

Binghamton City School District

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April 29, 2022

Dear Binghamton Families,

April certainly brought more than expected rain showers for our school community, and larger community. Please note that the spring snowstorm we experienced caused the district to use two additional snow days. Because of this, **Thursday, May 26** is now a full day of instruction for students. Additionally, **Friday, May 27** will be a half-day of instruction in the morning, as faculty and staff will engage in a half-day Superintendent's Conference Day in the afternoon. For students in grades Pre-K through 8, both Tuesday, June 21 and Wednesday, June 22 will be half-days, with **June 22 being their last day of school.**

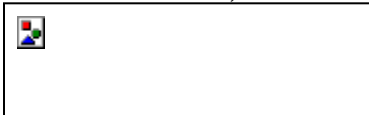
April also ends with the Math portion of the New York State Assessments for grades 3 through 8. These assessments represent not only the teaching and learning that takes place in grade 3 through 8, but that of our early childhood classrooms, Pre-K through 2. District and building faculty are commended for all their efforts and dedication in providing the best learning opportunities possible in preparation for these assessments.

Even during the most difficult days, the strength of our school community continues to shine through. This month, staff members at four of our schools that had power, Binghamton High School, East Middle School, Horace Mann Elementary and MacArthur Elementary School stepped up to serve meals, hot beverages and provide shelter and charging power to families during extended storm-related power outages. Last weekend, many of our families and staff members supported the family of the late East Middle School student Aliza Spencer by attending a fundraiser at Scoopy Dooby Ice Cream, sponsored by BCSD distinguished graduate and local entrepreneur Mark Yonaty. The event raised more than \$6000! I know this was the first of many future efforts to rally behind the Spencer family and celebrate the special child Aliza was. My heart is full of admiration and Patriot Pride for our students, families and employees.

End of the year celebrations are being planned, and many great things are happening throughout our district this spring. I'd like to share an update on athletics with you as our spring sports are officially underway. We are excited to offer a new spring sport to our female student athletes through Binghamton High School's new flag football program. We, along with a handful of other local schools in Section 4, are piloting a program that is the brainchild of the New York Giants and Nike. It's a fantastic opportunity for our girls to remain active and try something new. The district is also working closely with the city to support youth sports programs, and we hosted a banner Opening Day for Little League at MacArthur Park on Saturday. The future of athletics in Binghamton is bright!

We will begin the month of May with Teacher Appreciation Week, kicking off Monday, May 2. I urge you, and your child, to take the time to show or express your appreciation for the educators that make a positive impact in their life each day. Please know that no gesture is too small, and often, a handmade card or handwritten note from a student are the things teachers treasure most. Let's make these final weeks of the school year a success!

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.