

# Berlin

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MAY 2026

## 2026-2027 SCHOOL BUDGET & BOE VOTE

**VOTE**  
**TUESDAY**  
**May 19, 2026**  
**12 p.m. – 9 p.m.**

Voting will take place at  
**Berlin Elementary School**  
**53 School Street, Berlin, NY 12022**

- **Budget Vote**
- **Proposition Vote**
- **Board Election Vote**  
(2 Open Seats)

### THE 2026 – 2027 BUDGET

The Budget for the 2026 – 2027 school year is not to exceed **\$26,799,680**. This is an increase of **2.03%**.

# Berlin

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**VISION:** All Berlin Central School District students will graduate with an excellent education and experiences that prepare them to become productive members of society. Our students will be ready to assume responsibility for their own success in the workforce, college, the community, and life.

**MISSION:** The mission of the Berlin Central School District is to maximize the diverse talents and aspirations of its students. Our students will be prepared to assume responsibility for their own success in the workforce, college, the community, and life.



### Dear Berlin CSD Residents:

I would like to extend my gratitude to the residents of Berlin for your engagement with the budget process. “Budget Tuesdays” forums were held in the towns of Petersburg, Berlin, Stephentown, and Grafton to facilitate transparency. The lack of another on-time state budget and insufficient levels of state aid are financial barriers districts are facing across New York State. Despite these challenges, the board has carefully considered operational efficiencies while maintaining programs and opportunities that enrich the lives of students and reflect the district’s mission and core values.







The Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District has adopted the proposed budget for the 2026-2027 school year in the amount of \$26,799,680. This represents a 2.03% increase over the current year. A 3.5% tax levy above the allowable cap was approved by a supermajority of voters for the 2025-2026 school year. The tax levy for the 2026-2027 proposed budget is 2.16% which is at the allowable cap limit, thus requiring a majority of voters for approval.

In addition to the proposed budget, the ballot will include transportation propositions, and a candidate for two open board seats. More information can be found on pages 4, 5, and 7 of the newsletter. In this newsletter you will find detailed and more comprehensive information related to the development of the 2026-2027 budget as well as district highlights. Additional information about the budget can be found on the district website: <https://berlincentral.org/district/budget-information/>; this includes copies of all budget presentations and links to the livestreams of those presentations. Please review all of the materials shared so that you have all of the information you need to make an informed decision on the proposed budget.

The budget vote and election of board members will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 from 12 pm - 9 pm at Berlin Elementary School. I want to encourage every eligible community member to exercise your right to vote.

Sincerely,  
**Kenneth Rizzo**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

### MOUNTAINEER CORE VALUES

 <b>EMPATHY:</b> Acting with compassion to build relationships and foster community.	 <b>PERSEVERANCE:</b> Understanding that excellence requires hard work, patience, and persistence.
 <b>INTEGRITY:</b> Acting with honesty, respect, trust, and transparency.	 <b>TEAMWORK:</b> Working collaboratively to achieve a common goal.
 <b>PRIDE:</b> Demonstrating a strong connection to our school, district, and community.	 <b>GROWTH MINDSET:</b> Modeling a love for life-long learning.



### Universal Pre-Kindergarten Update

BCSD will transition its Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) program to a district-run model for the 2026-2027 school year. In addition, two sections are preserved in the proposed budget. Mr. Rizzo stated, “I am pleased to announce that our UPK program will be transitioning to a district run program, thus allowing for significant budgetary savings while ensuring Berlin is providing the best curriculum and educational opportunities to our youngest learners.”

## School Resource Officer Deputy Alex DaLessio Honored with CASDA's Friends of Education Award

"When you show up consistently and treat students with respect, you build real trust. That's what makes this assignment worthwhile," said DaLessio.



Deputy DaLessio was selected for the Capital Area School Development Association (CASDA) Friends of Education Award, a prestigious honor recognizing exceptional service to students and the school community.

Mr. Tom Olsen, BCSD Director of Pupil and Personal Services, nominated Deputy DaLessio, praising her for integrating herself into the community and building strong connections, especially with special education students, including those in the STARS classes.

