



## BARR Parent/Caregiver Handout

### What is BARR?

BARR — Building Assets, Reducing Risks — is an evidence-based model that provides our school with a strength-based comprehensive approach to meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of all students. Through BARR, we work to harness the power of relationships and data to remove both academic and non-academic barriers to learning and ensure that no student is invisible.

At Eisenhower, all 9th grade students are grouped into block teams with a common English, Social Studies and Science teacher. This teacher team meets throughout the week to monitor student progress, identify strengths and to consider ways to support and challenge all block students. Each week, our 9th grade assigned Counselors, Intervention Resource Officers, BARR administrator and BARR Coordinator meet with teacher teams to offer additional support for students and help provide recognition for students' unique strengths and talents.

### THE BARR MODEL



Focus on the whole student



Hold regular meetings of the cohort teacher teams



Provide professional development for teachers, counselors, and administrators



Conduct risk review meetings



Use BARR's I-Time Curriculum to foster a climate for learning



Engage families in student learning



Create cohorts of students



Engage administrators

All 9th grade students are assigned an adviser who is a part of the 9th grade BARR staff. The adviser will serve as the point person to monitor student progress and communicate with the student, their family and the rest of the BARR team.

BARR is the framework that provides us the opportunity to get to know each of our student's strengths and interests during a critical transition time in their education. As educators, we leverage the knowledge we gain through relationship building and I-Time in order to better engage and challenge our students.

To learn more about BARR, visit [www.barrcenter.org](http://www.barrcenter.org).

**If you have questions or want more information about BARR at Eisenhower, please contact BARR Coordinator Angel Arratia, [aarratia@rialto.k12.ca.us](mailto:aarratia@rialto.k12.ca.us), 909 820-7777 EXT. 2178**

Same Students. Same Teachers. **Better Results.**

[www.BARRcenter.org](http://www.BARRcenter.org)



### **What are these I-Time lessons my student talks about?**

Once a week, one of the block teachers will facilitate an I-Time lesson. The goal of I-Time is to help strengthen student-to-student and staff-to-student relationships, and to build classroom community. Important topics they will explore together: building community, stress management, bullying and substance use awareness.

### **How does BARR benefit my student?**

BARR educators focus on your child as more than just a learner – but work to understand them as a whole child. They are trained to use strength-based techniques to build positive relationships and support each student toward success in the classroom and beyond. BARR staff are also provided with ongoing professional development on the BARR model and on topics that are relevant to our students including interdisciplinary planning and teaching, equity, substance use and mental health awareness.

The model has a 20-year track record of student success and has been proven to drive significant improvements in school climate measures, course credits earned, grade point averages, and standardized test scores; narrowed opportunity gaps; and decreases in failure rates, suspensions, and absenteeism.

### **What they're saying**

BARR, to me, is the program that is there for you. They're watching if you need help. If you're falling, they'll help to try to catch you.

*Jonny, 9th grade BARR student*

"From a parent perspective, we get to see that the teachers are really connecting with the students... They take an interest in students above and beyond academics. To me, that's what makes it - when my kids come home and they are so excited because a teacher gave them a nickname. From then on, math is awesome, and they are motivated." - Carrie, Parent, St. Louis Park, MN

*Carrie, BARR parent*

"Grades are a good indicator of how a student is doing, but if you just look at grades, you miss a lot of things: social changes, friend-group changes, attendance, health, all of a sudden a student is getting too skinny ... It's like a puzzle, and everybody holds a piece of the puzzle, so when we are all together, we can see the whole kid."

*Janice, BARR educator*