

WE
ARE **TR!**

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**Congratulations,
Graduates!**



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UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Employees of
the year**



Congrats Grads and Welcome Class of 2020!



This moment has been 13 years in the making. Twin Rivers Unified graduates have been working toward this step from their first day in kindergarten. It's been our honor as educators to help each and every student grow and learn along this journey. We've helped them learn about the past, and how to discover new solutions to the problems of our future. We've helped them make the grade, even when that meant learning from failures and finding the strength to push on. We've helped them earn a strong start to any future they choose and graduate well-prepared for college, career and life.

Join me and the entire Twin Rivers community in congratulating the class of 2016 and wishing them continued success.

Each student in every classroom across the district is working step by step, day by day, toward this moment, when they too will take the stage.

At the close of this school year, we are already looking forward to the beginning of the next. We welcome those students who will be promoting to the next level. We applaud our sixth-graders, who have grown so much since kindergarten and

are ready to leave elementary school behind. We recognize the accomplishments of eighth-graders who are promoting to high school, the Class of 2020, their eyes perhaps already on college. We're readying our classrooms and campuses to welcome them as they begin the next phase of their journey with Twin Rivers in the fall.

But we won't soon forget the Class of 2016. We'll be watching as you set off across our region and across the nation, following your own unique path. We hope as you work toward achieving the dream you hold in your heart, you won't forget about everyone you've met along the way and those who have championed your successes. We await great things from you!

We Are TR!

— Dr. Steven
Martinez
*Superintendent of
Twin Rivers Unified
School District*



TR Talk



"What are you most looking forward to about high school?"



"Electives, because I think [they're] really fun and I'm really looking forward to sports medicine."

Eduardo Barron
Eighth grade,
Foothill Ranch
Middle School



"I'm looking forward to learning new things and seeing what college I want to go to. I want to do architecture or art, anything in that field."

Le'Breon Clausell
Eighth grade,
Norwood Junior
High School



"I'm looking to get a good education because some high schools offer a good education that will prepare you for college, and that's really important."

Sherlyn Villalobos
Eighth grade,
Martin Luther King Jr.
Technology Academy



"I'm looking forward to all the different organizations and clubs and experiencing sports at the high-school level."

Jordan Davis
Eighth grade,
Rio Tierra Junior
High School



"I'm looking forward to all of the classes, like architecture and JROTC. I'm also looking forward to Leadership. I love being in Leadership because ... I love to inspire people."

Cristina Stefanescu
Eighth grade
Rio Linda Preparatory
Academy

Success by Any Measure



Results



Graduation rates
rose from 77% to
82.9%
in 2015, **exceeding**
county and
state averages.



Dropout rates
fell from 15.3%
in 2014 to
9.2%
in 2015, **lower**
than county and
state averages.

8

Twin Rivers schools were honored with the
California Gold Ribbon Schools Award
by the California Department of Education

12% reduction in suspensions

21% increase in the
number of students taking Advanced Placement
courses

Pacific Career & Technology High School named 2016
Model Continuation High School by the California Department of Education

Out of the district's 4 comprehensive
high schools, 3 have graduation rates of
90% or higher

5.2% increase in the number of
English learners reclassified to fluent English
proficient

9

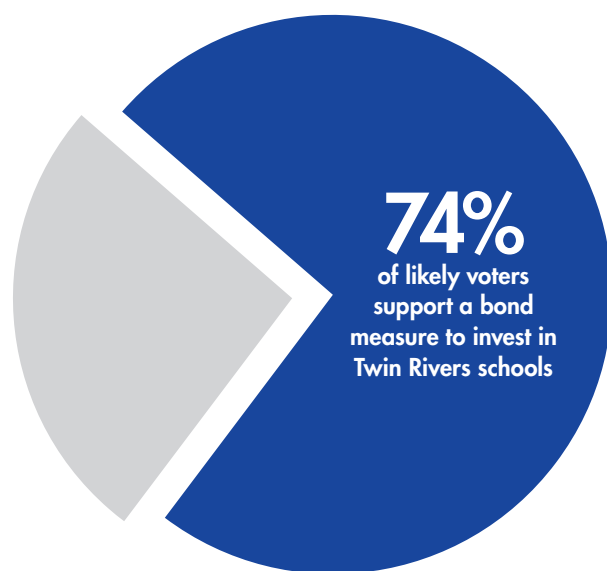
Dell Scholars between 2013-2016
each awarded a \$20,000 scholarship and
laptop

