

Welcome to 6th Grade!

School Year 2022/2023

-Here is an overview of classes, clubs, and support
for the 2022/2023 School Year

**Families - please put your name and your child's
name on the notecard. During the presentation
please put any questions you have on the back.**

-We will begin with staff introductions

-Family Introductions

6th grade

Mrs. Gilbert-**ELA** – agilbert@berlincentral.org

Mrs. Lanzillo -**Math** – [hlanzillo](#)

Mrs. Kabir, Mrs. Mooney-**Reading** – [nkabir](#), [mmooney](#)

Mrs. Hammersmith-**Social Studies** – [ehammersmith](#)

Mr. Scannell – **Science** – [bscannell](#)

Mrs. Kelly - **Special Education** - [dkelly](#)

Mrs. Colbert or Ms. DeCelle - **Art** – [scolbert](#) or [sdecelle](#)

Ms. Eliashuk/Mrs. Gould -**Music** – [leliashuk](#)/[jgould](#)

Mrs. Honsinger, Mrs. Berschwinger, Mr. Weaver-**PE** -
[shonsinger](#)/[fberschwinger](#)/[jweaver](#)

Ms. Overocker- **Library**- [joverocker](#)

Mrs. Harrison/Ms. Testa: **Guidance**: [rharrison](#)/[ctesta](#)

Mrs. Putterman Hoffmann, Ms. Augustine-**Counseling Staff** -
[mputtermanhoffman](#)/[jaugustine](#)

Ms. Murray - **School Psychologist** - [bmurray](#)

Mrs. Corsey - **School Nurse** - [mcorsey](#)

Mrs. Brownell- **Principal** – [kbrownell](#)

Mr. Paravella - **Assistant Principal** - [cparavella](#)

Mrs. Gilbert-ELA



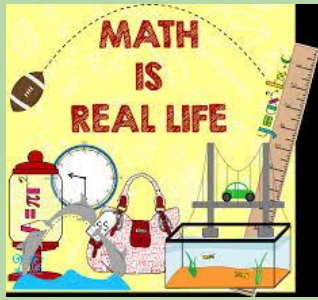
- ❖ iReady - Lexile Level (reading level)
 - How do I help my child choose books at his/her level?
 - How do I know if a book is appropriate for my child (reading and content)
 - www.lexile.com
 - www.commonsemmedia.org

- ❖ Quarter Topics
 - Overcoming Adversity
 - Choices
 - Heroes
 - Author's Craft

What can I expect for ELA homework?

- ❖ Vocabulary Words
 - Homework/practice work Monday-Wednesday
 - Study the vocabulary words Thursday
 - Quiz on Friday
 - The importance of learning versus memorizing
 - How can I help?
 - What does studying look like?
- ❖ Writing Projects:
 - Each quarter - we start in class but time might be needed outside of class to finish
 - Where can I find the writing projects if my child has lost their copy?
 - Reading
 - Each quarter students choose a book at their Lexile that connects to the theme we are working on to read independently and does a book talk/project in class on the book

25 Book Challenge
Students will receive incentives and points for reading books over the summer and throughout the school year.



Mrs. Lanzillo-Math

Topics Covered

Decimals, Fractions, **Negative Numbers**, Algebraic Expressions, Equations and Inequalities, Ratio and Rates, Percent, Area, Surface Area, Volume, **Statistics and Probability**

Homework

- 3-4 assignments per week
- Assigned on Monday and collected on Friday
- EdPuzzle Video
- Please send a note or have your child speak with me if they are confused about a homework assignment.

Routines/Activities

- Daily: warm up, mini-lesson on a topic, time to practice skills
- Weekly: “Real World” Word problems, Numbers talks, Writing/Talking about Math
- Per Unit: Quizzes, Tests, Unit Review Guides, Real World Math Connections
- Other Types of Activities: Math Games (Ex. SKUNK, Capture the Square), Projects (Statistical Analysis Project and Financial Literacy)

Mrs. Lanzillo-Math Continued

“Practice does not make perfect. Only perfect practice makes perfect.”-Vince Lombardi (Football Coach)

Extra Help

- Available for extra support after school at least once per month
- Other times can be arranged, but the student must ask.
- If your child isn't understanding their math they need to reach out to the teacher **BEFORE** the test or quiz to get help.
- Test and quizzes can be corrected for a higher grade.

What can I do this summer to help?

- Practice Math Facts!



Mrs. Hammersmith-Social Studies



Your children will be learning about world history of the Eastern Hemisphere from prehistory through 1400. We will discuss geography and historical events through primary and secondary resources.

Students will need to be aware of:

Homework - Given at least once a week, sometimes more

- Assignments will range from creative images, timeline worksheets and readings, to written informational essays and research projects (Mostly completed in class). Students will be notified early in the week of their assignments via schoology and the classroom HW board.

- Assignments must be completed and handed in before the end of the quarter to receive any credit for their work.

- “HW checks” are the only assignments that CANNOT be made up by the end of the quarter because we review these assignments in class.

- Please see schoology for homework information

Tests & Quizzes - Given at the end of each unit

- Organizational review quizzes- folder checks/study quizzes

- Students will have opportunities to do test corrections to earn back 1/2 the credit that they lost

- Students will need to rewrite the incorrect questions fully, followed by the correct answers (any notes, textbook and other resources can be used)



Mrs. Hammersmith Social Studies--Continued

Studying

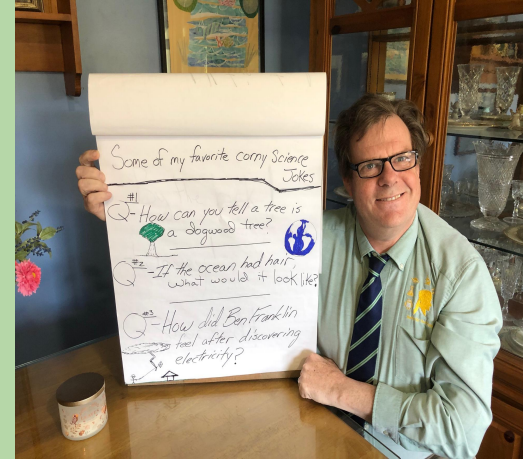
- Students will be given a review sheet for major quizzes and tests
- Students are responsible for completing the review sheets in order to receive **extra credit** on their quizzes/tests

Projects and Writing

- Students will be expected to complete written assignments and research projects throughout the year
- We will focus on improving our writing using informational texts and supporting evidence
- We will also practice and improve our research skills by using library and online resources to complete projects (travel brochures, posters, presentations, flip books, timelines...etc.)

For questions, please contact Mrs. Hammersmith at ehammersmith@berlincentral.org or via Schoology messenger

Mr. Scannell - Science



1. Lab Safety/How Science is Practiced

Students will learn safe lab practices and classroom expectations.

We will learn about collecting data and how to analyze the data using graphs.

2. Earth Science/Plate Tectonics/Rocks and the Rock Cycle

Here we study the dynamics and broader aspects of Earth's geological systems. We focus on Earthquakes, Earth's inner structure, volcanoes and the movement of the continents why they move.

3. Sun-Earth-Moon System

For this unit students study the connections between the four seasons and the earth's orbit around the sun, how shadows are affected by not only seasons, but on the rotation of the Earth and what time of day it is..

4. Weather and Climate

We will look at the different weather systems that we experience and what cause them. we will also look at weather maps and learn how to read them.

5 Ecology

Once the warm weather arrives we will begin our unit on ecology. Students will look at how all species are interconnected and how actions on one species can have reactions with another species. We will explore the local habitat and conduct an inventory of all species in the local community/habitat.

In Science students need the following materials:

- single subject spiral-bound notebook.
- A box of 10 pencils to start the year.
- One blue and one black pen

4 red two pocket folders (one for each unit covered)

Science is taught using an inquiry based method. Students will often be using equipment to model actual events that occur naturally.

Labs – labs play a large part of our class. Students will be asked to turn in their completed labs for a grade. Often times these labs will include graphical representation of the data gathered in the labs. We will be focusing on graphing data throughout the year.

(All labs conducted in PENCIL ONLY!)

Homework - Students can expect HW 1-2 times per week. Labs often need to be completed outside class, once data has been collected. Labs will often be assigned to be finished for HW.

Quizzes & Tests –

- Unit tests will be announced well ahead of time as will most quizzes, however pop-quizzes can occur.
- Science Starters - a daily quiz question. These take-home quizzes are collected at the start of class every Friday. Parents should check for thorough completion with their children on Thursday evenings.

Mr. Scannell - Science

Student grade is determined by....

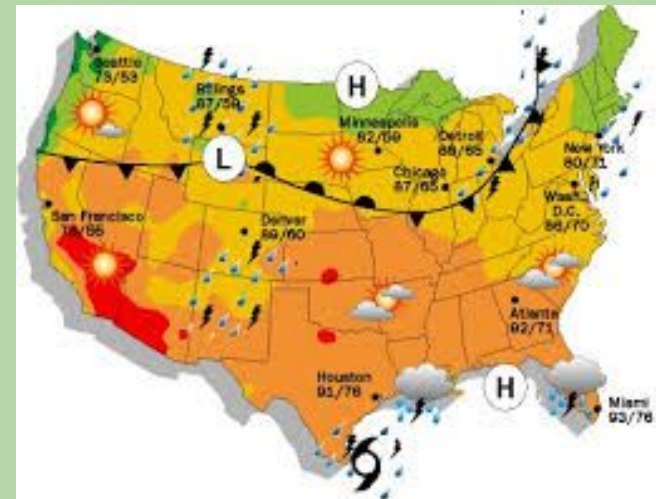
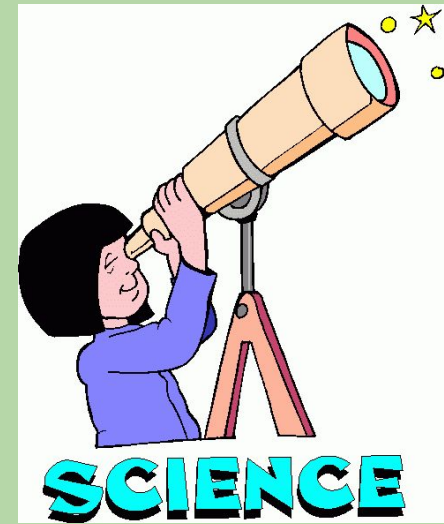
Class Participation = 10%

Labs = 30%

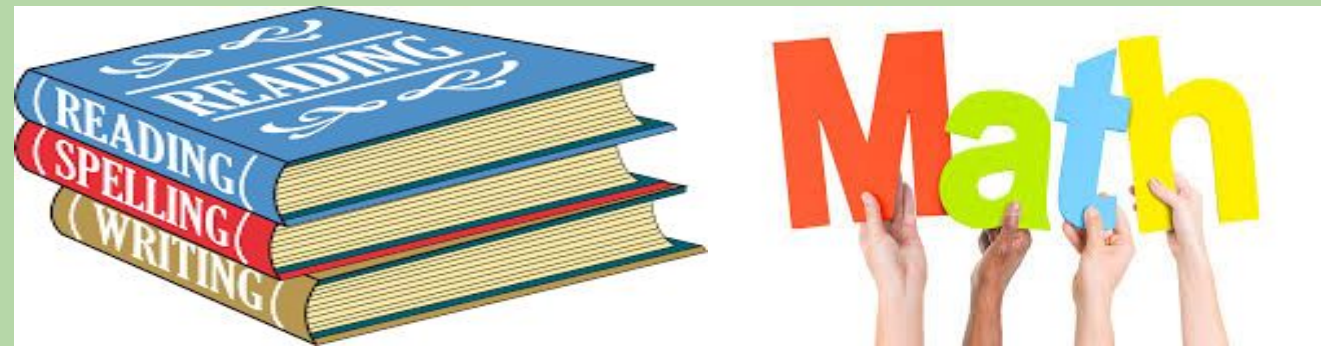
Quizzes = 30%

Unit tests = 20%

Homework = 10%

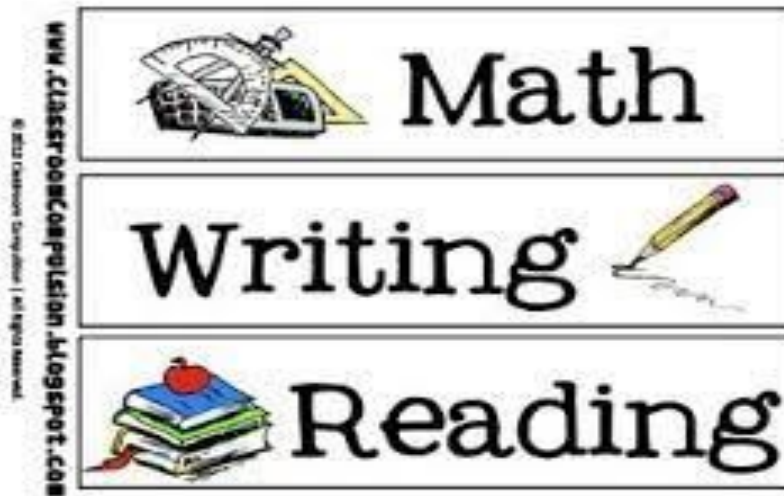


Special Education - Mrs. Kelly



1. **Transition** – The transition from 5th to 6th grade isn't as difficult as it seems. It's usually harder on the parents than the students! I'll be here to help. Feel free to contact me at dkelly@berlincentral.org and/or 658-1500. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask now, during the summer, or whenever it's convenient for you. My two sons went to Berlin Elementary School, Middle School, and High School. I am familiar with our district as a parent and as a teacher.
2. **Co-teaching** - I am in ELA and Math daily to help our students. I co-teach with Mrs. Gilbert in ELA and Mrs. Lanzillo for math.

3.Resource Room - The students with IEPs will have Resource Room with me. We will work on their IEP goals. It is also a time for re-teaching and practicing new skills and concepts.



Mrs. Kelly - Special Education - Continued

4. Co-Teaching in Science and Social Studies - I will be co-teaching daily with Mr. Scannell and Mrs. Hammersmith for science and social studies.



5. Individualized Education Plan (IEP) - Students with IEP's have accommodations and modifications. An example of an accommodation is *taking a test in a small group setting*. An example of a modification is a *Modified Homework Assignment*. *The homework is at the student's instructional level and pictures are used to support the vocabulary.*



5. Homework Club

After school, students can stay with me on Wednesdays and Thursdays to work on their homework.

6. W.E.B

This stands for “Where Everyone Belongs”. Ms. Hammond and I head this program where 8th graders help the incoming 6th graders become familiar with our middle school.



Mrs. Colbert or Ms. DeCelle

Visual Arts

In 6th Grade Art, you will build on what you learned at BES and experience a variety of art materials. You will use **paint, clay, watercolors, and colored pencils**, among others.

If you love Art but do not have it 1st quarter, that is okay! **You can come to ART CLUB!** Make sure to check the “Art News” board for more info!

We look forward to meeting all of our new 6th grade artists soon!

Instagram @berlinartdepartment
Facebook Page “Berlin Art Department”
Website: <https://berlinartdept.wixsite.com/berlinartdept>



Mrs. Colbert
scolbert@berlincentral.org



Ms. DeCelle
sdecelle@berlincentral.org

Ms. Eliashuk-Chorus & Music



- 6th Grade Chorus meets every other day during a 40 minute period. Students will perform in two concerts during the year and sing in two or three parts.

Materials Needed Daily-Pocket folder

- 6th Grade General Music meets for 10 weeks. Students will learn about how music of other cultures compares to music of our cultures, while continually expanding their musical knowledge and vocabulary.

Materials Needed Daily-Pocket Folder & Pencil

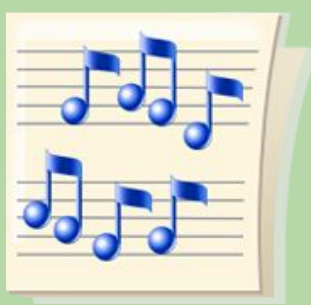
RCSMA Elementary All County-Auditions End Sept.

