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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

March 3, 2023

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

The second semester is a very exciting time for our high school seniors. They are preparing for many special events and celebrations that will culminate in their graduation from high school.

While graduation may seem far off right now, believe me when I say that it will be here before you know it. In anticipation of this momentous event, we want to be sure that all seniors are on track to graduate. If they have not already done so, we are asking all seniors to meet with their counselor as soon as possible and verify that they have done all that they need to do to walk across that stage and receive their diploma (high school graduation ceremonies begin May 31 and continue through June 6).

Since we are on the subject, I think this is an opportune moment to reflect on the significance of graduation with all of our Twin Rivers families. Regardless of grade level, high school graduation is the ultimate goal for every one of our students.

We hold high school graduation ceremonies each year to celebrate our hard-working students who complete all the requirements necessary to receive their diploma and graduate. Graduation is also referred to as commencement. This nomenclature is significant because the word commencement means beginning. Instead of graduation marking the end of one phase of a scholar's life, graduation actually marks the beginning of the next.

At every grade level, we talk about preparing our students for life beyond our schools. Whether they choose to continue their education, enter the workforce, or join the military, whatever their path, our goal as an education community is to ensure that they are prepared. A high school diploma is the official document that conveys to the rest of the world that they are, in fact, prepared. You may not know this, but a high school diploma is requisite for many, if not all, next steps, including entrance into the military and college.

There are many far-reaching benefits to getting a high school diploma. Data tells us that high school graduates have more job opportunities earning higher wages than their peers without a diploma. Graduating high school is also linked to better health and living conditions. Less tangible, but possibly the most important benefit is the self-confidence that rightfully comes along with a diploma. Students can take great pride in their accomplishment and can serve as a positive role model to family, friends, and their community.

We are proud of our high school graduation rate in Twin Rivers. Our graduation rate is 88% and continues to grow steadily. That is higher than both the county and the state averages, which are 84% and 87% respectively. Our short-term goal is a 90% graduation rate. The long-term goal is 100%.

Please talk with your scholar(s) about the importance of graduating from high school and remind them that every day they are getting one step closer to that accomplishment.

Our counselors are here to support families with planning a path to graduate. Please reach out for help or direction.

With warm regards,

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

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