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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

June 16, 2023

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

I hope your summer days are filled with amazing adventures—the kind of getaways you find in a good book. A good book can transport you to meet new people and experience different lands and cultures, solve mysteries and understand nature. And you can do it all from the comfort of your home or wherever you may be during summer break.

Summer provides so many ideal opportunities for our students and families to enjoy great books together, and that's important! We hear about the "summer slide" when students lose academic ground while out of school. But the close of a school year does not mean that we need to leave reading behind. In fact, research shows that children who read during the summer months are better prepared for the challenges of the next grade level. Children need to read every day to maintain literacy skills and develop new skills. It's essential for their success.

With that in mind, I encourage you to set aside time to establish a reading schedule with your student this summer.

Summer Reading Tips

- i-Ready – i-Ready practice over the summer will help your child improve or maintain their reading skills and students all have access to the i-Ready platform during the summer. Practice 45 minutes per week for optimal effects over the summer.
- Read aloud – Children love to hear your voice and the expressions that you add to a story. This helps our young readers gain vocabulary and a love for reading.
- What's Your Interest? – Encourage students to read about things they enjoy. Sports, sports stars, baseball season, insects, pet care, solving mysteries, exploring dinosaurs—all can be explored through books. Magazines and comic books can also be a great way to help children find pleasure in reading.
- Enroll Your Child in a Summer Reading Program – Many libraries support reading by offering a summer reading program for students. Libraries are a gift to communities. Consider making a trip to the library a habit, so that your children and others in the family can relax, read a magazine or the newspaper, and then check out some interesting books on topics of interest.
- Create a Summer Reading List – Track summer reading progress and engage your child in conversations about the books they read.
- Set a Good Example – Keep lots of reading material around the house, and have everyone in the household set aside time to read, including mom and dad.

Remember, a break from school should not mean leaving reading behind. Reading skills help students of all ages increase their ability to visualize the written word, increase their language and vocabulary, and develop a calm patience that comes from sitting quietly with an interesting book.

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This summer, I look forward to diving into books on leadership, the economy, educational trends, and all football news. I love reading and credit my parents for helping me find good books during the summer when I could read at my own pace, not fret about a quiz or test, just simply read for my own enjoyment.

I hope that everyone in TR finds time to dive into a few great books this summer.

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