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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

Nov. 17, 2023

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

As we approach our break to observe the Thanksgiving holiday, I hope that all members of the TR school community will take time to pause and reflect on the power and importance of an attitude of gratitude.

For me, I am considering the many things that make me grateful every day—family, friends, good health and being part of a team that values investing in our youth through education. Here in TR, I am particularly grateful for the tremendous partnerships that help to make our schools wonderful places to teach and learn.

I am grateful that the TR team shares service to students and the safety of our students as top priorities. We recognize the important role safety plays in student learning.

When students feel safe, they're more engaged in the classroom, they are less likely to suffer from depression, and they are less likely to be absent from school. As a result, learning outcomes increase. That is why TR is committed to creating school climates and campuses that celebrate and value safety and provide a wide range of opportunities for students to connect with one another. School connection is the single most impactful contributor to a student's feelings of safety at school.

Our staff is deeply mindful of student safety through a multitude of lenses. One example of the efforts we take to ensure student safety is our K-9 detection unit, a 2-year-old Labrador Retriever named Koda and his handler, Officer David Price. Click on the links ([English](#), [Spanish](#), [Hmong](#)) to learn about the unit's primary function to enhance safety throughout the district. Whether it is online safety or physical safety, we are always keeping a watchful eye on what is best for our students. But we cannot do it alone. It takes a community working together. We count on our families to be our partners in this effort. If ever you see or hear of something that you believe has the potential to compromise safety on our campuses, please reach out to school leadership right away. We take all reports seriously.

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I am grateful for a community that values education and acknowledges the important role education plays in the lives of our students and our society. I am grateful for students who work hard every day and staff members who work hard right alongside our students, encouraging them every step of the way. And I am grateful for the opportunity to serve this district. It is my distinct pleasure and tremendous honor to come to work each day.

I wish each of you a safe and relaxing break and hope that you, too, will take time to reflect on that which inspires an attitude of gratitude.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Martinez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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