Berlin Dramateers-Show and Date TBD

NYSSMA Solo Festival-April or May 2021

ACDA Elementary Honor Choir-Summer 2021





Mrs. Gould-Music



6th Grade Band - Band meets during a 40 minute period every other day. Students will receive lessons on their instruments every week.

There are many music making opportunities for band students! You can be involved in NYSSMA with a solo or All County band. We may even have a middle school jazz band this year!

Band students should make sure to have a 3 ring binder for music as well as necessary instrument-specific supplies like reeds and oil.

Mr. Weaver, Mrs. Honsinger, and Mrs. Berschwinger-PE

In 6th grade and thereafter there is a changing requirement for all PE classes.

Students should have:

- shorts and a tee shirt
- sweats and a sweatshirt
- an extra pair of socks
- an older pair of sneakers

hand sanitizer and deodorant

•aerosol cans are not allowed

•PE and health- We are excited to guide you in lifelong wellness





Library

Ms. Overocker

- Hello! All 6th graders will have a library class for every other day for half of the school year (one semester).
- Students will be learning about both physical and digital resources the library has to offer, as well as learning the techniques to researching.
- Students are more than welcome to come to the library during free periods, in addition to their assigned class time!
- Materials: Two pocket folder of any color



Mrs. Harrison

Last Names A-I

School Counselors



Ms. Testa

Last Names J-Z

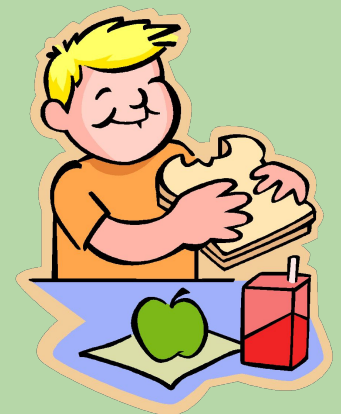
What can your school counselor help with?

- Scheduling your classes
- Help with organization and time management
- Peer conflict/Peer mediation/Restorative conversations
- Small groups/individual check-ins
- Communication between students, teachers and parents/guardians
- Advocating for student needs

Lunch Bunch

With your School Counselor

- All 6th graders will have an opportunity to participate in Lunch Bunch with Mrs. Harrison and Ms. Testa. Each week 6 sixth grader will be invited to bring their lunch and one friend to the counseling office on a designated day. Lunchtime is a fun way for everyone to meet, play games and get to know each other. This program is optional and if a student is invited and does not wish to come he/she is just asked to give the invitation to another 6th grader.
- Individual and group meetings for problem-solving are also available.



Opportunities

- C.A.M (Community Active Mountaineers) Formerly FCCLA– Mrs. Hammersmith
- Art Club – Mrs. Colbert & Ms. DeCelle
- Middle School Dramateers – Ms. Eliashuk and Mrs. Gould
- Middle School Student Council – Mrs. Gilbert
- SADD/GSA- Ms. Augustine
- OOTM - Odyssey of the Mind -
- MS Yearbook Club - Mrs. Hammersmith



MSSC

- ❖ Berlin Middle School Student Council sponsors a wide variety of extracurricular, social, and leadership development activities throughout the school year, providing for a complete and enjoyable middle school experience. Some of the activities we put on are school dances, food drives, recycling, the Berlin 5K, and many different types of fundraisers to help out the community. We also help organize pep rallies and field trips.
- ❖ The Berlin School Student Council serves the school's students, staff, and community. Student representatives from the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade are required to attend all of the meetings and event dates. Members (students not elected into a position) from the 6th, 7th and 8th grade are encouraged to attend the meetings and assist at the events.
- ❖ We meet after school monthly or more depending on the activities



OOTM

Odyssey of the Mind

Odyssey of the Mind teaches students to learn creative problem-solving methods while having fun in the process. By tapping into creativity, and through encouraging imaginative paths to problem-solving, students learn skills that will provide them with the ability to solve problems. Odyssey of the Mind teaches students how to think outside the box by providing open-ended problems that appeal to a wide range of interests. Students learn how to identify challenges and to think creatively to solve those problems. Students work in teams of 5-7 so they learn cooperation and respect for the ideas of others. They evaluate ideas and make decisions on their own, gaining greater self-confidence and increased self-esteem along the way. They work within a budget, so they learn to manage their money. They see that there's often more than one way to solve a problem, and that sometimes the process is more important than the end result. We meet during Triple M and after school once a week. There is a regional competition on one Saturday in February or March that we travel to.

