

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 21, 2026
RE: Spotlight on Student Learning - Spring 2026 Semester Highlights

I. BACKGROUND

As we reflect on the spring of the 2025-26 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 the hard work, dedication, and engagement of our educators and students throughout the year. While this list is not all encompassing, it highlights much of the meaningful work taking place across 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 strengthen teaching, learning, and student well-being. 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 the breadth and depth of community support for public education, and proud of what we have accomplished together this school year.

Curriculum and Instruction

- **Academic Data Class of 2025** - On January 22, Educators from Mills, Capuchino and Hillsdale High Schools shared a Spotlight on Student Learning with our Board of Trustees on key outcomes for the class of 2025 as well as outcomes of student success to rigorous coursework. The report focused on Goal Two of the LCAP: Humanizing Education - All Students will participate in learning experiences that are joyful, uplifting, empowering and validating of their identities.

The report highlighted (for the class of 2025):

- Graduation Rate
- College and Career Educator
- Access to College-Level Coursework
- Post-secondary Matriculation
- ML Progress

Learn more by reading the [Board Memo](#), viewing the [presentation](#) or watching the [recording of the meeting](#).

- **Career Technical Education (CTE)** - On March 10, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, Brian Simmons, and Kris Shouse from the San Mateo County Office of Education presented an update to our Board of Trustees regarding our District's Career Technical Education (CTE) Program. This was the fourth update in a series of discussions which shared how our current approach to CTE pathways, dual enrollment, and the College and Career Indicator (CCI) intersect and reviewed implications of potential CTE and elective-related graduation requirement changes, while grounding the discussion in student participation data and program realities.

The report highlighted the fastest-growing job sectors and included countywide labor market data and job openings. SMUHSD has made a significant investment in CTE programming across all school sites. Under our current model, we require all students to take at least one CTE course with a few exceptions. Nearly all students (95%) take at least one CTE course, however our graduation structure emphasizes exposure rather than "pathway completion." About 5-10% of students at each school complete a full pathway (two or more courses in a sequence). As a result, our programs are broad but not always deep. Learn more about CTE in our District by reading the [Board report](#) or by viewing the [presentation](#).

- **Career Technical Education (CTE) Field Trips** - CTE students attended field trips this semester exposing them to opportunities related to career pathways.
 - **Biotech Pathway** - AHS and SMHS went to Gilead Sciences on March 4
 - **Architecture Pathway** - AHS and BHS went to Autodesk on March 11
 - **Sheetmetal Workers** - AHS went to Sheet Metal Workers' Local 104 Training Facility.
- **Professional Development (PD)** - teams across all SMUHSD sites created meaningful, site-specific learning experiences for their staff across two days of learning sessions in late January. Across SMUHSD, PD site teams designed learning experiences that meet the unique needs of each school - with each session informed by what we know about how adults learn best, grounded in humanizing learning practices, and guided by a shared district framework to support strong teaching and meaningful learning for students.

On March 17, District PD Coordinator Marlo Bagsik and District Instructional Tech Coordinator/Induction Lead Mentor Dom Bigue co-facilitated a workshop for new SMUHSD educators. The workshop, "Student Centered Learning Spaces: Physical & Digital", was developed in alignment to the District's instructional framework rooted in humanizing pedagogy and it explored ways that center human ingenuity while also on-ramping the AI tools available.

- **Academic Literacy Support** - On February 18, Manager of Teacher Induction and Professional Learning, Sabbie Hopkins, and Multilingual Learner Teacher Support Coaches, Melonie Cotter and Wiley Clothier, co-facilitated a workshop for newly hired SMUHSD educators on Academic Literacy Support in the Content Area Classroom. Over

35 educators participated in this collaboratively developed and facilitated workshop, exploring strategies for supporting multilingual learners in standard program classes.

