

WE ARE **TR!**

Winter
2018

SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

Students in Career Technical Education programs get
real-world skills for career and college.

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School safety

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Find your school's
test scores

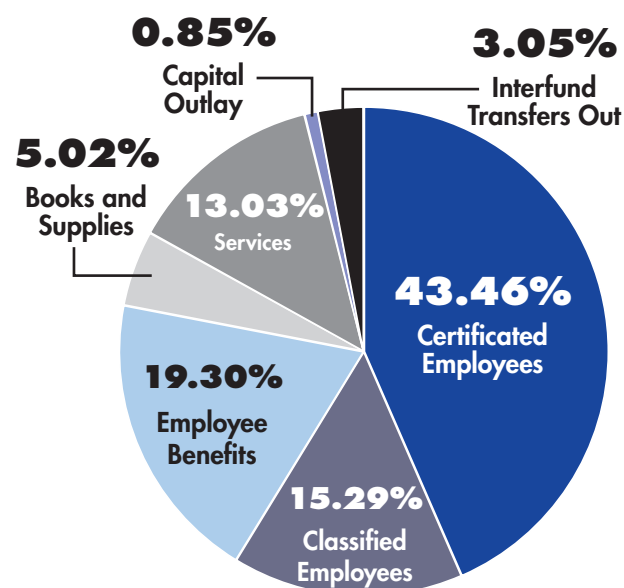
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TR students get
college credit in
high school





2018-2019 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES



28,600

The number of students served throughout the district, from preschool through adult education



3,000

The approximate number of Twin Rivers employees



The number of district school sites

4

High Schools

7

Alternative Schools

29

Elementary Schools

7

Charter School Sites

5

Middle Schools

GETTING THE GRADES

TR students are improving in math and English language arts at impressive speeds

By Dr. Steve Martinez and Rick Miller

We have more great news to share about test scores in math and what they reveal about the progress of our students in comparison with their peers statewide. In fact, it's a compelling story attracting attention from educators and different organizations around the state.

EdSource magazine recently reported that while overall Twin Rivers Unified School District is below the state average in achievement, the number of students at or above standards **rose 4.13 percentage points in English language arts and 2.71 percentage points in math this year — a rate of growth faster than Sacramento County and the state.**

Academic growth is key to understanding how our school sites and grade levels within our schools are faring over time compared to similar schools. Growth can answer the following questions: Which schools and grade level teams are moving students further faster? Have changes implemented in 2017-18 translated into improvements?

Our school board took bold action last year to adopt a new math supplemental curriculum to address concerns that elementary school math scores were not improving. The program, called Swun Math, responded to teachers' request for more math support to help students struggling to grasp the Common Core curriculum. It was developed by a teacher in Long Beach Unified, scaled across their district and then brought to Garden Grove Unified where it continued to show significant results for students. Because of Twin Rivers' partnership with these CORE Districts, we were able to get the program here. Supporting teachers and ensuring that they have the tools to effectively teach math is only part of the program. Parents also receive training through special workshops.

While math scores in some of our schools continue to lag behind schools in different communities, the data show we are on the right track when we consider growth and compare our schools to similar schools. A third of our schools overall made above average academic growth compared to schools with similar demographics across the state. Forty-one percent of our elementary schools and 33 percent of our middle schools had above average growth in math last year. In middle school, we saw a particularly remarkable improvement from 13 percent of

schools showing strong growth in 2017 to 33 percent of schools in 2018.

Notably, fifth graders at Ridgepoint grew 32 more points in math than similar students, putting them in the highest growth group in the state. Fourth graders at Pioneer and Regency Park also were in the state's highest growth group. Digging deeper into data we can validate the hard work of teachers, students, families, and our Board of Trustees in making informed decisions in the best interest of all students.

By the way, growth data is not collected or available from the state's education department, even after a yearlong debate at the California State Board of Education and much to the dismay of educators and stakeholders. In a recently released report about the state's data system and its ability to support continuous improvement locally, a state policymaker affirms, "there's definitely a hole in our system."

