



Binghamton City School District

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Dear Binghamton Families,

The COVID-19 crisis has presented many opportunities for learning and growth. From healthcare to government to education, many vital lessons will be learned and taught as a result of this global pandemic. Earlier this week, our governor announced a collaboration between several neighboring states who are coming together to determine a plan for slowing re-opening our businesses, transportation and schools. Never before have state governments needed to collaborate more to ensure everyone is protected to the greatest extent possible so that we can completely transition out of this crisis. The New York State Education Department has also made significant adjustments in response to COVID-19 as we have shared through district communications. A summary of those changes and new resources released can be found [here](#).

We are all currently taking part in living history. It's important that all of us, but especially children, take time to reflect on the changes in the world around us. From the perspective of a child, the impact of this pandemic may feel greater. Schools are closed, education is taking place outside of traditional classrooms, and they are missing daily interactions like extracurricular activities and social events with friends and family. Our current world is drastically different than the space and places they've known throughout their young lives.

I encourage you to help your child reflect and process the events of these weeks by asking them to keep a daily journal. Their journal can be written, typed, or even recorded via video. They could draw, color, paint or take pictures. Ask them to record their thoughts, feelings, concerns, wonders and ideas. Ask them to share the things and people they are missing, and what they're most looking forward to when this pandemic is behind us. Save these reflections for a time in the future when you are able to look back on these days as part their personal history, and indeed, a historic moment in the history of our world. This exercise is and will prove to be extremely important for their social and emotional wellbeing. The journal will encapsulate the experience we're currently living through – an artifact that can be shared with future generations.

I'd like to thank and recognize our families, and their tremendous efforts to keep their students engaged. Perhaps this has afforded you with opportunities to play a family game, finally sit down together for a meal or learn something new about each other. As a school community, we are all in this, learning and growing together, and truly, we could not do it without you.

With Patriot Pride,

Dr. Tonia Thompson
Superintendent of Schools

Educating, empowering and challenging all students to become productive, global citizens through innovative approaches to learning.