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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

Feb. 5, 2021

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

During this time of unrest and uncertainty, there are people working the frontlines who, with a calm, focused sense of purpose, continue to do their work. We see these people across our community and society, and we are grateful for their resolve and resiliency. From grocery store employees to healthcare workers, we are surrounded by unsung heroes who continue to serve others.

Given that this is National School Counseling Week, I want to take a moment to recognize and thank our 58 elementary and secondary school counselors who have never stopped working for and with our students, in spite of the COVID-19 turmoil. This week, we celebrate our counselor heroes.

Headed by Carol Young, Director of Counseling and College & Career Readiness, the District's counselors continue to meet with students and families, and they have never stopped supporting teachers and administrators who ask for assistance with student needs. The pandemic shut down businesses, schools, parks, theaters and public events, but it has not stopped or deterred our counselors.

Here's a short list of some of their terrific work:

College Bound!

- College Prep—Counselors provide students with an overview of college required courses and help them understand how to build their course schedule so they are college eligible. Through workshops and meetings, counselors help students apply to California State Universities, Universities of California, community colleges and other options for advanced learning.
- College Scholarship and Grant Applications—Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) workshops are held in groups and individually.
- Counselors meet with students in groups and through 1:1 Zoom meetings during asynchronous instruction time and in the evenings.

Securing A High School Diploma

- Student-Tailored Supports—Counselors meet students who may be in danger of not graduating due to a lack of academic credits, and they help students and parents understand how to access credit recovery programs in place in TRUSD.

Student-Counselor Connection

- Individual and small group counseling - Strong Kids, Strong Start, Girls Group, Wonderful Me (resiliency groups)
- Reaching out and connecting through phone calls, texts, and e-mails to students/parents
- Home visits to families and students
- Lunch Club meetings - offering students a chance to use lunch breaks to ask questions, gather information, or seek support
- Coordinating assemblies featuring outside agencies and resources that support students' social and emotional mental health

This impressive list of projects and services is not a complete list; our counselors are doing all this and more! As we continue to monitor the ever-evolving public health situation and work to prepare our schools to reopen, behind the scenes are professionals like our school counselors who keep their sights focused on what matters most—taking care of our students. Please join me in taking a moment to give these professionals the shout-out and sincere thanks they deserve.

I'd also like to take this time to bring you up-to-date on high school sports. Our students have been participating in athletic conditioning throughout the summer and have resumed since the stay-at-home order was recently lifted by Governor Newsom. Sacramento County Health Department guidelines are being followed for the purple tier in all conditioning cohorts. In addition, the county has allowed sport competitions to take place in the purple tier against teams in adjacent counties for a limited number of sports that require minimal contact. Purple tier sports include: cross country, golf, skiing/snowboarding, swimming & diving, tennis, and track & field. **Athletic directors will be working in conjunction with coaches to determine competitions that may occur for these sports within the coming weeks.** Competitions will be restricted to neighboring counties and school districts that are participating. It is important to note that student participation will be restricted to one sport to prevent students from belonging to multiple cohorts.

Good News to Share

Student Achievement

- A special shout-out to the 350 TR 9th, 10th and 11th graders with a 4.0 GPA (weighted) or higher for the first semester.
- [ELA Lesson Design WAGs](#) for teachers.

Outreach & Engagement

- [Community Advisory Committee for Special Education](#) – Twin Rivers is looking for interested individuals to serve on the District's Community Advisory Committee for Special Education (CAC). Every Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) is required to establish a CAC. The CAC assists in advising local governing boards about the local plan, annual priorities, parent education and other specified Special Education related activities. Click [HERE](#) for the CAC flyer.
- Please join our conversation! This year's Thought Exchange Survey is now live and ready for your feedback regarding our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)—Click [HERE](#). The survey is open to staff, teachers, parents/families, students and the community until March 31, 2021.

District Operations

- Installation of touchless soap and hand sanitizer dispensers around the District.
- We continue to offer voluntary COVID-19 saliva testing for all staff.
- Continued fine-tuning of sites for social distancing and other mitigation measures to protect against COVID-19.

Page 3

- The District's 7-11 Committee has recommended multiple properties for surplus and will meet on Feb. 17 to finalize a report to the Board of Trustees.

Take care, stay safe, and remember that all of us must continue the measures that can help prevent the spread of COVID-19—especially wearing a mask and social distancing.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Martinez".

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

Every Student, Every Day. Leaving No One Behind!