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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

August 28, 2020

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

When a team faces uncharted territory, traveling into the unfamiliar together, they rely on communication, cooperation and trust to achieve success. I think this describes precisely the situation that we face this school year.

Many people have worked to anticipate student, staff, and family needs, so that we could prepare to meet them. Yet I know—indeed, we know—that we could not anticipate all needs and bridge all gaps. I can tell you that this has been one of the greatest challenges of my professional career, and I am sure that my colleagues throughout the District and people in jobs all across our District, would tell you the same thing: we have never done this before, but we are going to face it with good intentions and humility.

Good intentions help us keep kids at the front and center of our work. What do the kids need, and are we meeting their needs? Humility allows us to face gaps and missteps with the grace to say, “Yep! I missed that, and I will do something about it right away.”

In order to deliver on both of these fronts, we are relying on all of you to communicate with us. Parents, family members, and students, please reach out to your teachers, principal, or counselor if you have a request or need. Teachers and staff, please let your principal know if there is something that requires our attention. Perhaps a student is still without a device or access to the internet; let us know, so that we can address the issue. Principals, District administration and I are here for you. Let us know what your team needs, so that we can work as quickly as possible to meet their needs.

Communicate, and trust that an entire network of hard working people are here to cooperatively help meet your needs.

Good News

Engagement & Outreach:

- Four of our high school teacher librarians—Emily Edmond, Foothill; Tiffany Shepherd, Grant Union; Annette Weiskircher, Highlands; and Gailyn Miranda, Rio Linda—have secured a \$14,000 New York Times scholarship that provides full access for students (13 and older) and staff to the NYT until August 2021. This academic pass is for both on-campus and off-campus access and includes daily newsletters on specialized topics, lesson planning materials, and ready-made activities for students to use as they hone their 21st century skills as informed users of digital media and as conscientious consumers of local, national and global news. More information coming next week.

- Nutrition Services is providing additional meal service, adding an hour in the morning from 7 to 8 a.m. as well as the afternoon services, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. TR school buses will make assigned meals-to-go stops throughout outlying areas of Rio Linda, Foothill Farms and North Highlands. Visit our [Transportation Services](#) webpage for locations.
- Information and Educational Technology Services (IETS) has been engaging with families to ensure connectivity and support—in a five day period they have fielded almost 1,600 phone calls from parents and over 700 for staff.
- We are in the process of finalizing a contract with Comcast to provide internet in homes for free (more information coming on this).

District Operations:

- More than 200,000 masks in TR inventory, ranging from disposable, cloth, KN95 and N95 to ensure staff have adequate PPE needed for a safe return to in-person instruction.
- Great work in preparing TR classrooms with equipment to support the implementation of distance learning.

Thanks to our great TR team. I see everyone working together, allowing us to face the “uncharted territory” with trust in one another to keep our students’ needs first.

We are TR!

Warm regards,

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!