

November 10, 2010

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Last month, my newsletter focused on the “community” aspect of the 2010-11 Strategic Plan. This month, my focus is “curriculum and instruction”. It is the mission of Germantown Elementary School District #60 to educate all children to the best of their abilities through the cooperation of school, home, and community. The District, in an active partnership with parents and community, promotes excellence in a caring environment in which all students learn and grow. Through this partnership we hope to empower all students to develop a strong self-esteem and to become responsible learners and decision-makers. We take this mission very seriously.

The first goal identified on the Strategic Plan assures that a minimum of 90 percent of the students at Germantown Elementary attain the MEETS or EXCEEDS category on the 2011 ISAT in reading, math, and science with a minimum of 33 percent of those students attaining the exceeds category. In order to help our students reach this goal, the faculty and staff will chart ITBS and/or ISAT test data for each student to identify their performance levels. The charts will be updated annually to evaluate each student’s progress over time. We will identify each student’s strengths and weaknesses based on the data collected and tailor our instruction to meet their needs. Differentiated instruction and other research based strategies will be used to increase performance levels for individual students at all levels of the performance spectrum. In order to better gauge how effectively we are preparing our students for the academic rigor of high school, we will distribute an alumni survey to former Germantown students in March of their freshman year.

Because of our commitment to meeting the needs of all students, Germantown Elementary has implemented a Response to Intervention Program and an Advanced Learning Program. Through the Response to Intervention Program, identified students are provided with increased support in the area of reading and math. The Advanced Learning Program is designed to challenge the minds of students excelling beyond their current grade level. At Germantown, we use data from the following sources to determine placement in both programs: student grades, ITBS, ISAT, STAR Reading, and AIMSWeb. AIMSWeb reading and math data is collected on each student three times a year which allows us to monitor student growth over time on the same scale. Administration meets with members of the faculty/staff on a weekly basis to discuss the students’ progress towards their academic goals. By meeting the needs of the students at both ends of the spectrum, we will be better served to meet the academic goals outlined in the 2010-11 Strategic Plan.

Germantown Elementary has a tradition of providing its students with a quality education, and we fully intend to continue that tradition this school year. Please support us in our efforts to develop well-rounded students by getting involved in their education.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Robin Becker, Superintendent  
Germantown Elementary School