1,000-point club! He accomplished the feat against Pelion High School earlier in the basketball season.



Congratulations to Maleah Williams for joining the 1,000-point club! She accomplished the feat against Edisto High School during the basketball season.

Barnwell High School Cheerleaders Honored by Board



To Our Families and Community Members

We at Barnwell School District 45 could not be successful without the support of our community and all of you. We are so appreciative, and from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you!

March 16, 2020 was a day that brought about so many changes for our schools across the state. As I have reflected upon what has happened since our first day of school closure a year ago, I am in awe of our staff and what they have continued to do to provide for our students and to support our families. We thank you for working alongside us and helping support the many safety measures we have put into place. It has not been easy, and we talked many times about the new challenges we would face. Everyone working together made it happen.

I was quoted in the newspaper in August saying, "In a time of uncertainty, one thing is for certain: we have an incredible community and wonderfully supportive businesses, organizations, and stakeholders. We feel our Barnwell community has been supporting our school families with well-wishes, thoughts, and prayers. We are grateful to be in Barnwell, and we are fortunate

we have local businesses, organizations, and individuals who care so deeply about our school district and our children." How true this is! We have seen, over the past year, our community, organizations, BHS alumni classes, churches, and more groups reach out to the district and provide support in so many ways.

To our families and community, thank you for working with us to provide for our children's needs. You have always been our partners in educating your children, and that has become so much stronger throughout the uncertain times we have faced with the pandemic. While no one ever could have imagined this is how the last year would have gone and we wish with all our hearts that our world had not faced what it has had to endure, it is so uplifting to see how our staff and community came together during this time.

Thank you for your support!

Crissie Stapleton

Superintendent, Barnwell School District 45

WARHORSE STRONG

