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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

June 12, 2020

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

As we close a most unusual school year, a year marked by a pandemic, economic uncertainty and public demonstrations for equity and justice, I am struck by the critical importance of our nation's public schools. I have spent a great deal of time over these last few weeks reflecting on the power of a teacher's passion for service to students, and the importance of stable and reliable student-teacher connections, which I believe are essential to help our children feel valued and know they are an important part of our school family.

Today, and as we plan for a school year that will no doubt look different than what we have known in the past, I am reminded that when the world feels turbulent and unsettled, our schools can be a place of stability. Campuses and classrooms must always be places that soothe and support our students – all students.

In TR we believe that every student is important. Our Board of Trustees believes in every student's potential, and they have set direction that every employee must strive to nurture all students to achieve their unique strengths and potential.

I want to assure the TR community that our talented team of education professionals and support service staff are working tirelessly to create a great and memorable school year. They are focused on meeting both the needs of our students and staff, and on maintaining the stability and security that our schools must continue to offer our children and their families. In addition, Twin Rivers and five other area districts have come together to share and discuss a safe and thoughtful approach to athletics and competitive sports in the upcoming school year. New developments in the COVID-19 pandemic could lead to a variety of outcomes. As this is a rapidly evolving situation, it's important that we move forward responsibly to ensure the health and safety of our student-athletes, coaches and the entire TR school community.

As we plan for next year, you can count on TR to provide staff and students with safe and healthy learning environments. You can count on TR to continue providing the essential services that many of our students need, from nutrition services to counseling services. You can count on TR to support our teaching professionals with the support they will need to embark with confidence into this new world of online learning.

As I see it, our TR community is a microcosm of the state, indeed of our nation. We are rich in diversity; we span economic conditions ranging from privilege to poverty; our community speaks over 46 languages; and we celebrate many religions and various political dispositions. At heart, we all share the same fundamental needs: the need to connect with others; the need to feel safe; and the need to be respected and appreciated.

By early July, look for detailed information regarding the opening of our next school year, which is set to begin on August 18. And know that it will be anchored in our Board of Trustees' commitment to ensure that our schools continue to provide stability during times of change and challenge.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Martinez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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