

June 1, 2021

Dear Berlin Brothersvalley Families,

The challenges we faced as a learning community required all of us to work together for the benefit of our children. We have done very well thanks to everyone working together for the health and safety of all. Our elementary and middle school students have been in person 92% of the time and our high school students have been face to face 90% of the time. Our year has been difficult but successful. For the most part, our students have been able to engage in their activities with modifications and with few disruptions.

Virtual/Remote Learning

Our students and staff are quite proficient in using Schoology and technology to engage in remote learning activities if required. Our goal is to be in person but this option provides flexibility in delivering instruction if required to leave our buildings. We will continue to grow in the integration of technology for learning each year.

Mitigation Strategies

Masks/face shields, social distancing, hygiene, and individual monitoring of health were effective methods for reducing the spread of the virus (and the flu) in our schools. In fact, we still have no direct evidence of spread being caused by our face-to-face instructional model. Indicators show that schools, when compared to most other areas in our community, effectively mitigated the spread of the virus.

Delivery Model Pivot

A guiding principle of our plan from the beginning was to have the ability to pivot our delivery model when circumstances warrant such a change. We continue to monitor cases of COVID-19 in consultation with medical professionals, including the Department of Health. If our decision can be made on a building by building basis we will make that distinction in moving to remote learning.

I want to assure you; we monitor cases on an hour by hour basis in each of our buildings. We will continue to consult with medical professionals on the criteria used to make decisions about the delivery model in each individual building and grade levels. Our approach is a measured effort that uses what we continue to learn about the virus and how it spreads while honoring the partnerships we have as a learning community.

Have a safe and wonderful summer!