

### **Germantown Elementary PTA Modernization Testimony**

Germantown Elementary School was originally constructed in 1935 and underwent its most recent modernization in 1978. While our building services staff has done a remarkable job in maintaining the appearance of GES and our Principal has succeeded in getting smaller projects done to upgrade/update the look of the building, there are multiple issues with our infrastructure than can only be adequately addressed by a modernization. Our electrical wiring system is extremely outdated and unable to support more modern and efficient equipment. The plumbing in our school suffers from serious breakdowns periodically due to its age. Two years ago our entire school was reduced to using only 4 bathrooms because of blockages and last year an entire section of pipe had to be replaced because it had been infested by tree roots. Our students' access to technology is severely lacking when compared to other local schools. We do not have promethean boards or elmos for every classroom and only one small computer lab for our entire student body. In addition, our new Pre-K and PEP populations are in need of an enclosed, safe play space. We believe that a modernization would greatly improve the day to day learning environment for our students. This, combined with the physical condition of our building necessitates the inclusion of Germantown Elementary as a top priority on any modernization plan.

### **Upcounty Holding Facility**

Additionally, we feel it is critical that an upcounty holding facility be identified to house our students during any modernization. Three Northwest Cluster elementary schools are eligible for FACT assessment and possible modernization. We do not feel that busing these children to any of the existing down county holding facilities during the course of a modernization is a viable option. The amount of time spent busing to and from these distant locations would negatively affect these students' education. We also have serious concerns for the safety of these students who would potentially spend multiple hours on interstates while travelling to and from school each day. We urge you to consider this issue alongside any Northwest Cluster modernizations.