**Tiffanie Miley**

Springville Junior High School

Middle Level Principal of the Year

Middle Level Principal of the Year Tiffanie Miley is known by her peers as an expert in the art of instructional coaching. She is also known for her shared leadership style based on trust. These qualities together have created a culture of loyalty and comradery among the faculty at Springville Junior High that fosters learning and growth for all.

As the lead learner in the school, Tiffanie feels that her greatest responsibility is to teach and learn with the teachers. She recognizes that every teacher brings their own passions and gifts to the classroom and encourages each of them to learn, to collaborate, and to achieve their own ideals. One teacher at Springville Junior High wrote, “[Tiffanie] sees the teachers she’s working with as whole human beings and treats us with respect and care. Knowing this allows me to show up and put more care into my students because I know I am seen and valued and someone is putting care into me.” While providing solid direction, Tiffanie allows teachers to flourish as individuals.

A few years ago, Springville Junior High transitioned from a traditional leadership team with one teacher from each department to a structure consisting of different teams to achieve different purposes. The three main school teams are the Tier 1 Instruction team, the Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) team, and the Tier 2 Intervention / Youth Support team. The teams read books, attend conferences, and teach each other in small group and faculty-wide professional development in an effort to improve their school and their student outcomes. Tiffanie’s role in the process is coaching the teams, asking good questions, and ultimately giving the teachers space and trust to come up with creative solutions to the issues they feel are important. Tiffanie and the MTSS team started gathering input from the faculty in the spring of 2021 about their school-wide MTSS (multi-tiered system of support). The team has since created, implemented, and started refining a solid MTSS plan with the expectation of continual learning and growth on the part of the teachers to better meet the needs of the students. “I tapped into the teachers’ innovation and creativity,” Tiffanie wrote, “and it has made all the difference.”

Because Tiffanie trusts her teachers, her faculty is committed to her, to one another, to students, and to excellence. In Tiffanie’s words, “We are better together.” Thank you, Tiffanie, for trusting and mentoring teachers.