

WELCOME, MOUNTAINEERS

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# Your High School Journey Begins

Ninth Grade Orientation

August 25, 2026

BERLIN MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL





# Meet Your School Leadership

**Mr. David Bernsley**

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**Principal**

**[dbernsley@berlincentral.org](mailto:dbernsley@berlincentral.org)**  
**(518) 658-1500 x1005**

**Mrs. Meghan Reynolds**

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**Assistant Principal/Athletic  
Director**

**[mreynolds@berlincentral.org](mailto:mreynolds@berlincentral.org)**  
**(518) 658-1500 x1161**



# Counseling and Student Support

**Ms. Elaina Heidinger**

School Counselor  
[ehaidinger@berlincentral.org](mailto:ehaidinger@berlincentral.org)  
Last names A–L

**Ms. Savanna Caldwell**

School Counselor  
[scaldwell@berlincentral.org](mailto:scaldwell@berlincentral.org)  
Last names M–Z • All Grade 12

**Ms. Shayna Davner**

Student Support Counselor  
[sdavner@berlincentral.org](mailto:sdavner@berlincentral.org)

**Mrs. Rachel Teplitsky**

District-Wide Psychology  
[rteplitsky@berlincentral.org](mailto:rteplitsky@berlincentral.org)

**Mrs. Jennifer Poli**

MS/HS Social Worker  
[jpoli@berlincentral.org](mailto:jpoli@berlincentral.org)

**Mrs. Demick**

District Registrar / Counseling  
Secretary  
[cdemick@berlincentral.org](mailto:cdemick@berlincentral.org)



# Freshman Year Sets the Foundation

## 9th Grade

### YOUR PERMANENT RECORD

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High school grades become part of the official record used when applying to college, a job, or the military.

# 5—6

CREDITS BY THE END OF  
GRADE 9

### BUILD THE CORE

Pass English, mathematics, science, and social studies to stay on track and prepare for advanced coursework.

**The habits you form  
now shape future  
opportunities.**



# Graduation Requires at Least 22 Credits

## English Language Arts

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4 credits

## Social Studies • 4 Credits

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- Global History & Geography Grade 9
- Global History & Geography Grade 10
- U.S. History
- Participation in Government: (.5)
- Economics: (.5)

## Mathematics • 3 Credits

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- Algebra I may be completed in one or two years.
- Additional mathematics: 1–2 credits

## Science • 3 Credits

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- Life Science (Biology)
- Physical Science (Earth Science)
- Additional Science: 1



# Complete the 22-Credit Program

- ◆ Languages Other Than English: 1 credit
- ◆ Physical Education: 2 credits—0.5 credit each year
- ◆ Health: 0.5 credit
- ◆ The Arts: 1 credit (Studio Art, Music, or DDP)
- ◆ Electives: 3.5 credits



# Regents Requirements and the 4+1 Pathway

# 5

## REQUIRED EXAMS

1. Algebra I
2. Life Science—Biology
3. English Language Arts
4. Global History & Geography
5. U.S. History & Government

# 4+1

PASS ONE MATH • ONE SCIENCE • ELA • ONE  
SOCIAL STUDIES

The second social studies exam may be  
replaced by:

**ARTS • HUMANITIES • CTE • STEM  
CDOS • WORLD LANGUAGES • CIVICS**

STEM uses an additional math or science exam.



# Attendance Protects Learning and Opportunity

## 18 DAYS

Missing 18 or more days in a year is chronic absenteeism—10% or more of the school year.

### Why It Matters

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Missed instruction can reduce understanding, lower grades, and make graduation, college, and job goals harder to reach.

### How We Help

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Staff call home, send letters, arrange meetings, conduct home visits, and support families. Communicate early and encourage sports or club involvement.



# Find Your Team and Your Place



## ATHLETICS

Compete. Connect.  
Belong.

### FALL

Boys Soccer • Girls Soccer  
Girls Volleyball • Cross Country  
Unified Bocce

### WINTER

Girls Basketball • Boys Basketball •  
Wrestling  
Boys Volleyball • Cheer • Swimming  
Bowling • Unified Bowling

### SPRING

Track and Field • Softball • Baseball  
Unified Basketball

## CLUBS BUILD MORE

Social skills • Academic benefits  
Stress relief and fun • Belonging  
College and career readiness  
Personal development

### EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS

[berlincentral.org/ms/activities-clubs/](http://berlincentral.org/ms/activities-clubs/)



# What Is Title I?

# TITLE

# I

FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR  
STUDENT SUCCESS

Title I is a federal education program that provides additional funding to eligible schools. Its purpose is to help students meet challenging academic standards and succeed in school.

## ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Extra help and learning resources

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Programs, workshops, and events

## ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY

Support designed to strengthen success for all students



# Title I: Supporting Every Mountaineer

**Additional resources. Stronger partnerships. More opportunities to succeed.**

## **WHY BERLIN QUALIFIES**

Funding is based on the percentage of families who qualify for federal assistance.

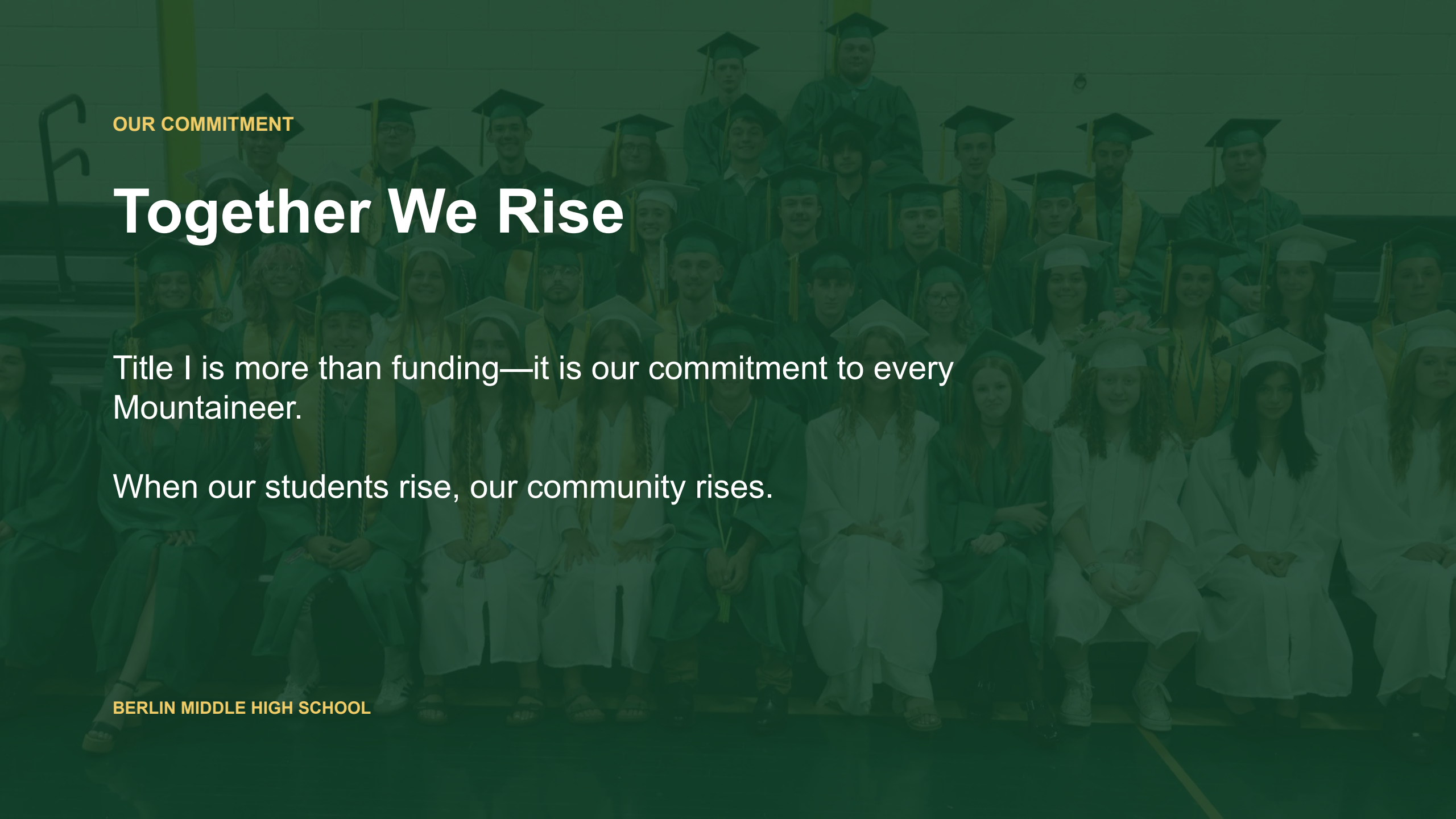
## **HOW FUNDS HELP**

Academic assistance, learning resources, family programs, workshops, and events.

