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*To inspire each student to  
extraordinary achievement  
every day*

Oct. 7, 2022

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

I was thrilled to visit school sites last week where teachers are piloting our new English Language Arts (ELA) lessons. These lessons are part of a project that has been in development for nearly three years. In 2019, a group of Twin Rivers teachers came together to adapt the Swun Lesson Design for ELA. These dedicated teachers received extensive training in lesson progressions and utilized the core curriculum to design rigorous lessons for grades K-6. Each of the lessons was carefully examined and reviewed through multiple, qualified individuals and taught in Twin Rivers classrooms where fellow teachers observed and offered constructive input to improve the instruction.

After three years of development, the lessons are ready for piloting. Volunteer schools applied to be a part of the pilot and now have access to these high-quality lessons. In addition to access to the lessons, instructional implementation specialists work with teachers to take feedback and provide support in the implementation of these lessons. As I walked the piloting teacher's classes, I was so encouraged to hear teachers talking about the positive impact the lessons have made on students and how these lessons have supported teachers in lightening their load for planning for instruction.

Jon Highfill, a fifth and sixth grade combination teacher at Ridgepoint, has this to say, "The new ELA lesson design, though admittedly still a work in progress, is providing my students the tools for reading success. It has the potential to unlock a new level of understanding for concepts such as theme, text evidence, and inference. I'm excited about the program and what it will enable my students to accomplish."

The goal and vision for the lessons have always been to provide high-quality lessons while relieving the burden of long hours planning for instruction. We know that teachers spend countless hours outside of the classroom and this is just one way to support teachers while still providing high-quality learning for students.

I am proud of the many people who never stop asking, "How can we improve our service to students, so we help improve our students' outcomes?" Thank you to the many wonderful professionals who created and who are embracing this positive change.

Respectfully,

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

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