



NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Novato High and San Marin Both Named as California Gold Ribbon Schools

Novato, CA...The California Department of Education named both Novato High School and San Marin High School a 2017 California Gold Ribbon School.

Seeking to recognize outstanding educational programs and practices, the California Department of Education created the California Gold Ribbon Schools Award to honor public schools. This year 477 middle schools and high schools applied the California Gold Ribbon Schools Award.

Novato High nominated Marin School of the Arts as their model program for the award. "Marin School of the Arts (MSA) has been recognized for over 10 years as being one of the top Visual and Performing Arts Schools in the state and in our country, with students winning many awards nationally. However, it is always very special, and a great honor, when the state of California recognizes the work of our amazing teachers, talented students, and special MSA community," commented Matt Baldwin, Novato High School Principal.

San Marin High School nominated their STEM programs for the award as well as their smARTt (San Marin Art and Technical Arts) Program which also earned an Exemplary Arts Program award. Principal Adam Littlefield commented, "I am very excited that the San Marin High School community was recognized by earning both the California Gold Ribbon School Award for our outstanding STEM Programs and the Exemplary Arts Award for our outstanding smARTt Program. These awards reflect the hard work of our students, staff, parents, and community."

The California Gold Ribbon Schools Award was created to honor schools in place of the California Distinguished Schools Program, which is on hiatus while California creates new assessment, accountability, and continuous improvement systems.

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Schools applied for the award based on a model program or practice their school has adopted that includes standards-based activities, projects, strategies, and practices that can be replicated by other local educational agencies. The award acknowledged elementary schools last year and Hamilton School was honored in 2016.

The Gold Ribbon Awards recognize California schools that have made gains in implementing the academic content and performance standards adopted by the State Board of Education. These include the California Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics, California English Language Standards, and Next Generation Science Standards.

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