



Berlin

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Berlin Middle High School

17400 Route 22, Cherry Plain, NY 12040 | Phone: 518-658-1500

David Bernsley
Middle/High School Principal

Meghan Reynolds
Middle/High School Assistant Principal

Dear Mountaineer Families,

I hope this message finds you well! I'd like to share a few exciting updates as we kick off another great school year.

This Wednesday, September 18th, we'll be engaging in our inaugural **Senior Mountaineer Day**, a new tradition at Berlin Middle High School. All of our seniors will participate in a day-long celebration that includes a barbeque lunch, which will be cooked by myself, Mrs. Reynolds, and Dr. Long. There will also be various games for students to enjoy throughout the day.

Our plan is for seniors to paint approved designs in their assigned parking spots. These personalized spots will remain visible until next year, when the next group of seniors will have the opportunity to create their own designs. For students who don't drive, there will be an option to ask a staff member to paint a spot on their behalf. Additionally, we've notified Questar that all of our Questar students are excused from attending Questar for the day so they can fully participate. It's shaping up to be a fantastic day, and we're excited to celebrate our seniors in this special way!

Before we can move forward, I'll be presenting to the Board of Education at Tuesday night's meeting, September 17th, to gain their approval for our students to paint their parking spots. I look forward to sharing the positive impact this new tradition can have on building school pride and fostering a stronger sense of community.

In addition, this is our first Spirit Week of the school year! To see what each day's theme is, please click on this link, [BMHS Spirit Week September 16-20](#). We're looking forward to seeing everyone show their school spirit!

On another note, I had the opportunity to meet with our students this past Thursday, September 12th, to discuss the transition to our new electronic pass system, Minga. As of September 12th, we've moved away from paper passes

and are now using electronic passes exclusively. This shift means that students must bring their Chromebooks to school every day, and they are expected to have them in each class, with the exception of physical education and lunch.

I'm proud to report that our students have adapted well to this change, and they're doing an outstanding job of keeping their phones in their lockers throughout the school day. The staff is equally excited to see the positive impact of having no phones or electronic devices during instructional time. We're already seeing increased focus, fewer distractions, and a more engaged learning environment, which will continue to benefit our students. Finally, we've conducted two fire drills this past week to ensure the safety of our school community, and we'll be conducting two more fire drills during this upcoming week of September 16-20.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at dbernsley@berlincentral.org or (518) 658-1500 x1005.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing all the great things our students will accomplish this year. Have a wonderful weekend!

Warm regards,

David S. Bernsley

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