

March 27, 2020

Greetings, ICSD Community,

As our world grapples with the challenges due to COVID-19, I am reminded of the strength and culture of love present in our community. I am humbled and honored to craft our new path forward together. Thanks to all who have shared their time, perspectives, and expertise as our school district moves forward without students being physically present in our buildings.

**Today, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that schools in New York State will be closed through April 15, 2020.** Many in our community are watching the news and the national conversation about what may be next as our state and country respond to the pandemic.

Please know that the Ithaca City School District (ICSD) educators are actively planning for the possibility of school closures that extend beyond April 15th. ICSD teachers, aides and teaching assistants, and administrators collaboratively designed our current plan, and we are now forming working groups to specifically design the what and how of the next phase of distance learning. This next phase, or **ICSD Distance Learning 2.0**, would include much more student/teacher interactions, along with more direct instruction provided by our educators. For our younger learners (grades 2-5), this enhanced teaching and learning approach would include the distribution of mobile devices and internet access. We will keep our entire community apprised of developments in this area, and we continue to partner with school district and union leadership, as well as community partners.

**While continuously improving our instructional delivery, we are at the same time providing food services to many young people in our community.** We are currently delivering approximately 2700 meals each weekday. Thanks to all who are responsible for making this extraordinary feat possible. Our [new order form](#) allows us to offer different menu options and attend to allergy needs and preferences. Folks can also order by dialing 2-1-1. Please order before noon on Sundays to receive meals beginning on Monday of that particular week.

Additionally, if students or families are experiencing issues with technology (how to log on, device not working, missing charger, etc.), please call the **Family and Student Technology**

**Support Line** any time at (607) 882-9850. Please leave a voicemail and someone will call you back as soon as possible.

We are thinking of those in our community who have been coping with sickness; we wish folks health as quickly as possible and thank those who are caring for them. As I've noted in other communications, we must partner in unprecedented ways to navigate the current unprecedented challenges.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Brown', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Luvelle Brown Ed.D.  
Superintendent