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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

Nov. 4, 2022

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

We all expected learning gaps following the pandemic. So, in TR we were studying, designing and preparing to add resources and support services to help address our students' academic and emotional needs. Gratefully, both the state and federal governments offered school districts funds to build and support increased services to assist with this work, and we are proud to have put in place some innovative programs that are working for our kids.

To be clear, we know that our teachers are dedicating themselves to excellent instruction, and we are grateful. But educators across the country knew that students would need more when they returned to school, which is why we added some innovative and exciting programs for kids in TR.

Key areas where we have dedicated money, time and talent to help students accelerate their learning are reading and student engagement. Why? Reading is the foundation upon which all learning takes place. Engaging activities that help students participate in school, making friends and connecting with school in a positive way is essential to student success.

Reading – TR's Added Services and Supports

During the pandemic, when our schools were closed and students and teachers were working together online, our district was studying the CORE literacy model, working to create professional development for our teachers, and curriculum and supports for our teachers to use so that when we returned from the pandemic, we could hit the ground running.

The process of teaching reading is extremely complex. After distance learning, we knew it would be critical to provide quality training and support to our teachers as they transition back to in-person learning. As educators, it is critical that we have a thorough understanding of the components of reading, the relationships between them, and effective ways to assess progress, gaps, and instructional effectiveness. This training provides teachers and administrators the resources to immediately benefit our students in the classroom.

Thirteen of our schools have selected to be a part of the CORE literacy coaching model this school year, and we plan to roll out the program to additional schools next year. CORE provides expert coaching and support to teachers in grades K through 3 on foundational literacy skills. CORE works with both teachers and administrators throughout the year to improve first best instruction for our youngest learners. In addition to these pilot schools, I am proud to share that 393 teachers across 16 school sites have participated in the CORE online reading academy, which is a seven-week course on the science of reading.

The course teaches educators the five essential components of reading instruction with clear and explicit models immediately applicable to the classroom. I would like to commend these dedicated professionals for taking the time to engage in rigorous professional development to support the literacy instruction for all students.

CORE schools are working to improve literacy across campuses with the goal of every student reading on grade level by third grade.

Student Engagement – Making Connections

Elementary After School Sports – TR offers all elementary students after school sports programs free of charge. No cost to participate and all equipment provided helps to ensure that all students who want to join in are able to do so. Coaches work with students to learn tennis, golf, basketball, baseball, football, soccer and more. We believe that creating this program and fully funding it is a powerful way to help our young learners connect, make friends, get some exercise, and perhaps find an extra-curricular passion at an early age and continue to enjoy their sport through high school.

Anchor Activities –TR continues to provide a range of Anchor Trips for students in grades 3 – 6. We collaborate with community organizations throughout the region to expand their learning by taking them outside the walls of their classroom. Students in third grade participate in interactive visits to the SMUD Museum of Science and Curiosity. Fourth graders travel to Coloma to experience an exciting slice of California’s history at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park. Fifth grade students discover the science behind space exploration, rockets, and aircraft at the Aerospace Museum. Sixth graders grow their confidence and understanding of the work outside at Outdoor Science Camp where they spend three days and two nights exploring science outdoors.

We believe that focusing on these essential ingredients to effective education and adding innovative support services for students is precisely what our students need to succeed.

Around TR

- Congratulations to our Christine Flok, Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Coordinator, recently named a finalist for the 2022 eSchool News K-12 Hero Awards. This national award honors educators for their commitment, creativity, and innovation in helping all students continue to learn while ensuring they feel safe, empowered, and engaged. Christine was nominated for this award by EmpowerU, a company our district works with to provide support for students to help them become more motivated, self-directed, and resilient learners. EmpowerU selected Christine because of the intentional and strategic focus she puts on increasing educator and student mental health.
- Congratulations to all of our TR student athletes who participated in fall sports. Three TR teams made the 2022 CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Girls Volleyball Playoffs—Foothill, Grant and Highlands. Two teams will see action in the 2022 CIF Sac-Joaquin Football Playoffs—Foothill and Grant. In first-round action, Foothill will play at 7 tonight at Dixon High School. Grant has a bye.
- Congratulations to Fiscal Services. For the 13th consecutive year, TR is the recipient of the Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International for the 2022-2023 Adopted Budget. The district is proud to receive this prestigious award for our commitment to sound fiscal management and budgetary policies.

Warm regards,



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