

THE BERLIN BANNER

MAY 2022

BUDGET EDITION

Dear Berlin Central School District Residents,

Thank you for your ongoing support of and collaboration with our district's excellent programs in academics, co-curricular and extracurricular activities. The school year 2022-2023 is our third school year (and second full school year) in the Covid-19 pandemic which has taken a toll on the social emotional well-being and mental health of our students and staff, and also had an impact on our district finances and resources through increased expenses directly related to the pandemic.

While there are increased expenses and decreased revenues (expense driven aid) due to the impact of Covid, we remain steadfast in our commitment to all our students and their education, to provide them the best academic environment, social-emotional support, varied athletic and extracurricular programs, and increased opportunities to better prepare them for college and careers after graduation.

We are taking a thoughtful and practical approach to the budget while keeping in mind the increased social emotional needs of our students, and our mission to expand opportunities for all our students. To this end we are carefully using our reserves and the ARP funds (which was given specifically to address the Covid impact) to help the district meet its needs for the 2022-2023 school year. It is important to note that both the reserves and the ARP funds are one-time funds and once expended are not replenished. Hence, our careful approach toward their use.

We are maintaining all our current programs at Berlin, as well as increasing our academic and social emotional support for students. For example, we are adding a K-5 Intervention specialist at BES to directly target learning loss and assist students in closing their academic learning gap due to Covid.

This current school year has had many successes. We are now back to full capacity at school events, and field trips are underway. We realize the positive social-emotional impact of in-person instruction on our students, and have been in session this entire school year, with all our students attending school in-person, despite three waves of Covid that impacted our district - Delta, Omicron and Omicron BA.2. Our teachers have given their all to ensure that our students keep getting excellent instruction. Our transportation and support staff have worked dedicatedly every day to ensure that our students arrive safely at school, have proper nutrition, and a productive, clean and safe learning environment. Our nurses have worked closely with families and students to accurately contact trace Covid cases and provide related support. These successes would not have been possible without your help, collaboration and dedication throughout the year. Thank you for your support and understanding through the many challenges that we all faced this year.

The proposed 2022-23 budget shows a tax levy increase of 1.99% (below the allowable tax cap of 2.47%). This is again on par with, and in many cases below, levy increases pre-Covid. We are committed to continuing to meet the needs of our students and staff in a fiscally responsible manner.

Phase 2 of the capital project is progressing well. So far we have made updates to the gym bleachers, sidewalks and elementary/middle school classrooms. The summer of 2023 will see a revamping of the high school science classrooms and the main office at BMHS, installation of access control at all exterior doors at both buildings, and an update to the PA and fire alarm systems.

Thank you once again for being our collaborative partner in the education of all our students. Please remember to vote on Tuesday, May 17th, at the BES gym.

Respectfully,

A. Joseph Dhara
Superintendent of Schools

Capital Project Update: Important Upgrades Completed

In December 2019, voters in the Berlin Central School District approved a \$7 million capital project for repairs and maintenance at both Berlin Elementary School, and Berlin Middle High School. The capital project has no impact on school taxes. The Board of Education, administrators, and staff worked with architects to identify the most important upgrades to our facilities. Phase 1 of the projects started at the end of the 2020 school year and is expected to be finished in Fall 2022.

At Berlin Elementary School VCT, (vinyl composite tile) flooring has been installed throughout all classrooms and the sidewalk and asphalt work at the bus loop, and the main entry sidewalk have been completed. New handrails on either end of the stairs will be added this spring or summer. New bleachers have been installed in the gymnasium.



Future projects expected to begin at Berlin Elementary School Spring/Summer 2022.

