



SIR FRANCIS DRAKE HIGH SCHOOL

A 2017 GOLD RIBBON SCHOOL

BECAUSE OF
THE STUDENTS
THE PARENTS
THE STAFF
THE COMMUNITY
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 4, 2017

Dear Friends –

Congratulations to the Sir Francis Drake High School Community on being named a 2017 California Gold Ribbon School. Awards are nothing new to Drake High School, having been named a California Distinguished School in 1999, 2005 and 2009. This year, 477 middle and high schools applied to be Gold Ribbon Schools. Only 275 or 57% were recognized.

This recognition is to acknowledge the work of the Drake Wellness Program that seeks to address the social and emotional needs of the students. This program shows the leadership and dedication of the school community in recognizing that a student's success is dependent upon their health and well-being. By making the "whole" student a priority, Drake has set the bar for ensuring that ALL students have the tools they need to succeed in school and in life.

It is difficult to judge the impact that Sir Francis Drake High School has had since it opened in 1951. Think of the thousands of students and families whose lives have been changed by attending your school. Students who were 18 in the first graduating class are now 84 or older. All over the world, great things have happened because of students from your school. This will continue to be true in the years to come thanks to the innovative programs and dedication of the staff and community who seek to carry on the legacy.

Thank you for setting an example of what a great high school should be. Thank you to those who have dedicated their professional lives to teach the students—our only hope for a better world. Thank you to the students of today, who with the support of their parents and the community, provide the talent, promise and optimism for a better future for our community, state, nation and world. You make Sir Francis Drake High School a Gold Ribbon School!

MARY JANE BURKE
Marin County Superintendent of Schools