



# Binghamton City School District

Christopher Columbus School

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April 8, 2020

Dear Binghamton Families,

It's hard to believe we're in our fourth week of distance learning, which will continue until at least April 29, per Governor Andrew Cuomo's Monday announcement. Thank you to all who participated in the district's ThoughtExchange, which helped us gather insight on what we're doing well as we provide distance education, and what we can do better going forward. We understand that families have never carried more on their shoulders than they are right now, and we are striving to make continuous learning from a distance as manageable and efficient as possible for our students, parents, and staff. Your input is valuable to us, and will influence the way we provide learning going forward.

All third marking period grades will be mailed home the week of April 27th. Please read carefully the comments your child's teacher(s) include. New learning will begin during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Your child's teacher will be sharing what will be covered and how your child will receive feedback, which will be reflected on 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report cards. Teachers are currently identifying and planning for a realistic amount of content to be presented and learned under our current conditions. The prolonged closure puts an even greater emphasis on the importance of student participation and engagement. It is extremely important that students maintain a daily academic routine, regular contact with their teachers, and partake in assigned work. Maintaining regular sleep and eating schedules is very important. I understand that parents are facing unprecedented challenges right now, and our faculty and staff have great empathy for the circumstances our families are experiencing. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher and/or building principal if you have questions or need additional support.

New York State is partnering with Headspace, a global leader in mindfulness and meditation, to offer free meditation and mindfulness content as a mental health resource for residents coping with the unprecedented public health crisis. A collection of science-backed, evidence-based guided meditations, along with at-home mindful workouts, sleep and kids content to help address rising stress and anxiety can be found at [www.headspace.com/ny](http://www.headspace.com/ny). I believe this is a resource that our entire school community could benefit from throughout this challenging time.

Please continue to 'B connected'. We are in this, and will get through this, together.

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.*