4,000

students took the
Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) free

Voters Support Twin Rivers Schools

by Kate Gonzales



When it comes to supporting local schools, many residents within Twin Rivers Unified School District are willing to invest in our local students.

In March, Twin Rivers completed telephone surveys with 600 likely voters to determine the level of support for November 2016 bond measures that would invest in the district's schools. The potential measures would put \$140 million toward elementary schools and \$148 million toward middle and high schools. That money would fund education and safety improvements on Twin Rivers campuses.

The poll found that 74 percent of likely voters support the bond for middle and high schools and 72 percent supported the elementary school funding. A high number of respondents — 85 percent — believe it's very important to use funding to ensure schools are safe for students, and more than 70 percent believe career and college preparation are very important.

Bill McGuire, deputy superintendent of administrative services, says a safe and modern learning environment sets the stage for student excellence.

"There are studies that show that high-quality facilities lead to high-quality achievement," McGuire says, adding the district has a firm plan for improvements. "Through the Long Range Facilities Master Plan, we have documented the needs of the schools, the students and the staff."

That plan is a 25-year road map for repairs and upgrades in district schools, including fixing outdated heating and air systems, improving vocational facilities and upgrading math and science classrooms.

The recent voter survey was the second of three that the district planned in partnership with a leading California polling firm. The final survey of 600 likely voters will be in June, and in July the board of trustees will decide whether to pursue a ballot measure for November.

View Twin Rivers' Long Range Facilities Master Plan to learn about the district's plan for the future: www.twinriversusd.org/misc/masterplan.



by Natasha von Kaenel

Your 2016

Rio Linda High School

Ever since **Navpreet Gill** was a child, she has wanted to be a doctor. So while she is proud to be valedictorian, she knows her academic journey is far from over. “This was sort of a stepping stone for college and then med school. It was important for me to build a strong foundation of knowledge now.”

Navpreet built that foundation by competing in the academic decathlon all four years of high school. In her junior and senior years, Navpreet became her team’s captain. “I think that’s what I’m most proud of,” she says. “It’s rigorous work. But it’s fun.”

Navpreet wants to thank her calculus teacher, Bill Fitch, and her chemistry teacher, Vladimir Gavrilov, for helping her succeed.

“Both of them together have really pushed me, making me work harder than I thought I could,” she says.

Navpreet will attend UC Davis in the fall and has plans to major in biological sciences.



Foothill High School

Oscar Vergara gets his inspiration and drive from his parents, Oscar and Isela.

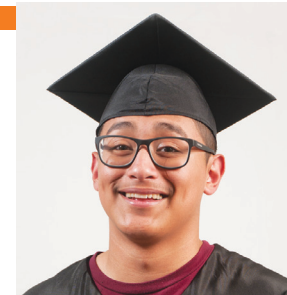
“My parents emigrated from Mexico and they didn’t have any education whatsoever,” he says.

Neither parent was able to attend class past grade school. Oscar says having opportunities his parents never did motivated him to make the most of them.

“My parents sacrificed everything they had known just to come here, to give us a better opportunity,” he says. “This was my way of paying them back. I had to do great in school.”

It was sometimes difficult for Oscar to maintain an active social life, juggling his academics and a position on the varsity soccer team. But in the end, he says he is proud to be valedictorian of Foothill High School and says his parents are proud, too.

