

Back to School
2019

Page
2

Superintendent's
Message

Page
3

Facilities
Improvements

Page
6

Featured
Programs

TwinRivers
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

WE
ARE **TR!**

Your Future
Starts Here!

Twin Rivers helps all students achieve their dreams

Page
4



More Progress to Come

How wonderful to see our schools humming with activity after a long summer break. With all the excitement and boundless energy around the district, it is clear to me that Twin Rivers Unified feels what I am feeling – that our journey together to improve outcomes for all students is astonishing.

Growth & Gains

Our meaningful work together this past school year brought steady progress on many fronts. More students are meeting or exceeding standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and math. The District's ELA scores are up 2 percent and math scores are up 2 percent. The number of students meeting or exceeding standards has increased 11 percent in ELA and 6 percent in math during the past four years.

We are encouraged, but far from satisfied. Our district still faces significant challenges to ensure all students are meeting or exceeding California standards for ELA and math. By the 2021-2022 school year, the expectation is that each school will grow no less than 4 percent in ELA and 7 percent in math each year.

Our goal is to connect with each student, recognize and appreciate their unique needs and deliver an education that fulfills all their hopes and aspirations for college and/or careers. We educate the whole child, providing one of the most vibrant visual and performing arts programs in the area, student leadership opportunities, and successful athletics. In addition, thousands of students in grades 3-6 (7,135 in 2018-19) participate in educational field trips aligned with their coursework.

Graduation Rate

California Department of Education (CDE) has not yet released the latest graduation rate, but we expect it to exceed the county

and state average as it did in the 2017-2018 school year at 84.6 percent (most updated information available).

School Safety

Twin Rivers is a great place for students and staff to learn and grow in a safe and secure environment. We constantly train and prepare for emergencies, making schools one of the safest places in the community. We are fortunate that TR is one of only 23 schools districts in California with its own police department. Police Services works closely with our school site administrators to hold monthly Site Safety Team meetings to discuss any concerns and strategies necessary to ensure the safety of students and staff. We are constantly evaluating and assessing every facet of our security and emergency procedures to ensure the safety of those we serve.

Parental Involvement

We have a lot of hard work ahead of us and I encourage families to stay involved at their school sites. You can begin by attending your school's back-to-school night or other orientation events. Be a part of your School Site Council (SSC), the District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC), SELPA Community Advisory Committee, and the English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC). You can also serve as a volunteer in our district, especially as a chaperone on field trips. Also, ask your child's teachers what you can do at home to reinforce and extend what your school is doing.

Budget – Moving Forward

The entire Twin Rivers school community has every reason to be excited and optimistic as the new academic year moves forward. The results of the collaborative and dedicated work of our staff, parents and students are promising. While there

is no question we are a stronger and more vibrant district, we still face substantial challenges, including a longstanding structural deficit. We have implemented \$16.9 million in budget reductions since the 2017-2018 school year, and now must identify an additional \$3.8 million in reductions for the 2020-2021 school year.

Whatever the budget outcome, it will not hamper our ability to serve students now and in the future, as we remain committed to our goals. There is a possibility we may close/consolidate some of our schools as we move forward. We have a Student Housing Committee looking at all options to cope with the fiscal realities of declining enrollment and ensuring the best possible academic outcomes for all students. The Board of Trustees will need to approve any recommendations.

So much is happening throughout the district! Despite the challenges, I am excited to see what our students and staff will accomplish in 2019-2020. Again, I encourage you to stay involved, take a moment to reflect on how far we have come, and how special it is to be a part of TR. Your partnership and support are crucial, the key to student success.

You can make a difference! Get involved. Stay connected.

— Dr. Steve Martinez,
*Superintendent,
Twin Rivers Unified
School District*



STUDENT HOUSING COMMITTEE

On July 2, the Twin Rivers Unified Board of Trustees approved a new Board Policy (**BP 7112**) that “defines the planning parameters relative to enrollment capacity for new and existing schools.” BP 7112 is the work of the District's Student Housing Committee, appointed in March 2019 to review the Board's policy on student housing issues — such as optimal school size, optimal school grade configurations, school consolidation, school boundaries and staffing.

