

# BERLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Demographics** - Berlin Public Schools opened the 2016-2017 school year with an enrollment of 1174, grades K-12 Kindergarten was offered as a full day program.

Grade levels K-2 are at Brown School, Grades 3-5 at Hillside School, Grades 6-8 at Berlin Middle School, and Grades 9-12 at Berlin High School. Special Education Pupil Services and Office of Student Wellness are at the Marston School building. The district's central office is in the Hillside School building. The district's bus fleet of 10 plus 2 minivans is at a leased garage on Hutchins St. Total miles travelled during 2016-17: 124,494 miles.

The After-School Program, in partnership with the Family Resource Center, saw growth in participation for students in grades K-8. Academic and enrichment support was provided daily in after-school programming, community involvement, and evening meals Monday-Thursday. The program staff collaborated with classroom teachers to ensure students increased academic achievement in the regular classroom. The number of K-8 students enrolled was 159 during the school year and 80 enrolled summer program, 2017.

The district employed 252 employees. The district has 56% low socio-economically deprived. 25% of the students are identified as students with disabilities, state average is 16%.

**Instruction & Assessment** - In the spring of 2017, all N.H. schools administered a statewide assessment called Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC).

Number of Students Tested and Percent of Students at Level 3 proficiency or Above:

## English Language Arts/Literacy Mathematics

| Grade   | Number of Students Tested | Percent at Level 3 or Above |
|---------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Grade 3 | 89                        | 35%                         |
| Grade 4 | 68                        | 32%                         |
| Grade 5 | 82                        | 54%                         |
| Grade 6 | 80                        | 44%                         |
| Grade 7 | 94                        | 41%                         |
| Grade 8 | 96                        | 44%                         |

| Grade   | Number of Students Tested | Percent at Level 3 or Above |
|---------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Grade 3 | 89                        | 22%                         |
| Grade 4 | 68                        | 43%                         |
| Grade 5 | 82                        | 30%                         |
| Grade 6 | 80                        | 20%                         |
| Grade 7 | 94                        | 26%                         |
| Grade 8 | 96                        | 35%                         |

Berlin Middle School students increased an average of 2 grade levels in reading proficiency using a web-based reading program. Reading Plus was a whole-school reading support program sponsored by Local Granite United Way. Student progress was noted from 20% to 53% reading at or above grade level.

The state adopted the use of SAT College Board tests for all grade 11 students instead of the Smarter Balanced Assessment used at other grade levels. It is anticipated that SATs will raise awareness of the importance for all students to be focused on college and career readiness. The mean score for reading and writing was 484, state mean score was 522. The mean score for math was 473, state mean score was 514.

Professional development was provided for all staff focused on district and school goals. Training and professional development activities included an emergency management framework known as A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate) and a police notification system called CopSync. All teachers used half-day in-service

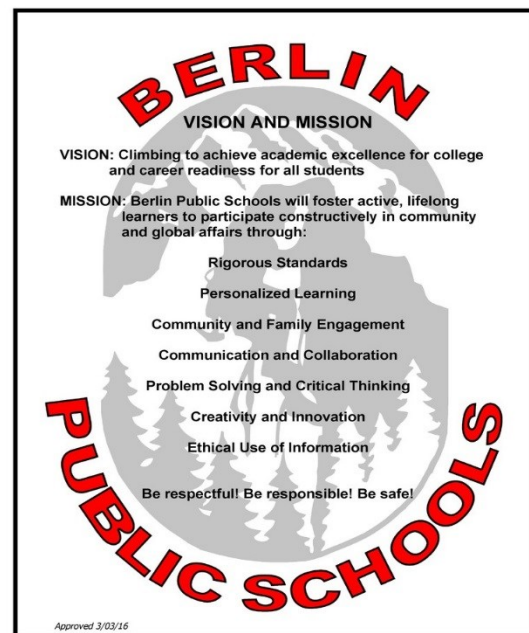
days to develop student competencies for math and English language arts. School activities were initiated for culture and climate framework known as Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), and evidenced-based process to increase consistent expectations of student behavior. The staff received training in Youth Mental Health First Aid, CPR/AED, and developed schoolwide student learning objectives as shared attribution. Guest speaker Dr. Cassie Yackley presented the ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences Study). Building level professional development was conducted for better techniques in behavior management and de-escalating disruptive behaviors, use of technology for instructional practices, strategies for math instruction, training on assessments, and using data. Criminology was a new course offered in the criminal justice career path.

The following Running Start classes were available for students to earn college credit in partnership with White Mt. Community College: Software Applications, College Composition, IT Essentials, Pre-Calculus, Calculus I, French I, Statistics, Psychology, Introduction to Criminal Justice, Criminology, Web Design I, Topics in Applied College Mathematics, Blueprint Reading I, and Blueprint Reading II.

The Berlin Regional Career & Technical Education Center (CTE) offered the following programs: Accounting, Automotive Technology, Building Trades, Drafting/CAD, Early Childhood Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, Graphic Arts, Health Science Technology (HST), Pre-engineering and Welding. Industry certifications were earned by students in Automotive Technology, Health Science Technology, and Welding.

