



Berlin Public Schools

183 Hillside Avenue, Berlin, NH 03570
Telephone: 603/752-6500; FAX: 603/752-2528

November 24, 2020

RE: THANKSGIVING SCHEDULE & HOLIDAY PLANNING INFO

Good morning families,

Tomorrow is an early release day for students. Below are the dismissal times:

K-2: 12:00

Gr 3-5: 12:30

Gr 6-12: 11:25

There will be **no school on Thursday & Friday.**

As we head into the holiday season, here are some updates for your planning:

- DHHS has released new [Travel Guidance](#) . Though travel outside the New England states is discouraged, there is the possibility of reducing the mandatory 14-day quarantine with a negative PCR test completed on day 7 after return. Please see the guidance or contact your physician or one of our school nurses for more information. AVH and CCFHS will have increased testing availability during this period to accommodate.
- We will reopen after the Christmas break in a 1 week **remote mode from Jan 4-8th** to allow additional quarantine time for those that must travel. We will **return to our "green" onsite mode on Jan 11th**. We are planning to have a program up and running to accommodate the children of families that need to work during our remote week but cannot find childcare. This will be a supervised remote learning program and **limited** in space. More info and sign ups to come as we continue our planning.
- You have all been doing a wonderful job screening your children before they come to school so just a reminder as we head into this period of viral uncertainty to please continue using diligence in keeping your child home if they display any symptoms, have had any direct contact with a positive case or have traveled outside the New England area.

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- As well, a reminder to please practice preventive strategies during this season to allow us the best chance of keeping our community safe and having schools remain open...minimize non-essential travel and gatherings, physically distance, wear your masks and wash your hands often.
- The holiday season typically brings greater levels of stress, anxiety and depression for some students and adults alike. This year, our community is already seeing a rise in mental health needs. Please be kind and patient with others as we work together as a community to get through these difficult times. Also, please know that we do have a social worker in our schools this year that can help connect students and families with services and supports in our community. Below is her contact information, as well as other hotlines for assistance:
 - Alana Scannell, MSW
School Social Worker
Berlin Public Schools
ascannell@sau3.org
Phone: (603) 752-4122 x1515
 - 24/7 Berlin, NH Emergency Mental Health Services: 603-752-7404
 - 24/7 Suicide Lifeline: 800-273-8255
 - 24/7 LGBTQ+ Lifeline: 866-488-7386
 - 24/7 Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Helpline: 1-866-662-4220
- Lastly, though it seems a bit late, here is the school district's [Annual Report 2019-20](#) . A report is written annually and archived with the other city departments. It certainly was a year for the history books!

As we head off to Thanksgiving, I have many blessings to be thankful for...my family, my friends, my colleagues, your children, the Berlin community and certainly the support, patience and flexibility you have shown throughout the year. Oh, and I can't forget...I am ever so thankful for the snow! Let it snow...'tis the season!

Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Your partner in education,



Julie King, Superintendent SAU 3