Twin Rivers has 46 TK-12 schools for approximately 25,700 students — too many schools for the number of students we currently educate compared to other districts. SHC, which will continue to meet through Sept. 17, has not yet made any recommendations on consolidating or closing specific schools.

You can find more information on SHC and the District budget by visiting the following web pages:

- <http://www.twinriversusd.org/Operations/Administrative-Services/Student-Housing-Committee/index.html>
- <http://www.twinriversusd.org/Operations/Fiscal-Services/Budget-Services/District-Budget-101/index.html>





Keeping Schools 'Warm, Safe and Dry'

Several schools get facility upgrades this summer

BY ANNE STOKES

While students and faculty were on break this summer, Twin Rivers Unified School District was hard at work ensuring they have safe and comfortable schools to return to this fall. Throughout the district, several sites benefited from new roofing, paving, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) projects.

"We're looking at trying to create a warm, safe and dry learning environment for students and minimize distractions," says Perry Herrera, Twin Rivers' Director of Facilities Construction and Engineering. "We're public servants, it's what we're here for. We're trying to provide the best for our students. We're turning out some really good, high quality projects on time and on budget."

Sites in most need were identified using the district's work order system. Herrera says the goal was to proactively provide much needed upgrades and maintenance, rather

than react to emergencies as they happen. Herrera estimates the new roofs will last for the next 25 years and the HVAC systems are expected to last up to 20 years.

"If the roof leaks, it creates numerous other work orders — paint, carpet, lights, ceiling tiles — because of the drips," Herrera says. "It's a poor learning environment for students ... and pulls away from other funds we could use in other areas."

Also completed this summer at several sites were bus loop paving projects to keep students and staff safe and ensure each site's parking lot is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

According to Herrera, many facilities had outlasted their

normal lifespan and were due for major updates.

"When you sit down in a classroom, you want to be cool, you want to feel the AC. You don't want to feel the heat," he says. "Students and staff need this and deserve this."

"We're looking at trying to create a warm, safe and dry learning environment for students."

Perry Herrera
Twin Rivers Director of Facilities Construction and Engineering



Harmon Johnson Elementary benefited from much needed upgrades and maintenance over the summer.

PHOTO BY ANNE STOKES

FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS

Summer facilities projects across the district include:

Roofing repairs and upgrades

- Fairbanks Elementary
- Garden Valley Elementary
- Harmon Johnson Elementary
- Kohler Elementary
- Martin Luther King Jr. Tech Academy
- Oakdale Elementary
- Rio Linda High School
- Village Elementary
- Vineland Preschool

Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems

- Del Paso Heights Elementary
- Fairbanks Elementary
- Garden Valley Elementary
- Hagginwood Elementary
- Keema High School
- Northwood Elementary
- Hazel Strauch Elementary
- Woodlake Elementary

Paving bus loops and ADA upgrades

- Dry Creek Elementary
- Foothill Oaks Elementary
- Oakdale Elementary
- Village Elementary

Modular classrooms

- Regency Park Elementary
- Oakdale Elementary

Classroom modernization

- Three rooms at Grant Union High School



RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

TRUSD is paying attention to its budget and keeping the community informed

BY THEA MARIE ROOD

Twin Rivers is lucky in two ways: It has experienced professionals who can steer the district through any budgetary challenges coming its way and it has unique sources of funding.

“Our goal is to have excellent teachers and programs, but make sure we are fiscally sound,” says Kate Ingersoll, Executive Director of Fiscal Services. “We have very committed, knowledgeable upper level staff and they make sure we’re planning ahead and not just reacting to things.”

An example of that, says Ingersoll, is the decision three years ago to put money into raising teachers’ salaries. “We are one of, if not, the highest paying district in the area,” she says. “We did this purposefully to bring in great teachers for our students.”

TRUSD also receives extra funding because of something called unduplicated pupil counts, which are defined in the state Education Code as students who receive free or reduced lunch, are in the foster care system or are English learners.

“Eighty-five percent of our students fall into one of these categories,” Ingersoll says. “So we receive \$60 million in additional funding. This results in such dynamic programs and staffing.”

The district, however, is deficit spending — spending more than is coming in. Why?

