September 4, 2019

Dear Twin Rivers School Community,

Like you, we are angry and extremely frustrated that our collective best efforts did not prevent a Santa Clara County judge from approving the relocation of a violent abuser of young boys to our community.

This is not what we expected.

Associate Superintendent Kristen Coates, Student Services Director Rudy Puente and Twin Rivers Chief of Police David Lugo provided testimony on behalf of the district at the August 26 hearing on the relocation of Dariel Shazier, convicted of multiple forcible sex crimes in Santa Clara County. In addition, we also provided the court with letters from principals. Several community leaders and organizations were also at the hearing to oppose the move.

We have approximately 7,000 students and 15 schools in Del Paso Heights and the surrounding area. While state law mandates how and why someone like Shazier is relocated, why here?

While we may never get the answer to that question, we remain vigilant in our efforts to keep children safe and ask that you continue to educate yourself and your family about “Stranger Danger.”

Please review the following safety tips with your children:

- Don’t talk to strangers
- Don’t go anywhere with someone you don’t know
- If approached by a stranger, seek help immediately
- Always walk in groups or pairs
- Always let a parent or trusted adult know where you are going
- Don’t take shortcuts through wooded areas, a back street or empty lot
- Trust your instincts, if you feel you are being followed or something is not right, seek help immediately
- When seeking help, always go to a trusted adult—parent, principal, teacher, coach, police officer
- Review contact telephone numbers and home safety practices
- Call 9-1-1 to report any suspicious activity
Our number one priority is the safety and well-being of all students in and outside of the classroom. Please continue to talk to your children about safety to help them make smart decisions.

Sincerely,

Steve Martinez, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Twin Rivers Unified