

Berlin Central

School District

July, 2017

Dear Class of 2018,

Congratulations, as a member of the Class of 2018, you have successfully made it to your senior year of high school! This realization may begin to bring on a range of feelings for each of you, from excitement and anticipation to panic and feeling overwhelmed! While I believe that it is very important for each of you to have a fun and relaxing summer away from school so that you can return in September refreshed and ready to work hard for one last school year, I also want you to be prepared for what is to come next June.

Here are a few suggestions of some things each of you need to be thinking about before you return to school in September:

- What are your goals/plans for after graduation? Do you want to go to college, into the military, or directly into the workforce?
- If you are even considering applying to a 4-year college, have you taken the **SAT's** or the **ACT's**? If the answer is no, be sure to register for one of the first dates in the fall. Exam dates begin the first weekend in September. (Register at www.collegeboard.org for the SAT's or www.actstudent.org for the ACT's).
- If you aren't already, get familiar with the **counseling webpage**: <http://berlincentral.org/hs/counseling-center/> Here you can access important websites, college and scholarship applications, college visit dates, and important college events taking place in the area. Included on the reverse side of this letter are some important dates from the Counseling Office for 2017-2018.
- Perhaps, most important, is to make a high school resume!!! This will be important to show recruiters or future employers and is a must if you are applying to college. **Any time a teacher (or your school counselor) writes a college recommendation you need to give them a copy of your resume.** I have included a sample resume for you to use. Your resume does not need to look exactly like mine, but try to include all of the same areas of information. Please feel free to email me a copy of your resume over the summer to look over (rharrison@berlincentral.org). I am happy to give feedback, and also get a jump start on writing your college recommendation for the fall!
- For those of you who will be applying to 4-year colleges, I have also included the 2017-18 college essay prompts for the common application (www.commonapp.org). If you haven't already, this would be a good time to start brainstorming ideas on what you would like to write about.

Graduating from high school is not only a huge accomplishment, but also a big step in life. Don't be afraid to take control of your future and get prepared. Do not hesitate to ask questions, or even ask for help in planning your path for after graduation. Remember, your senior year is a fun and exciting time in your life...but you still have to work hard to get through it successfully!

If you need assistance during this time please contact the Counseling Office at 658-1500, x1070.

Have a safe and relaxing summer,

Mrs. Harrison

Mrs. Harrison
School Counselor

Counseling Center Calendar Dates 2017 - 2018

August 26 - SAT Exam (Registration deadline: July 28)

September 9 – ACT Exam (Registration deadline: August 4)

October 7 – SAT Exam (Registration deadline: September 8)

October 11 - PSAT's for 10th & 11th graders, periods 1-4

October/November - HVCC Instant Admit Day (to be scheduled in the fall)

October – Financial Aid Information (12th grade parents)

October 28 - ACT Exam (Registration deadline: September 22)

November 4 – SAT Exam (Registration deadline: October 5)

November – FAFSA Night (Senior Parents), 6:30-8 PM

March – ASVAB Testing (11th grade), periods 1-4

May 7 – AP Chemistry Exam 8AM

AP Psychology Exam 12PM

May 10 – AP Environmental Science Exam 12 PM

June 11 – HS Academic Awards Ceremony, 12:30 PM

Regents Exams – June 12-21

Graduation – June 22

John Smith
JSmith@gmail.com

Academics

Berlin High School
Class of 2018
Unweighted Cumulative GPA: 92.45
Unweighted Rank: 6 of 53

Awards and Honors

National Honor Society	Grades 10-11
RPI Medal Recipient	Grade 11
Most Valuable Player, Boys Varsity Soccer Team	Grade 11
Selected to All County Band, Alto Saxophone	2015

Extracurricular Activities

Boys Varsity Soccer Team	Grades 9-11
Student Council	Grades 9-11
Prom Committee	Grade 11
Spanish Club	Grade 10

Leadership

Class of 2017 President	Grade 11
Student Council Treasurer	Grade 10-11
Varsity Boys Soccer Co-Captain	Grade 11

Community Service/Volunteer Activities

Poestenkill Veterinary Clinic	2015-Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Walking dogs at the clinic two hours a week	
Albany Food Pantry	2016-Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Preparing, serving, and clean up of lunch and dinner one Saturday a month	
Stephentown Summer Camp, Volunteer Counselor	Summer 2016

2017-2018 Common Application Essay Prompts

The word limit on the essay will remain at 650.

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story. **[No change]**
2. The lessons we take from *obstacles we encounter* can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a *challenge, setback, or failure*. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience? **[Revised]**
3. Reflect on a time when you *questioned* or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your *thinking*? What *was the outcome*? **[Revised]**
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution. **[No change]**
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or *realization* that *sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others*. **[Revised]**
6. *Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?* **[New]**
7. *Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.* **[New]**