

"Becoming
Responsible,
Respectful,
Lifelong
Learners"

Something to Celebrate

at Germantown Elementary School

Letter from the Superintendent

*Dear Parents,
Staff, Students,
and Community*



Welcome to the first edition of our new school/community newsletter, designed to keep you informed of the great things occurring every day at Germantown Elementary School. After just a few months on the job as superintendent, I have been reminded what an excellent community and school system is right here in Germantown. We have something to celebrate - dedicated and professional staff, an excellent learning environment with proven practices for students and quality facilities that represent community pride. As an 18-year veteran of education, I am a passionate advocate for kids. Whether

they live in a rural, isolated community or in an urban school district, I believe ALL students can be successful. The Germantown Elementary staff has what it takes to prepare students as well, if not better, than students who attend school anywhere else in the state. With commitment and passion, together we can instill even more pride for the school in our community. We have a cohesive school board with a singular vision that reflects a commitment to educate all children to the best of their abilities through the cooperation of school, home, and community. In fact, they have included that vision in their strategic plan. We have staff members who are deeply committed, knowledgeable, and

responsive to students' individual needs. And we have supportive parents, businesses and patrons who understand that schools are the backbone of any great community.

I want to share a few of my goals as your new superintendent:

- To build on the solid and successful foundation already in place.
- To guide our staff in preparing every student for the rigors of the next grade level.
- To continue building a stable teaching and leadership force.
- To assure that no child is lost in the system by teaching to all levels of the learning spectrum.

As a faculty and staff, we maintain a strong commitment to student learning by using data to assess our strengths and weaknesses and celebrating the good work that is done along the way. I look forward to serving this school district community and welcome the opportunity meet and talk with you.

Sincerely,
Robin Becker

Germantown Elementary School District #60

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School Board Members

Kathleen Fauke | Denise Haake
Mark Freund | Charlene Hemker
Darin Johnson | Jeff Lampe
Marla Langenhorst

Superintendent

Robin Becker



Celebrate Success

2010 ISAT Test Results

Every school year, students in grades 3-8 take the ISAT, Illinois Standards Achievement Test. The data collected from the ISAT tests is used to determine whether or not each school district met adequate yearly progress or AYP. To meet AYP in 2010, 77.5 percent of the students who took the test in a given school must have met or exceeded standards in reading and math. Schools must also have a participation rate of 95 percent which means at least 95 percent of the students took the test. Lastly, to meet AYP, schools must have a 91 percent attendance rate. We are pleased to report that Germantown Elementary School students scored very well on the 2010 ISAT. We met all qualifying factors for adequate yearly progress.

2010 Germantown Elementary ISAT Data

Participation Rate: 100 Percent
 Attendance Rate: 96.3 Percent
 Meets/Exceeds Math: 96.8 Percent
 Meets/Exceeds Reading: 92.5 Percent

More specific information regarding district ISAT test results is included with our school report card which is available on-line and in the school office. Please feel free to request a copy of the report card for your information.

named 2010 Illinois State Scholars in their senior year of high school:

Lacy Albers
 Kyle Brauer
 Jonathan Dierkes
 Stephanie Osborn

Selection for this honor is based on a combination of a student's ACT score and their class rank at the end of their junior year.

Congratulations to these former students for their commitment to academic excellence. We are proud of you.

Illinois State Scholars

The following Germantown Elementary School graduates were

Basketball Champs

The Lady Bulldog 6th Grade Basketball Team under the direction of head coach, Jim Lampe, and volunteer assistant coach, Tom Hitpas, captured first place in the Germantown 6th Grade Girls' Basketball Tourney September 27-30. Congratulations to the girls and the coaches for a job well done.

Germantown is known for its strong athletic programs. With the basketball season under way for both the boys and girls, there will be lots of action in the gym this fall and winter. We invite you to support the community youth in their efforts to develop their athletic skills and achieve success on the court.

Bright Star Award



Germantown Elementary School District #60 is a proud recipient of the 2010 Bright Star Award. Out of 869 total districts in Illinois, only 81 were honored with the award. The award recognizes school districts with high student performance at low cost.



Community Connection

Grandparent's Day

We celebrated Grandparent's Day at Germantown Elementary School on Friday, September 3. The building was buzzing with excitement as many grandparents took advantage of the opportunity to spend time with their grandchildren at school. The students loved participating in the fun and educational activities planned for the day with the grandparents, and the faculty and staff enjoyed seeing the students interact with the grandparents. We look forward to hosting Grandparent's Day again next school year.



