

March 1, 2011

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Last month, the focus of my superintendent newsletter was personnel. I will continue that focus once again this month. Now that we have entered the second half of the school year, it is time to make initial decisions about staffing patterns for the 2011-12 school year. By law, school districts are required to notify teachers of their employment status sixty days prior to the end of the school term. With this in mind, school districts across the state make these initial decisions at their March meeting of the Board of Education and finalize their decisions in the summer months.

Currently, Germantown Elementary has 28 students in kindergarten, 30 students in first grade, and 33 students in second grade. Because these numbers are considered large for the primary grade levels where the foundation for learning is established, we are faced with the challenge of deciding how many sections to create at each grade level. Much will depend upon whether or not students move in or out of the school district in these particular grades. Other things that will be taken into consideration include the class size of the incoming kindergarten group which right now stands at 27 students, space available in the building, and funding. While we have many things to consider when making these decisions, our ultimate responsibility lies with doing what is best for kids. Due to the uncertainty of state funding, I anticipate final decisions regarding class size to be made during the summer months when the financial picture will hopefully be clearer.

I will continue to post a monthly publication of the superintendent newsletter through the summer months. Any updates I have regarding school funding and class sizes will be included in the summer newsletters. As always, if you ever have any questions, feel free to contact me at beckerr@clinton.k12.il.us or 523-4253.

With spring right around the corner, the faculty and staff will be working hard to keep the students focused on finishing the last three months of school on a strong note. We kindly ask families to continue encouraging good organizational skills and study habits throughout the end of the school year.

Sincerely,

Robin Becker, Superintendent
Germantown Elementary School