- New handrails on either end of the main stairs in front of the school
- New PA System
- Landscaping around flagpole

At Berlin Middle High School sidewalks, landscaping, and VCT flooring in the corridor have been completed. The new district offices (room 119) and the faculty room (B120A) are nearly complete. Molded sinks, and countertops are expected to ship by the end of the year and installed in both rooms. Superintendent Dhara, the business office, and board clerk moved into their new offices on January 5, 2022



Classrooms 110-115 have also seen major updates. Classrooms 113-115 were reconfigured to allow lockers to be installed in the hallway. New VCT flooring, casework, paint and data ports were also installed, and lighting was updated in room 110. Additional work is currently taking place with a new fire alarm system. Most cameras and card access have been installed and are operational at the middle senior high school. New bleachers and lockers have been installed.

BCSD Twitter Page: <https://twitter.com/BerlinCSD>

At both schools most interior doors, and hardware have been installed. Due to backorders, we are waiting on more doors and hardware to be delivered.

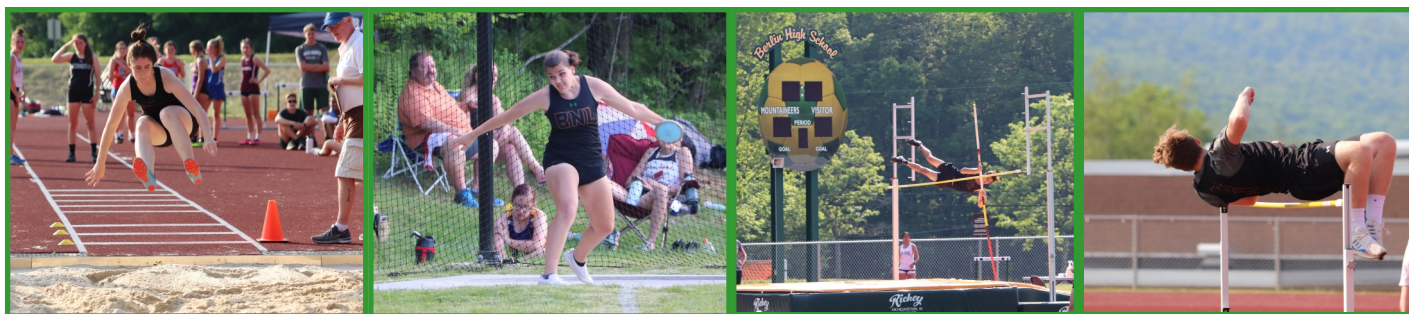
In the fall the sports field was aerated (seeding, fertilizations, applying sand) and field conditions have improved greatly since growing season has ended. In the spring the district will look at the conditions of the fields, and then determine the timeline for acquiring them.

Future projects to begin at Berlin Middle High School Spring/Summer 2022 include:

- Science classroom renovation
- Kitchen upgrades
- Main office renovation
- Window replacement classrooms 113-115
- Sidewalk replacement under the district officer trailers

For more information, please visit <https://berlincentral.org/capital-project/>

Berlin held its first home Varsity Track and Field meet in the Spring of 2021 and hosted its first ever sectional meet for the Field competition in June 2021.



