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*To inspire each student to  
extraordinary achievement  
every day*

Aug. 27, 2021

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

As we head into the weekend, I want to provide some critical updates as TR moves forward. While it's great having students and staff back on our campuses for in-person teaching and learning, our joy is slightly tempered by the harsh reality of the impact of COVID-19 on district operations. Frankly, we are going through a rough period as we end the second week of the 2021-2022 school year.

A huge challenge is staffing. We are spreading more work over fewer people due to absences and job vacancies. More than 250 positions remain open across the district. Due to the industry demand, it's difficult to secure a credentialed substitute, so we have seen principals step into classrooms to ensure that instruction is not interrupted for our students. And then there's the shortage of bus drivers (a nationwide issue), which has led to longer wait times and late arrivals/pickups. As a result, we find it necessary to scale back our transportation services to families. This will not affect the entire district. We will keep both staff and families informed of the upcoming changes to bus routes.

As you are all aware, our facility maintenance crews have put in a tremendous amount of work to get our buildings and campuses ready for the school year, including updating our filtration/HVAC systems to utilize MERV-13 air filters rated to improve indoor air quality. Unfortunately, we are having issues with many of our HVAC systems stalling and even shutting down with the added stress on the system due to poor air quality from nearby wildfires.

I wish we had immediate solutions for all these issues. Please know that I share this information in the spirit of transparency and to express my deep appreciation for the TR team willing to jump in and lend a hand. I share this information to remind everyone that we need to be flexible, patient and grateful for the above and beyond efforts of our dedicated employees.

Please stay healthy and well. To do this we need to follow the public health guidelines. Wear a mask when it is required. Please be aware of testing facilities, so that you can monitor your health or the health of your student. Please be aware that vaccination clinics are available throughout the area, and they are free and easy to access - [Sacramento County COVID-19 Testing Sites](#). [Del Paso Heights Vaccination Clinics at TR schools](#).

**Around TR**

- We have added an important resource page to the TR website. The new [Parents and Family Corner webpage](#) is full of helpful resources, links and information in one location.
- **Virtual SWUN Math Family Night** – 5:30 p.m. Sept. 16, 2021. Learn helpful tips on how to help your students in math using SWUN resources. [Click here for more information, including registration.](#)

On behalf of the entire TR team, I thank you for your support and understanding. Together, we will get through this trying time. By the way, don't forget to share with family and friends that Twin Rivers Unified is hiring! They can apply through [EDJOIN](#).

All my best,

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

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