“The first reason is we had a large, unexpected declining enrollment last year and are expecting some declining enrollment this year,” she explains. “This reduces our Local Control Funding Formula [through the California Department of Education].”

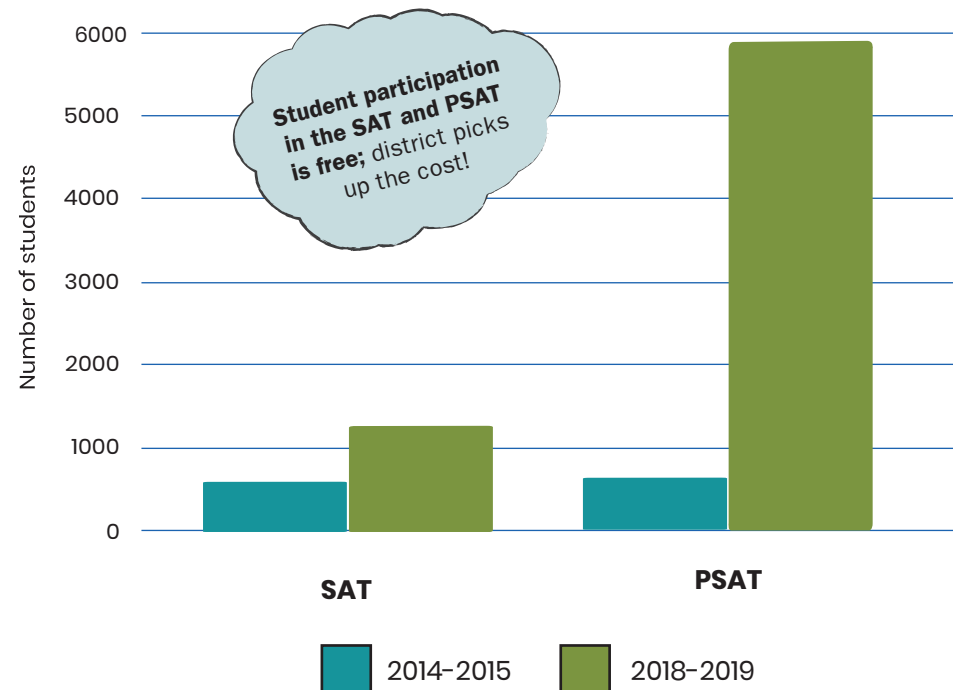
The second issue is an increase in both the number of special education students and the costs associated with their support. And the third is the rise in employers’ contributions to employees’ retirement systems, namely CalSTRS and CalPERS.

“Those three items are outpacing revenue,” Ingersoll says.

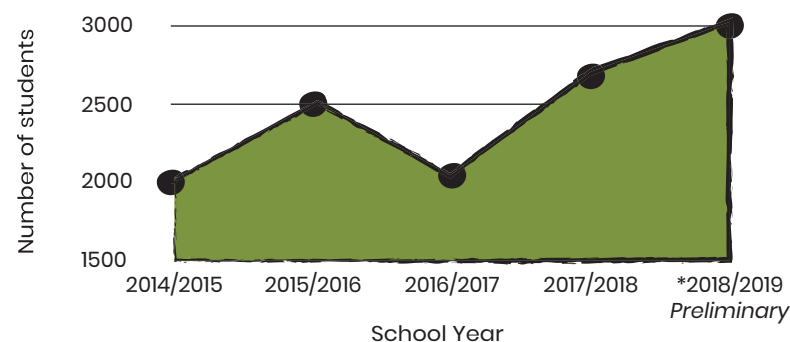
In response, the district has put together the Budget Communication Plan that will keep all stakeholders informed on a regular basis. “It will let people know what the status of the district budget is, how and why is that happening, and what does it mean for my child,” Ingersoll says. “We also have a Student Housing Committee that is looking at proposals to give to the Board of Trustees.”

