

Berlin

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 2023

Opening Letter from Superintendent Dhara

Dear Berlin Community Members,

I am excited and pleased to share our first Annual Report for the Berlin Central School District. This report provides a snapshot of the progress that we have made in our District over the past three years on the goals and objectives identified in our Strategic Plan. The future Annual Reports will highlight the progress made in each year.

I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of our students, staff and District as we came through Covid and the challenges it presented, to now having completed our first full normal year of school, in which those challenges persisted and others had to be overcome as well. The strategic plan served as our guide as we launched new initiatives for students and staff, enhanced safety and security measures, completed capital project work, and forged new relationships and partnerships while recognizing the importance of fiscal responsibility.

We have four priority areas in our Strategic Plan – Student Achievement, Engaged Mountaineers, Community Partnerships, and Facility and Fiscal Responsibility. These formed the center of our decisions and guided us to what we accomplished. The Strategic Plan as well as our prior newsletters can be accessed on our website.

Each priority area has its own goals and objectives along with how the District will accomplish those goals and reach those objectives. Both of our buildings in turn have goals that align with the priority areas of the plan. Together, these measures, plans, and projects serve as the foundation to support our mission and vision for the District.

That mission is to maximize the diverse talents and aspirations of our students to ensure they will be ready to assume

responsibility for their own success in the workforce, college, the community and life.

Some of our plan's goals are intended to be achieved within one year, while others will span multiple years. At the end of each academic year, our administrative team will review our progress and then update the plan as necessary. In the pages that follow, we have highlighted work that was done in each of the four priority areas during the past three years.

We hope you will give us your valuable feedback on how the District is doing, including where you feel there is room for improvement. In that way we can continue to update our plan to focus on the areas of greatest needs.

Berlin CSD is a reflection of the community it serves, and your active involvement is very important to us. To make it easy to reach us, we have created an online survey, for community feedback on the past three school years, that can be accessed via the District website home page or by scanning the QR code on page 11.

If you would like a paper copy of the survey, please call 518-658-1500.

We will continue, in the coming years, to follow the path our Strategic Plan has created for us at Berlin. We need your input, as we partner together to shape the journey our students and staff will take as we move forward.

Respectfully,

A. Joseph Dhara, *Superintendent*



Berlin CSD Board of Education

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; and 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.

The Berlin Central School District Board of Education is a

student-driven board with an unrelenting focus on the success of all students. Berlin CSD has an open door policy to educate all children from all walks of life and is resolute on providing multiple pathways for careers and education, preparing our Mountaineers for the direction they wish to take after graduation. The board is committed to making informed decisions based on feedback from all stakeholders; students, parents, staff and tax payers, which is so important to the District's success. All while providing a safe and transparent environment for everyone within the School District.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS AND COMMITTEES

Andrea Beckwith – 2022 – present, current term – 2022-2025

Kim Collen – 2022 – present, current term – 2022-2025

Derrick Gardner – 2020 – present, current term 2023-2026

Trevor Jewett – 2021 – present, current term 2021-2024

Sherry Bowman-Kluck – 2016 – present,
current term 2022-2025

Katie Snyder – 2012 – present, current term 2021-2024

Frank J. Zwack – 1983 – 2001, 2002 – present,
current term 2023-2026

**Each term is a three year term which begins July 1, of the year and ends June 30, of the ending term.*

<https://berlincentral.org/district/board-of-education/>

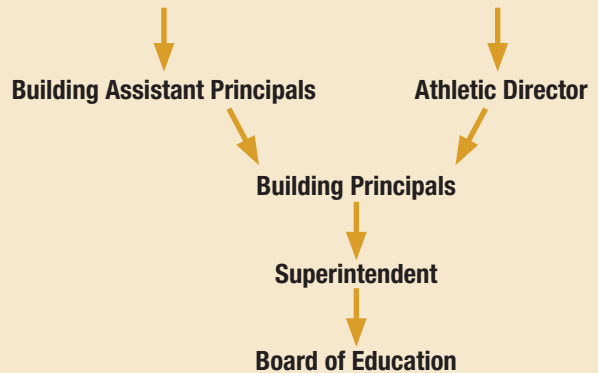
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Monthly BOE meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at the Berlin Middle High School at 7:15 p.m. Please join us. Your voice is important.

