



Binghamton City School District

Christopher Columbus School

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May 27, 2020

Dear Binghamton Families,

It seems surreal that June is just around the corner, and less than three weeks remain in our current school year. As announced last week, the last day of school for students will be Friday, June 12. Distance learning has been no small feat for students, teachers, or parents. Please encourage your child to remain engaged and enthusiastic throughout these final days. Let's continue to work together to help our students thrive throughout the home stretch, and finish the school year strong.

We are now putting into motion plans for closing out the academic year. On Tuesday, five-week progress notes were published to Parent Portal for families to view. Additionally, learning letters were distributed to parents of students in grades 6-12, and are also available on our [website](#). These letters explain the grading procedures that will be used for determining fourth quarter grades, as well as, awarding final course credit. Please know that these grading procedures were developed with careful consideration, and that our main objective is to make sure that no child is harmed by learning remotely. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher.

The district is also planning for the collection of Chromebooks, laptops, and instruments, as well a system for returning students' personal belongings from our schools to our students. We will communicate the specifics of those plans next week.

School principals will continue to share information regarding year-end celebrations and recognitions with families. We are particularly excited about the plans being developed to provide the Class of 2020 with a commencement exercise at the end of the academic year. All district graduation plans are required to be reviewed and approved by regional and state government. More information will be forthcoming from the high school principal in the coming weeks, including instructions on picking up caps and gowns.

Finally, I'd like to remind you to complete and return your budget vote absentee ballots. Ballots can be returned via mail or in person, and must be received by June 9th at 5 p.m.

Thank you for your patience and perseverance throughout these challenging weeks. This is truly about collective efforts. As Henry Ford said, "Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." Success has indeed been achieved by so many.

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.