



SAN MATEO-  
FOSTER CITY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Newsletter

## Superintendent's Update - September 2018

Dear San Mateo–Foster City Community,

We've been in school about four weeks now and what a great start it has been! I hope your family has settled in well into the new year. I wanted to share with you the latest news from the San Mateo County Office of Education, as well as recent School Board actions.



The **San Mateo County Office of Education** just published their [2017 Report to the Community](#). If you look at the last page titled “School Spending”, you will find that the San Mateo–Foster City School District is still in the bottom four of the elementary school districts in San Mateo County in funding received for our students, with the top district receiving over double what we receive. The publication goes on to state, “Though California has the fifth-largest economy in the world, the state falls in the nation’s bottom quintile on nearly every measure of public K-12 school funding. California has consistently underfunded public education while adding new requirements and raising standards. Adequate funding is especially an issue in San Mateo County, where districts struggle due to the high cost of housing, goods, and services.” It lists that California is 41st in per-pupil funding,

45th in percentage of taxable income spent on education, 45th in student to teacher ratio and 48th in student to staff ratio.

Our District has enacted a variety of methods over the years to meet the rising costs of doing business both by making reductions and increasing revenues. In the spring of 2018, \$3 million was cut from the 2018-2019 school budget. We have also increased our revenue streams through the amplified activity of our Education Foundation, grant opportunities, and additional funding from our for-profit ventures in early childhood education and after-school care. Even with these actions, the District faces a \$5 million deficit, which will have to be addressed by the spring of 2019. Reductions that have been presented to the Trustees can be found here on the [August 23 - Board Agenda](#).

[- Click here to read the full Superintendent's Update on the SMFCSD website...](#)

## Upcoming Events



Join Superintendent Rosas for coffee and conversation. Meetings are designed to provide an avenue for school families and community members to stay informed about District initiatives and learn more about the great things taking place in San Mateo-Foster City

schools. We hope to see you there!

Meetings are held in four different areas of our District, but parents and community members are welcome to attend any or all Chats. New this year, morning hours for the first two Chats!

### - 2018-2019 SCHEDULE -

#### **Tuesday, September 18, 2018**

9:00-10:00 am

Bowditch Middle School

1450 Tarpon Street, Foster City

#### **Tuesday, October 23, 2018**

9:00-10:00 am

Bayside Academy

2025 Kehoe Avenue, San Mateo

\*Spanish translation provided

#### **Tuesday, January 29, 2019**

6:30-7:30 pm

Abbott Middle School

## Important Dates

### **Thu, Sep 13**

Board Meeting, 6:30 pm -  
District Office

### **Tue, Sep 18**

Superintendent Coffee Chat,  
9:00 am - Bowditch Middle  
School

### **Sun, Sep 23**

Run2Fund Education, 2:00 pm -  
Hillsdale High School

### **Thu, Sep 27**

Board Meeting, 6:30 pm -  
District Office

### **Fri, Oct 5 - Fri, Oct 19**

Fall Break - No School

### **Tue, Oct 23**

Superintendent Coffee Chat,  
9:00 am - Bayside Academy

600 36th Avenue, San Mateo  
\*Spanish translation provided

Thursday, March 28, 2019

5:30-6:30 pm

Baywood Elementary

600 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo

\*Spanish translation provided

## September is Attendance Awareness Month!

**Attendance in the early grades**

Many of our youngest students miss 10 percent of the school year—about 18 days a year or just two days every month. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten and 1st grade predicts low test scores, poor attendance and retention in later grades, especially if the problem persists for more than a year. Do you know how many young children are chronically absent in your school or community?

**Attendance Works**  
www.attendanceworks.org

### Who is affected

Kindergarten and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom.

