March 12, 2021

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

I was taught as a young boy that you should never hesitate to examine an unfortunate experience for lessons learned. Now that we can begin to return students to school, I am beginning to look at the last year in earnest for lessons learned. Twin Rivers will not shy away from studying the past year to consider these questions. What did we learn? What worked well? What do we want to hold on to?

Let’s face it, if given the choice, no one would have wanted our schools to be virtual for a year. However, a virus held the upper hand, and we had to do what was necessary to protect public health. But now that we have a clear date—Tuesday, April 6—for beginning to safely return to in-person learning (PK-6th grade), we can begin to reflect on the tremendous lessons learned from this experience.

From this past year, we now have technology in the hands of all students, and this will continue even after we return to full time, in-person learning. Through technology and internet access, our families can more easily and reliably communicate with their student’s teachers, and this school-to-home connection must continue. We can offer parent conferences online, so parents will not need to take a day from work to meet with their student’s teacher. There could be opportunities to amplify and expand learning options for students, including the possibility of online electives and tutorial support.

Changes that were forced upon us one year ago can now be studied by our administrators, support staff, and teachers so we can hold on to the elements that can make us even stronger as we move forward into the Next Normal.

Returning to Campus (PK-6) – News and Updates

- Please be sure all of your contact information (email/phone/address) are up-to-date by contacting your child’s school.
- As we begin to return students to campuses and classrooms, please look for information to come to you from your student’s principal. The details regarding traffic patterns, entrances and exits on campuses, and other logistics will be unique to each site, so we ask that you look for these important details from your principal. Their messages home to families should receive your prompt attention.
- Due to health and safety protocols for transportation services, some school start times will need to be adjusted beginning April 6. Please pay attention to the bell schedules sent from your principal to make sure you are aware of these adjustments.
- All students will be required to wear masks while at school unless they have an exemption through a physician. Please talk with your child regarding the importance of wearing their mask while at school and practice proper mask wearing prior to the return to school.
For parents requesting any changes in cohort assignments or changes from distance learning to in-person learning, please contact your principal immediately. We will do our best to accommodate requests. However, it may not be possible to accommodate some changes if classes are at capacity.

Your actions make a difference! Parents and families are required to screen students at home prior to coming on campus according to county health guidelines. Students feeling unwell are expected to stay home. Click on the Health Services webpage for COVID-19 symptom check information in multiple languages.

A reminder that visitors to our campuses will be prohibited except for very specific circumstances. We also have a new visitor identification management system at all school sites. All visitors are required to provide a valid state/government-issued ID at front offices. 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 any 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.

When Can Grades 7-12 Return?

- The good news is that Sacramento County could move from the purple tier to the red tier, possibly within the next couple of weeks as coronavirus cases continue to decline in the area. Per public health officials, grades 7-12 may reopen for in-person instruction the day after Sacramento County moves to the red tier, which currently requires an adjusted case rate of less than 7 per 100,000 for two consecutive weeks. We have not yet set the date, but we anticipate this may be as early as April 6.
- Athletes participating in high school athletics such as football and water polo are required to receive PCR COVID testing once per week prior to contests. All athletes will be tested weekly. The District will provide a parent consent form.

Return to School Resources

- [Sacramento County Free COVID-19 Testing Sites](#)
- [Sacramento County Public Health Schools Website](#)
- [Twin Rivers Road to Reopening](#)
- [Twin Rivers Student Return](#)

Good News to Share

Student Achievement

- A variety of summer programs will be available to our K-12 students, including the High School Graduation Rate Improvement Program (GRIP). Click [HERE](#) for more information.
- [Teacher ELA Lesson Designs](#)

Outreach & Engagement

- Nearing our final days to provide your input on the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), please add your thoughts and rate others, so your voice is heard! Click [HERE](#).

District Operations

- TR will continue to support the Del Paso Heights vaccination clinic, which will soon expand to TR families for first dose vaccinations as the vaccine becomes available. More information coming soon!
- Installing CO2 sensors into every TR classroom.
- Making preparations to restart Facility Use for outside agencies at our campuses!
A Proud Moment for Twin Rivers

Congratulations to Rhima Blenkhorn, Café Services Team Lead I, Orchard Elementary; Jamie Manalo, Professional Development/Curriculum & Instruction Program Specialist, at the District Office; and Diana Rose, Library Media Technician, Foothill Ranch Middle School on being recognized as the Sacramento County Office of Education Classified Employees of the Year. These remarkable professionals will now represent TR and the county in the State Classified School Employees of the Year competition. In this unprecedented school year, these three outstanding individuals have gone well above and beyond what has been asked of them. I’m grateful for the work they do for our District, and I’m excited for them to represent TR and Sacramento County at the state level. They are models for how challenge can inspire positive changes.

All the best,

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

*Every Student, Every Day. Leaving No One Behind!*