



LA MESA-SPRING VALLEY SCHOOLS

News Release

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Maryland Avenue Elementary is a California Distinguished School



It is with boundless pride that the La Mesa-Spring Valley Schools announce that Maryland Avenue Elementary has been recognized as a 2020 California Distinguished School awardee!

Although founded over 60 years ago in 1958, Maryland Avenue Elementary School has most recently built sustainable growth through its “3Cs” Program: Collaboration, Commitment, and Community. Over the last three years, three site strategic teams: the Leadership Team, Intervention Team, and Teacher Collaborative Team – worked interdependently to analyze data and improve student outcomes. Each of these teams has a definitive responsibility resulting in a mutual accountability for student learning. Redefining its commitment to working as a professional learning community, the staff at Maryland Avenue has developed these collaborative structures that continue to drive their collective responsibility resulting in exemplary implementation of a multi-tiered system of student supports.

In addition to increased performance on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) tests over the past three years, the school also moved 22 students from Special Day classes to a Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) program, a less restrictive environment. This is a direct result of teacher collaboration and the commitment to meeting the individual needs of students. By giving these students greater access to the rigor of grade-level standards and instruction, many special education students were able to excel and demonstrate success – academically and as well as participate in student leadership, service, and social clubs.

Upon hearing of this coveted honor, proud Principal Kelli Maringer shared her excitement by saying, “The Maryland Avenue community and I are proud and honored to have earned the California Distinguished School award for 2020. Our students have seen a steady increase in their academic performance over the past 3 years. This success is attributed to our staff’s collaboration, commitment to each other and all students and our sense of community.”

The California Distinguished Schools program honors some of California’s most exemplary and inspiring public schools. Schools selected to receive the Distinguished School Award demonstrate significant gains in narrowing the achievement gap. Presented by the California Department of Education, the California School Recognition Program Awards Ceremony will take place next month at the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim.