



BERLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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July 30, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope you are enjoying your summer and finding time for friends, family and relaxation. I would like to provide you with some updates regarding the upcoming school year. Please know that weekly scheduled meetings with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and members of the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) are occurring for several weeks every Tuesday morning. The purpose of these meetings is to provide the latest updates, guidance and requirements for reopening schools. It is important to communicate that we are still waiting for an official update from the DPH, CSDE and the Central Connecticut Health District (CCHD) concerning mask wearing requirements for the 2021-2022 school year. Please click [<Here>](#) for a document which highlights the mitigation measures that will be implemented for the 2021-2022 school year in the Berlin Public Schools. These strategies are based on current recommendations and will be updated should conditions, recommendations, or requirements necessitate such change.

A link to the DRAFT Berlin Public Schools Reopening Plan <click [Here](#)> is provided and states the following regarding mask wearing: *If masks are not required by the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health or the Central Connecticut Health District (CCHD), staff and students will be allowed to make a choice about whether to wear them. This decision may be based on grade level as older students may be vaccinated and younger students are not.* We will provide updates regarding mask wearing as information becomes available and it will be documented in the finalized reopening plan which will be adopted at the August 23, 2021 Board of Education meeting.

- For the latest COVID-19 information from the State of CT, please see:
<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus>
- Please see the latest update from DPH at:
<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Covid-19-Knowled...>

Thursday, August 26, 2021 will be the first day of school for all students. We look forward to all students and staff returning to in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. As we prepare for the new school year our priority is to provide a safe learning environment while maximizing continuity of instruction for all students.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Benigni
Superintendent of Schools