



*Board of Trustees*

*Michelle Rivas  
President*

*Michael Baker  
Vice President*

*Basim Elkarra  
Clerk*

*Bob Bastian  
Member*

*Linda Fowler, J.D.  
Member*

*Christine Jefferson  
Member*

*Rebecca Sandoval  
Member*

*Superintendent  
Steve Martinez, Ed.D.*

*To inspire each student to  
extraordinary achievement  
every day*

July 24, 2020

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

It seems that every week we receive news or new guidance and directives regarding opening or not opening, and our schools and our plans change in accordance with all the new information.

Last Friday, Governor Gavin Newsom announced that schools located in counties that are on the public health watch list should plan to deliver remote instruction in the fall. He clarified that schools may return to in-person instruction once their county has been off the watch list for two weeks. And this Monday, the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) announced that fall sports will be delayed this school year, with the intention of beginning the season next January. While a responsible move in the context of public health, this news is disappointing to so many of our high school students and their families.

It's important to note that none of the new directives have been made lightly. The first priority remains the health and safety of our entire community. As I shared last week, we are starting the 2020-2021 school year in an online/virtual teaching and learning environment. Our hope is that in-person teaching and learning can return at some point during the academic year, with guidance from state and local public health officials.

I know the uncertainty and lack of detail regarding next year is both frustrating and concerning. Teachers need time to plan for what the school day must look like, and parents need time to plan. Hopefully, the [Fall Return: Phase 1 Distance Learning](#) presentation at the July 21 Special Virtual School Board Meeting will help alleviate some concerns. There's still quite a bit of work ahead of us as we continue to work tirelessly to create a plan to ensure that we can continue to provide essential services and instruction to our students in the 2020-21 school year. We will continue to provide weekly updates on our progress and what to expect.

Here's what we are currently working on and what you can expect:

**Remote Learning - Online Instruction**

The district will be beginning the school year in phase 1, or full distance learning in accordance with orders from the governor. As a result of the learnings from the spring and stronger legal requirements for distance learning, several enhancements have been made for the plan in the fall. **Our parents provided a great deal of input as did our teachers. The e-survey feedback requested changes and enhancements to distance learning.**

They include:

**Consistency**

- Regular, consistent and structured opportunities for synchronous and asynchronous instruction.
- Standardized expectations across classrooms and teachers.
- Common learning management platform to access the virtual classroom.

**Engagement**

- Require participation and reward completion of assignments.
- Track daily participation.
- Structured safety net, protocol, and action plan designed at each site to respond to attendance, academic, and social emotional concerns.

**Connections**

- Structured opportunities for students to connect with teachers and peers.
- Regular opportunities for stakeholders to ask questions and provide feedback.

**Support**

- Narrowed focus of the essential learnings in each grade level and content area.
- Practitioner learning of innovative and effective instructional delivery to improve student outcomes through professional development and support.

More information regarding distance learning can be found in the Fall Return: Phase 1 Distance Learning presentation provided to the board on July 21.

**Technology and Online Access**

- Every TR student will have access to a Chromebook and connectivity.
- New student/students who don't have Chromebooks will get one during the distribution of textbooks and other materials they will pick up.
- I.T. Service/Repair centers remain open—at Grant Union High School and Highlands High (9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., no appointment necessary for Chromebook checkouts and repairs).
- Multiple options for families and staff to get internet connections.

**Childcare – For Employees and Families**

- The district has been working with community partners to identify some available childcare with supports for Distance Learning. Although space will be limited, these options offer some support for essential employees and our neediest youth. Additionally, TRUSD has assembled a list of licensed childcare providers in the area with space for enrollment to aide parents in quickly identifying available options.

**Nutrition Services**

- As we start the school year with Distance Learning, we are working to expand our meals-to-go locations so EVERY site is a feeding site.

Thank you for your patience as we plan for a situation that presents unique challenges. While the solutions are less than perfect—because perfect would be returning to in-person instruction, sports and co-curricular activities, opportunities for our teachers and employees to collaborate in person, and all that we have grown to know and rely on in a traditional school year—we will maintain a can-do spirit and continue to focus on providing the best we can for our students.

With deep respect,

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

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

*Every Student, Every Day. Leaving No One Behind!*