

BERLIN BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Where Students Discover Their Potential"

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Eighth Grade Families,

There have been several recent changes to the planned end-of-year activities for our 8th Graders. Since the last BCHSA 8th Grade Committee meeting on April 13th, numerous COVID-19 restrictions were lifted or loosened. Last week, Governor Murphy loosened the NJ restrictions for preventing the spread of COVID-19 including higher outdoor gathering limits, increased capacity at outdoor venues and indoor catered events, and guidance for graduations and proms.

In light of that announcement, I sent out an 8th Grade Trip & End of Year Survey asking students to vote on options for end-of-year celebrations including the YMCA camp, an amusement park, an on-site dance, or an off-site dance. Over two-thirds of students selected the amusement park option. Therefore, BCS planned a class trip to Hershey Park on June 4th. Students were notified of this change yesterday via email.

Yesterday afternoon, BCHSA officers and 8th Grade Committee members met with the BCS administrative team and the BOE Finance Committee to make plans for the rest of the year. During the meeting, we learned of Governor Murphy's announcement that, if there is no unexpected surge in COVID-19 numbers, on Wednesday, May 19, indoor catered events may be held at 100 percent of a room's capacity, up to 250 individuals with social distancing in place. With this in mind, we are moving forward with planning an 8th Grade Dinner Dance as an overwhelming majority of students selected it on the survey.

To expedite the timeline and ensure the safety of our students, BCS will plan the 8th Grade Dinner Dance in collaboration with our 8th-grade student leaders and BCHSA's 8th Grade Committee. As in previous years, the 8th Grade Committee will use the proceeds from this year's fundraising efforts to help fund the dinner dance which we hope will cover the cost of the entire dance.

The last 14 months have been marred by isolation, fear, and sadness for many students. It is my hope that these changes provide our 8th graders with a sense of normalcy and more happy memories to cherish as they mark the end of their time here at BCS.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kellilyn E. Mawson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kellilyn E. Mawson, MST, BCBA
Middle School Principal