



Binghamton City School District

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March 25, 2022

Seeing the smiling faces of our students, faculty, and staff throughout our schools this month has been truly priceless and underscores the promise of renewed energy of spring. Furthermore, Broome County has recently been designated as a county at low risk for COVID-19 transmission by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, another indication that the pandemic is indeed moving in the right direction.

Rest assured, there are new and exciting things ahead for our school district. Our feasibility study focus group meetings have concluded, and our Board of Education is in the process of considering options for a reconfiguration of our facilities. [Visit our website](#) to review the options, and the feedback gathered from leaders and the community group. The BOE is now tasked with determining which option provides the best program options, while being fiscally responsible.

The district will soon begin the strategic planning process for our district, something we do every five years to reconsider and define our mission, vision, values, and goals. In April, we will offer you, our stakeholders, the opportunity to share your input by participating in a ThoughtExchange. The voices of our students, families, faculty, and staff will be critical in guiding this work.

Also taking place in person once again this year are the NY state ELA and Math assessments for students in grades 3-8, as well as high school Regents Examinations. We are confident that our students are receiving high-quality instruction and are being well-prepared to be successful on these examinations.

We are excited to restore many of our end-of-the-year celebrations to their pre-pandemic glory. Details of Binghamton High School's graduation, scheduled for Sunday, June 26 at the Visions Veterans Memorial Arena, will soon be announced. Our Spring sports season kicks off next week, with spring concerts on the horizon. I encourage you to take advantage of the talents our students hold and be an active patron.

While there are many incredible things taking place within our school community, it would be remiss not to address the ongoing conflict happening in Ukraine. As a leader of a district that is beautifully diverse, made up of students and families from a wide range of races, cultures, and backgrounds, I am deeply troubled by the violence. Discussion and news coverage of such events can be especially upsetting and confusing for children. As much as I wish these discussions didn't need to take place, I'd like to share with you [a resource](#) that you may find helpful when talking with your child about war and violence. I remain hopeful that this conflict will end soon.

As Albert Einstein said, "Problems cannot be solved at the same level of thinking that they were created." Together as a united school community, we have made so much progress this school year, and I look forward to all that's to come this spring!

With Patriot Pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tonia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial 'T'.

Dr. Tonia Thompson
Superintendent of Schools

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