

Barry Blackburn

Barry Blackburn is proud to be a product of Okaloosa County schools. Here he attended Plew Elementary School, Ruckel Middle School, and Niceville High school.

Blackburn earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from the University of South Alabama and a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of West Florida. He has been an educator for over 27 years. During that time, he has been the music teacher at Valpariso Elementary School, Baker School, and Plew Elementary School. Blackburn has also been an administrator and Principal in Okaloosa County. He served as the administrator of Okaloosa Online and Florida Virtual school, Assistant Principal at Kenwood and Northwood Elementary schools, and was Principal at Richburg School, Emerald Coast Career Institute North, and the Northwest Florida Ballet Académie. While principal of the Northwest Florida Ballet Académie, Blackburn also served as the district's county Fine Arts Coordinator. While in this capacity he secured several grants for music and art education programs and was instrumental in helping establish Carnegie Hall Link-up program in Okaloosa County. He also has worked as a consultant for Florida State University College of Education. In 2014 he returned to the classroom and his true passion of sharing the love of music with his students and community. He currently is the music teacher at Bluewater Elementary School.

Outside of the classroom Blackburn has performed with multiple choirs throughout the area including the Biloxi Symphony, Mobile Symphony Chorus, Okaloosa Chamber singers, and the Phyllis Merritt Singers. He has been the music director and worship leader at Rosemont Baptist Church and First Baptist Church of Destin.