

BBSD Frequently Asked Questions
June 1, 2021

How did the District fare over the 2020-2021 school year in terms of in person vs. remote learning instruction?

Berlin Brothersvalley School District was able to stay with in person instruction for most of the school year. As of the last day of school, May 28, 2021 our elementary and middle school students were in person 92% of the year. Our high school students were in person 90% of the year. We were able to have this success due to the cooperation of students, parents, and staff throughout this difficult year. While there are many different schools of thought regarding health and safety guidelines from the State, we followed the guidance to wear masks/face coverings, socially distance, follow recommended hygiene practices, and monitored the health of family and friends. The Berlin Brothersvalley School District and community came together to work in the best interest of student safety and learning!

What is the status of the technology which was provided for each student in the district?

All students in grades K-12 in the Berlin Brothersvalley School District were assigned a learning device to assist both in and out of school. While we believe that in person learning is best for students, we are prepared to deliver virtual/remote learning whenever we need to leave our buildings in the future for any situation. We also used a learning management program called Schoology which assisted students and parents navigate not only remote learning but in person learning as well. Students devices have been collected for the summer and will be distributed to students when they return for the 2021-2022 school year.

We have seen a decrease in the COVID virus in the county and in our school district over the past several weeks of school. What does this mean for our return to school in August?

We will monitor the COVID situation over the summer and continue to rely on health professionals to provide guidance and recommendations if there is an increase in cases. Our goal is to open as “normally” as possible while still utilizing some basic safety and sanitation processes for classrooms and our facilities in general.

What should parents know about Schoology in order to maximize learning whether in person or virtually?

Our teachers have utilized Schoology to manage the learning process throughout the school year. We will continue to enhance our knowledge and use of this learning management system and be ready to address any remote learning time required to maintain instruction without a break in learning.

How will the district handle COVID-19 cases when reported over the summer and when we start the 2021-2022 school year?

The Department of Health (DOH) or County/Municipal Health Departments (CMHD) will notify the school immediately upon learning that a person with a confirmed case or probable case of COVID-19 was present at the school, school event, or community function while infectious. A school team including Mrs. Roxanna Ritchey, School Nurse and administrators will work with DOH or CMHD staff on risk assessment, isolation and quarantine recommendations and other infection control recommendations. The district will take every measure to maintain the confidentiality of the affected individuals.

Will school be cancelled for snow or other emergency facility closures in the future?

No. We are able to continue the learning process by virtual or remote learning methods. We will not close schools for these reasons. We closed our buildings on January 26, February 1 and February 3 due to weather conditions. We were able to continue learning using our Schoology learning platform and technology. The use of our remote learning process for these 3 days meant that we did not shorten any scheduled holidays nor need to extend the school year to meet the 180 day requirement for students. Remote learning allowed students to continue their studies while at home and allowed us to follow our school calendar without taking away holiday time or extending the school year beyond May 28, 2021. We will continue to utilize our five (5) Flexible Instruction Days (FID) for any snow or other emergency closings for the 2021-2022 school year.

What is the status of summer learning for students who wish to engage in activities with teachers?

We are in the process of developing Summer Learning Academies (SLAs) which will provide engaging and enjoyable learning opportunities for students. The Federal ESSER ARP grant will provide funding for these types of programs for the summers of 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024. We are seeking input from the learning community to determine the best ways to utilize this funding.

We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer!