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Myron V. Palomba, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Parents,

In 1998, The Digital **Millennium Copyright** Act (DMCA) was signed into law by President Clinton in 1998. The following web link provides specific information on the act:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital\\_Millennium\\_Copyright\\_Act](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_Millennium_Copyright_Act)

This act provided clear guidelines and penalties for copyright infringement and they apply to the school setting. I have reviewed the practices in the district and realized that we have been slow in responding to the changes in this legislation. Fortunately, the district has not had any complaints lodged against us to date. Because we want to be compliant with the law, and avoid substantial monetary fines, some past practices must change. Most notably is the recording and reproducing DVD's of student programs such as choral concerts.

Because the copyright on the music that the students perform only permits it to be used for the actual presentation, it is illegal for us to record and make duplicates of the performance to distribute to interested parents. The District will not prevent parents who attend a performance to record the performance for their personal family use. We will no longer be able to make copies of recorded performances available.

Similarly, the district subscribes to an annual movie license to enable us to show programs that are initially licensed for home viewing. If you have ever rented a DVD or video, you will notice the disclaimer that appears when you initially begin the program notifying the user that the program is licensed for home viewing. It would be illegal for the school district to show one of these DVD's in school without the special license. We are taking this law seriously because there have been schools throughout the country that have been fined significant amounts of money for violating copyright law. We do not want to be among that group. I appreciate your understanding on this issue.

Myron V. Palomba, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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*The mission of Bourbonnais School District #53 is to:*

- *Collaborate with staff students, families, and community;*
- *Provide a safe learning environment with innovative instructional practices; and*
- *Inspire all students to reach their unique potential as globally conscious learners.*