Deputy DaLessio began as Berlin Central School's SRO in January 2024, and has over three years of experience with the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Office. Inspired by her grandfather, a NYS Trooper, and her great-grandfather, a Cohoes Police Chief, law enforcement has always been her passion.

Transitioning from road patrol, Deputy DaLessio emphasizes proactive engagement, focusing on relationship-building, earning trust, and identifying students needing support before an issue arises. "Being in a school gives you that chance," she noted.

Each morning, DaLessio greets students at the entrances of both the Elementary and Middle High Schools, offering consistent support and a reliable, friendly presence, providing a strong sense of security.

As an SRO, she offers educational programs ranging from "Halloween Safety" for elementary students to "Prom Promise" and online safety presentations for older students.

Deputy DaLessio is an invaluable member of the school community and was formally recognized at CASDA's Annual Awards and Friends of Education Celebration on April 30, 2026. **Find the full article at [www.berlincentral.org](http://www.berlincentral.org).**

## Berlin CSD Offers NY State Seal of Civic Readiness

BCSD's NYS Seal of Civic Readiness program, approved for 2025-2026, involves high school seniors in Government and Economics classes developing service-learning projects addressing community needs. The program was recently highlighted on the NYSED website during Civic Learning Week (<https://www.nysed.gov/standards-instruction/march-12-2026-civic-voices-action>).

Berlin Middle High School's successful implementation of the Civic Seal demonstrates the practical application of Social Studies. In December, NYSED representatives, Mr. David Frank and Mr. Kevin Hetzel, visited the Government and Economics classroom to observe the program, interviewing seniors about their community actions and allowing them to offer feedback to shape the program's future statewide.

Superintendent Mr. Ken Rizzo praised the students' civic awareness and engagement. "Their enthusiasm for helping to build this new Civic Seal pathway and create a program that will leave a legacy and foundation for future Mountaineers is inspiring," shared Mr. Rizzo.

Following the visit, students launched their civic projects. The "Seniors for Seniors" group, including Valentina Popov, Norah Smerdon, MacKenzie Lowell, and Emma Duncan, aims to bridge generations by assisting local senior citizens with yard work and miscellaneous tasks, fostering strong connections. They have hosted a trivia event and performed music at the Grafton Senior Center and offered volunteer hours, receiving gratitude for both the physical support and the genuine connections made.



*NYSED representatives visited BMHS last fall, and Mountaineers presented their service-learning projects this spring at the BHS Civics Fair.*

"It is important to support our senior citizens because they are the generation we learn from," shared the Seniors for Seniors group.

Another group, "Berlin Nerds 4 Birds," spearheaded by senior Lillian vonSchilgen, Erika Yerdon, Tyler Lumpkin, Penelope Haas, and Charlie Young, focuses on local environmental impact. This school year, the group hosted informational community gatherings at local libraries on bird protection and organized a community clean-up day, sharing information on environmental conservation.

Berlin Social Studies teacher and alumnus Mr. Erik Viner, who led the program's creation, along with Special Education teacher Mrs. Michelle Baldwin are proud of the students' work and energized by the support from colleagues, administration, and NYSED. **Please find the full article and more stories related to this topic at [www.berlincentral.org](http://www.berlincentral.org).**

## Class of 2026 Valedictorian and Salutatorian



**LILLIAN VONSCHILGEN**  
2026 Valedictorian

Binghamton University, State  
University of New York  
*Exploratory*

Berlin High School proudly recognizes Lillian vonSchilgen of Berlin, daughter of Curt vonSchilgen and Christy Stevens, as the Valedictorian for the Class of 2026.

Lillian's success is rooted in her exceptional academic ability and her relentless pursuit of growth. According to Berlin High School Counselor Ms. Savanna Caldwell, "Having taken every honors course we offer, Lillian is eager for any opportunity to broaden her understanding, reflect on new ideas, and conquer challenges in any subject area."

Her engagement and leadership are evident both inside and outside the classroom. Ms. Caldwell continues, "From the way she engages in classroom discussions to assuming leadership roles during group projects, Lillian consistently includes others while ensuring she is garnering the most from her classroom experience."

Lillian also demonstrates this leadership as President of her class. As a member of the Character Education Club, "Super-Troopers", she promotes positive messaging through her fun videos. Where her knack for bringing a smile or laugh to others is on full display.

