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*To inspire each student to  
extraordinary achievement  
every day*

May 8, 2020

To Staff and the TR School Community,

As we near the end of the academic school year, graduating seniors will tell you that few events hold as much pride and significance for them as their high school graduation. They look forward to the cheers as they walk across the stage, turning their tassels, and posing for pictures with jubilant families and friends.

Under normal circumstances, we would celebrate this important milestone in person. Unfortunately, that will not happen for the Class of 2020 in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, physical distancing and stay-at-home orders. We are committed to ensuring a safe and healthy environment for the entire TR school community. Thus, we have made a carefully thought out decision to salute our graduates and their many accomplishments via an online platform that will feature many of the traditions that make graduations so special.

We're thrilled to host 10 separate virtual graduation celebrations. Each will be live-streamed and feature traditional speeches from valedictorians and slideshows of special student recognitions. Every graduating senior will have their name read. Principals will reach out to students and families by May 25 to provide more information, including how to receive caps and gowns, and how families can be involved in the festivities. In addition, our district website will post virtual graduation schedules and events in the coming days.

Completing high school is a huge accomplishment and I know you are as proud of our graduates as we are. This is their crowning moment and we love that their TR spirit remains strong as they create graduation memories in a new way.

**Around TR - Key Updates**

**Teaching and Learning**

- Reviewing employee input from distance learning questionnaire to begin outlining instructional plans for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Family and student questionnaire sent out to gather input on distance learning. In the first week, we received nearly 1,095 responses.
- Special education staff continues to conduct IEPs virtually.
- All school sites are participating in virtual assemblies with motivational speaker Kevin Bracy.
- Tracking Extended School Year (ESY) registration—73 students are registered.
- Distance learning survey was sent to staff with 659 responses—47% reported the first week of distance learning to be successful or very successful. Only 3% indicated the first week was not successful.

**Summer School**

- We are offering [summer programs for grades K-8 and 9-12](#). Current TR students may enroll at no charge.

**Planning for the Reopening of Schools**

- We are preparing for three return-to-school options—(1) Students return to classrooms with teachers. (2) Distance learning if we are still under stay-at-home orders. (3) Students return and physical distancing is required, which would involve returning students to school in smaller groups and delivering some instruction online.

**Staff Professional Development**

- Currently, 186 professional development opportunities are available to staff this summer—575 certificated staff have registered to date, some for multiple workshops.
- Professional Development is also offering Personal Professional Growth trainings for classified staff and administrative support staff.

**District Operations/Budget**

- Preparing budget scenarios with a focus on identifying cost savings to offset anticipated state budget cuts to education.

**Facilities**

- All sites have been sanitized and our custodial teams have switched to our summer schedule for deep cleaning schools.

I continue to be encouraged by all I see in Twin Rivers as the school year comes to a close. You continue to find opportunities among our many challenges. Your efforts are widely felt and appreciated throughout the community.

Stay safe and healthy.

Warm regards,



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