Twin Rivers **Excels**

MORE STUDENTS ARE PARTICIPATING IN SAT AND PSAT



MORE STUDENTS ARE PARTICIPATING IN CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION



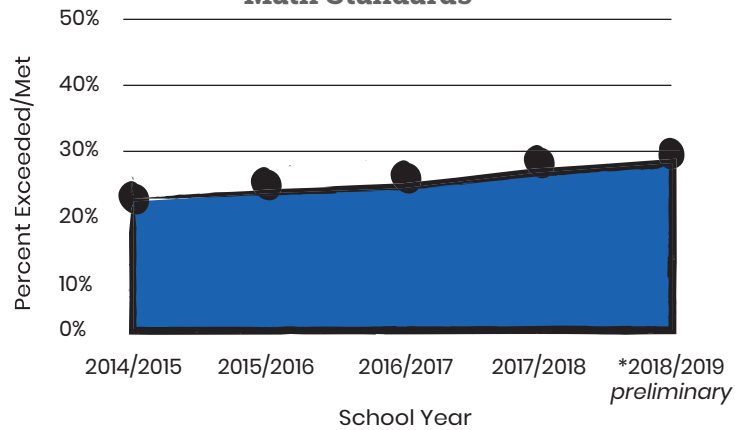
GRAD
IN
75.3% IN 2

Percentage of
Graduates
86%
72%
78%
74%
2012/13

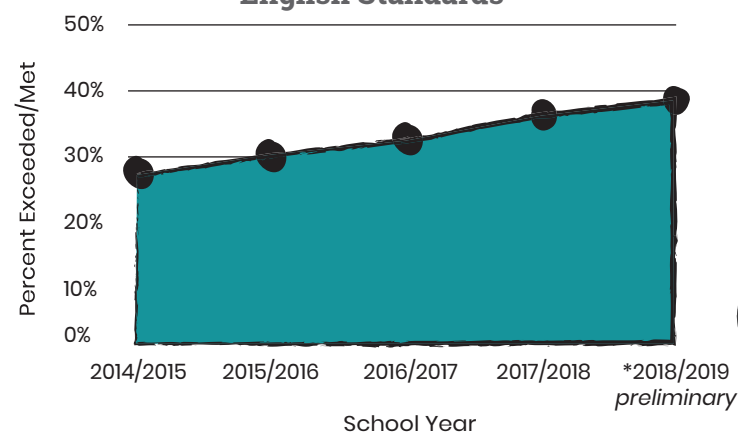


TEST SCORES ARE IMPROVING

Math Standards



English Standards



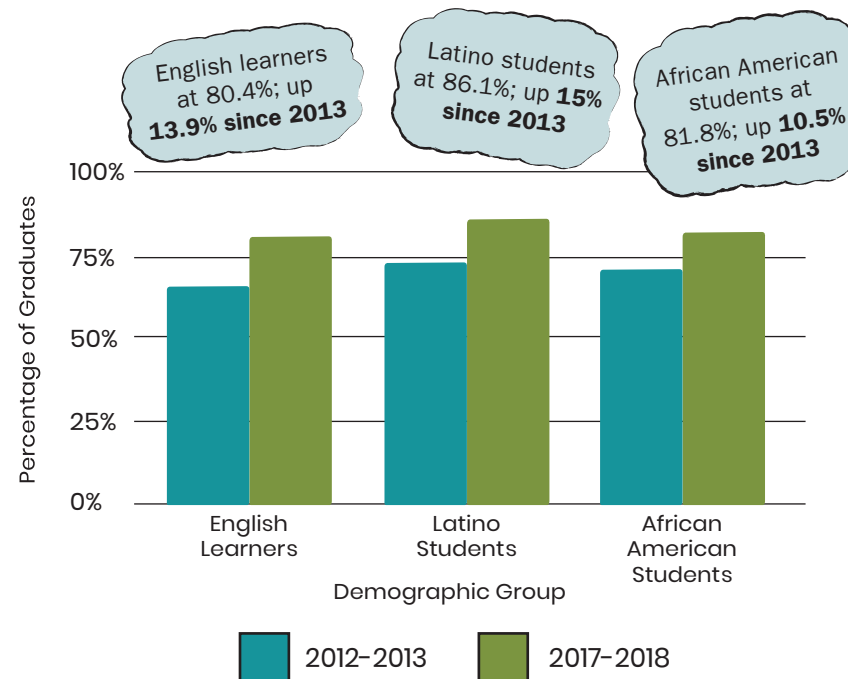
Percentage of students exceeding or meeting **Math standards** has increased **6%** since 2015.