All district goals and objectives are driven by a vision and mission developed by stakeholders. The district was in implementation phase of the reauthorized federal law Every Student

Succeeds Act (ESSA) which replaces the tenets of No Child Left Behind.



**Staff Accomplishments** - District-wide committees met to address: Leadership, Professional Development, Wellness, Technology Integration, School Climate and Culture, Behavioral and Mental Health Supports, Emergency Management, and Project A.W.A.R.E. (Advancing Wellness and Resilience Education).

We were one year ahead of schedule, enabling us to provide Chromebooks to all students for the 2016-2017 school year. Moving forward, the district assessed the needs of staff and students to provide them with the tools necessary to be successful in a 21st century learning environment. The teaching staff has been provided with a graduate level course for professional development in the integration of one-to-one Chromebooks in the classroom. Parent information packets were updated and included: care and use policy guides, loan agreements, SAU3 policies on internet safety and bullying, filtering software, and other resources regarding internet safety.

Project A.W.A.R.E. (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) in the Office of Student Wellness, completed its second year of implementing strategies that promote social emotional learning, increase school safety, improve school climate, connect students in need with community based mental health supports, and advance overall student wellness. More than 125 staff and community members received training in Youth Mental Health First Aid.

The School Resource Officer (SRO), funded primarily through Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education), responded to more than 1,100 calls for service within the schools, including home visits, school visits, counseled students, classroom presentations, field trips, incident reports, school meetings, and school patrols.

All schools strengthened their universal Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) strategies this past year. Universal strategies benefited all and are based on data collected within the schools guiding decision making to develop practices and systems for improving student behaviors and school climate.

Targeted interventions for students needing extra behavioral supports in order to be successful in the natural school setting were driven largely by the Behavioral Health Intervention Teams in each school. These teams identified students for both specialized social emotional learning groups and provided individualized supports for students identified at being high risk. Students actively engaged in community based mental health treatment increased by more than 50% since the beginning of the grant project in 2015.

Brown School Physical Education teacher coordinated "Jump Rope for Heart" and raised over \$7,000 for N.H. Heart Association. Brown School 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, Susan Griffin was awarded the Louise Tillotson Teaching

Fellowship award, selected by the N.H. Charitable Foundation.

The following administrators successfully completed The National Institute for School Leadership (NISL) at North Country Education Services: Tammy Fauteux, Kevin Carpenter, Martha Miller, and Roland Pinette. Berlin High School athletic director Craig Melanson was awarded NH Division III AD of the year. BHS teacher raised over \$2,000 to benefit cancer research through the "Movember" challenge.

**Facilities Report** - The BHS and one of the BMS gym floors were renovated. The other BMS gym floor was completely rebuilt. Bleachers at both BHS and BMS were motorized and updated to ADA compliance. Hillside School bathrooms were renovated and built for ADA compliance. A few water fountains were replaced with water bottle filling stations. The school department continued to upgrade LED lighting for increased energy efficiency. This project reaped \$7,000 annual energy savings. A new fire alarm system was installed in the Hillside/BMS complex. Work continued on roofing overlay. Two classrooms at BHS had floor tile replacement and asbestos abatement.

#### **Parent/Community/Board Involvement**

Parent and community engagement events were held at all schools with opportunities to meet teachers and learn about expectations for the students.

Events held at Brown School and Hillside School included: Parent/Teacher Organization meetings, Book Fairs, Math nights, and open houses. The elementary schools jointly sponsored a family literacy night themed, "Let's Get Moving", an estimated 76 families participated. Classes visited local sites: Tin Mt., Hillside School, Great Glen Trails, Milan Hill State Park, Moose Brook State Park, and Horne Field.

Hillside student council members participated in the Berlin Main Street Day of Caring. The

Shelburne Grange donated dictionaries to all third graders. A FIRST Robotics Club with 15 members from Hillside School participated in regional competition. Hillside students place first and second in the state poster contest on the NH Bicentennial of the State House.

Coos County Family Health Services continued to sponsor a dental hygienist to promote healthy oral health. Lessons were provided in oral hygiene, weekly fluoride rinses, free cleanings and check-ups for qualifying students on school sites.

Berlin Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in a financial literacy fair sponsored by Northeast Credit Union and Service Credit Union. Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in a Health-O-Rama sponsored by Androscoggin Valley Hospital and North Country Health Consortium. Students participated in North Country Youth Leadership and Kids in Prevention Youth Leadership (YLTA).

#### POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

| Class of       | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|
| 4-year college | 34%  | 35%  | 35%  | 32%  |
| 2-year college | 38%  | 35%  | 28%  | 28%  |
| Military       | 1%   | 2%   | 4%   | 3%   |

Berlin High School students participated in Your Skin Is In Challenge pledging not to use artificial tanning booths in support of prevention of melanoma. In athletics, Berlin was runner-up in NH unified basketball, boys' ice hockey, and girls' tennis. Individually, a BHS student was the NH Division III and overall Meet of Champions state champion in javelin, and set the Berlin High School record. A student was the N.H. girl's ice hockey player of the year and became the all-time leading goal scorer for Berlin High School. Another

student was the NH High School winner for the N.H. duck stamp competition. The state champion and silver medalist of the NH Skills USA welding competition earned a student a trip to the National Welding Competition. Locally a Berlin High School student was the recipient of the Sylvia Evans Award for her volunteerism and contributions to women and families.

2016-17 was the year of implementation of a Berlin High School food pantry. This student driven initiative was supported by several extra-curricular clubs, including FCCLA, Key Club, and National Honor Society, as well as students and staff who donated time and effort. The food pantry supported an estimated 16 families and provided items for over a thousand meals.

Parent engagement activities focused on college awareness/preparatory events including college overview for seniors, Financial Aid Awareness, Understanding Award letters, College Overview for juniors, and individual FAFSA help session for parents,

The high school and middle Youth Leadership Through Adventure (YLTA) groups empower students to promote chem-free, pro-social, experiential education, service learning, and life style. Berlin High School students facilitated a schoolwide climate project focused on improving kindness.

Berlin Board of Education members are: Chairperson, Nicole Plourde, Vice-Chair, Lynn Moore, Secretary, Denise Valerino, Louise Valliere, and Scott Losier. The School Board held an annual joint meeting in October with Milan and Dummer school boards. The Berlin Board of Education also initiated conversations with SAU20 on the exploration of regionalization and collaboration.

The city funded the FY17 operating school budget at \$17,984,343. The School Board members and district administrators carefully examined all its programs and operational expenses in the year-long process of

developing the school department budget. An annual five-year capital improvement plan was submitted to the city. The goal is to maintain N.H. Approved Schools, to maintain High School Accreditation, to increase technology in all aspects of teaching and learning, and prepare all students to graduate college and career ready.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Dr. Corinne E. Cascadden*

Superintendent of Schools

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Services provided by the Berlin Recreation Department throughout this fiscal year remained numerous and varied. Unfortunately, space does not allow acknowledging all activities and the devoted staff and volunteers who made our events possible. Programs described below either were new and/or expanded during fiscal year 2017. Please call 752-2010 or visit Recreation's Publicity section at [www.berlinnh.gov](http://www.berlinnh.gov) for the very latest on what is taking place now!

In the summer of 2016, Berlin Recreation served 1,553 lunches and 1,399 snacks to area children who visited the Recreation's four playground sites in addition to serving Project Youth's programs at Hillside Elementary School and St. Barnabas Church. This was the first year Berlin Recreation provided food to Project Youth which increased the meal demand substantially. The Berlin School Department generously granted Recreation the use of a Public School van making it possible to execute the delivery of such a large number of bagged lunches and snacks efficiently. We are truly grateful to the Berlin School Department for this collaboration.

For one week in July, Ms. Whitney Roberts, a former Plymouth State softball player, created a Softball Camp for young ladies ages 9 – 15.



*Summer personnel Morgan Boucher & Noah Dumas stand ready to deliver meals. (Staff photo)*

After days of being taught the fundamentals, a fun scrimmage game was held concluding with each girl receiving a complimentary t-shirt. The girls certainly benefited from such a talented instructor!



*Instructor Whitney Roberts with "her team" (Staff photo)*

Ms. Missy Wedge came on board as Recreation's new Assistant in November, 2016. "Miss Missy" quickly reinstated the Little Tykes Playground program introducing Show and Tell and inviting other city departments such as the Fire Department to visit with the young children.

Missy's enthusiasm extended to the Recreational Hockey Development League. With Missy's husband Mike and their recruitment of other qualified volunteers, participation in Recreation hockey continues



to grow. Their energy and teaching skills are providing a quality hockey experience for every skating level.



*Recreational Hockey Open Skate Event*



Sara Poirier, Amanda Reed, & Missy Wedge serving treats at the end of season Hockey Party (Maya Wedge photo)

Mrs. Vicky Arsenault started teaching Tai Chi Quan – Movement for Better Balance in the fall of 2016. A group of senior citizens joined her twice a week at the Berlin Recreation Center for low impact stretching exercises. The seniors' goal was to improve their balance as they monitored their progress throughout the sessions.



*Little Tykes Taking turns holding the fire hose. (Staff photo)*

Mrs. Arsenault also facilitates Health & Hope Nights – an informal monthly gathering where residents of all ages share healthy recipes, dieting tips, and general inspirational stories for leading a positive life. All this and tasty, nutritional snacks too!



*Members enjoying the plentiful snacks at Health & Hope Night. (Staff photo)*

As always, Berlin Recreation welcomes any opportunity to offer new programs in our effort to remain a vibrant member of the community.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have an idea to share.

*Sincerely,*  
*Terry Letarte*, Program Director  
 Berlin Recreation Department