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE WITH BERLIN SCHOOL AND DISTRICT STAFF

As a BCSD parent please take time to review the “chain of command” or where to begin the communication sequence regarding a problem or concern. Many parent and community questions are easily and completely answered by communicating directly with the educator in charge of the class or program. Each situation should first be addressed at whatever level the initial action was taken, with appeals moving on to the next level in the chain of command.

EDUCATOR IN CHARGE OF THE CLASS OR PROGRAM



VISION/MISSION

Berlin Central School District students graduate with an excellent education and experiences that prepare them to become productive members of society. The mission of the Berlin Central School District is to maximize the diverse talents and aspirations of its students. Our students will be ready to assume responsibility for their own success in the workforce, college, the community, and life. Our priority is to engage, equip, and empower each Mountaineer student to achieve their chosen pathway.

With a strong commitment to our students and community, Berlin Central School District operates from these CORE VALUES:



EMPATHY: Acting with compassion to build relationships and foster community.



PERSEVERANCE: Understanding that excellence requires hard work, patience, and persistence.



INTEGRITY: Acting with honesty, respect, trust, and transparency.



TEAMWORK: Working collaboratively to achieve a common goal.



PRIDE: Demonstrating a strong connection to our school, district, and community.



GROWTH MINDSET: Modeling a love for life-long learning.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR OFFERINGS

Sports

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Bowling
- Cheerleading
- Cross Country
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming
- Track & Field
- Volleyball
- Wrestling

Clubs and Organizations

- Art Club
- Chamber Choir
- Drama Club
- Envirothon
- First Lego League
- Gay Straight Alliance (GSA)
- Health and Fitness Center
- InvenTeam
- Jazz Band
- Masterminds
- National Art Honor Society
- National Honor Society
- National Science Honor Society
- Odyssey of the Mind
- Prom Committee
- SADD
- Spanish Club
- Special Olympics
- Student Council
- Super Troopers
- Yearbook Committee

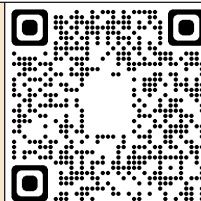
Post-Secondary Institutions Attended by 2019 – 2022 Graduates

Arizona State University
 Bryant & Stratton
 Clarkson University
 College of Saint Rose
 Columbia Greene Community College
 Dallas College
 Davenport University
 Elmira College
 Hanover College
 Hartwick College
 Hudson Valley Community College
 Johnson & Wales University
 Kent State University
 LeMoyne College
 Maria College
 Massachusetts College of Pharmacy
 and Health Sciences
 MCLA
 Mohawk Valley Community College

Nazareth College
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 Russell Sage College
 Schenectady County Community College
 Siena College
 SUNY Albany
 SUNY Binghamton
 SUNY Brockport
 SUNY Cobleskill
 SUNY Cortland
 SUNY Delhi
 SUNY Farmingdale
 SUNY Geneseo
 SUNY Old Westbury
 SUNY Morrisville
 SUNY New Paltz
 SUNY Plattsburgh
 SUNY Polytechnic Institute
 Williams College

Berlin
 CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Archived
 Berlin CSD's
 Newsletters





Post Graduate Plans

2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
4-year: 11%	4-year: 10%	4-year: 16%
2-year: 14%	2-year: 11%	2-year: 15%
Other:* 75%	Other:* 79%	Other:* 69%

Number of Graduates

2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
48	56	49

CTE Number of Students

2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
32	27	27

Graduation Rate

2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
89%	86%	84%

Diploma Types

2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
ADVANCED REGENTS:		
47%	42%	48%
REGENTS:		
47%	45%	34%
OTHER:		
6%	13%	18%

