San Mateo Union High School District
National Arab American Heritage Month Proclamation
April 1-30, 2023

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, the Arab American story is the American story — one of diverse backgrounds and faiths, vibrant tradition, bold innovation, hard work, commitment to community, and stalwart patriotism; 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, today, Arab Americans live in all 50 states, with two-thirds residing in 10 states: California, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia; and

Whereas, California is home to more immigrants than any other state, 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 numerous Arab American students and their families; and

Whereas, the achievements of Arab Americans are reflected in the arts and sciences; in businesses and faith communities; in classrooms and hospitals; and in police stations, firehouses, and every branch of the military; and

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 American life; and

Whereas, we also recognize that, even as Arab Americans enrich our Nation, many continue to face prejudice, bigotry, and violence and are committed as a District to fight these injustices; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of Trustees 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. PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the San Mateo Union High School District on the 20th day of April, 2023.