

BERLIN MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL WEEKLY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Date: September 30, 2024



Issue: 3

Table of Contents:

1. [Upcoming Events & Dates to Remember](#)
2. [Academic Highlights](#)
3. [Mountaineers Show Up: Make Every Day Matter!](#)
4. [Athletics \(Athletic Director: Meghan Reynolds\)](#)
5. [Parent Updates & Support](#)
6. [Counselors Corner](#)

Mountaineer Leadership Update with Dave & Meghan

Hello Mountaineer Community,

We're excited to introduce a new format for our newsletter, designed to be more informative and engaging. We'd love your feedback—let us know what you think! Is there anything you'd like to see that we're not currently including? We want this to be a helpful resource for everyone, so your input is greatly appreciated.

Looking Back at the Prior Week:

This past week was full of activity and school spirit! We had a very successful Town Hall Meeting on Monday in the BMHS Auditorium, with more attendees than ever before. However, we'd love to see even more of you at our next meeting! I shared an extensive presentation that included:

- 2024-2025 Berlin Middle High School Building Goals
- Data from Minga (Electronic Pass System)
- Update on Cell Phones and Electronic Devices
- School Safety and Security

I've included the presentation here:

[BMHS Town Hall Meeting Presentation September 24, 2024](#)

We also had a major accomplishment with the installation of our Character Education banners, thanks to the hard work of the Building & Grounds Department. These banners, now displayed proudly in the main lobby, represent the core values of what it means to be a Mountaineer. They serve as a daily reminder to our students, staff, and visitors of the principles we stand for.

Ms. DeCelle and Mrs. Turetsky created this awesome Youtube video to celebrate the unveiling of the banners.

[Character education Banners Hanging at Berlin Middle High School](#)

And how about those beautiful senior parking spots? The seniors did an incredible job painting them, and the partnership and spirit we witnessed during this activity were truly memorable. It's a testament to the positive energy and pride our students have in being part of the Mountaineer family.

Community Involvement: Let's Stay Connected!

If there's anything happening in the community—whether it's on a weekend, weekday, morning, afternoon, or night—please don't hesitate to contact me. I'm eager to get more involved with all the communities that make up our beautiful school district. Our goal is to strengthen the bond between the school and the community because together, we can accomplish so much more.

We want to be true partners with the community, and your input and involvement are essential. Let's work together to support our students, families, and the community at large!

The Mountaineer Mash-Up:

As we move into the upcoming week, we want to stress the critical importance of school safety. The safety and well-being of our students, staff, and community are our top priorities, and we need everyone's help to ensure that Berlin Middle High School remains a secure and welcoming environment.

We can't do it alone—if you "See Something, Say Something." Even the smallest detail can make a big difference in preventing incidents or addressing concerns early. Encourage your children to speak up if they notice something unusual or concerning. Likewise, as parents and

community members, we ask that you remain vigilant. Whether it's an issue you see on campus or something mentioned at home, your voice matters in maintaining the safety of our school.

Please remind your children to report anything suspicious to a teacher, administrator, or staff member immediately—It's always better to err on the side of caution. Proactive communication is one of the strongest ways we can work together to create a secure environment for learning and growth.

Thank you for your support in this crucial effort. Your involvement is key to keeping our school community safe and thriving.

A quick reminder that students must bring their Chromebooks to class each day to access their materials and Minga. They should charge it every night so it's ready to go for the following day. Let's make sure everyone is prepared!

Lastly, be sure to check each section of the newsletter for important information, reminders, and updates. We want to make sure you stay informed and connected with everything happening here at Berlin Middle High School.

Go Mountaineers!

Warm regards,
Meghan & Dave

Upcoming Events & Dates to Remember

- **Monday, September 30th**
 - Boys Basketball (Grades 9-12): Open Gym 6:30-8:00 p.m.

- **Tuesday, October 1st**
 - Fire Drill #7
 - Senior Portraits
[Senior Portraits](#)

- **Wednesday, October 2nd**
 - Senior Portraits
[Senior Portraits](#)

- **Thursday, October 3rd**
 - Fire Drill #8
 - Boys Basketball (Grades 9-12): Open Gym 6:30-8:00 p.m.

