

Dear Students, Families, and Staff of the Berlin Brothersvalley School District,

As the warm days of summer gradually transition into the vibrant colors of autumn, it is with great excitement and enthusiasm that we welcome you back to the 2024-2025 school year! The Berlin Brothersvalley School District has always stood as a beacon of education and community, and we are thrilled to embark on another journey of learning, growth, and discovery together.

To our returning students and families, we extend a heartfelt welcome back. Your commitment to education and the sense of belonging you bring to our halls enrich our school community in immeasurable ways. We look forward to building upon the relationships and achievements of the past, creating a tapestry of experiences that will shape your future in remarkable ways.

For our new students and families, we extend a special welcome. We understand that stepping into a new environment can be both exciting and nerve-wracking. Rest assured that the Berlin Brothersvalley School District is more than just a place of learning – it is a supportive and nurturing community. We can't wait to get to know you and help you flourish.

As we embark on this new academic year, we are committed to continually providing an exceptional educational experience that fosters creativity, critical thinking, and personal growth. Our dedicated educators have been hard at work preparing engaging lessons and meaningful experiences that will challenge and inspire you. We encourage you to approach each day with curiosity and a willingness to embrace new challenges, for it is through these challenges that we truly grow.

This is also a time of celebration! This past year, the High School was ranked #1 school in Somerset County and 112<sup>th</sup> out of 740 high schools in the state by US News and World Reports! I believe that this can be attributed to a few things. One, students and parents in our school community value education. Two, our school staff in all three buildings are dedicated to their craft and that shows in the teaching that occurs within their classrooms.

To our families, we appreciate this partnership and your unwavering support. Your involvement plays a pivotal role in the success of our students, and we invite you to stay engaged in your child's educational journey. Whether through volunteering, attending school events, or simply having conversations about their day, your presence matters.

Let us remember that education is not just about books and exams; it's about fostering a sense of belonging, developing lifelong friendships, and preparing for the journey ahead. Together, we will create a safe and inclusive environment where everyone can thrive.

In closing, let us embrace the possibilities that a new school year brings. Let us learn from one another, support each other, and celebrate each milestone achieved along the way.

Thomas A. Podpora, Superintendent