

Please list any other needs/initiatives you believe would improve the school district. (Teaching and Learning, Facilities, Technology, Student Services, Extracurricular Programs, Other.)

All faculty should adhere and enforce student codes.
Teaching and Learning: Certified teachers/substitutes and not just anyone who has a Bachelors Degree in any major: REAL Teachers with education degrees, actually text books and teaching not use your chrome book or watch this video, teach what they need to learn to succeed and become well rounded people not just what is going to be on the PSSA tests.
More academic programs and opportunities. More foreign languages. More programs for interventions, giftedness, and content acceleration.
AUDITORIUM SOUND SYSTEM UPDATE! PLEASE!!
Our current system is such an embarrassment to our community! It is such a shame that our very talented students/staff work so hard for so long and cannot adequately share their talents!! It is such a need!! Stop throwing so much money at athletics and start sharing it with the arts!
Improve sound system in auditorium
Stronger career classes.
I think our building is going down hill quickly and time to maintain it. Ceiling tiles are showing water leaks, bathrooms are old with tile falling off walls in certain areas, AC upgrades for classrooms as august and September seem to be hotter than July, Walls are cracking etc.
The building itself is in need of repairs.
More hands on with the kids. Teach the basics of life. Balancing check book, give the kids a book register so they can track their lunch money. Make it a math grade for the yr. Home ex. Kids need to get their noses out of a phone, iPad ect. They need to learn to write not print. How are they going to sign a legal document. If they can't write in cursive.
Stricter discipline policy for students. Students need to realize there are rules and consequences when the rules are broken.
Initiate more clubs for students but finding a time allowing them to meet with advisors
Teaching Spanish (or other languages) at a younger age, extra money to fund student supplies at the beginning of the year, faster internet throughout the district, yearly stipend toward educational programs to aid student learning (ex. Teachers Pay Teachers).

The intercom system is often difficult to hear and experiences differ from room-to-room.

I believe our high school gym needs improvements. It is used extensively. Technology needs to be updated regularly. Student services need to be increased. So many of our students are struggling with family issues and mental health.

smaller class sizes in elementary

Air conditioning in elementary.

Professional development opportunities for teachers/More opportunities for parents to volunteer in the elementary school to take the stress of planning activities/events off the teachers

You can ask parents and students for their input, but what really matters is what the teachers think. If there are concerns, ask the teachers. The parents and community should not have the opportunity to micromanage the daily functions of the school and its teachers.

Just as long as there is nothing to do with CRT or things like that it will be fine. Just do not want this small area to cave into the world views. Small areas are lucky to have stayed out as long as they could

Academic programs, after school sessions for help with homework and learning, parent meetings to promote technology understanding

Train the crossing guards, especially those who are in the upper Elementary parking. Pickup and dropoff is still unsafe. Also, at dismissal, walkers should walk down the street that is closed to traffic during school hours (Aspen St) to the sidewalk and not down Stadium St or 10th Avenue. I have almost hit and witnessed other drivers almost hit children who run out in front of drivers to cross over to 10th Ave.

“Teaching and Learning” pretty well covers the needs/initiatives of our school. Consistently applied policies and limited distractions from technology would support the students, teachers, and administrators in the efforts.

Upgrade to the softball field and the gym making them the correct sizes so our teams can utilize their home court/field advantages thru the playoffs. There is more to Berlin than Football.

please don't allow teachers to put a Christian (or any other religion) spin on science.

We need basic life skill classes (how to take care of a car, personal finances, cooking). Make sure teachers are up to date on technology but also engage and know how to use it.

A/C

Activities Outside Classrooms - Community Garden, Picking up litter, planting flowers

Incorporate a finance class so kids can be prepared to manage/handle their money. This would be beneficial even in middle school/Jr high

Updated textbooks (a classroom-size set of 25-30 would be sufficient and would not need to go home with students) in some subjects to use as a reference for students as BBSD responds to changing state academic standards.

Double check for proper ventilation in all classrooms/student areas.

There seemed to be a lot more difficulties with students and their locker combinations this year. Sometimes it even took staff members several attempts to get certain lockers open. Are there mechanical issues with the aging locks themselves? Are repairs/replacement parts available if needed? Just a thought as we look down the road...

Teaching and Learning... as a teacher I would appreciate a district homework policy setting guidelines and limits such as X number of minutes per grade level. (I often see the common example of 10 minutes multiplied by numerical grade level where a 2nd grader might occasionally have 20 minutes and a 9th grader might sometimes have up to 90 minutes.) Anything beyond 90 minutes at any grade level seems a bit excessive if it's happening all the time. Many of our students have jobs, activities, and other responsibilities. All students work at different speeds and levels, of course, and I know that 15 minutes for one student can be 30 minutes for a student who struggles or who wants to go above and beyond, but there should be district guidelines for which we can aim.

I am completing this form as a teacher and as a parent of students in the district. I understand that as students get older, they need to be more responsible for informing their families of things. However, when no information is sent home with older students, it is very frustrating. This is not for all teachers. Many teachers keep us very informed. However, for things like senior projects, the only real information I got were things that I searched for on the school website or learned about from other parents. A parent packet would be extremely helpful for such a substantial project.

I also believe that students should have some homework in all grade levels, including the upper grades. A great deal of the student population is preparing for schooling after graduation. Homework helps students learn how to manage their time. They should also be learning how to write papers (at least three pages). I am afraid my child will not be prepared for college (Ex. writing longer papers, researching for papers, etc.) because homework has all but disappeared as he has gotten older. Again, I am not saying hours upon hours every night. But there should be something.

