

SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Randall Booker

DATE: May 15, 2025

RE: Spotlight on Student Learning - Spring 2025 Semester Highlights

I. BACKGROUND

As we reflect on the spring of the 2024-25 school year, educators across the District are feeling great pride in the academic and social-emotional growth of their students. This report serves to celebrate educators' and students' hard work and engagement in their learning process so far this year. While this list isn't all encompassing it serves to highlight much of the work being done in our District.

I would like to thank our educators for their incredible dedication and for all they do on behalf of our students. They are a remarkable team of professionals who continually strive to improve teaching and learning. I also would like to thank the many organizations, families, and volunteers who partner with the District to enhance and expand opportunities for our students. I am grateful for this breadth and depth of community support for public education, and proud of what we have accomplished together so far this year.

Curriculum and Instruction

- **Certificated Professional Learning Days** - The San Mateo Union High School District (SMUHSD) conducted a highly participative and well-received professional development (PD) event January 28-29, focusing on the theme "The SMUHSD Instructional Framework- Our Path Forward." The event featured a wide range of workshops aimed at promoting diversity, equity, and inclusivity within the school community. These sessions, led by both internal and external experts, covered topics such as artificial intelligence, social emotional learning, multilingual learner support, and restorative practices. The workshops emphasized practical, inclusive instructional strategies and fostered meaningful conversations among educators, who actively participated as agents of change towards educational excellence. Attendance over the two days averaged 73 percent, consistent with past PD events. The feedback was notably positive, with a majority of participants rating the sessions highly effective, demonstrating the event's impact and relevance to their professional practices.
- **Math** - The Board approved two new courses for implementation during the 2025-26 school year. First, Aragon and Burlingame will be piloting a new *Algebra II with Financial Applications* course. This course provides a UC/CSU A-G-approved Algebra II-equivalent experience that emphasizes relevant, high-interest financial topics such as banking, credit, investing, employment, and budgeting. The second course, also piloting at AHS and BHS, is a new *Probability and Statistics* course serving 11th–12th grade

students who have completed Algebra II and are seeking a rigorous yet accessible UC/CSU A-G-approved math course outside the traditional calculus track. It covers essential topics in statistics and probability through hands-on, real-world applications, including data analysis, experimental design, and modeling randomness.

- **Spring 9th Grade Transition Meeting** - We had over 60 participants in our annual Spring 9th Grade Transition Meeting. There was representation from all of our partner districts and comprehensive high school administrator and counseling teams. The meeting provides space for teams to discuss how to support our 9th grade students who may need additional support as they transition into high school. District representatives from student services, curriculum and assessment, special education support services, multilingual learner services and health services were all present to share the different systems of support available with SMUHSD.
- **Literacy Intervention** - The Intensive Literacy Intervention course continues to show promising results for students who are reading significantly below grade level. This is the end of the second year and the class was successfully expanded to Hillsdale High School after starting at Capuchino and San Mateo High Schools.
- **Department Chair Job Description Task Force** - A committee of teachers, administrators and District staff collaborated through the year to update the job description for department chairs. It was a successful and collaborative process that resulted in a finalized job description accepted by the taskforce and brought for approval to the board on May 22nd.
- **Instructional Framework** - The Instructional Lead Team (ILT) made substantial progress on the refinement and sharing of the instructional framework rooted in humanizing pedagogy. Activities included supporting site level implementation through training and support of our site PD and MTSS coordinators, alignment of professional learning strands to the instructional framework principles, work with instructional coaches and site administrators on understanding the framework language and components. Additionally, the instructional lead team worked on an exemplar vetting protocol to begin the curation of framework-aligned classroom practices, refined the instructional framework for clarity including a crosswalk to the 2024 California Standards for the Teaching Profession, and developing implementation goals and transition of the work from the instructional lead team to other key leadership groups.
- **Career and Technical Education (CTE)** - Across our district this year, CTE programs have flourished with enriching opportunities that connect students directly to industry professionals and real-world experiences. Students benefited from guest speakers from notable organizations such as Stanford University, Meta, Genentech, Adobe, NBC Sports Bay Area, and Ernst & Young. Field trips included engaging visits to sites like Gilead, Autodesk, Skyline Automotive Technology Program, and culinary tours at Dandelion Chocolate Factory and the Ferry Building Farmers Market. The programs emphasized hands-on, project-based learning in biotechnology, digital media, engineering, culinary arts, and design, often accompanied by mentorship and internship opportunities with local businesses and industries. Students also participated in various job-shadowing experiences, resume workshops, and industry networking events, demonstrating the District's commitment to career readiness and real-world skill development.
- **State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond Visits Aragon** - April 30 was National Apprenticeship Day and Aragon, amongst a few other schools, was mentioned as a model high school by the California Department of Education (CDE) Apprenticeship Office for its [CTE Engineering Technology Trade MC3 Program](#), a hand-on training program that prepares students to join a construction apprenticeship

program when they graduate high school. On April 30, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond visited Aragon to learn more about the program, which is a first of its kind program in a San Mateo County high school. He visited Engineering teacher Arron Apperson's class and engaged with students about what they were learning and why the MC3 program is so important to them. An Aragon Robotics student spoke about the various robots and competitions and was such an incredibly impressive spokesperson for Robotics at Aragon.

- **Assessment** - The district implemented new NWEA MAP literacy (grades 9-12) and math (Algebra I/Math I [CHS] and Geometry/Math II [CHS]) assessments across the District. Results informed placement and teacher instructional decision-making and we look forward to seeing the growth that students demonstrate on these new assessments going forward.
- **Financial Aid Workshops** - The District hosted six financial aid workshops in January and February on weekdays and Saturdays. Families attending the workshops were offered assistance in English and Spanish.

Equity

- **Equity Advisory** - The Equity Advisory Committee continued into its fifth year and hosted the LCAP community meeting on May 15. The SMUHSD Equity Advisory Committee met monthly to advance equity, inclusion, and student-centered practices. The committee analyzed student surveys, academic performance, and engagement metrics to identify inequities and recommend actions. They also gathered community input to shape future agendas and reviewed key district initiatives such as LCAP, intervention programs, and cultural curriculum integration.
- **Student Equity Councils** - The Student Equity Councils continue to be active at each of the school sites. This includes the addition of Bridge Academy students meeting as a student equity team. The students have worked on a variety of projects from the "Humanizing Aragon" campaign, "Feel Good Fridays" at CHS, and a podcast project for BHS alumni. We anticipate the work will be sustained through the efforts of the coordinators going into the next year.
- **3rd Annual Pride Prom** - The District collaborated with the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) and the College of San Mateo (CSM) to host the 3rd Annual Pride Prom at CSM. About 150 9th -12th graders from high schools in San Mateo County attended and had a great time.
- **Equity Visits** - School site administrators and teacher leaders participated in school site equity visits to help provide each school site with insights into persistent equity dilemmas as framed through their WASC action plans. During the spring semester, teams of 6-11 administrators and teacher leaders visited Aragon, Bridge Academy, Burlingame, Capuchino, Hillsdale, Mills, and San Mateo High Schools. Visits included classroom observations, student focus groups, staff focus groups, and a collaborative debrief between the visiting teams and the school site leadership team. This process allows for school site teams to gain insights and perspectives on instruction at their school sites, and allows for visiting team members to learn about other school site programs and increase intradistrict program collaboration.

Sustainability

- **California Green Ribbon Schools Designation** - The California Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) recently recognized the San Mateo Union High School District as a 2025 California Green Ribbon School District Sustainability

Honoree. The California Green Ribbon Award honors schools, school districts, and Institutes of Higher Education for excellence in resource efficiency, health and wellness, and environmental and sustainability education. The recognition award is part of a larger U.S. Department of Education (ED) effort to identify and communicate practices that result in improved student engagement, academic achievement, graduation rates, and workforce preparedness; and reinforces federal efforts to increase energy independence and economic security.

- **Sustainable and Climate Ready School Awards** - The San Mateo County Office of Education's Environmental Literacy and Sustainability (ELSI) Team announced that San Mateo High School was named one of their Sustainable and Climate Ready Schools (SCRS) Challenge Leaders! SCRS Challenge Leaders are students, teachers, administrators, and community members who are driving environmentally sustainable transformation across their school community's Campus, Curriculum, and Community engagement programs. Additionally, the following schools/students were recognized as Standout Award winners:
 - Burlingame High School Environmental Club: [Annual CEC Student Film Fest](#)
 - Aragon High School: [Pickle Puzzles](#)
 - Hillsdale and Burlingame High Schools: [Plastic Bottle Petition Campaign](#)
 - Hillsdale High School Environmental Club: [Green Commute Days](#)
 - Mills and Westmoor High Schools: [FeedForward](#)
 - San Mateo High School Green Team: [Green-ifying Project](#)
 - San Mateo High School Green Team: [Thrift Store](#)
- **Sale of Plastic Water Bottles Ban** - On April 24, the SMUHSD board unanimously approved a resolution banning the sale of single-use plastic water bottles on all of its campuses. Associate Superintendent Chief Business Officer Yancy Hawkins, with students and student Sustainability Committee Members presented the proposal to the Board.

