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# MONMOUTH BEACH SCHOOL

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Michael E. Ettore, Superintendent  
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Dear MBS Families,

Like all other public school districts, Monmouth Beach provides academic enrichment to the students across all grade levels. At the primary level (PK - 2), the classroom teachers are responsible for providing academic enrichment by way of differentiating their instructional practices and extending lessons for their students. Students in grades 3 - 8 are evaluated as potential participants in the MB Enrichment Program (MBEP), which involves small groups of students from each grade level meeting with a designated teacher on a weekly basis for additional academic enrichment. In order for students to be identified for the MBEP, they have to meet a set of criteria that includes test scores from the InView Test of Cognitive Abilities, PARCC scores (grades 4 - 8), report card grades, and an extensive teacher checklist. It is important to know that ALL students are considered for the MBEP each year and that no student is "grandfathered" into the program due to his/her participation the previous year. We typically have one or more students who qualify for the program one year and do not qualify the following year. The same holds true in reverse where we typically have one or more students who did not qualify for the program the previous year, but successfully qualify for the new school year.

I share all of the above information with you in an effort to help everyone understand the difference between our MBEP and a more traditional Gifted & Talented (G&T) program that many other districts have. In a more traditional G&T program, students are identified primarily on the strength of their cognitive ability (IQ) score. In the more competitive G&T programs, only students with an IQ of 125 or better are eligible for the G&T program regardless of their report card grades and teacher recommendations. In MB, we use a scoring matrix whereby students earn points in the following areas: InView score (taken in grades 2 & 5), PARCC scores, report card grades, teacher checklist score, and MBEP teacher score from the previous year, if applicable. As a result, the programmatic experience at MBS is truly based on performance, not just potential. I say this because it is possible for students to qualify for the MBEP despite having a cognitive score that is within the average range provided that they meet all of the other criteria. At the same time, we have our share of students that perform very well in the regular classroom but are not considered strong candidates for the MBEP because they do not meet the other criteria. Ultimately, the expectation is for **ALL** students to receive a high quality educational experience each day that includes teachers providing an appropriate level of enrichment in their classrooms throughout the year.

Should you have any questions about our enrichment program, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Respectfully,

Michael E. Ettore  
Principal/Superintendent