

Berlin Central

School District

P.O. Box 259, Berlin, NY 12022

April 14, 2020

Dear Families,

I wanted to take this opportunity to share some important information and reminders while we continue our online/remote learning.

First, and perhaps most importantly, thank you for your flexibility, understanding and patience as we navigate this unprecedented circumstance in our world. I know the cancellation of on-site classes has created stress within many of our families, and we are doing our best to make it as easy as possible for you. I sincerely appreciate the time each one of you is taking to help your children continue their education at this time.

I'd also like to remind you that while information is often scarce at this point, many of the decisions we are waiting to make depend on our leaders at the state level making decisions first. While we don't know what the rest of the year or even the beginning of next year looks like, until information becomes available from the New York State Education Department, we unfortunately have to continue this holding pattern. While our buildings are minimally staffed at this time, email is generally the best way to reach anyone in the district.

While we all understand this is a difficult time, I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to thank our wonderful staff. Our teachers and administrators continue to work tirelessly to ensure our students have the resources they need to continue learning. I applaud their dedication and focus during what is a stressful time for them as well.

Our facilities staff has diligently and expertly cleaned and disinfected all our buildings and are doing a wonderful job to ensure our schools are ready to welcome children back, whenever that may be. Our transportation staff continues to work hard to deliver meals and needed materials to every family who needs them in our district. We cover a large area – so this isn't an easy task. But they have been up to the challenge and I thank them for their service to our families.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to address the Berlin Central School District Class of 2020. This time of year is generally full of anticipation and excitement for graduation and the beginning of the next chapter in your lives. However, what has been ritual for many years is suddenly no longer a given. You have worked hard for 13 years – and many of the events you had been looking forward to are seemingly not going to happen. I know many of you are disappointed by the far-reaching effects of the coronavirus pandemic. You are right to feel this way. It is an unfortunate circumstance that has left many of you "high and dry". While I don't have answers for what the rest of the year, graduation, concerts, picnics and parties will look like – I do know that we are incredibly proud of your strength, fortitude and perseverance no matter what life throws at you. No virus can take that away from you.

Thank you once again for your continued support, and please don't hesitate to reach out to your building principal if there is anything we can do to help make this time easier for you.

Sincerely,

Stephen Young, PhD
Superintendent of Schools