

# BERLIN BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

*"Where Students Discover Their Potential"*

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December 21, 2020

Dear BCS Family,

COVID-19 has continued to cause a world of uncertainty. The uncertainty has become more and more prevalent in schools, especially in the area of staffing. Many different situations require various lengths of isolation and quarantine times. I have stated previously that the last thing we want is to put our students on a proverbial roller coaster, and that we ardently strive toward consistency in instruction to the greatest extent possible.

The cases of COVID-19 continue to spike throughout the state and county. This has caused a general increase in exposure to the virus. We are also approaching a time of the year where there are typically many gatherings and travel. This is another combination that yields a situation that necessitates precautionary measures to be undertaken by the school.

Therefore, we will take the precautionary measure of extending our remote-only instruction through January 15, 2021. We plan to resume onsite learning on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. However, we reserve the right to extend remote-only learning if circumstances warrant it, or in the event that it is required by the State of New Jersey.

Details on Scheduling Changes	
Remote-only learning extended starting	Resumption of onsite learning
January 4, 2021	January 19, 2021

Unless otherwise specified, all staff will teach from their empty classroom using the District provided technology. Individual teachers and student schedules do not change.

We will continue to offer PALS. Our capacity is limited to 52 children due to space. Families that are already utilizing PALS will receive preference. As a reminder, **PALS is not going to be used as a remote learning center**. The PALS staff will supervise children, but they will not be providing any instructional support. The children will be responsible for logging in, participating, and completing their classwork. All students attending will need earbuds as well to use while receiving the virtual instruction. Families that would be best served by this program during the remote-only instruction are those parents that are essential workers or those that cannot have childcare in their home. Children in the program will still have to pass the daily health screening each morning as well. The hours of operation and rates will remain the same.

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Hours of Operation	
Open	Closed
6:30 AM	6:00 PM

Rates		
Type	Time Frame	Rate Per Day
Full Day	6 hours or more	\$15
Half Day	Less than 6 hours	\$8

Please know that this was not an easy decision or something that was taken lightly. Looking at different data points and trends and applying the available science as it relates to our District has led us to this decision. As always, we appreciate our community's support and cooperation. You can assist us by remaining vigilant but sensible in your approach to dealing with this health concern. Should you have any questions about this situation, please feel free to contact me at [campisij@bcsberlin.org](mailto:campisij@bcsberlin.org) or (856) 767-0129 extension 217.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JC", written over a light blue grid background.

Joseph Campisi, Ph.D.  
Superintendent, Berlin Borough School District