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August 2026

Dear Mountaineer Community,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! I hope your summer was filled with rest, adventure, and quality time with loved ones. As our hallways come alive again, our staff feels a renewed energy and deep enthusiasm for the year ahead. Every new school year offers a fresh start—an opportunity to dream big, set new goals, and build meaningful connections.

Our theme for the 2026–2027 school year is “Embrace the Climb.”

We often talk about reaching new heights, achieving big goals, and celebrating success. But true growth doesn't happen at the peak—it happens during the climb. Real achievement isn't a quick transaction, and there are no shortcuts or "hacks" to genuine progress. It takes daily effort, discipline, and the courage to push through difficult challenges. This year, we are committed to walking alongside our students through every step of that journey, teaching them the resilience and determination needed to reach their highest potential.

Behind-the-Scenes Gratitude

An enormous thank you goes out to our incredible Building & Grounds and Custodial staff for their tireless work over the summer. Our buildings look absolutely awesome and our grounds are pristine and ready for learning.

We also want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Transportation team as they prepare for the complex and vital work of transporting our students safely every day, as well as our Food Services and Technology teams for working through the heat to ensure our students are nourished and fully connected from day one.

Welcoming New & Returning Staff

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to our new team members and familiar colleagues stepping into exciting new roles:

- Isabella Nicholas – 6th Grade ELA
- Elaina Heidinger – School Counselor
- Jodi Hogsberg – Director of Pupil Personnel
- Ariel Gilbert – Director of Instructional Innovation and Technology

Code of Conduct & Discipline Updates

Please review the attached Code of Conduct for full policy details. Key changes include:

- Progressive Tardiness Response: A step-by-step system to address school tardiness and late arrivals to class, ensuring students maximize instructional time.
- Energy Drink Ban: Energy drinks are now strictly prohibited on school grounds. Research from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the CDC emphasizes that the concentrated caffeine and stimulants in these beverages cause rapid heart rate spikes, heightened anxiety, sleep disruption, and sharp cognitive crashes—all of which directly hinder adolescents' learning and emotional regulation.
- Middle vs. High School Discipline Frameworks: We have separated discipline expectations into distinct middle school and high school charts to ensure age-appropriate responses.
- Summer School Qualifications: Updated requirements to qualify for summer school to ensure early academic intervention.

BMHS Code of Conduct 2026-2027

Attendance & High School Grading Policy

Attendance is directly tied to academic success. At the high school level, any student who accrues more than ten (10) unexcused absences for a half-year course or twenty (20) unexcused absences for a full-year course will not receive credit for that course.

Middle School Chromebook Protocol

- Middle school Chromebooks will now remain in designated classrooms during the school day.
- If a middle school student needs a device at home for schoolwork, they may sign one out.
 - *Note:* Students with documented accommodations requiring a dedicated device will continue to keep their Chromebook with them at all times.

Key Dates & Academic Calendar

- Senior Sunrise: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 (6:00 AM)
- Opening Day of School: Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Marking Period Schedule:

Term	Interim Report	Quarter End
Quarter 1	Friday, October 9, 2026	Friday, November 13, 2026
Quarter 2	Friday, December 18, 2026	Friday, January 29, 2027 (End of Semester 1)
Quarter 3	Friday, March 12, 2027	Friday, April 30, 2027
Quarter 4	Friday, May 28, 2027	Monday, June 14, 2027 (End of Semester 2)

Thank you for your ongoing partnership as we launch this new school year. Together, as we Embrace the Climb, we will make 2026–2027 extraordinary!

Warm regards,

David S. Bernsley

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Principal
Berlin Middle High School