The state's data hole means that its data dashboard masks progress being made at lower performing schools like some of those in Twin Rivers. By contrast, growth data shines a flashlight on it. Through a data partnership with the Sacramento County Office of Education and the CORE Districts, we have access to student academic growth and other data not available through the state, so all of us are getting a much clearer snapshot of what's happening in Twin Rivers.

School communities need actionable data and a complete picture of progress in order to support meaningful changes for students. This is the essence of local control. Moving forward we will continue evaluating our growth data and listening to teachers, students and families. We have a tremendous amount of work ahead, but by effectively working together, we will get to where we need to be for all of our students.

Dr. Steve Martinez is the superintendent of the Twin Rivers Unified School District, which serves northern Sacramento County. Rick Miller is the executive director of CORE Districts, an organization focused on improving academic standards and training for teachers and administrators in the Sacramento and Northern California area.



Dr. Steve Martinez

GIVING STUDENTS CONFIDENCE IN MATH

Swun Math is helping Hazel Strauch Elementary students crush the curve

By Rodney Orosco

The key to getting Hazel Strauch Elementary School students to succeed in math is simple: turn the teachers into students.

Each month Strauch teachers attend a class led by a coach from Swun Math, the district's K-8 math curriculum, now in its second year. During this class, the Swun Math coach demonstrates a math lesson and then spends almost an hour debriefing teachers on that lesson. The goal is to increase teacher confidence to tackle whatever the kids, and the curriculum, may throw at them.

The results: better math teachers and better math students.



Students work on their math skills during a recent class.
Photo by Anne Stokes

"Going through all the coaching and lesson pacing helps the teachers gain confidence teaching math," said Hazel Strauch Elementary School Principal Marlisa Rodriguez. "I have had teachers tell me they now enjoy teaching math."

One strength of the Swun Math program, Rodriguez explained, is the ability to give teachers more one-on-one time with students who need it.

For Hazel Strauch fifth-grader Paul, the extra time meant going from an average math student to an award-winning student.

"Going through all the coaching and lesson pacing helps the teachers gain confidence teaching math."

*Marlisa Rodriguez
Hazel Strauch Elementary Principal*

"Nothing made Paul happier than when his school acknowledged him for his good grades during the school's quarterly awards ceremony," said Priscilla, Paul's mother. "Paul is more confident now in his math skills and feels he can learn the material that is being taught."

Improving math scores takes involvement from students, parents, teachers, schools and the district, Rodriguez noted.

"The district is committed to the Swun program," Rodriguez said. "The district pays for the substitutes for our teachers when they attend training. That is a big deal and it shows the district is willing to invest in us and this program."

For Hazel Strauch, that investment is paying dividends: The school's recent Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) test scores rose by 9.18 percent over last year.



Safety



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS COMMITTED TO SAFETY

Keeping Twin Rivers Unified School District students safe is about outreach, communication and Bailey.

Bailey is the Twin Rivers Police Department's 2-and-a-half-year-old Labrador. While the K-9 officer is trained for drug and firearms searches, she also serves as a cuddle buddy.

"We will have teachers email us and ask us to bring Bailey around for a treat for the kids," explained TRUSD Police Chief David Lugo.

Bailey, and the humans in the department, represent a unique approach to school policing that emphasizes positive relationship building.

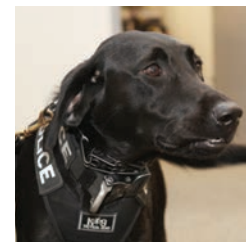
"The police officer is seen as a resource on campus by students and staff," Chief Lugo said.

For the student, the police officer is someone they know, an adult who is often a mentor as well as a face in uniform. For the teacher, the officer is another resource to help kids succeed in school — it is not uncommon for officers to be asked to visit a student's house to do a welfare check, Chief Lugo explained.

"Not everything is always a law enforcement issue," Chief Lugo explained. "It is not unusual for our officers to mentor students on their own time. The relationships we form are long-term and very unique to our type of specialty policing."

