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A. Joseph Dhara
Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Jodi Sullivan
Middle/High School Principal

April 6, 2021

Dear Families of the Class of 2021,

I am writing to provide you with some tentative information about spring celebrations that are intended to be special for the Senior Class. First, please know that we will do everything we can to celebrate the important traditions of Berlin, even though circumstances and guidance from NYS and our local Health Department may cause these celebrations to have some restrictions. Our very top priority is the health and safety of everyone.

Graduation this year will be tentatively planned as an outdoor event. In order to have the best chance of holding an outdoor graduation it will be important to have a date and a rain date in mind. The planned graduation date/time will be Friday, June 25th at 7:00pm with a rain date of Saturday, June 26th at 10:00am. If necessary, we will continue to try for Saturday 6/26 even if it means postponing later in the day to accommodate for any potential weather disturbances. I have been and will continue to work closely with advisors such as Karen Day, Leslie Eliashuk, Amanda Hayes, Rachel Harrison, Caroline Testa, and Cathie Allain to plan a successful and traditional graduation ceremony for the Class of 2021 and their families. It will be our intent to live stream and/or record the graduation ceremony for anyone who is unable to attend in person. If there are graduates who are not planning to attend in person, please let Ms. Day know right away.

Awards are another topic to highlight. Mr. Paravella has been closely communicating with me about his ideas for creating a meaningful way to celebrate student athletes, especially Seniors, who are well-deserving of accolades for their success and dedication. More information about sports awards will be forthcoming. Along these lines, I am also working with Ms. Eliashuk to discuss a special Senior Drama performance. Traditional academic awards will be given like they were last year in a remote / virtual ceremony led by Guidance Counselors. Another important academic tradition, formerly Top Ten Breakfast, will be held as a dessert reception on the evening of April 29th. Invitations for the top ten seniors (and two of their household guests) will be sent out shortly after we return from break. At the Top Ten Dessert Reception, the Valedictorian and Salutatorian of the Class of 2021 will be announced.

We will do our best to keep communication clear and open with you in case any guidance changes. **There is always a possibility that we will need to revisit these plans based on recommendations from the State or County Health Department.** I am excited and optimistic that we can work to make this spring a meaningful time for your graduates and for your families. Please reach out via phone or email if you have questions.

Very Sincerely,

Jodi Sullivan
Berlin Middle/High School Principal