Athletics Twitter Page: https://twitter.com/BerlinNY_AD

BCSD 2022-2023 Proposed Budget

| Expenses | | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| | | Adopted | Proposed |
| | | Budget | Budget |
| | | | |
| Program Budget | | | |
| | Regular Education | 5,387,151 | 5,916,608 |
| | Special Education | 3,051,068 | 3,378,852 |
| | Occupational Education | 568,832 | 562,114 |
| | Continuing Ed/Driver Ed | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| | Library/Technology | 619,234 | 629,560 |
| | Educational Television | 7,700 | 5,500 |
| | Guidance | 419,123 | 441,607 |
| | Health Services | 306,538 | 330,143 |
| | Co-Curricular/Sports | 363,751 | 386,576 |
| | Transportation | 1,624,135 | 1,655,734 |
| | Employee Benefits | 5,292,074 | 5,950,330 |
| | | 17,664,606 | 19,282,024 |
| | | | |
| Administrative | | | |
| | Board of Education | 15,657 | 24,026 |
| | Central Administration | 244,411 | 235,540 |
| | Finance | 412,176 | 397,001 |
| | Legal/Personnel/Public | 131,422 | 172,840 |
| | Insurance/Dues | 73,905 | 73,905 |
| | School Supervision | 574,455 | 610,310 |
| | Curriculum & In-service | 189,898 | 209,147 |
| | BOCES Administration | 176,175 | 181,462 |
| | Employee Benefits | 565,427 | 572,825 |
| | | 2,383,527 | 2,477,057 |
| | | | |
| Capital Budget | | | |
| | Operations & Main. | 1,473,025 | 1,506,868 |
| | Central Data | 273,150 | 314,634 |
| | Debt Service | 1,524,800 | 1,884,831 |
| | Employee Benefits | 521,582 | 508,773 |
| | | 3,792,557 | 4,215,106 |
| | | | |
| | | 23,840,690 | 25,974,187 |
| | | | |
| Revenue | | | |
| | State Aid | 12,324,833 | 12,821,712 |
| | Real Property Taxes | 9,864,340 | 10,060,913 |
| | Miscellaneous | 854,017 | 392,697 |
| | Reserves and ARP | - | 1,898,865 |
| | Fund Balance | 797,500 | 800,000 |
| | | 23,840,690 | 25,974,187 |

Budget Vote

Proposition Vote

Board Election Vote

May 17, 2022

Berlin Elementary School

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

To vote, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- At least 18 years of age
- A resident of the district for 30 days prior to the vote

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Qualified district residents who are unable to go to the polling place on May 17 can cast their votes by absentee ballot. For an application, call the District Clerk at 518-658-1500 Option 8, Extension 1010. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

All completed ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5 PM on May 17.

2022-2023 School Budget and BOE Vote

Voting this year will take place using machines in the Gymnasium of the Berlin Elementary School, 53 School Street, Berlin, NY 12022, on Tuesday, May 17, 2022.

THE 2022-2023 BUDGET

The Budget for the 2022 – 2023 school year is not to exceed **\$25,974,187**. This is an increase of 1.99% in the tax levy.

PROPOSITION #1

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District is hereby authorized to (1) acquire three (3) 66 passenger school buses at a cost not to exceed \$405,000 which is estimated to be the maximum cost thereof, (2) expend such sums for such purpose, (3) levy the tax necessary therefor, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education, taking into account state aid received, and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, to issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$405,000, or enter into a lease-purchase agreement at a principal amount not to exceed \$405,000 to acquire such vehicles.

BOARD OF EDUCATION SEATS

There are three seats up for election this year. All three seats are three-year terms (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2025). There are four candidates running for the three seats. Voters will be asked to vote for **three** candidates. The candidates will appear on the ballot in this order:

Jeffery Paine

Sherry Bowman-Kluck

Kim Collen

Andrea Beckwith

2022 BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

The Board of Education is comprised of seven members elected by district residents. All members serve without pay for three year terms. Under the Education Law of New York State, the Board is responsible for the education of students who attend the schools in the district; for the preparation of the annual budget, for district adherence to state law and State Education Department regulations concerning the conduct of the public schools. The Superintendent of Schools is charged with the administration of Board policies. There are four individuals running for three seats on the Board of Education. Two board members are running for re-election, Jeffery Paine and Sherry Bowman-Kluck. There are two new candidates that are running, Kim Collen and Andrea Beckwith.

Jeffrey Paine



I am a 32-year Grafton resident. All three of my children graduated from Berlin Central School District, and their college success is due in part to the excellent elementary and secondary school education they received at BCSD. I am the Secretary of the Grafton Volunteer Fire Commission and an active member and past president of the Grafton Historical Society. In the past, I was active with the Grafton PTO, and for ten years I was co-leader for the Feathers and Fur 4-H Club.