## **OUR COMMITMENT**

Use resources wisely, partner with families, expand equity and access, and build community pride.

**Title I supports the success of every Mountaineer.**



OUR COMMITMENT

# Together We Rise

Title I is more than funding—it is our commitment to every Mountaineer.

When our students rise, our community rises.

BERLIN MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL



# Internet-Enabled Device Policy

**N.Y. EDUCATION LAW § 2803 • EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2025**

- ◆ **Districts must prohibit student use of internet-enabled devices during the school day anywhere on school grounds.**
- ◆ **Devices include smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, and other internet-connected devices that provide access to online content, including social media.**



# Staying Connected During the School Day

## Contacting Your Student

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**Parents and guardians may call the BMHS main office when contact is necessary.**

**Berlin Middle High School  
(518) 658-1500**

**Students may use the main office phone to call home.**

## Device Storage

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**Students must turn off internet-enabled devices and store them in designated district-provided lockers. Each student receives a locker and a lock. Devices must remain inaccessible throughout the school day.**



# Start the Morning in the Right Place

**7:10**

**A.M.**

Doors open for students,  
buses, and parent/guardian  
drop-offs.

## GO DIRECTLY TO...

I

**BREAKFAST**

**Cafeteria**

II

**GRADES 6–8**

**Auditorium**

III

**GRADES 9–12**

**Gymnasium**

Students may not enter earlier for safety and supervision reasons.



# Your Future. Your Path.

High school opens many doors after graduation. Begin exploring now.

I

II

III

IV

V

## FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE

Bachelor's  
degree and  
deeper  
academic study

## TWO-YEAR COLLEGE

Associate  
degree or  
transfer  
pathway

## TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Hands-on  
training for  
high-demand  
careers

## MILITARY

Service,  
valuable skills,  
and education

## WORKFORCE

Begin a career  
and build  
real-world  
experience

Your path can grow and change. Curiosity is the first step.



# Own Your High School Experience

## BE PREPARED

Bring supplies and track assignments.

## STAY ORGANIZED

Use a planner; keep your backpack and locker tidy.

## PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY

Engage in class and join activities.



**LEAD THE CLIMB**

## RESPECT OTHERS

Treat classmates and staff kindly; follow school rules.

## COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY

Ask for help and share ideas respectfully.

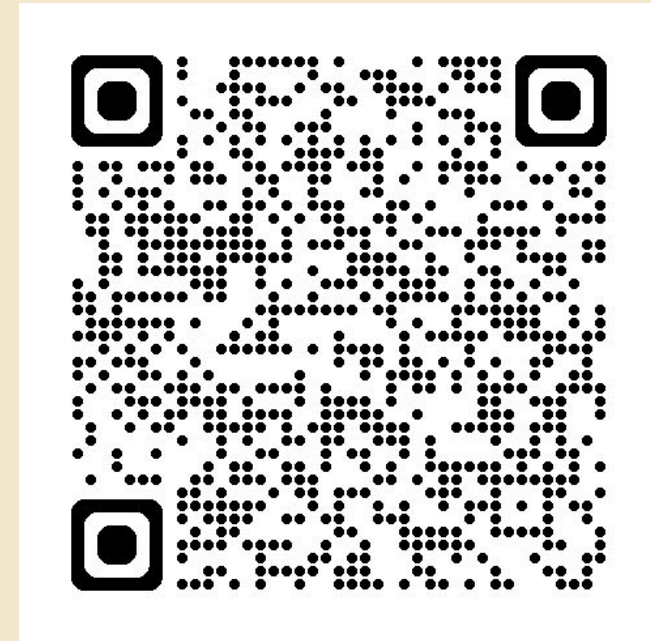
## OWN YOUR LEARNING

Set goals, seek help, and strive to improve.



# Questions for Mr. Bernsley

Scan the QR code to submit a question.



Questions for Mr. Bernsley

# Let's Have a Great Year

Thank you for being here tonight. We are here to assist and support you and your child, and we welcome in-person conversations.

Please reach out at any time with questions or concerns. Your success and happiness are important to us.

**MOUNTAINEER PRIDE • LEAD THE CLIMB**