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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

Jan. 29, 2021

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

What a long and trying week! Powerful winds, heavy rain, downed trees and power lines. And let's not forget the property damage. In talking with many of you, I know the storm added to already high stress levels from dealing with the impact of COVID-19 since last March. I've said this before and I'll say it again, do not hesitate to reach out to us if you're feeling a little overwhelmed and need some extra support. You are not alone.

While we had some issues at our school sites, I'm proud of the response of our Maintenance and Operations Department, as well as that of our teachers, administrators and support staff. Great job, everyone!

While Mother Nature did what Mother Nature does, dedicated staff continued to prepare for and anticipate all the work that still must be done so we can safely reopen schools. We are making sure classroom reconfigurations are completed and cleaning and testing procedures are in place and ready for kids and staff ([Road to Reopening Guide](#)). We are trying to anticipate and address unexpected needs, so they do not create roadblocks to reopening. For example, months ago, our District made the decision to buy COVID tests so that our employees were not dependent on outside resources for testing. This proved to be a good move. We have a supply of tests that will allow us to meet health monitoring guidelines when we do reopen.

In keeping with this out-of-the-box thinking, we are now looking at options for partnerships to bring vaccinations to our employees. The sooner we can help provide access to TR staff, the sooner we can open once the public health criteria is met. As you know, Sacramento County is still in the purple tier, and we can't reopen until the county has been in the red tier for at least two weeks. What we are now focusing on is pressing agencies and possible health partners to secure vaccinations for employees so that this additional hurdle is cleared, bringing us one step closer to our collective goal.

Of course, this is testing everyone's patience. But we continue to work together to reopen schools with a high priority on student and staff safety. Please know that District administrators and union leaders remain committed to working out an agreement to return to in-person learning that follows all the rules and regulations set by the California Department of Education, local and state public health officials, and guided by science. All those rules are in place for a reason, to protect students and staff. And at the end of the day, that's what all of us want—a safe return for our students and staff.

Good News to Share

Student Achievement

- The Board of Trustees will recognize and celebrate 24 of our K-8 students at the Feb. 9 virtual school board meeting. The students tested out of iReady, having achieved a 9th grade reading level in the second Diagnostic that went out in the first weeks of January. Many of the students are in middle school; some are elementary, which is awesome. Visit the [Board Meeting webpage](#) for information on how to view the meeting on YouTube.
- Congratulations to our 203 seniors with a 4.0 GPA (weighted) or higher for the first semester.
- [ELA Lesson Design WAGs](#) for our teachers.

Outreach & Engagement

- Seniors, please contact your high school counselor about CSU campuses that are still accepting applications:
 - East Bay – March 2, 2021
 - Humboldt – Feb. 28, 2021
 - San Bernardino – Feb. 1, 2021
 - San Marcos – Jan. 31, 2021
 - Stanislaus - Feb. 1, 2021
- Virtual Parent University: Mindfulness and Self-Care Strategies – 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17. Participants will learn the benefits of mindfulness practices and learn strategies that both parent and child can use to thrive in the midst of chaos. [Flyer with Zoom registration](#).
- We are pleased to provide more resources for families to support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) learning. Click [HERE](#).

District Operations

- As part of preparing our classrooms for returning to onsite instruction, we have taken the following steps in regard to furniture and classroom configurations:
 - This week we began setting up all classroom furniture—one student per table and/or desk.
 - Furniture is situated so students will be 6 feet apart for social distancing.
 - The goal is to have 16 student tables/desks per classroom; however, if the room is not large enough to allow for this configuration and maintain 6 feet of social distance, there will not be 16 tables/desks in a classroom.
- [Voluntary COVID-19 Testing for Staff – February Schedule](#)
- District Administration provided an update and presentation on the District's current budget at the Jan. 26 virtual school board workshop—[Unraveling the District Budget](#).

A big thank you to all of you for prioritizing the health and safety of our students and employees on our road to reopening. It's comforting that we—students, parents, staff and the community—wholeheartedly support and take care of each other.

All the best,



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

Every Student, Every Day. Leaving No One Behind!