Aragon High School

- **Choir, Orchestra and Piano** - The AHS Choir and Choirs and Orchestra Director John Chen were selected to perform at the 2025 Northern Golden State Choral Competition. Aragon was one of only ten schools that will be featured at this competition! An Aragon 10th grader won 1st place in the Charleston International Music Competition in the Piano Category.
- **Music Department Award** - Aragon was named one of only 87 schools to receive a SupportMusic Merit Award (SMMA) from The NAMM Foundation! The SMMA Award recognizes individual schools (public, private, parochial, or charter) for their support and commitment to music education. It is a "school-only" distinction awarded as part of the Best Communities for Music Education program. [Learn more.](#)
- **Measure L Construction** - Aragon and SMUHSD held a ribbon cutting ceremony marking the completion of construction on its Baseball and Flex Field on March 4.
- **DECA** - An Aragon student placed first in the Financial Consulting category at the DECA State Career Development Conference and qualified to compete at the International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida in April '25.
- **Robotics** - Aragon Robotics' First Technology Challenge 4345 competed at the Northern California Peninsula League Tournament at Jefferson High School where they won the Inspire Award, securing their spot at the Northern California Regional Competition.

- **Cheer** - Aragon's Competitive Cheer team won the CCS CHAMPIONSHIP in the Large School Division.
- **School Promotional Video** - Aragon collaborated with the District Communications Department in the creation of [English](#) and [Spanish](#) school promotional videos.

Bridge Academy

- **Design of New School** - Bridge staff started working with selected architect Lionakis to design our new school buildings.
- **Day of Service** - In January, Bridge hosted over 20 volunteers from Kaiser Permanente and County Supervisor Noelia Corzo through Hands on Bay Area for a day of service which resulted in the building of six beautiful benches for the school.
- **Jobs for Youth** - A Bridge student was awarded a Jobs for Youth academic scholarship for their college studies.
- **Tier II Interventions** - All students participated in Tier II intervention groups focused on social emotional learning and future planning.
- **Support for immigrant students and families** - Bridge hosted a training by Immigrant Legal Defense on immigration support for students for all Bridge staff and other sites with Newcomer students
- **Student and Family Engagement** - The trimester 2 student work showcase was attended by more than 60% of Bridge students and families.
- **School Promotional Video** - Bridge staff collaborated with the Communications Team on the production of school promotional videos in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Burlingame High School

- **Robotics** - BHS Iron Panthers Robotics Team Won the WORLDS Robotic Tournament in their division, which took place April 16-19 in Houston!
- **Student Musicians** - BHS Jazz Ensemble performed at the California Music Educators Association Jazz Festival and received a unanimous superior rating for their performance as well as sight-reading!
- Seven BHS musicians were selected in the honor group for California All-State is one of the most competitive all-state festivals besides Texas and Florida and guest conductors are chosen by four boards (California Band Directors Association, California Orchestra Directors Association, California Alliance for Jazz, California Choral Directors Association)
- **Wrestling** - A BHS wrestler is the school's first CCS Champion and first wrestler from PAL to earn a medal at State. She also was named San Mateo Daily Journal Girls Wrestler of the Year in April 2025.
- **Drama** - A BHS 12th Grader was nominated **and won** the [2025 Rita Moreno Lead Actor Award](#) for his performance as Nick Bottom in the school's production of Something Rotten!
- **World Language** - A BHS 10th Grader placed third in the "Escribo en Español" writing contest hosted by the Education Office of the Consulate General of Spain and the California Department of Education.
- **Mathematics** -
 - A BHS student placed 13th in the nation for 11th graders at the [MathCon competition](#)! Nationwide, 31,000+ students participated in the first round and led to 645 finalists who traveled to Chicago last weekend for the Finals.
 - A BHS 10th Grader qualified for the [Mathematical Olympiad Program \(MOP\)](#). The student was one of the top 30 freshmen and sophomores that participated in the USA Mathematical Olympiad from across the US. MOP is a three-week

summer program where students participate in a variety of team tests to determine the teams that will represent the USA at the International Mathematical Olympiad and the European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad.

- **Film Festival:** Two BHS students were awarded first place in the [Citizens Environmental Council Student Film Fest](#) high school category for their film, "Food Doesn't Belong in Landfills."
- **Student Newspaper:** The Burlingame B placed fifth in a National Student Journalism Conference for Best Newspaper (Under 1,800 students) in April and won an [SNO Distinguished Site Award](#) in February.
- **Architecture** - BHS Architecture Students won a Sustainability Award and a student received a scholarship at the Construction Industry Education Foundation's [Design Build Competition](#), held April 30-May 1.
- **School Promotional Videos** - Burlingame staff collaborated with the Communications Team in the production of school promotional videos in English and Spanish. Final videos will be shared with the community in the coming weeks.

Capuchino High School

- **Musicians** - The Capuchino High School Winter Percussion won first place at the February 8 competition at Fremont High School. They competed under the Scholastic Regional A division.
- **Reclassification** - 26 young scholars were celebrated at the Annual Reclassification Ceremony, held in February. These students have achieved fluency in English proficiency after meeting various linguistic and academic criteria—a milestone that reflects their dedication and hard work. Special guest Nicolas Esquivel Prieto (Alumni) spoke to our students and families about the significance of reclassification. He emphasized the perseverance it requires, the importance of seizing the opportunities CHS offers, and the incredible support our staff provides to help students succeed.
- **Meet the Mustangs** - On March 24, CHS hosted its "Meet the Mustangs" event with Parkside Middle School to showcase the school and different programs and clubs offered for incoming students.
- **Public Speaking** - In February, CHS students placed first and third in the San Bruno Lions Speech Competition. The competition showcased an array of talented speakers debating the thought-provoking topic, "Is Artificial Intelligence a Friend or Foe?"
- **Baseball** - The Capuchino Mustangs Varsity Baseball team took on the Burlingame Panthers in a thrilling game at the iconic Oracle Park, the home of the San Francisco Giants on Saturday, April 12.
- **Career Technical Education (CTE)** - The CTE program continues to do great work exposing our students to CTE related opportunities within the bay area like going to Filoli Historic Home and Gardens, R.I.D.E Conference, Heath Ceramic and Factory tour, SFMOMA, and Canada College to visit the Fashion and Theater Costume Dept.

Hillsdale High School

- **Measure K Grant Recipient** - San Mateo's District 2 Supervisor Noelia Corzo recently announced that Hillsdale's [Empowerment Through Action \(ETA\) program](#) is a recipient of a District 2 Measure K Grant. We applied for the grant back in July and are so thankful to be one of the recipients!
- **Mock Trial** - In March, the Hillsdale High Mock Trial team competed as one of 34 teams in the State Finals in Los Angeles and finished second! Three team members were also individually recognized with various MVP awards for their performances, including one student who received an MVP award for all three rounds she competed in and she also

- received the “Outstanding Defense Attorney” award for the entire tournament.
- **Sustainability** - The San Mateo County Office of Education’s Environmental Literacy and Sustainability (ELSI) Team recognized two Hillsdale projects - [Plastic Bottle Petition Campaign](#) (with Burlingame High) and [Green Commute Days](#) - as Standout Award Winners as part of the Sustainable and Climate Ready Schools (SCRS) Challenge. Hillsdale Teacher Dave Emanuel is the school’s sustainability coordinator!
 - **Arts Education** - 15 Hillsdale students were recognized by the [Bay Area Creative Foundation](#) (BACF) with a 2025 Creative Youth Award, including one student who received a Superior Award in Photography and another student who received an Exceptional Award, also in Photography.
 - **Career Speaker Series** - The Hillsdale Career Center hosted five career speaker events in the Spring semester welcoming professionals from various industries including: Engineering, Education, Media Arts/Communications, Technology and Sciences.
 - **Rita Moreno Award** - Hillsdale High School Drama’s Cabaret received an Overall Production nomination and won a Fan Favorite Award at the 2025 Rita Moreno Awards! A student was also nominated for a Rita Moreno Award in the Lead Actress Category. The Rita Moreno Awards competition recognizes outstanding achievement in high school musical theater.
 - **Scholar Athlete** - A Hillsdale athlete was named Central Coast Section Female Scholar/Athlete of the year for the Peninsula Athletic League.
 - **Athletics**: Boys Soccer CCS Championship and NorCal Championship qualification,
 - **Tech Challenge Winners** - The 'Drop Tower Titans' made up of Hillsdale High School students Jonas Bell, Tyler Lu, Sean Whipkey, and Adam Woo presented their design for The Tech Challenge 'Gravitate to Navigate 2025', at the 38th Annual Tech Challenge Final Showcase and received the top award of 'Outstanding Overall' for Grades 9-12, along with two other teams.
 - **Graduate Profile Showcase**: In March, all Hillsdale teachers shared their planning and implementation of curriculum related to the school’s Graduate Profile to their peers and guests from the district office.
 - **Anaheim Partnership**: Hillsdale staff continued its on-going partnership and coaching relationship with Anaheim schools as they transition to a Smaller Learning Community model.
 - **Unified PE**: Successful implementation of Unified PE and partnership between APE and PE
 - **Senior Timbuktu Presentations**: All 12th graders in Timbuktu presented their research on “Agents of Change” to an audience of 11th graders on April 25
 - **Upcoming Site Professional Learning**: Faculty will be invited to participate on June 2 and June 3 to deepen practices aligned to the HHS Graduate Profile and SMUHSD Instructional Framework.
 - **Strong Staff Retention**: Significant number of hires for 24-25 with a strong retention rate going into the 25-26 school year.
 - **Culture Week/Culture Knight**: The Hillsdale community explored and celebrated equity and diversity issues through Advisory, leading up to a well-attended and joyful Culture Knight in April.
 - **Music Accomplishments and Accolades (Disneyland)**:
 - Concert Band received SILVER rating (top 80% in North America)
 - Jazz Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, and the Orchestra all received GOLD rating (highest possible rating and top 90% across North America)
 - Concert Choir received 2nd Place in their Division
 - Orchestra received 2nd place in their division

