

WE ARE **TR!**

Graduation
2019

Page
2

**Superintendent's
Message**

Page
3

**A student who
beat the odds!**

Page
6

**Meet the
Teachers of
the Year**



SOARING TOWARD SUCCESS!

**Meet the inspiring students who thrive
on hard work and high expectations!**

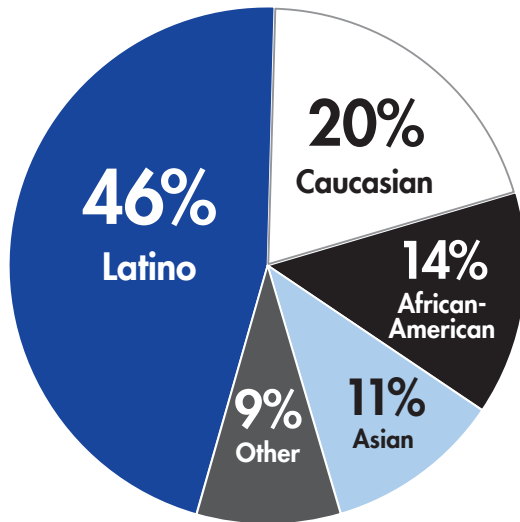
Page
4

STUDENTS AIM
FOR SUCCESS!Graduation rate*
84.6%

(exceeds county and state averages)



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



In the 2018-2019 school year:

**147**students awarded The
California State Seal of
Biliteracy; 666 since 2014**1,172**

students took the SAT for free

5,903

students took the PSAT for free

3,178students (9-12) enrolled in
Career Technical Education
(CTE)**6,079**students (grades 3-6) have taken
educational field trips as of April 30*2017-18 most current information from the California
Department of Education

File photo by James Tan

PREPARED FOR
THE FUTURE

Dear Students,

The entire Twin Rivers Unified School District community is thrilled to share in the excitement of your graduation — the culmination of 13 years of hard work, commitment, dedication, focus and perseverance.

With your passion for education and the support of family and Twin Rivers' highly qualified team of teachers, administrators and support staff, your K-12 journey has been one for the books. You have seized every opportunity to learn and grow. While there may have been many stumbles along the way, even failure, you never gave up. You dug deep, then deeper, to rise above any situation or struggle.

What impresses me most about all of you is your strength, optimism and unshakable belief in yourself. You put forth your very best no matter what obstacles you encountered. Now, you are closer to fulfilling all your hopes and aspirations. What a proud day for you and your loved ones.

Caps off to all of you with a special Twin Rivers shout out to **Jefferson Flores**, a 12-year-old who could not speak English when he arrived in this country just six years ago. UC Berkeley has accepted this outstanding senior who is fourth in his graduating class at Highlands High. **Maria Del Carmen Ayon** lives in South Sacramento and gets up at 5:30 a.m. to catch public transportation to get to school. The Grant Union High School senior is one of 150 students nationwide to receive a prestigious \$20,000 Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation

scholarship. Maria has a full ride scholarship to UC Berkeley. **Alexander Grandinetti** is a dynamic young man who has been pushing himself hard since his K-8 days at Orchard Elementary. Yale University and a host of other schools accepted the Rio Linda High valedictorian. He will attend UCLA.

High school graduation is a significant milestone — the end of one major goal and the beginning of many more you will set to achieve the life you envision — whether that includes college, the military or going from high school to a career.

**Dream big,
work hard and
give the best
you have.**

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I congratulate each of you on the successful completion of high school and wish you the very best as you begin a new phase in your lives. Continue to dream big, work hard and give the best you have.

I leave you with these words from retired competitive swimmer Michael Phelps, the most decorated Olympian of all time: *"There will be obstacles. There will be doubters. There will be mistakes. But with hard work, there are no limits."*

Best wishes. I can't wait to see what the future holds for all of you.

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





The Superintendent's Student Advisory Council represents the student voice and perspective in TRUSD.
Photo by Roman Rykun

FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO BEYOND

For a special group of graduating seniors, the 2018-19 school year is one they will treasure as members of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SSAC). This is the second year for SSAC and students say they have gained invaluable skills and knowledge that will help as they make the transition from high school to college to the workforce.

"Being a part of the group has helped with my communication skills and being open to new ideas," said Kenneth Nguyen, who plans to attend Sacramento State. "What I have learned will help me stay on track, especially in college."