- Board of Education Round Table Meeting: 7:15 p.m. at Berlin Elementary School Library
- **Friday, October 4th**
 - The 5-week interim for the first quarter is completed, and you will be receiving progress reports within the next ten days.
- **Saturday, October 5th**
 - Fall Fest: Berlin Middle High School 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, October 9th**
 - Berlin Middle High School Picture Day Grades 6-12
[Berlin Middle High School Picture Day](#)
- **Wednesday, October 23rd**
 - The Berlin MSHS will be operating on a modified schedule. 6th & 9th grade students will be meeting with their WEB & Link leaders. W.E.B. (6th grade transition program) and Link (9th grade transition program) will be hosting lessons for their respective grade levels. More information to follow.
- **Monday, October 28th**
 - Town Hall Meeting: Berlin Middle High School Auditorium 6:30 p.m.
- **Friday, November 8th**
 - Veterans Day Celebration at Berlin Middle High School
 - Breakfast: Cafeteria at 8:00 a.m.
 - Assembly: Auditorium at 9:00 a.m.
[Veterans Day Celebration at Berlin Middle High School](#)
- **Monday, November 18, 2024**
 - Berlin Middle High School Parent-Teacher Night 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- **Friday, November 22, 2024**
 - Berlin Middle High School Parent-Teacher Day 11:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Academic Highlights

The five-week interim period will be completed on Friday, October 4th, and you will be receiving progress reports within the next ten days.

We want to highlight the upcoming diagnostic testing for middle school students and some ninth graders this week.

- 6th Grade will be completing the IXL assessment during Period 3 on Monday, October 1st, and Tuesday, October 2nd.

- 7th and 8th Grade will participate in the iReady ELA on Tuesday, October 1st, followed by the Math assessment on Wednesday, October 2nd.
- Testing will take place during periods 1-3, with students grouped by homeroom.
- For students who are absent during testing, arrangements will be made for them to complete the assessments at a later time.

It's important to encourage your child to take their time on these assessments, as the information gathered allows our teachers to properly evaluate each student's progress. These diagnostics play a crucial role in helping us understand areas of strength and growth, enabling us to tailor instruction to meet each student's needs.

As mentioned in prior communications, we are utilizing Data Teams to assess student outcomes and make informed decisions about curriculum adjustments and interventions. The diagnostic assessments serve as one of several data points we use when we meet to discuss student progress and program effectiveness.

Mountaineers Show Up: Make Every Day Matter!

- Did you know that regular attendance is key to your success in school? The New York State Education Department (NYSED) defines a student as *chronically absent* if they miss 10% or more of the school year, which is around 18 days or more, excused or unexcused. That's just two days a month, but it adds up quickly!
- Chronic absenteeism can have a major impact on your learning, grades, and overall experience at school. It's harder to catch up when you miss too many days, and studies show that students who attend regularly are more likely to succeed academically.
- Let's work together to improve attendance—because when you're here, you're part of the Mountaineer community, and every day you're here makes a difference!

Community Spotlight: Thank You, Stewart's in Berlin!

- We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Stewart's in Berlin for partnering with us to display school spirit through different articles of clothing. We recently provided them with a few shirts, and I'll be delivering more tomorrow. This is a wonderful opportunity to

showcase our pride in Berlin Middle High School and Berlin Elementary, and we're excited to continue this collaboration.

- If you have any Berlin items—whether from the elementary or middle/high school—that you'd be willing to donate, we kindly ask that you contribute them to this effort. It's a small but meaningful way to show our Mountaineer spirit in the heart of our community.
- We are one community, united in our commitment to making the best possible environment for our children. Together We Rise!

Athletics (Athletic Director: Meghan Reynolds)

BNL Practice & Game Schedules

- We had a busy week for BNL Athletics with all of our teams competing this week. Please check out our senior nights for our fall season!



BNL Sports Update

Varsity Girls Volleyball is Raising Money for the Side Out Foundation

Parent Updates & Support

- **Homework Club**
 - This year, the Middle School Homework Club will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:50 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Weather permitting, we will go outside for a short recess before Homework Club begins.

- **Fire Drill Schedule**

- Last week, we successfully conducted two fire drills and will complete the final two of the semester this week. This time, both drills will take place during lunch periods.
 - Tuesday, October 1st
 - Thursday, October 3rd

- **Foods and Services**

- **BMHS 2nd Chance Breakfast is starting on Monday, September 30th!**
 - If students miss breakfast at 7:00 a.m., they will have an opportunity to get breakfast at the end of 2nd period.
 - Middle School students can go through the cafeteria and High School students can get their breakfast at the middle hallway in the High School hallway.
 - Students cannot be late to class!! Breakfast will be a Grab n' Go!
 - Second chance breakfast is free *only* for students who choose to skip the first breakfast offering. However, if a student wants a second breakfast (like I did at their age!), they can purchase one as long as they have money in their account.

- [October 2024 BMHS Menu](#)

- [Second Chance Breakfast Menu](#)

- **W.E.B., Where Everybody Belongs, is a 6th grade transition program**

- On Friday October 4th, WEB leaders will be pushing into Mrs. Hammersmith's Middle School Essentials class to teach a lesson on a positive mindset. W.E.B. lessons will happen twice a quarter until each section completes the course. W.E.B. coordinators, Ms. Hammond & Mrs. Kelly, are thankful to Mrs. Hammersmith for inviting the 8th grade W.E.B. leaders into her classroom.

