



## **Bourbonnais Elementary School District #53**

281 W. John Casey Road, Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
[www.besd53.org](http://www.besd53.org) (815) 929-5100 FAX (815) 939-0481

**Daniel R. Hollowell, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools  
[hollowelld@besd53.org](mailto:hollowelld@besd53.org)

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October 6, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been ten years since we did a complete review of our Academically Talented and Accelerated Programs. During this time there has been new research related to the effectiveness of these programs as well as new legislation from Springfield related to gifted programming and academic acceleration.

In order to ensure that our efforts continue to meet the needs of our students we have decided to perform a complete evaluation of our programs. To support this process we will be working with educational consultant, Cathy Greene, who has served the Illinois Association of Gifted Children as a Board Member and has authored training materials for teachers earning the Gifted Certification. We are also forming a committee to work with Ms. Greene.

Our plan is to complete this process by March 2018 and then share our findings and recommendations with everyone. These recommendations may include changes to the screening and identification process for our programs in 2018-19 therefore I want to make sure everyone is aware well in advance.

If you are interested in being a part of the committee doing this work please let me know via email at [dugganj@besd53.org](mailto:dugganj@besd53.org). In your email please supply information regarding the grade level your children are currently in and whether or not your children participate in our Academically Talented or Accelerated Programs. I want to make sure we have parents who reflect a variety of perspectives and viewpoints. You would also need to commit to two full days to work with our committee in the next few months.

Thanks,

Jim Duggan  
Director of Instruction

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*The mission of Bourbonnais School District #53 is to:*

- *Collaborate with staff, students, families, and community;*
- *Provide a safe learning environment with innovative instructional practices; and*

- *Inspire all students to reach their unique potential as globally conscious learners.*