The department employs 18 full-time officers. Each of the district's high schools and continuation schools have a designated officer on campus. In fact, Twin Rivers is one of only 23 school districts in California with its own police force.

"All of our officers are sworn, uniformed peace officers, trained and certified through California's Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training," Chief Lugo said. "Our mission and number one priority is to ensure a safe and secure learning environment for all students and staff."



Bailey

TEST SCORES SHOW GROWTH

Twin Rivers schools make gains in math and reading

By Rodney Orosco



Kristen Coates, TRUSD Associate Superintendent of School Leadership, takes part in a recent professional learning community (PLC).
Photo by Anne Stokes

A chart of the Twin Rivers School District's recent test scores put a lot of smiles on district faces as the results show significant improvement.

"We are very excited that our recent test scores show some great improvement over last year," said Dr. Kristen Coates, Associate Superintendent of School Leadership.

Twin Rivers' 2017-2018 Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) scores show marked improvement in the percentage of students who meet or exceed standards in math and English language arts (ELA).

In fact, Coates pointed out the district's math improvement of 2.71 percent over last year was the highest increase of any district in the county. The ELA scores were not too shabby either — a 4.13 percent increase over last year.

Coates attributes the success to others: individual schools and classrooms, where the district's new math program, Swun Math, is being rigorously implemented and taught.

"We need to credit the positive attitude of teachers and administrators to our success."

Dr. Kristen Coates
TRUSD Associate Superintendent of School Leadership

"We need to credit the positive attitude of teachers and administrators to our success," Coates said. "Swun Math gives teachers the structure to incorporate a lot of direct and intentional engagement with students."

In other terms, teachers get to know the strengths and weaknesses of their students and are then trained to adapt lessons to meet the needs of their students.

It is the same with ELA. There, teachers are "integrating the core standards in their instruction and lesson design," she said.

The district plans on continuing to improve upon these scores. This year marks the second year of the Swun Math program and Coates expects more teachers to take

advantage of the training the program offers, and as they do, students and their teachers will continue to see success.

"We still have a lot of work to do and we have a lot of optimism," she said.



AVERAGE IMPROVEMENT TRUSD, COUNTY AND STATE

	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	MATH
TRUSD	▲ 4.13%	▲ 2.71%
County	▲ 1.60%	▲ 0.90%
State	▲ 1.32%	▲ 1.09%



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Percentage of students who meet/exceed standards

SITE TYPE	SCHOOL NAME	1 YEAR RATE CHANGE
Elementary	Dry Creek Elementary	▲ 16.63%
Elementary	Woodlake Elementary	▲ 15.03%
Elementary	Hazel Strauch Elementary	▲ 14.41%
Elementary	Foothill Oaks Elementary	▲ 10.31%
Elementary	Michael J. Castori Elementary	▲ 7.88%
Elementary	Warren A. Allison Elementary	▲ 7.17%
Elementary	Hagginwood Elementary	▲ 5.67%
Elementary	D. W. Babcock Elementary	▲ 5.52%
Elementary	Frontier Elementary	▲ 5.34%
Elementary	Woodridge Elementary	▲ 4.46%
Elementary	Fairbanks Elementary	▲ 3.90%
Elementary	Garden Valley Elementary	▲ 3.84%
Elementary	Madison Elementary	▲ 3.22%
Elementary	Regency Park Elementary	▲ 1.94%
Elementary	Harmon Johnson Elementary	▲ 1.56%
Elementary	Hillsdale Elementary	▲ 0.47%
Elementary	Northwood Elementary	▲ 0.21%
Elementary	Pathways Community Day	0.00%
Elementary	Del Paso Heights Elementary	-0.26%
Elementary	Westside Elementary	-0.34%
Elementary	Sierra View Elementary	-1.60%
K-8	Pioneer Elementary	▲ 8.94%
K-8	Smythe Academy of Arts and Science	▲ 7.02%
K-8	Ridgepoint Elementary	▲ 7.01%
K-8	Kohler Elementary	▲ 6.59%
K-8	Oakdale Elementary	▲ 5.27%
K-8	Orchard Elementary	▲ 3.14%
K-8	Village Elementary	▲ 0.55%
K-8	F. C. Joyce Elementary	-0.14%
Middle	Norwood Junior High	▲ 9.22%
Middle	Rio Linda Preparatory Academy	▲ 7.63%
Middle	Rio Tierra Junior High	▲ 3.98%
Middle	Nova Opportunity	0.00%
Middle	Martin Luther King Jr. Technology Academy	-0.61%
Middle	Foothill Ranch Middle	-4.79%
Middle	Westside Preparatory Charter	-5.67%
High	Grant Union High	▲ 12.46%
High	Highlands High	▲ 6.18%
High	Elwood J. Keema High	▲ 1.91%
High	Foothill High	-0.68%
High	Rio Linda High	-1.45%
High	Pacific Career and Technology High	-4.35%
High	Vista Nueva Career and Technology High	-6.98%
K-12	Creative Connections Arts Academy	▲ 4.19%