- Concert Band received 2nd place in their division
- Wind Ensemble received 1st place in their division
- Jazz Ensemble received 1st place in their division
- Jazz Ensemble won the Instrumental Sweepstakes Award meaning they were the highest scoring band in the whole festival out of 17 schools.
- Hillsdale Music Department won the Overall Festival Sweepstakes meaning we were the highest scoring music department across all disciplines (choir/orchestra/band) out of **17 schools!**

Middle College

- **Spring Orientation Kickoff**- Student Equity Council organized two days of activities with students and staff involving community-building with art and wellness activities and games. Students competed in various competitions and cheered their classmates' hip-hop and ballet folklorico performances.
- **January Site Visits** - Staff shared Middle College information with current rising sophomores and a few rising juniors. Each comprehensive site was visited by program staff in January. Almost every 10th grader heard a presentation about Middle College benefits and the application process.
- **Family Information Nights** - Middle College held Family Information Nights at the end of January with guardians and potential students.
- **Preview Week** - More than 185 students interested in attending Middle College, signed up to visit CSM to preview the campus and program with a current Middle College student a few weeks prior to the application deadline.
- **Lottery** - 105 current 10th grade students out of 168 applicants were notified of their acceptance from across the sites in mid-February with a three day window to decide if they will be moving to the Middle College program in the 25-26 school year.
- **Dance** - On March 21, around 80 students and the teaching staff attended a dance and had fun with Food Trucks and Photo booths. The event was held in Building 10 at College of San Mateo and was for Middle College students only.
- **New Family Information Night** - New Family Information Night was held on April 22 for the students and their families attending in 25-26.
- **CAASPP Testing** - The CAASPP was successfully administered and taken by over 95% of the Middle College students from March 24-28.
- **Community Day field trips** - All Juniors were a part of guided tours and an admissions presentation on April 17 at UC Davis. Seniors went to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk as well.
- **Senior Reflections** - all 12th graders have begun working on their program-required presentation, which asks all students to reflect on areas of continued growth and successes.

Mills High School

- **Academic Achievement** - In January, 35 Latino/Hispanic students were recognized for achieving the honor roll at the Latino/Hispanic Spanish-Speaking Parent Night.
- **Jazz Band** - The Mills Jazz Band received a Unanimous Superior Rating at the CMEA Jazz Fest hosted at Mills on January 31st.
- **School Counselors** - In February, the Mills Counseling Department recognized National School Counselor Week. One word that describes our Mills team is "Innovative." This year, the team started a new group for our Filipino American students (Kapwa), continued to teach the College & Career class for first-generation students, and piloted

an academic motivation group for students that saw an 83% improvement rate in GPA for students that attended!

- **Dragon Team** - The Mills High School Dragon team participated in the San Francisco Chinese New Year Parade on February 15, honoring a deep tradition for our students and school. The team placed 2nd in the School Speciality Unit category.
- **College & Career** - The College & Career Center - at Mills launched a new career exploration series: Voices of Valhalla! In this event, various panels composed of different professionals from a particular industry (Ex. RN, Pharmacist, Psychologist for the Medical/Healthcare panel) came to speak to students about their careers, individual pathways, and skills they can work on now to succeed in their industry. The vision of this series is to provide career exploration opportunities all year long, build an arsenal of resources and connections, and give students access to professionals they otherwise wouldn't. We hosted four panels in March. To give a sample of our first panel, we hosted the Creative Manager for the Sacramento Kings and a Video Game Producer/Designer who has formerly worked for EA and Sony, among others.
- **Poetry** - A student received an award for her poetry from Scholastic Arts and Writing, winning a Silver Key in Poetry and an Honorable Mention in Poetry!
- **Basketball** - Girls Basketball won the CCS Division III championship on Saturday, March 1st, playing against the same team they lost to last year by 2 points! Girls' soccer and boys basketball also made it to the playoffs! Sophomore Kelailah Johnson made it to state for Wrestling!
- **Academic Achievement** - In March, we celebrated students who improved their GPA by 30% or more during the first grading period of the Spring with a pizza party. We saw that 66% of students on a GPA tracker improved. The students all had Tier 1 & Tier 2 interventions using our Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS).
- **Robotics** - In February, the Mills Robotics Team (Troup #253—the Boba Bots) received the Imagery Award at the Robotics First Competition in Hollister. Sharon Zhang, a Mills student, received recognition and was placed on the Dean's List (a recognition and award akin to the National Merit Scholarship Program).
- **Mathematics** - Mills held its first Math Fair in mid-March. All math students came to the East Gym and participated in hands-on math games and activities to further their understanding and knowledge of fundamental math concepts!
- **Performing Arts** - Mills Music & Drama departments performed Mamma Mia! to a packed house in March. Mills is one of the few schools that can have a full student orchestra pit for musical performances.
- **Athletics**
 - Softball and girls basketball both received nominations for the Mercury News Players of the Week vote.
 - Two Mills Athletic Teams Earn Scholastic Team Award: Varsity Girls Swimming and the Badminton team earned the [CCS Scholastic Team Award](#) this Spring. Scholastic Team Awards are bestowed upon the five varsity teams in each CCS championship sport, which have the highest collective GPA for the grading period which ends during the season of sport.
- **Filipino American Alliance (FAA)** - In April, The FAA competed in the Rock the School Bells Hip Hop Conference at Skyline, a one-day conference aimed to empower and educate youth and students about the importance of higher education and career exploration, and won First Place out of several Bay Area teams!
- **Student Equity Council (SEC)** - The SEC Student Mural, "In Our Diversity is Strength" a project that took over three years to imagine and then complete. The mural is in our auditorium lobby and was dedicated at the annual *Who We Are Assembly* in April.
- **Dance** - Mills held Viking Velocity, its first Dance Performance showcasing the

Proposition 28-sponsored Dance program at Mills!

- **Measure L Construction** - Mills celebrated the completion of construction on our school improvements project at a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 9.
- **La Fiesta** - on May 9 Mills held a La Fiesta celebration of our Latina students.

Peninsula High School

- **Dual Enrollment** - 24 seniors are taking "Herman@s Connection to College" through Skyline College this spring semester. This course focuses largely on ethnic studies. In addition, four students who have graduated early have begun taking courses at the College of San Mateo this spring.
- **Attendance** - Teachers and support staff are creating incentive programs for students with improved attendance, behavior, or homework completion. On March 27, the school hosted an ice cream social because school-wide attendance improved to 73%, up 6% from the previous three weeks.
- **Family Engagement Nights** - PHS successfully hosted a series of family engagement nights where staff and families discussed family relationships, ways to do better in school, strategies for post-high school opportunities like trade schools and college.
- **Trimester #2 Awards Night/Open House**--Over 125 people attended this event, including board member Ligia Andrade Zuniga, which brings the PHS community together to honor academics, behavioral, and college and career successes.
- **Outdoor Education Counselors**- Three students expanded their skills as they worked in leadership roles supporting fifth graders in education for a full week.
- **Coffee with the Principal**--Once a month event conducted in the morning and early evenings providing updates on graduation, parent supports, school testing, career exploration, and mental health programs in school and outside resources.
- **Burlingame Farmers Market** - Students participated in the Farmer's Market on the last Sunday of January, February, and March and made homemade scented candles and wooden coasters with designs students engraved. Students also created decorative vases. Please join us for future Farmers Markets in Burlingame on the last Sunday of each month, during the school year, between 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Senior Success Plan** - Senior cram sessions began in May as students stay after school to work on their classes to meet the graduation requirements by the end of the month.
- **Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)** - PHS has restructured its MTSS Tier 1 supports and created a curriculum for its Restorative Period (Thursdays Only) designed to help struggling students with academics and college and career support. PHS also added a homeroom aspect where each teacher supervises 12 students of various grades and supports both their academics and reviews SEL curriculum.
- **Giants Game April 9** - As a reward for earning all A's, 14 PHS students attended the April 9 Giants game. Students were treated to pre-game, on-field access where they were able to meet the players. An additional 26 students who received all A's and B's attended just the game.
- **Trimester #3 Enrollment** - 23 new students, including fifteen sophomores, joined PHS for the start of the third trimester on March 3. *Pumafication* conferences were conducted in the first week of trimester #3 to support new families and students with resources and find out more about their learning styles and previous academic struggles.
- **SF Youth Art Exchange Summit** - Students had the opportunity to display their artwork at the San Francisco Youth Art Exchange Summit on May 3.

