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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

Sept. 8, 2023

To Staff and the TR School Community,

While there is no single, foolproof recipe for successful teaching, there most certainly is a secret sauce. Students who are seen, known, and feel respected and valued do better in school. In TR, we are constantly evaluating the strategies that we have in place to help deliver this important set of ingredients.

Our teachers work together to collaborate, share best practices, and discuss students' strengths and needs in an effort to make sure that we are offering them all that we can so they can do well in school. While our focus on the classroom is essential, as teaching and learning is the heart of our work, we also spend a great deal of time vetting and adding extracurricular programs that will help our students love coming to school.

To this point, this year TR added girls flag football to the high school athletic offerings. This program is certified by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), and gives our athletes the opportunity to participate in a program that is sanctioned for official competition and recognized by our district as a great opportunity for our students.

I realize that no single program or activity will meet the needs of all students, which is why I believe it is imperative that we continually ask ourselves, "Is there more that we can offer our students?" "What might we add or offer that can help more students to engage in school and find meaningful connections with peers and staff?" "What else can we do so that each and every student knows they are seen, known, respected, and valued?"

Last year, we introduced after-school sports programs at our elementary schools, offering a wide range of opportunities for our students to explore different sports at no cost to our families. We have approximately 3,000 students in our comprehensive after-school sports programs for TK-8 students. We also have 4,000 students in our daily after-school (TK-8) programs for academic support and enrichment.

I am proud to share with families and students these examples of student-focused commitments, and I am humbled to thank our dedicated employees for striving to meet all students' needs.

Around TR!

A big congratulations to our very own Patrick Durant, principal at Kohler Elementary! He was nominated by his peers and selected by a review committee at California State University, Sacramento, to receive the 2023 K-12 Equity Leadership Award. Patrick will receive the award during a principals and community college leaders virtual summit on Monday, Sept. 18.

With 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