



*Board of Trustees*

*Basim Elkarra  
President*

*Stacey E. Bastian  
Vice President*

*Christine Jefferson  
Clerk*

*Michael Baker  
Member*

*Sharon Reichelt  
Member*

*Rebecca Sandoval  
Member*

*Sascha Vogt  
Member*

***Superintendent**  
Steve Martinez, Ed.D.*

*To inspire each student to  
extraordinary achievement  
every day*

Sept. 13, 2024

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

As National Hispanic Heritage Month draws near (September 15 – October 15), we want to take this opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the rich and diverse contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities. In our school district, these contributions are a vital part of our collective history and culture, enriching our educational environment and shaping the experiences of our students.

I'm especially proud to share the story of the Mariachi Ensemble class at Foothill High School through this [special video](#) featuring the impressive students and their dedicated teacher.

Mariachi Ensemble is an A-G fine arts course that began in the 2023-2024 school year. It's the only one of its kind in Twin Rivers, bringing the cultural tradition of mariachi music to our school community. These talented students have performed at district events and even at Universal Studios Hollywood!

As you watched the video, I hope you were as excited as I am by the dedication and talent of our students. In Twin Rivers, where 47 percent of our students identify as Latino or Hispanic, this month holds special significance. By celebrating their heritage, our entire school community embraces and promotes the values of inclusion and cultural understanding. Here is a simple truth in education—when students feel recognized and respected for who they are, they are more inspired to learn, to grow, to push toward reaching their full potential. We know that our commitment to embrace all cultures and respecting all students is having a positive impact on their learning. Our district graduation rate has soared to 92 percent, with an impressive 16 percent growth among our Latino students during the past decade.

This month offers a fantastic learning opportunity for our families, with National Hispanic Heritage Month events and activities taking place throughout Sacramento and our district. On September 18, children's author Leticia Ordaz will share books at Family Literacy Night. It's at 6 p.m. at the district office. Folklorico dance groups will perform at various sites throughout the month and schools will honor Día de los Muertos celebrations with activities that educate students about this significant cultural tradition.

I hope you enjoy all the school and local celebrations!

Warm regards,

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

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