SSAC is comprised of 40 to 50 students in grades 7-12 who serve for one year. They meet quarterly to engage in meaningful dialogue with Twin Rivers Superintendent Dr. Steve Martinez, Associate Superintendent of Education Services Dr. Lori Grace and school advisors. Topics have ranged from leadership development to improving student absenteeism rates. Students also share ideas about issues that arise at their school sites and what they can do to create change. Martinez also travels to school sites to meet with members

individually. This provides SSAC members an opportunity to discuss their plans for the future and ask the superintendent questions in a relaxed setting.

"This (SSAC) has helped me realize that even if I have setbacks and things don't go my way, I still must work just as hard to make sure I reach the goal I set for myself," said Genevieve Meadows, who plans to attend American River College then transfer to a four-year college to major in music.

In addition to Dr. Martinez, Dr. Grace has worked closely with all SSAC students during the past two years. She is

looking forward to year three.

"The SSAC has provided the Superintendent and executive team with invaluable insight into why certain issues exist in our schools, such as chronic absenteeism," said Grace. "These students have helped to determine how we as a district should tackle these issues. Student voices are critical to the future of our district."

"What I have learned will help me stay on track."

Kenneth Nguyen
Highlands High School



Student Profile

GRIT AND RESILIENCY

Jefferson Flores has worked hard to make himself and his family proud

Jefferson Flores' road to his high school graduation is full of joy and sadness. The joy — a 4.23 GPA and the No. 4 student in his graduating class at Highlands High. The sadness — his mother will not see him get his diploma.

Jefferson's mother lives in El Salvador, his home before he came to this country at 12 years old. He has not seen his mother or a younger brother since.

"It's been quite hard," said Jefferson,

18. "I miss my mother and wish I could see her. I was used to being with her all the time. Then my father, who was living in this country, came to get me. My parents wanted me to have a better future. My mother was not able to come because of issues with paperwork. We do talk on the phone a couple of times a week and exchange photos. She tells me how proud she is of me."

School was a struggle because he could not speak English. But through hard work and determination, Jefferson learned the language in two years. It's been quite a journey. Now he has been accepted into eight colleges. UC Berkeley is his top choice.

"I'm impressed with his grit and resiliency," said Karla Gonzalez, Jefferson's school counselor. "He has always challenged himself. He genuinely has a love for learning. It comes from knowing he wouldn't have all these opportunities in El Salvador."

With graduation and college, Jefferson admits feeling very stressed right now.

"But then I remind myself why I'm here," he said. "My parents want a better life for me. So, even if it hurts not seeing my mother, I have to concentrate on making a better future for myself and my parents. My mother did not get much education in El Salvador. She started working as a child. I definitely want to bring her to this country one day. They gave up everything so I could have this chance."

"I have to concentrate on making a better future for myself and my parents."

Jefferson Flores
Highlands High School



Jefferson Flores is proud of his accomplishments — and so is his family in El Salvador.
Photo by Zenobia Gerald

**Ashley Rakes*****Creative Connections Arts Academy*****ATTENDING:**
*American River College***PLANNED MAJOR:**
Graphic Design

Creative Connections Arts Academy's arts-based curriculum has been a perfect fit for Ashley Rakes: It's where she discovered she can make a career out of her creativity through graphic design and animation.

"What I love about it is that you can create whatever you can think of," she said. "I've been drawing my whole life and I've always thought it would be awesome to make my drawings come to life."

This fall, Rakes plans to attend American River College with the goal of continuing her education at Sacramento State.

**Giovanni Anguiano-Gutierrez*****Foothill High School*****ATTENDING:**
*UCLA***PLANNED MAJOR:**
Psychology

Giovanni Anguiano-Gutierrez finds joy in helping people. In addition to running track and field, participating in AVID, Key and Spanish clubs, he's also completed 430 hours of community service. In 2017, he helped raise thousands of dollars for textbooks, uniforms, supplies and transportation for students with the Fundación para la Protección de la Niñez.

"Education to me is a basic human right, everyone should have it," he said. "Education can change the world — it can really shape students and lead them to be successful in their lives."

Anguiano-Gutierrez will attend UCLA and major in psychology.

**Angel Ruiz*****Highlands High School*****ATTENDING:**
*Stanford University***PLANNED MAJOR:**
Music, Science and Technology

Many dream of being a rock star. Angel Ruiz would rather work behind the scenes as a record producer.

