

BERLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2007 - 2008

The Berlin Public Schools opened the 2007-2008 academic year with approximately 1550 students in Kindergarten to grade 12. Bartlett and Brown Elementary Schools provide approximately 345 first, second and third grade students with highly qualified teachers and current educational programs in reading and social studies (MacMillan/McGraw) and mathematics (Scott Foresman). Both elementary schools made adequate yearly progress in reading/language arts. Bartlett and Brown Schools received the Blue Ribbon Achievement and Gold Circle Partnership Awards for exemplary school volunteerism that includes parents, citizens of the city, and school/business partnerships.

The Hillside Elementary School (Grades 4 to 6) initiative engages and involves parents in our school. Research overwhelmingly demonstrates that parents, mentors and school staff expand learning and positive attitude and behavior for our young people. Parent participation establishes and reinforces a solid foundation that is needed and valued. The administration, staff and parents implement activities such as *Meet the Teacher Hour* in August, *Grade Level Parent Information/Open House Night* in September, weekly curriculum updates from the teacher, monthly school newsletters, *Title 1 monthly newsletter*, quarterly *Parents' Club meetings*, monthly *Schoolwide Title 1 meetings*, *Family Nights: Reading Rodeo and Family Math Night*, and an informational school website.

Hillside Elementary School adopted Information Communication Technologies (ICT) as an integrated approach to the use of technology. This initiative enables our students to become proficient with

technology. Each teacher at Hillside Elementary possesses a copy of the NH ICT Literacy Standards for their respective grade level. Each grade level has created two projects to reflect the ICT standards and each student has a digital portfolio. The purchase and installation of an additional COMPUTER ON WHEELS system enables all fifth graders to attend a computer literacy class. The Hillside Junior Webmasters Club creates opportunities for young people to maintain the website. Additionally, electronic portable SMART Boards enhance the mission and goal to integrate technology into classrooms. The interactive and collaborative qualities of the SMART Boards capture the attention of the learners and allow the whole class to be engaged together.

Berlin Junior High School extended technology access for students and faculty in 2007-2008. Each academic team, including our Unified Arts team, utilizes SmartBoard interactive technology. Combining the simplicity of a whiteboard with the power of a computer, the SmartBoard engages students with interactive educational presentations that are both faculty-created and Internet-based. The touch-sensitive display connects a computer and digital projector to show the computer image to classroom audiences. This contemporary technological resource expands our computer inventory which also includes a desktop computer lab, library computer lab, mobile wireless laptop lab, and computer access in each classroom.

“Reading Comprehension Strategies across the Curriculum” engages the Berlin Junior High School faculty in a year long course that improves reading comprehension for our students in each academic discipline. Mrs. Christine Lindsey, BJHS Reading Specialist, teaches the course that meets

monthly. The course includes guided implementation of researched-based instructional strategies across all content areas. Our goal establishes appropriate, engaging, and relevant reading materials available to our students. Our students possess greater potential to achieve in a classroom when the teacher knows and applies research based instructional strategies and learning styles.

Berlin High School graduated 115 seniors on Friday, June 6, 2008. Approximately, eighty members attend four or two year universities and colleges. Students at the

high school also earn college credits in courses that are also *Running Start* Community College courses. Berlin High School remains fully accredited the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and the New Hampshire Department of Education.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Moulis
Superintendent of Schools

City of Berlin Web Page

www.berlinnh.gov

In January of 2007, the City of Berlin contracted with Virtual Town Hall to provide web hosting services. The user friendly software allows us to add and change information on the City's web site on a regular basis.

The site holds a wealth of information from agendas and minutes of meetings of the City's Boards and Commissions, to City Ordinances and general information.

There are links to State and local agencies that provide guidance and information.

Over the two years, since its inception, hits to Berlin's web page have gone up dramatically. In December of 2007, there were 632 hits and in December of 2008, there were 4,397.

We hope that everyone is using the web page and remember that additional information is only a click away.

