



Binghamton City School District

Christopher Columbus School

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Dear Binghamton Families,

It is truly hard to believe that together, we have finished 13 weeks of remote learning, bringing an end to the 2019-2020 academic year. June is typically filled with many celebrations of learning. I am proud of the way our faculty and students have come together for virtual or socially distanced ceremonies, filled with enthusiasm and appreciation. In so many ways, the footprint they leave behind is symbolic of not only the accomplishments of individual students, but our entire school community.

Friday will mark the final day of the academic year for students. We often leave school looking forward to the warm days of summer and extended time spent with family and friends. But this year, we leave uncertain as to what school will look like when we return this fall. State government will provide guidelines for schools to follow, and in July, all districts in New York State will be required to submit descriptions of the systems that will be put in to place. As a district, we are working across teams of stakeholders, who will be making recommendations for how we can create safe environments for learning. We are committed to engaging in constant self-reflection, and ask for your insight as to what considerations and ideas you have for re-opening school. I invite you to participate in a [ThoughtExchange](#), where you can share and read others thoughts.

I do believe that with each challenge comes an opportunity. The silver lining of remote learning has been the relationships that have been developed and strengthen between faculty and families. Thank you for opening your homes, hearts and heads in support of our students. We simply could not have done it without you!

My best to you this summer. Stay safe, and please know that we are all so grateful for your achievements as parents and guardians - your child's first and most important teachers.

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.