As an avid gamer, like “every other teenage boy,” Oscar hopes to develop video games of his own in the future. In the fall, he will attend Cal Poly and plans to major in computer science.



Creative Connections Arts Academy

For **Lorissa Ekstedt**, getting to the finish line was a sweeter reward than the first place prize.

“I am just proud that I made it to the end of high school,” she says. “I never gave up [or] dropped out. ... The fact that I am valedictorian on top of that is a plus.”

Lorissa is the fourth of five kids and stands out as the most academically inclined of the bunch.

“I think it was a little unexpected for my parents,” she says.

Lorissa credits Señor Raul Murillo, her Spanish teacher, with helping her believe in herself and her studies.

“He has taught me a lot about work ethic and has encouraged me to follow my dreams and go to college,” she says.

Lorissa will be attending American River College, possibly transferring her junior year. She hasn’t yet decided on a major, but loves languages and is looking at the humanities.



Keema High School

It takes a village to raise a child — and, in the case of **Jodie Kordovez-Olson**, a valedictorian. Graduating senior at Keema High School, Jodie credits the support of her family, teachers and peers for helping her get where she is today.

Jodie says that students and staff at Keema High School always encouraged her to focus on her studies. Her 11th-grade teacher, Larry Deckard, was a constant source of support.

“He was really nice and friendly. We would talk a lot, and that helped me want to have good grades,” she says.

Outside of the classroom, her mom also pushed Jodie to excel in her education. “My mom always told me, ‘Just try to get all A’s. I know you can. You never know, maybe you could be valedictorian.’” Jodie laughs, “I guess she was right.”

Jodie is currently attending American River College with plans to transfer to a four-year university. She dreams of one day becoming a nurse.



NEXT STEPS TO SUCCESS

We’re sad to say farewell, but glad to think of all the fantastic places you’ll go. From our own backyard to locales across the country and even the world, Twin Rivers graduates are poised to make their mark. Here are just a few of the colleges, universities and branches of armed service that will welcome the Twin Rivers Class of 2016 as they take their next steps.

- UC Berkeley
- UC Davis
- UC Irvine
- UC Los Angeles
- UC Santa Barbara
- UC Santa Cruz
- University of Arizona
- University of Rhode Island

Valedictorians



Cover Story

Photos by Anne Stokes

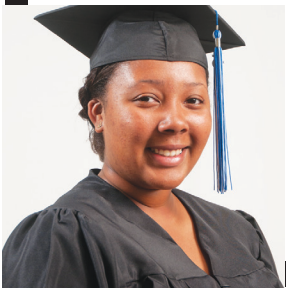
Pacific Career & Technology High School

Unlike many graduating seniors, **Tayylor Rogers** knows exactly what she wants to do, down to the exact job title.

"I want to be a diagnostic medical sonographer," she says. "I want to be there to tell the woman if they are

having a boy or a girl. I want to help in that process, to build that bond."

Tayylor



will attend Cosumnes River College in pursuit of that dream. But during her four years of high school, Tayylor wasn't always so sure of the future, or herself.

She credits Andrea Dawson, a counselor at Pacific Career & Technology High School, for helping her remember to never stop trying her best.

"Whenever I wanted to give up, she was there — still to this day. She was there to tell me, 'You have to get it done ... You have to do what you have to do.'"

Grant Union High School

Most high school graduates remember the end of their junior year filled with stress of AP tests, exit exams and finals.

But **Heriberto Espinosa** remembers something different. During this crucial time, his family

found themselves without a stable place to call home.

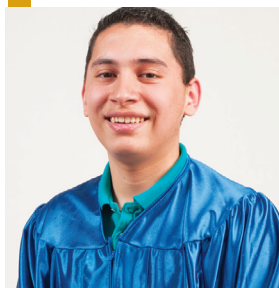
"[We] moved around from place to

place, hotel to hotel, family to family and on the streets as well," he says. "That's when you really ask, 'What am I going to do? Muscle through this or give up?'"

