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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

Feb. 16, 2023

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

As you can imagine, there's a lot of focus on the district's Dual Enrollment Program after the California Department of Education announced Rio Linda High School is one of only nine schools in the state to be named a 2022-2023 California Exemplary Dual Enrollment School. If you recall, I shared the news with you in my Feb. 10 Friday Update. The Exemplary Dual Enrollment Award is bestowed upon schools that do a superior job offering students the opportunity to enroll in college classes while still in high school. The students are able to earn both high school and college credits for their courses thereby leaving high school with up to 60 college credits already earned. Along with their high school diploma, students can also graduate with an associate of arts degree.

In Twin Rivers, we are especially proud to be able to offer this innovative program. Dual Enrollment is just one way that we are working to achieve our goal to increase high school graduation rates by 2% each year. Evidence shows that dual enrollment programs lead to increased graduation rates, college readiness, and better attendance. It provides students who may not otherwise have gone to college, the chance to gain the confidence necessary to pursue a post-secondary path that includes education. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to all the staff, educators, administrators, parents, and most especially, the students, involved with the Dual Enrollment Program at all of our comprehensive district high schools. Well done one and all!

As we enter the halfway point in the school year, I want to remind all of our families of the importance of regular attendance at school. Making positive attendance a habit begins early in the academic journey, starting as soon as students enter school. We want to build this important habit from an early age because we know that consistent school attendance is a strong predictor of student outcomes. Those students who attend school every day improve their academic prospects and increase their chances for graduating high school. Moreover, when students are not at school, whether the absence is excused or unexcused, we want students to know that we genuinely miss them. We look forward to seeing them each day and helping them achieve their goals. As partners in education, if you need support improving your child's attendance, please contact their teacher or the principal so we can work together to find solutions.

Finally, we all get to enjoy a long weekend in observation of Presidents' Day. Our schools and the district office will be closed Friday, Feb. 17 and Monday, Feb. 20. I hope you enjoy this extended time off.

With warm regards,

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

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