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*To inspire each student to  
extraordinary achievement  
every day*

Jan. 22, 2021

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

As information continues to emerge about COVID-19 vaccinations, we are hopeful that our education professionals and all employees will be able to secure the vaccination soon. Knowing that this is a possibility, our District is turning its attention to the protocols that we must have in place to test and monitor student health, so that we can help to facilitate a return to in-person learning.

The vaccinations now available have not been tested on children younger than 16. Therefore, to give parents the confidence that it will be safe for students to return to school, we will have detailed procedures for health screenings, and we are working to secure the necessary tests, so that we can offer COVID-19 testing to students/families, as needed and wanted.

Once all the details of screenings are outlined, we will share them with our staff and families. Thank you for your patience as we refine our plans.

**Public Education, the Cornerstone of Our Democracy**

On a more personal note, this week, as our nation greets new leadership, I was soothed to see the peaceful inauguration celebration that took place in Washington, D.C. and across the country. As a teacher, I was deeply grateful to see the events of Jan. 20 unfold without issues or incidents, as this is precisely the expectation that we would have of for our students.

We may not always agree, but we must resolve to address our differences with our voices, with reasoned arguments, and never with violence. From classrooms to athletic fields, from Pre-K to senior year, all students in our District are taught to advocate with passion, purpose, and compassion for the other person's point of view. I was relieved to see this modeled for our nation's students at the inauguration.

**Good News to Share**

**Student Achievement**

- Students who are English language learners will take the Summative English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) in the spring. ELPAC is used to measure how well K-12 students understand English when it is not their primary language. For more information, please contact Alberto Becerra at [alberto.becerra@twinriversusd.org](mailto:alberto.becerra@twinriversusd.org) or Tamara Keane at [tamara.keane@twinriversusd.org](mailto:tamara.keane@twinriversusd.org).

- [ELA Lesson Design WAGs](#) - For teachers (you must use your TR email account to access).

#### **Outreach & Engagement**

- Congratulations to MLK student Sofia Zotov and Foothill High student Briseyda Olivares for winning the 8th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Sacramento Regional Essay Contest! This year's prompt asked the writers to describe an injustice they see today and explain how they can embody late Congressman and Freedom Rider John Lewis' call to action to address it and advance change. Zotov's essay won 3rd place in the Middle School Division, and Olivares' essay placed 2nd in the High School Division. Both students won cash prizes and Sacramento Kings memorabilia.
- Sacramento Healthy HeARTS and Minds Collective brings together the City of Sacramento, SCOE, TRUSD and SCUSD to create a system of support that addresses the social emotional and mental health needs of students impacted by the closure of school buildings and the isolation many face during the pandemic. A team for each school site includes an artist-in-residence and a community mentor who work directly with up to 60 students per site. Students are meeting weekly with both their artist and their mentor. We have approximately 220 students participating in the program but hope to have 650 students involved. The goal is to provide young people with new tools to address social emotional issues through the arts, which research shows are an integral way for students to both connect to school and share their thoughts and ideas. We have 11 schools participating—Grant, MLK, Norwood, Las Palmas, Babcock, Joyce, Fairbanks, Del Paso, Castori, Oakdale and Woodlake. There are nine artists-in-residence working with our students from a variety of art forms—spoken word, visual art, music, theater, and dance. We are partnering with community groups such as Roberts Family Development Center, Brother to Brother, Architects of Hope, and Hmong Youth and Parents United to provide mentors.

Take care, and please remain connected with our Twin Rivers school community through [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and the [District's website](#).

With warm regards,



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

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