

# Park Ridge School District

## DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS & STUDENT SERVICES

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*Lisa M. Bernardo*  
Director of Special Programs/Student Services

*Ellen McGuinness*  
Teacher of Gifted Education  
Owl's Pride Program

April 4, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As part of the District's gifted and talented Owl's Pride Program, we are soliciting referrals from both teachers and parents for potential candidates for the 2019-2020 school year. Teachers will have the opportunity to identify students in their classes, but we also want parents to participate in this process.

The Owl's Pride Program is for students in grades 3-6. The students will have 86 minutes of pull-out instruction weekly with Mrs. McGuinness our district's gifted and talented teacher. The curriculum includes teaching critical and creative thinking skills, problem solving skills, research skills, and self-awareness skills. The students will be responsible for making up work they miss during their time out of the classroom.

Completing these forms does not insure acceptance into the Owl's Pride Program, but will provide important preliminary information about your child to the screening committee. In addition to information from parents and teachers, all nominated students will be given the InView and TerraNova 3 (Reading & Math). Permission must be granted for testing to occur.

As per the Owl's Pride Handbook, all children must have a minimum score of 15 on the screening summary in order for children to be accepted into the Owl's Pride Program. Evaluation and identification of accepted students for the 2019-2020 Owl's Pride Program should be completed by the end of the school year.

If you choose to complete Renzulli-Hartman Rating Scale & Permission for Testing, they must be submitted by Thursday, April 25, 2019, to Ellen McGuinness at your child's school. You can contact Mrs. McGuinness at [ellenmcguinness@parkridge.k12.nj.us](mailto:ellenmcguinness@parkridge.k12.nj.us) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

*Lisa Bernardo*

Lisa M. Bernardo  
Director of Special Programs &  
Student Services

*Ellen McGuinness*

Ellen McGuinness  
Gifted & Talented Teacher  
Owl's Pride Program

cc: Dr. Robert Gamper  
Mr. Kevin Stokes  
Mr. Christopher Kirkby  
Dr. Cathy Timpone