

WE ARE **TR!**

Spring
2019

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Knights claim
state title!

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freshman staff

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spotlight

ALL ABOUT THE ARTS

Learn how visual and performing arts are enriching
students' experiences — and leading to achievement.



What's your favorite visual/performing arts class and why?



"Definitely art. I just love it. I love drawing. It's been my passion since I was little. I love expressing my opinion through art — how I look at life. Drawing helps me express things that I can't put into words."

HARLEY HANEN

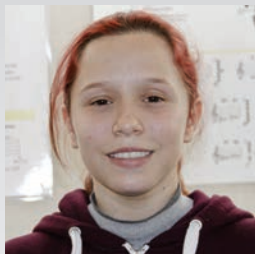
10th grade, Creative Connections Arts Academy (CCAA)



"It's between AP Art (2-D drawing class) and ceramics. Art is an outlet for me to be creative and to express myself. I'm able to explore what I can and can't do and what I can improve on."

JOSELINE BARROZO

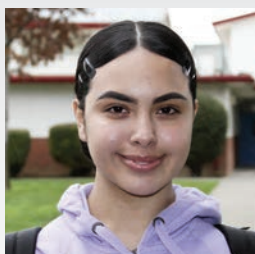
12th grade, Highlands High School



"Choir. You can express your feelings and you never know who you can touch — an audience, friends or groups. Through music, you can bond with each other."

EMMA SANCHEZ

8th grade, Martin Luther King Jr. Tech Academy



"Band. I play baritone horn. I like band a lot because you can express yourself through an instrument. Just creating the sounds really helps in expressing what you are feeling."

MARIANA RIVAS

8th grade, Rio Tierra Junior High



"Art. I really like it when you use paint — you can't erase it. You just have to deal with it and use your creativity. You get to imagine whatever you like."

JOSEY ANDRADE

4th grade, Garden Valley Elementary School



The success of Rio Linda High School's football team is a lesson to us all in teamwork

It is hard to believe we will be coming to the end of another great school year in just a couple of months.

Throughout my career I have always believed that anything is possible when a person or a group of individuals commit to and believe in a specific goal or target. I think we have all heard at one time during our lives that nothing comes easy and the greatest accomplishments often take the greatest amount of effort.

The Rio Linda High School football team proved this again in December. I'm sure Head Coach Jack Garceau, along with the rest of the coaching staff, had high and very clear expectations for the team and season. They set their vision and spent the season preparing for the win. Now, winning a league and section championship is a great accomplishment on its own. Winning a state championship is something special that cannot be attributed to just one action, but a series of actions. It requires the team to accomplish so many little things to reach such an amazing goal.

There are many lessons to be learned from the journey of the 2018 Rio Linda High School football team. This team has provided all of us with an example of the power of preparation, reflection and breaking down film, teamwork, focus, commitment and belief in a common goal.

Many of us will only remember the final score of the game (38-35), but I like to think about all the work that it took to win a State Championship. Whether we are talking football, the classroom or a department, every day is an opportunity to execute the plan. And, we are either planning to win or we are planning to fail based on the actions that we take. Planning is nothing more than a road map of where you want to go — or where you want to take a group of students while being

highly thoughtful about each step along the way (what students need and what adults must do).

In football, coaches and players are intentional about watching game film. Why? As a TEAM, they take time to reflect on areas where they performed extremely well and opportunities to improve (technique or coaching). Watching film is a lot like checking for understanding inside the classroom and reviewing the results of student assessments in professional learning communities. We see where our students did well, and where there are opportunities to improve, AND we work with our TEAM to help think through next steps. We have to know if we and our students are moving in the right direction to ensure we take the necessary steps to accomplish our learning targets. It allows us to identify where to FOCUS.

That's how championships are won; ask the coach. Intentional planning, reflection, focus and teamwork. With these elements we can accomplish anything. With these core beliefs we allow our students, our players, ourselves the opportunity of reaching their full potential.