"That's my absolute dream, to work with artists of any genre and be able to make music all the time for a living," he said.

His well-rounded resume includes soccer, tennis, Green Focus, honor roll student, National Hispanic Scholar and QuestBridge Scholar Finalist. He's been awarded scholarships from the Future Foundation of Sacramento and AVID-Horizons, and plans to attend Stanford.

"I don't want to be sitting in front of a screen crunching numbers," he said. "Money comes second, it's about loving your job first."

ONWARD AND UPWARD

Twin Rivers graduates are on the move! Whether close to home, across the country or beyond, the Class of 2019 is on the road to success. Here are some of the universities, colleges and armed forces that have accepted our graduates:

- Yale University
- Johns Hopkins University
- UC Berkeley
- UC Davis
- UCLA
- UC Merced
- UC Riverside
- UC Santa Barbara
- UC Santa Cruz
- Cal Poly Pomona
- Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
- CSU Bakersfield
- CSU Chico
- CSU Dominguez Hills
- CSU East Bay
- CSU Fullerton
- CSU Fresno
- CSU Humboldt
- CSU Long Beach
- CSU Monterey Bay
- CSU Sacramento



Katlyn Van Hoose

Keema High School

ATTENDING:
Cosumnes River College

PLANNED MAJOR:
Veterinary Medicine

Katlyn Van Hoose has taken the road less traveled and it has made all the difference: She is graduating a year early. The secret to her success is “work hard.”

“Being in an independent study program, I had to be disciplined so that I kept up on assignments and tasks,” she said. “What I will remember most about high school is the freedom to be able to choose my path.”

After Cosumnes River College, she plans to continue her education and eventually attend the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.



Lahsiahn Wiggins

Pacific High School

ATTENDING:
Sacramento City College

PLANNED MAJOR:
Engineering

Lahsiahn Wiggins admits high school didn’t start out smoothly for him. “I wasn’t [passing] all my classes — I think I failed every last one of them,” he said. “I saw I needed to make a change.”

When he came to Pacific, he had 60 credits to make up. Through a lot of hard work and perseverance, he did it and will graduate on time. In fact, he is graduating at the top of his class and plans to attend Sacramento City College to pursue an engineering career.



Alexander Grandinetti

Rio Linda High School

ATTENDING:
UCLA

PLANNED MAJOR:
Bioengineering

For Alexander Grandinetti, there’s nothing better than a good problem to solve. Whether it’s serving as student body president or on the school’s academic decathlon team or taking on a total of 13 AP courses, he’s found plenty of opportunities to do so.

“It’s a challenge, almost fun in a way, to figure out not only a solution, but the best solution,” he said.

When deciding what career path to follow, that’s just what he did. Combining his passions for biology and physics, he plans to study bioengineering at UCLA this fall, embarking on a promising career in the pharmaceutical research and development field.

*David Garnica Zarate, valedictorian at Grant High School, was not available.

- CSU San Bernardino
- CSU San Diego
- CSU San Francisco
- CSU San Jose
- CSU Sonoma
- CSU Stanislaus
- University of Arizona
- University of Oregon
- University of the Pacific
- Alabama A&M University
- Allen University
- Benedict College
- Bowie State University
- College of Idaho
- Delaware State University
- Florida Memorial University
- Harris-Stowe State University
- Holy Names University
- Lane College
- Livingston College
- Norfolk State University
- Paine College
- Prairie View A&M University
- Tuskegee University
- William Jessup University
- American River College
- Cosumnes River College
- Sacramento City College
- Santa Monica College
- Sierra College
- Yuba City College
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Army
- U.S. Marine Corps
- U.S. Navy



TWIN RIVERS CELEBRATES EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Lizbeth Coleman and Gewon Richards. They are Twin Rivers 2019-2020 District Teachers of the Year.

Coleman is a second grade teacher at Woodridge Elementary and Richards teaches P.E., history, student alliance and English at Vista Nueva Career & Technology High School. Coleman and Richards were among 100 classified and certificated employees honored at the District's Employee Recognition Dinner on May 6.

"I was totally shocked — I was not expecting this," said Coleman, who has been teaching 34 years. "It's such an honor because there are so many wonderful, creative, dedicated and talented teachers in our district. To be considered among them is very humbling."

