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*To inspire each student to  
extraordinary achievement  
every day*

Jan. 20, 2023

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

The new year often inspires us to review current practices and look towards the future with an eye on new possibilities for growth. With this in mind, I would like to challenge each of you to consider the power of literacy and to make increasing literacy for our students a priority this year.

As we support students to achieve their highest potential, it is an undeniable truth that literacy is a driving force in their ultimate success.

This commitment to increasing literacy will look different for each student, as the possibilities are endless for how to make it a reality. Consider encouraging students to set literacy goals for themselves. Let them be the keepers of their own literacy choices. Perhaps they want to read from a different genre or spend time reading aloud to a trusted adult or younger sibling. Maybe they want to read a magazine or try reading a comic book. No matter what students read, the simple act of engaging increases their skills. Be creative in helping them choose.

At home, I encourage parents to talk to their children about reading. Ask them what they are reading in school. Ask them what they are interested in and help them find materials to read that support that interest. Listen to your children read and remember to read to them. I am of the firm belief that no matter how old we get, we never outgrow the pleasure of having a book read aloud to us.

Literacy empowers all of us. Through literacy, we gain independence: independence to make informed choices, independence to advocate, independence to explore our community and our world, and so much more. People who are well-read are leaders and are powerful forces in society. Additionally, there is an undeniable link between literacy and self-confidence.

Through literacy, we open the world to our students. Building confidence as a reader and writer is one of the most important things we can do to help them succeed. That confidence comes naturally with practice. So, this new year, let's make it a commitment to make Twin Rivers a community of readers and writers.

Warmly,

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

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