



TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 605 - Larkspur, CA 94977 - (415) 945-3600 - Fax (415) 945-3766 - www.tamdistrict.org

California Distinguished Schools: Tamalpais, Drake and Redwood High Schools

December 21, 2016

As I write this message, it is hard to imagine 2016 coming to a close. From fake news to Brexit, to a historic national election, there is much to remember. It only seems like yesterday that we were celebrating our country's athletes in Rio. Today we're talking about self-driving cars, more fake news, and Russia.

Locally, 2016 brought us much positive news. We welcomed a new administrative team at all our schools, new principals at Tam and San Andreas High Schools, and a slew of new hiring of teachers and support staff. The math task force put their plan into action as math courses became standardized across our schools. Our parents and teachers worked together in rolling out greater services for providing social and emotional support of our students. A new smaller learning community was introduced at Drake High School, a new Advance Placement course was started at Redwood High School, Tam High School greatly increased the dialogue with Sausalito Marin City School District, San Andreas High School welcomed new teachers and a principals, Tamiscal High School is serving an increasingly diverse population, and our adult education program is thriving.

This work cannot happen without the support and dedication of our staff. From the wee hours of the morning to the light of the moon at night, I see our teachers hard at work helping students, support staff working behind the scenes to make our schools great; and our administrators being the conduit to parents, students, and staff at the multitude of events that take place in our schools. This "hum" of production is what makes coming to work so exciting. I see caring and the love of learning demonstrated in so many ways.

2017 holds much promise to be a great year. All our schools are taking a serious look at AVID (Awareness Via Individual Determination), Tam High School will introduce a program in coordination with the College of Marin, Tamiscal High School is looking at how to increase their facility space and better address the social and emotional needs of their students, and San Andreas High School is trying out new policies that better support the teaching and learning on the campus. Our Board is hard at work with developing districtwide goals, we plan to finalize the NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) recommendations, the facilities master plan recommendations will be evaluated, and hundreds more students will embark on our campuses starting next year.

With every challenge, we've shown our resilience. With every hurdle comes a celebration. And behind every success is a lot of kudos to the countless staff members who helped make it happen. I certainly hope each and every one of our employees can find the time to reflect on the good that has occurred during your time in our District and think about how you can help build on that in the coming year. I look forward to the enthusiasm and welcome the creativity and innovation that awaits. Have a great winter break and a happy New Year.

David Yoshihara

Superintendent