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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

Nov. 3, 2023

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

I am delighted to share with you some wonderful news that recognizes both student and staff accomplishments. Recently, students took secondary grade benchmark assessments. These are tests that are administered three times a year in grades 7 through 12 to help measure the academic gains and needs of our students in the areas of English language arts (ELA) and math.

We saw gains in both ELA and Integrated Math 1 and 2 (IM1 and IM2). We are incredibly pleased and proud.

English Language Arts (ELA)

7th grade	↑	6.55%
9th grade	↑	9.93%
10th grade	↑	1.46%
11th grade	↑	9.99%

Integrated Math 1

↑ 20%

Integrated Math 2

↑ 6.03%

These data points tell us that students are working hard in their studies, and we can see the rewards of their focus and efforts; teachers are clear on what they want students to learn and are focusing instruction on their continued growth. Support staff and administration are helping to create the conditions for student engagement and learning.

Areas of increased focus moving forward include 8th grade ELA and Integrated Math 3. I am not providing this information because I am concerned, rather, I am passing it along to demonstrate that our team looks honestly at the gains and the dips so we can focus in earnest on the areas that deserve increased attention.

Like all teachers, we look at these results to evaluate our work. To students, tests can seem like something that measures their learning and their abilities, and while this is true, all great teachers know that tests are equally, if not more, important for our work. Assessments, or tests, tell us where we need to regroup, refocus and drill down to help students gain academic traction in specific areas.

I am incredibly proud of our organization for creating and implementing these benchmark assessments as they will guide our work moving forward into this time of the school year when our procedures, patterns and routines are in place so we can focus in earnest on student learning. We look forward to reviewing the results for our K-6 students after the trimester window closes on Nov. 15, 2023. I encourage you to talk to your K-6 students about the benchmark assessments. You can help motivate them and encourage them to do their best on the assessments and in all of their schoolwork. Their results will help us determine our next steps in supporting students.

Families, thank you for reminding your students to always take assessments seriously and remind them that we are not testing them per se, rather our teaching professionals are gathering vital information to help them meet your student's learning needs. If you feel that your student needs additional support or strategies to help them with their homework, please get in touch with your student's teacher, counselor or the site principal. These dedicated TR team members are here for your students.

In addition, we recommend parents work with students in accessing support programs located in the apps portal on student Chromebook under <https://myapps.classlink.com/home> for support. A few of the programs that can support student learning include:

- **Paper** is online virtual tutoring with trained teachers available 24/7
- **i-Ready** for grades K-9 to provide reading intervention support
- **Swun Math** virtual lessons can be utilized to review what was taught in class on a given day
- **Swun Beyond the Basic Facts** online review

Congratulations to our middle and high school students for showing wonderful progress in your learning. We look forward to helping you make the most of the remainder of this school year both in academics and your extra-curricular activities.

Around TR!

- Congratulations to our student-athletes! Three of our high school football teams have reached the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section high school football playoffs - Foothill, Grant and Highlands. Let's pack the stands! Nov. 3 games include: Foothill at Lathrop High School and Highlands at Orestimba High School in Newman. Game time: 7 p.m. Grant will not see action until Friday, Nov. 10.
- We are now scheduling appointments for our Early Childhood Programs with preschool spaces available for the 2023-2024 school year. [Click here for more information.](#)

With warm regards,



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