



Dear BRE Family,

In 1968, Robert Rosenthal and Lenore Jacobsen conducted a study in which they randomly selected a small number of students and labeled them as “gifted learners” despite their average to low average IQ scores. The researchers informed the students’ teachers of their advanced labels and requested that the students remain unaware of their learning potentials. Ultimately, Rosenthal and Jacobsen were interested in discovering if a child’s predetermined learning levels would directly affect the education they received in the classroom. After the school year, Rosenthal and Jacobsen found that the placebo group of advanced students displayed the highest academic growth in their school, suggesting that one’s beliefs about another’s abilities affect how one interacts with another person, a phenomenon later defined as the Pygmalion Effect.



At Buffalo Ridge Elementary, our core belief is that ALL students can learn at high levels. We acknowledge that each child enters our school as a unique individual and brings their own strengths and needs to the classroom. We understand that a wide array of factors impacts learning, and as educators, it is our responsibility to support students’ social, emotional, and academic needs. Therefore, we have created systemic interventions that support the whole child and halt the predetermined beliefs that could alter a child’s trajectory towards academic success.

The primary modes of supporting every child at BRE are our Professional Learning Community (PLC) and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) models. Through PLCs, Buffalo Ridge teachers collaborate weekly, analyze common formative assessments, and plan future instruction based on the academic needs of each student. From a social and emotional perspective, our MTSS committee meets to discuss the emotional needs of our students, create interventions to support

students in the classroom proactively, and monitor the growth of students who need additional support.

While the research of Rosenthal and Jacobsen will go down as one of the most impactful studies in education, their findings will lack the desired impact unless educators are willing to remove labels and teach to the whole child. At Buffalo Ridge, we embrace the responsibility that comes with educating our youth, and we promise to go the extra mile for your children. They deserve it.

Finally, Dr. Thelen and I would like to thank our Buffalo Ridge community for the plethora of love, cards, and gifts we have received this month. You all are too kind, and we are humbled beyond words. Working at BRE is the greatest gift we could ever ask for, and we cannot thank you enough for making us feel so special and appreciated.

Happy Holidays!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jen & Rob". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jen and Rob