San Mateo Adult and Career Education (SMACE)

- **Legislation Day** - On April 8, 2025, SMACE staff and Student Council officers participated in the California Council for Adult Education (CCAE) and California Adult Education Administrators Association (CAEAA) Legislative Advocacy Day at the Capitol. Seven student leaders attended, with three meeting Senator Josh Becker to discuss the significance of adult education. The experience empowered students to understand their role in advocacy and the legislative process, highlighting the importance of their voices in shaping educational policies.
- **Black History Month** - In February, SMACE honored Black History Month with a vibrant celebration that highlighted the achievements and contributions of the Black community throughout history. Special thanks to Dr. Carolyn Ransom-Scott for her inspiring presentation on her "KEEPSAKE SERIES 2, African American/Black Inventors," and to artists Jane Henri and Jane Polk for sharing their remarkable artwork. Teachers actively engaged their students by bringing classes to the African American Inventors exhibition, where students explored the rich legacy of Black innovation and creativity. For many, it was an eye-opening experience that deepened their understanding of how African Americans have shaped U.S. culture and science. Students were particularly surprised to learn how recently many everyday inventions were developed, sparking lively discussions and greater appreciation for the ongoing impact of Black inventors.
- **College of San Mateo Tour** - SMACE students and staff went on their annual tour of the College of San Mateo in March. They explored Digital Media, Theater & Art, Dental, Cosmetology, and the ESL departments. SMACE Transition Navigator and Counseling-Student Services Assistant accompanied the students on the tour. Currently we have 16 students transferring into CSM and one entering into the dental assisting program.
- **Students as Leaders Summit** - At the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE) Conference, SMACE proudly participated in the Students as Leaders Summit, where one of our student leaders had the opportunity to attend and present. This same student, alongside Student Success Coordinator Marina Kravtsova and Administrative Assistant Stefanie Wright, co-presented at the main COABE Conference held in Dallas from March 30 to April 2. Their session, titled *Missing Connections: Extracurricular Activities and Student Engagement in Educational Programs for Immigrants*, explored the vital role of extracurricular activities in fostering a sense of belonging among immigrant learners. For our student, it was an inspiring and empowering experience—meeting adult learners from across the country, sharing her personal journey, and hearing the stories of others. Her voice added an authentic and powerful perspective to the conversation on how schools can better engage and support immigrant students.
- **Building Student Leadership Through Volunteer Support** - Student Success Coordinator Marina Kravtsova, along with 12 SMACE students — including student ambassadors, student council officers, and classroom volunteers — attended the California Council for Adult Education (CCAE) Bay Section Conference in Fremont on Saturday, February 22, 2025. For many, it was their first experience attending a professional conference in the U.S. Throughout the day, they engaged in presentations, networked with educators from across Bay Area schools, and gained valuable insights into the field of adult education. Notably, one SMACE student was awarded a CCAE scholarship, which will support his continued educational journey.
- **Student Council** - At SMACE, students take an active role in leadership through the Student Council, helping shape school life and fostering a strong, connected community. Each school year, over 70 students volunteer for more than 20 different events — including supporting registrations, celebrations, testing sessions, classroom activities, student surveys, and representing SMACE at key meetings. Up to 20 new students from

both morning and evening classes join the volunteer program every semester.

- **Promoting Adult Education** - This year, seven active student volunteers shared their stories, highlighting the importance of volunteering with participants. Furthermore, twenty ESL Classes created posters about the role of Adult Education in their lives displayed in room 32. The event was inclusive, with students from different levels participating and sharing their opinions. Even students from the offsite San Bruno class contributed by creating posters, sparking conversations in their classes about their personal achievements and goals. Student leaders also organized campaigns after a schoolwide lesson on democracy, led monthly meetings, and planned community events like International Women's Day celebrations. They strengthened school spirit through SMACE Spirit Breaks and promoted adult education with student-created posters.

San Mateo High School

- **Sustainability** - The San Mateo County Office of Education selected San Mateo High School as a leader for the Sustainable and Climate Ready Schools (SCRS) Challenge and received a \$500 award for the 2024-25 school year. This award is intended for environmental sustainability efforts outlined in your SCRS application. Additionally, the Green Team has been recognized as Standout Award Winners for their Green-ifying Project and Thrift Store initiatives. [Learn more about the awards!](#)
- **Reclassification** - 45 multilingual learner students have been reclassified as fluent English proficient and were recognized at a Reclassification Ceremony on March 21.
- **Student Recognition** - In January, a SMHS student was named Foster City Rotary Student of the month. The student was recognized for her work in AVID and Leadership.
- **Athletics**
 - Girls' Basketball Coach Paul Carion was named a 2025 Winter Sport Honors Coach by the Central Coast Section.
 - Boys' Basketball Coach Marvin Lui was named PAL Ocean Coach of the Year.
 - A student was voted PAL Boys Ocean Player of the year as well as [SM Daily Journal Boys Basketball Player of the Year](#).
 - A student was voted PAL Girls' Basketball Co-player of the Year
 - Boys' Track and Field won PAL Bay Championship; multiple athletes have qualified individually for the PAL Finals on Saturday May 10th and expected to qualify for the CCS Meet.
 - Softball with 11 players, all freshmen and sophomores, ranked 13th in the Central Coast Section and are in 3rd place in the PAL Bay
 - A student placed 3rd in CCS diving and will go to the State meet on May 15th
- **Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA)**
 - The Zoetic Tapestry Project hosted a [SMHS student art certificate show](#) at Kohl Pumphouse Art Gallery in San Mateo's Central Park.
 - The [San Mateo Public Library](#) displayed SMHS student art and held an artists reception on April 30.
 - [SWA Gallery in San Bruno](#) will display current district artwork by Visual Art Students in several disciplines. [Here is what SMHS is showing](#). Exhibit runs April 21-May 2. Reception May 2 4-6pm
 - SMHS Artists participated in a SMCounty Youth Arts Commission Program called ["Art and Sound Gallery"](#)

- Our spring production of *Hadestown* has been nominated for a [Rita Moreno Award](#), and a student has been nominated for their performance as Eurydice.
- Creative Youth Awards contest winner (She won a cash prize for her art certificate submission): “A Silent Dream” [Rhea Misra \(under a pseudonym: Dalia B\)](#)
- Student Art Contest winner for [PTO Planner Design is Kenya Perez Jeronimo!](#)
- **Spanish** - Students participated in the **21st Annual Poetry Contest** at the Girls’ Middle School in Palo Alto in March. A student won 3rd place in the category for *Advanced Spanish for Non-fluent* students!
- **Math Team** - Students competed as a team at Stanford Math Tournament and placed in the top 25% in the power round and top 40% in both team and overall team. Continental Mathematics League - a freshmen team placed 1st nationally in the 9th Grade Pythagorean League. Five 9th graders tied for 1st place individually. On April 18, the math team, led by seniors hosted our 10th annual MateoMatics middle school competition - 70 middle school students attended from Bowditch, Bayside and Borel.

Academic Support Programs

- **Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) -**
 - Our District hosted an AVID regional professional learning session that was attended by several districts from around northern California.
 - AVID site teams and our district AVID coordinator, Dr. Samia Shoman, attended a demonstration school visit to Modesto High School, which is also an IB school.
 - AVID saw an increase in the number of applicants from incoming freshman
 - AVID partnered with our Family Engagement Program to host a virtual informational session on AVID for families.
- **Curricular Support** - The District successfully piloted Wayfinder as a curricular support for our Self and Social Empowerment Courses.
- **Ethnic Studies** - Several Ethnic Studies teachers attended the California Council for Social Sciences conference that was held locally in Burlingame.

District Governance/Operations

- **Student Board Representatives** - This year the District is proud to have 22 Student Board Representatives from all high schools across the District. Students shared valuable input with regards to board policy related to Artificial Intelligence as well as the Instructional Framework. On April 30, the students attended a leadership retreat to Baker Beach and the Academy of Arts and Sciences. The District and Board hosted dinner and facilitated discussion on May 1 to allow student representatives to communicate with the Board on their reflections of both the school year and their experience as Student Board Representatives. Students assisted in the drafting of a number of proclamations approved by the Board.
- **Emergency Preparedness** -The Emergency Supplies initiative for the District was successfully completed, providing each school with essential resources to enhance preparedness for emergencies. Pallets of emergency supplies were distributed to all schools in the District, sourced from Quakehold Industrial. These supplies included first aid kits, non-perishable food items, water packets, flashlights with batteries, emergency blankets, hygiene supplies such as soap, hand sanitizer, and wipes, as well as face masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE). The objective of the project was to ensure that every school is well-equipped to respond effectively to emergencies and

maintain safety during unforeseen events. The project was finalized and supplies were delivered ahead of schedule, meeting the schools' readiness goals. As a result, each school now maintains a comprehensive inventory of emergency supplies, improving their ability to respond to natural disasters, power outages, and health crises. This initiative contributes to long-term safety and provides greater peace of mind for students, staff, and families throughout the District.