For one month, with no reliable place to study or sleep, Heriberto struggled academically, but kept his grades up.

"I am definitely appreciative of the experience," he says. "Going through that, I learned to be tighter with my family and to appreciate basic necessities."

Heriberto received a full scholarship from UC Berkeley and plans to major in engineering physics.



Highlands High School

Inna Kachur isn't the only valedictorian in her family, and she hopes not the last. "It began with my sister. I just followed her footsteps," she says.

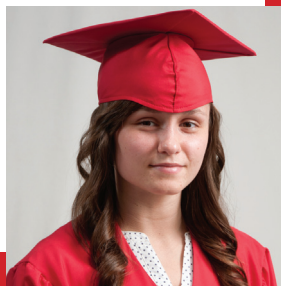
Inna's parents, Aleksandr and Alla, emigrated from Ukraine to Sacramento when she was 1 year old. Since then, they have pushed their children to do their best.

"It was hard being from another country, so [achieving academically] was a way to prove we were capable of achieving what we wanted in life," Inna says.

After listening to her relatives talk about their careers in health, Inna was inspired. "I felt like I wanted to make a difference as well, just like they do."

She is currently volunteering at a hospital and plans to pursue a degree in nursing at CSU Sacramento.

As for her younger brother Alex, currently a junior at Highlands High School, Inna laughs, "I am making sure he will also be valedictorian. AP classes all the way."



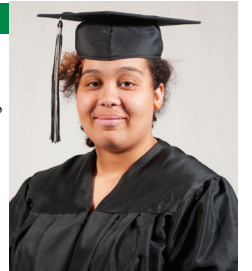
Vista Nueva Career & Technology High School

Lydia Washington wants to be a force for good. But after taking too many AP classes and suffering from intense anxiety attacks, it became too difficult to manage her workload.

"I want to change the world, but I have to complete high school to do that," she says. Lydia transferred to Vista Nueva Career & Technology High School, a continuation high school, and credits her teachers for giving her the structure and support she needed to succeed.

With less homework, she was able to get more involved in extracurricular activities. She began shooting photos for yearbook, started a multicultural club, organized a poetry hangout after school and still had time to practice stand-up comedy with her friends.

Lydia saw how continuation high schools can help students regain their passion for education. She plans to attend Sacramento City College and one day teach history at a continuation high school.



- University of Wyoming
- Utah State University
- University of Nevada
- Mills College
- Wiley College
- Seton Hall University
- CSU Sacramento
- CSU Monterey Bay

- CSU Stanislaus
- San Jose State University
- CSU Fresno
- CSU Channel Islands
- CSU Chico
- Grambling State University
- Bethune-Cookman University
- Benedict College

- American River College
- Sacramento City College
- Sierra College
- Yuba College
- Shasta College
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Army
- U.S. Navy

- U.S. Marine Corps
- The Art Institute of California
- Cal Poly Pomona
- University of Portland



Meet Twin Rivers' Outstanding Staff

by Kate Gonzales

Twin Rivers Unified School District believes in recognizing excellence. This year, scores of staff at all levels are being recognized for making an impact in students' lives.

The 2016-2017 School Teachers of the Year were named this spring, as were the 2016 Classified Employees of the Year. Teacher nominations came from each campus, and classified employees were nominated by campuses as well as district departments.

There was a committee review of nominated staff members who have been recognized for their exemplary performance.

"It's an opportunity for the district to recognize and highlight the extraordinary work being performed to support student success," says Gina Carreon, assistant superintendent of human resources. She adds that everyone has an important role in fostering a positive environment — from bus drivers to teachers to cafeteria staff.

"To educate the whole child, it requires collaboration by all stakeholders," she says. "All play a vital and key role in creating an environment that promotes and encourages student achievement and success."