At Germantown Elementary School, we are committed to opening our doors to all members of the community. By working together collaboratively, we will be better served to develop responsible, respectful, lifelong learners.

Power Hour

Germantown Elementary School promotes a program called Power Hour. Power Hour takes place from 9:00-10:00 every school day. During Power Hour, volunteers listen to kindergarten, first grade, and second grade students read stories and practice their ABC's. Grandmas, grandpas, moms, dads, friends, and community members are welcome to join us as Power Hour volunteers. Volunteers typically work with the students once a month. The volunteer picks the day that works best for them. This program has already begun and will continue through the end of the school year. Help us develop strong reading skills in our students. Sign up to serve as a Power Hour volunteer by calling the school office at 523-4253.

Fire Prevention Week

Working collaboratively with the Germantown Fire Department, we will celebrate Fire Prevention Week October 4-8 at Germantown Elementary School. During Fire Prevention Week the students will be involved in a variety of activities to educate students about fire safety. Over the years, the Germantown Fire Department has been very involved in helping to educate our students. We appreciate their commitment to keeping the youth of the community educated and safe. During Fire Prevention Week, be sure to check your fire detectors and talk to your child(ren) about an escape route and meeting place in case of fire.

Kids Health Fair

Germantown Elementary is committed to promoting the Health and Wellness of its students. On Friday, March 11, we will host our first ever Kids Health Fair. We would love the support of the community in our efforts to educate students about making healthy choices. If you or someone you know would be interested in helping us with the Health Fair, please contact Cindy Zurliene at zurliene@clinton.k12.il.us or 523-4253.



News and Notes

The Board of Education at Work

The Board of Education plays a major role in the overall operations of a school district. At Germantown Elementary, we are fortunate to have a dedicated group of individuals looking out for the best interests of the students, the school, and the District as a whole. The current members of the Board of Education include:

- President: Kathleen Fauke
- Vice-President: Denise Haake
- Mark Freund
- Charlene Hemker
- Darin Johnson
- Jeff Lampe
- Marla Langenhorst

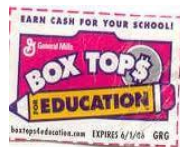
While one of the biggest responsibilities associated with serving on the Board is to attend the monthly meetings, there is much more to the job. Running a school is very complicated as there are countless laws to follow and rules and regulations to abide by. As a result, School Board members spend countless hours each year being educated on the ins and outs of managing a school. School Board

members are encouraged to participate in conferences and workshops. In fact, there is a recognition program for school leaders who earn credits for service and participation in local, statewide and national school board programs and events.

Individuals interested in running for the School Board should stop by the school office and pick up a nominating petition form. Elections will be held on April 5, 2011.

Box Tops for Education

There are hundreds of grocery items associated with the Box Tops for Education program. By simply cutting the Box Tops coupon from these items, the school can raise money. For every coupon we submit, General Mills will give the school 10 cents. The money raised through this program is used to help pay for student assemblies and incentives. Please consider joining us in our effort to collect Box Tops. Feel free to drop the Box Tops off at the school office, or call us at 523-4253, and we will pick them up at your home.



Mark Your Calendars

November 10: Germantown Elementary School will host a Veteran's Day ceremony at 8:30 a.m. in the gym. Community members are welcome and encouraged to join us as we honor our Veterans.

December 7: The annual band/chorus Christmas program will be held in the gym at 7:00 this evening. Join us for an evening filled with music that will get you in the holiday spirit.

December 14: Every year, the musical talents of our K-5 students are showcased at the Christmas program. A matinee will be held at 2:00 with an evening performance scheduled for 7:00. The program is guaranteed to put a smile on your face, so mark your calendars and plan to join us.

January 29, 2011: Come join us for an evening of fun with trivia as the Germantown PTA hosts its first ever Trivia Night. The event will be held at the Germantown American Legion Hall. All proceeds from the event will be allocated to technology upgrades. Call 523-4253 for more information.



