



Binghamton City School District

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Dear Binghamton Families,

While our students have been learning remotely for several weeks now, this week, many have been able to experience the authentic 'back to school' feeling that comes with returning to our buildings. While the circumstances of this school year are unique, to say the least, I truly believe that so much promise remains for learning and growth. Tremendous planning and action have gone into providing a safe, equitable and effective learning experience for our students. Rejuvenating 'back to school' energy combined with strategic safety measures can be found in every corner of the Binghamton City School District. Families who have opted for virtual learning should be assured that our commitment to your child's instruction remains strong. As a district, we are striving to go above and beyond to ensure that every student is receiving a meaningful, high-quality academic experience.

Regardless of where our students' learning is taking place, I have full confidence in our faculty and staff. Our teachers, administrators and support staff are true professionals who are dedicated to ensuring that every student has the curriculum, structure, and support they need to be educated, empowered, and challenged. Lean on them throughout this journey. Communicate often, ask questions, and don't hesitate to reach out for help. Nothing is more important to educators than the success of their students. We will be there with you each step of the way.

I have full confidence in our students, who have proven time and time again that Binghamton children are resilient, adaptable, and remarkable. They have the ability and potential to grow, learn and succeed, even under challenging circumstances. When we are forced to go outside our comfort zones (as have over the past several months, and as we will for the foreseeable future) that's when great innovation, creativity, and progress take place. I cannot wait to witness all that they accomplish this school year.

Finally, I have full confidence in you, our students' families. This pandemic has imposed additional responsibilities and challenges on families that no one could have foreseen or prepared for. Yet, each day, you put one foot in front of the other, and do your best for your children and families. By doing what you can to make the best of your family's academic experiences, you are setting a wonderful example of perseverance for your children and helping them achieve a high-quality education. I fully understand the gravity of the decisions you've been asked to make in determining the best instructional delivery model for your child. I want to assure you that you are your child's first and most important teacher - you know your child better than anyone else. Have patience with yourself and your child during the transition back to school. Know that we are here to support you. Truly, we are all in this together.

We will remain vigilant in our COVID-19 protocols and procedures so that our schools remain safe and healthy for our students, staff, and families. Please continue to refer to the district's

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[reopening page](#) as a resource for the most important documents and information regarding the reopening of our schools. As a school community, I am certain that we will rise to whatever challenges lay ahead and work collaboratively to make 2020-2021 school year a great one. Flexibility and strong partnerships among teachers, families and children will be the keys to success this year. Thank you for your involvement and engagement!

With Patriot Pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tonia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Tonia Thompson
Superintendent of Schools

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productive, global citizens through innovative approaches to learning.***