My father was in the military, so I often switched schools (ten schools in all). My time at both small and large schools gives me personal experience in schools of all sizes from Eagle County High School in Gypsum Colorado with a graduation class of less than ten to Floyd E. Kellam High School in Virginia Beach, VA, with a graduating class of more than 800. I graduated from Colorado State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and then attended the Quality and Reliability Engineering intern program at the US Army Management and Engineering Training Activity at Rock Island Arsenal IL. I worked at Watervliet Arsenal and Benét Labs for thirty-eight years before retiring in 2016. My career involved attention to detail, reliance on data for decision making, problem solving and working within a budget. Most importantly, it involved trusting the people I worked with to do their jobs.

I believe that Covid 19 created severe obstacles that the School Board has to overcome, the high level of inflation adds additional challenges. The Board needs to recover from the effects of Covid 19 and continuously improve programs that enhance learning so that our students can thrive in the future. At the same time, we need to balance what we need with what we can afford. This is the goal of the Board. I feel that every student deserves the best education that we can provide. I think that BCSD is on the right track to accomplish this. I have served on the Board for seventeen of the last twenty years and I want to continue to be a part of it.

Sherry Bowman-Kluck



For the past six years, I have been blessed with the opportunity to work as a cohesive board member with the current Berlin School Board. It continues to be my ambition to serve the Berlin School District with integrity and transparency, applying an indiscriminate and passionate student-first approach while working with the administration to maintain a responsible fiscal budget.

I have advocated and worked to promote a more positive and comprehensive communication means within our district. This is evidenced by the many communication avenues now available in the district community. In addition, there is now a student representative on the board taking an active role to share the students' perspectives, experiences, and successes of our school. As a recently appointed chair for a Merged Sports Committee, I remain committed to further develop a positive, productive, and competitive sports program that will undoubtedly result in an increased sense of pride within the district!

Being a 1991 Berlin High School graduate, living in the district with my husband of almost 30 years, and having two boys (Joshua is now a U.S. Marine and Matthew is a high school senior) within our school system certainly amplifies my commitment.

I recently received tenure as a teacher assistant in the Brunswick School District and I currently work in a 5th grade co-taught classroom. Prior to this position, I worked similarly at Questar III with students who were unable to matriculate into the public school district due to learning disabilities or mental and behavioral issues. Following college, I spent much of my career working with children and adults with disabilities as a Service Coordinator, Resource Consultant, Assistant Residential Manager, and Job Development Specialist. While my children were small, I chose to focus on running a successful home preschool daycare and cleaning business. I also provided administrative, editorial, and ad design assistance to The Eastwick Press for many years. It is now my goal to continue my education in the field of mental health.

My personal interests include reading, drawing, painting, doing crafts, and mostly spending time with my family and close friends. I can often be found coordinating events and programs or cheering (loudly but always positively) for all the students on the varied sporting events my boys have participated in throughout the years!

Kimberly Collen



I have lived in the Berlin Central School District for 10 years, and currently reside in Grafton. My two sons started Kindergarten at Berlin Elementary School and are now freshman and sophomores at the High School. While they were at BES, I enjoyed helping the PTO with the Book Fair, Christmas Shop, Picture Day, PE Fun Day and hanging the Art Show for Miss Jackie. Currently I am Vice President of the Middle/High School PTO.

Over the years I have been selected as a parent to participate on Interview Committees for the hiring of the new Principal, Vice Principal and Superintendent. I also was a member of the Steering Committee, which is working on a 5 Year District Plan for Improvement. Most recently my son and I volunteered as members of the Merged Sports Committee, hoping to identify challenges in our sports program and come up with ideas for improvement and growth.

I grew up in a small rural town called New Paltz, which is similar to Berlin. I then graduated from Union College in Schenectady receiving a Bachelor of Science. I am currently employed as a Physician Assistant at Community Care Physicians in Latham.

My goal on the Board of Education is to bring some new and needed changes, including more parental involvement and to truly represent the communities of Grafton, Petersburg, Stephentown and Berlin. I am willing to hear suggestions for improvement from the community members, teachers and staff, parents, and of course the students.

In my free time, I love to spend time outdoors, traveling, swimming, gardening, and hiking with my two Labrador Retrievers.