There should also be homework limits the other way as well. One of my children, who is an upperclassman, had little to no homework. However, my other child (who does not struggle academically at all and things come easily) had hours every night. He had no downtime during the school year. He came home from school, worked on homework, ate supper, worked on homework, showered, worked on homework, and went to bed. There needs to be a happy medium. As a teacher in a primary grade, I give nightly homework (not over the weekend). The homework I give is to practice the skills being taught. The amount of homework given in my grade level does not take

much time at all. I understand that there are different learning abilities, but I gear my homework assignments to the average student in my class. Even my lowest students were able to complete their homework in no more than 20 minutes. Homework is to review and practice concepts taught. As I parent, I appreciated this kind of homework because I felt that I knew more about what my child was learning during the day.

Teaching students basic skills. For example, how to balance a checkbook, how to count money, adding small amounts without a calculator, basic cooking skills.

Air conditioning/increased air flow and circulation in ALL classrooms

Teachers need support and students need to be disciplined for any rules that are broken. Students should not have the power to run the school knowing they will not get in trouble.

Sustained professional development for teachers to promote development and continuity of instructional practices. School wide sustained curriculum development. Repair and continual maintenance of physical plant.

Teaching and Learning:

Our teachers need to attend more trainings in their content area. The staff needs to be current with knowing their standards and content. When we have yearly training, we can implement current, meaningful, engaging instructional practices that develop students as a whole! Mr. Lauer is working hard on this. He has some great things lined up for the next few years.

When we adopt curriculum (ELA, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, etc.), a behavioral program, or the like, a member of each grade level should be present so input can be heard.

Industry tours, "Touch a Truck", and similar programs expose our learners to the real world. We need to continue with this momentum to prepare career ready students as not all of our students will attend college (due to the astronomical cost). We could use more motivational speakers/career presenters that inspire student to work towards their future goals.

We need more FORMAL TRAINING PROGRAMS at BBSD. Our new hires need to be TRAINED (teachers, custodians, aides, etc.). A committee needs to be formed to create training programs for specific jobs in the district. Our ACTIONS/INTERACTIONS with students and other staff must always be professional.

Facilities:

Our facilities need improvement. The elementary classrooms need more storage. We need air conditioning. The classrooms can reach upwards of 80 plus degrees at times. It's sweltering at times. Students are perspiring in the classroom and become sleepy. I've become nauseous from the heat in the school.

We need an updated playground. Perhaps we could ask local sponsors for money to update our playground. Our staff has contributed to the playground fund through the PTSO, but we need more help.

Our floors/tiles need updated and need to be mopped daily or at least every other day. Student desks and table surfaces should be cleaned daily. Many ceiling tiles have water marks and look terrible. Mold is most likely able to grow in those areas. The elementary school needs an overhaul. Our custodians work hard. They need more help to keep our school clean during the year. We need to pay them a livable wage. We have some of the lower wages in the county.

Technology:

Each teacher should have a smart TV and students continue with their present devices.

Parents need to be educated on the dangers of unsupervised Chromebook use at home. Students need to be monitored when using Chromebooks at home. There is no firewall at home that prevents students from viewing inappropriate content. Some parents are not monitoring this at all. We have also had so many problems with apps like snapchat and social media, where students are bullying and behaving inappropriately. Even though students are unable to access these apps at school, it's spilled over into the school day. We need to continue to educate students/parents about the problems with social media.

Teachers should have access to a color printer in the district and should be able to print X number of color copies per year.

Student Services:

We need more help for our troubled kids/behavioral problems. Mrs. Hay has done a great job identifying some of these students and getting them the help they need. Also, Mrs. Hankinson's guidance classes are helpful to students with their social interactions. She addresses bullying, appropriate behaviors, etc. We need to keep this momentum.

No Homework Rule. Students are taught in the classroom so they don't require homework. A ROTC program would be encouraging. Lets worry more about education then athletics.

Air conditioning

Auditorium sound system needs an overhaul! It is a huge embarrassment!!

I think this question need to be given to the kids. Explain what you are looking for put the kids in groups and give them a couple of day or a week to come up with a list of things they feel is important to them in a order of importance. Let the be creative in running there school.

Let each grade come up with clubs/ activities they feel would be interesting to them each year.

The school need to look into positive things to control students behavior not punishment for their behavior. If you give kids positive attention all the time they will listen better and you will have less behavior problems. Notice the good things kids do! Even if it very small.

My only thought is to get rid of state testing, stop teaching to the test. Teacher so kids can learn the things they will need in life. I know the state has to change this but you can put your feeling out there about it.

Kindergarten/first grade needs to have a healthy snack in the afternoons. I am aware of school districts that provide this via the school OR the parents are allowed to send a healthy snack/drink for an afternoon break. Refueling/rehydrating is essential for optimal learning in the afternoon hours.

Playground fencing around entire playground. Especially down by the road where anyone has easy access to grab a student when driving by.

Cellphones are a big concern. Students really don't need to have them in class. They cause a lot of drama and social media issues.

*reliable high speed internet in all buildings *appropriate pay for all employees

Na

High school gym need to be reconfigured/redone. There has been multiple high achieving sports programs and our gym should be adequate to host/provide for those programs.