

BBSD Frequently Asked Questions
March 18, 2021

What is the current status of school and in person instruction?

Berlin Brothersvalley School District has continued to enjoy in person instruction. As of March 18, 2021, our elementary and middle school students have been in person for 112 days and our high school students have been in person for 104 days. We have 54 school days remaining until the last day of school on Friday, May 28. It is up to everyone to wear masks/face coverings, socially distance, follow recommended hygiene practices, and monitor the health of all family and friends carefully to reduce exposure to COVID-19. Students and staff who come to school and expose others to COVID will reduce our ability to stay in our facilities for in person instruction.

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

On December 31, we received our order of Chromebooks which were needed to provide all students in grades 3-8 with a device. Our staff worked diligently to prepare the Chromebooks for distribution and by Friday, January 8, all Chromebooks were distributed and ready for student use. All students in grades K-12 in the Berlin Brothersvalley School District now have a learning device to assist both in and out of school. While we believe that in person learning is best for students, we are more prepared to deliver virtual/remote learning should we need to leave our buildings in the future. Our teachers are now able to maximize the use of Schoology in the learning process.

We have seen an increase in the COVID virus in the county and in our school district. How will this impact teaching and learning if we need to go virtual?

If the district buildings are closed for any reason, instruction will continue at home using technology and our new learning management system, Schoology, to manage the learning environment for students and parents. Based on the technology survey we conducted, 80% of our students/families are able to access their instruction using technology and internet service at their homes with no issues. We are working to assist the remaining 20% with more reliable broadband services to be able to function from home. If needed, we will provide learning packets similar to what we did during marking period four last year to continue instruction. Our goal is to stay in our buildings for instruction for the entire school year but be prepared for any situation which might require remote learning.

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

Our teachers have been utilizing Schoology to manage the learning process while in school which will extend to out of school instruction if needed. Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2

students have been using their iPads and Schoology during the entire first semester. Teachers have been providing parents with information to manage their children's learning both in school and at home. Students in grades 3-12 all have Chromebooks and can effectively utilize Schoology to manage student learning in school and at home.

Important: Parents should contact teachers for information regarding Schoology and how to maximize its potential to manage the learning environment. Communication is critical to success!!

How does the district handle COVID-19 cases when reported?

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. Virtual learning allows students to continue their studies while at home and allows us to follow our school calendar without taking away holiday time or extending the school year beyond May 28, 2021.

What are the main things we should do to be able to stay in school for in person instruction?

1. Wash your hands and sanitize frequently.
2. Wear a face covering which covers your mouth and nose.
3. Maintain a safe distance from others (social distancing)
4. Stay at home if you are ill and/or have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher.
5. Bring labeled bottled water in order to fill up from water stations.

***If you or anyone in your household is tested for COVID-19, then children in the home should not be sent to school until the results of the test are received.**