SAT Results

SAT Math Average Score: 575
SAT Evidence-Based Reading & Writing Average Score: 608

Statistics for the Class of 2023

Total June Graduates: **43**
 Regents with Advanced Designation: **20**

Regents Diploma: **20**
 Technical Training/Military/Workforce/Other: **75%**

* Workforce/Military/Other

Berlin CSD School Profile

The Berlin Central School District services approximately 670 students in Kindergarten through 12th Grade. The District comprises the Elementary School, Grades K–5, and the Middle High School, Grades 6–12. The total enrollment for the combined Middle School and High School building is approximately 370 students, with a faculty of 50.

THE CURRICULUM

Twenty-two credits are required for graduation. Mandatory credits are as follows: 4 credits of English, 4 credits of social studies, 3 credits of math, 3 credits of science, 1 credit of a language other than English, 1 credit of Art or Music, 1/2 credit of Health, and 2 credits of Physical Education.

Advanced NYS Regents Diploma candidates take 3 credits of a language other than English, the three NYS Regents Math courses as well as a minimum of two NYS Regents Lab Science courses.

Students who meet the qualifications for acceleration in Math and/or Science may take Algebra 1 and/or Living Environment in the 8th Grade. Honors sections are also taught in Grades 9–11 for English and Social Studies. Berlin currently offers four Advanced Placement Courses: AP English, AP Psychology, AP Art and Design and AP US History.

Berlin High School participates in the *College in the High School Program* and students can earn college credits in Technology, Spanish, Art History and math courses. This program is administered by Hudson Valley Community College, part of the State University of New York (SUNY) system.

The Berlin School District also participates in the Questar III Distance Learning Consortium. In this way Berlin is able to connect with other districts by hosting and receiving courses that would otherwise not be offered to our students. Some of these classes have included Sign Language, Accounting, Real Life Math and Psychology.

BERLIN MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL GRADING SYSTEM AND CLASS RANK

Students are graded numerically on a percentile scale of 0–100%, 65 being the passing mark. Final grades for each course are calculated by weighting the four quarter grades, 22.5% each, and the final exam or project, 10%.

Dual Enrollment or Advanced Placement courses, have a level weight factor of 1.10 when successfully completed. All other courses have a level weight factor of 1.00.

Merit List

- Based on a student's overall quarterly average (must be 85 or higher)
- If students receive one or more grades below 65 or an incomplete for a course, they will not qualify for Merit List (*until the incomplete is satisfied).

Honor Roll

- Based on a student's overall quarterly average (must be 90 or higher)
- No course grade below 80
- *No standing incompletes

Principal's List

- Based on a student's overall quarterly average (must be 95–100)
- No course grade below 85
- *No standing incompletes



Berlin CSD Four Pillar Strategy

1. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Create an environment where students reach their full potential in their chosen pathway through rigorous, student-centered teaching and learning.

COHERENT INSTRUCTIONAL SYSTEM

Utilize curriculum, instructional design and assessment practices to guide and ensure teacher effectiveness and student learning across all grades and courses.

- The District has launched MTSS (Multi-Tiered Student Support) to provide wrap-around services for all students. These supports are now provided in both school buildings. MTSS includes collaborative teams of teachers, administrators, related service providers, and other professionals at both the elementary and middle high school levels.
- Staff and service providers identify and develop support for students inside and outside of the classroom.
- MTSS teams use a streamlined process that includes creating recommendation forms based on specific data for interventions implemented based on student needs. This is followed by scope and sequencing learning in science K–12, secondary social studies, and development in grades 6–12.
- Development of multiple pathways to graduation, such as the Civic Seal of Readiness and Individual Arts Assessment Pathway.
- Teachers are provided with daily planning time and opportunities to further develop their co-teaching skills to be more effective in supporting special education students in the general education classroom.
- Berlin continues to maintain its 1:1 student to device ratio, ensuring all students have access to technology to enhance their learning. In the 2022–2023 school year the District began implementing computer-based testing for NYS exams in grade 5 with plans to expand to grades 4, 6 and 8 in the 2023–2024 school year.