Andrea Beckwith



I am a Stephentown resident of 22 years. Originally from Verplanck, NY, I graduated from Hendrick Hudson High School in 1996 before earning a bachelor's degree in Psychology with a marketing minor from SUNY Oneonta in 2000. While in school I worked at Catskill Area Hospice promoting our local chapter's teleconference on childhood and grief. Upon graduation I worked in advertising as a marketing sales consultant before taking time off to start a family, and ultimately joining my husband over the last 12 years growing his local business, Hilltown Pork Inc.

My husband Ben is a Berlin graduate, as is our daughter Hailey. Our sons Shea and Brady are currently Juniors at Berlin High School. All three of our children have been student athletes for our district and our son Brady is currently enrolled in a Questar CTE program.

My commitment to our school district and local community began with my role on the BCSD Long Range Planning Committee and has included 8 years on the BES PTO as a volunteer, Vice President, and ultimately President, Cub Scouts leader, Stephentown Youth Commission volunteer, TVSC member-at-large, and current Treasurer of the BNL Athletics Booster Club. Over the years I have also been a member of several Interview Panels for current district administrators. Being involved in our district community is a high priority of mine. Through the years I have always tried to be a voice for not just my own children but for the student body and district parents as a whole.

I believe it is now time for me to focus my attention toward the many district matters that are currently facing our community. I believe the connections I have made throughout my volunteer work within our district spanning the last 14 years are a much needed addition to our Board of Education. I look forward to making new connections, building on positive foundations within our district, finding solutions to concerning matters, improving communication and accountability, and continuing to be a voice for our students and parents.

BES' Mrs. Tracy Kent Honored as Principal of the Year



Berlin Elementary School Principal Mrs. Tracy Kent, was awarded the 2022 Principal of the Year honors by the Greater Capital Region Principal Center and the Capital Area School Development Association (CASDA).

CASDA's committees are made up of Capital District area school administrators and University at Albany faculty.

The Principal of the Year award recognizes a principal for "exemplary leadership qualities (highlighted by the unique challenges of the pandemic) who has made a difference in the lives of their students."

The criteria are based on the "Professional Standards for Educational Leaders that endorse the qualities of effective educational leaders who promote each student's academic success and well-being."

Tracy Kent has been in the field of education for 29 years. For 18 of those years Tracy was a classroom teacher. She transitioned into administration 11 years ago and has spent the last eight years as the principal of Berlin Elementary School.

"I want students to come to school each day excited to learn and feeling connected to the teachers and staff," said Mrs. Kent, when talking about what guides her as the BES Principal.

"We do our best to provide an environment where students know they are cared about and supported. When students feel this way, they are more likely to be successful academically."

Berlin Central School District Superintendent Joseph Dhara said, "Tracy Kent is an outstanding leader who has been highly involved in her school's community and functioning through its various successes and challenges, including the Covid pandemic."

Over the last two years Mrs. Kent has led the implementation of a new Math and Literacy program, initiated to help students recover "learning loss" from Covid and better prepare them academically, including for a transition into Middle School.

This school year Mrs. Kent hired a full-time Berlin Elementary Family Liaison and Counselor as an addition to the current BES Counseling Team, which includes a school psychologist and social worker.

The Counseling Team is tasked with supporting students and families, ensuring students stay connected to school and are able to continue their education.

Berlin Elementary is also incorporating a Multi-Tiered Student Support (MTSS) program and, currently, there is Response to Intervention (RTI) support program for academics and behavior.



Mrs. Kent stresses the importance of a comprehensive approach to educating the whole child, a methodology that has put these support systems in place.

"I can't say enough about the wonderful staff at BES during this time of constant change. It often felt that we were adapting and making changes almost daily."

BES third-grade teacher, Ms. Jessica Rontey, reflected on working with the BES principal: "Her dedication to her staff and students comes first and foremost."

"Mrs. Kent always steps up when our building is in need," said Mrs. Kasey Hannigan, a Kindergarten teacher at BES.

