May 20, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

**Update on Screening and Testing for Gifted Services for the 2019-2020 School Year**

The GALACTIC and SPARK Programs traditionally spend second semester screening and testing referrals for the GALACTIC Gifted Program. Earlier this semester, the GALACTIC staff was able to gather referrals for the program, and some students were screened and tested. However, due to the closure of schools because of COVID-19 in March, the GALACTIC staff was not able to complete the identification process on many students.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Advisory Council on the Education of Gifted and Talented Children have advised that all identification be put on pause until schools return for the 2020-2021 school year in order to ensure a reliable and valid identification process.

The GALACTIC staff will resume screening and testing of all students who were referred for gifted screening during the 2019-2020 school year (who were referred prior to the February 14, 2020 published deadline) once face to face testing is possible. Screening/testing may take place outside of the school day during after school, evening, and weekend sessions. **If your child's screening/testing has not been completed, we will be contacting you later this summer to determine what times are convenient to schedule the necessary screening/testing.** Once the testing process for students is complete and has been reviewed, letters will be sent providing more information. We realize families are waiting on communication, and we apologize for the delay.

As always, if you have questions or concerns about the screening process for gifted or about GALACTIC curriculum and instruction, please reach out to us at mbloom@hazelwoodschools.org or 314-953-4954.

Sincerely,

Melanie I. Bloom
Melanie I. Bloom
Coordinator of Gifted Education