

TIMES-CALL

OPINION

Erick Finnestead: Silver Creek excels, thanks to community partnerships

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The Times-Call recently ran a story highlighting our Chinese New Year event, and I want to thank everyone who joined us for this outstanding celebration of culture and education. This event would not have been possible without the support of our business partners, student volunteers and organizer, Rita Liu. The involvement of local companies, nonprofits and community leaders in creating opportunities for students and is one of the many reasons why our district has such exceptional learning environments that foster deeper academic engagement and student achievement.

At Silver Creek, many of our recent student accomplishments can be attributed to the special opportunities afforded to us through our strong external partnerships. This year, our Leadership Academy students have contributed thousands of hours of community service and thousands of dollars to local nonprofit agencies. Students have engaged in life-changing and life-saving capstone projects with organizations such as the Iron Fish Campaign, Wounded Warrior Project, Boulder County Trail Restoration and the Wild Animal Sanctuary.

The opportunity for students to apply a foundation of rigorous curriculum to real-world experiences develops a solid platform for academic success. Over 90 percent of Silver Creek graduates continue on to post-secondary institutions, and this year, we've had 88 students qualify as Advanced Placement Scholars, a National Merit finalist and a Boettcher Scholarship finalist. Silver Creek has also been recognized as a top public high school by the U.S. News and World Report.

I am so honored to continue serving a community that takes an inclusive, team approach to shaping high-quality public education for our region. Without the support of our businesses, parents, students, nonprofits and community leaders, Silver Creek would not be where we are today — part of a nationally recognized school district known for education innovation and academic excellence.

Erick Finnestead

Principal

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