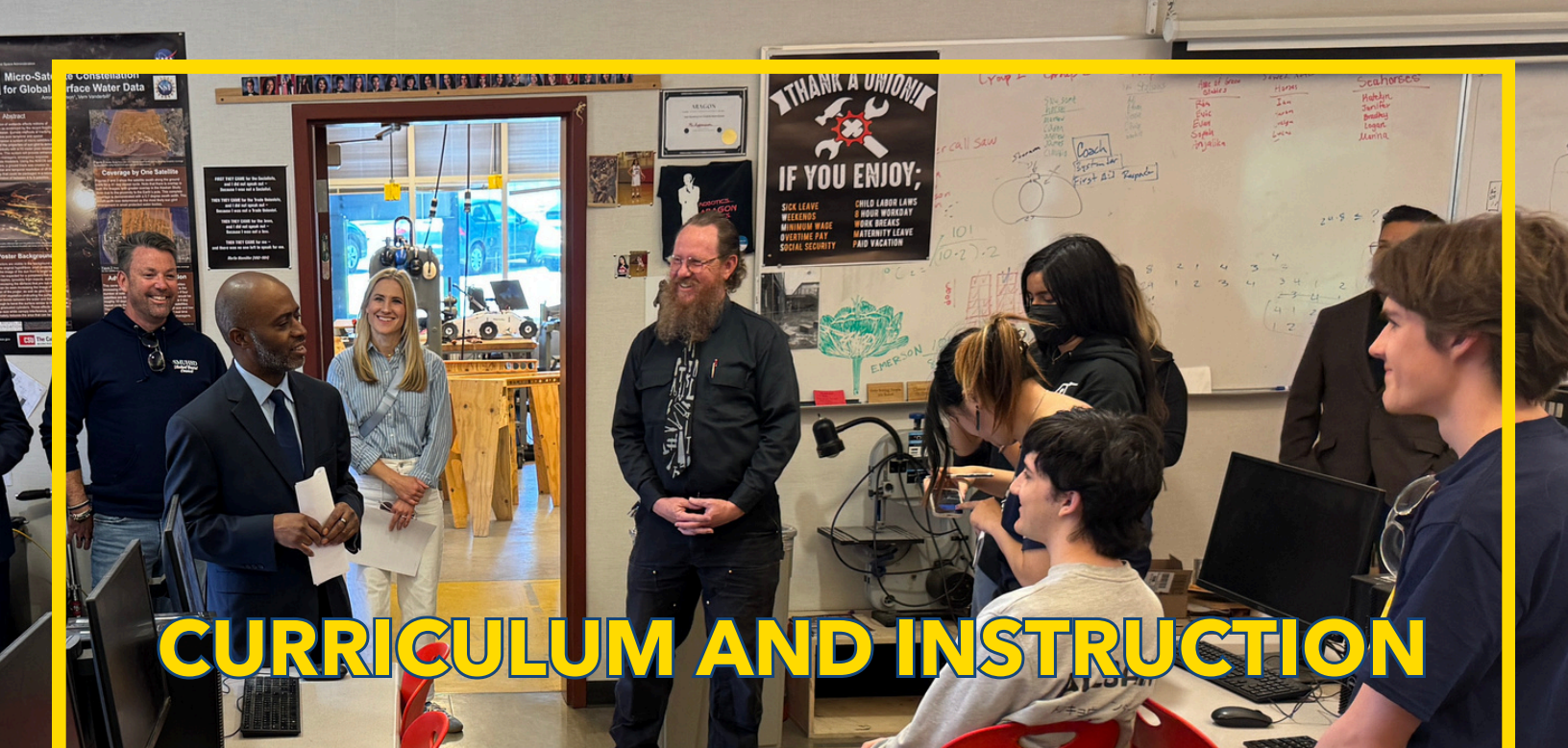




# CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

*Peninsula High School's Brett Blaisdell and Elaine Llaguno attended the January Certificated Professional Learning Days.*

- **Districtwide Career Expo:** More than 400 students and family members attended the Districtwide Career Expo on September 10, 2024. More than 50 organizations/employers hosted tables.
- **Certificated Professional Learning Days:** The District conducted a 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.
- **Instructional Framework:** The Instructional Lead Team (ILT), made up of teacher leaders, 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 site PD and Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) coordinators; alignment of professional learning strands to the instructional framework principles; and work with instructional coaches and site administrators on understanding the framework language and components.
- **ESL Graduation:** San Mateo Adult and Career Education (SMACE) hosted its annual ESL Graduation ceremony on April 23, honoring nine advanced-level ESL students who successfully completed all levels of ESL coursework. These students demonstrated exceptional dedication and academic preparedness, passing rigorous assessments in grammar, listening, reading and writing.



State Superintendent of Public Education Tony Thurmond visited Aragon Teacher Arron Apperson's class in April.

- **State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond Visits Aragon:** April 30 was National Apprenticeship Day, and Aragon High, amongst a few other schools, was mentioned as a model high school by the CDE Apprenticeship Office for its CTE Engineering Technology Trade MC3 Program, a hands-on training program that prepares students to join a construction apprenticeship program when they graduate high school. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond visited Aragon to learn more about the program, which is a first of its kind in a San Mateo County high school. Superintendent Thurmond engaged with students and educators (pictured above) about what they were learning and why the MC3 program is so important to them. Learn more: [www.smuhsd.org/mc3](http://www.smuhsd.org/mc3).
- **SAT/PSAT Administration:** On October 26, 2024, the District successfully administered the PSAT to approximately 800 11th grade students and the SAT to approximately 300 12th grade students. On March 15, 1,152 10th graders took the PSAT-10 and 597 11th graders took the SAT. This new approach to College Board testing was intended to support SMUHSD students who had been struggling to find test centers in the Bay Area.
- **The SMUHSD Artificial Intelligence (AI) Lab Fellowship** was a six-week professional development program designed to:
  - Equip educators with a foundational understanding of AI and its potential in education
  - Empower teachers to explore and experiment with various AI tools
  - Foster a collaborative learning community for sharing insights and best practices
  - Promote ethical and equitable use of AI in the classroom
- **San Mateo Adult & Career Education (SMACE)** proudly serves nearly 4,000 adult learners.



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*Students in the Culinary Arts CTE Pathway visited Dandelion Chocolate Factory in February.*

- **Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs** across the District 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 (pictured above) 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.
- **The Math Task Force**, made up of teams of teachers, implemented a variety of interventions to support students in the fall of 2024. The Board approved two new courses for implementation during the 2025-26 school year. First, Aragon and Burlingame will pilot a new Algebra II with Financial Applications course. This course provides a UC/CSU A-G-approved Algebra II-equivalent experience that emphasizes relevant 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.