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*To inspire each student to  
extraordinary achievement  
every day*

March 17, 2023

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

We are thrilled to celebrate the creative spirit of our amazing and talented students at this year's [Festival of the Arts](#), which will feature a unique blend of visual art and live performances. More than 2,500 elementary and secondary students will participate in this annual event on March 22 that will include a TK-12 visual art exhibit and performances by our combined bands, choirs, instrumental ensembles, and dancers.

We take special pride in the arts education we provide our students, and the Festival of the Arts is a great opportunity to showcase and celebrate their many creative talents.

From the earliest ages, children explore art with joy. The arts provide students of all ages with the freedom to express themselves and to share their unique personality. Whether learning or creating a new dance, mastering a song, or creating a painting, sculpture or drawing, art in all forms teaches invaluable lessons to our children.

The arts offer a unique and engaging way for students to explore their emotions, ideas, and perspectives. Students learn patience and persistence, and that practice does help you improve. Through visual and performing arts our students learn the power of personal expression, that a person's uniqueness is what makes them shine. Arts education also teaches children that there are several paths to an end product—to be creative, think outside the box, and express yourself. When students participate in the arts, they find connections to school that can motivate their learning and increase their confidence. Studies show that increased access and involvement in arts education can encourage students to stay in school, succeed in school, succeed in life, and succeed in work.

Festival of the Arts is a wonderful event, and I encourage the community to join us in celebrating and supporting our talented students and their creativity and achievements in the arts at all grade levels. Each student's art project and each performance is a celebration of expression, patience, and their unique voice.

Families, join me in taking a moment to thank the art teacher in your student's life. From music and dance, to theatre, fine art and photography, video production and more, we have some of the most dedicated and talented Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) instructors working with TR students. We are proud that two of these outstanding educators were honored along with other Sacramento County educators at the Friends of Sacramento Arts Heroes of Arts Education Gala on March 16. Congratulations to Robin Lang, Highlands High art teacher, and Genesis Santos, elementary music teacher for this recognition.

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