2010-11 Germantown Elementary Strategic Plan

Overview

It is the intent of the school board, administration, faculty, and staff at Germantown School District #60 to constantly evaluate how we operate. Throughout the course of the 2010-2011 school year, this strategic plan will act as our decision making guide. We are committed to evaluating all aspects of the school annually via our Internal Review Committee, the School Improvement Planning process, and the Board of Education Strategic Planning activities outlined in this document. Our mission statement will serve as our guide.

It is the mission of Germantown School District #60 to educate all children to the best of their abilities through the cooperation of school, home, and community.

I. Category: Buildings and Grounds

1. GOAL: The Superintendent of Germantown SD 60, with the assistance of the Directors of Buildings/Grounds and Transportation, will assure that District facilities and equipment are maintained with utmost safety and potential for long range efficacy.

A. Strategy: The administration of Germantown SD 60 will meet quarterly with the Directors of Buildings/Grounds and Transportation to conduct safety inspections and discuss the current condition of the facilities and equipment.

B. Strategy: The administration of Germantown SD 60 will report annually on facility and equipment maintenance and the need for replacement.

C. Strategy: The school facility will pass the compliance audits completed by the Regional Office of Education.

II. Category: Community

1. GOAL: The Superintendent of Germantown SD 60, with assistance from the faculty and staff, will develop and maintain strong school-home and school-community partnerships.

A. Strategy: Active school-home partnerships will be promoted throughout the school year. STI, Blackboard Connect, the school district website, media outlets, newsletters, and the marquee will be updated regularly and/or utilized often to communicate with the public.

B. Strategy: Administration will promote the school-community partnership by:

- publishing a quarterly school-community newsletter that serves to inform the larger community of the happenings in the district.
- attending school/ community functions and interacting with the stakeholders of the school at the functions.

C. Strategy: An annual survey will be distributed to community members measuring their perception of the school-community relationship.

III. Category: Curriculum/Instruction

1. GOAL: The faculty and administration of Germantown School District, in cooperation with the students and their parents, will assure that a minimum of 90% of the students at Germantown SD 60 will attain the MEETS or EXCEEDS category on the 2011 ISAT in Reading, Math, and Science. The faculty and administration of Germantown School District, in cooperation with the students and their parents, will assure that a minimum of 33% of the students will attain the EXCEEDS category on the 2010 ISAT for the three core subject areas.



Strategic Plan cont.

A. Strategy: The faculty and staff of Germantown SD 60 will chart ITBS and/or ISAT data for each student to identify their performance levels. The charts will be updated annually to evaluate each student's progress over time.

B. Strategy: The Germantown SD 60 faculty and staff will utilize differentiated instruction and other research-based activities to increase performance levels for individual students at all levels of the performance spectrum.

C. Strategy: The administration will distribute an alumni survey to former Germantown students in March of their freshman year of high school to garner their perspective on their level of preparedness for the rigor of high school academics.

2. GOAL: Germantown School District #60 will implement a comprehensive Response to Intervention and Advanced Learning Program to meet the needs of the students at all levels of the performance spectrum.

A. Strategy: AIMS Web data will be collected on all students three times a year, fall, winter, and spring. This data along with teacher input will be used to determine student placement in tiers.

B. Strategy: Administration will meet with members of the faculty/staff on a weekly basis to discuss the students' progress towards their academic goals.

IV. Category: Finance

1. GOAL: The Superintendent of Germantown School District #60, with the assistance of the Bookkeeper, will make fiscally responsible decisions that will serve to promote maintaining a balanced budget.

A. Strategy: The administration will constantly monitor the financial condition of the district relative to the resources made available from local, state and federal sources.

B. Strategy: The administration will provide the Director of Buildings/Grounds, the Director of Transportation, and the Head Cook with a monthly report outlining their monthly expenditures and the percent of their budget that has been used for the fiscal year. The administration will meet with these individuals on a quarterly basis.

C. Strategy: The administration will keep the public informed of the financial condition of the school district.

V. Category: Personnel

1. GOAL: The faculty, staff, and administration at Germantown School District #60 will be highly qualified, involved, and motivated.

A. Strategy: The administration will maintain a long range staffing pattern based upon enrollment projections that maximizes resources of personnel and money and accounts for potential retirement obligations and faculty/staff attrition.

B. Strategy: The administration of Germantown SD 60 will provide yearly updates on potential staffing patterns to the Board of Education for their review and action.

C. Strategy: The administration will foster a plan to promote positive staff morale and employee recognition.



