Dear Faculty and Staff of the Carbondale Area School District:

Our school is implementing a biometric finger scanning identification system in an effort to provide accurate student identification as well as security for our student accounts. We are using this new identification system because we are held accountable for our records through audits. We want to eliminate clerical errors and provide an easy and accurate way to identify students and secure their accounts.

## What is Biometric Identification?

Biometric identification is an automated method of identifying a person based upon physical or behavioral characteristics. Our school has selected the identiMetrics Biometric Finger Scanning Identification System because it is secure, accurate, cost-effective and non-intrusive.

## How does finger scanning identification work?

Using a finger scanner, the software scans certain unique points on the finger to create and store individual templates that identify each student. When the student returns, the software again scans the finger and looks for a match in the database. When a match is found, the student is identified.

## What about our students' privacy?

**We are not fingerprinting the students.** The software scans the finger for identification. It does not store a copy of the fingerprints. Instead, the software creates a template of the unique points on the finger. The template is converted to a unique number and is stored in the school's database with the same high level of security of all of our records. The templates are also protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). When a child graduates or are no longer enrolled in the school system, the templates are deleted. At no time is a fingerprint image stored. **No fingerscans can recreate or deliver fingerprints to any agency - governmental or otherwise.**

## Thanks for your attention!

It is important to us that our students' experiences in school are educational and rewarding. This new way of identifying our students is safe, easy, accurate, efficient and secure. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

*David M. Cerra*     AUGUST 30, 2016

David M. Cerra
Acting Superintendent
Carbondale Area School District
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