- **Career Expo** - More than 200 SMUHSD students and their family members attended the 5th Annual Districtwide Career Expo on February 26, 2026 at Hillsdale High School. Students learned about high-paying careers, networked with industry professionals, participated in hands-on activities and learned about various opportunities from the 35+ representatives from Bay Area companies, apprenticeships and training programs. The main goal of the Career Expo is to educate and expose students to opportunities for high-paying careers that don't necessarily require a four year degree.
- **Artificial Intelligence**
 - **AI Taskforce** - The AI Taskforce is a collaborative group of students, families, educators, and community members working together to guide how artificial intelligence is used in our schools. Their goal is to ensure AI supports learning in safe, ethical, and meaningful ways, specifically how to enhance, not replace, the human relationships and critical thinking that are essential for student success. Over a series of meetings from February through May, the group gathered input, studied research, and developed recommendations to share with the School Board, helping shape clear guidance and a thoughtful path forward for AI in our classrooms.
 - **AI Fellowship** - The AI Fellowship is a multi-week professional learning experience for educators designed to build a thoughtful and informed approach to using artificial intelligence in teaching and learning. Through a structured blend of virtual meetings and self-paced learning, participants explore key topics such as AI basics, ethical considerations, instructional applications, academic integrity, and student AI skills. Fellows engage with readings, videos, and hands-on experimentation with AI tools, while also collaborating with colleagues through ongoing discussions and reflection.

The program emphasizes developing a critical “AI mindset,” encouraging educators to thoughtfully consider when and how AI can support their work while keeping human relationships, student voice, and equity at the center. By the end of the fellowship, participants are prepared to integrate AI in ways that enhance engagement, meet diverse student needs, and foster more inclusive and humanizing classrooms. Fellows also contribute their insights to support district decision-making and help shape the future of AI use across schools. At the last session, two of the students who have been participating on the AI Taskforce provided some student perspectives to the educators.

Capuchino High Teacher Stacy Kratochvil was a panelist on the “Unlocking Human Intelligence: Reimagining Learning for an AI World” session at the [Future of Education Conference](#), held January 11-14, in Orlando, Florida. The panel brought together a diverse group of educators, system leaders, and industry innovators to explore how we can reimagine learning and keep humanity at the center of the AI revolution. Panelists shared how the Human Intelligence Movement is advancing a new vision for education, one that prioritizes creativity, empathy, adaptability, and ethical reasoning.

- **Personal Finance Work Group** - The Personal Finance Work Group is a cross-site team of educators charged with designing and implementing a new one-semester personal finance graduation requirement in alignment with AB 2927. The group has worked collaboratively to develop a student-centered course that builds essential financial literacy while considering how key economics concepts can be meaningfully integrated. In addition to shaping the course vision and content, the task force has addressed critical implementation logistics, including the timeline for piloting the course in 2027–28 and full graduation requirement rollout in 2030–31, how the course will coexist with or potentially replace the economics requirement, and options for scheduling across sites. The team has explored models such as pairing the course with existing electives, offering hybrid or shared sections across schools, and ensuring access even with varying enrollment levels. Carlo Corti of Aragon High School and Alexandra Dove of Mills High School presented a report to the Board of Trustees on May 7 to provide an update on their work and timelines moving forward. Learn more by reading the [Board memo](#) and viewing the [presentation](#).
- **Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Award** - Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Julia Kempkey was named ACSA Region 5 Curriculum and Instruction Administrator of the Year.

Equity

- **Equity Visits** - District educators completed school Equity Visits at each of the nine high school campuses. This provided professional learning opportunities for both the visiting team of administrators and teachers as well as meaningful feedback to the host school. Equity Visits are structured opportunities to visit classrooms, hear directly from students and staff, and reflect on how school experiences are supporting equity, access, and belonging. The visits are meant to surface patterns, celebrate strengths, and identify questions that can guide improvement. Across the visits, several common themes emerged. Schools demonstrated strong relational cultures where students feel known, supported, and cared for, and clear structures and routines often helped students feel safe and successful. Visits provided an opportunity to strengthen consistency across classrooms so that all students, especially multilingual learners and historically underserved students, can count on equitable access to meaningful talk, rigorous thinking, relevant learning, and appropriate academic support. Overall, the visits suggest that relationships and structure are strong foundations, and the next area of growth is ensuring those foundations lead to deeper engagement, stronger student voice, and more consistent equitable learning experiences across all settings.
- **Equity Advisory** - The dedicated team of educators, parents, caregivers and community members held their final meeting in April. The committee reviewed District data (such as academic outcomes, attendance, and discipline), provided input on key initiatives like the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), and discussed ways to improve student experiences, especially for groups who may face barriers. Through small-group discussions and collaborative problem-solving, members help identify needs, share perspectives, and recommend actions that promote belonging, access, and success for every student. One specific recommendation was a closer look at the support that we provide to students who are credit-deficient.

- **Student Equity Councils** - More than 100 students who serve on their school site [Student Equity Councils](#) (SEC) attended workshops throughout the District from February 10-12. Activities included sessions on:
 - Building connections with SEC leaders from other schools
 - Practicing empathy and listening more deeply to student experiences
 - Understanding what's beneath the surface of equity work (people, power, policy)
 - Learning from what's working at other schools
 - Leaving the workshop with clear next steps for SEC projects
- **Pride Prom 2026** - The 4th Annual Pride Prom was held on Friday, April 17, 2026 on the College of San Mateo campus. We welcomed 188 students from all over San Mateo County to the inclusive and free event! Read the Burlingame B article, "[Pride Prom makes history with record-breaking attendance](#)" for an event recap.

Sustainability

- **EV Charger Project Rebate** - Peninsula Clean Energy awarded SMUHSD a \$240,000 rebate through its EV Ready Program for Businesses to support our EV charging project. The funding is allocated across four sites, AHS, HHS, SMHS, and the District Office, at \$60,000 per site to support installation of EV charging stations. This partnership demonstrates Peninsula Clean Energy's commitment to environmental stewardship and community well-being and supports the District's energy solutions for school needs.
- **Earth Week** - Sustainability facilitators at each site partnered with students, teachers, environmental organizations, and community members to organize activities that build environmental literacy. Activities included a campus clean-up day, Earth Day trivia, and promotion of reusable products instead of single-use items.
- **Waste Audits** - Sites are conducting waste audits to improve waste-sorting practices, update labeling, and strengthen student and staff education. These efforts emphasize zero-waste goals and climate resilience.
- **Sustainable and Climate Resilient Schools Awards:** San Mateo County Office of Education recently announced the recipients of the 2026 [Sustainable and Climate Resilient Schools](#) (SCRS) Award! These awards honor those who are driving meaningful and lasting change in support of environmentally sustainable practices across their school community.

Standout Award Winners

- [Aragon High School: H.O.P.E. Uniforms Program](#)
- [Burlingame High School: Project Stack](#)
- [Burlingame High School: CanYa Wag](#)
- [Mills High School: Implementing Waste Management in Freshman Health Classes](#)

Aragon High School

- **Robotics State Championships at Cow Palace** - Students from Aragon, Burlingame and Mills High Schools attended the State Robotics Competition at the Cow Palace in Daly City in April, where students from across California showcased impressive innovation, teamwork, and technical skill. It was an exciting and high-energy event, highlighting the creativity and dedication of our students and staff. The experience underscored the power of hands-on learning and the impact of robust robotics programs in preparing students for future opportunities.
- **Best Communities For Education** - The NAMM (National Association for Music Merchants) Foundation named Aragon High School a Best Communities for Education for 2026 for the ninth year in a row.
- **San Mateo County Youth Arts Fellow** - An Aragon student who serves as a 2025-26 San Mateo County Youth Arts Fellow, presented his community art program, Music for the Youth Mind on April 12 at community arts non-profit, [Art Bias](#). This de-stressing program featured a solo performance on violin paired with a dance and movement therapy session.
- **Math Club** - On March 20, the Aragon Math Club brought campus to life with its annual Aragon Math Marathon, a math tournament welcoming middle school math teams across San Mateo County for an evening of creative problem-solving and collaboration. Led by Club President and Vice President, and supported by 40+ Aragon volunteers, the event came through after months of effort in problem writing, logistics, and community outreach.
- **Athletics** - The [Northern California Chapter of the National Football Foundation](#) recognized a student as a Scholar Athlete at their awards gala on March 14. Each of the 2026 award winners has kept up a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher, is a varsity football player and has demonstrated leadership abilities and traits in school and the community.
- **Chamber Orchestra** - For the first time ever, Aragon's Chamber Orchestra has been selected to perform at the ASTA National Conference, held in San Francisco on February 28.

