



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*

Feb. 11, 2021

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

We're living during a time of monumental challenges, but also noteworthy successes. Think about the daunting task we faced last March when schools were closed due to the impact of COVID-19. Everyone—and I mean everyone—had a question and rightly so. How quickly can we distribute more than 21,000 laptops to our students for distance learning? How quickly can we provide all the necessary training for our dedicated teachers and support staff to successfully work remotely? How do we ensure the health and safety of our students, staff, and the broader Twin Rivers school community? And, ultimately, how do we safely reopen schools during a raging pandemic?

It's been tough; a long and difficult year. But I'm thankful we have a staff of trailblazers who have made a huge difference in our approach to working through this unpredictable pandemic. To be clear, we are ready and prepared to resume in-person instruction.

We were the first public school district in the area to roll out an ambitious COVID-19 saliva-based voluntary testing program for our employees last September. As of last Friday, our incredible Health Services nursing team has tested 1,507 employees. Next week the team will complete the training to start rapid COVID-19 voluntary tests for students and staff who become ill while on our campuses.

While there are still many unknowns about how the pandemic will play out in the months ahead, our dedicated employees continue to do everything possible to ensure we are ready for the unexpected in the days ahead.

I wish I could tell you that our campuses will look and feel much like they did pre-COVID-19, but that's not the case. If you click on [TR is Ready!](#) you can see for yourself some of the work getting done to welcome back students and staff safely—from classroom reconfigurations (desks six feet apart) to signage in hallways, plexiglass barriers and hand sanitizer stations. Save the link because we will continue to post photos so you can see how school sites will look once students return.

Here's a detailed list of classroom work:

- Modified classroom layouts to ensure safe social distancing
- Upgraded air-filtration systems – with MERV 13 Filters
- Physical distancing - signage and floor markings used for social distancing reminders
- Plexiglass barriers in offices and common areas
- Plumbing fixtures and flushing tested
- Transportation modifications to maintain social distancing
- Meals 2 Go (3 million meals distributed since last March)

Health and safety standards:

- Hygiene – restrooms and handwashing sinks in classrooms stocked with soap and paper towels, hand sanitizer is also available in locations throughout our campuses, touchless dispensers for soap / sanitizer and paper towels throughout facilities
- Masks and other protective equipment – face coverings will be required of all students, staff, and visitors while on campus, PPE location at every site
- Passive screener for staff and students
- Disinfecting classroom furniture and other surfaces—facilities are being kept clean and sanitized daily
- PPE kits for every classroom, including masks, gloves, cleaning supplies, and a touchless thermometer

I know you realize how important it is for us to take all necessary measures to ensure the health and safety of students and staff. But that doesn't make this situation any easier to deal with when all of us just want to return to some semblance of normality—sooner, rather than later. We still don't have a reopen date because Sacramento is still in the purple tier. But there is good news to share. Vaccinations are ramping up in the Sacramento area for essential/frontline workers and seniors age 65 and older. In fact, Sacramento County Public Health expects to open vaccine appointments for education and childcare workers in the next week. This is encouraging and will help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 when schools reopen.

We are very fortunate in Twin Rivers. Once again, our trailblazers have stepped up—big time! Our frontline workers will be offered the COVID-19 vaccine starting today and continuing through the week at a drive-thru clinic affiliated with the Neighborhood Wellness Foundation in Del Paso Heights. As you are aware, some of our Twin Rivers Unified neighborhoods have disproportionately borne the brunt of COVID-19, including Del Paso Heights and Hagginwood. The Neighborhood Wellness Foundation is a trusted partner, and we are grateful for this opportunity to do our part to help slow the spread of the coronavirus by ensuring our employees have access to the vaccine so we get our students back in school.

As always, we will continue to prioritize the health and safety of our students and staff above all else.

Good News

Student Achievement

- We are excited to announce that over 800 e-book titles have been purchased and a selection of age appropriate books are available to students and staff to check out and read on their electronic devices. There are Spanish e-books as well. The Teacher Librarians (TLs) have created videos that will guide students on how to access these e-books. [Elementary e-book check out process](#). [Secondary e-book check out process](#). Be sure to check out your school's website to view available books. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to your school librarian or library media tech. Happy reading!
- [ELA Lesson Design WAGs](#) for teachers.

Outreach & Engagement

- You can enroll your child in TR's high quality preschool programs for 2021-22 starting April 19. Enrollment continues for the current school year (2020-21); we currently offer distance learning only. Please visit our [Enrollment Page](#) or contact us at EnrollPreK@twinriversusd.org.

- Kinder Kamp is around the corner! This is a summer program (June 8-30) for incoming kindergarten students who have not attended a preschool program. We hope to offer in-person classroom experiences as well as a distance learning option. To apply, please visit our [Kinder Kamp Page](#). Applications are in English, Spanish, Hmong and Russian.
- Help your young learners celebrate Black leaders and their contributions & achievements! [Visit our Distance Learning website for Black History Month](#) resources and many other activities for children.

District Operations

- We have added another layer of safety for our students and staff with the installation of Hall Pass, a new visitor identification management system we have installed at all District school sites. The new system will help us better track visitors at our schools, while also keeping students safe from restricted individuals. When visitors arrive on our campuses, they are required to provide a valid state/government-issued ID at the front office. The ID will be scanned and, in seconds, verified against the National Sex Offender Registry and a school list of restricted visitors to alert us if an individual may pose a threat to our school community. Once the screening is complete and the visitor is cleared, a visitor's badge, complete with name and picture, will be printed. The visitor's badge must be worn while on campus and returned to the front office upon leaving. To learn more about the District's new visitor identification management system, please visit the Hall Pass website at <https://hallpassid.com/>.

Enjoy the four-day Presidents' Day weekend (Lincoln, Feb. 12 and Washington, Feb. 15). And remember, wear your mask and practice social distancing.

All the best,



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

Every Student, Every Day. Leaving No One Behind!