



October 28, 2020

Dear Berlin Intermediate School Parents/Guardians:

You have received a message from our superintendent, Mr. Taylor, sharing with you that as long as health and safety conditions allow, all students who wish to return to their schools for face to face instruction can in November. The teachers, administration and support staff at Berlin Intermediate School are looking forward to having everyone return. All of our students should have the opportunity to learn in our classrooms. With that said, it is going to take some resourcefulness on our part to make that happen safely.

We will be welcoming back the rest of our students on **November 16, not** November 9. That is the first day of the second marking term. We are able to socially distance in our classrooms (maintain 6 feet of distance) with students seated at their desks. Movement that occurs will be carefully orchestrated by our staff members. Frequent cleaning and sanitizing will continue. We will also continue to have students and staff complete a **COVID** screening each morning. **We need your help with this check- in process.** Families need to completely fill out the **COVID** screening checklist at home in the mornings. It would be very helpful for us if this is done prior to students getting to school. This piece of paper is collected and reviewed at the door prior to students entering the building. Lockers will NOT be used.

One of the biggest challenges ahead as we re-open our school to all students is bus transportation. In order to transport students safely, we are not going to be able to fill school buses to capacity. We will have to find creative ways to serve all families. Therefore, if you are able to drop off and pick up your child from school each day, we encourage you to do so, as it will be very helpful as our transportation department continues to work on bus schedules. Additionally, for students planning to return on **November 16**, we need to know if bus transportation is needed. That is essential for planning bus routes as we move forward. As soon as possible, please fill out the enclosed form indicating your intention to return your student to school as well as your transportation needs. Please return it to us in the self-addressed stamped envelope provided as soon as possible. We need to know your intentions so that we can plan appropriately for classroom set ups for academic, specials and the cafeteria.

For parents that have decided not to have their child return this school year, I want to talk about how that will look moving forward. The amount of time a teacher will spend with synchronous instruction on Zoom will decrease. This is necessary because teachers will now have a full classroom of students seated in front of them. Schoology will continue as the learning platform for everyone, so how your child accesses their lessons will remain the same. There will be more recorded lessons, as well as additional asynchronous work. Schoology continues to offer the opportunity for student/teacher interaction and conversations as needed. If your intention is to remain virtual for the remainder of the school year, please complete the **Opt Out of In Person Learning** form that is enclosed in this mailing.

As we have often said, these are unprecedented times. We are all doing our very best to adjust, accommodate, and meet the needs of all of our students. We look forward to having a full school house again very soon. The laughter, the noise and the excitement of children have been missed in our hallways and classrooms.

Sincerely,

Ryan M. Cowder
Principal