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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

Feb. 10, 2023

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

We have some great news to share with you. Rio Linda High School is one of only nine schools in California to be named a 2022-2023 Exemplary Dual Enrollment School! The California Department of Education award recognizes schools that provide students with the unique opportunity to take community college classes while they are still in high school. Currently, 141 Rio Linda students in grades 9-12 are taking college courses through our partnership with American River College.

The district's Dual Enrollment Program is truly special and I can't say enough about the perseverance, hard work and dedication of all 430 students who are part of the program at our comprehensive high schools. The program is a game-changer. Students get a head start on earning college credits and working towards a college degree.

There's more wonderful news. An instruction support plan that was created in our district to benefit students in grades 4 – 6 with their English Language Arts learning is showing incredible results, and we have many people to thank for this incredible accomplishment.

Across all subjects and school activities, student learning is always our most essential purpose.

To this point, our TR teachers take seriously their obligation to deliver powerful instruction to all students. However, the practical reality is that there are many demands on their time—from planning lessons, to identifying the best instructional support materials, to creating different teaching strategies to meet the range of student learning styles and abilities, to connecting with their students to build relationships.

Finding time in the day to do all that is required to create and deliver exceptional instruction and tend to the myriad other responsibilities that teachers and support staff must address is daunting. That is why we pooled a group of teachers—those most familiar with student needs and the curriculum being taught—to design a full-support English Language Arts curriculum.

Our work began in 2018, when an English Language Arts (ELA) Design Team identified essential academic standards, then moved into a process where they curated curricular materials to identify those that would be most effective for teachers; they then piloted the TR ELA lessons in classrooms with support services offered by ELA coaches. Like all good teams, they returned to a "huddle" to review and revise the lessons in response to invaluable input from the classroom teachers.

Today, we are piloting the TR ELA lessons across grades 4 – 6 and with great success. **Recent assessment data show students learning gains as high as 36% and averaging a 14% gain across all grades.** Student achievement is up and it is in large part due to the work that our ELA Design Team began four years ago.

By creating the TR ELA lessons for our teachers, we save them the time required to identify curricular and instructional support so they can focus on taking these lessons and differentiating them for their students' learning styles and needs. They can focus on shaping lessons to meet the needs of our English language learners. They can devote more time to instruction and working directly with students.

I am incredibly proud of the results and even more proud of the powerful and positive collaborative spirit that we see in the ELA team of teachers and coaches who devote time to this project.

Student Learning, Indoors and Out

As rain subsides, we see students in groups large and small out on our athletic fields after school enjoying friends, exercise and the wonderful outdoor learning facilities that we have so proudly added to our schools throughout the district. A trustee shared with me the sentiment that seeing and hearing our fields in use by the children in our TR community is wonderful.

Thanks to our instructional leaders and teachers for continuing to change, grow, modify, and improve our lessons for students; your work is paying off. And thanks to our facilities workers, who are providing our students with remarkable outdoor learning spaces; your work is paying off.

With warm regards,

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

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