

October, 2010

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Every school year, the Board of Education adopts a Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan outlines goals in five key areas: finance, community, building and grounds, curriculum/instruction, and personnel. The plan serves as a framework for decision making throughout the school year. Over the course of the next several months, I plan to highlight one component of the Strategic Plan in my monthly newsletter. This month's focus is community.

One of my top priorities for the 2010-11 school year is to promote and maintain strong school-home and school-community partnerships. I feel strongly that as a school we will be better served to develop responsible, respectful, lifelong learners by working together collaboratively with members of the community. Effective communication is one key to establishing a positive working relationship with members of the community. In order to keep members of the community informed of District news and events, we will publish a quarterly newsletter and make it available to all members of the community. The first edition of the newspaper will be distributed in late October. The newsletter will be sent home with the students, and copies will be available to the larger community at local businesses. Other means of communicating with members of the school community will include updating the District website and marquee often, using a mass communication service called Blackboard Connect to send automated phone messages to families, submitting articles to local news media outlets, and providing families with up to date information on their student's progress in school via the District's student information system. Lastly, being present in and around the building before, during, and after school will allow me the opportunity to connect with community members visiting the school. My commitment to supporting the students and their endeavors will take me to many different athletic and extra-curricular events throughout the school year. I look forward to meeting many Germantown families and community members at these events.

To measure whether or not we have been successful at promoting and maintaining strong school-home and school-community relationships, we will distribute an annual survey to community members asking for their feedback. This survey will be distributed to members of the community in the spring.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first three months serving as superintendent at Germantown Elementary School. I feel fortunate that I have been given this opportunity to return to a school district where the families and community are so supportive of the children and the mission of the school, to educate all children to the best of their abilities through the cooperation of school, home, and community. Please feel free to contact me at beckerr@clinton.k12.il.us or 523-4253 with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Robin Becker, Superintendent
Germantown Elementary School