



BERLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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February 26, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope that this letter finds you and your family staying healthy and safe. This week, the warmer weather, longer days, and news that teachers and other school staff will soon be able to be vaccinated have brought more hopefulness to our outlook as we look ahead to the rest of the school year.

Like you, I have been following the news of the lower statewide positivity rates. Based on the current downward trends, we are beginning to put dates to our plan to move students in Grades 6-12 from the hybrid model to a full, in-person model at the end of March.

While we will continue to monitor the health metrics, and may need to adjust again should the situation change, this is our current plan:

Monday, March 29	All students in Grades 6, 9 and 12 are able to return to school full-time in person Hybrid model continues for students in Grades 7, 8, 10 and 11
Monday, April 5	All students in Grades 7, 8, 10 and 11 are able to return to school full-time in person <i>Hybrid weeks will no longer be scheduled</i>
Wednesday, April 7 to the end of the school year	Early release Wednesdays continue (*pending BOE approval)
April 12-16	April Vacation Week
April 19-23	Remote week for all students preK-12 (*pending BOE approval)
Friday, June 11	Class of 2021 Graduation
Monday, June 21	Last day of school for preK-11 students (*pending BOE approval)
Tuesday and Wednesday, June 22 and 23	Teacher Work Days

***The Board of Education will take up the discussion of calendar changes for this year at its next meeting on March 8.**

I hope that this advanced notice helps you with your planning. We believe that students learn best with face-to-face interaction with their teachers, and we are most looking forward to welcoming our students back to our buildings on a full-time basis. ***Please note, as well, that as we come back to full, in-person instruction, the mitigation strategies that we have put in place, including mask wearing, handwashing, and maximized social distancing, as feasible, become more important than ever.***

Please note that if you are the parent/guardian of a student in Grades 6-12 who is fully remote, you will have the option to keep your child in remote instruction or to send your child back to full in-person learning. To assist us with our planning, McGee and BHS staff will reach out to you next week so that you can let us know of your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian J. Benigni". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B".

Brian J. Benigni
Superintendent of Schools

BJB/db