

# Berlin Central

School District

Berlin Middle-High School, P.O. Box 259, Berlin, NY 12022  
Telephone: (518) 658-2515 Fax (518) 658-2535

Dr. Stephen Young  
Superintendent

Dr. Catherine Allain  
High School Principal

Jason Breh  
Middle School Principal

November 8, 2011

RE: 2012 - Driver Education Program

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to let you know that the District will be offering a Driver Education Program, mid-January 2012(exact date to be determined) – mid-May 2012. Mr. Bill Benkoski, who teaches the Driver Education Program at Hoosac School, Tamarac High School and Hoosick Falls Central School, will teach this program. The cost is \$375.00 per student, (if we have a minimum of twenty-five students enrolled) which covers the cost of the materials used, the car, and insurance for the program. Payment plans are available for those students who are unable to pay the full \$375.00 in one payment. The driver education discount on most car insurance policies is 10-15 percent; the student would realize a savings that would make up the tuition costs within a year or two. This course will also enable the student to drive after 9:00 p.m. once the student turns 17 years of age. It also eliminates the need to take the five (5) hour pre-licensing course.

The class would meet one weekday at the High School from 2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. (if your child attends the Rensselaer Ed Center in the afternoon special arrangements can be made). Total commitment for the course will be 1 1/2 hours of class time and 1 1/2 hours of driving time per week. Saturday driving times from 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. are available for those students who are unable to drive during the week. Driving times will be arranged between the student and instructor. Mr. Benkoski stated that all students will learn to drive in Troy, Albany and on the various highways in the Capital District. In organizing this program, we have established the following guidelines:

1. The permission slip must be completed and returned to the Counseling Office.
2. A minimum of 25 students must enroll.
3. Students who are seniors will have top priority on a first come - first served basis.
4. Students who are juniors are second in priority and sophomores will be third in priority.
5. Your child must be at least 16 years old by January 7, 2012.
6. The program will begin mid-January 2012 (exact date to be determined).
7. No student will be awarded a certificate unless he/she has completed the course requirements for class and driving time as well as any homework assignments.
8. Students must complete the payment plan by the end of the course.

Please return the permission slip to the Counseling Office by **Wednesday, December 21, 2011**. Please do not send in a check with the permission slip. Mr. Benkoski will meet with enrolled students one morning during the first week of January before the class begins. The meeting will take place before 1st period so that students and/or parents may have questions answered about the program. The long-term benefit of driver education has significant value relative to driver safety and insurance reduction. We are pleased that we are able to provide this service in our school district.

Sincerely,

Dr. Catherine A. Allain  
Principal

cc: Dr. Stephen Young, Superintendent

BERLIN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT - DRIVER ED CLASS PARENT PERMISSION FORM

My son/daughter, \_\_\_\_\_, has permission to participate in the 2012 Driver Education Program provided by Mr. Bill Benkoski from mid-January 2012 until mid-May, 2012 at the Berlin Middle-High School.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE GUIDELINES FOR MY SON/DAUGHTER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2012 DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAM.

STUDENT

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE