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*To inspire each student to  
extraordinary achievement  
every day*

Oct. 14, 2022

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

Knowing that students who are well supported in school perform better and have an increased sense of confidence and commitment to their learning and academic achievement, it is my great honor to announce that TR is the proud recipient of a California School Boards Association Golden Bell Award in recognition of the tremendous work that we are doing to offer high-quality support systems for students in support of their social and emotional well-being and academic needs.

TR launched a comprehensive Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Initiative to ensure every student who is not performing to their potential is identified early and is supported through academic, social-emotional, and behavioral support, depending on each child's specific needs. This TR initiative, which is helping students succeed to their highest potential, is being recognized as an example of exceptional work in California public schools.

In 2015, we saw a need to more efficiently align our resources to meet the needs of all students. In response, the TRUSD Board of Trustees approved a multi-year plan to implement the MTSS Initiative. We spent time early on building capacity and relationships, establishing trust, and encouraging growth mindsets. This work laid the foundation for the successful program that we see in our schools today. Initially, we focused our efforts on students in grades K-8. The initiative has now grown to support students in all grade levels, including our high school and preschool students, as well.

A key ingredient to the success of our MTSS Initiative is the ability to target individual students' needs with tailored supports. This is not a one-size-fits-all or one service for all schools and students, rather it allows us to be nimble, precise and targeted when addressing students' challenges.

I am very pleased to report the data tells us that as a result of the MTSS Initiative, we have seen positive outcomes for students, which include a decrease in the number of suspensions, and an overall growth in literacy skills. Less tangible, but definitely noticeable, are the changes in our students, such as more mindfulness in the classroom. Finally, perhaps one of the greatest achievements of this initiative is our attention to equity in closing the opportunity gaps, which in the past have disproportionately impacted some of our students.

The Golden Bell Awards are bestowed annually in a variety of categories to acknowledge outstanding and innovative work in public schools throughout California. The awards are presented each year at the California School Boards Association's Annual Conference in December to board members who have set the vision and led the charge for change. TR Trustees will proudly accept our award at that time and we look forward to displaying it here in our district office display case for all to see!

I am grateful to the Board of Trustees for allocating the resources to fund this initiative, to our district leadership team for their incredible design team leadership, and to our educators and professional support services, who have implemented MTSS so effectively. Our achievements are most noticeable and certainly most impactful when we share common goals and align our work in support of those goals.

Congratulations to the entire TR school community on this accomplishment. I look forward to all that we will continue to do together in support of our students.

Warmly,

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

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