



Berlin Middle High School

NEWSLETTER

September 29
2025



Principal's Message

Dear Mountaineer Families,
I hope this message finds you well. We have several important updates to share with you this week, along with a continued emphasis on the critical importance of your partnership to the success of our students.

2025–26 BCSD Student Ex-Officio Board Member
BHS Junior Isabella Ovitt



Sixth-Grade Scientists Bite Into
Claim-Evidence-Reasoning (CER)

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Our Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place on:

- Thursday, October 9th, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, October 10th, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

We are offering both in-person and virtual meetings to accommodate what works best for your family. A follow-up email with more details and sign-up information will be sent midweek.

Research consistently shows that family involvement is one of the strongest predictors of student success. According to the National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education, students with involved families are more likely to earn higher grades, attend school regularly, develop stronger social skills, and graduate on time. We need you to be a partner in your child's learning journey; your involvement makes all the difference.



IXL Diagnostic Benchmarking

This past week, we completed the IXL diagnostic benchmark assessments in Math and ELA for grades 6–9.

What is IXL?

IXL is an adaptive learning platform that pinpoints each student's strengths and areas for growth in reading and math. It adjusts to student responses, giving teachers real-time data on how students are progressing.

Why benchmarks three times a year?

By conducting the IXL diagnostic three times a year —fall, winter, and spring —we can measure growth, adjust instruction, and provide timely interventions. This helps us ensure students are staying on track toward proficiency and beyond.

continued on next page

IXL Diagnostic Benchmarking cont.



How will the results be used?

Teachers will be sharing diagnostic results with students and families. These reports will:

- Help students understand where they are excelling and where they need more practice.
- Allow teachers to tailor instruction and groupings in the classroom.
- Provide families with clear information on how to support learning at home.

The IXL benchmark is a **tool for growth**, not a grade. Its purpose is to guide instruction and empower students to take ownership of their learning.

Attendance Matters

School attendance is directly tied to academic achievement. Starting this week, attendance letters will begin going home to families, and Deputy DaLessio and I will be conducting home visits for chronically absent students. This is not punitive; it is about showing how serious we are about supporting every student. We need both parents and staff working together to help students build strong attendance habits.

Student Behavior



While we have seen many positives this year, we have also experienced some inappropriate behavior from some students on the bus. This has placed additional challenges on our transportation department. Our bus drivers do an incredible job managing the difficult task of safely transporting students each day. They deserve our respect and support.

Because of the behaviors we've witnessed, I will be holding a Town Hall Meeting with both the middle school and high school this Monday, September 29th, to reinforce expectations, accountability, and the values we hold as Mountaineers.

Student Opportunities

On Tuesday, September 30th, I will be accompanying 25 students to Troy, New York, for a special opportunity through NYSTEC (New York State Technology Enterprise Corporation). NYSTEC is a nonprofit company that advises organizations and businesses on IT strategies and solutions.

Through their IgniteU NY program, students will be able to meet with professionals across different industries, learning how small businesses grow and scale operations in real-world markets. This program has supported hundreds of local startups since 2015, and now our students will benefit from its resources. We are excited to bring this opportunity to Berlin each month, helping our students explore career pathways and develop leadership skills.

Picture Day 10/1 & 10/2



A reminder that Picture Day is this Wednesday, October 1st for all students in grades 6–12. Please make sure your student is prepared for their photo. [More information](#)

MOUNTAIN LIONS VOLLEYBALL
digPink 2025
OCTOBER 16TH 4:15
BNL VS. MECHANICVILLE
@ BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL

THE SIDE-OUT FOUNDATION PROVIDES FUNDING FOR METASTATIC BREAST CANCER RESEARCH. ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TO SUPPORT THIS RESEARCH.

SCAN TO DONATE

SIDE-OUT FOUNDATION

BNL JV & Varsity Girls Volleyball Is Once Again Raising Funds for the Side-Out Foundation!



Safety Drills



This past week, we completed our first lockdown drill, and this Monday, September 29th, we will hold our sixth fire drill, meeting the state's required drills for the first semester. These practices are essential to ensure our students and staff are prepared and safe.



Berlin Mountaineer Unified Bocce Practice Underway

5-Week Interim Reports

The first 5-week interim period ends this Friday, October 3rd. Interim reports for the first quarter will be sent out during the week of October 6th–10th. These reports provide families with important early feedback on student progress and areas for growth. Please review these carefully and discuss them with your child.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership and commitment to our students. With your involvement, together we can ensure that Berlin Middle High School continues to be a place where every student learns, grows, and succeeds.

Warm regards,
Dave and Meghan

The Class of 2026 Invites You To
Berlin Middle High School's Annual

FALL FEST & CAR SHOW

More Car Show details coming soon!

FOOD • CRAFTS • FUN • CARS

Oct | 18 | 2025
10 AM - 3 PM

VENDORS WANTED Vendor Information

All registration forms and payment are due by October 10, 2025. Vendors will be able to get in at 8:30 am to set up. Vendor information at the QR code. Questions? Contact Ms. Gould jgould@berlincentral.org or Ms. Bell abell@berlincentral.org

BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2027

CAR SHOW

SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER

\$20 ENTRY FEE TO SUPPORT FROM 2025

FREE ENTRY FOR SPECTATORS

BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL
17400 NY 22 CHERRY PLAIN NY 12040

LOT OPENS AT 9:00 AM
SHOW BEGINS AT 10:00AM

CONTACT AMANDA HAYES WITH ANY QUESTIONS
ahayes2@berlincentral.org

READ, SHARE, CONNECT!

National Honor Society members and SENIORS in need of Community Service. Berlin Elementary is looking for volunteers to read to students in the afternoon. You can ride the bus to BES and then ride the 3:00 pm bus home.

Interested NHS members should stop and see Ms. Day and Seniors should speak with Mr. Viner.

READ, SHARE, CONNECT!

The BHS Class of 2026 will be hosting the Annual Fall Fest! October 18th from 10 AM to 3 PM. Come out to support BMHS classes and clubs, shop local vendors, check out the Car Show, and enjoy fun activities for all at the annual BMHS Fall Fest! There is no admission fee. This year BMHS' Class of 2027 is excited to announce the addition of a Car Show during the event as well! Please find more details [HERE](#). Car Show Questions? Email Mrs. Hayes ahayes2@berlincentral.org