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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

Dec. 15, 2023

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

As we approach the winter holidays, I am filled with gratitude for everyone in our Twin Rivers school community. I want to take a moment to celebrate all of you and everything you do for our district and for each other. I appreciate all your efforts on behalf of students, and I know our students feel the same way.

You hear a lot these days about an "attitude of gratitude," pausing to take a moment to reflect on all that you have and also acknowledging the efforts of others for their positive impact on you and your family. It's important, even if you don't see each other every day.

A grandmother of a student shared with me that she took a moment to send her granddaughter's fifth grade teacher a note of praise. "My granddaughter knows that she is seen, heard and respected...and I thank you for investing in her confidence..." was one of the sentiments in the message. The teacher responded the same day saying, "I have been on a cloud since I read your message. Thank you."

As a former classroom teacher, I know exactly how that teacher felt. The simple truth is that people of all ages are more motivated and gratified when their work is recognized with sincere appreciation.

During what's shaping up to be a hectic holiday season, my wish is that you find the time to pause, reflect, and reach out to a teacher, a coach, a bus driver, a TR police officer or the many other school employees who inspire children to do well and succeed in life.

For me, gratitude is the ultimate gift to share with others.

TR Grad Rate Hits the Highest Level in a Decade

We are incredibly pleased to share the news that **91.4%** of our 2022-2023 high school seniors graduated on time. That's an increase of 16.2% over the past 10 years. This is a testament to the valiant efforts of our teachers, counselors, principals, district administration and support staff and the hard work and dedication of our students and families. Together, we are creating a culture of success that's transforming lives. Among the colleges and universities that accepted last year's graduates—Stanford, Cornell, USC, UCLA, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC San Diego, UC Santa Cruz, Morgan State University, Brigham Young University, Sacramento State, and Alabama A&M University.

Good News from U-CAN

You're probably aware that each year our students have an opportunity to expand their higher education options at two districtwide college fairs. The annual Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) Recruitment Fair, which is open to all students, is unique because qualified students receive on-the-spot admissions. I'm thrilled to report that of the 582 Twin Rivers students who attended this year, 192 of them received on-the-spot admissions, and 53 students received scholarships, according to preliminary data from the United College Action Network (U-CAN). The total scholarships awarded: \$1.1 million!

Around TR!

- Today, we celebrated another milestone in TR with a special ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the completion of the new Foothill High School Aquatic Complex. The state-of-the-art venue features an Olympic-size competition pool with 13 lanes.
- It's almost time for our annual Kindergarten Roundup for the 2024 – 2025 school year. The district has scheduled three dates: Jan. 20, Feb. 24 and March 16. [Click here for the flyer and more information.](#)
- Congratulations to Smythe Academy of Arts & Sciences Middle School, recently named by Sacramento Bee readers as one of their favorite middle schools in the "Sacramento Favorites" poll.
- On Wednesday, Dec. 20, TR will host a Teacher Recruitment Fair at the District Office. If you know someone who seeks a meaningful career in education and wants to join our team of talented teachers, please send them our way. [Click here for the flyer.](#)

With warm regards,

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

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