"She is known to be a substitute when we are short a teacher, monitoring kids and washing the tables in the lunchroom or going outside at recess. She is always willing to lend a hand."

When sharing the good news with BCSD staff, Mr. Dhara said, "We are so proud of you Tracy for all that you represent and your tireless work for our students, staff and community."

BHS Announces the Class of 2022 Academic Top Ten

On April 12, 2022 a reception was held in the BMHS gymnasium to honor the members of the Class of 2022 who will graduate ranked academically in the top ten of their class.

The gathering was hosted by BMHS Principal Mrs. Brownell, along with Counselors Ms. Harrison and Ms. Testa.

BCSD Superintendent Mr. Dhara was also in attendance along with several BCSD staff members to welcome the students along with their guests and congratulate them on their academic success.

Congratulations to the top 10 scholars of this year's graduating class of 2022:



Bailey Catlin (Valedictorian), Ashton Evans (Salutatorian), Brady Hills, Micayla Price, Daniel Hunt, Katherine Delaurentis, Liam Lowry, Malorie Zink, Matthew Hart, and Sophie Ericson.

Find a slideshow from the reception, which includes each student's reflection of their time at Berlin and plans for the future on the district's website www.berlincentral.org.

Principal Brownell closed the evening by congratulating the top 10 of 2022 and sharing a favorite quote, "Although you will miss things from your time at BMHS, in the words of C.S. Lewis, 'There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind.'"

(l-r) Matthew Hart, Katherine Delaurentis, Brady Hills, Liam Lowry, Bailey Catlin (Valedictorian), Ashton Evans (Salutatorian), Daniel Hunt, Micayla Price, Malorie Zink and Sophie Ericson.



Berlin Middle High School Principal Mrs. Kimberly Brownell Celebrates Student's Academic Achievements

BMHS Principal Brownell hosted three celebrations for the Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 Honor Roll recipients: Honor Roll Ice Cream Social, Principal's List Bowling and Pizza and Merit List cider donuts and chocolate milk. For the BMHS' 2021-2022 Honor Rolls visit the district's website at www.berlincentral.org



Berlin Elementary Participates in One School, One Book Event

From April 1st through May 6th Berlin Elementary School celebrated the importance of literacy and reading aloud through a One School, One Book event. As a school community BES read the book, *Friendship According to Humphrey* written by Betty G. Birney.

Special guest readers read the chapters aloud throughout the month and the reader's videos were shared on the district's website and Facebook and Twitter pages to encourage family participation.

Each week students participated in weekly trivia, classroom visits from the main character and a culminating "Friendship Party."

Thank you to literacy coach Mrs. Amy Glickman and Principal Tracy Kent for launching this school-wide read!





After School Enrichment Is Back at BES!

A special thank you to the many teachers, staff, volunteers and parents who made it possible.



Connect with us!

Attention BCSD: Find the latest news, videos and information about the district on the BCSD website, Facebook page, YouTube channels and Twitter! Follow the BCSD Mountaineers on twitter @BerlinCSD! Check out the new icon links at the top of the BCSD website page.



Here on the Berlin Central School District Webpage

www.berlincentral.org



Berlin Central School District Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/berlincentralschools>



Berlin Central School District Twitter Page

<https://twitter.com/BerlinCSD>

BCSD Athletics Twitter Page

https://twitter.com/BerlinNY_AD



Berlin Central School District YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIVwH_D8o-DkkCroPw2dFlQ

Streaming BCSD

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD4gev3MT4d2AfRiaqm84Fw>

Berlin High School's Aquatic Science Program Generates Excitement

Berlin Seniors Sophie Ericson, Matthew Hart and Bailey Catlin are helping raise jellyfish for an independent study class with marine biology teacher and science department co-chair Mr. Matthew Christian. The aquatics lab at Berlin Middle High School houses all types of marine life including multiple different species of fish, seahorses, shrimp, and starfish. The marine biology program and lab are unique features to the school that give students the opportunity to study marine life nearly two hundred miles away from the ocean.



