

2014-2015
Marin County Golden Bell Award
Student Program Selection Form

Annual Golden Bell Awards Ceremony
May 21, 2015

Please complete one form for each student program selected to represent your district at the Golden Bell Awards Ceremony on May 21, 2015. Districts may submit the number of applications indicated in the attached *Nomination Allocations* table on the reverse of this form.

Banyan Humanities Academy	4
Student Program Name	Number of Years in Operation
San Rafael High School	San Rafael City Schools
School	District
Glenn Dennis, Kendra Berenson, and Shaun Bond	
Name of Person(s) Directly Responsible for this Program	
gdennis@srcs.org	415-485-2330
E-Mail Address	Phone Number


To promote academic engagement, deeper learning, and an effective transition to high school by emphasizing community, interdisciplinary curriculum, and project based learning.

Goal of Program

Please attach a description of the program (limit one page), including clear goal and program overview statements, evidence of meeting student needs, ability to be implemented by other schools or districts, (county programs are judged for transferability from county to county), funding source(s), and communication with the community about the program. Be sure to answer this question: Why is this program exemplary?

Note: A description of the program will be included in the Golden Bell Awards Ceremony Program on May 21, 2015.

THIS APPLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

	2/23/15
Superintendent's Signature	Date

Send this form by **Friday, March 6, 2015** to:

Mary Jane Burke
Marin County Office of Education
P.O. Box 4925
San Rafael, CA 94913

Banyan Humanities Academy

The Banyan Humanities Academy was created four years ago to promote academic engagement, deeper learning and an effective transition to high school. Banyan offers students the opportunity to experience a more relevant, interdisciplinary and project based approach as opposed to a more traditional program of coursework. The program's strengths include community building, interdisciplinary curricular connections, and project-based learning. The transition to high school is supported by specific program elements such as: the advisory class; collaboration approaches to teaching and learning, and community building activities and trips. Students are in mixed 9th and 10th grade English and Social Studies classes for two years, and are looped, thereby creating additional opportunities to be known and for relationship to develop. The curriculum is aligned to the Common Core English Language Arts standards, as well as the English, social studies, and health content standards. Students complete a significant project and/or exhibition at least once per semester, and document their learning via a portfolio. Banyan works with educational organizations like For Words and Envision Learning Partners to create authentic, rigorous, and inquiry-based demonstrations of student learning. The English and social studies curriculum meets A-G requirements for college acceptance and also offers students an honors option for increased academic challenge.