



Binghamton City School District
Office of Special Services
98 Oak Street
Binghamton, NY 13905
(607) 762-8136
Fax: (607) 762-8138

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Concern over COVID-19 can make children and families anxious. We recognize that this is a difficult and stressful time for everyone and we want to continue to support your child's mental health needs. The National Association of School Psychologists states that acknowledging some level of concern, without panicking, is appropriate and can result in taking actions that reduces the risk of illness. Helping children cope with anxiety requires providing accurate prevention information and facts without causing undue alarm.

[https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)

The staff of the Binghamton City School District will continue working to support your child's mental health needs, despite the temporary school closure. While face-to-face meetings between students and school staff are not currently taking place, we would like to offer additional resources to support your child's mental health while school is not in session. We are providing the email and office numbers for our school social workers, psychologists and counselors. Some of our social workers, school psychologists and counselors will be communicating through Google Classroom, Class Dojo and other social media platforms. Others will be following up with phone calls to our students and their families.

Messages for our staff can be left through e-mail or phone. Please note that messages may not be returned instantaneously, but we will make every effort to return contact in a timely manner. If there is an immediate safety or crisis concern, please contact local authorities.

Jessica Waffle, School Social Worker, Benjamin Franklin – wafflej@binghamtonschoools.org / 762-6062
Leigh Long, School Psychologist, Benjamin Franklin – longl@binghamtonschoools.org / 762-8190
Alexis Zorovic, School Social Worker, Thomas Jefferson – zorovica@binghamtonschoools.org / 763-8476
Christie O'Donnell, School Psychologist, Thomas Jefferson – odonnellc@binghamtonschoools.org / 763-8434
Glenna Coutts, School Social Worker, Horace Mann – coutts@binghamtonschoools.org / 762-8274
Lisa Ganz, School Psychologist, Horace Mann – ganzl@binghamtonschoools.org / 762-6094
Allison Smilnak, School Counselor, Theodore Roosevelt – smilnaka@binghamtonschoools.org / 762-8288
Lisa Fisher, School Psychologist, Theodore Roosevelt – fisherli@binghamtonschoools.org / 762-8285
Griffin Mclver, School Social Worker, Theodore Roosevelt/MacArthur – mciverg2@binghamtonschoools.org
Cristin Plourde, School Social Worker, MacArthur – plourdec@binghamtonschoools.org /762-8368
Kathryn Carpenter, School Psychologist, MacArthur – carpenterk@binghamtonschoools.org / 762-6349
Peg Doherty, School Counselor, Calvin Coolidge – dohertym@binghamtonschoools.org / 762-8292
Susan Vail, School Psychologist, Calvin Coolidge – vails@binghamtonschoools.org / 762-8171
Ramelle Liverpool, School Social Worker, Woodrow Wilson – liverpor@binghamtonschoools.org / 762-8444
Christine Merton, School Social Worker, Woodrow Wilson – mertonc@binghamtonschoools.org – /763-8475
Lori Bass-Brown, School Social Worker, East Middle School – bassbrol@binghamtonschoools.org – 762-6064
Megan Petro, School Psychologist, East Middle School – petrom@binghamtonschoools.org / 762-8415
Jason Purdy, School Social Worker, West Middle School – purdyj@binghamtonschoools.org – 762-8474
Julie Perlick, School Psychologist, West Middle School – perlickj@binghamtonschoools.org / 763-8415
Mary Barta, School Social Worker, Binghamton High School – bartam@binghamtonschoools.org – 762-8199
Katherine Monachino, School Social Worker, Binghamton High School – monachik@binghamtonschoools.org
Karen Carlton, School Psychologist, Binghamton High School – carltonk@binghamtonschoools.org / 762-8205
Andrea Roberts, School Psychologist, Binghamton High School – robertsa@binghamtonschoools.org / 762-6059

Local mental health agencies and services are also available to you, including but not limited to:

- Family & Children's Society – **257 Main St, Binghamton NY 13905 – 607-729-6206**
- Lourdes Center for Mental Health Youth – **187 Court St, Binghamton NY 13901 – 607-584-4465**
- Greater Binghamton Health Center (GBHC) – **425 Robinson St, Binghamton NY 13901 – 607-724-1391**
- Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP) – **10-42 Mitchell Ave, Binghamton NY 13901 – 607-762-2302**
- Police Force Assistance - **778-9111 (Broome County non-emergency number) & 775-1241 (NYS Troopers)**
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: **1-800-273-TALK (8255)**

Resources for students to practice coping strategies will be made available through the district Website.

The Binghamton City School District wants to thank you for your patience, understanding, and flexibility during this trying time. Your cooperation with the district is greatly appreciated. We look forward to continue serving you, your family, and the community in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Tia Rodriguez, Director of Special Services-Secondary
Velvet Tanner, Director of Special Services-Elementary
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