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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

Dec. 3, 2021

To Staff and our Twin Rivers School Community,

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with family, friends, traditions, laughs and great visits with people you enjoy! Last year, COVID-19 denied us the opportunity to enjoy large indoor gatherings, which makes this holiday season all the more special.

News of the new Omicron coronavirus variant is reigniting concerns about transmission. In fact, as I write this message to you, I am learning that the first U.S. case was just diagnosed in San Francisco. The health experts say there is no need to panic, but there is plenty of need to continue to practice health recommendations. While there were times we all hoped for and talked about putting COVID-19 behind us, I am increasingly convinced that it is our new reality. That said, please know that TR will continue to follow public health guidelines. In addition, we will continue to offer testing and access to vaccinations. Click [HERE](#) for information on COVID-19 vaccine clinics in our District and throughout the Sacramento area.

Yes, COVID-19 has changed the way we work and socialize, but if we practice good health hygiene and follow the advice of health professionals, we can help to keep our schools open and our lives connected. Just as we enjoyed the recent Thanksgiving holiday, we can look forward to more holiday celebrations.

There are only a few weeks of school before we are out for Winter Break (Dec. 20-31), and during this time, our teachers cover a lot of academic ground in class. I appreciate our families supporting their students' learning by encouraging attendance and prompt arrival to school. Let's work together to make the most of this short window between breaks and help our teachers with their important work by having all kids in class on time and ready to go.

Around TR!

- **Groundbreaking Ceremonies** - If you happen to drive by Highlands or Grant Union high schools, you'll see bulldozers getting ready to transform areas of each campus into the Highlands High School Sports Complex and the Grant Union High School Sports Complex. This is exciting and we will have two groundbreaking ceremonies on Friday, Dec. 10 to celebrate the start of the construction projects. We are absolutely thrilled to make these important improvements to our athletic facilities so that our students can enjoy state-of-art equipment and athletic fields. Additionally, we are delighted to share these facilities with our community members. Our fields are open to the public when they are not in use for class, team practice or games.

- **Indoor Sports Testing** - We are pleased to offer testing for athletes involved in indoor sports. Current guidelines require the wearing of masks at all times (even during rigorous activity) for indoor athletics or weekly testing. The decision to test athletes weekly, free of charge, allows students to have options that are best for their health when playing indoor athletics. Spectators, coaches, and students not engaged in play will still be required to wear masks. Students will have the option of wearing masks with a negative test during practice and games.
- **Keema School for Independent Study** - Our Keema independent study program has grown significantly over the last year. In order to support planning for the 22-23 school year, parents of students enrolled at Keema will be receiving a survey regarding their plans for the 22-23 school year. We ask that parents complete the survey in the ParentSquare application to ensure their student's place in the program of their choice for next school year.

TR schools are an investment in our students, our future and our communities.

Have a wonderful weekend. Stay safe; stay healthy.

With warm regards,

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

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