**1 in 10 Kids**  
in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it's as high as 1 in 4.<sup>1</sup>

**2 in 10 low-income kids** miss too much school. They're also more likely to suffer academically.<sup>2</sup>

**2.5 in 10 homeless kids** are chronically absent.<sup>3</sup>

**4 in 10 transient kids** miss too much school when families move.<sup>4</sup>

### Why it matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

#### Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?<sup>5</sup>

Attendance Group	Percentage of Kids Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade
Good attendance in K and 1st (missed 9 or fewer days both years)	84%
At-risk attendance (missed more than 9 days both years)	43%
Chronically absent in K or 1st (missed 18 or more days one year)	41%
Chronically absent in K and 1st (missed 18 or more days both years)	17%

### What families can do

- Find out what day school starts** and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Build regular routines** for bed time and the morning.
- Talk about the importance of regular attendance** and about how your child feels about school.
- Don't permit missing school** unless your child is truly sick. Use a thermometer to check for a fever. Remember that stomach aches and headaches may be signs of anxiety.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips** when school is in session.
- Keep a chart** recording your child's attendance at home. At the end of the week, talk with your child about what you see.
- Develop back up plans** for getting to school if something comes up. Ask a family member, neighbor or another parent for help.
- Seek support** from school staff or community groups to help with transportation, health problems, or no safe path to school.

1. Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 1999-2000, National Center for Education Statistics, Department of Education, Washington, DC, 2001. 2. National Center for Education Statistics, Department of Education, Washington, DC, 2001. 3. National Center for Education Statistics, Department of Education, Washington, DC, 2001. 4. National Center for Education Statistics, Department of Education, Washington, DC, 2001. 5. National Center for Education Statistics, Department of Education, Washington, DC, 2001.

COPYRIGHT © 2015 ATTENDANCE WORKS | DESIGNED BY THE HATCHER GROUP

Chronic absenteeism, when a student is absent more than 10% of the school year, negatively affects a student's academic performance and is a serious concern in schools across California. Attending school regularly will help your child learn fundamental skills AND will give your child the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry your child into college and a career. When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and graduation rates. Visit the [Attendance Works](http://www.attendanceworks.org) website for important facts about absenteeism.

Please support our efforts to ensure our students are in school every day, ready to learn!

## Renew Student Meal Applications by Sept. 26th



### Schools Benefit When YOU Complete Your Application!

Having every family complete a Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application not only helps ensure all students in need have the opportunity to receive nutritious school meals, but also helps determine the District's and each school site's LCFF Supplemental Grant funding. We encourage you to fill out an application every year either through a paper application or online at <https://smfcsd.rocketscanapps.com>.

Students who were receiving free or reduced-price meal benefits at the end of last school year must fill out a NEW meal application for the 2018-19 school year. Students who have NOT submitted a NEW meal application, but qualified last school year, will be required to pay full price for school meals starting Wednesday, September 26, 2018. Students who did not receive free/reduced-price meals last school year and apply this year, will need to pay for their meals until the meal application is processed. **Please contact Child Nutrition Services if you need additional assistance at 650-312-1968.**

## Girl Scouts Build Buddy Benches for Schools



Congratulations to **Girl Scout Troop 61534** (students from Foster City School, George Hall, College Park, and North Shoreview Montessori) on creating two Buddy Benches to donate to Foster City and George Hall Elementary Schools! The girls solicited donations, fundraised for additional materials, sanded, primed, painted, and drilled the benches themselves. Through this process, they earned their Bronze Award, the highest award a Girl Scout Junior may earn! The benches were recently dedicated at both schools.

A Buddy Bench is intended to be used when kids are feeling lonely or don't have someone to play with. When they sit on the Buddy Bench, another child may approach them to play. In addition to building the benches from scratch/wood planks, the girls created short educational videos for the classrooms to show every year explaining "how to use" the buddy bench. We hope their hard work and generosity will inspire future Buddy Benches/gifts to our other schools in our district!