Bridge Academy

- **California Association of Bilingual Educators (CABE)** - Bridge Academy Principal Dr. Samia Shoman and English Teacher/Instructional Lead Nina Finci attended and led a workshop at the California Association of Bilingual Education Conference, held March 4-7 in San Francisco. Their workshop, "The Bridge Academy: How Hope, Love and Justice Transformed a Program into an Alternative School" engaged participants in how to create an inclusive and welcoming school environment with a rigorous academic experience for newcomer multilingual students. Dr. Shoman and Ms. Finci talked about

how the Bridge program turned into The Bridge Academy - a WASC-accredited school with a graduate profile that is now driving curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

- **Visual Arts** - Four Bridge students' artwork was displayed at the SMUHSD District Art Show held at Society of West Coast Gallery.
- **Collaboration with Community Colleges** - Both College of San Mateo and Skyline College hosted program information and registration support sessions on campus in April to ensure all Bridge graduates had applications and course selection complete.
- **Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Award** - Bridge Academy Principal, Dr. Samia Shoman was named ACSA Region 5 Secondary Administrator of the Year.
- **Graduate Profiles** - Bridge students presented their graduate profiles in a public demonstration day on May 21st.
- **Showcase and Open House** - In addition to their trimester 2 showcase held in March, Bridge hosted an Open House on April 28 to welcome new families and host graduating senior families for an information session and senior awards.
- **Soccer** - Bridge fielded its first all girls' soccer team which played San Mateo in a 5 v 5 format game on April 10th.

Burlingame High School

- **Performing Arts** - The BHS Jazz Ensemble and Vocal Jazz Ensemble, with Music Director Kyoko Yamamoto, participated in the 37th Folsom Jazz Festival on January 24. More than 100 middle and high school jazz bands, vocal jazz choirs, and combos from across California and Nevada competed that day. The Jazz Ensemble won 1st place in Division 1A and the Vocal Jazz Ensemble placed 3rd out of 17 vocal jazz ensembles.
- On Friday, April 10, BHS Wind Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra participated in California Music Educators Association Bay Section Band and Orchestra Festival. Chamber Orchestra earned Unanimous Superior rating and Wind Ensemble earned Excellent rating for the performance and Superior rating for the sight reading!
- **Rita Moreno Award** - Two students are nominated for the Rita Moreno Award for their outstanding drama performances this year in Rent (The Musical) and Rumors by Neil Simon.
- **Exchange Students** - Over 20 BHS Italian students stayed in Udine, Italy, participating in a cultural and language exchange through homestays. Students visited Venice, Bologna, Trieste and more, in addition to the exchange.
- **Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA)** - BHS students participated in California DECA competitions and were invited to present at the national competition in

Atlanta.

