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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

Nov. 6, 2020

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

Students and their families across the country are now receiving their academic progress reports, and for far too many the news is discouraging. We are not surprised that distance learning is impacting student engagement and achievement, and it reaffirms TR's commitment to allow students who need and want to return to in-person learning to begin to do so in January. In TR, we are on **The Road to Reopening**.

Like me, you are no doubt reading about the alarming increase in failing grades and weak performance in schools across the country. And while this news certainly warrants close examination and action, I want to share with all of you a message that I stress with my own school-age children: *a progress report is a tool to help you understand where you need to lean in, if you need to ask for help, and where to focus your energy.*

That is precisely how I ask the Twin Rivers school community, including teachers, support staff, administration, students, and families, to view our current progress reports.

Families, I ask you to look at these reports closely, honestly, and ask this question, "Should I reach out to my child's teacher to ask for help?" If the answer is yes, then I strongly encourage you to do so. We know that distance learning is not ideal. We know that some students feel disconnected or even disinterested. I ask that you please read to your student and talk with them, and contact your teacher or principal if you feel that you need help to reconnect and re-energize your student to focus on their academics.

Student Progress: Upcoming Activities to Support Our TR Scholars

- **Parent/Teacher Conferences** – These are now being scheduled for TK-6th grade students. Please look for an invitation to attend a remote conference with your teacher, and prepare to attend these meetings knowing that our dedicated TR teachers are eager to help all their students succeed. Have your questions ready, and let your student's teacher help you build an even stronger school-home connection to benefit your student's progress.
- **Middle and High School Students** – Remember that in addition to your teachers, there are counselors at your schools who are equally committed to your student's success. Our talented counseling team is ready to offer you the resources you need to succeed.
- **High School Seniors** – If you need assistance with the college application process, your high school counselors are available to help you. The [University of California's application process](#) is still open for fall 2021. The California State University system is also accepting applications. Prospective CSU students are encouraged to apply before the Dec. 4, 2020 priority deadline. [Cal State Apply](#) enables students to apply to multiple CSU campuses with just one application.

For those high school seniors who may be worried about credit deficiency, *please act now!* I urge you to contact your counselor to assure that you graduate on time. A high school diploma can positively impact the trajectory for your life. Do not let COVID-19 and all its challenges deny you a diploma. We will do everything we can to help you stay on course to graduate, but we need you to reach out to your teacher, principal, or counselor for support.

District Progress: Road to Reopening

Every week, I will share our “progress report” and the steps that we are taking to protect student and staff health, and to ready our schools to reopen for in-person learning on Jan. 19, 2021.

- **CDC Compliance and Protecting Student and Staff Health** – All campuses and all classrooms have been adjusted for CDC physical distancing guidance (6 ft. separation) and to ensure that hand hygiene stations and supplies will be properly distributed. We are now marking sites for traffic patterns to help minimize exposure, and we are installing plexiglass guards where recommended. To all our employees, especially our teachers, please know that when you return to your site, if you feel that your workspace requires some adjustment so that you can fully and easily follow health guidelines, we will work with you. While our classrooms have been organized in accordance with CDC guidance, that does not mean that things are “permanently fixed.” Our goal is to help all employees follow the guidelines with as much ease as possible.
- **Health Screening to Minimize Spread** – We have finalized the details for a daily screening process for all employees. This screening is “passive,” which means that you do not interface with anyone, such as a nurse or health worker. Rather, you go online to answer a set of questions (provided by the Department of Public Health), and if the answers indicate a possible compromise to your health, such as a fever, sore throat or cough, we require that you stay home and consult your healthcare provider, if necessary, and follow all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.
- **Returning to In-Person Learning** – The District is working with labor groups to finalize our instructional options for students. We are working through the details for in-person/hybrid (which means some time on campus and in class and some time online in distance learning), full distance learning, and other options. We will present these options to parents in a survey on Nov. 9.

With warm regards,



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

Good News

Student Achievement

- A pilot questionnaire is going out to families to determine parents’ final choice for their student to return to hybrid or remain in distance learning. The pilot questionnaire will go out on ParentSquare this week and all parents will receive it next week. A video will accompany the questionnaire to explain each of the three models.

Outreach & Engagement

- Virtual field trips to the Just DREAM Gallery have begun for our 7th graders. Norwood Jr. High students were the first classes to virtually tour the gallery with an art docent and view original artwork by artist Milton 510 Bowens. He has been an artist-in-residence and partner with Twin Rivers since 2009 and met

live with the students over Zoom to discuss his artwork and important themes in his paintings. All 7th graders will have the opportunity to visit the Just DREAM Gallery in the coming weeks.

- Athletic conditioning protocols will move into Phase 2 as a result of the county being in the red tier. This allows teams to practice indoor conditioning, increases the cohort size by 2, and allows weight room use. All existing health and safety protocols will continue.
- Virtual Parent University Workshops
 - EL Family 101: An Orientation for Parents/Guardians with English Learners, 4 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10. Click [HERE](#) to register.
 - Engaging and Preparing Students for the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC), 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16. Click [HERE](#) to register.
- Parents & Guardians of African American Students
 - Student Services and the Roberts Family Development Center will host a series of virtual forums for parents and guardians of African American students. Dates/time: 6 to 7 p.m. Nov. 10 and Dec. 8; 6 to 7 p.m. Jan. 5, 2021. Click [HERE](#) to register.
- Empowerment Series for Native American Families
 - Meetings will focus on and discuss the educational and culturally related needs of Native American students. The first virtual meeting: 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18. Click [HERE](#) to register online and view the schedule for the entire series.

District Operations

- We're getting more electric buses—27 will be delivered within nine months, if not sooner (22 are funded through the California Air Resources Board and the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality District; 5 through the California Energy Commission). Currently, we have a fleet of 30 electric buses.
- In preparing to ensure every student in our District has a computer, Information and Educational Technology Services (IETS) has met with every school leader to discuss computer needs as well as a replacement/refresh plan when computers are lost, stolen or damaged. This is for every instructional model; remote learning, hybrid, and traditional.