



*BERLIN BROTHERSVALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT*

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*“HOME OF THE MOUNTAINEERS”*

Dr. David F. Reeder  
*Superintendent*

*“Educational Excellence, Community Engagement, Lifelong Success”*

Lori Gindlesperger  
*Business Manager*

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July 6, 2020

Dear Students, Parents, Staff and Community,

This has been a chaotic world for everyone as we try to move forward with plans for re-opening school on September 1, 2020. Our district has been working on a Health and Safety Plan which will help guide a safe return to our buildings and provide some “normalcy” to our lives.

I wish I could tell you that we have all the answers and that our decisions today would be viable on September 1 but that is not the case. Every week brings new issues and considerations as we try to plan for the 2020-2021 school year. What we plan for today may require operational adjustments to the plan tomorrow.

Our first major goal is to provide a learning platform for students, parents, and teachers which will make the process of distance learning more manageable should we be forced to leave our buildings again during the school year. We selected a learning management system called “Schoology” which is linked to our student information system, PowerSchool. In addition, we received a grant to purchase technology which will provide every student in the district with a device/computer to use whether we are in our buildings or learning from home. Teachers have been training this summer to use the system to deliver instruction in this manner.

Our second major goal is to complete and have the School Board approve a Health and Safety Plan which will guide our processes for re-opening schools on Tuesday, September 1. We put together a committee of staff and several community members/parents to discuss a plan and a variety of components which include cleaning and sanitation, social distancing guidelines, wearing of masks, transportation, temperature screenings, and a variety of other topics. We do not have the answers to all the operational components of the plan and will continue to develop these components throughout the summer. The Board will approve a general plan on Thursday, July 23 after further review and input from the community.

We are asking for your input on several issues as we continue to provide the School Board with information regarding the plan and guidelines for our safe return.

We need your input on several general topics which will be included on a survey located on our website. We understand these are not optimal circumstances. Some will believe the processes are too stringent, some will believe they are not stringent enough and others will be comfortable that the processes reflect a moderate and reasoned approach to returning to our facilities. Whatever your belief, we will all be required to make choices regarding the re-opening of buildings in the fall.

<https://forms.gle/X1ampwBqoKdbE2nD8>

The Berlin Brothersvalley School District website is the primary information source which reflects the most accurate and recent information regarding the district. Please utilize it to access information relative to the re-opening of schools.

Finally, thank you for supporting all our students and staff through this difficult time. We are blessed to have a strong community and will continue to support each other in these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Dr. David F. Reeder  
Superintendent