In the Twin Rivers Unified School District we have an amazing opportunity in front of us. Our teachers, support staff and administration have been focused and believe that our students are capable of being highly successful. In March and April, our students in grades 3-8 and 11 will take the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) test, which is the state test. This SBAC test compares Twin Rivers to all the other school districts in the state. Twin Rivers had good gains last year, but this year we expect even better results because of all the effort, commitment and belief of our

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FRESH FACES

Twin Rivers “freshman” employees bring a wealth of experience to the district in their first year

by Anne Stokes

BRITTANI LONG

*Health Services Assistant,
Castori Elementary School*

Brittani Long is pursuing a nursing degree. She’s also working full time as a health services assistant at Castori Elementary.

In addition to reviewing student records for proper immunizations, she administers first aid and assists ill students, contacting parents and other health office staff if necessary.

“I get to work with children and also fulfill my dream of becoming a registered nurse,” said Long. “When I see kids grow and progress, it makes me happy.”

While Long is appreciative of all the support from Castori’s health office team and the district’s coordinator of health services, she’s especially thankful just to be where she is right now.



“I enjoy seeing the kids every day,” said Long. “When I’m not here I miss my students. I have been offered jobs at other places, and I won’t leave because I love my kids.”

DR. KRISTEN COATES

*Associate Superintendent
of School Leadership*

While she loved teaching, Dr. Kristen Coates is set on creating change on a large scale. Throughout her 15-year education career, she has been inspired by the many different teachers and leaders she’s worked with, including middle school reading specialists and district superintendents.

Today, as Twin Rivers’ Associate Superintendent of School Leadership, she’s able to support the district’s educators and administrators in making sure students have access to the educational programs and support they need to succeed.

“The people make Twin Rivers a great culture to be a part of,” she said.



“I think that there is a high-level focus on doing good things for kids and making sure they really have the best opportunities.”

NINA MAFFEO

*Transitional Kindergarten Teacher,
Dry Creek Elementary School*

It may be Nina Maffeo’s first year running her own classroom, but as a second-generation teacher — her mother still teaches kindergarten — she fell in love with teaching a long time ago. As a new teacher, Maffeo said the district has been very supportive with professional development and mentorship opportunities.

“I have a wonderful mentor who comes in and will give me advice from her observations, and the teachers that I work with on the kinder team have been so supportive,” she said.



DR. MARIA CHAIREZ

*Principal,
Fairbanks Elementary School*

Students at Fairbanks Elementary School have big plans for their futures: college, entrepreneurship, teaching and more. Their new principal, Dr. Maria Chairez, wants to help them set, plan for and achieve those goals.

Chairez’s 35-year career included working at the California Department of Education and serving as Director of the Alternative Education Program in Clark County, Nevada. But it all started at Noralto Elementary School, where Chairez started her own education.

“I’m very happy that I’m able to come back to a district I once attended and be given an opportunity to share my expertise,” she said. “Twin Rivers gives



me latitude to be creative and implement ideas that the district has maybe never done before.”



WHY ART EDUCATION MATTERS

Twin Rivers has invested in art programs across all grade levels

by Thea Marie Rood

When kids engage in art, they are learning lessons far deeper than how to paint with watercolor or how to blow a trumpet.

“I teach a music class, but I really teach life skills,” said Charity Tanaleon, music teacher and director of band and choir at Norwood Junior High School. “And the most important one is that the choices you make don’t just affect you here and now — if you’re off-tempo, it affects everyone.”

In fact, Tanaleon deliberately creates a sense of connectedness between the 120 students she sees every day. “They’re a family — the band and choir are ‘cousins,’” Tanaleon said with a smile.

This bond is noticed and appreciated by her students. “I wouldn’t have as many friends if I wasn’t in band,” said Monica Bermudez, 13, an eighth grader who plays flute and alto sax in the concert and jazz bands. “I’d be trapped inside my own bubble and couldn’t express myself.”