W.E.B. Program (Where Everybody Belongs)



- ❖ W.E.B. is a 6th grade transition program.
- ❖ The program focuses on providing positive experiences for incoming 6th graders.
- ❖ Your child will be mentored by an 8th grade leader who will contact your student over the summer and encouraged to participate in school wide activities, including

6th Grade Orientation

August 30th from 9AM-11:30AM

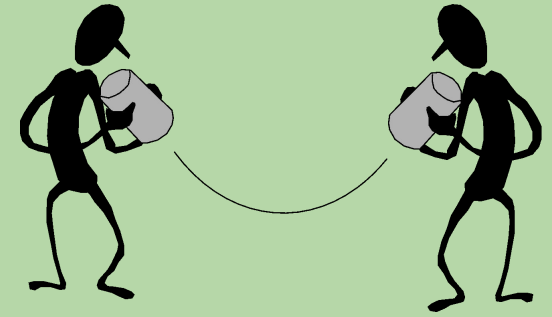
in the Auditorium

- ❖ 3 Social Events
- ❖ 4 Lessons during Advisory

Please contact Meredith Hammond,
MS Spanish teacher, with any W.E.B. related questions.
mhammond@berlincentral.org



Parent Communication



- Homework planners
- School Tool/Schoology (grades/homework, missing assignments)

LOOK for the Schoology Invite for Class of 2029

- Monthly Newsletter from grade 6
- Interim grades (not mailed, check Schoology)
- Quarterly grades
- Notes/phone calls/emails home when students are doing exceptionally well or not doing well
- Parent/teacher conferences as needed

BMHS PTO 2022-2023

We would like to invite you to join the Berlin Middle/High School PTO. Please join us on the

Zoom details will be posted the day of each meeting on our Facebook page. Make sure to join our page at Berlin MS/HS PTO.

We are always looking for members at large and volunteers for various events. Plus, we will be holding elections in September so please reach out if you are interested at Berlinmshspto@gmail.com!

Booster Club

Sports Parents we invite you to join the Berlin-New Lebanon Athletics Booster Club. Join our Facebook page @BNLBoosterclub to stay up to date with all sports related news, activities & upcoming events!

We are always looking for new ideas & volunteers for various events. Our yearly Officer elections will be held in June. Mtg notices are posted on the Facebook page & are held either in person or via Zoom. (Next mtg. 6/22pm Zoom)

Contact Info: berlinboosterclub@gmail.com

Wasaren League Schedules: wasarenleague.org

What are we doing to help students succeed?

Homework

- Homework club after school
- Teachers stay after Tuesday-Thursday

Help

- RtI/Reading – offered to eligible students in the areas of Math and ELA

Organization

- Class overviews, rules, expectations, grading policies are sent home and explained to students
- Class notebooks & folders are color coded by subject to aid in student organization

Attendance

Pay Attention to Attendance: Keep Your Child On Track in Middle and High School

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10 percent, or about 18 days, of the school year can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job.

Attendance - What You Can Do

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school everyday, make that the expectation.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.
- Not schedule vacations during the school days/weeks
- Don't let your child stay home unless truly sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety. Help your teen stay engaged
- Find out if your child feels engaged by his classes and feels safe from bullies and other threats. Make sure he/she is not missing class because of behavioral issues and school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, work with your school.
 - Stay on top of academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors if necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
 - Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
 - Encourage meaningful afterschool activities, including sports and clubs. Communicate with the school
 - Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties
 - Talk to teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.
 - Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not piling up.
 - Ask for help from school officials, afterschool programs, other parents or community agencies if you're having trouble getting your child to school.

[Supplies needed for 6th grade 2022/2023](#)

(Linked)

Questions?

Please email Mrs. Gilbert, Team 6 Leader

agilbert@berlincentral.org

or the content area staff member from slide 2