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Greetings ICSD Community,

During this time, I believe it is more necessary than ever to be in constant communication. I will continue to send weekly letters in order to share information and invite community input. This letter contains information on Distance Learning 2.0; changes in access to our playgrounds and recreation spaces; and a summary of our on-going budget planning.

As our children engage in learning through our new instructional delivery model, let me also begin by stating how inspired I am by the fortitude and grace which our students, educators and families display. ICSD Distance Learning 2.0 is up and running, and students are learning new content, with increased connection and support from our educators. Thank you to everyone who is collaborating to find ways to continuously improve for our young people.

### **ICSD Distance Learning 2.0**

- Please check out our new website: [ICSD Distance Learning for Students and Caregivers](#). If you have **questions about your child's learning or need help with technology**, you can email directly with your child's teacher or call the **Family and Student Support Line any time at (607) 882-9850**. Please leave a voicemail and someone will call you back as soon as possible.
- ICSD Distance Learning 2.0 includes **synchronous (same time)** and/or **asynchronous (any time)** learning for our students, and with office hours for optional help.
- Students are learning for **longer** periods of time, we are focusing on **new content and strategies**, and students are receiving both **feedback** and varied types of grading. For middle and high school students, look for information from your child's principal about how this will be different.
- If your child is learning online together with their class, the teacher may record the session for students to watch later (not everyone can participate at the same time). We only post these to secure, student-access-only spaces, which comply with FERPA. **To limit and/or avoid recording**, you can mute and turn off video for your child.
- Please know that we understand each of you brings a range of experiences and perspectives to these online platforms, and we aim to remain flexible and responsive.

### Playgrounds/Courts/Fields

- The Tompkins County Health Department has recommended that all school districts and local municipalities close playgrounds and other recreational spaces. **We have decided to close all of our playgrounds and recreational spaces.**
- We know this is hard for many of you, especially with the warming spring weather. We also know that slowing the spread of COVID-19 is vital for our community.
- We appreciate your staying away from ICSD playgrounds and recreational spaces, and look forward to the day when we can return to these spaces together.

### 2020-2021 Budget Development

- The financial difficulties because of COVID-19 have hurt our local community, our state, our nation, and our world. Unfortunately, New York State **Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that school district budgets will also suffer.**
- We have learned that state aid (foundation aid) will not increase, and that there will be a “Pandemic Adjustment” (with some added money from the Federal Government to help). We will also see decreases in money from the state every 3 months.
- Although we are planning to use fund balance (similar to a savings account) to continue to fund many of our educational programs, **we are looking at supporting our students in new and innovative ways.**
- I urge you to tune into our Board meetings, and our upcoming ICSD 2.0 Webinar Series to stay informed. I will be sure to update you in these weekly letters as well.

Again, I am forever impressed with our community’s commitment and partnership. Your feedback is welcomed on ICSD Distance Learning 2.0 and more as we discover new paths together. **Please continue to use the [Let’sTalk portal](#)** to communicate ideas, constructive criticism, questions and compliments. I am grateful for your engagement and support as we learn together.

Thank you for all you’re doing and **take care of yourselves and your families.**

Regards,

Luvelle Brown Ed.D.  
Superintendent