**“I teach a music class,
but I really teach life skills.”**

Charity Tanaleon
Music Teacher, Norwood Junior High School

Her band colleague Edgar Caro, 14, agreed that music is the bright spot in his day. “Music makes me feel happy,” said the oboe-and-alto-sax player. “I enjoy all of us working and playing together to achieve a goal — to get the audience to feel the music.”

Another life skill Tanaleon sees students grasp is the concept of “practice” to master complex tasks. “Learning an instrument is very challenging — you’re not going to get it the first time,” she said. “But I tell them they can do anything if they work at it and practice.”

Improvement in academic performance is one measurable outcome of arts education, according to Jackie White, Twin Rivers Unified School District Executive Director of Student Engagement. “It supports multiple modalities of learning — so kids who need to wiggle have the opportunity to dance and move around, but it also engages a visual or auditory learner,” she said.



As a result, arts education is integrated across all grade levels: Grades TK-2 focus on visual art. Music in the classroom is taught in grades 3-6. For example, in fourth grade, students are given recorders and spend the year learning to play them. “The culminating part of that is they go to the Community Center Theater and play their recorders with the Sacramento Philharmonic,” White said.

Similarly, in fifth grade, each classroom has an artist-in-residence who works with students for six weeks to develop art projects. One participant is Sacramento artist Milton Bowens, born and raised in Oakland, who as a child drew on brown paper bags his mother stapled into art paper for him, and now has work on permanent exhibit at Levi’s Stadium and collected by celebrities like athlete Michael Jordan. He also founded and curates the Just DREAM Gallery at Martin Luther King Jr. Tech Academy, which includes a space for students to create their own art.

This experience with the arts — as well as professional artists — builds confidence and is crucial to overcoming the achievement gap, White said.

“It also makes students more connected if they have activities they like,” she said. “If I know my art teacher is coming today, I’m going to be at school and excited.”



Grades 3-6 focus on music in their arts education. Band students not only learn how to play their instruments, they develop friendships and are able to express themselves.
Photo by Anne Stokes

BOARD APPROVES MATH AND SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM

Twin Rivers has been piloting new curriculum programs in both math and history/social science, and the final choices have now been made.

“The board approved the adoption of Swun Math as the core math material for grades K-8,” said Dr. Lori Grace, TRUSD Associate Superintendent of Educational Services. “We have been implementing this districtwide since the beginning of last school year and it provides teachers with lesson designs, curriculum and on-site coaches.”

The board also approved Studies Weekly, a new history and social science program for grades TK-5. “It aligns with the new state history and social science framework,” said Grace. “Teachers felt students were very engaged with the curriculum and are excited to implement it next school year.”

Both Swun Math and Studies Weekly come with new instructional materials, which have been — and will continue to be — on display at public meetings for parents to review. Both have been rigorously tested by teachers, who tried two curriculums in each discipline before reaching a consensus and making a recommendation to the board. “The curriculum and instruction department always strives to supply students with high quality materials,” said Grace. “And we are so fortunate to have teachers involved in the pilot programs and appreciate so much their effort and commitment that goes into it.”



Students attend a presentation at the Just DREAM Gallery at Martin Luther King Jr. Tech Academy. At the gallery, students can explore work by local artists and develop their own art projects.
Photo Courtesy of Twin Rivers Unified School District

A SALUTE TO SERVICE

by Anne Stokes

As one chapter ends, another begins

DAWN JONES

*Administrative Secretary,
Purchasing Department*

Where has your career path with Twin Rivers taken you?

My children attended Ridgpoint Elementary School and I was a volunteer in the library. A position came open in the school office, so I applied for that and became an office assistant. Then I got a position out at the district office.

Any special awards or recognitions?

I was actually Classified Employee of the Year in 2016!

What have you enjoyed most about working at Twin Rivers?

I really enjoyed interacting with those kids. I kind of miss that part of it, but I enjoy it over here (Purchasing), it's quiet and laid back. I did enjoy the



interaction with the parents and I really didn't mind parent complaints. I enjoyed helping them solve their problems.

JIM MCLAUGHLIN

*Principal,
Ridgpoint Elementary School*

You're retiring at the end of this year after 30 years as an educator. Tell me about your career.