## Parkside Montessori Gets Beautified



Parkside students were welcomed back to school in a beautiful way thanks to **Hands On Bay Area**. Refurbishing Parkside's center patio area, building picnic tables (adult and child-sized), benches, and painting murals with a theme of growth and nature (a school-wide focus) has made the school a more inviting place for learners. Additionally, a group from **Google** came and painted a number of wall panels in patio areas and outdoor walkways to ready the space for students to paint murals around the school. We are so grateful to these groups for helping to beautify the campus!

Parkside would also like to thank two extremely involved parents who have taken the lead on these projects: **Grace Dulnuan-Turner and Laurette Grant**. They worked tirelessly to coordinate with the project leaders for these two groups, as well as organizing very productive Green Team Saturdays over the past year on campus.

## SMFCSD is Hiring - Become a Substitute Today!



**Become a Substitute and Make a Difference in a Student's Life Today!** The San Mateo-Foster City School District is hiring and has immediate openings for the following positions:

- Teachers - Clerical Staff - Custodians - Paraeducators

If you love working with students, become a substitute for our District. You can work every day, once a week, or just a few days a month. Some positions may also have flexible hours. [Apply online at EdJoin.](#)

To learn more, visit [Employment and Human Resources](#) page on the SMFCSD website or contact Anne Smith in the Human Resources Department at (650) 312-7294 or [ansmith@smfcsd.net](mailto:ansmith@smfcsd.net) to get started with the hiring process!

## San Mateo-Foster City Education Foundation News



### 9th Annual Run2FunD Education

A Health & Wellness Fair

Come Join the Fun & Raise \$\$ for Music, Athletics, STEM & More!

**Sunday, September 23, 2018**

**Hillsdale High School Track 2:00 – 5:00 pm**

More Info & Online Registration at

<https://smfcedfund.org/run2fund>

or visit your school office for Registration forms & waivers

Questions? Contact Vicki at [smfcedfund@smfcsd.net](mailto:smfcedfund@smfcsd.net)

Our Newest Ed Foundation Projects:  
makerspaces and middle school science lab equipment!

With your help and company matching donations, the possibilities are endless!  
The SMFC Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax ID 94-3110731

## Measure V - Excellence in Education Parcel Tax Information



### Excellence in Education – Measure V

The San Mateo-Foster City School District offers innovative approaches to learning, ensuring your child will not only learn the basics, but will also become well prepared for high school, college and careers. Over the years, our schools have provided a high quality education to our students and have been acknowledged for their outstanding programs. Our mission is to continue to build on this strong foundation, ensuring all students succeed.



#### Local Funding to Support Strong Education

The funding models for our schools have been inconsistent and unreliable, jeopardizing key programs within our schools and casting uncertainty into the future. In addition, following the defeat of Measure Y in March 2017, our schools face a structural deficit of approximately \$5 million annually. Without additional revenue, our schools will have to eliminate programs and reduce staffing.

On November 6, 2018 voters in the San Mateo-Foster City School District will be asked to vote on **Measure V—Excellence in Education Measure**. This Measure would give our schools a consistent and reliable source of revenue that would generate roughly \$10 million annually for 9 years (a \$298 per parcel tax adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index) so that the District can:

- Attract and retain excellent teachers and staff;
- Provide outstanding reading, writing, math and science programs;
- Enhance programs including science, technology, engineering and math; and
- Support art, drama and music programs

#### Attracting and Retaining Teachers

Studies show that teachers impact student achievement rates more than any other aspect of schooling. We live in one of the most expensive communities in the nation and the high cost of living has made it difficult for our teachers to stay in our community. As a result, there is a local teacher shortage. **Measure V** would allow us to provide teachers with increased compensation, so we can attract and retain teachers and improve student outcomes.

#### All Funds Spent in Our Community

**Measure V** will support our staff and innovative STEM/Arts programs. By law, all of the funds generated by this measure would be spent in our school district and none of the funds can be taken by the state or federal government, nor used for administrator salaries. The Measure will have exemptions for seniors (property owners, age 65+) and will establish an independent citizen oversight committee, annual audits, and reports to the community to ensure the funds will be spent as promised.

