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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

Feb. 15, 2024

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

Here's to a month of shared learning and collective growth as we celebrate Black History Month!

Our schools are bustling with creative and informative activities, all highlighting contributions of the African American community to our shared heritage. Black history is an integral part of our shared narrative, and each day presents an opportunity for all of us to reflect, learn, grow, and promote a deeper understanding of the cultural, social and historical aspects of Black history.

Around TR, our schools continue to showcase their creativity and engagement through their Black History Month activities, including:

- Oakdale - Children's author Crystal Patterson read to students from her "Inspired to Be" book series. The stories are inspired by real people so children can say: "If they can do that, then so can I."
- CCAA - Flash mob dances in celebration of 50 years of hip-hop, highlighting African American artists, dancers, musicians and actors.
- Rio Linda Prep - Some sixth-period classes decorated their classroom doors to honor African American leaders and innovators.
- Foothill High School - A hallway decorating competition with each graduating class assigned a Black History category (seniors/educators, juniors/science & math, sophomore/historians & Juneteenth/Kwanza, freshmen/entertainment).
- Grant - Lunchtime activities around historical figures and a Black History Month assembly.
- Highlands - Noontime activities including the game Red Light, Green Light, in honor of Garrett Augustus Morgan Sr., who created a new kind of traffic signal in 1923, one with a warning light to alert drivers that they would need to stop.

In addition, our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Department hosted a Feb. 3 community Black History Celebration that featured free blood pressure checks, a hugely popular farmers market, and local children's authors Janay Brown-Wood and Anita Crawford Clark.

We are proud and inspired by the efforts of our students, teachers and staff in offering engaging activities that foster a spirit of inclusivity and unity. We look forward to carrying this spirit of pride, respect, and understanding beyond Black History Month, ensuring that our educational journey remains one of continual growth and appreciation for all the different cultures shaping our district, our community, and the world.

Around TR!

Schools and all District offices will be closed Friday, Feb. 16 and Monday, Feb. 19, in observance of Presidents Days. [Click here to view our student calendar of important 2023-2024 school year dates.](#)

Warm regards,

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

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