I taught sixth grade for 12 years at Madison Elementary School and I loved having my own class and bonding with the kids. I got my administrative credential and felt like I wanted to run a school and hopefully have the same impact on teachers and kids as a whole unit versus a classroom. It's been a wonderful career.

What have you enjoyed the most about your career?

What I've enjoyed the most is the variety of personalities of kids I've worked with over the years. I've also



worked with really good, hard-working, caring people who truly wanted to do what's best for kids.

YOU WILL BE DEEPLY MISSED!

Certificated

Maria Alcocer
Anita Anderson (Ames-Krickovich)
Debra Lynn Austin
Loretta Bandle
Teresa Bare
Frances Bigler
Sharon Blevins
Beckie Bloemker
Keith Boal
Thomas Bothwell
Gary Randall Bower
Steven Breiter
Phillip Brown
Laura Callaghan
Elizabeth Clark
Florine Clark

Linda Clark
Kimberly Clark-Fitzbuck
Ronald Cristian
Judy Crowe
Salvatore Damiani
Torie David
Rala Dayal
Gregory Duke
Janet Marie Edwards
Cynthia Jo Ellis
Maureen Eng
Ivilma Erwin
Carlos Espada
Harry Fisher
Bill Fitch
Lani Fuzessery
Lilibeth Gaddess
Heidi Gleason-Doyle

Jon Glen
Phillip Gonsalves
Craig Green
Judith Green
Getu Hamid
Sandra Hansen
Alan Hudson
Donna Hutchins
Sumiko Ichikawa
Debby Juarros
C Gayle Killey
David King
Cecelia Kingsbury
Kent Kohler
Clayton Kramer
Connie Kuhlmann
Chandra Kumar
Lynnetta Lawrence

Paul Le Francois
Alicia Leon
Cheryl Lorenc
Gwen Malnassy
John (Jack) Masters
Virginia Matz
Katharine McCabe
Shelly McKinley-Olson
Jim McLaughlin
Annette Miller
Edwina Minor
Larisa Napoletano
Brooke Nicolls
Joni O'Connor
Cynthia Doering
Padian
Mary Palmer
Jane Pena

Gina Powell
Denis Racine
Patricia Reetz
Betty Rice
Roberto Rivera
Carol Robbins-Goray
Catherine Roller
Debbie Rowden
Patricia Rusine
Michael Salter
Paul Schmiegel
Michael Shaltry
Edna Shoemaker
David Skow
Sandra Stockton
Brenda Thiesen
Janet Tisue
Cynthia Torrez

Teresita Vergara
Sylviane Voelzow
Elizabeth Von Werlhof
Deann Walker
Peter Whittlesey
Elizabeth Wihtol
Jennifer Williams
Sheila Williams
Sharon Wise
Rose Wright



OFFICER ARNEL AGDIPA

*School Resource Officer,
Twin Rivers Unified School District*

What have you enjoyed the most working at Twin Rivers over the past 20 years?

I think the thing I like most about working with the district is the fact that we're really making an impact on the community. When you look at the services the police department provides, they protect and serve the students and the teachers to make a safe environment.

Most other retirees are planning to relax, but you're starting a new career as a caseworker for a nonprofit foster care organization. Why?

It was really my true passion when I was going to college, it's what I went to college for. This is a good time for me to leave where I still have a fire



in me to go out and work with families and kids. I don't know what I'm going to do if I'm not interacting with families and kids in the district anymore.

GREGORY DUKE

*Math Teacher,
Rio Linda High School*

How would you describe your career with Twin Rivers?

I started in the classroom, and I've been teaching for 25 years now. I've had some good times and worked with a lot of nice people and a lot of nice students. Every once in a while I'll get somebody who, at the end of the year, will give me a note saying, "Thank you for your help," or "I really enjoyed your class," and those make you feel really good.

What's next now that you're graduating (or retiring)?

