



THE SUMMIT

ELEVATING EDUCATION AT BLAINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Volume 8

February 21, 2025

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT - Patrick Kinney



"Working with students and being a part of their lives every day is a privilege...We continually work to understand student needs and to connect individuals with the resources they need to succeed."

- Patrick Kinney, WRMS teacher

Supporting All Students

Sometimes students need a little extra help and attention – to boost learning, literacy or navigate challenging times.

At [Wood River Middle School](#), [Patrick Kinney](#) is the top advocate for these students. He leads the multi-tiered system

of supports (MTSS) program, a school-wide structure of resources designed to equitably support the academic progress of all students.

Here's an example of how it works: one student's academic development had completely stalled as she began sixth grade, after a traumatic disruption in her home life. The MTSS team learned of her situation and provided her with interventions: a literacy class and a daily social-emotional check-in with a trusted adult. She continued to struggle throughout sixth and seventh grades, but encouragingly, by eighth grade she started gaining academic traction. She began to find her voice and share her ideas. Today, data verifies that she is on track to enter high school with the tools she needs to succeed.

Kinney has been the school's Response to Intervention (RTI) specialist for 13 years. He has set up concrete systems to crunch student data, focus on the students with highest need, and collaborate with teachers, counselors, and



administrators to establish student support.

"Working with students and being a part of their lives every day is a privilege," said Kinney. "It's also rewarding to see the growing structure around the equitable delivery of education—getting more efficient and effective to make sure every student has the opportunities they need to thrive."

It's an ongoing effort. The MTSS team meets at the beginning of every week. They review students' situations by looking at crucial indicators of academic success and social-emotional wellbeing. Before the school year begins, they build an intervention structure according to the projected needs. When the school year begins, their focus shifts to individuals.

"We continually work to understand student needs and to connect individuals with the resources they need to succeed. Our aim is to be equitable, flexible, and impactful," Kinney added.

To learn more about MTSS, visit: <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/topics/mtss/>

