



Canterbury Public Schools Pupil Services Office

Cori Beckwith, Director of Pupil Services
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<http://www.canterburypublicschools.org/special-education/>

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Dear Canterbury Families,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and looking forward to the spring weather that has been peeking through the last few days. I wanted to be in touch about information I think you'll find helpful as we navigate the remainder of this eventful year.

Our administrative and educational teams continue to evolve our instructional practices according to how children learn most effectively. We have made strides in our systematic use of standardized benchmarks, progress monitoring and class and school-wide data collection over the course of the year. According to famed educational researcher, John Hattie, our collective use of effective strategies results in greater student achievement. Hattie says, "It's teachers working together to have appropriately high expectations of what a year's growth for a year of input looks like – fed with the evidence of impact." You will hear us refer to the concepts of the amount of growth children make in one year, percentiles on standardized tests, and tiered interventions when we meet to talk about your students. Regular education and special education are interwoven, so before students are referred for special education services, we look to see how children have responded to Tier I, II, and III interventions in the general education realm. "Response to Intervention" is another highly impactful piece identified by Hattie's research, and we continue to develop our use of tiered interventions in Canterbury schools.

I also wanted to inform you that our gifted and talented identification process will be starting soon. iReady and SBAC scores, along with teacher and parent referrals will be used to determine whether a child should undergo further testing to be identified as gifted and/or talented. If you believe your child is gifted and/or talented, please complete the short referral form attached to this letter and return it to your child's teacher by March 5, 2021. We will contact you regarding next steps in the identification process.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the parents who provided feedback during the internal audit of our Pupil Services Department. As always, if our department can help you navigate the education of your child in any way, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,
Cori Beckwith



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GIFTED AND TALENTED REFERRAL FORM

I wish to refer _____,
grade _____, for consideration of gifted and talented identification. I understand that multiple screening tools will be used to measure giftedness, and if appropriate, a PPT will be scheduled to complete the identification process. I understand that I may be asked to complete a giftedness rating scale and will supply work samples/portfolio to be shared at the student's PPT meeting. Students may be referred for outstanding intellectual or academic abilities or unique talents in the arts that stand out from their peers.

Name of the Person Completing this Form: _____
(Please Print)

Role (please check): Parent/Guardian Teacher Student

Signature of Person Completing this Form: _____

Date: _____