

"Becoming  
Responsible,  
Respectful,  
Lifelong  
Learners"

# Something to Celebrate

## at Germantown Elementary School

### Letter from the Superintendent

*Dear Parents,  
Staff, Students,  
and Community*



#### **Germantown Elementary School District #60**

401 Walnut Street PO Box 400  
Germantown, IL 62245  
618.523.4253  
[www.germantownbulldogs.org](http://www.germantownbulldogs.org)

#### **School Board Members**

Kathleen Fauke | Denise Haake  
Charlene Hemker | Darin Johnson  
Mark Kohnen | Jeff Lampe  
Gail Theising

#### **Superintendent**

Robin Becker

It is hard to believe we have already completed the first quarter of the school year and the holidays will be upon us shortly. How quickly the time flies. With the start of every new school year, we face new challenges and new ventures. This year is no exception.

At this time, the budget is the biggest challenge we are facing. Until Illinois finds a way to better manage its finances, schools like us who rely heavily on the state for funding will continue to feel the pinch as the state's financial troubles trickle down to the schools. This year we took a bigger financial hit than we originally anticipated. The week before the start of the new school year, the Illinois State Board of Education notified schools that General State Aid was being cut by 5 percent. For Germantown, this cut equated to a loss of nearly \$45,000 in state funding from last year to this year. Along with this state cut, we are dealing with the loss of almost \$90,000 in federal money. Needless to say, our revenue has decreased significantly this year, yet the cost of purchasing supplies and providing services to educate the children is on the increase. While we have money in reserves to help us through these difficult financial times, we want to limit our use of that money because there is no way of knowing how long these financially troubling times are going to last. Last school year, we were able to trim approximately \$118,000 in expenditures from our budget. As a result of the cost cutting measures taken, we ended the fiscal year with a balanced budget.

Due to the significant decrease in revenue we are experiencing this year along with the uncertainty of receiving state payments in a timely manner, we continue to look for ways to streamline our expenditures even more. Recent cuts include: decreasing the summer high school custodial hours, eliminating the tuition based PreK assistant position due to decreased enrollment, encouraging employees to attend local workshops offered by the Regional Office of Education as opposed to Regional and State workshops that are more costly, eliminating ITBS testing for kindergarten and grades 3-8, and spending less on paper and printing costs as a result of utilizing electronic newsletters.

Schools across the country are battling the same challenge we are facing here at Germantown, how to do more with less. As a school district, we stand strongly committed to providing the students with a top quality education. I have confidence that with everyone working together we will overcome this challenge and continue the strong tradition of academic excellence at Germantown Elementary.

Sincerely,

Robin Becker



## Celebrate Success

### 2011 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 2011, 85 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 had 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 had a 91 percent attendance rate. We are pleased to report that Germantown Elementary School students scored very well on the 2011 ISAT. We met all qualifying factors for adequate yearly progress.

### 2011 Germantown Elementary ISAT Data

Participation Rate: 100 Percent  
 Attendance Rate: 96.6 Percent  
 Meets/Exceeds Math: 98.7 Percent  
 Meets/Exceeds Reading: 94.2 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.

Emily Albers  
 Haley Albers  
 Justin Arentsen  
 Lauren Brauer

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.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball Tournaments

The Lady Bulldog 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball Team under the direction of head coach, Jim Lampe, captured fourth place in the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Basketball Tournaments held at Germantown September 26-29 and All Saints Academy October 14-15.

The team will wrap up its season this month.

