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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

Dec. 11, 2020

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

The cost of this pandemic is immeasurable. The loss of lives, livelihoods and connections weigh heavy.

During this pandemic, more than 290,000 families face the profound and tragic loss of a loved one. Certainly, these are the people we hold in our hearts, and with compassion and grace, we hope for their healing and eventual peace. Making their loss all the more painful is the inability to connect with others to say goodbye and to celebrate the person whom they are mourning.

Indeed, we have all known loss in some manner during this time.

From my own personal situation, I can see that even those blessed with good health, a safe home, and a loving and supportive family both at home and at work, still feel the anguish that comes from loss of connections. We are missing out on being together and sharing the moments that make memories. Whether playing sports, going to a game, or gathering to watch one on TV; whether attending a holiday concert or performing in one, the moments that bring us together to make and share memories are missing, and sadly, the cost is immeasurable.

I, too, miss our connections. I have been reflecting on the many school events that we would all be enjoying this time of year, and I miss them. I miss seeing our teachers in action. We all miss watching our students learn, grow, shine, and make memories.

These have been challenging times. The longer we remain in this pandemic, the harder it becomes to keep our resolve and stay vigilant in our mission. I have found myself wishing we could simply fast forward through the year and to a time when we can all return to school and some normalcy.

But I know that Twin Rivers is a strong community. We always pull together, and we always pull for one another. If you or someone you love needs a hand or some support, please visit our [Mental Health and Wellness](#) webpage. I do not deny the immense challenges the school year and pandemic have produced, but I remain hopeful that we will all grow and find new ways to connect, learn, teach and lead in these trying times and we will be better for it when we return. I continue to have faith in our ability to learn and grow from the adversity of this school year. I remain committed to our community and families to make these hopes become realities.

Now more than ever, we are here for you.

Good News Around TR

Student Achievement

- Even though we have a new stay-at-home order, Special Education Assessments and small groups will continue as scheduled.
- Teachers and administrators have been trained on the [GoGuardian](#) support tool. It allows teachers and administrators to monitor what students are doing online in real time. Parents and students should be aware that teachers and principals can view the websites and content students are utilizing in real time. This allows teachers to better support students with technology issues; it also allows teachers to monitor students' engagement during Zoom.
- It's that time of year to reassess our students in i-Ready. The second diagnostic will begin on Jan. 6, 2021 for students in grades K-8 and will be used to measure literacy skills and guide interventions. Remember, students must complete this on their own. Any help from parents or siblings could affect the results which would alter the student's lesson path.
- [ELA Lesson Design WAGs](#) for teachers. You must use your TR email account to access.

Outreach & Engagement

- The Kelvin screener that teachers, staff, students and families took in September has been used to improve the climate of our District. On Monday, Jan. 4, 2021, staff, teachers, families and students will receive a survey that has the same questions that were administered in September. These questions focus on our District's highest areas of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) competencies and will be used to identify areas of growth and areas of improvement in climate. Keep an eye out for the dog icon on your child's computer which indicates a survey is waiting.
- Virtual Parent University workshop - Healthy Habits, Healthy Families, 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15. [Flyer](#) to register online.

District Operations

- Twin Rivers has a new [COVID-19 Dashboard](#)! This dashboard shows the number of staff and students, by site, who have tested positive for the coronavirus and have been physically present at one of our sites. The COVID-19 Dashboard is linked from the [COVID Updates webpage](#).

Again, thank you for all your efforts to support our students, staff, and community during these difficult times.

With warm regards,



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

Every Child. Every Day. Leaving No One Behind!