Lillian's senior year highlights include starring in the Dramateers one-act production, *Man Under Her Bed*, in the fall, and being a dynamic member of the Berlin High School band's saxophone section.

Driven by a desire to give back and build her community, Lillian is a very active member of her community and school district.

This year as part of the Civic Seal of Readiness pilot program at BMHS, Lillian founded "Berlin Nerds 4 Birds," a community group that hosts informational gatherings and events focused on how to positively impact your local environment as a community.

Lillian volunteers at nearly every school event and assists the art department, which has provided her space to foster her creativity.

Lillian consistently demonstrates her support for those around her, through kind words or helping others wherever needed.

Lillian is a dedicated scholar, artist, leader, and Mountaineer role model. Binghamton University is gaining an outstanding, community-minded individual, and we look forward with great anticipation to her future achievements.

Congratulations, Lillian!



**VALENTINA POPOV**  
2026 Salutatorian

Undecided

Berlin High School proudly names Valentina Popov, of Petersburg and the daughter of Oleg and Anna Popov, as the Salutatorian for the Class of 2026.

Valentina has consistently pursued one of the most demanding college preparatory schedules offered at Berlin High School. According to Berlin High School Counselor Ms. Savanna Caldwell, "The curriculum she has chosen for herself throughout high school has always been rigorous, and pushing herself is how she thrives."

Ms. Caldwell further notes, "Valentina has a determination to find success in all that she does. Her diligent work ethic has always come naturally, according to her family, and she has shown remarkable drive from a young age."

Valentina's passion for the arts provides a valuable balance to her rigorous academic pursuits. She is a dedicated and integral member of the music program, where she showcases her dynamic abilities on the trumpet and as a vocalist in the high school chorus and chamber choir. As a leader in her trumpet section, she plays in the high school band, jazz band, and frequently with the pit band for school musicals.

Additionally, Valentina challenges her intellect as a competing member of the Berlin Masterminds team.

Valentina's positive influence extends beyond the classroom; she is an exceptionally kind and thoughtful individual. Her family, friends, and teachers consistently speak to her caring nature, and her peers view her as a role model for achievement.

Demonstrating her commitment to civic engagement, Valentina took a leadership role in the "Seniors for Seniors" Civic Seal project. Valentina and her friends set out to bridge generational gaps by assisting local elderly citizens with various tasks, such as yard work, while fostering strong connections. The New York State Education Department recognized this project as an outstanding example of students developing into informed, engaged, and active citizens.

As Valentina pushes herself, she also takes the time to self-reflect to see how she can grow personally as well as academically.

Though she is currently undecided on her specific path and college, Valentina will be attending college in the fall. Her determination, combined with her ability to balance academics and the arts, ensures she will be an extraordinary asset wherever her future takes her.

Congratulations, Valentina!



### Community Member School Messenger Request Form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf8K5CQrpaQpEhQ3hPVHvJhPzKIQ-QgYzC0yUyjCRhKf-Nf5FQ/viewform>

# Three Part Budget

School districts must, by law, divide their budgets into three components, administrative, capital and program, and each year they must show how much each portion has increased in relation to the whole budget. A further definition of the three components is as follows:

**Administrative Budget Component:** These expenditures include office and administrative costs; salaries and benefits for certified school administrators who spend 50 percent or more of their time performing supervisory duties; data processing; public information; legal fees; property insurance; and school board expenses.

**Capital Budget Component:** This covers all debt service on buildings, and leasing expenditures; tax certiorari and court-ordered costs; and all facility costs, including salaries and benefits of the custodial staff; service contracts, maintenance supplies and equipment; and utilities.

**Program Budget Component:** This portion includes salaries and benefits of certificated staff, monitors, bus drivers and bus attendants as well as any materials, supplies, contracts, or stipends that are directly related to student services including sports and extra-curricular clubs.