In a way I am graduating! Sometimes I think I'm just slow, it took me 31 years to get out of high school. My wife and I will probably do some traveling. I like to read, so I can read a lot and try to get back into exercising as best I can.



Classified

Linda Acosta
Arnel Agdipa
Susan Alford
Anatoliy Andriyenko
Tamara Artemenko
Jeff Askins
Cheryl Austin
Linda Banchemo
Kimbely Barnett
Luis Bautista
Cheryl Beebe
Laura Berard
Janis Berry
Ivan Bgatov
Rebecca Bryant
Yelena Bulgakova
Mary Burns

Joseph Calhoun
Donna Cantrell
Michael Carrick
William Clark
Kayla Compton
Tami Connelly
Michael Crutcher
Reynaldo Dalisay
Deborah Davis
Candace Dixon
Jona Dodson
Drew Du Roff
Anita Dupzyk
Eloise Eastman
Raul Egot
Terrie Ann Figueroa
Martha Florez
Richard Fullum

Svetlana Gabor
Brenda Gaines
Desiree Garcia
Tena Garcia
Mary Gerwer
Barbara Godfrey
Danelle Gonzalez
Elena Gonzalez
Irma Gonzalez
Kimberly Gothier
Georgeina Hahner
Ruth Hall
Susan Hamly
Deborah Hanlon
Kathleen Hansberry
Timothy Harris
Maria Heasley
Deborah Hegenderfer

Carmen Hernandez
Delores Johnson
Dawn Jones
Deana Keck
Sammy Keith
Patricia Kellenbarger
Teresa Kuta
Dave Gene Kypke
Sonya Lewis
Bethany Linder
Eugene Lipscomb III
Catalina Llamas
Lidija Marinkovic
Lori Marson
Mary Ann McCarty
Charles McGimsey
Me'Shell Miller
Barbara Mitchell

Linda Montoya
Jeff Moore
Jerry Moore
Bonnie Lee Pancho
Charles Paredes
Robert Petersen
Glenn Phillips
Wanda Phillips
Gary Pipkins
Gabriela Prado
Jill Therese Reese
Erica Reid
Gloria Reyes
Debra Jean Rica
Victor Rios
Eduardo Rodriguez
Richard Roseman
Salvador Salaver

Rhonda Sankey
John Sauer
Enid Scott
Azim Sharifi
Eric Sheffield
Julie Shumate
Clara Linda Sierra
Robert Simpkins
Mary Ann Simpson
Lisa Sisk
Etheldoreda Smartt
Frank Spino
Joann Springer
Mark Stedman
Daniel Swink
Sally Tavarez
Alicia Tayag
Hannah Tell

Deborah Toland
Susan Toledo
Deanna Trammell
Mary Vance
D Dayne Vanpelt
Ruth Victorio
Gloria Viramontes
Patricia Waite
Kenneth Wallace
Arlene White
Gary Williams
Kathleen Wolf
Traci Rae Wong
Mozella Wright
Tizzy Wu
Kiffin Siu Cheung Yan
Katherine Young
Rebecca Louise Young



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



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employees. Equally important, if we focus and believe in our students, they have the opportunity to outperform students in some of the neighboring districts. This would be a great accomplishment for everyone who is a part of the Twin Rivers community. We have positioned ourselves and our students for this to happen. I would like to congratulate Coach Jack

Garceau and the Rio Linda High School football team along with thanking all of our employees who do an amazing job on behalf of our students every day. Again, I believe anything is possible, and ask that you continue to believe in the possibilities for all of the students and staff of Twin Rivers.

TWIN RIVERS 2019 STUDENT CALENDAR

KEEP TRACK OF ALL IMPORTANT
TWIN RIVERS DATES AT:
www.twinriversusd.org/calendar



Don't forget important testing dates!

High School: March 25 – May 17

Elementary/Middle School: April 29 – May 17

APRIL 2019

4/15-4/22

Spring Break

MAY 2019

5/27

Memorial Day

JUNE 2019

6/5-6/6

Finals/Minimum Days

6/6

Last Day of School (minimum day)