WELL-BEING

Support social–emotional learning, character development, and mental health of all students.

- Restorative Practices (RP) training has been provided to all BCSD staff. This is intended to foster a sense of community within classrooms, prevent conflict, and help students understand how their actions impact others and their school community. RP helps promote student accountability and rebuilding relationships to avoid negative interactions in the future.
- Monthly Character Education assemblies are held at Berlin Elementary School (BES) to promote and model building wide behavioral expectations and monthly traits.
- Berlin CSD has partnered with Rensselaer County and St. Peter's Crime Victims Unit to bolster access to mental health services for students.

- Berlin Middle High School (BMHS) Student Assistance Counselor, Jill Augustine, supports students who may be struggling with drug and alcohol addiction or social-emotional needs.
- BES Family Liaison & School Counselor James Taylor-Shaw, joined the District to provide a link between the school, District families and the larger community.
- Implementation of Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for all faculty and staff.
- Therapeutic Crisis Intervention for Schools (TCIS) has been provided to several staff and administrators with plans to continue with more training in the upcoming school year. TCIS was developed by Cornell and provides research-based strategies to de-escalate student problems.
- Monthly District-wide Health and Safety Committee meetings.
- Lunch program student “taste-testings” and reviews for future meals.
- The District provides students with iPads, bus blankets, fidget toys, and coloring books for longer bus rides, to help them stay focused and safe.
- Transportation staff are being trained in de-escalation techniques to promote a safe bus environment.
- Transition activities are planned to acclimate 5th Grade students entering Middle High School.

COMMUNICATION

Demonstrate to all students that hard work and student success are expected and celebrated, along with the knowledge that the District is committed to partnering with students to ensure they graduate with their peers, prepared for their chosen pathway.

- BES monthly character counts and Merit award winners are celebrated at the assemblies as well as in the local newspaper and posted on our District's social media and website.
- i-Ready diagnostic assessment results for grades 6–8 are communicated to parents three times a year.
- Academic award rallies are held for grades 6–12 at the end of quarters 1–3 to celebrate student achievement.
- End of year Academic Award and Scholarship Ceremony for grades 9–12
- Senior Nights, Signing Day, and Sports Awards Banquet celebrate our student-athletes academic/athletic achievements. News of these events are shared with local newspapers, and posted on our website and social media.

2. ENGAGED MOUNTAINEERS

Build an inclusive culture where students, employees, parents and the community belong and demonstrate trust and pride in our schools.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Empower all students to set academic, career, arts, athletics, and activity goals.

- The BES Odyssey of the Mind Team placed first in the regional competition and also competed at the State level in Syracuse, NY.
- BES is expanding its extracurricular activities to include Drama, Art, Student Ambassadors, Odyssey of the Mind, and After School Enrichment.
- BMHS routinely holds town hall meetings for each grade to address social-emotional, academic or behavioral concerns within the building.
- Adding Student Athlete Pep Rallies to encourage and celebrate our athletic teams.
- Expanding graduation pathways for students such as the Civic Seal of Readiness and the Individual Arts Assessment Pathway (IAAP). The IAAP offers high school students a graduation pathway that prepares them for future professional and educational experiences and opportunities in the arts. This pathway can support students who excel in art, to focus on this passion to fuel their ambitions and decisions after high school.
- The Arts Department expanded its Arts Alive community event in the 2022–2023 school year by working with the English Department to include a Poetry Cafe. The Poetry Cafe created an opportunity for both students and staff to share their own spoken word.
- Bolster the academic partnerships we have with Questar III BOCES by supporting student specific interests. For example, providing students an opportunity to participate in the Questar III and HVCC STEM High School, New Visions or Career Technical Education programs.
- More offerings for extracurricular activities and sports for 6th Grade students.
- Finalizing a BNL Athletics logo with New Lebanon CSD that will reflect current mascots and build a new logo for the program to create a joint sense of pride.



- BNL Athletics sent 5 Student Athletes to NCAA/NJCAA colleges at Division II and III levels in various sports such as Bowling, Cross County, Track and Swimming.
- Students can now utilize the Stop-It application to anonymously report bullying and safety concerns that administrative staff receive and can act upon accordingly.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

Develop aligned and relevant professional learning for all employees that improves their knowledge, collaboration, and effectiveness while supporting organizational and educational excellence.

- BCSD has incorporated additional time in the school year for targeted professional development.
- Streamlined in-service process for teachers training.
- BES implements grade level Professional Learning Community meetings.
- The District has rebranded its Professional Development Committee name and purpose to the Professional Learning Time Committee. The intent of this committee is to create meaningful, relevant and targeted professional learning experiences for our staff, connecting their teaching and learning practices in order to increase student engagement resulting in “Engaged Mountaineers.”
- Bus drivers and attendants have increased “Friday Rewards,” encouraging students to model positive behavior on the bus throughout the week.
- To ensure transportation readiness and availability the BCSD Transportation Department has been vetting a software program to streamline communications between all District buildings and athletic departments. This will allow for faster communication when changes arise or and make sure transportation is provided for preplanned events.
- Transportation will utilize snow days for staff training when school is canceled due to weather conditions.

(continued on page 8)

Berlin CSD Four Pillar Strategy *(continued)*

2. ENGAGED MOUNTAINEERS *(continued)*

MOUNTAINEER ENGAGEMENT

Cultivate and enhance stakeholder pride and engagement in our schools

- Athletic Director Jason McFall, has introduced sports clinics, recreation leagues and strength and conditioning opportunities to increase student-athlete achievement and success, resulting in an increased pride in the BNL Athletic program.
- Increasing/varying our athletic offerings and alignment of competition to mirror our merged sports programs.
- Quarterly academic recognition ceremonies at BMHS.
- Spirit days and special events such as PE Fun Day and Sing-alongs at both BMHS and BES.
- A Community Partnership Committee was created to collaborate with community stakeholders and promote community engagement through the various opportunities provided within our school and larger community.

COMMUNICATION

Implement strategies for communicating District vision, focused goals, pathways to excellence, and organizational culture.

- Student and staff successes and achievements are regularly recognized on our social media, local news outlets, website and newsletters.
- Quarterly Athletic Director letters are sent to families to address issues and highlight movement within BNL Athletics.
- BES monthly parent newsletters are emailed to all BES families with important news reminders and dates.
- Berlin CSD full time District Communication Liaison
- The Transportation Department's EZ Routing bus software allows direct communication with parents of individual buses to be alerted if the bus is running late.

3. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Support student success through collaboration and communication with families and the community.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Enhance the District's reputation by growing relationships and increasing use of community resources.

- Opportunities for students to participate in community-based field trips; some of these include a Memorial Walk, visit to the post office, and trips to Dyken Pond and Grafton Lakes State Park.
- Partnership with the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Office to provide a School Resource Office (SRO) for the District.
- Community Assistance page on District website to provide assistance and programming information for the school community.
- Transportation has implemented a first point of contact with parents/guardians when a referral is given on a bus. This usually decreases the amount of second or third referrals for the same student.
- Transportation is discussing staff uniforms (shirts / jackets) with staff and the District name for a more professional / team appearance for all, as well as safety aspects.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Increase the degree of family involvement in a student's educational experiences in all aspects of school life.

- BCSD holds a variety of community events throughout the school year including Supply Drop offs, Harvest Happenings, Fall Fest, Winter Fest, Wellness Fair/5K, Math Night, and Reading Under the Stars. These events promote a connection between the school and the community.
- Annual concerts and Art Shows at BMHS and BES to showcase student talent and achievement in the Arts.

- Open House allows parents and community members to meet staff members and take part in the interests and achievements of students.
- Garnering interest for our BCSD PTO, Merged Sports Committee and the BNL Booster Club to support the growth and development of our students' academic and athletic programs.
- Annual Pre-K / Kindergarten Bus Orientation in August to familiarize new students with bus rules and safety. Students ride on a bus, learn how to cross safely and meet transportation staff. Parents/guardians are also able to meet office staff and ask questions.

COMMUNICATION

Develop a shared vision for the District and cultivate two-way communication between the District, students, employees, families, and community.

- Three newsletters per year to communicate BCSD's goals as well as student and staff achievements. This is directly mailed to all community members within the District.
- Community forums were held in all towns to get feedback and answer questions regarding a change in bus runs.
- The use of School Messenger, Schoology and Seesaw to facilitate and promote direct parent/guardian communication.
- Added a District Twitter, LinkedIn page, Athletics Live Stream, and District YouTube channel.
- Updated school website to include specific tabs for Community Events, Technology and Counseling/Crisis Resources.
- Athletics transition to Family ID/Arbitersports to streamline student-athlete registration and effectively communicate directly with coaches, parents and students-athletes.

4. FACILITY & FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Establish transparent facility plans and fiscal processes that align to the needs of students and support staff in meeting these needs.

FACILITIES

Develop a District facilities plan, identify funding, and timeline.

- A multi-year facilities plan will be completed after the building condition survey taking place in 2023-2024.
- Completion and upcoming closing of Capital Project 1 & 2. These projects included athletic fields and buildings.
- The Baseball complex opened spring 2023. Future plans include hosting tournaments to improve school pride.
- The Track and Field complex hosted its first Wasaren League Varsity and Modified Track and Field meets. This coming school year Berlin (BNL Athletics) will host the Wasaren League Outdoor Track and Field Championships.
- Tractor purchase for more efficient maintenance of athletic fields and District grounds
- Key fobs have been issued to staff members and coaches during their sports season as a single point of entry to increase efficiency and security.
- Updated cameras District wide to increase student safety and protect District property.
- Upgraded District network switches and Wi-Fi infrastructure to increase connection speed, productivity and security for staff and student devices.
- Replacement plan to continue upgrading classroom Smart Boards.
- Installation of Raptor Security System at both buildings to sign visitors into buildings and have an accurate report of individuals in the buildings daily.
- Upgraded kitchen equipment and infrastructure.
- Enforcement technology was installed on all buses to capture license plates or motorists who illegally pass school buses and put students in danger. All technology and maintenance are provided to the districts at zero cost through BusPatrol's violator-funded program that have been installed
- Upgraded analog radios to digital radios in all buses and buildings for District safety and efficient communications.
- Participation and training with I Love You Guys Foundation hosted by Questar III BOCES to understand more about crisis response and reunification for school incidents.

BUDGET

Establish a transparent fiscally responsible, balanced annual budget.

- Received additional state aid revenue from NYS and stimulus funds from the federal government. Fiscal responsibility from these funds have been implemented and analyzed.
- Implementation of Reserve Funds have been established to reduce future variables on economic downturns and unexpected expenses.

- The District has an A+ bond rating which will support lower interest rates for an overall District savings to taxpayers.
- Improvements in Business Office reporting to and procedures.
- Implementation of an online bidding platform (BidNet) for a wider scope of vendor representation.
- Increase awareness of utilizing Questar III BOCES for District savings and increased aid.
- Implementation of online auctions for Board of Education approved surpluses for miscellaneous revenues.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Ensure District finances and operations are aligned directly to priorities that assure the success of all students.

- Research, develop and implement grant opportunities to identify needs for improving programs and student success.
- Implementation of Ed-Data purchasing platform for General Municipal Law (GML) compliance and cost savings
- Consultants brought into the District's Business Office for supportive restructuring of processes.
- The Business Office attended the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) as a team.
- Program review of System to Track and Account for Children (STAC) with Questar III BOCES to analyze and better understand the aid able threshold.
- Aligning budgeting/purchasing processes between Berlin and New Lebanon in the athletic department to monitor all purchases and reimbursements between the Districts.
- District investment in recycling and educational support of a recycling culture.

COMMUNICATION

Communicate budget process, priorities, and timeline to all stakeholders.

- The budget newsletter sent to District community members is now strictly related to the budget and BOE elections. This newsletter is a more visual representation and breakdown of the budget prior to budget vote.
- Implemented structured meetings per department or building to review and determine budgetary needs for the upcoming school year.





2023 Summer Academy Focuses on Enrichment

"I never thought summer school would be this fun!" said a Berlin Middle School 7th Grade student.

"I thought we would be just sitting around doing catch up work but we have been cooking, learning through living history and going on great field trips."

The 2023 Berlin CSD's Summer Academy and Enrichment programs have wrapped up, and many of the Mountaineers shared similar reactions to this year's summer programs.

The programs were held at both the Elementary School, where there was a general education and a special education program, and at the Middle High School, where a summer academy and enrichment programs were offered.

Summer Academy Principals Ms. Amy Ferullo (BMHS) and Ms. Jodi Cataldo (BES) were excited to observe the students and staff engagement throughout the summer. They especially appreciated the hands-on learning and participation that happened during the activities.

The Berlin administration thanks the dedicated staff and teachers who made the 2023 Summer Academy, Enrichment and ESY programs such a success. Their dedication helped continue personal growth for many Mountaineers this summer.

Read the full Summer Academy Story on our website here <https://berlincentral.org/2023/08/29/berlin-csds-2023-summer-academy-focuses-on-enrichment/>

Senior Daniel Rivera's Work Wins National Competition, to be featured at Smithsonian

When the National Art Education Association (NAEA) announced their Democracy Collection Student Art Competition for students across the country ages 13–18, Berlin Middle High School art teacher Mrs. Samantha Colbert connected with her student Daniel Rivera (2023 Berlin Central School District graduate) about submitting a piece he had been working on since the fall 2022.

The NAEA competition explored the theme of democracy through art and Daniel's "Tears of Miss Justice: Mourning a Broken System" fit the competition's theme. BHS English and Language Arts teacher, Ms. Mikaela Marbot, helped guide Daniel through his artist's statement writing, part of the submissions process for adjudication, and Daniel's work was submitted to the national competition.

A panel of visual arts professionals, including renowned graphic artist Shepard Fairey, chose five winners from 29 finalists: three regional winners and one "Best in Show": Daniel's "Tears of Miss Justice: Mourning a Broken System"

Daniel will be honored with BMHS art teacher, Mrs. Colbert, at the Art in Embassies Art Activations for Democracy event on September 19, 2023, at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, DC.

"NAEA is proud to collaborate with the U.S. Department of State Art in Embassies

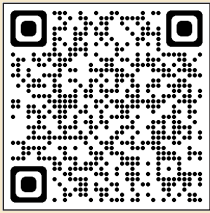
office on this competition as together we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Democracy Collection. Helping students explore what democracy means to them, and offering a national platform for expression and recognition in the visual arts, is invaluable. We congratulate all the students who were selected, those who entered the competition, as well as their art educators, Mario R. Rossero, NAEA Executive Director.



Daniel's painting will become a permanent part of the Democracy Collection, in which U.S. ambassadors will have a chance to select it for display in their embassies around the globe.

Berlin Middle High School's art educators Mrs. Colbert and Mrs. Shannon DeCelle are proud of Daniel's work and excited to hear how the Berlin CSD's community is celebrating Daniel's accomplishment. His success is sure to inspire many Mountaineer artists this year and for years to come.

More information can be found here: <https://art.state.gov/democracy-collection-naea-competition/>



HOW TO CONNECT/ IMPORTANT LINKS

Food Service — <https://berlincentral.org/departments/food-services/>
 Transportation — <https://berlincentral.org/services/transportation/>
 Schoology — <https://app.schoology.com/login>
 Strategic Plan — <https://berlincentral.org/bcsd-strategic-plan/>
 Athletics — <https://berlincentral.org/athletics/>
 Technology — <https://berlincentral.org/technology/>
 Community Resources — <https://berlincentral.org/community-assistance/>
 Community Bulletin — <https://berlincentral.org/community-support-programs-and-upcoming-events-activities/>
 District Calendar of Events — <https://berlincentral.org/district/calendar/>
 Mountaineer Website — www.berlincentral.org
 Follow Us On Facebook — @BerlinCentralSchoolDistrict or
 Follow Us On Twitter — @BerlinCSD or Athletics @BerlinNY_AD
 Subscribe to Our YouTube Channels — CommunicationsBCSD
 Subscribe to Our YouTube Live Streaming Channel — Streaming BCSD

GET INVOLVED. The best way to stay up-to-date with what's happening in the Mountaineer Community is to take an active role in our school community. Please consider joining:

Berlin CSD Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

Follow on Facebook @Berlin Elementary Mountaineers PTO / @Berlin MS/HS PTO or email BESPTO@berlincentral.org / Berlinmshspto@gmail.com

Berlin New Lebanon Booster Club

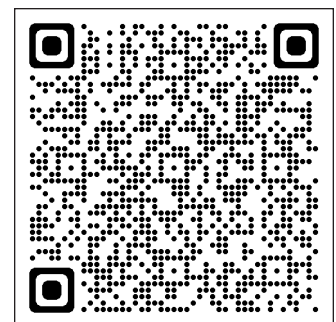
Follow on Facebook @BerlinNLBooster or email berlinboosterclub@gmail.com for more information.

Join the Berlin CSD Community Partnership Committee

The Berlin CSD Community Partnership Committee meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6-7 p.m. in Berlin Middle High School Library. The purpose of this committee is to highlight the activities that are already happening in our local community while also working with the school to schedule around or with any events or programs that are currently happening in the school district. We welcome anyone in our community to join us as we continue to brainstorm ideas on how to meet the needs of our community together. Please reach out to James Taylor-Shaw, Berlin Elementary Family Liaison & School Counselor at jtaylorshaw@berlincentral.org for more information.



Berlin CSD is a reflection of the community it serves, and your active involvement is very important to us. To make it easy to reach us, we have created an online survey regarding the 2022-2023 school year, that can be accessed via the District website home page, scanning the Community Survey QR code or going to this link <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdykTz18EPTwVhW3CtzjowWEBznickG-LBBky4QItiV7xbfUQ/viewform>. If you would like a paper copy of the survey, please call 518-658-1500.



Berlin

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

P. O. Box 259 • Berlin, NY 12022

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BERLIN, NY 12022
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POSTAL PATRON

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Andrea Beckwith – *Audit Committee, Merged Sports Committee*

Kim Collen – *Wellness Committee, Merged Sports Committee*

Derrick Gardner – *Facility Committee*

Trevor Jewett – *Facility Committee*

Sherry Bowman-Kluck – *Merged Sports Committee*

Katie Snyder – *Vice President - Facility Committee, Audit Committee*

Frank J. Zwack – *President – Audit Committee*

SUPERINTENDENT

Joseph Dhara

www.berlincentral.org



Our priority is to engage, equip, and empower each Mountaineer student to achieve their chosen pathway.

Student Achievement

Create an environment where students reach their full potential in their chosen pathway through rigorous, student-centered teaching and learning.

Engaged Mountaineers

Build an inclusive culture where students, employees, parents and the community belong and demonstrate trust and pride in our schools.

Community Partnerships

Support student success through collaboration and communication with families and the community.

Facility & Fiscal Responsibility

Establish transparent facility plans and fiscal processes that align to the needs of students and support staff in meeting these needs.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Berlin Central School District

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