



## **Principal Tammy Reich Shares Energy and Passion with Students and Peers**

In December 2021, Creekside Principal Tammy Reich was named the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association (MEMSPA) Region 2 Principal of the Year. This award recognizes principals for their dedicated contributions to their local school communities as well as their dedicated commitment to their professional association colleagues. Honorees were recognized at the 2021 MEMSPA Conference in Traverse City, Michigan on December 9, 2021.

Tammy Reich is a dedicated, experienced leader with over 25 years in education at the elementary and middle school levels, and holds an Education Specialist degree in Educational Leadership. She well knows the ins and outs of Creekside Intermediate School, as she has not only been the principal since 2013, she also taught fifth and sixth grades at Creekside for nearly a decade prior to her current role.

Fellow Principal Craig McCalla had this to say about his colleague: "Mrs. Reich has an undeniable passion for education, evident in her work with students, families, and staff. Tammy comes to work every day with an energy that inspires those around her. Students and staff feed off of her positive energy, her zest for innovation and taking challenges head-on."

Reich is deliberate about making sure all students are supported in school, one example being a multi-tiered support program that includes an after-school program for at-risk students. In addition to her work with students, Mrs. Reich is truly a leader in the area of instruction and curriculum. Under her leadership, Creekside has implemented Summit Learning and served as a host school for other districts interested in Summit. The school has also implemented a makerspace program, secured grant funding for a school garden program, and implemented a "Zen Den," which is a space for social-emotional learning within the building. Tammy also encourages staff to lead professional learning, and looks to further their knowledge with a varied professional development schedule.

An active member in MEMSPA Region 2, Reich has held numerous roles, most recently leading the region as President. She is actively engaged in board and regional initiatives promoting the philosophy of MEMSPA. Reich is a well-respected leader throughout the state of Michigan; she fosters collaboration, the sharing of ideas, and often travels the region to personally meet fellow principals to share the value of MEMSPA. She is currently a member of Leading While Female book group through the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), which is focused on gender equity. Reich is a facilitator for the NAESP Center for Women in Leadership group, and received her National Mentor Certification through NAESP in December 2021.

Asked about her career, Mrs. Reich shared: "A leader doesn't achieve success in isolation. I've had many wonderful mentors. I get to work with an amazing administrative team and the Creekside staff is beyond exceptional in what they do. Our students, families, and community value education and support our schools. I'm honored to be recognized by my professional organization and colleagues. I see this award as a reflection of not only my leadership but the collective contribution of those around me."

Superintendent Chris Timmis added: "Tammy Reich is a tremendous leader and skillful educator. This recognition is so well-deserved for her work leading Creekside and supporting educational leaders throughout our district and in other communities. Dexter Community Schools are fortunate to have her as a member of our team."