Congratulations to all Twin Rivers Unified Teachers of the Year and Classified Employees of the Year.

Meet your school's outstanding staff:

Allison Elementary

Teacher: Anita Loeffler

Classified: Nancy Olson

Babcock Elementary

Teacher: Briana Caluya

Classified: Joey Gutierrez

Castori Elementary

Teacher: Sarah Smith

Classified: Lelia Brown

Creative Connections Arts Academy

Teacher: Debbie Rowden

Classified: Kristina Ward

Del Paso Heights Elementary

Teacher: May Yang

Classified: Ivan Kotyay

Dry Creek Elementary

Teacher: Laura Reynaga

Classified: Marjorie Wilhelm

Fairbanks Elementary

Teacher: Laura Oakes

Classified: Sarah Burton

Foothill High School

Teacher: Jennifer Jim

Classified: Margaret Caudill

Foothill Oaks Elementary

Teacher: Thu Vogeley

Classified: Paula Pinedo

Foothill Ranch Middle School

Teacher: Cris Standley

Classified: Mariah Gentry

Frontier Elementary

Teacher: Suzy Brusca

Classified: Doris Stone

Garden Valley Elementary

Teacher: Sylvia Carrasco-De Haro

Classified: La Tawnia Taylor

Grant Union High School

Teacher: Jonathan Young

Classified: Linda Sierra

Hagginwood Elementary

Teacher: Laura Satran

Classified: Bonnie Pancho

Harmon Johnson Elementary

Teacher: Sarah Stepanski

Classified: Gary Mahon

Hazel Strauch Elementary

Teacher: Michelle Peri

Classified: Irma Gonzalez

Highlands High School

Teacher: Brad Betschart

Classified: Felecia Lee

Hillsdale Elementary

Teacher: Michelle Dice-Hodgdon

Classified: Julie Rhea

Joyce Elementary

Teacher: Angela Lakey

Classified: Robert Petersen

Keema High School

Teacher: Mohamed Bashamak

Classified: Roseann Ames

Kohler Elementary

Teacher: Ann Kennedy

Classified: Jewel Ufland

Madison Elementary

Teacher: Jeff Howell

Classified: Michelle Keen-Smith

Martin Luther King Jr. Technology Academy

Teacher: Laureen Riddick

Classified: Sherra Booth

Top: Deputy
Superintendent Bill
McGuire and District
Teacher of the Year
Jennifer Jim of Foothill
High School.

Bottom: District Teacher of
the Year Suzy Brusca of
Frontier Elementary.
Photos by Mike Noga



Twin Rivers Unified School District has recognized dozens of staff members who
are making a positive impact for the district and its students.
Photos by Nicole Smith

Miles P. Richmond School

Teacher: Alicia Sansing
Classified: Deen Ahumada

Morey Avenue Early Child Development Center

Teacher: Rala Dayal
Classified: Roger Geer

Noralto Elementary

Teacher: Karly Graham
Classified: Fred Figueroa

Northwood Elementary

Teacher: Loretta Bandlely
Classified: Robert Kemp

Norwood Junior High School

Teacher: John Whitelaw
Classified: Suzanne Mauricio

Oakdale Elementary

Teacher: Gina Ripley
Classified: Shamra Caine-Bowie

Orchard Elementary

Teacher: Jennifer Ray
Classified: Ofelia Topete

Pacific Career & Technology High School

Teacher: Keira Kirby
Classified: Gary Draper

Pioneer Elementary

Teacher: Tisha Smith
Classified: Reva Brown

Regency Park Elementary

Teacher: Teri Avery
Classified: Sharilyn Marshall

Ridgepoint Elementary

Teacher: Michelle Bricker
Classified: Diane Lunbeck

Rio Linda High School

Teacher: Bill Fitch
Classified: Monica Taylor

Rio Linda Preparatory Academy

Teacher: Bradley Drake
Classified: Jennifer Lynn

Rio Tierra Junior High School

Teacher: Jodie Stueve
Classified: Darlene Dunn

Sierra View Elementary

Teacher: Carrie Ringstrom
Classified: Kurt Carver

Smythe Academy of Arts and Sciences (Preschool-6)