Ericson, Hart and Catlin took the marine biology class offered with Mr. Christian last year when they were juniors. Their interest in the subject kept them going back to the aquatics lab to learn more.

"It's just a lot of fun to learn about sea animals and what they do and how they grow," said Hart.

When asked if she would recommend the class to other students Catlin said she would. "I really enjoy it. There's not too much work, it's not overwhelming, and it's something fun to do besides school work."

During their free period they take care of the jellyfish by feeding them brine shrimp that they hatch in the lab, and moving them from one tank to another as they grow. The students raise the jellyfish from polyps, to their full form.

To support all of the new jellyfish, the aquatics lab recently acquired new tanks and filtration systems. Once they are fully grown, Mr. Christian, says they will again be donating the jellyfish to the VIA Aquarium in Amsterdam, NY.

Mr. Christian and the independent study class recently headed to Berlin Elementary to present during the monthly Character Education Assembly. It was an excellent opportunity for the seniors to share their enthusiasm for the unique Aquatics Lab and pique the interest of the youngest Mountaineers. The seniors brought one of the Moon jellyfish they have been caring for which generated a lot of interest and excitement.



Jellyfish were not the only stars of the show in the Marine Biology program this year.

Science teacher Mr. Nicholas Toole's Freshwater Studies class recently went to the banks of the Little Hoosic River to hold their annual Brown Trout release.

"This was once again a successful year for the freshwater studies class," said Mr. Toole. "The students worked extremely hard this year maintaining a

healthy environment for the trout even when they were presented with some difficulties. The students prevailed through their hard work and dedication."

This was Superintendent Dhara's second time attending the trout release with Mr. Toole's class. Also there for the special event was former BMHS Science teacher Mrs. Audrey Vanderhoef and Mr. Robert Davis, President of Homewaters Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Mr. Toole thanked Grafton Lakes State Park for their generous donation of Brown Trout specimens which allowed the class to fortify their tank's population.



Berlin Middle High School Dramateers

It was an outstanding year for the Berlin Dramateers who gave two excellent performances this school year. The Middle School Dramateers put on an energetic and talent filled production of *Frozen Jr.* last November. This spring the High School Dramateers followed it with an electric performance of *Grease*. Thanks to the BMHS Drama and Music Department's Ms. Leslie Eliashuk and Mrs. Jessica Gould along with the many volunteers and community members, the BMHS Dramateers were able to shine bright as they took to the stage once again.





National School Breakfast Week was held during the month of March as a reminder to students and parents of how the morning meal helps children succeed.

Squishmallow prizes were donated by Food Service Director Mrs. Tammy Whitman as raffle prizes for each grade, students' names were automatically put into the raffle if they purchased a meal during the week's celebration. A coloring contest for Grade Pre K – 5 was also held during the week.

Stephentown Food Pantry:

Stephentown Federated Church at 1513 Garfield Rd (County Rt. 26).

Open every Saturday from 9 AM to 11 AM.

For more information, call (518) 487-8606.

Berlin Food Closet:

United Methodist Church at 17 South Main St. in Berlin

Open the third Tuesday of the month 3-5 pm & the third Saturday of the month 9-11.

For more information, call (518) 658-2942

Grafton Food Pantry:

Our Lady of Snow at 31 Owens Rd. Grafton

Open every Saturday 10-2.

Helping Hands:

If you have students in Berlin Elementary, Middle or High School and struggle to provide enough food, contact **Helping Hands**. Helping Hands is a committee of teachers, faculty and volunteers that support the students and families of Berlin Central School. Services provided:

Food Pantry/ Backpack Program

Holiday Bears

Winter Gear giveaway

Please contact Deanna Baker at dhansen@berlincentral.org for more information.