Richards has been teaching 18 years. "When my name was called I couldn't believe it," said Richards. "I'm honored and feel truly

blessed because I enjoy what I do, working with at-risk students. Being selected tells me that my colleagues respect and appreciate my hard work and that students are positively influenced by my dedication and honest concern for their welfare, personal growth and education."

Both teachers will represent Twin Rivers in the Sacramento County Teachers of the Year program.

MEET TWIN RIVERS' OUTSTANDING STAFF 2019

ALLISON ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Gail Perry
Classified: Randi Litz

BABCOCK ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Tina Duong

CASTORI ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Mai Vang
Classified: Tatyana Gordovskiy

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS ARTS ACADEMY K-6

Teacher: Eve Hogerheide
Classified: Leo Ochoa

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS ARTS ACADEMY 7-12

Teacher: Levi Henson
Classified: Nicole Cox

DEL PASO HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Samantha Moore
Classified: Maria Rodriguez

DRY CREEK ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Julie Myers
Classified: Cheryl Austin

F.C. JOYCE ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Timothy Thompson
Classified: Danielle Jones

FAIRBANKS ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Effie Griffith
Classified: Celia Morris

FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL

Teacher: Deborah Young
Classified: Samantha Jimenez

FOOTHILL OAKS ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Lisa Scantlebury
Classified: Veronika Poloprutka

FOOTHILL RANCH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Teacher: Autumn Sharp
Classified: Manh Saelee

FRONTIER ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Cara Downey
Classified: James Trammell

GARDEN VALLEY ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Laura Satran
Classified: Louie Cervantez +

GRANT UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Teacher: Brooke Nicolls
Classified: Maria Heasley

HAGGINWOOD ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Eliza Julian
Classified: Nicole Ortiz

HARMON JOHNSON ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Colleen Rogers
Classified: Yolanda Mojarro

HAZEL STRAUCH ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Leanna MacDonald
Classified: Cheyanne Osorio

HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL

Teacher: Grady Blakely
Classified: Heather Lo

HILLSDALE ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Julie Reynon
Classified: Meghan King

KEEMA HIGH SCHOOL

Teacher: Adoracion Yumul
Classified: Dorothy McCurdy

KOHLER ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Alison Howell
Classified: Holly Adams

MADISON ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Jon Glen
Classified: Colleen Smith

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

Teacher: Matthew Callman
Classified: Antonette Murry

MILES P. RICHMOND SCHOOL

Classified: Noemi Matutat

MOREY AVENUE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Teacher: Nina Sandhu
Classified: Gloria Flemons +

NORALTO ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Jeanenne Ferrari
Classified: Randy Rodoni

NORTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Amanda Briare
Classified: Raveshia Flakes

NORWOOD JUNIOR HIGH

Teacher: Shelia Grigsby
Classified: Santana Moody

OAKDALE ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Hannah Murphy
Classified: Lala Perez

ORCHARD ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Jonathan Delplanque
Classified: Ronell Warner

PACIFIC HIGH SCHOOL

Teacher: Sgt. Major Jesse Topasna
Classified: Gary Draper



Gewon Richards and Lizbeth Coleman at the District's Employee Recognition Dinner
Photos by James Tan



Star Staff



PIONEER ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Jamie Gross

Classified: Rania Antabeel

REGENCY PARK ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Michael Ervin

Classified: Wendy Wood

RIDGEPOINT ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Debra Austin

Classified: Nicole Young

RIO LINDA HIGH SCHOOL

Teacher: Kristina Shea

Classified: Kurt Thomas

RIO LINDA PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Teacher: Nicole Gardella