- **Robotics** - BHS Iron Panthers Robotics team successfully completed the Norcal District Championships to qualify to compete with 600 teams from all around the world in Houston Texas at the World Championships in April.
- **Photography** - Three Advanced Photography students received Special Award status for their submission to the [Creative Youth Awards \(CYA\)](#). In addition to being recognized, they received a cash reward, are now featured in CYA's online Creative Gallery, and get a free year membership to MasterClass.
- **Math** - 24 BHS students participated in the American Math Competition (AMC) and three of those 24 students qualified for the next round, American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME). One student qualified for the third round, the USA Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO). That student also qualified for the next round, which is the MOP (Mathematical Olympiad Program).
- **Swimming** - A student broke the PAL/school record in the 50 meter free style and the PAL record in the 100 meter free style, another student broke the PAL /school record in the 100 Butterfly, and a third student broke the PAL school record in the 100 meter backstroke.
- **Scholar Athlete** - A BHS student athlete was selected as a 2026 CIF Scholar-Athlete of the Year. This scholarship award honors student-athletes who excel in the classroom and athletics and are strong contributors to their schools and communities. The student will be recognized at the State Capitol in Sacramento and will receive a \$10,000 scholarship on June 4.

Capuchino High School

- **Multicultural Day** - Capuchino held its 1st Annual Multicultural Day- The whole school was invited to the gym for a short rally of cultural performances and education and followed with an extended lunch period and a fair in the spirit court that included a diverse range of groups and individuals hosting tables with free food samples, cultural games and activities and learning about each other. Grammy Award Winner George Kahumoku performed at the event and two CHS educators, Mr. Myers and Mr. Jerin Oca performed along with him which was a privilege to watch.
- **Reclassification Ceremony** - Capuchino hosted 32 students and their families at the reclassification ceremony on Feb. 20th. The ceremony celebrates students who were previously identified as English Learners and have demonstrated English proficiency by successfully meeting the District's reclassification criteria. It was truly an honor to recognize their dedication, perseverance, and academic achievement
- **Horseshoe Coffee Cart Business** - Our TEC program created the Horseshoe Coffee Cart Business, serving staff with amazing drinks. This student-created, managed, and operated small business allows students to run all aspects of the operation, including customer service, inventory, marketing, money management, and daily operations. The program provides students with valuable job-related skills while also building their confidence through positive interactions with the broader school community.
- **Mustang Service Awards** -CHS students have volunteered on campus or in the

community for 12,256 Hours since the start of the program. This is in coordination with Ms. Kovisto in our College and Career Center who has supported and encouraged our scholars to volunteer. This year we had 48 students volunteer for 4,361 hours.

- **Open House** - Open House was a strong success this year. We welcomed incoming 9th-grade students and their families to explore our classrooms and campus. Throughout the evening, students and families engaged with a wide range of stakeholders, highlighting the richness of our diverse community and the many opportunities available to support our scholars' growth and success.
- **Meet the Mustangs** - Capuchino hosted its annual Meet the Mustangs for nearly 300 students from Parkside and private. The day included a mini rally/presentation giving students a glimpse of the schools' services and opportunities for future students. Future Mustangs also attended a mini club fair.
- **Boys Wrestling** - Capuchino Boys Wrestling were PAL Champs. This was a first in the program's history. Student athletes and coaches have done a tremendous job and all their hard work has paid off.
- **Performing Arts** - String Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra traveled to the South Bay to perform at the Homestead High School Orchestra Festival. Both orchestras performed beautifully and had an inspiring time in the audience watching other wonderful high school orchestras perform. After the performances, both orchestras had direct clinician time with one of the scoring judges creating a summative and formative experience for our students. Both orchestras earned the highest Unanimous Superior ranking.

Hillsdale High School

- **Poetry Out Loud** - On February 4, the San Mateo County Office of Arts and Culture and Arts Commission held their 8th annual Poetry Out Loud Competition. Hillsdale High School 10th Graders placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd! The first place winner represented the County at the statewide competition hosted by the California Arts Council in Sacramento, March 8-9.
- **Visual Arts** - Art work from 33 students was chosen to be on display at the West Coast Art Gallery in San Bruno in April. The HHS Visual Arts faculty supported an incredible show of student work in conjunction with our Open House on Thursday, March 12.
- **Graduate Profile** - During our January PD, Hillsdale deepened our shared understanding of the HHS Graduate Profile and its implementation through departmental scope and sequence planning.
- **Performing Arts** - In February, Hillsdale's Music Department showed off their skills over two nights performing a variety of pop songs with both instrumental and choral performances.
- **Empowerment Through Action** - Hillsdale enjoyed welcoming incoming 9th graders who will participate in ETA and the Newcomer Program for an early visit prior to beginning at Hillsdale. The visits included meeting with staff, learning the campus, programs, classroom observations, while shadowing and working with existing HHS students.

