

San Mateo Union High School District
Jewish American Heritage Month Proclamation
May 1-31, 2023

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans have been an important part of the American history and have greatly contributed to all areas of American life and culture since our nation's earliest days; and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2006, the Federal Government proclaimed May as Jewish American Heritage Month, stating, "As a nation of immigrants, the United States is better and stronger because Jewish people from all over the world have chosen to become American citizens," and, since then, proclamations in support of Jewish American Heritage Month have been made by Presidents of the United States annually; and

WHEREAS, generations of Jews have fled to the United States in search of a better life for themselves and their families, and these immigrants made invaluable contributions in support of equality and civil rights through their leadership and achievements; and

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans connect to their Jewish identity in a variety of ways, such as culturally, ethnically, religiously and by following Jewish ethics and values; and

WHEREAS Jewish Americans are racially, ethnically, socially, politically and economically diverse, and nearly 40% of Bay Area Jewish households include a person of color; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 Jewish Americans faced a dramatic rise in antisemitic incidents—36% higher than in 2021—including but not limited to physical attacks, vandalism, verbal and physical harassment, and hateful comments posted on social media. Furthermore, from 2021 to 2022, K-12 schools saw a 49% increase to 494 incidents and college campuses saw a 41% increase to 219 incidents; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo Union High School District is committed to providing a safe learning and working environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. The District and denounces bullying, hazing, hate incidents or any behavior that infringes on the safety or well-being of students, employees, or any person within the District's jurisdiction without regard to intent as outlined in the District's: [Bulletin on Responding to and Reporting Bullying, Hazing, and Hate Incidents and Crimes](#); and

WHEREAS, SMUHSD shares an obligation to condemn and combat antisemitism wherever it exists, to include Jewish Americans in all facets of civic life, and to stand with the Jewish American community against hatred or bigotry in our District and country; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for education and policies that are culturally competent when describing, discussing, or addressing the impacts of being Jewish in all aspects of American society, including discourse and policy; and

WHEREAS we celebrate the rich and diverse heritage of the Jewish American community, including those who live, work and play in SMUHSD, and;

WHEREAS, we recognize Jewish American commitment to civic engagement and how SMUHSD has been enriched by local Jewish institutions and synagogues

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that SMUHSD hereby declares the month of May 2023 as Jewish American Heritage Month in appreciation of the achievements and contributions made by members of the Jewish community. The SMUHSD Board of Trustees calls upon all residents to celebrate Jewish Americans who have woven the fabric of our country and community, and supports opportunities to learn more about Jewish American history and culture. PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the San Mateo Union High School District on the 18th day of May, 2023

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Randall Booker, Superintendent

Greg Land, President Board of Trustees