



BERLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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August 21, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Each year, the end of summer brings a flurry of activity to public schools across the country and here in Berlin. This year, the flurry of activity has been nonstop since June, as district staff have prepared for a safe reopening of the school facilities and for multiple possibilities, including in-person, remote, hybrid and distance learning. Detailed updates and the district reopening plan can be found on the district website, at www.berlinschools.org.

As you know from my previous communications, the district has been ordering furniture and protective equipment, such as plexiglass shields, to assist us in safeguarding the health and safety of students and staff. Because of the demand for such equipment across the entire country, the delivery of some furniture and protective equipment has been delayed. **As we cannot now guarantee that all equipment will arrive prior to the planned start date, we will not open schools without the necessary equipment; therefore, the first day of school will now be Tuesday, September 8.**

The school calendar will remain largely unchanged, with the five school days that would have been held from August 31-September 4 added to the end of the school year. A revised calendar will be published shortly.

We understand that this delay will be a challenge to our families; however, we must prioritize the health and safety of our students and staff. Thank you in advance for your understanding in this very difficult situation.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Benigni
Superintendent of Schools

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