Classified: Vanessa Hernandez

RIO TIERRA JUNIOR HIGH

Teacher: Mark Thompson

Classified: Cheryl Washino +

SIERRA VIEW ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Gina Ripley

Classified: Crystal Rivas + ‡

SMYTHE ACADEMY OF ARTS & SCIENCES PK-6

Teacher: Adrienne Carthen-Smith

Classified: Nadezhda Razumovsky

SMYTHE ACADEMY OF ARTS & SCIENCES 7-8

Teacher: Miguel Moreno

Classified: Denise Voorhees

TWIN RIVERS ADULT SCHOOL

Classified: Lana Vahchuama

VILLAGE ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Lynn Hamblen

Classified: Tiffany Tarleton

VINELAND PRESCHOOL

Teacher: Mayleah Brown

Classified: Tavifa Gontar

VISTA NUEVA HIGH/NOVA OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL

Teacher: Gewon Richards **

Classified: Darryl Banks

WESTSIDE ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Kao Lo

Classified: Demiah Avara

WESTSIDE PREPARATORY CHARTER FRONTIER/EASTSIDE/WESTSIDE CAMPUSES

Teacher: Dean Prior

WOODLAKE ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Janele Devereaux

Classified: DeAnita Brewster

WOODRIDGE ELEMENTARY

Teacher: Lizbeth Coleman **

Classified: Carrie Croteau

DISTRICT OFFICE BAY A/B

Classified: Laura Walker, Benefits +

DISTRICT OFFICE BAY C

Classified: Sandy Westerberg, Student Engagement

DISTRICT OFFICE BAY D

Classified: David Vang, Technology Services

TRANSPORTATION

Classified: Dua Vue +

WINONA CENTER

Classified: Jason Barclay, Warehouse

Classified: Candis McDermott, Maintenance Buyer

+ **District Classified Employees of the Year**

‡ **SCOE Classified Employee of the Year**

** **District Teachers of the Year**



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

Twin Rivers Unified School District

Mailing Address: 3222 Winona Way, North Highlands, CA 95660

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SACRAMENTO, CA
PERMIT NO. 120

TWIN RIVERS' DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

A Unique Experience for Students!

THE GOALS:

- Achieve literacy in two languages
- Increase academic excellence in all subject areas
- Attain the California Seal of Biliteracy
- Foster global awareness and an appreciation for multicultural diversity



Teaching CA content standards in English + Spanish / K to Fourth Grade

**MADISON
ELEMENTARY**

**NORALTO
ELEMENTARY**

**HARMON JOHNSON
ELEMENTARY**

Call (916) 566-1600, ext. 33426 for more information

TWIN RIVERS 2019-2020 STUDENT CALENDAR

KEEP TRACK OF ALL IMPORTANT
TWIN RIVERS DATES AT:

www.twinriversusd.org/calendar

AUGUST 2019

8/19 First Day of School!

SEPTEMBER 2019

9/2 Labor Day

NOVEMBER 2019

11/11 Veterans Day

11/21-22 7-12 Professional
Development (no school)

11/21-22 TK-6 Parent/Teacher
Conference Days
(no school)

11/25-29 Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER 2019

12/20 Minimum Day (K-12)

12/23-1/3 Winter Break

JANUARY 2020

1/16-17 Finals/Minimum Days
(secondary only)

1/20 Martin Luther King,
Jr. Day

FEBRUARY 2020

2/14 & 2/17 Presidents Day

MARCH 2020

3/6 TK-6 Shortened Day

APRIL 2020

4/6-13 Spring Break

MAY 2020

5/25 Memorial Day

JUNE 2020

6/3-4 Finals/Minimum Days

6/4 Last Day of School
(minimum day)



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

TWIN RIVERS' DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

A Unique Experience for Students!

THE GOALS:

- Achieve literacy in two languages
- Increase academic excellence in all subject areas
- Attain the California Seal of Biliteracy
- Foster global awareness and an appreciation for multicultural diversity



Teaching CA content standards in English + Spanish / K to Fourth Grade

**MADISON
ELEMENTARY**

**NORALTO
ELEMENTARY**

**HARMON JOHNSON
ELEMENTARY**

Call (916) 566-1600, ext. 33426 for more information

TWIN RIVERS 2019-2020 STUDENT CALENDAR

KEEP TRACK OF ALL IMPORTANT
TWIN RIVERS DATES AT:

www.twinriversusd.org/calendar

AUGUST 2019

8/19 First Day of School!

SEPTEMBER 2019

9/2 Labor Day

NOVEMBER 2019

11/11 Veterans Day

11/21-22 7-12 Professional
Development (no school)

11/21-22 TK-6 Parent/Teacher
Conference Days
(no school)

11/25-29 Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER 2019

12/20 Minimum Day (K-12)

12/23-1/3 Winter Break

JANUARY 2020

1/16-17 Finals/Minimum Days
(secondary only)

1/20 Martin Luther King,
Jr. Day

FEBRUARY 2020

2/14 & 2/17 Presidents Day

MARCH 2020

3/6 TK-6 Shortened Day

APRIL 2020

4/6-13 Spring Break

MAY 2020

5/25 Memorial Day

JUNE 2020

6/3-4 Finals/Minimum Days

6/4 Last Day of School
(minimum day)