Category	2025-26 Approved Budget	2026-27 Proposed Budget	% of Budget	\$ Change	%Change
Admin Budget	\$ 3,358,951	\$ 3,775,443	14.09%	\$ 416,492	12.40%
Capital Budget	\$ 4,100,425	\$ 4,380,151	16.34%	\$ 279,726	6.82%
Program Budget	\$ 18,806,833	\$ 18,644,086	69.57%	\$ (162,747)	-0.87%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 26,266,209</b>	<b>\$ 26,799,680</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 533,471</b>	<b>2.03%</b>



Please find the complete Berlin CSD Budget Binder by scanning the QR or visit this link <https://berlincentral.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/2026-2027-Budget-Binder-1.pdf>

# New Course Offerings at BMHS

The district is excited to announce the addition of several new courses in Berlin Middle High School while continuing to be fiscally responsible. These new options include up to 16 college credit opportunities for dual enrollment, providing students more affordable access to higher level educational opportunities.

We encourage your high school Mountaineer to contact the Berlin Middle High School counseling staff to explore how coursework can be integrated into their schedule during their time at BMHS.

## New Course/Curriculum Offerings Include:

- Sustainable Agriculture (Hydroponics)
- Competitive Drone Soccer
- Personal Finance (NYS Mandate)

## Dual Enrollment (College and Local High School Credit Opportunities):

- Introduction to Business 100 (HVCC, 4 credits)
- Business Communications 200 (HVCC, 3 credits)
- Marine Biology Independent Research (SUNY ESF, 3 credits)
- Spanish 4 (HVCC, 3 credits) & Spanish 5 (HVCC, 3 credits)

The Berlin Dramateers had an eventful 2025-2026 school year, with two productions. The fall showcase featured an evening of one-act plays, including *After Hours* and *A Case of Cleanser* (middle school), and *Man Under Her Bed* (high school). The spring concluded with a large musical production of *Newsies* which starred both middle and high school Dramateers.

Special thanks to the Dramateer Directors: Gretchen Modesitt, Karen Day, Cristi Lamontage, and Chloe Demick, as well as Jessica Gould and her phenomenal pit band, and the Berlin Performing Arts Booster Club for their invaluable and continuous support of the Mountaineer Dramateers.



# Berlin Central School District Budget Notice 2026-2027

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2025-26 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2026-27 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 26,266,209	\$26,799,680	\$26,254,698										
Increase/Decrease for the 2026-27 School Year		\$533,471	-\$11,511										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.03 %	0%										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.63%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$10,874,224	\$11,109,532											
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0											
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0											
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0											
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$10,874,224	\$11,109,532	\$10,874,224										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$392,673	\$367,238											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$10,343,636	\$10,742,294											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$10,481,551	\$10,742,294											
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	-\$137,915	\$0											
Administrative Component	\$3,358,951	\$3,775,443	\$3,330,461										
Program Component	\$18,806,833	\$18,644,086	\$18,644,086										
Capital Component	\$4,100,425	\$4,380,151	\$4,350,151										
* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2026-27 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Description</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>School Bus Proposition to purchase two 66-passenger diesel school buses.</td> <td>\$355,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(no budgetary impact in the 2026-2027 school year)</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Description	Amount	School Bus Proposition to purchase two 66-passenger diesel school buses.	\$355,000	(no budgetary impact in the 2026-2027 school year)	\$		\$		\$
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	\$												
	\$												
** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)													

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2026-27 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$551
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The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2026-2027 by the qualified voters of the **Berlin Central School District, Rensselaer County**, New York, will be held at **Berlin Elementary School Gymnasium** in said district on **Tuesday, May 19, 2026** between the hours of **12:00 pm and 9:00 pm**, prevailing time in Berlin Elementary School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

## Contingency Budget

If the voters reject a school budget, the Board of Education has three options under the NYS law:

- submit the same budget for a second vote;
- submit a revised budget for a second vote; or
- adopt a contingent (or contingency) budget

When the voters of a NYS school district fail to approve a school budget the second time, the district is required by law to operate under a contingent budget.

### What happens when a contingent budget must be adopted?

State law mandates that under a contingent budget, a school district must adopt a budget with no tax levy increase and eliminate all non-contingent expenses, such as certain student supplies, certain equipment purchases and community use of school facilities that results in a district expense. The administrative budget would also be subject to certain restrictions.

