



Binghamton City School District

Christopher Columbus School
164 Hawley Street
PO Box 2126
Binghamton, NY 13902-2126
Phone: (607) 762-8100
Fax: (607) 762-8110

December 16, 2020

Dear Binghamton Families,

The Binghamton City School District continues to make great effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. Our community experienced a spike in confirmed cases following the Thanksgiving holiday, and locally, numbers of positive cases have continued to grow since. There are currently 152 active cases in the City of Binghamton and 14 active cases that are connected to our school buildings. Governor Andrew Cuomo has stated that schools are safer than the surrounding communities and that more than 70 percent of cases can be attributed to families and small gatherings. As a district, we have been very successful in containing and controlling the spread of the virus, and we must remain steadfast in our efforts.

Still, state health officials anticipate more active cases following the upcoming holidays, and we believe conducting full remote learning for the first two weeks following winter break is the safe and responsible course of action in order to minimize the impact on our school community. Therefore, **all students in all district buildings will be engaged in full remote learning beginning Monday, Jan. 4, and resume in-person/hybrid instruction on Tuesday, Jan. 19.** Transportation will continue to be provided for students who attend in-person instruction at BOCES programs. The schedule for meals can be found [here](#).

Though in-school testing is no longer required of us by New York State, we remain committed to continuing testing. Testing will be available to students on Monday, Jan. 4, and Wednesday, Jan. 13. Families can pre-register their child(ren) [here](#). The District Safety Committee continues to meet to review district protocols, promoting health and wellness within our school building. Please continue to exercise utmost caution by practicing social distancing, proper hand-washing and mask use, and staying home when you are sick. Making responsible choices outside of our school buildings is especially critical during the holiday season.

Nothing is more important than the health of our students, families, and employees. I am an immensely proud superintendent thanks to the efforts and resilience demonstrated by both children and adults during this challenging school year. Thank you for the continued care, concern, and diligence you've shown during a time none of us could have possibly imagined.

In the weeks ahead, I hope you will have the opportunity for some well-deserved downtime and find pleasure and comfort in the simplicity of small, intimate celebrations with those who matter most. I wish you a holiday season filled with health and happiness and a new year overrun with enjoyment and achievements.

With Patriot Pride,

Tonia

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