MATH

Percentage of students who meet/exceed standards

SITE TYPE	SCHOOL NAME	1 YEAR RATE CHANGE
Elementary	Hazel Strauch Elementary	▲ 9.18%
Elementary	Warren A. Allison Elementary	▲ 8.26%
Elementary	Dry Creek Elementary	▲ 8.24%
Elementary	Hagginwood Elementary	▲ 7.01%
Elementary	Frontier Elementary	▲ 5.72%
Elementary	Michael J. Castori Elementary	▲ 5.71%
Elementary	Madison Elementary	▲ 5.17%
Elementary	Regency Park Elementary	▲ 4.18%
Elementary	Foothill Oaks Elementary	▲ 3.60%
Elementary	Woodridge Elementary	▲ 3.39%
Elementary	Sierra View Elementary	▲ 2.87%
Elementary	Fairbanks Elementary	▲ 2.80%
Elementary	Westside Elementary	▲ 1.65%
Elementary	Woodlake Elementary	▲ 1.58%
Elementary	D. W. Babcock Elementary	▲ 0.06%
Elementary	Pathways Community Day	0.00%
Elementary	Harmon Johnson Elementary	-0.33%
Elementary	Northwood Elementary	-1.31%
Elementary	Hillsdale Elementary	-3.65%
Elementary	Garden Valley Elementary	-4.56%
Elementary	Del Paso Heights Elementary	-4.61%
K-8	Pioneer Elementary	▲ 10.79%
K-8	Ridgepoint Elementary	▲ 9.16%
K-8	Kohler Elementary	▲ 7.37%
K-8	Smythe Academy of Arts and Science	▲ 4.03%
K-8	Village Elementary	▲ 1.87%
K-8	Orchard Elementary	▲ 0.79%
K-8	Oakdale Elementary	-0.68%
K-8	F. C. Joyce Elementary	-2.36%
Middle	Rio Linda Preparatory Academy	▲ 3.44%
Middle	Norwood Junior High	▲ 2.44%
Middle	Foothill Ranch Middle	▲ 2.20%
Middle	Rio Tierra Junior High	▲ 1.30%
Middle	Westside Preparatory Charter	▲ 0.85%
Middle	Nova Opportunity	0.00%
Middle	Martin Luther King Jr. Technology Academy	-3.96%
High	Rio Linda High	▲ 9.45%
High	Highlands High	▲ 6.97%
High	Grant Union High	▲ 2.51%
High	Elwood J. Keema High	▲ 1.20%
High	Foothill High	▲ 0.36%
High	Pacific Career and Technology High	0.00%
High	Vista Nueva Career and Technology High	0.00%
K-12	Creative Connections Arts Academy	▲ 2.04%



CAREER EXPERIENCE ENGAGES STUDENTS

**CTE programs give students a leg up in college
and workforce readiness**

by Anne Stokes

The more engaged students are, the more likely they are to *learn*. With its Career Technical Education (CTE) programs, Twin Rivers Unified School District offers a wide range of opportunities to engage students and successfully set them on pathways to college and career.

