

**San Mateo Union High School District**  
**Proclamation Recognizing September 15, 2024, - October 15, 2024**  
**as National Hispanic Heritage Month**

**WHEREAS**, National Hispanic Heritage Month is observed each year from September 15 to October 15 to celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of those living in America whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America; and

**WHEREAS**, the month includes the independence days of several Latin American countries, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Chile, and Belize; and

**WHEREAS**, the Latino community is exceptionally diverse and includes indigenous people from throughout the Americas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Latino community comprises the largest racial or ethnic group in the United States, with the largest population living in California, and represents 24 percent of San Mateo County's total population and 38 percent of students in San Mateo County public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the Latino community have made countless contributions to the United States' economy and culture, serving in all branches of the Armed Forces, as dedicated public servants, and as leaders in education, health care, business and entrepreneurship, and other professions; and

**WHEREAS**, the heritage celebration provides a wonderful opportunity to highlight the diversity of the Latino community and its many and rich contributions to both the United States, California and in our District; and

**WHEREAS**, The term "Hispanic" is used in the name of the national recognition of this month, the San Mateo Union High School District (SMUHSD) uses the term "Latino" to describe the diverse residents of the United States with cultural or ancestral ties to Latin America or the Caribbean. For many, the term "Latino" also creates room for acknowledging Black, Indigenous, Asian, and other heritages on equal terms with European ancestry. The term "Hispanic" is used to signal a connection to Spain or the Spanish language.

**WHEREAS**, SMUHSD has an important role to play in educating students and the larger community about the diversity of the Latino community and its contributions to the State of California;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the San Mateo Union High School District hereby commits to highlighting the rich diversity of peoples and histories within the Latino community over the course of September 15, 2024 to October 15, 2024 and throughout the school year.

**SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
Passed and adopted on this 22nd day of August, 2024



Superintendent

Ligia Andrade Zuniga

President, Board of Trustees