### What would a contingent budget mean for Berlin?

If operating under a contingent budget, the tax levy can be no greater than the prior year tax levy (zero percent increase). Based on the Adopted Budget, the tax levy would need to be reduced from \$11,109.532 to \$10,874,224, a decrease of \$235,308. Additional reductions would be required to remain within the administrative cap.

Berlin Middle High School celebrates the top 10 academic students of the Class of 2026 with a dessert reception! This year, 12 students were recognized, with two students graduating early. Congratulations to the honored students.

Learn more and watch their video interviews: <https://berlincentral.org/2026/04/20/class-of-2026-academic-top-10-announcement-and-celebration/>



## Berlin CSD Introduces Three Unified Sports

BCSD was excited to launch its Unified Sports program this school year in partnership with the Capital Region Special Olympics. Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Mrs. Meghan Reynolds saw unified sports as a way to build positive, inclusive connections among students through athletics.

The program began in the fall with Unified Bocce, coached by special education teacher Ms. Annette Bell and BMHS Principal Mr. David Bernsley, with support from physical education teachers, parents, and community members. The Mountaineers were competitive and grew a community while traveling around the region.

Unified Bowling followed in the winter, coached by Ms. Bell and English teacher/BNL Bowling Coach/Amazing Bowler Ms. Mikaela Marbot. The student-athletes had a rewarding experience, showing grit in their final tournament when they had to bowl against three teams in a row.

This spring, Unified Basketball launched with Ms. Bell, who brought back her coaching partner, former professional basketball player Principal Mr. Bernsley. The dynamic group of Mountaineers is quickly developing teamwork, learning to highlight each other's strengths and provide necessary support on the court.

The students wear their game-day jerseys, designed by Mrs. Reynolds, with great pride and are celebrated by their peers. Mrs. Reynolds has thoroughly enjoyed developing this program with crucial support from the Capital Region Special Olympics, Ms. Bell, Mr. Bernsley, Ms. Marbot, and coordination assistance from Mrs. Candace Hudson.

The community is encouraged to come out and cheer on these Mighty Mountaineers!



## Literacy: The Foundation of Future Learning at BES



Berlin Elementary School (BES) Principal Mrs. Jodi Cataldo is championing a literacy initiative, emphasizing that "Literacy is the foundation for all future learning."

Principal Cataldo spoke about her vision, stating, "When

children develop strong reading and writing skills in the early grades, they gain the confidence and the ability to explore every subject more deeply. Building these skills not only supports academic success but also nurtures a lifelong love of reading and learning."

The main focus of the literacy initiative is inspiring a love of reading and getting books into the hands of BES Mountaineers. This has led to the introduction of several exciting new programs this school year, as Principal Cataldo noted: "Students have benefited from daily DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) time, had the opportunity to buddy read with students in different grades at BES and student volunteers from the middle high school, enjoyed monthly visits from our local librarians, and enjoyed a Literacy Night at BES with their families."

The Buddy Reading program has been particularly impactful, instilling a sense of pride and mentorship in older students while giving younger Mountaineers the joy of being read to and growing their love of reading.

BES values its community partnership with the Grafton, Petersburg, Berlin, and Stephentown libraries this year and looks forward to future collaborations.

Principal Cataldo is committed to ensuring that literacy remains a central focus for both students and staff at BES.

## CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT: BMHS Auditorium Doors & Water Fountains

This year's budget vote incorporates a \$100,000 Capital Outlay Project at Berlin Middle High School. This follows last year's Outlay Project at BES focused on the North Portico Roof/ADA entrance. An outlay project is a small-scale improvement with a maximum cost of \$100,000 that allows the District to complete needed upgrades while receiving state aid to offset costs. The 2026-2027 project will yield a 75.4% return in Building Aid, resulting in a reimbursement of \$75,400 to the district.



The 2026-27 project focuses on Berlin Middle High School improvements that modernize facilities and enhance student and staff safety. The scope includes the replacement of the auditorium's interior doors and hardware to strengthen building security. In addition, select drinking fountains will be upgraded with modern bottle-filling stations, improving accessibility and promoting healthy hydration options for

students. These upgrades represent a cost-effective investment in maintaining safe and modern school facilities.