Percentage of students exceeding or meeting **English language arts standards** has increased **11%** in four years.

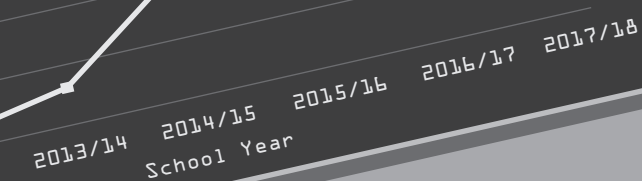
668

STUDENTS HAVE RECEIVED
THE SEAL OF BILITERACY
SINCE 2014

GRADUATION RATES HAVE INCREASED IN KEY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS



GRADUATION RATE HAS
INCREASED FROM
2012/13 TO 84.6% IN 2017/18



Unique Opportunities

TRUSD advances achievement for all grade levels

BY THEA MARIE ROOD

Twin Rivers offers a unique math program for grades K-8 in all its schools.

The structured curriculum is called SWUN Math, named for its founder, Si Swun, formerly a fifth grade teacher in Long Beach, California. Since its inception, the program has been credited with narrowing the achievement gap, in part through the partnership it creates between students, parents, teachers and administrators.

The TRUSD board adopted SWUN Math in 2017 and is already seeing encouraging results, according to Dr. Kristen Coates, Associate Superintendent for School Leadership.

“We’ve seen a 6 percent increase in [standardized test] scores since 2015,” Coates says. “This means more students

are meeting or exceeding state standards. We’ve also seen a 2.5 percent reduction in students in the lowest levels, so even though they aren’t meeting the standards yet, they are moving out of that lowest level.”

Coates suggests what makes SWUN Math so different — and so successful — is the multifaceted approach that involves everyone at a school site. “We have two parent nights a year,” she says. “And teachers get consistent grade-level coaching, individually and with a team.”

“This is really a testament to teachers and administrators working together in partnership.”

Dr. Kristen Coates
Associate Superintendent for School Leadership



Dr. Kristen Coates has seen positive results from the SWUN Math program.
PHOTO BY ANNE STOKES

together in partnership.”

These test scores also stand out when compared to across-the-board California results. “In the state overall, math scores have been flat,” Coates says. “But Twin Rivers is consistently growing. Our 2019 results will be out in September, and we are predicting another increase: 2 percent overall and more than 3 percent at the elementary level.”

The district also is confident this steady improvement predicts achievement beyond the K-8 level. “We know that college and career readiness doesn’t start in high school,” Coates says. “It starts really in preschool and kindergarten. And students who are grade-level in elementary and middle school have a better chance of competing with students from other districts. It’s opening more doors for them to attend whatever schools they want — and not just attend, but obtain scholarships.”



COLLEGE CREDIT FOR TR STUDENTS

High school students in Twin Rivers can enroll in college level courses during their junior and senior years. Approximately 900 students are taking advantage of this concurrent enrollment opportunity through American River College (ARC).

Students take online courses at their high school site during the school day and earn both high school and college credit. They can transfer the following courses to the University of California (UC), California State University (CSU) and community college systems:

- College Success 301
- English 300
- English 302
- Health Science 300
- Introduction to Music 300
- Nutrition 301
- Political Science 302
- Psychology 300
- Sociology 300
- U.S. History 310

5

TR high schools offer Concurrent Enrollment:

CCAA, Foothill, Grant, Highlands and Rio Linda. Students do not pay registration fees for classes and Twin Rivers will purchase all their books and materials. Students should see their high school counselor to register for second semester classes.



To Protect and To Serve

A stand-alone police force covers TRUSD schools
24/7, 365 days a year

BY THEA MARIE ROOD

Twin Rivers is the only school district in the Sacramento region to have its own police department, so it is singularly focused on ensuring staff and student safety. It also is uniquely positioned to impact the lives of the community's youth.

"All our officers attend the sheriff's or police academy — we provide a healthy, safe and secure environment," says David Lugo, Chief of the TRUSD Police Department. "But we're not just law enforcement. We're also a resource for students to bounce ideas off of, maybe about things they're not comfortable talking to teachers about. We're part of a collaborative group."