- **Board Study Sessions** - The Board held Study Sessions in the Spring Semester as a way to prioritize time for learning and discussion around the following topics:
 - District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) - April 17
 - Budget Assumptions - May 1

Communications

- **LinkedIn Growth** - SMUHSD and its school sites continue to see increased engagement and follower growth for its various Company Page accounts. A consistent and robust presence on LinkedIn allows the SMUHSD community (students, staff, parents/guardians, volunteers, local companies and organizations, city government/officials) to make connections with each other that may lead to academic and career opportunities and advancement for our students. Highlights include, new follower counts during the Spring Semester (January 1 - April 28):
 - SMUHSD - 140 new followers
 - AHS - 332 new followers
 - BHS - 357 new followers
 - CHS - 16 new followers
 - HHS - 57 new followers
 - MHS - 229 new followers
 - PHS - 6 new followers
 - SMHS - 305 new followers
- **Video Production** - The Communications Team worked with Voler Strategic Advisors to direct the production of school promotional videos in English and Spanish for Aragon, Bridge Academy, Burlingame, and San Mateo Adult and Career Education. The team produced a video on construction updates across the District in English and Spanish to keep the community informed of progress on Measure L.
- **SMUHSD in the News**
 - [\\$86M Crestmoor Sale is Finalized in San Bruno](#) - San Mateo Daily Journal February 15, 2025
 - San Mateo High School and YONDR - The Communications Team supported San Mateo High guiding reporters from both KPBS and the Local News Network on reporting on the school's cell phone policy and the use of YONDR. Stories are forthcoming.
- **Bond Celebrations** - The Communications Department planned and supported successful ribbon cutting events to celebrate completion of the Aragon Multi-use field on March 4 and Mills High Schools -Projects on May 9 (rescheduled from March 13 due to inclement weather). The events were previewed in the San Mateo Daily Journal on March 3, 2024: [San Mateo Union celebrates construction progress](#).
- **Meeting the needs of Multilingual Families** -
 - The Communications Team visited all schools to assess their need for bilingual signage. Updated signage to indicate how families can access interpretation was

- provided for all schools.
- The team developed posters outlining the rights of immigrant students.
- Communications staff worked closely with Multilingual Learner Program staff on the development and dissemination of an Immigrant Family Resource Toolkit in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
- The Communications Team made eight visits to parent groups across our school sites (Latino Parent meetings, ELAC's, DELAC) to promote our Spanish social media among Spanish speaking families and guide them through the navigation of our new website.
- **Transcreated Content** - Communication team has created and transcreated into Spanish more than 110 pieces of content for distribution in newsletters, social media platforms (including our Spanish page on Facebook), News You Can Use, websites and more. Transcreation is a process to create authentic communications in the native speaker's home language.
- **Content Creation and Dissemination** - Continued to curate and create content and graphics for the following communications:
 - Weekly News You Can Use (NYCU) in English/Spanish and distributed to school site Administrators, Administrative Assistants, Family Engagement Coordinators, and PTO leaders
 - Biweekly SMUHSD enews, sent the Monday before Board Meetings to all staff, parents/guardians, students and community members (city officials, etc)
 - Monthly employee newsletter, Savvy Source
- **Promoting Programs, Services and Events** - The team continued to develop materials (electronic and print) and promote events across the District including:
 - Pride Prom (April 18);
 - Financial Aid Workshop Series (January - March);
 - Career Speaker Series (Fall and Spring),
 - Multilingual Learner Program Community Resource Fair (May 8) and more.
- **VAPA Promotions** - The team Highlighted VAPA throughout the District during Arts, Culture and Creativity Month - showcasing the various events that feature the work of our award-winning students, educators and VAPA programs
- **Web Accessibility** - Communications identified a web tool, Audioeye, that works with our website to empower users with disabilities through 24/7 accessibility support and personalized visual enhancements.
- **Created standalone marketing pieces including** - LCAP Goals in English/Spanish; updated Know Your Resources posters (English, Spanish, Chinese) for distribution at all schools

Health and Wellness

Student Health

- **Updated Maps and Emergency Action Plans (EAP)** - The Health Team provided updates for 6 comprehensive sites including new locations of our 44 Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) . AEDs are a medical device that can help people experiencing sudden cardiac arrest.
- **Emergency Action Plans (EAPs)** - EAPs are essential for a rapid, organized response to catastrophic injuries and emergencies in athletic settings. With serious injuries a constant risk, a well-designed EAP outlining roles, communication procedures, and emergency equipment can mean the difference between life and death.

- **EAP Drills by Site** - EAP's Drills were implemented as part of our new protocol for regular practice and updates to ensure everyone remains prepared to protect athlete health and safety.
 - AHS-35
 - BHS-31
 - CHS-31
 - HHS-32
 - MHS-30
 - SMHS-30
- **Youth Heart Screening** - On April 26, the Health Team collaborated on an event in partnership with Kyle Taylor Foundation and Peninsula Health Care District to screen, identify, and offer prevention for sudden cardiac arrest and treatment for other common heart conditions.
 - 235 students screened with electrocardiogram (ECG).
 - ECG is a test that measures the electrical activity of the heart
 - 3-5 students were identified to require elevated screening (i.e. echo-cardiogram or ultrasound)
- **Athletic Trainer Tracker Developed** - In partnership with the health admin data team, a tool to support real time documentation of injury and rehabilitation planning was developed.
 - Documentation allows for initial evaluation of condition, all treatments and interventions, indication of patient status, and written plan detailing goals and outcomes.
 - To date, over 3,000 records have been created from the six Athletic Trainers in our District.
 - Performed data analysis to provide insights to Athletic Trainers, Coaches, and Athletes.
- **Hearing and Vision Screenings**- Over 700 hearing and vision screenings were completed during the second semester.
- **Health Office Visits** - Over 4,900 Health Office Visits occurred this semester.
- **Infectious Illness Case Management**- The Health Team managed exposure follow up, and direction for over 36 COVID cases and 50 of other infectious illness cases. Exposure notifications were issued weekly for all cases and reported to the District or San Mateo County Health based on OSHA or County requirements.

Employee Health

- **Tuberculosis Screenings** - District Nursing and Health Services staff provided over two days of screening for 160 individuals in partnership with human resources.
- **First Aid Training** - Was provided for 121 staff and coaches who have been trained and certified in CPR and first aid.

Employee Wellness

- **20-Minutes a Day Challenge** - The team promoted a 20-minutes a day challenge in April which guided employees on self-care and well-being. 98 staff members at 7 district locations participated.
- **Professional Development for Classified Staff in January** - 388 staff members attended the Wellness Fair at Aragon High School, which offered 39 creative and educational classes and 20 vendors from a variety of local wellness businesses and employee benefit programs. This event was coordinated and organized in partnership by Employee Wellness and Human Resources.
- **Virtual Yoga Classes** - Virtual classes were attended throughout the semester by 646 staff members.
- **Virtual Mindfulness Classes** - Virtual classes were attended throughout the semester by 70 staff members
- **In-person Mat Pilates Classes** - Classes were attended throughout the semester by 120 staff members
- **In-person Yoga Camp Classes** - Classes were attended throughout the semester by 145 staff members
- **Ergonomic Assessments** - Assessments were completed and submitted for two additional employees to San Mateo County Schools Insurance Group for evaluation and recommendations.
- **Active healthy lifestyle incentives** - Incentives were processed for 63 total staff members for participation in races or adult recreation leagues.
- **Eco-Commuting Incentive program** - 228 total staff members qualified to receive the incentive by eco-commuting 25 times to their 13 worksites throughout the district.

Human Resources

- **Classified Educators -**
Hiring - 30 Classified and 21 Classified Substitutes were hired during the Spring semester. Hired one Classified Administrator - Director of Fiscal Services.
Retirement - Fatemeh Hojatnia is retiring from her position as Technology Support Specialist II on July 2, 2025. Fatemeh has been with the District for 21 years and 5 months. Carl Vername retired from his position as Electrician Foreperson on March 20, 2025. Carl was with the District for 22 years and 8 months.
Classified Professional Development Day January 28, 2025 - The District hosted a professional development day for Classified Staff (attended over 71% of classified staff). The theme was: Supporting Students; Supporting Ourselves.

Summary FY 2024–2025 (District - Classified Staff) as of 04/11/25

- The number of employees increased from 531 to 550.
- 58 new hires joined during the year.
- 33 employees left
 - 19 voluntary resignations
 - 8 involuntary resignations
 - 6 retirements
 - 0 deaths
- The turnover rate was 6.11%, classified as low.
- The retention rate was 92.66%, classified as medium.
- Overall, staffing remained stable with low employee turnover and a solid

retention rate.