#### Learn more about Measure V – Excellence in Education Measure

Please visit [www.smfcsd.net](http://www.smfcsd.net) for additional information. If you have any questions, or would like to provide feedback, please contact Superintendent Dr. Joan Rosas at (650) 312-7348 or [jrosas@smfcsd.net](mailto:jrosas@smfcsd.net).

## NOVEMBER 2018 ELECTION INFORMATION

The San Mateo-Foster City School District Measure V—Excellence in Education Measure will attract and retain teachers, support innovative programming, enhance core academics, protect art and music education, and strengthen science, technology, engineering and math programs to prepare students for high school, college and careers.

### Register to Vote Online

You may register to vote or change your registration information online. Visit [www.registertovote.ca.gov](http://www.registertovote.ca.gov), the Secretary of State's website where you will be asked to enter your personal information and provide your driver's license number and the last four digits of your Social Security number.

### Register to Vote via the Mail

You may register by mailing a completed Voter Registration Form to the San Mateo County Registration & Elections Division.

Forms are available in our school offices, at public libraries, city and county offices, California Department of Motor Vehicles offices and at U.S. Post Offices. You may also call Elections Division office at (650) 312-5222 and they will mail a form to you within one business day.

**The last day to register to vote is Monday, October 22, 2018!**

### Voting Options

San Mateo County voters now have two easy options to vote: Vote by Mail and Vote Centers. Both options are available 29 days before Election Day, providing a convenient range of voting days to meet anyone's schedule.

To learn more about Measure V—Excellence in Education Measure, visit our website [www.smfcsd.net](http://www.smfcsd.net)

Para recibir una copia de los materiales informativos en español, por favor envíe un correo electrónico a: [aalmer@smfcsd.net](mailto:aalmer@smfcsd.net).



## School Board Meeting Highlights

SMFCSD's Board of Trustees invites you to its Thursday, September 13, 2018 regular meeting. The meeting highlights include information on the following topics of community interest:

- Equity Resolution - No. 09/18-19
- 2017-2018 Unaudited Actuals – Draft
- Potential Budget Reductions for 2019-2020

To review board presentations, upcoming agendas, and previous meeting summaries - go to the [Board Agenda & Summaries page](#) of the SMFCSD website.

### Summary of Recent Meetings

**At the August 23, 2018 Board Meeting, the Trustees:**

- Discussed CSBA Nominations for Directors-at-large Asian/Pacific Islander/Hispanic
- Nominated Jerry Hill for a CSBA Legislative Award
- Received information on a Sanctuary Board Policy from the Oakland Unified School District
- Received an update on the California Dyslexia Guidelines
- Received information on Potential Budget Reductions

**At the August 9, 2018 Board Meeting, the Trustees:**

- Adopted the Chinese Immersion Curriculum

All Board Meetings are open to the public and held at the San Mateo-Foster City School District Office - 1170 Chess Drive, Foster City at 6:30 pm. Community members are encouraged to attend.





## 2018-2019 SMFCSD Student Calendar

- August 14 - First Day of School
- August 31-September 3 - Labor Day Holiday
- October 5-19 - Fall Break
- November 12 - Veteran's Day Holiday
- November 21-23 - Thanksgiving Break
- December 21 - January 7 - Winter Break
- January 21 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday
- February 18 - President's Day Holiday
- March 11 - Teacher PD Day - No School
- April 1-12 - Spring Break
- May 27 - Memorial Day Holiday
- June 20 - Last Day of School



[2018-2019 SMFCSD Student Calendar](#) (pdf)

Parents - tired of manually entering important district dates into your calendar? Now you can export the SMFCSD Student Calendar to your device. Go to our [District Calendar](#) page and click on Export the SMFCSD Calendar.

