San Mateo Union High School District
Proclamation Recognizing November 1-30, 2025
As National Native American Heritage Month

WHEREAS, Americans of all ages recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions of this nation's original inhabitants and their descendants; and

WHEREAS, National Native American Heritage Month, celebrated in November, recognizes the lives and accomplishments of the Indigenous peoples of what is now known as the United States; and

WHEREAS, In celebrating National Native American Heritage Month the US Department of the Interior reminds us that it is a time to celebrate the traditions, languages and stories of Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and affiliated Island communities. It also ensures their rich histories and contributions continue to thrive with each passing generation; and

WHEREAS, The 58th Annual Native American Day was celebrated at the California Capitol on September 26, 2025. This year's theme was "Walking in Their Footsteps: Carrying Forward the Legacy of Strength and Sovereignty"; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous peoples have made distinct and important contributions to California, the United States, and the rest of the world in a multitude of ways; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that California was once home to Federal Indian Boarding Schools. These schools separated Native children from their families and traditions in an effort to force assimilation. That history remains a reminder of the injustices faced by Native communities in our state; and

WHEREAS, in October 2024, President Joe Biden issued the first formal presidential apology acknowledging the lasting harm inflicted on Native communities; and

WHEREAS, today there are 109 federally recognized Indigenous tribes in California; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2020 United States Census, more than 630,000 people in California identified as American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination with another race, giving California the largest Native American population of any state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, at the time of first European contact, the San Francisco and Monterey Bay areas were the home to over 50 Indigenous tribes, each with its own territories; and

WHEREAS, today the independent tribes of the San Francisco Peninsula are known collectively as the Ramaytush Ohlone people; and

WHEREAS, the ancestral past of the Ramaytush Ohlone people spans ten thousand

years, reaching back to the Ice Age and predating European contact that happened just a few hundred years ago; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo Union High School District recognizes that our campuses are located on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone people, the original inhabitants and stewards of the San Francisco Peninsula whose land was taken through Spanish colonization; and we acknowledge their deep understanding of the interconnectedness of all things, honor their enduring commitment to Mother Earth, and call on our school community to remember and honor Ramaytush ancestors while working to protect the land and to understand the history of this area; and

WHEREAS the San Mateo Union High School District Board of Trustees hereby encourages the cultivation of a relationship with the Ramaytush Ohlone to develop ways that we can teach our students and our community about the lives and accomplishments of local Indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS the San Mateo Union High School District Board of Trustees hereby supports the use of curricula at our schools that highlights the experiences and contributions of Native Peoples both historically and in our current times to help students understand the importance and relevance of Native American culture and history.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the San Mateo Union School District Board of Trustees recognizes November as National Native American Heritage Month.

SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Passed and Adopted on this 23rd Day of OCTOBER, 2025

Superintendent

Robert Griffin
President, Board of Trustees