



# Binghamton City School District

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**January 31, 2022**

Dear Binghamton Families,

This week welcomes the first week of the third marking period for middle and high school students, marking the half-way point of the year for all students. There are great things happening across the district. I want to acknowledge our faculty and staff for the dedication and passion they continue to show our students and schools.

Our district's commitment to cultural responsiveness and inclusivity remains ever-strong. Last Friday afternoon, all employees district-wide engaged in a virtual professional development session focusing on implicit bias, and how our biases have the potential to impact our students. This session was facilitated by educator and presenter Roseann Bayne, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction at CiTi BOCES. The reality is that everyone carries biases that impact the way we think and feel about the world around us. This training provided an authentic and engaging opportunity for our faculty and staff to identify and confront their biases in order to create an academic environment where every student feels accepted and welcomed. For the latest updates on this important work, please visit the [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion \(DEI\) page on the district website](#).

Our building feasibility study nears completion, with one final meeting scheduled for our focus group in early March. This group is finalizing options for the long-term future of our facilities which will then be considered by the Board of Education. We will provide an update in the near future on the results of their work.

We continue to see promising results from our recently implemented changes at Binghamton High School. We heard valuable suggestions, perspectives and ideas at the BHS family workshop on Thursday, Jan. 20. I, along with Principal Kevin Richman, delivered a presentation on the workshop to the Board of Education last Tuesday, [which can be viewed on BoardDocs](#). From these discussions, we identified a number of key ideas to put into action and will soon release a plan to operationalize each as we strive to create an even safer school experience for BHS students.

We were also pleased to welcome the city's new mayor, Jared Kraham, to the high school for a visit where he was able to engage with students about their wants and needs at school and in the larger community. The results of a recent survey students completed, which asked the question, "If you could speak to the Mayor of Binghamton, what suggestions would you make for improving the area surrounding the school and the city in general?" were also shared with the Mayor. We appreciate Mayor Kraham's care for and commitment to our youth, and we are pleased by the involvement of our students, who are learning that their voices are impactful and can affect positive change.

I look forward to more learning, growth and positive change for our students and schools in the coming months!

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.***