

Subject Line: Fossil Ridge Intermediate has been redesignated as a Breakthrough School for 2017



## **Fossil Ridge Intermediate School Continues to Excel as One of NASSP's Breakthrough Schools**

***Named a Breakthrough School in 2012, Fossil Ridge has recently been redesignated an NASSP Breakthrough School.***

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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St. George, Utah. Fossil Ridge Intermediate joins 26 middle level and high schools redesignated as one of the National Association of Secondary School Principals' (NASSP) 2017 Breakthrough Schools. NASSP recently evaluated each of these schools, originally recognized between 2011 and 2014, and determined that they have sustained their student achievement rates since their initial recognition.

Established in 2007, NASSP's Breakthrough Schools program recognizes middle level and high schools that serve large numbers of students in poverty and are high achieving or demonstrate dramatically improving student achievement. Schools are selected based on documented success in implementing strategies aligned with the three core areas of *Breaking Ranks II*, including collaborative leadership; personalization; and curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

For more information on the Breakthrough Schools program, please visit:  
[www.nassp.org/BTS](http://www.nassp.org/BTS).

Fossil Ridge Intermediate is proud to be honored for the improvements our school continues to make. For three consecutive years Fossil Ridge has earned an "A" Grade from the Utah State Office of Education for school accountability and performance. As a result of end of level SAGE testing results each of the last two years, Fossil Ridge earned the highest number of school accountability points in the district (combination of proficiency and student growth), and top five in the state of Utah for Mid-Level Schools. The growth that Fossil Ridge has continued to make has taken place despite an ever changing demographic that has included higher numbers of overall student enrollment, an increase in ELL and Special Education students, larger numbers of minority students, and a higher number of students on Free and Reduced Lunch than ever before. Fossil Ridge has achieved success by investing in the process of student learning, and doing whatever it takes as a school-wide team to ensure high levels of learning for all students.

## **About Fossil Ridge Intermediate School**

Fossil Ridge Intermediate School is located in Southwestern Utah in the beautiful desert community of St. George. Fossil Ridge is a public school with an enrollment of 955 students, with ever increasing diversity; 25% of the students at Fossil Ridge represent minority groups and 52% of students qualify for free and reduced lunch. Fossil Ridge Intermediate School opened in the Fall of 2003, and since its opening has pursued ensuring high levels of student learning through the framework of Professional Learning Communities. The two most powerful pieces of the process at Fossil Ridge have been the work of interdependent teams and the creation of time during the school day to provide all students with additional learning opportunities. This work has created an environment of collaboration and interdependency where learning, not teaching, has become the main priority at Fossil Ridge. Teachers at Fossil Ridge are provided with the necessary collaboration time, during the school day, through the creation of common prep periods for each grade level and subject team. This crucial time allows teachers to come together during the school day to create learning targets, common assessments, review data, discuss specific students, develop effective interventions and extensions, and share best instructional strategies. In addition to building in collaboration time during the day for teacher teams, Fossil Ridge also has built in intervention and extended learning time during each day. REACH Academic (Reinforce, Extend, Challenge, Help) Time was born out of the need and desire for teacher teams to provide additional learning opportunities for all students. Students needing additional time, help, re-teaching, or re-assessment are given the individual help they need, while students who have shown proficiency or mastery are given opportunities to extend their learning. REACH Academic Time has become one of the hallmarks of Fossil Ridge Intermediate. Through a sense of purpose and hard work, Fossil Ridge has taken steps for success by empowering teacher teams to drive learning and instruction, and by providing all students with the necessary learning opportunities for individual success.

## **About NASSP**

The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) is the leading organization of and voice for school principals, assistant principals, and school leaders from across the United States. The association connects and engages school leaders through advocacy, research, education, and student programs. NASSP advocates on behalf of all school leaders to ensure the success of each student and strengthens school leadership practices through the design and delivery of high-quality professional learning experiences. Reflecting its long-standing commitment to student leadership development, NASSP administers the [National Honor Society](#), [National Junior Honor Society](#), [National Elementary Honor Society](#), and [National Association of Student Councils](#).