- **Certificated Educators**
 - Hiring season is underway for 25-26
 - 83 total postings to date
 - 14 new teachers already hired
 - Five new administrators hired (Director of Student Services; Principal of Middle College and Peninsula High School; Assistant Principals at Aragon, Burlingame, and Mills High Schools)
- **Substitutes** - The District hired nine (9) new substitute teachers, including two SMUHSD retirees.
- **Negotiations**
 - Successor contract negotiations are underway with all four employee associations (SMUHSDTA, CSEA, AFSCME, Adult School American Federation of Teachers -AFT)
- **Benefits -**
 - More than 400 employees participated in Health Flex Spending account with AFA, and District matched over \$170,000
 - 46 employees chose HDHP with a District contribution over \$55,000.
 - Over 100 Medical Waivers and 60 Spousal Carve out processed with District contribution of \$143,000.00
 - Ongoing work
- **Athletics**
 - 421 Total Coaches for 2024-25
 - 118 New Coaches hired in 2024-25
 - 24% of coaches are district employees
 - 59 Certificated, 44 Classified
 - 24 Coaches 15+ years longevity
 - 63 Coaches 10+ years longevity
 - 144 Coaches 5+ years longevity
- **Student Workers**
 - 25 student workers (including Tutors, Workability, Nutrition and Stagehand) are cleared to work in Spring 2025
- **Volunteers** - The District developed a new clearance process which is centralized and streamlined. 260 new volunteers registered for the 2024-2025 school year
- **Adult School** - The District Hired five (5) new CT Subs and two (2) new teachers
- **Classified to Teacher Program** - Our Classified to Teacher program enrollment has grown to eleven participating employees, with three more anticipated to join by Fall of 2025. These employees are working on either degree completion or credential preparation at one of our partner institutions: San Jose State, San Francisco State, and Notre Dame de Namur. Three of our classified employees anticipate completing their teacher preparation programs this spring!
- **Teacher Induction Program**
 - This year marks a significant milestone for the San Mateo Union High

School District (SMUHSD) Teacher Induction Program as it advances from **provisional to full program accreditation status**. As part of this transition, the program underwent its first formal accreditation review, which involved compiling extensive evidence and reporting on how the program meets 11 California Standards for Educator Preparation and 17 state-mandated preconditions. A site visiting team—comprising a CTC consultant and three experienced induction leaders from across the state—conducted a thorough review of submitted documentation and carried out 16 interviews with a broad range of program stakeholders. The visiting team concluded that SMUHSD is meeting all required standards and recommended full approval with no stipulations. The Committee on Accreditation (COA) has formally accepted this recommendation, and the program now awaits the final step: official approval from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

- The District supported 27 teachers in our teacher induction program this year, with six positioned to be ready for a clear credential recommendation this June. Seventeen mentors provided support for teachers in special education and general education classrooms across all school sites. Mentors engaged in seven mentor colloquiums and candidate meetings throughout the year to engage in learning and practice on how to support novice teacher development
- **Instructional Coaching Program**
 - 26 instructional coaches supported 143 teachers on full evaluation this year, engaging in five cycles of inquiry related to professional SMARTE goals and the California Standards for the Teaching Profession. Instructional coaches and mentors engaged in over 19 hours of professional learning on coaching and over seven workshops throughout the year, focusing on research based coaching practices and equity focused conversations.

Multilingual Learner Programs (MLP)

- **Pathways to Graduation** - On March 27, the Board Approved a pathway to graduation for Multilingual Learners who meet specified criteria. The plan, which calls for students to earn 175 credits, allows them to focus on core content classes and designated ELD to build academic language proficiency for post secondary studies. Students will also have time in the school day if they need additional intervention courses designed specifically for students with limited or interrupted formal education (SLIFE). This will ultimately lead to an increased graduation rate for our Multilingual Learners.

Professional Learning and ML Program Coordinator

- **External Providers** - This fall, three professional learning workshops were offered to help standard program teachers better support multilingual learners in their content area classrooms: *E.L.Acheive's Constructing Meaning*, *Universal Design for Learning in Support of Multilingual Learners*, and *Universal Design for Learning Supports for Multilingual Learners in the Math Classroom*. A total of 58 teachers participated across these sessions, gaining strategies to enhance instruction and accessibility for multilingual students.
- **Internal Providers** - In addition we are providing internal professional learning opportunities for our teachers. Nicole Elenz-Martin (MLP Coordinator) has led year-long PD and PLCs for ML English, D-ELD, and CLA teachers to implement new curriculum,

assessments, and instructional practices in both the newcomer and standard programs. She also led a Supported Implementation professional learning series for teachers across the district to further delve into their learning and ability to implement the work started in above mentioned external & internal provider opportunities.

Newcomer School Social Workers

- **Community Based Organizations** - In addition to all fall presentations to students and families, various partners continued the partnership in the spring. El Centro de Libertad provided substance prevention workshops for students at Bridge Academy, Hillsdale High School and San Mateo High School. The new partnership with Peninsula Family Services brought a financial literacy pilot to Bridge Academy students. The Newcomer School Social Workers, Teresa Deanda and Lisa Mejia-Sandoval worked relentlessly to provide the first SMUHSD Resource Fair for all of our families and students in SMUHSD and our surrounding feeder districts and community members. The Resource Fair on May 8 , 2025 has over 30 community based organizations attending, a wonderful opportunity for students, parents/caregivers, and community members to discover valuable resources and services available in our local area.

Intake Counselor for Newcomer Families and Students

- **Newcomer Student Intake:** On April 14, the SMUHSD Multilingual Learner Program team welcomed 50 incoming 9th grade newcomer students from the San Mateo-Foster City School District. This group included students from Abbott, Borel, Bowditch, and Bayside middle schools, who visited San Mateo High School and Hillsdale High School. Throughout the day, students participated in community-building activities, attended classes, met staff members, toured the campus, and connected with high school newcomer student leaders. The event aimed to prepare our students for their high school experience by fostering essential knowledge and relationships with both staff and peers as they embark on this new chapter in the upcoming school year.

Family Engagement

- **Family Engagement:** The District Family Engagement Coordinator facilitated a series of workshops at Hillsdale High School covering topics such as graduation requirements, A-G course, dual enrollment, and pathways after high school. Additionally, in collaboration with AVID teacher, A. Cheever, a district wide information workshop for incoming 9th grade families was offered to families. This was a successful online event. For all sites, the school to home communication for multilingual families was strengthened by the creation of informative, easy to read, and vibrant newsletters. The FECs at the sites also continued to offer Immigration workshops for families with the support of Faith In Action at CHS, SMHS and HHS.
- **Community Resource Fair** - On May 8, Multilingual Learner Programs hosted a Community Resource Fair on the San Mateo High School Campus to connect families with local resources in a variety of areas.

Multilingual Learner Clubs - The ML Club's goal is to provide opportunities for ML students to become more involved with their school community, learn about American culture, to socialize and build community after school with their peers, do homework, provide tutoring, and participate in activities that develop their leadership capacity. The ML Club spaces are in line

with our site's goals of inclusion for students, and the DELAC recommendations of opportunities for Multilingual Learners students to be more involved in the school.

ML Club Spring 2025 Highlights

At **Hillsdale High School**, the ML Club hosted a variety of events at the Manila Resource Center that fostered both personal growth and community engagement. Students actively participated in these programs, demonstrating their dedication, creativity, and teamwork. The events Newsletters highlight some of the wonderful accomplishments of HHS students:

february, march, april. Some of the ML Club events include:

- Movie day
- Skyline college trip
- Valentines/Christmas day party
- Manila wall decoration
- Loteria
- Giants Field Trip
- End of the year event

At **Capuchino High School**, the ML Club regularly hosts about 25 students every week with 30-40 students coming to the club events. In spring 2025 , the ML Club hosts:

- CHS held our first [ML Carnival this year!](#) The ML Carnival was another event where teachers, counselors and office staff once again came together to help put on a wonderful event for our MLs. All the prizes were donated by staff which included beanie babies, toys, figures, squishies, bouncy balls, even Target gift cards. Student's played various mini games and even learned a thing or two. One of our CTE and Career Coordinator, Kim Koivisto, was teaching students how to properly hold a hockey stick before trying to play the hockey mini game. We also had our Student Data Analyst, Leadership coordinator, Assistant Principal, Math Teachers, Science Teachers, English Teachers, Site Accounting Technician, Counseling/Student Services Assistant and Counselors helping out. This event was a true testament to how supportive the school is of our ML program. I could not have been able to throw such a big event without everyone's help.
- ML Thanksgiving Potluck, students were able to try thanksgiving foods from different cultures and some discovered new foods they really enjoyed. A Tibetan student also brought homemade "Momos" which were delicious. Teachers, counselors and office staff came together to help make sure the potluck was a success.
- The Angel Island field trip was a huge highlight. Students started off the field trip at the San Bruno Bart Station which was already a new experience for a couple of our ML students. We then arrived in downtown SF and made our way to the port. I will never forget the faces some of our MLs were making walking through downtown and looking up at all the tall buildings. Once we reached the port, the students excitedly jumped on the ferry and made their way to the top to enjoy the view. We passed by Alcatraz and finally landed at Angel Island. We were greeted by our guide who told us we had to go up 150 long stairs and then about a mile hike to the detention center. [We were all](#)

[huffing and puffing after making it to the top of the 150 stairs](#). Once we made it to the detention center, our guide did an amazing job of sharing the history of Angel Island and we were able to reflect on how different but similar our current situation is regarding immigration. We finished up the field trip by eating the burritos I purchased from a local taqueria and [met some of the wildlife](#). It was a great experience and I hope to come back soon.

At **San Mateo High School**, the Club Coordinator hosts an after school space for students to catch up on homework or receive tutoring. Students can also just come and hang out with their friends. 18-20 students consistently attend. Spring events included:

- Field trip to the alcove with vision board activity and resource exploration.
- Ice skating
- Hot chocolate making
- Hosted Posada in collaboration with the FEC. Families brought food and there were activities.
- Valentines day grams
- In community poster making on topics reassuring safety for our immigrant community.
- S.F Giants game field trip
- End of the year party in collaboration with LPO meeting collaboration.

At **Bridge Academy**, the ML Club hosts monthly events to build community and teach students about traditions in the USA. Spring events included:

- January - Arts and Crafts: Resin Silicone Molds Craft
- February - Valentines Day Celebration and Activities
- April - Prom Activities
- May - Magic Water Activity

Special Educational Support Services

- **Inclusive Diploma** - students with severe cognitive impairments are now eligible to receive a high school diploma. The state compiled a work group to address the dismal post secondary outcomes and determined providing a pathway for a diploma opens the door.
- **Pathways to Education** - Students with disabilities, through the Individual Education Plan team meeting, now have the option to determine if graduating with 175 credits is appropriate. The expected outcome is to increase the graduation rate and move the needle from the California Dashboard from orange towards blue.
- **Special Olympics** - Hillsdale High School hosted the Special Olympics basketball event on March 21, 2025. The event was led by the student leadership team which comprised six events that allowed for students of varying ability levels to participate.
- **Special Education District Advisory Council** - On May 12, the Special Education Department hosted the District Advisory Council Meet and Greet with Superintendent Booker where we reviewed the newly board-adopted graduation options for students with IEPs. The requirements and implications of Plan 5, Inclusive Diploma, and Plan 7, reduced credits were also reviewed.
- **Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Awards** - Two community partners, Kevin Herring – Environmental Services Manager, San Mateo Medical Center and

Michael Mallie – Restaurant Owner, Maverick Jack's & Jack's Prime were honored for their work with and support of our students at SELPA Awards Reception, held at San Mateo County Office of Education on May 14. These partners have leveraged their roles to provide meaningful opportunities for students in our work-based learning programs. Additionally, they have gone the extra mile to involve their staff in fostering a truly inclusive workplace environment.

- **Papan Family Scholarships** - The Papan Family's enduring generosity through the Papan Memorial Scholarships continues to empower students with disabilities to pursue their dreams. By easing financial burdens, these scholarships inspire both academic and personal growth, leaving a lasting legacy of opportunity, hope, and transformation within the SMUHSD community. This year, 13 students from five SMUHSD schools were awarded Papan Scholarships. These two distinct scholarship opportunities—one recognizing academic improvement and the other supporting post-secondary goals—highlight the Papan Family's steadfast commitment to equity and student success.

Student Services

- **Enrollment** - Student Services hosted evening enrollment events on January 23 and January 29 to assist families of incoming 9th graders who have difficulties getting to the DO during our normal business hours and need assistance with the enrollment process.
- **School Attendance Review Board (SARB) for Peninsula High School** - The District hosted a Peninsula High-only SARB meeting to support the specific needs of students attending the school. This allowed for some creative scheduling with students who are struggling with attendance and credit recovery options, and we are looking forward to this becoming an ongoing practice.
- **Social Workers Update Tiered Attendance Services** - Our Social Workers are developing a more comprehensive program to support students who are tagged as chronically truant, and adding additional educational options for parents of students struggling with attendance. This will roll out in the Fall of 2025 as the LCSSP grant sunsets.

Mental Health & Wellness Programs:

- **Staff Training** - The team prioritized comprehensive training for our Mental Health staff to gain insight into the immigration process, legal options, and emotional impact on newly-arrived students—including asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors—and explore ways educators can effectively support them and their families with Immigrant Legal Defense Attorneys and the Stanford Immigrant Child Health Program
- **TUPE**
 - Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) Mental Health Therapist Jessamy Cadigan was a panelist member for [Stanford REACH Lab's 6th Annual International Cannabis and Other Drug Prevention Conference](#) for the Suspension is not the answer! The Case for Alternative-to-Suspension Curriculums workshop.
 - [Stanford Community Partnership Awards](#) Stanford's REACH Lab has partnered with the San Mateo County Office of Education to provide free training and evidence-based drug prevention and intervention curricula to schools, educators, and counselors throughout the county, as well as community talks for educators

and parents. The partnership links healthy decision-making to academic and life success, emphasizing drug-free living to achieve personal goals, with regular meetings and youth events. Data suggest the partnership, which has reached 40,000 students in seven years, has significantly cut adolescent drug use and empowered community members to address the crisis.

- **CASCWA State Conference Presenters** - District Mental Health & Wellness Social Workers Collaborated with Student Services to present at the CASCWA State Conference in Anaheim on April 30, 2025. Their presentation highlighted how they improved our attendance system, resulting in an increased student engagement, and introduced upcoming interventions aimed at further supporting student outcomes.
- **Leadership Development** - The Director and Associate Manager attended the annual Association of School CA Administrators (ASCA) Every Child Counts Symposium in San Diego, where they gained insights on best practices and key updates in Student Services and Special Education. Additionally, three District Social Workers joined in the event this year.
- **Mental Health Awareness Month Student Workshops** - In partnership with the Mills High School (MHS) Wellness Team, a MHS alumni and Mental Health Fellow at Kaiser Permanente will deliver two 60-minute psychoeducational workshops on Communication and Coping Skills to students as part of their Community Partnership Program. These workshops, designed to promote mental health and well-being within the local community, were held in May.
- **NAMI Groups at BHS** - The Board approved an MOU with NAMI to provide an evidence-based prevention program designed for students experiencing symptoms of depression or anxiety. Students learn core cognitive behavioral strategies to help them reframe negative thoughts, manage emotions, and build healthier behaviors. The program focuses on: Changing Thinking, Changing Doing, and Coping Skills.
- **Crisis Response** - The SMHS Mental Health & Wellness Team led the school-wide response following the sudden passing of a staff member, providing support to both students and staff impacted by the loss.
- **Heart Screening MH Screener**- We worked closely with [Allcove](#) and the [Peninsula Health Care District](#) (PHCD) to co-develop a mental health and wellness screening component in support of the heart screening initiative (by Sara Devaney and her team). This collaborative effort recognizes the importance of whole-person care, offering youth and young adults access to both physical and mental health resources in one setting. By integrating mental health supports, this initiative is aimed at promoting early identification, reducing stigma, and connecting participants with services that nurture overall well-being.
- **Parent Venture Spring**- The District collaborated to provide a virtual evening family presentation in partnership with Parent Venture and The Peninsula Health Care District- [CORA](#) & The [Ariana Mae Hatami](#) Foundation on teen dating violence—covering warning signs, healthy relationship dynamics, and how to support youth in navigating safe, respectful relationships.
- **MH&W Steering/Advisory Committee**- The Steering/Advisory Committee's focus for this and next school year is building out of community partnerships. The committee will host a Mental Health & Community Partnership Fair in Fall 2025. This fair is designed to support our most vulnerable populations with access to vital resources. The fair also will aim to strengthen community partnerships and build ongoing support for students and families into the next school year.

Technology & Information Systems

- **ABL** - The Technology Support Group worked to implement ABL master scheduling software, integrating it with Aeries to ensure a two-way data flow. This integration ensures that changes made in ABL, such as class schedules, staffing, and assignments, are reflected in the district's Student Information System (SIS). ABL is a company that focuses on improving school operations, particularly master scheduling.
- **Schoolytics** - The team helped to integrate the district's SIS with Schoolytics by syncing student rosters, class schedules, and other relevant data to provide real-time data and reporting.
- **E-rate Funding** - The District secured \$294,175 in E-rate Category 2 funding to upgrade firewall, core switches for three school sites, and wireless access points.

Business and Operations/District Operations

Capital Facilities

- **Sale of Crestmoor** - The District completed the \$86M sale of the former Crestmoor High School site to SummerHill Homes.
- **Staffing** – Tina Martinez was appointed as the new Capital Facilities Manager.
- **Burlingame and San Mateo High Gyms** – The San Mateo Gym floor has been installed and bleachers will be installed soon. The sidewalk around the exterior is almost completed. The Burlingame Gym's exterior is near completion with the installation of siding and lobby glass. Both projects are expected to be completed by the start of the 2025-2026 school year.
- **Aragon Baseball and Flex Field** – A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the beginning of the first baseball game of the season to showcase the new lighted artificial turf baseball field, inclusive of striping for a partial soccer and football field at Aragon High School.
- **Classroom Transformation** – DSA has approved plans for the first three planned sites – Aragon, Burlingame, and Capuchino High Schools. The Board has awarded Cahill Contractors for construction services. Construction is slated for the summers of 2026 and 2027.
- **The Bridge Academy** – The Board awarded Lionakis as the architect of record for The Bridge Academy Project.
- **Peninsula High Expansion** – The Board awarded Lionakis as the architect of record for the project. The District will be placing a deposit for the land for acquisition.
- **Mills Beautification Project** – The project is completed. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held May 9 to celebrate this milestone.
- **District-Wide Solar** – Hillsdale High School and the District Office are completed. The remaining five (5) sites are slated for construction Summer 2025.
- **District-Wide Fire Alarm Project** – Burlingame has been completed. San Mateo, Mills, and Capuchino are nearing completion. Beginning in the Summer of 2025, Aragon and Hillsdale will commence the fire alarm modernization.

