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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

Aug. 20, 2021

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

Exciting and soothing! That's the only way for me to describe the first week of the new school year. It was exciting to see students and staff reconnecting and reuniting on campuses, in classrooms, at lunch and in activities. It was soothing for all to know that finally we have returned to full in-person instruction at our schools.

Was the week a seamless experience for all of our students, families and staff? Of course not. There are a lot of moving parts to get schools back up and running amid a pandemic, and we had our share of frustrating and challenging moments. We appreciate your patience with potential delayed transportation or slowed lunch service. These are expected as we adjust to being back fully in-person. We also need more substitutes (typically in short supply during normal times and have increased during these times) and support staff, especially bus drivers (we are hiring – [EDJOIN](#)). I greatly appreciate your patience and understanding while we work through this.

I had the opportunity to visit schools across our District, and each visit reminded me of the power of positive connections and the importance of bringing students into learning environments that are welcoming, friendly and full of supports and services to help them do their best. Thanks to every single employee in our District for making our return smooth and successful. And thank you to our families, the heart and soul of our strong learning and caring community. You have my utmost appreciation and respect. We cannot do this important work without you.

Again, I welcome you to the new school year and thank you for remembering to follow all the public health requirements. Let's all do our part to keep our schools safe and open for kids and the wonderful TR team of professionals who love working with your students.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Martinez".

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