

**SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING APRIL 1-30, 2024
AS NATIONAL ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

WHEREAS, April is National Arab American Heritage Month. Officially established via a declaration by President Joe Biden in April 2021, it is a time to formally recognize the achievements of Arab Americans and celebrate the Arab American community's rich heritage and numerous contributions to society; and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans are not a mere fragment of our society, however, a representation of the people's shared experiences in society; one with our collective humanity — one of diverse backgrounds and faiths, vibrant tradition, bold innovation, hard work, commitment to community, and remarkable devotion; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 3.7 million Americans have Arab roots, according to the Arab American Institute, with ancestries traced to 22 countries in the Middle East and North Africa, including Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Palestine, Morocco, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and others.

WHEREAS, Through the ubiquitous presence of Arab Americans, their roots are amongst the entirety of the United States; their contributions to our society are unwavering and reach from the east to west coast; and

WHEREAS, California, to our advantage, is home to a wide cultural spectrum of diverse people. We know that our diversity is our greatest gift. Our state is fortunate to have the largest Arab American population in the country with more than 715,000 Californians of Arab descent; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo Union High School District serves, recognizes, and appreciates numerous Arab American students and their families. The District cultivates shared communities with every student in mind, thus including Arab Americans; and

WHEREAS, in addition to achievements of Arab Americans in classrooms, businesses, and faith communities, the achievements of Arab Americans are reflected in Rashida Tlaib, the first Palestinian American Woman and second muslim woman to serve in congress. Tlaib is a true representative to Arab American contributions to our society.

WHEREAS, we see Arab American Heritage month as an opportunity to lift up the the profound and wide-ranging contributions of this vibrant community in all facets of our society and remain committed to doing so outside of the confinement of Arab American heritage month; and

WHEREAS, we also recognize that, even as Arab Americans enrich our Nation, many continue to face prejudice, bigotry, and violence. Arab Americans are exponentially larger than the stereotypes in which they may be unjustly associated with; and together through advocacy in our District – instances of prejudice and violence will be combatted and disrupted at the root of the cause; and

WHEREAS, we as a District are grateful for the rich experiences Arab Americans bring to our classrooms and workplace and for the exquisite contributions they make to our schools and community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Board of San Mateo Union High School District that April is designated as National Arab American Heritage Month and that SMUHSD calls upon schools, staff, students, and families to observe April as National Arab American Heritage Month by celebrating and recognizing the past, present and future contributions made by Arab Americans in our country and in our school community.

SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Passed and adopted on the 28th day of March, 2024.

Superintendent

President, Board of Trustees