The Berlin Art Department

Mrs. Colbert, MS/HS Art Educator

Ms. DeCelle, MS/HS Art Educator

Ms. MacDonald, BES Art Educator

Highlights from the 2021-2022 School Year:

The K-12 Art Department really focused on transitioning students back to the art studios this year, as well as afterschool Art Clubs back in person! We had a large focus on socio-emotional learning, providing students with more choices in their projects, when appropriate, to allow them the opportunity to express themselves creatively after these past few difficult years. Our students rose to the task and we are proud of the work they were able to make this year. We hope the community joins us to view their hard work for our summative Art Shows in late Spring (*dates below*).



The **Berlin High School National Art Honor Society Chapter (NAHS)** has been gradually making ceramic bowls for our Empty Bowls fundraiser to benefit local food pantries, as well as working on the Drama Club sets and starting another mural!

(See Above)



(See Above)

High School Juried Regional Exhibition:

Berlin had 2 entrants into this juried exhibition out of 500 applicants from school districts all over the region. Micayla Price's "Hidden" Photograph and Ethan Saunders' "A Downward Smile & Xs for Eyes" screen print collage hung in the Albany Center Gallery for a month. This is the first time Berlin has competed in this exhibit, one of the most prestigious high school contests in the region. Looking forward to next year!



Our students have worked hard **creating all year**, now that special time is here:

BES' "Night of the Arts" Art Shows & Music Concerts are:

Grades 4&5 May 19th

Grades K-3 May 24th

Also on Display Tuesday, May 17th for Budget Vote

BMHS "Arts Alive!" Art Show & Celebrations is:

Tuesday, June 7th

(Also All BHS Honor Society Inductions)



Department Website:

<https://berlinarthappens.wixsite.com/berlinarthappens>

Facebook Page: "Berlin Art Department"

Instagram: @berlinartdepartment

What have our youngest Mountaineer Artists been learning?

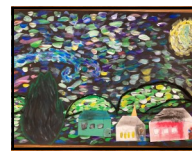
Kindergarten and 1st grade artists explored a color theory unit. We learned the Primary colors, Secondary colors, and the warm and cool color families. Art students created a painting with their new learned knowledge of the color families in a beautiful sunset/sunrise piece.

2nd grade artists learned about the famous artist, Claude Monet. We discussed the many paintings of waterlilies he created, and learned about his life. Students learned Monet created over 200 paintings of his waterlily garden, in Giverny, France. Students used the crayon and watercolor resist method for creating their waterlily gardens.

In **3rd grade** we explored Form (one of our art elements), to create 3D origami paper lizard sculptures.

Art students in **4th and 5th grades** learned about the famous artist, Vincent Van Gogh. They learned about his life and the time period he lived through art history. Students used Van Gogh's "Starry Night" as inspiration for their beautiful paintings.

5th grade art students learned about the masks around the world. We explored different cultures and discovered many reasons people have created masks and still do today - some are decorative, some are used in special rituals and ceremonies, some are created to scare evil spirits away, some are created to conceal someone's identity... Art students created their mask with plaster strips, paint, and found objects.



P. O. Box 259

Berlin, NY 12022

NONPROFIT ORG.

AUTOOCR

US POSTAGE PAID

BERLIN, NY 12022

PERMIT NO. 1

Board of Education

Frank Zwack, President

Katie Snyder, Vice President

Rachel Finney

Derrick Gardner

Trevor Jewett

Sherry Bowman-Kluck

Jeffrey Paine

POSTAL PATRON

ASBESTOS INSPECTIONS

The school district is required, under rules and regulations of the federal Environmental Protection Agency in response to the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986 (AHERA), to notify students, parents and employees of the presence of asbestos containing materials (ACM) in its buildings. Notice is hereby given that pursuant to AHERA 40 CFR Part 763 section 763.93, the District will conduct inspections, re-inspections and operations and maintenance activities designed to identify and abate ACM known to exist in its school buildings. Notice is also given that a copy of the district's Management Plan for Asbestos Abatement, together with supporting documentation, is available for inspection in the District Facilities Office. Questions concerning the District's response to AHERA regulations should be directed to the Superintendent of Buildings at 518-658-1500, option 8, extension 3011.



Go Mountaineers!