Teacher: Kristin Scott
Classified: Alice Cha

Smythe Academy of Arts and Sciences (7-8)

Teacher: Mark Taylor
Classified: Madora Thomas

Village Elementary

Teacher: Victoria Jungsten
Classified: Donna Cantrell

Vista Nueva Career & Technology High School

Teacher: Timbre Beck
Classified: Rosemarie Folsom

Westside Elementary

Teacher: Sandy McBee
Classified: Daniel Zhao

Westside Preparatory Charter School

Teacher: Thomas Cope
Classified: Daniel Zhao

Woodlake Elementary

Teacher: Linh Le
Classified: Debbie Toland

Woodridge Elementary

Teacher: Stacey Pratt
Classified: Meghann Lerno

MORE CLASSIFIED STAFF RECOGNITION

District Office – Communications

Roman Rykun

District Office – Student Services

Guyleene Brantley

District Office – Instructional Technology

Jamie Manalo

Police Services

Brian Rahlf

Transportation

Diana Ridgley

Winona Center – Lower Level

Kim Gothier

Winona Center – Upper Level (West)

Dawn Jones

Winona Center – Upper Level (East)

Kenton Taylor

Congrats to the Twin Rivers Community

Another great year has come to a close, marked by both challenges and triumphs. Students, teachers, parents, staff and the whole community have contributed to our finest moments and successes throughout the year. While we all take a moment to reflect on a job well done, we're already looking forward to next year. Twin Rivers staff are hard at work preparing for the 2016-2017 school year, planning new ways to improve what we do and to continue to push our community to achieve excellence.

With you as our partners, we're building something great for every Twin Rivers student.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

We're already looking forward to the first day of school: **August 9, 2016.**

Is your child enrolled for next fall? Visit www.twinriversusd.org to connect with schools in your neighborhood.

SUMMER MEAL PROGRAM

This summer, Twin Rivers Nutrition Services will be offering FREE meals to children 18 and younger twice a week.

We will be serving Domino's "Smart Slice" pizza, featuring a whole grain crust, less fat and reduced sodium.

No meal application is required!

Find participating school sites online at www.twinriversusd.org. Or call 2-1-1 for times, dates and locations throughout the greater Sacramento area.



Twin Rivers Unified School District
5115 Dudley Blvd.
McClellan, CA 95652
916-566-1600

Visit www.twinriversusd.org for:



List of schools



District news



Parent resources

2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR

KEEP TRACK OF ALL IMPORTANT TWIN RIVERS DATES AT:

www.twinriversusd.org/calendar

AUGUST 2016

8/9 First day of school

SEPTEMBER 2016

9/5 Labor Day

OCTOBER 2016

10/7 End of grading period, grades 7-12

NOVEMBER 2016

11/11 Veterans Day

11/15 TK-6th grade shortened day

11/17-11/18 Non-student day; TK-6th grade parent/teacher conferences

11/21-11/25 Thanksgiving

DECEMBER 2016

12/20-12/21 First semester final exams/minimum day (high school)

12/21 End of grading period, grades 7-12/minimum day

12/22-1/6 Winter Break

JANUARY 2017

1/9 Students return from Winter Break

1/16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

1/27 Non-student day

FEBRUARY 2017

2/17 & 2/20 Presidents Day

2/24 End of grading period, TK-6th grade

MARCH 2017

3/17 End of grading period, grades 7-12

3/24 Non-student day

APRIL 2017

4/10-4/14 Spring Break

MAY 2017

5/29 Memorial Day

5/31-6/1 Second semester final exams/minimum day (high school)

6/1 Last day of school/minimum day/end of grading period