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Letter: Community must work together to improve education

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How will this school year be different from every other school year?

Blaming schools, families, and communities for failing our children and students promotes fear, distrust, anger, resentment and hopelessness. It etches in our collective psyche the belief that our schools, families, students, children and communities are absolute failures. I am an educator with a family. From what I can tell, we are all working hard to do the best we can. We are not complete failures; we are works in progress.

Let us choose mutual support and cooperation to help our children and students grow into the healthy, capable, successful and hopeful people we dream they can be. This will be difficult work. It will require deep trust and honesty. It will require creativity and imagination. It will require us to reach out across our communities of identity (i.e. race, class, gender, orientation, ability, age, place of residence, religion, political affiliation and so on) in ways that allow us to maintain who we are while becoming what we are not yet.

This school year in Tompkins County, let's not buy the myth that we are hopeless failures. This year, let's act on the belief that it is both possible and desirable to achieve our greatest success by learning how to work together.

BARRY DERFEL

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3 lowest reported gas prices in Ithaca			
Price	Station	City	Time
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3.81	Kwik Fill 162 Homer Ave Cortland & Wheeler Ave		Aug 17, 4:13 PM
3.81	CITGO 163 Tompkins St & Delaware Ave	Cortland	Aug 17, 10:12 AM
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