SAN RAFAEL CITY SCHOOLS ANNOUNCES ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE

On Monday, March 12, 2012, Dr. Michael Watenpaugh, Superintendent of Schools announced the selection of Mr. Juan Rodriguez, as the new principal at Venetia Valley K-8 School, effective for the 2012-2013 school year.

Mr. Rodriguez is currently the principal at Bahia Vista Elementary School in San Rafael. Mr. Rodriguez leaves Bahia Vista, having provided leadership at this site for the past eleven years. Before joining SRCS in 2001, he had prior administrative experience at elementary, middle, and K-8 schools.

“I approached Juan about the possibility of making a change,” Superintendent Michael Watenpaugh said. “I outlined what the Venetia Valley community had identified as the skills and abilities they desired in their next principal. Juan is bilingual, has administrative experience at both elementary and middle school, and a track record of success as a school leader in our community. Juan’s leadership in San Rafael City Schools provides him both the knowledge and experience to support students, families and staff at Venetia Valley. Making this announcement in early March enables Juan to begin working with the Venetia Valley school community throughout the spring in preparation for the opening of school in August 2012.”

The Marin County Office of Education has just announced that Mr. Rodriguez has been named Marin County Educator of the Year. The selection committee notes that “Juan is an innovative educational leader whose vision is to provide excellence in education for all students without regard to their ethnicity, cultural background, linguistic background or socio-economic status. He is a principal who understands the importance of dealing with the “whole child” and that the student cannot be separated from his/her family or living conditions”.

While at Bahia Vista, Mr. Rodriguez can be credited with an increase in student academic performance, fostering family involvement and participation, fully implementing behavioral expectations, recruiting and retaining quality staff and increasing student attendance. From 2007-2011, Bahia Vista showed an increased percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, with an increase of 8.9% in Math and an increase of 18.1% in ELA.

Under his leadership Bahia Vista School has become a place where students feel nurtured, safe and motivated to learn and the district is confident that Mr. Rodriguez will bring all these skills to his new position at Venetia Valley School.

In the immediate future, Mr. Rodriguez will be meeting with the members of the Venetia Valley school community, while continuing to provide day to day leadership at Bahia Vista.

The District has begun to work with members of the Bahia Vista school community, specific to the skills, attributes, & characteristics desired in the next principal. This vacancy is currently posted and being advertised across California for interested candidates. A representative panel comprised of members of the Bahia Vista and district school community will interview invited candidates in April. After the completion of follow-up interviews, reference checks and other selection protocols, the Superintendent will make a recommendation to the Board of Education for the next principal at Bahia Vista. The district’s goal is to identify and announce the successful candidate in early May.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
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