

**Barnstead Adventure Zone Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

The following are answers to the most commonly asked questions regarding the program and its impact to the school and town.  For additional questions, please contact the Program Director at 603-269-5161 ext 571.

**ABOUT ENROLLMENT**

**Can I still apply for the program?**Yes.  Applications are at BES office and can be submitted there.

**How do I apply?**Pick up an application at the BES office.  The application is also where you indicate which session you would like to enroll your student in.

**What is a “session”?**A session is a six-week block of time in which a calendar of activities is developed and offered to the students.  It is the goal of the project to change the programming activities schedule every six weeks to keep the offerings fresh and interesting to the students.

**Is there currently a waiting list?**Yes.  However we encourage applications.  Enrollment will NOT occur on a first come first serve basis, but rather will be discretionary in nature based on the goals of the grant.  If there are any extenuating circumstances you would like the Director to be aware of relating to your student's need for the program, please contact her.

**Are there a maximum number of students that can be enrolled?**No.  However, the program must adhere to an adult to student ratio.  The number of slots open is truly based on the number of volunteers and staff participating.

**If my student isn’t enrolled during a session, could they be accepted at the next session?**Yes.  It’s possible that students who are currently enrolled drop out or students only attend on certain days.  The program is also working hard at expanding to allow more students to access the program through the development of volunteer recruitment.

**Do students have to stay until 6pm?**No.

**Do students have to attend 5 days a week?**No.

**Do students have to be enrolled every 6 weeks?**No.   Once enrolled, you do not have to re-enroll again during the current school year.  Summer enrollment procedures and criteria have not yet been established.

**Is BAZ open during school vacations and holidays?**No. The programs runs for those days when we have school (180 days) which includes Early Release days, in most case. BAZ will also be closed in the case of inclement weather or for emergency reasons. If After School activities such as sports are cancelled, BAZ will be as well. You will receive notice of this through the Alert Now System.

**Once enrolled, do students have a guaranteed spot?**  No.  BAZ has adopted the BES behavior policy and serious infractions may lead to removal from the program.

**What is the cost of the program?**The program is free for students that participate in the free hot lunch program. Reduced lunch students pay $120 every six weeks. Otherwise, it is $300 every six weeks.

**Could the cost of the program increase?**  Yes.  As the program continues, enrollment fees may increase to provide additional funding.

**ABOUT BAZ**

**What is the Barnstead Adventure Zone (BAZ)?**An educational community based program funded by 21st Century Community Learning Center grant awarded to the community for a five year period from the New Hampshire Department of Education.  The educational community based program provides homework help, academic performance support and enrichment activities geared toward skill development and advancement of the students of Barnstead.  The program has three sites: BES, Oscar Foss Library and the Big River Parks and Recreation area.  The program promotes engagement from the community, academic and social skills, and support for school goals.

**How was BAZ created?**Using community survey results, a grant application was written by a committee of teachers, parents, administrators, and representatives from community stakeholder groups who are partners in the project, including: the Barnstead Parks and Recreation Committee and the Oscar Foss Memorial Library. Guidance was provided voluntarily by a professional grant writer in the community, and the program is modeled after a successful 21st Century after-school program in Seabrook called the Seabrook Adventure Zone (SAZ).  This is a five year award.

**Who’s in charge of BAZ?**The Program Director, Jean Richards. Jean is mentored and supported by NH Department of Education, the BES school administration, and the BAZ Advisory Board.  The BAZ Advisory Board consists of members from key community stakeholder groups and currently includes a member from the Barnstead Parks and Recreation Committee, a member from the Oscar Foss Memorial Library, parents, the grant writer, BES teachers and BES Administrators. SAU 86 and the Barnstead School District have oversight of the award and have fiscal responsibility.

**Are there paid program positions?**The BAZ program positions of Director, Site Coordinators and Skill Development Leaders are paid positions.  Barnstead teachers who participate beyond 3:10pm are paid.  Advisory Board members are not paid for their time.

**Are there volunteer positions?  YES!** To be successful, the program design includes development of a robust volunteer program component.  Volunteers are needed to:  assist with homework, assist with established activities, lead new activities, chaperone field trips, assist with volunteer recruiting, and to conduct a multitude of other supportive tasks that will help with BAZ program delivery and promotion.   We need a large number of volunteers to grow BAZ into a community HUB of activity for the town’s students and families.  If you have a special interest area you would like to help with, please contact the BAZ Director, Jean Richards.  Your volunteer efforts are needed and appreciated!  Please note all volunteers require a background check.

**ABOUT THE GRANT AND TAXES**

**What is a grant?**  A grant is non-repayable monies awarded by state, federal, or corporate funding sources.  Barnstead was awarded a federal grant for the purpose of developing and implementing a 21st Century Community Learning Center.

**What does the grant say?**The grant states that our town of Barnstead meets a very specific criteria and level of need, and that the program would aim to serve and support youth and families with the goal of improving overall school academics, attendance, and level of student achievement.   The grant award is based on $135,000 per year, with 100% funded in Years 1, 2 & 3; 85% funded in Year 4, and 65% funded in Year 5.  (Annual renewal of the grant is supported by NHDOE for the 5 year grant period, assuming the project meets NH-DOE expectations).  The project includes a school year component (covering all 180 school days, including early dismissals), as well as a separate 4-week summer program component each year.

**Who wrote the grant?** A grant development team was formed and worked for several months developing and writing the proposal which was submitted on March 14th, 2014 to the New Hampshire Department of Education; with funding awarded in mid-May.  (Most members of the development team transitioned to the current BAZ advisory board.)

**Is BAZ currently funded by this town’s taxpayers?**No.

**Will taxpayers fund BAZ in the future?**The grant requires that we create a plan for sustainability. As the BAZ program grows and offers students and families more enrichment opportunities,  increases academic achievement, and engages community members in that growth; taxpayers may wish to start contributing to the success of the program as grant funds decrease over the course of the five years. There will continue to be strong effort on the part of the BAZ program to secure other sources of funding and continue the growth of volunteer support.

**Was the enrollment criterion that was used in accordance with the grant?**Yes*.* However, we recognize that the enrollment process initially utilized needed a lot of improvement moving forward, to ensure that recruitment and enrollment supports all goals of the grant.

**Could we lose the grant?** Yes.   While we do not need to reapply during the 5 year grant period, Years 2 through 5 funding will be contingent upon approved federal appropriations for those fiscal years, as well as the grant recipient’s compliance with all program and fiscal requirements.   The NH Department of Education and the BES Administrationwill provide oversight and support to ensure compliance and success.  Barnstead will need to reapply in five years unless we fund it entirely through local funds (at the end of the five year period).

**What’s the Advisory Board?**The Advisory Board is a team of school staff, administrators, and parents who volunteer their time for the greater good of the school, community, and the after school program. The Advisory Board provides advice, support, and guidance throughout the entire rollout, development, and maintenance of BAZ to steer BAZ to success

**OTHER QUESTIONS**

**Can we have the YMCA Program come back to the school until BAZ can include more children?**No. We have only so much space in the building and cannot manage multiple programs, activities, and events beyond what we currently have.

**What is School Messenger?**School Messenger is an automated system that sends mass communications to the email addresses and phone numbers provided by parents/guardians to the school.

**Some people didn’t get a School Messenger Message.  Why?**It’s possible the school doesn’t have the information or it’s incorrect; parent information provided at the beginning of each year is input into our database; if that changes and parents don’t notify us, then they may not receive the automated calls, texts, and emails.

**Will BES have other support programs?**BES is continuing to explore **starting** other programs such as homework club and BASE.

**How do I volunteer?**Contact the program director, Jean Richards at 603-269-5161 ext 571. There is a vast array of volunteer opportunities available to parents, grandparents, HS students, churches, local organizations, and all individuals interested in seeing the BAZ program be successful.  Please note that all volunteers must undergo criminal background checks, in accordance with school policy.

**Can I join the Advisory Board?**Yes

**How do I get more information?**  Contact the program director, Jean Richards at 603-269-5161 ext 571.

**I have an idea.  Who do I tell?**  Contact the program director, Jean Richards at 603-269-5161 ext 571.