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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

Aug. 25, 2023

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

Together, we just experienced one of the smoothest opening days and first week of school that I have ever seen. While it wasn't perfect, it was a very smooth start. In fact, at Tuesday's school board meeting, our trustees expressed their praise for the wonderful opening.

We know that many people across all departments worked hard during the summer months to ensure a great opening of school. It's a bit like preparing for a large family gathering or special event, the hours and details that must be attended to may not be obvious when the guests start arriving, but the hosts know that they spent hours and hours tirelessly planning and preparing so that all invited would have a wonderful experience. That's what it's like for Team TR when we are readying our schools, and I am grateful to everyone for their contributions. Thank you for all that you do. And thank you to our families and students for doing your part, too, by making sure students arrive to school every day, on time, prepared and ready to learn.

There are two areas that I would like to highlight and celebrate with everyone: Investments in Instruction and Sports Facilities.

Investing in Excellent Instruction

Offering students our very best instruction is a top priority in TR. To this point, TR teachers enjoy sharing with one another the teaching strategies that work well with their students. Teachers are professionals who never stop learning and sharing so that they can continually improve their work and service to students. When a district is as large as Twin Rivers, gathering all teachers to hear from one another is challenging. So we have created the TR English Language Arts Lesson-Design teacher team. This dynamic team is creating videos that demonstrate proven instructional practices that can be shared with all TR teachers. It's like creating our own TR online instructional lab for our educators so that they have convenient access to these resources. Sounds simple, but gathering the teams and producing the pieces involves many dedicated people who share a commitment to continuous improvement. I am grateful for their work, and so are our school board members who heard and appreciated the report on this project. Our students' learning is amplified when our teachers are energized through professional collaboration and consultation, which is why I am so proud of the [Lesson Design Hints & Tips Strategic Start video](#).

Investing in Facilities and Student Engagement

Providing students with a wide range of sports and extracurricular activities is a sure way to help engage them in school, and engaged students are proven to do better academically. This is one of the primary reasons that we want to offer our TR high school students excellent athletic and extracurricular programs and facilities. If you were unable to attend any of the ribbon cutting or groundbreaking ceremonies for our new sports venues, please take a moment to view our [Around TR video](#) that highlights some of the major projects that are keeping Facilities and Maintenance & Operations teams extremely busy. Students learn best when they feel connected to school, and that is why we want to do all we can to provide excellent extracurricular athletic programs and facilities for our students. I am grateful to our school board for continuing to make prudent decisions throughout the pandemic to allow projects like these to come to fruition.

A friendly reminder—be sure to make the most of your school’s back-to-school night. It's a chance to ask important questions about your child's education, the expectations for the 2023-2024 academic year, and resources for students who need extra help.

Here’s to a wonderful weekend.

With warm regards,

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

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