



*Board of Trustees*

*Michelle Rivas  
President*

*Michael Baker  
Vice President*

*Christine Jefferson  
Clerk*

*Stacey E. Bastian  
Member*

*Basim Elkarra  
Member*

*Linda Fowler, J.D.  
Member*

*Rebecca Sandoval  
Member*

*Superintendent  
Steve Martinez, Ed.D.*

*To inspire each student to  
extraordinary achievement  
every day*

June 30, 2023

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

Next week, we celebrate the Fourth of July. Also referred to as Independence Day, many of the holiday's celebratory traditions date back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. While people across the country will gather together to enjoy food, fun, concerts, parades and fireworks in honor of our nation's birth, it is of note that there was initially debate over the actual date of our country's independence. On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in support of independence from England. However, the Declaration of Independence was not signed until July 4th. Ultimately, July 4th became the official date of our nation's birth.

Regardless of the date, our Founding Fathers desired to preserve democracy by declaring our nation's independence. Perhaps one of the most important commitments that our nation makes to its people is a free education. The Founding Fathers believed that preserving democracy required an educated population to understand political and social issues, participate in civic life, vote, understand and protect their rights, liberties and freedom.

Public education is essential to the foundation of a strong democracy, and the employees who serve public education are at the heart and soul of the work. So, this Fourth, I salute school employees everywhere and thank you for your contributions to our nation. In the words of the Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, "One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world."

I hope each of you enjoys the Fourth of July and pause for a moment to remind our children that freedom was not free and their education will help to keep it vital.

With that being said, please enjoy a safe holiday with your families and children.

With warm regards,

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

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