

Berlin

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Stephen Young, PhD, Superintendent of Schools

December 22, 2020

Dear Berlin Parents and Guardians,

At this time of year I always reflect on how fortunate I am for being a part of the Berlin School District family. While this has been a very difficult time for many, I believe we have all contributed to the success of our students. The sacrifices made, the hours of worrying, and the relentless time you have provided are always noticed, but more so at this holiday season.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for all you have done to keep your children and families safe. Your hard work has allowed us to keep schools open for in-person instruction.

Like the Thanksgiving holiday, we are now entering a dangerous and uncertain time as the COVID-19 pandemic spreads across our country, state, and region. We must continue to remain vigilant over the next two weeks.

If you or someone in your family gets a POSITIVE Covid test OR is directed to quarantine, please notify your principal's office by email over the holiday break tkent@berlincentral.org or jsullivan@berlincentral.org.

Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others to stop the spread. People in quarantine need to stay home, separate themselves from others in the home, monitor their health, and follow directions from the local health department.

Please continue to follow all safety guidelines outside of school hours, including:

- proper use of face coverings
- social distancing
- handwashing
- avoiding gatherings and travel to states with high positivity rates
- keeping your child home if they are sick

We also remind you to complete the daily health screening form beginning again on January 4th, for your child prior to sending them to school. We have made it through this holiday season without having to shut down either of the Berlin schools. *As a reminder, please reconsider your*

back-up plans for full remote instruction if we are unable to keep school(s) open after the holiday vacation. At this time we have every indication that schools will remain open after the break. Many school districts in our region have been recently closed due to a lack of staff to fully operate the in-session / hybrid programs. Berlin has been fortunate, thus far, that the Covid-19 spread has not forced us to close school. Again, thank you for doing your part daily.

As we look ahead to the holiday recess, we also ask for your help in making sure everyone celebrates and observes this year's activities in a different way that puts health and safety first. According to the CDC, the safest way to celebrate this year is to do so with people in your household. Please consider virtual gatherings or other activities that reduce your and your child's risk of getting the virus. Traveling, sharing food, and attending indoor gatherings outside your household increases your risk – and the risk of spreading COVID-19 within our schools.

We know that you have made many sacrifices the past eight months and for that we thank you. We ask that you please do your part to continue to contain this virus so that we can keep our schools open. The coming vaccines offer great hope – we just need to remain steadfast in controlling the spread of COVID-19 until they are available.

Anyone with questions and/or who needs to report a COVID-19 related health issue should contact the Berlin COVID Coordinator, Michele Corsey at mcorsey@berlincentral.org.

Thank you for your cooperation, support, and patience.

With warmest regards,

Dr. Stephen Young
Superintendent of Schools