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*To inspire each student to  
extraordinary achievement  
every day*

Sept. 5, 2025

To Staff and Our Twin Rivers Families,

Missing school means missing out. I'm sure you've heard that before, but it's worth repeating—especially as we wrap up day 13 of the new school year. When students miss school, they miss more than just a day of class—they miss valuable instruction, important classroom discussions, and the one-on-one support from their teachers. As we mark Attendance Awareness Month this September, it's the perfect time to focus on the importance of showing up every day.

Students who attend school regularly tend to do better in all their subjects, build confidence, develop good study habits, and stay on track to graduate on time. Every day matters, and starting strong now sets the tone for the whole school year.

Even a few missed days—excused or unexcused—can add up quickly. I once heard someone explain it like this: imagine trying to build a foundation for a house but leaving gaps during the process. Before long, it becomes tough to keep that foundation steady and strong. Missing even one day a week is like that. These absences can make it harder for students to keep up with their classwork and can add stress for both them and their families.

We understand that absences sometimes happen due to illness or important family matters. But making attendance a priority whenever possible is one of the simplest ways to help your child succeed. If your family is facing challenges that make it hard for your child to attend school regularly, please reach out to your school administration. We're here to provide resources and support to help students stay engaged and ready to learn.

Thank you for helping us make every day count. By working together, we can ensure your child is fully engaged, supported, and set up for success.

**#TRUSD Proud Alert!**

We are incredibly proud to recognize 12 Twin Rivers students who have earned academic honors through the College Board National Recognition Program. This program celebrates underrepresented students who excel academically on College Board assessments. This year, the recognitions include the National First-Generation Award and the School Recognition Award. The students have demonstrated what it means to challenge themselves and strive for success, and we are excited to celebrate their accomplishments with our community.

**Foothill High School:**

- Anelu Aina (First-Generation Recognition and School Recognition)
- Samantha Zoe Derecho (First-Generation Recognition and School Recognition)
- Cassidy Tillman (School Recognition)

**Grant Union High School**

- Julio Lara (First-Generation Recognition and School Recognition)

**Rio Linda High School**

- Cynthia Jimenez (First-Generation Recognition and School Recognition)
- Christopher Lua (First-Generation Recognition and School Recognition)
- Eric Lyght (First-Generation Recognition and School Recognition)
- Cristian Munoz Garcia (First-Generation Recognition and School Recognition)
- Brodii Richardson (First-Generation Recognition and School Recognition)
- Ayush Singh (First-Generation Recognition)
- Ava Smith (School Recognition)
- Karime Tot (First-Generation Recognition and School Recognition)

Congratulations to each of you. You are setting a powerful example for your peers and making our entire TR community proud!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Martinez", with a stylized, flowing script.

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