### Illinois State Scholars

The following Germantown Elementary School graduates were named 2011 Illinois State Scholars in their senior year of high school:

### Bright Star Award



Germantown Elementary School District #60 is a proud recipient of the 2011 Bright Star Award. Out of 868 total districts in Illinois, only 79 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 2. 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 celebrated Fire Prevention Month in October at Germantown Elementary School. During Fire Prevention Month the students were involved in a variety of activities to educate them 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. In honor of Fire Prevention Month, 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 9, we will host our second annual Kids Health Fair. This year's Health Fair will target students in grades K-4. 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 Kris Shubert at [kshubert@clinton.k12.il.us](mailto:kshubert@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  
Charlene Hemker  
Darin Johnson  
Mark Kohnen  
Jeff Lampe  
Gail Theising

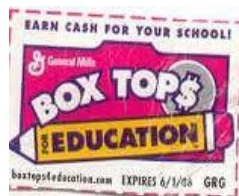
While one of the biggest responsibilities associated with serving on the Board is to attend the monthly meetings, there is much more to the job. Running a school is very complicated as there are countless laws to follow and rules and regulations to abide by. As a result, School Board members spend many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



### *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 9: 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 13: 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 15: Every year, the musical talents of our K-4 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 28, 2012: Come join us for an evening of fun with trivia as the Germantown PTA hosts its second annual Trivia Night. The event will be held at the Germantown American Legion Hall. Call 523-4253 for more information.



# 2011-12 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 2011-2012 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.** 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.** The administration of Germantown SD 60 will report annually on facility and equipment maintenance and the need for replacement.

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

**D.** The Superintendent of Germantown SD 60 with the assistance of the Directors of Buildings/Grounds will work collaboratively with Lunsford Architects and Engineers, Marion Glass and Window, and Littiken Construction to complete the window replacement project associated with the Energy Efficiency Grant in a manner that is least disruptive to the learning environment.

**E.** The Superintendent of Germantown SD 60 with the assistance of the Directors of Buildings/Grounds will work collaboratively to finalize details regarding bollard placement on the parking lot.

## II. Category: Community

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

**2. GOAL:** The Superintendent of Germantown SD 60, with assistance from the faculty and staff, will take steps towards "Going Green" for the 2011-12 school year.

**A.** Through the registration process, families will be given the opportunity to sign up for electronic newsletters.



## Strategic Plan cont.

**B.** Faculty and staff members will send all newsletters electronically to those families signed up for the service.

### III. Category: Curriculum/Instruction

**1. GOAL:** The faculty and administration of Germantown SD 60, in cooperation with the students and their parents, will work towards a minimum of 92% of the students at Germantown SD 60 to attain the MEETS or EXCEEDS category on the 2012 ISAT in Reading, Math, and Science. The faculty and administration of Germantown School District, in cooperation with the students and their parents, will work towards a minimum of 33% of the students to attain the EXCEEDS category on the 2012 ISAT for the three core subject areas.

**A.** 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.** 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 SD 60 will implement a comprehensive Response to Intervention and Targeted Instruction Program to meet the needs of the students at all levels of the performance spectrum.

**A.** 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 and the Targeted Instruction Program.

**B.** All students in grades K-4 will receive reading and math targeted instruction via differentiated instruction during a 30 minute RtI Block built into the daily schedule.

**C.** All tier 2 and 3 students in grades 5-8 will receive reading and/or math targeted instruction during a 30 minute RtI Block built into the daily schedule.

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

**3. GOAL:** Germantown SD 60 will foster and promote a school atmosphere committed to teaching organizational skills.

**A.** The faculty and staff at Germantown Elementary School will teach organizational skills to the student body through enforcing the use of the agenda books on a daily basis.

**4. GOAL:** Germantown SD 60 will engage in the process of aligning the curriculum with the Common Core Standards.

**A.** School improvement activities for the 2011-12 school year will be dedicated to aligning the curriculum to the Common Core Standards.

**B.** A Textbook Adoption Committee will be created to research and recommend textbook purchases that align to the Common Core Standards and best meet the needs of our students.

**C.** The faculty and staff will engage the students in critical thinking activities that engage the students in the learning process. In the area of science instruction, the teachers will promote hands-on learning via lab activities and the scientific process.

**The goals and strategies associated with finance and personnel will be included in the January publication of the School-Community Newsletter.**



