



BERLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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March 12, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to provide an update on our plans for remote learning as we head into the last trimester of the school year. First, please be assured that we are committed to providing a fully-remote learning option for families who wish to remain remote through the end of the current school year. We have been asked many questions about the 2021-22 school year, and whether remote learning will still be an option, and the short answer is that we simply don't know at this time. We sincerely hope that the health conditions in our community support having all students in fully in-school, in-person learning.

We are happy to be welcoming many students back to in-school, in-person learning. You may know that the number of students in remote learning has varied considerably across the year, with numbers ranging from a high of 160 K-5 students in remote learning in September to a low of 112 this week, with more scheduled to return next week.

Our team of principals and other district administrators met yesterday to develop guidelines that we will follow for the remainder of this academic year:

- We will continue to welcome students back to in-school, in-person learning on a rolling basis from now until April vacation.
- Following April vacation, all students will be on a remote learning week. No students will transition to new teachers/placements during this week.
- **If you wish to have your child return to school for the final weeks, we respectfully request that you notify us of your intent to return by Monday, April 26, with a scheduled re-entry date no later than May 3.** This will allow students to have approximately seven weeks of in-school, in-person learning before the scheduled end of the school year.
- Principals are currently developing plans for end of year activities for all students. When possible, remote students will be invited to participate in remote end of year activities at their home school. There may be opportunities for remote students to participate in person for some activities if appropriate COVID mitigation strategies are able to be implemented.
- At Grades 2 and 3, we currently have 2 sections/classes at each grade level. We will continue to monitor those class sizes, and may merge the classes into a single section if we drop below a total of 20 students at a grade level.

We hope that providing this information to you now assists you in making the decision that is best for your child and family.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Benigni, Superintendent of Schools