In fact, officers tutor students, let kids come into their office to do homework, provide snacks for athletic practices, and are even up for the occasional pick-up game themselves.

"Over Spring Break last year, our officers saw kids playing basketball and started playing with them — it ran on Channel 13 news," Lugo says. "Or our officers will sometimes learn about a young sports player who can't afford cleats, and they will 'magically' appear."

In that same light, the department's police dog, a black lab named Bailey, does more than just detect narcotics or other contraband. Officers take her to campuses to hang out and play with the kids.

"Sometimes, if students are having a bad day, it cheers them up to play tug with her," Lugo says. "And we work with her in elementary classrooms: Students who have problems reading aloud, won't read to classmates, will read to the dog."

The department also carefully considers any circumstance that might impact safety. Officers also run regular fire, earthquake and critical

incident drills, and make sure gates and fences are secure during the school day. They patrol campuses and both practice and teach de-escalation skills.

"We provide training not just to teachers, but all staff," Lugo says. "We are dedicated to our campuses, so our most precious commodity gets the education to move into the 21st century."

"We are dedicated to our campuses, so our most precious commodity gets the education to move into the 21st century."

David Lugo
Chief, TRUSD Police Department



Students enjoy visits by K9 Bailey.
PHOTO COURTESY OF TRUSD POLICE DEPARTMENT

STAY INFORMED – ARE YOU FOLLOWING US?

Twin Rivers USD strives to maintain strong communication lines between the district and the families we serve. **We use a variety of means to deliver timely information about the district and our schools:**

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/twinriversusd and click "like" to stay up-to-date on emergency information, important announcements, upcoming events, student achievements and photos of school/district activities. If you use Facebook regularly, this may be the easiest way to know what is going on in the district. We also maintain a presence on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/TwinRiversUSD>.

District's website:

www.twinriversusd.org: Read emergency messages and news and announcements.

Automated Phone Calls:

We use an automated message system (BlackBoard Connect) for emergency information, important dates and other timely news and updates about the district. This system uses contact information you have supplied to your school.

Around TR e-News:

This e-newsletter provides brief news from the district. It's sent using email contact information you have supplied to your school.

Mail:

Important district notices/letters may occasionally be mailed to families and community members.

School websites:

Find links on the district website.

Please make sure your contact information is up-to-date by contacting your school front office.





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

Visit www.twinriversusd.org



**List of
schools**



**District
news**



**Parent
resources**

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS



We encourage parents and community members to attend Twin Rivers Unified School District board meetings.



Board meetings are usually held bimonthly on: **Tuesday at 6 p.m. for closed session meetings and 6:30 p.m. for the open session meetings.**



The district office is located at **5115 Dudley Blvd., McClellan Park.**

Schedule:

- Sept. 10 and 24
- Oct. 8 and 29
- Nov. 19
- Dec. 10
- Jan. 14, 2020
(Board Workshop only, 5:30 p.m.)
- Jan. 28
- Feb. 11 and 25
- March 11 (Wednesday)
- March 24
- April 21
- May 5 and 19
- June 16 and 23

CONTACT INFORMATION



facebook.com/twinriversusd/



www.twinriversusd.org



twitter.com/TwinRiversUSD

Twin Rivers 2019-2020 Student Calendar

Keep track of all important Twin
Rivers dates at:

www.twinriversusd.org/calendar

August 2019	January 2020
8/19 First Day of School!	1/16-17 Finals/Minimum Days (secondary only)
September 2019	1/20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
9/2 Labor Day	February 2020
November 2019	2/14 & 2/17 Presidents Day
11/11 Veterans Day	March 2020
11/21-22 7-12 Professional Development (no school)	3/6 TK-6 Shortened Day
11/21-22 TK-6 Parent/Teacher Conference Days (no school)	April 2020
11/25-29 Thanksgiving Break	4/6-13 Spring Break
December 2019	May 2020
12/20 Minimum Day (K-12)	5/25 Memorial Day
12/23-1/3 Winter Break	June 2020
	6/3-4 Finals/Minimum Days
	6/4 Last Day of School (minimum day)