- **Hillsdale High School Site Improvements** – Capital Facilities has contracted Gates & Associates to design the monument at the corner of 31st and Alameda De Las Pulgas.
- **District-Wide HVAC Controls** – The project was completed at Aragon and San Mateo High Schools. Airteks was awarded the contract for Burlingame and Mills High Schools, slated for construction summer of 2025.
- **Aragon and Hillsdale High Switchgear** – The infrastructure and base for the new switchgear is ready to be replaced Summer of 2025 at Aragon High School, while the infrastructure and base for the switchgear at Hillsdale High School will begin construction in the summer of 2025.
- **Citizens Oversight Committee (COC)** – The COC accepted and approved the thirteenth Measure O and fourth Measure L Annual Report.
- **Measure L Promotional Videos** - The Capital Facilities Team collaborated with the Communications Team on the production of videos in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) to promote Measure L construction across the District.

Transportation

- **Electric Bus Grant Funding (BAAQMD Round #2)** - The District was awarded \$2,749,666 through the BAAQMD Carl Moyer Grant Agreement (\$2,487,177 for 8 buses and \$262,489 for infrastructure costs) and up to \$950,000.00 through the EPA Clean School Bus Rebate program. The first of these new EV buses were delivered at the end of April. We will receive four GreenPower Beast transit school buses. The deployment of these vehicles is anticipated by the end of the year.
- **Bus Driver Training Program** - Three of the four employees have successfully completed the school bus training program and are certified school bus drivers. The final driver is expected to complete behind the wheel training during the summer.
- **Increased Special Education Transportation Support** – Transportation hired one new school bus driver and two new Special Education Van Drivers. This brings our total number of dedicated professionals to 25 certified school bus drivers and six Special Education van drivers, to continue increasing the reliability of transportation services by reducing the use of alternative transportation companies.
- **Electric Bus Fleet Infrastructure Updates** - Phase two begins in May and is expected to be completed in August 2025.

Fiscal Services

- **Strong Financial Position and Financial Operations** – The Second Interim report received approval with a positive certification, and 2025-26 budget meetings were successfully conducted with department and site administrators.
- **ERP Implementation Update** - Staff were trained on new software including job roles, budgets, and using the system for timesheets and orders.

- **Fiscal Services Processed over \$253M** - Payroll processed over \$157.1M, accounts payable over \$69.3M, accounts receivable \$27M, and over 4,200 purchase orders for school sites and departments **were processed** through March 31.

Student Nutrition

- **Fully Staffed** - In collaboration with the leadership team, we are fully staffed and have additional coverage for absent staff
- **Bridge Academy** - The Student Nutrition Team implemented new service to the Bridge Academy bringing food service directly to students.
- **Program Construction** - The District is completing Part 1 for the new equipment implementation project to support universal meals over the summer at MHS, BHS, SMHS, and HHS.
- **Universal Meals** - Since the beginning of the school year, Student Nutrition has served over 1 million meals at no charge to students.
- **Scratch Cooked Meals** - The Student Nutrition Department continues to increase fast scratch meals with on-site chef support, added and improved entree options, and improved food offering displays.
- **California Department of Education Procurement Review** - Student Nutrition provided CDE responses waiting for CDE to complete review

Maintenance, Operations, and Facility Use (MOFU)

Maintenance

The Maintenance Department has been hard at work completing many projects across all high school sites:

- **Key Mechanical Upgrades** - Maintenance replaced air handling units, blower motors, and VFDs to improve HVAC performance.
- **Plumbing Improvements** - The team completed extensive improvements, with several campuses replacing compromised sewer lines, latrines, backflows, and failing condensate lines. Multiple sites also began or completed the district-wide initiative to replace waterless urinals, improving sanitation and long-term reliability.
- **Electrical Upgrades** - Upgrades were a primary focus, particularly in areas such as scoreboard repairs, lighting control systems, and security enhancements. New power infrastructure was added for server rooms and marquee systems, and hundreds of ballasts were replaced district-wide. Several schools saw improvements to data and communication systems, including the installation of new POTS lines and added outlets to support growing tech demands.
- **Carpentry and Grounds Work** - Our staff played a key role in beautifying and maintaining our campuses. Highlights include large-scale landscape renovations, resurfacing athletic fields, and installing gutter guards at school pools to prevent drainage issues. At multiple sites, maintenance teams completed classroom and office upgrades such as TV installations, cabinetry work, and core pinning for new gym doors to support both academic and extracurricular needs.

- **Storm-Related Upgrades** - District-wide, crews responded to storm-related damage, conducted preventive inspections, and supported fire alarm and EMS system upgrades. These efforts and our daily maintenance of critical systems and campus repairs reflect our department's commitment to ensuring safe, efficient, and welcoming learning environments throughout the district.

Operations

The Operations Team has extended to district-wide facility needs.

- **Classroom Transformation Project** - Teams actively participate in pre-construction meetings for the Classroom Transformation Project at Aragon, Burlingame, and Capuchino High Schools.
- **Facility Readiness** - Routine and seasonal inspections—such as for basketball goals, turf, and outdoor bleachers are being conducted to ensure student safety. Additionally, preparations for summer cleaning are well underway, including gathering bids for services such as carpet and window cleaning and initiating equipment repairs and supply procurement.
- **Spring Sports Season Preparation** - Maintenance and custodial crews have supported daily set-ups and clean-ups for over 100 special events at specific campuses, in addition to completing emergency food delivery coordination and managing shipments to multiple district locations. Our teams have taken swift action to maintain safe, welcoming environments in response to rising vandalism and graffiti. Spring season has brought a surge of activity, with individual sites managing dozens of weekly events—one site alone hosted 51.
- **Ongoing Preventive Maintenance** - Maintenance remains a daily focus, with efforts including HVAC servicing, motor and filter replacements, and general campus repairs. We continue to prioritize campus cleanliness and safety, especially in preparation for upcoming graduation ceremonies. These daily operations, though often behind the scenes, are essential to supporting a thriving, functional learning environment across all our schools.

Facilities Use

Notable Events & Guest Speakers Hosted

- **Nutcracker Productions** - Hosted three major productions by Westlake School for the Performing Arts, Ayako School of Ballet, and Peninsula Ballet Theatre.
- **MPSF Speaker Series** - Welcomed Joe Montana, Stacey Abrams, and Van Jones for campus-wide speaking engagements.
- **Kepler's Literary Foundation** - Brought bestselling author John Green to campus.
- **Youth America Grand Prix** - Held the prestigious National Semi-Finals at SMPAC.
- **Peninsula Symphony Orchestra** - Featured a John Williams Celebration Concert at SMPAC.
- **Student Performance** - Borel Middle School staged *Spongebob the Musical* at SMPAC.

Auditorium Technology & Equipment Upgrades

- **Lighting Consoles** - New ETC Ion XE20 12K systems installed at Aragon and Hillsdale.
- **Sound Consoles** - New Yamaha TF5 (Hillsdale), DM7C (Mills), and QL5 (Aragon).
- **Audio Infrastructure** - Dante stage boxes were installed at Aragon, Hillsdale, and Capuchino.
- **SMPAC Enhancements** - Upgraded house lighting system with improved cabling and relays for efficiency.

Facilities Use Revenue

- **Year-to-Date Total** - \$2,208,699.85 as of March 2025 (up from \$2,015,070.67 in March 2024).
- **Site Disbursements** - \$90,432.90 distributed in August and \$95,234.40 in January, totaling \$185,667.30 for the year.

Golden Apples

This District is proud to award a Golden Apple to certificated and classified educators each month during the school year. Educators receiving this award have been nominated by their colleagues for going above and beyond by providing exemplary service, dedication and resourcefulness among other qualities. See all of this year's Golden Apple recipients.

April	Arlene Mitchell	Capuchino
	Tim Netane	Capuchino
March	Lisa Yakushi	District Office/HR
	Janice Kelly	Hillsdale
February	Armando Guilfuio	Burlingame
	Ryan Stevens	Hillsdale
January	Lori Durham	Mills
	Justin Doppee	Districtwide
December	Parveen Rahman	San Mateo
	Samiko Shiroma	Hillsdale
November	Liliana Garcia	Bridge Academy
	Jewel Walli	Capuchino
October	Nancy Yance Chavez	Mills
	Giuliana Piccininni	San Mateo
September	Max Bernstein	Aragon
	Malu Alegria	San Mateo

III. RECOMMENDATION: REVIEW AND ACTION

This item is presented for information only.