- **Culture Week** - took place at Hillsdale High School from March 23 - March 27. The week included school-wide Advisory lessons, lunch time activities, and our annual Culture Knight on March 26.
- **Dance** - In January, Hillsdale's Dance Ensemble hosted Mini-Moves for 40 elementary and middle school aged students. Our Dance Ensemble and adult volunteers hosted workshops for age groups of students, culminating in a Mini-Moves performance!
- **Drama** - The HHS Drama Department produced another wonderful spring show, *Shakespeare in Love*. Audiences commented on the incredible cast, crew, costumes, and production.
- **Valedictorians** - Hillsdale's Class of 2026 Valedictorians were honored at the San Mateo City Council on April 6.
- **Counseling, College, and Career** - staff hosted a number of successful evening events, including Life Beyond High School, grade level presentations, financial aid workshops, and incoming student programming.
- **Student Leadership** - Hillsdale students hosted Mr. Keith Hawkins on Thursday, 4/9 for a leadership workshop to reflect on themselves, their connection to Hillsdale, deepen empathy and understanding, while cultivating our next group of student leaders!
- **The Hillsdale Film Festival** - took place on April 17 with student films shown in our Little Theater. Those in attendance commented on the creativity, production value, and demonstration of our HHS Graduate Profile.
- **Common Good** - On April 22, Hillsdale High School turned the school over to our 12th grade class to teach lessons on the topic of the Common Good. The event, known as Senior Symposium, had 12th graders teach lessons on a variety of topics to their 9th, 10th, and 11th grade peers. The event culminated with a panel discussion and lunch for our senior class.
- **Knight Moves XXVIII** - took place from April 30 through May 2 to sellout crowds.
- **Hillsdale Athletics** - Intent to Play Signing Day took place on May 1. All of our student-athletes who will be competing at the collegiate level were showcased for their success and commitment.
- **Graduate Profiles** - Hillsdale faculty showcased their Graduate Profile projects in our Graduate Profile Showcase for PD.
- **College and Career** - Hillsdale's College and Career Center hosted "Commit to Your Future Day" in May – an event for seniors to celebrate their first post-high school steps

Middle College

- **Orientation** - As a part of our Spring Orientation, all MC students went to SkyZone for a day of community-building, fun, sweat, and laughter.

- **Outreach** - Middle College staff visited all comprehensive sites on January 12th and held an informational Zoom for prospective families on January 22nd. For our Preview Days (held mostly during SMUHSD PD days) over 155 prospective students registered to visit the program, tour the CSM campus, and have their questions answered by our student Ambassadors and a panel of seniors. Subsequently, the program received over 150 completed applications to join Middle College next year. All applications were reviewed before entry into a lottery. As of March, all applicants were notified. Waitlists remain and are being reviewed as spaces become available.
- **Launch Your Future** - On January 28, Middle College students attended College of San Mateo's Launch Your Future Career Fest 2026. Students explored internship and career opportunities and high-demand Career Technical Education programs all in one place at CSM's Career Fest.
- **Middle College National Consortium Conference** - Counselor A. English attended the annual winter leadership conference in Newport Beach, CA.
- **SMUHSD Equity Visit** - MC hosted District and site-level administrators for classroom observations.
- **Emergency Preparedness** - participated in both a scheduled drill for a violent intruder and an unplanned exercise for a campuswide power outage resulting in evacuation.
- **CSM Integration** - CSM counselors and program advisors provided Priority Enrollment workshops specifically for our senior students planning on staying at CSM next year. Support included registration/enrollment, scheduling, and Promise Scholars and EOP support.
- **Dance** - our annual Dance and Activity Night was held on Friday, March 20 in the CSM Bayview Room. Organized by our students' Sunshine Club, the theme was MC-chella.
- **Community Day field trips** - On April 16th, the Middle College program took the opportunity during the college's FLEX day (no college classes) to take students on field trips. Our juniors toured UC Davis, while our seniors went to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk.
- **Environmental Club:** Twenty six **Middle College Environmental Club** students went camping with two staff members and two chaperones to Big Sur April 24-26 Students planned and organized the overnight camping, meals, supplies/shopping, and hiking.
- **Senior Reflections** - all MC seniors lead a reflective session on their growth connections to the [MC Graduate Profile](#). These individual reflections take place over two weeks (May 4-15) and involve every MC teacher and all seniors.