As the district addresses critical buildings and grounds infrastructure projects through this type of outlay, the building aid will continue to facilitate the recoupment of funds on an annual basis. This strategic cycle will enable the district to maintain its buildings and grounds on a proactive maintenance schedule, mitigating the need for larger emergency projects in the future.

## Board of Education Candidates

There are two seats up for election for three-year terms (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2029). Voters may vote for a candidate whose name is printed on the ballot by filling in the bubble area next to the name of the candidate. Voters may also vote for a person or persons whose name is not printed on the ballot by writing such person(s) name(s) in the blank spaces provided for write-in candidates.



### CANDIDATE: FRANK J. ZWACK

I am a lifelong resident of Stephentown, and a graduate of Berlin Central School, Hudson Valley Community College, and Union College. In addition to serving as a Board member for the Berlin School District (where I have held the positions of past President and current Vice-President), I am a member of the Stephentown Fire Department, a Questar III Board Member, and a Tech Valley Board

Member. My professional occupation is that of a Mechanical Engineer at our family-owned business located in Stephentown. All of my children and my grandson are graduates of Berlin Central School.

Continuing to serve as a Board member enables me to bring



## PROPOSITION #2: Bus Purchase

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District is hereby authorized to (1) acquire in fiscal year 2026 - 2027 two (2) 66 passenger school buses at a cost not to exceed \$355,000 which is estimated to be the maximum cost thereof, (2) expend such sums for such purpose, (3) levy the tax necessary therefor, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education, taking into account state aid received, and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, to issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$355,000, or enter into a lease-purchase agreement at a principal amount not to exceed \$355,000 to acquire such vehicles.

the life-long skills I've gained from various colleges, business, and continuing education to the District. Each decision requires information, whether given or asked. Decisions may be favorable to some and not to others, but must always be fair, balanced, and in the best interest of the School District.

My strengths come from my degrees in Production Engineering and Mechanical Engineering, from New York State Fire Schools, General Electric Six Sigma Continuing Education, business skills used daily in the family business, and a working knowledge of the Berlin Central School District.

Being involved with Questar III provides me with information to help ensure that our students are ready for the future. What works for today will likely be outdated when today's 9th grader becomes an adult. Technology plays an important part in the future, and we need to ensure that our students have a strong educational foundation to succeed. If re-elected, I will continue to act with the best interests of the students and district at the forefront.

# Berlin

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

P. O. Box 259 • Berlin, NY 12022

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## POSTAL PATRON

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Katie Murray – *President*  
Frank J. Zwack – *Vice President*  
Kim Collen  
Penni Eggsware  
Derrick Gardner  
Rebekah Lamphere  
Elaine Smith

### SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Kenneth Rizzo

[www.berlincentral.org](http://www.berlincentral.org)

**BUDGET  
VOTE**  
Tuesday, May 19

## VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

To vote, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- At least 18 years of age
- A resident of the district for 30 days prior to the vote

## ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Qualified district residents who are unable to go to the polling place on May 19th can cast their votes by absentee ballot. For an application, call the District Clerk at 518-658-1500, Extension 1010. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

All completed ballots must be received by the district clerk no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

## SAVE THE DATES

- **Berlin CSD 2026-2027 Budget Vote**  
May 19th 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm
- **BES's 5th Annual Night of the Arts 3rd-5th Grade Concert**  
May 28th, 6:00 pm
- **BES's 1st & 2nd Concert**  
May 29th, 9:30 am
- **BMHS Arts Alive! 6th -12th Grade Art Exhibit**  
June 4th, 4:30 - 7:30 pm
- **Pre-K End of Year Picnic**  
June 16th, 11:00 am
- **BMS 8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony**  
June 23rd, 6:00 pm
- **Berlin Elementary Kindergarten Moving Up**  
June 24th, 9:30 am
- **BES 5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony**  
June 25th at 9:30 am
- **Berlin High School Senior Graduation**  
June 26th, 6:00 pm

## ENGAGE WITH BCSD

### DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<https://berlincentral.org/district/calendar/>

### MOUNTAINEER WEBSITE

[www.berlincentral.org](http://www.berlincentral.org)

### FOLLOW US ON

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or Streaming BCSD