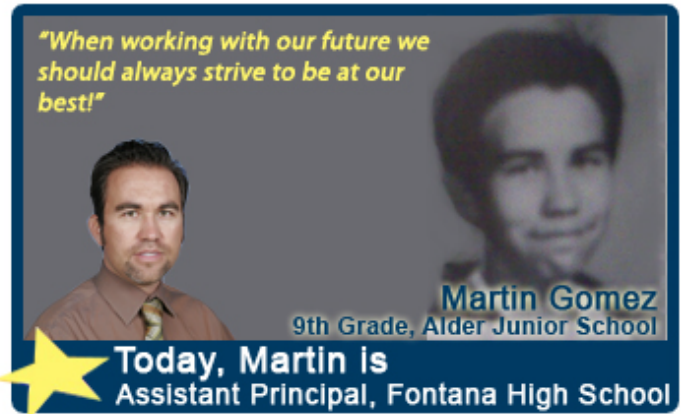




Martin Gomez

shares how he is inspired



Profile in Excellence:	
Profile in Excellence:	Martin Gomez, Assistant Principal
FUSD Schools Attended:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alder Junior High School 1990-1992 A.B. Miller High School Class of 1995
Higher Education:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UC Riverside – BA Math, Minor Spanish, C/O 1999 Claremont Graduate University – MA Education Cal State San Bernardino – MA Educational Administration UC Riverside – PhD Student, tentative June 2010
FUSD Career Experiences:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J.T.P.A. Summer Employee and Summer Counselor 1993-96 A.B. Miller J.V. and Varsity Baseball Coach 1996-2005 A.B. Miller High School Math Teacher 2000-2005 Birch High School Math Teacher 2006 Fontana High School Assistant Principal 2006-Current
Who were the FUSD staff that affected you most as a student?	<p><i>Wow...my biggest influence had to be Mr. Tim Curran. He was the best math teacher that I ever had and I was lucky enough to have him at Alder (Algebra 1) and at A.B. Miller (Trig and Calculus). He made math fun and cool!</i></p> <p><i>Other influences include: Mr. Deters (his drama classes helped me to build confidence), Mrs. Milroy (made me work for my grades and showed me how to become a Historian), Ms. Paris (taught me how to work at becoming a better writer by editing and continually revising my paper), Mr. Martinez (best baseball coach I ever had and taught me not to back down from any opposition no matter how big, strong, or intimidating because I know that I put in the hard work in practice to beat them), Mrs. Carmean (talked me into going to college and walked me through the college application and FAFSA forms) Mrs. Shehata (gave me rides to 0 period and rides home after baseball practices because my parents were working...she was also there to yell at me if I was too loud in the library!)</i></p>
What did you dream of growing-up to be as a child that would lead you to your work with FUSD?	<p><i>I always wanted to be a professional baseball player and be part of a winning team. As you all know I didn't make the major leagues but I did join a winning team. Fontana USD as a whole is moving in the right direction and I am doing the best that I can to help Fohi continue to improve as well.</i></p>
Since you've joined FUSD as staff, what experience(s) have you been most proud of?	<p><i>My two proudest moments would have to be:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>when I was runner up Teacher of the Year at A.B. Miller and</i>

2. working collaboratively with the Fohi staff to raise our API over the last two years and come closer to our goal of 700.

What keeps you up at night about your work for FUSD?

As an A.P. I wear many hats...each hat that I wear causes various concerns that keep me up at night. This past year while working on the master schedule I spent several sleepless nights thinking about all the things that can go wrong on Zangle and how I could be the person responsible for messing up the first day of school! As a teacher I had the same nightmare for my 5 periods...imagine the entire school!

What do you think is the biggest misconception the public has about our work?

I think the biggest misconception is that teachers are solely responsible for a student's learning. Parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, relatives, neighbors, babysitters, administrators, counselors, secretaries, community liaisons, and aides can all help to spark the child's educational fire. Providing the necessary educational resources and encouragement by those that surround the child will inspire them to be lifelong learners! It really does take a village to raise a child...

What can the community do to strengthen public education?

The community must become involved in the children's education and have higher expectations for learning. Too often there are parents that allow their student to go to school late, come to school without a folder or a pen, wear inappropriate clothing, or allow children to get gang related tattoos at an early age. Parents can help education by making their homes more school centered and by being proactive in stopping student misbehavior instead of waiting for the referrals and the phone calls from the schools. On the flip side, schools need to do a better job of communicating their expectations to the community as well.

What inspires you to give your very best for the students of FUSD?

I want all of the students that I know to become productive and responsible citizens that will strive for a better life and a better society. Educators need to remember that we influence students with our words and our actions and although we are older and more experienced, we are not always correct. Everybody makes mistakes; however, when we are at our best we will make less mistakes that will negatively impact students. When working with our future we should always strive to be at our best!

What might staff or students be surprised to learn about you?

I have two older brothers that graduated from Fohi and a younger brother and sister that graduated from AB Miller. I ENJOY reading quantitative research articles about school improvement and then trying to apply these findings to one part of our school that I think may benefit from the change. I was born in Colima, Mexico, and had major speech problems in elementary school because I tried to use English and Spanish at the same time.

If you know of a "Fontana Star," particularly one who was an FUSD alumnus, you can nominate him or her to be featured by emailing webmaster@fUSD.net. Please provide your name, the name of the individual being nominated, contact information for both of you and a brief description as to why you think the individual qualifies as a Fontana Star.