- **BMHS Fall Fest October 5th Vendors Wanted!**

- Vendor Registration Extended Until 10/1/24! Sign up or register as a vendor here [Vendor Registration](#)

- **Calling all Dramateers!!!**

- Mrs. Lamontagne and Ms. Day are the new directors of drama club and auditions for this fall's production have begun.

- **On November 22nd and 23rd we will be presenting three One Act plays.**
 - **Frumpled Fairy Tales for students in grades 6-8**
 - **The Loathsome Lady for students in grades 9-11**
 - **And, brand new this year, a seniors only show. It will be a night of fun and laughter!**

- **Attention Juniors and parents: Prom planning is underway!**
 - **We will be scheduling appointments to go look at venues.**
 - **Fall Fest is coming right up! Juniors will be selling pumpkins and candles! Our candle fundraiser will run until October 25th. This will help raise funds for prom.**
 - **We need volunteers to come help pick pumpkins after school on Thursday, October 3rd and to help run the table on Saturday, October 5th.**
 - **Bottles and cans: This is a major revenue for the Junior Class! If you haven't signed up to help take bottles and cans to the redemption center, please do so if you can!**

- **Technology**
 - **The Berlin InvenTeam began this season with a kickoff of the FIRST Tech Challenge reveal. This year's theme is "Into the Deep" and our team is hard at work designing a claw to pick up the sample blocks and a linear actuator to extend into the submersible area to retrieve samples and hoist them into a basket.**
 - **We are hoping to be able to compete in 3 tournaments this season to earn the chance to go to NY Excelsior Regionals. Students interested in being on this year's team should stop in on Monday's after-school in room 104. For more information about FIRST organization go to <https://www.firstinspires.org/>**
 - **Mrs. Wetmore's pre-engineering classes, including: HVCC CAD, DDP, CS & Robotics participated in their first monthly Design Challenge on Friday, September 27th.**
 - **The monthly Design Challenges take the teams in a deep dive of the Engineering Design Process as they battle their classmates in a friendly competition. Winning teams are posted on the bulletin board outside the Technology classroom as an acknowledgement of merit.**
 - **College in the High School students in CAD, Precalculus/Calculus, US History & Photography will be heading**

to HVCC on Friday October 25th to tour the facilities available to them as well as obtain their Student ID's.

- The Science & Technology Departments are joining together for a celebration of National Manufacturing Day by bringing a group of students to RPI to observe the various manufacturing machinery and witness manufacturing processes on Friday, October 11th.

- **Sophomore Class**

- The sophomores would also like to invite everyone to the Haunted House at Fall Fest on Saturday, October 5th! They hope to spook you there!
- Class Officer Elections for the sophomores (Class of 2027) are complete! Congratulations to:
 - Grace Pelletier (President)
 - Xavier Lamica (Vice President)
 - Nate Goodermote (Treasurer)
 - Isabella Ovitt (Secretary)
- Fishing Club is excited to begin next Monday, October 7th!
 - Fishing club will meet on the first Monday of each month. Focuses for the first meeting are: fishing stories and casting practice! Prizes will be awarded, we hope to see all of our fishermen and fisherwomen there. New members are always welcome!

Counselors Corner:

- Senior Meetings will begin this week! Mrs. Harrison will be holding individual senior meetings with the Class of 2025 to help with the post graduation planning process and keep seniors on track for graduation in June!
- Just a note that we are lucky to have two outside counselors come to Berlin each week and work with some of our students. Every Monday, Ali Catalfamo from St. Peter's Health Partners is in our conference room, and starting soon every Thursday, Heather Chase, from Rensselaer County Mental Health will be here. These counselors are not only important resources for our students, but also help them get the support they need while not missing a full day of school.
- PSAT's will be held on Tuesday, October 22nd, periods 1-5 in room 144. The exam is open to all interested 10th and 11th graders, and is great practice for the SAT (college entrance exam). The cost is \$18 and students should register in the counseling office ASAP.

- An informational financial aid presentation for seniors and their parents will be held on Wednesday, October 16th at 6PM in the MS/HS Library. Alicia Furlon, the Assistant Director of Financial Aid at Siena College will be here to present to families.

Stay Connected to Berlin Central School District



Check Schoology & School Messenger Home Page
<https://berlincentral.org/>



Berlin Central School District Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/berlincentralschools/>



[@BerlinCSD](#)
[@BNL_Mtn_Lions](#)



[Communications BCSD](#)
[Live Streaming- Streaming BCSD](#)