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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

Sept. 17, 2021

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

Kids never fail to amaze and inspire me. I see the positive outcomes of their classroom efforts every day, and it's always an awe-inspiring moment when it all comes together under the guidance of teachers who go above and beyond to support them. To this day, I continue to beam with pride at all of their accomplishments—big and small—especially during these challenging times.

The majority of California students haven't participated in SBAC testing since the spring of 2019, so we don't have any up-to-date data from the state on test scores. However, the California Reading Coalition has issued a report that gives us insight on how some of our third graders are doing in comparison to students in Sacramento County and statewide. The California Reading Report Card examines data on socio-economically disadvantaged Hispanic/Latino students (our largest demographic) in Sacramento County and statewide. The data reveals that our youngest learners meet and exceed third grade reading at a higher level than five of our eight neighboring school districts. Early literacy development continues to be a focus area for the District as demonstrated by our commitment of resources to support improvements which include, but not limited to, the following:

- An Early Childhood Education strategic plan, which is the blueprint for investing in early childhood education priorities to ensure early childhood education is seamlessly integrated into the educational continuum into kindergarten.
- The use of Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS) to identify, intervene, and monitor students who struggle early so they get back on track.
- On-going professional development in early literacy instruction.
- Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten low class sizes with a target of 20 students per teacher.
- An English Language Arts Lesson Design initiative which supports the development of high-quality lesson designs and implementation to support teachers and students across the district.

Our instructional team is reviewing the data and will use it as we continue to focus on the District's early literacy efforts. Third grade reading success matters. All research indicates that students who read proficiently by third grade are more likely to succeed in high school.

In addition, school sites are doing amazing work in this area. For example, Northwood Elementary is the recipient of a 3-year Early Literacy Block Grant. The first phase began last spring with members of the school team attending professional development in early literacy, and planning how to utilize this new funding source to benefit student literacy. Through these plans made in the spring, teachers are receiving extensive training and coaching around early literacy development with CORE Collective, working together to increase schoolwide alignment of practices in teaching strategies, assessment, and interventions. The school has also added a part-time student support teacher whose sole focus is supporting early literacy in grades TK-3.

I share this so that you know students are moving in the right direction. While we continue to battle the complexities of COVID-19, we remain focused on the most important work in our District—teaching and learning. We strongly believe that student success begins with personalized connections between students, teachers, administrators and support staff. Parents, we also believe that your support and involvement has the most positive impact on your child's learning. Working together we can fully achieve the following District's goals for student achievement:

- By 2022-23, TR will have 55% of all graduating seniors meeting A-G criteria, with each high school increasing rates by 3.5% each year.
- By 2022-23, TR will have a 92% cohort graduation rate, with each high school increasing by 2% each year or maintaining 95% or higher.
- By 2022-23, TR will be a 50/50 district in SBAC results, with each school growing no less than 4% (ELA) and 7% (math) each year.

We can do this! FYI, our graduation rate is 85.6%, compared to the state average of 84.3% and the Sacramento County average of 83.7%.

By working together, we are confident that we will celebrate many successes throughout the school year and well beyond 2022-2023.

As the late Nelson Mandela said, "It always seems impossible until it's done."

With warm regards,



Steve Martinez, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Twin Rivers Unified