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*Steve Martinez, Ed.D.*

*To inspire each student to  
extraordinary achievement  
every day*

Jan. 27, 2023

To our Twin Rivers Family,

Tonight, we come together as a district, as a community, and as a nation to mourn the loss of Tyre Nichols, a former student and member of the Twin Rivers family.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to express our deepest condolences to Tyre's family, friends, and loved ones. No parent should have to experience the loss of a child, especially in the horrific and brutal circumstances under which Tyre lost his life. Our thoughts are with them and the entire Nichols family as they continue to deal with their unimaginable pain.

This is a terribly difficult time for all of us, and we want to assure you that we stand with you, and we are here to support our students, staff, and community as we process this devastating tragedy together. The news of deeply disturbing and graphic video footage that is emerging out of Memphis can understandably lead to a range of emotions, including anger, sadness, fear, and grief.

I encourage all parents and guardians to have conversations with their children at home. Discussing thoughts and feelings is important in helping children work through grief and profound sadness. They may not know Tyre Nichols personally, but they may feel as if they do with all the local and national media coverage surrounding his agonizing death.

To support our students, families and staff as they process these emotions, we have the following resources available:

- During the school day, counselors and school psychologists will be available to support our students. We encourage students and families to contact their school's administration, if needed.
- The district offers mental health resources for students and families through our Crisis Intervention Team and [Care Solace](#).

As a district, we are committed to fostering a culture of understanding, empathy, and respect. As we come together as a community to mourn the loss of Tyre, we understand that many may feel the desire to gather and remember him, as well as march for justice. We ask that these gatherings and protests are respectful and peaceful, in accordance with the wishes of his family and community.

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And finally, as your Superintendent and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I reaffirm my commitment to build an education system that works to identify and eliminate practices that do not lead to upward growth and mobility of our students. I acknowledge the role we all play in standing against injustices and engaging in tough conversations and decisions that lead to understanding and equity. In the wake of yet another unimaginable and unjust act resulting in the loss of life, I want to share my unwavering commitment to model respect, compassion and kindness for everyone.

Sincerely and deepest sympathy,

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

Dr. Steve Martinez, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Twin Rivers Unified School District