Students receive industry-specific training in areas such as media technology, construction, hospitality, health care, business, information technology and engineering. Depending on their interests, students can enroll in a CTE pathway, which involves two industry-specific classes, or a four-year academy program. Coursework in both pathways and academies meet A-G requirements for college admission.

Working in partnership with community organizations and businesses like SAFE Credit

Union and Sacramento Police Department, CTE programs bring industry professionals into classrooms to show students what career opportunities await them after graduation.

**“CTE programs really help
kids with the skills they need
to be successful.”**

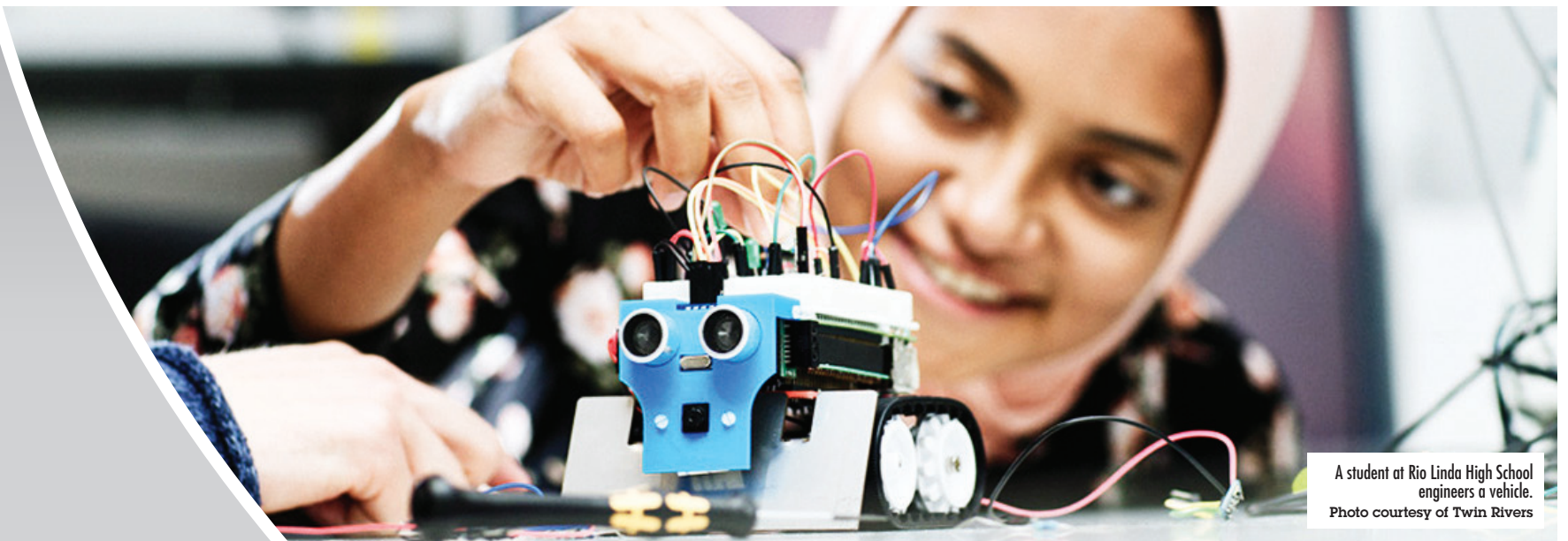
Jacqueline White
Executive Director of Student Engagement

“It’s a real, authentic learning experience,” said Ann Marie Kennedy, Agriculture and Natural Resource teacher at Grant Union High School. “They have the opportunity to meet real

professionals and see the opportunities that are out there for jobs and careers, instead of just hearing it.”

Approximately 25 percent of students in CTE courses go on to major in their chosen field. But even if they don’t end up in related fields, CTE students gain soft skills valuable in any industry: how to show up to work on time, how to interview, how to prepare a résumé and time management. These skills are also useful in high school, as evident in CTE students’ graduation rates. Last year, Twin Rivers’ overall graduation rate was 84.6 percent. **CTE academy students graduated at a rate of 99 percent.**

“In the short- and long-term, CTE programs really help students with the skills they need to be successful,” says Jacqueline White, Twin Rivers Executive Director of Student Engagement.



A student at Rio Linda High School engineers a vehicle.
Photo courtesy of Twin Rivers

CTE COURSES OFFERED THROUGH TRUSD

Twin Rivers offers CTE courses at all of its high school sites to help students discover potential career and college pathways.



New Energy



Digital Media



Electronics



Agriscience Academy

FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL

Choices New Energy Academy
Construction
Culinary
Digital Media
Sports Medicine

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS ARTS ACADEMY

Digital Media Arts
Digital Photo

GRANT UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Electronics
Criminal Justice Magnet Academy
Sports Health Academy
Geo Environmental Science Academy
Business
Computer Science
Music Production
Theatre

HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL

Digital Media
Game Design
Education
Green Engine (dual enrollment)

RIO LINDA HIGH SCHOOL

Agriscience Academy
Culinary
Project Lead The Way (engineering)
Entrepreneurship Self-Employment
Television and Video Production
Hydraulics and Electronics (dual enrollment)

VISTA NUEVA HIGH SCHOOL

Construction



DUAL ENROLLMENT: OFFERING STUDENTS THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

While all of Twin Rivers Unified School District's Career Technical Education (CTE) programs prepare students for both college and career, some pathways also enable students to earn high school and college credit at the same time. In partnership with Los Rios Community College District, Highlands High School offers students dual enrollment opportunities in its Green Engine program.

"Twin Rivers is the first in the region to allow students in our CTE programs to get credit for both high school and college," says Jacqueline White, Twin Rivers' Executive Director of Student Engagement. "That's a program I feel really strongly about because it's an expanding opportunity."

Students get a unique opportunity to delve into dual enrollment topics. "They learn how to do updated green diesel repair. So not just auto mechanics, but the more current technology of energy efficient and hybrid engines. It's an up and coming field of work," says White. "As an added bonus, they get college credit on their transcript while they're still in high school. That program is really amazing."

While students at both Highlands and Rio Linda High School — which offers a course in hydraulics and electronics — can currently take advantage of dual enrollment coursework, Twin Rivers plans to have dual enrollment opportunities at all four high schools by the second semester of the 2018-19 school year.



For more information, visit:
www.twinriversusd.org/Academics/Arts-and-Career-Education/Career-Technical-Education/index.html



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 TURNS 10!



On Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018, Twin Rivers Unified School District hosted a 5K Fun Run & Festival for Twin Rivers employees and their families. Commemorating the district's 10th anniversary, the event included artist performances, food trucks, face painting, music and raffle prizes. Approximately 250 individuals participated in both the 5K competitive and non-competitive run/walking races, which began at Freedom Park and circled McClellan Park. The district will continue celebrating its 10th anniversary during the 2018-19 school year by hosting these upcoming events:

- Historical Showcase (Jan. 31, 2019)
- Gala & Reception (March 15, 2019)
- Student and Staff Reflection Videos (May 2019)
- Tree Planting Ceremony & Time Capsule (June 2019)

For more information and upcoming events, visit www.twinriversusd.org

TWIN RIVERS 2018-2019 STUDENT CALENDAR

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

NOVEMBER 2018

- 11/19-11/23 Thanksgiving Break
- 11/26-11/27 TK-6 Parent/Teacher Conference Days (no school)
- 11/26-11/27 7-12 Professional Development (no school)

DECEMBER 2018

- 12/21 Minimum Day (K-12)
- 12/24-1/4 Winter Break

JANUARY 2019

- 1/17-1/18 Finals/Minimum Days (secondary only)
- 1/21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

FEBRUARY 2019

- 2/15 & 2/18 Presidents Day

MARCH 2019

- 3/1 TK-6 Shortened Day

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)