



# Binghamton City School District

Christopher Columbus School

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April 1, 2020

Dear Binghamton Families,

Our schools are now in the midst of their third week of distance learning. I'm proud of the way our students and staff have risen to the challenge that this health crisis has presented. We are a school community that embraces novelty and innovation, and strives to make the most of any and all circumstances. As shared on Monday, continuous learning will continue through the previously scheduled spring recess. The Governor has been extending his executive orders on a rolling two-week basis. He also has stated that, at some point, the two-week notifications may no longer be realistic and longer extensions are necessary. We will not re-open our doors until it has been determined safe to do so, and are in the midst of creating plans with a variety of potential dates for traditional classes to resume.

The district has launched a [ThoughtExchange](#) in order to gain insight from families about their virtual education experience so far. We are encouraging participants to share what they've found most helpful throughout this process, and what they feel could be improved. The more we are aware of the realities and challenges our students are facing, the more effective we can be in our efforts to support them from a distance. As a partner in your child's education, your feedback is critically important.

Additionally, the OCFS (Office of Children and Family Services) is working with the Regional Child Care Centers of New York to connect families to quality child care. A [survey](#) has been launched to help these agencies understand the current child care needs within our community. Your participation is valued and appreciated.

I'm so impressed with the resilience and resolve of our school community. Already, we've overcome numerous obstacles. As each week passes, we can anticipate there are more to come. New York State Education Department has indicated that they are working on guidance for districts on final grades, decisions on Regents exams and graduation requirements. I anticipate this to be provided to districts within the next two to four weeks. We are currently working on guidance to address progress reports and grades during a period of continuous learning and will share with our families/students the guidance provided to our faculty. Please continue to support your child(ren) in completing the work being provided to them.

Continue to be gentle, kind and patient with one another, and with yourselves. We are strongest together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tonia Thompson  
Superintendent of Schools

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