Mills High School

- **GPA's on the Rise** - 41 students were recognized at the Glow Up Lunch Celebration on January 22nd for increasing their GPA in the Fall semester!
- **Recognizing First Generation Students** - In January, 9th- and 10th-grade students were recognized at our First Generation to Go to College Latino/Hispanic Family

celebration.

- **Dance** - Advanced and intermediate dance students were invited to perform during the Men's Basketball SCU vs UoP Halftime Showcase! Advanced students performed a Jazz routine choreographed by MHS Dance Director Victoria Himes and Intermediate students performed a Hip Hop/Wacking routine by a guest choreographer Aaron Alferez. The second annual Viking Velocity dance performance showcased the dance program now in its second year.
- **Graduation Rate** - Mills increased our graduation rate by 3% according to the CA Dashboard for the Class of 2025. In addition, CALPADS data shows ZERO dropouts for the cohort. We had an opportunity to share our work at the January Board Meeting.
- **Jazz Band** - In January, the Mills High School Jazz Band earned top honors at the Folsom Jazz Festival, taking 1st place in their division. The band impressed both adjudicators and clinicians, receiving enthusiastic and positive feedback on their performance and musicianship. In addition, several students were recognized for their outstanding solo performances, earning jazz solo medals. In February, Mills hosted the CMEA Jazz Festival and earned a Unanimous Superior Rating.
- **Lions Club Speech Contest** - An 11th grade student won 1st place at the San Bruno Lions Club and the Daly City Lions Club 89th Annual Speech Contest and competed in the County competition.
- **Basketball** - The Lady Vikings Girls Basketball Team won the Division III CCS Championship for the second year in a row, beating Santa Cruz High School 35-30 on February 28.
- **Latina Mentor Program** - 25 students in the Latina Mentor Program took a college field trip to San Jose State on March 9th. On the same day, 60 students who are the first to go to college went to UC Davis on a field trip.
- **The Mills Dragon Team** - took to the streets of San Francisco for the annual San Francisco Chinese Lunar New Year parade on Saturday, March 7. The team was awarded 2nd place in the category of "creativity."
- **The BobaBots (Robotics Team)**- placed in the #1 Alliance at the First Robotics Division Competition on Saturday, March 15th, winning several awards, including the Imaginary Award.
- **Performing Arts** - Over 100 students were involved in the Spring musical production of The Wizard of Oz, with original digital graphics produced by a Mills student, the lights and audio boards led by our musical tech workshop student group, and 100% of the orchestra pit comprised of students.
- **A Summer Opportunity Fair** was held by our CTE coordinator, Jerel Reyes, where local organizations came to advertise summer opportunities and hand out applications to students who are looking for opportunities this summer.
- **Rock the School Bells** - Over 35 students attended the Rock the School Bells event at Skyline College in early April that is an all day event to empower and educate our youth

about the importance of higher education and career exploration, increase awareness of the value of personal development and healthy lifestyles, and promote social change within their communities through Hip-Hop.

- **Journalism** - A 9th grade student won recognition for Best of SNO – a highly selective, prestigious showcase for top-tier student journalism, highlighting exceptional writing, design, and multimedia produced by schools in the [Student Newspapers Online \(SNO\) Network](#). Submissions are reviewed based on high-quality reporting and, if selected, published as examples of superior scholastic journalism, representing the top ~10–15% of over 14,000 annual entries. [Read the article](#).
- **Japanese Program** - Japanese teacher, Asuka Maniwa, was recognized in April as the recipient of the 2026 California Japanese Language Teacher of the Year Rising Star Award! by CAJLT (California Association of Japanese Language Teachers), NCJTA (Northern California Japanese Teachers' Association), and TJSC (Teachers of Japanese in Southern California).

Peninsula High School

- **Financial Aid Workshop** - On January 22, PHS held a Financial Aid workshop where representatives from the College of San Mateo Financial Aid Office helped students create their FAFSA accounts! Shout out to PHS Family Engagement Coordinator Carlos Nolasco, PHS Instructional Assistant Fatima Morales and SMUHSD Vocational Specialist Margaret Bradley for helping out the students as well!
- **Polynesian Club** - On January 28, several students in the PHS Polynesian Club, accompanied by Assistant Principal Fred Wolfgramm, Career Coordinator Chris Zografos and Wellness Counselor Lara Montoya, on a field trip to the Daly City Water and Wastewater Resources Department. Students met with Polynesian employees and learned so much about the valuable work they do and benefits they receive. We also heard individual stories from employees about their career paths and why it is important to ensure that their community has clean water to use.
- **Dinner with the Principal** - On February 11, Peninsula High School held a Dinner with the Principal. Even with the rainy weather, we had a full house! The night was full of important information, recognition and support! It was awesome to break bread with our families and continue to support their students!!
- **Association of California School Administrators** - Fred Wolfgramm, Assistant Principal at Peninsula High School, was recently selected to serve on the Secondary Education Leaders Council for the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 5.
- **B Street Boxing** - PHS Students continue to benefit from weekly outings to B Street Boxing in San Mateo. Students, accompanied by Mental Health Therapist Hilda Villanueva, are taught boxing techniques in an environment where there's structure, positive interactions with peers and adults. In addition to learning about boxing, B Street Boxing owner Eddie Croft and his team teach our students how to build skills in self-regulation and increased self-esteem.

- **Mental Health Awareness** - In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month, Peninsula High School's Wellness Team organized a workshop addressing the topic of Healthy Relationships on May 8 in collaboration with the Stanford Teen Health Van. They also hosted a lunch time event where students could learn about the resources available from PHS Wellness and several community partners, including HIP Housing, Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA), allcove San Mateo, Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE), El Centro de Libertad, Stanford Teen Mobile Van and Youth Engagement and Advocacy Program.
- **New Audio Production Class** - Teacher Gustavo Lopez reports that his Audio Production class - a first of its kind at Peninsula High School - has been extremely successful! He stated that he has, "already witnessed very positive outcomes for our students—both academically and creatively." He also mentioned that students overwhelmingly recommend the class, highlighting its creative potential and engagement. One student said, "It teaches a lot about how DJing works... it's creative and gives a solid foundation."
- **Professional Development** - Peninsula High School's Assistant Principal Fred Wolfgramm, Social Worker Daniel Tostado, Counselor Elaine Llaguno and Teaching and Learning Support/Instructional Coach Michele Fichera attended the California Continuation Education Association Conference: Blazing New Trails: Innovation in Alternative Education" April 30 - May 3 in Burbank. As part of the conference, they visited model continuation high schools, including Coronado High School in West Covina.
- **Student Equity Council** - Four students who serve on the PHS Student Equity Council (SEC) attended a February workshop where they participated in activities that included sessions on:
 - Building connections with SEC leaders from other schools
 - Practicing empathy and listening more deeply to student experiences
 - Understanding what's beneath the surface of equity work (people, power, policy)

San Mateo Adult and Career Education (SMACE)

- **Black History Month** - SMACE hosted a Black History Month two-day event with [Krishtel Johnson](#), a former educator and current quilter! After more than 30 years as a traditional educator, Krishtel "embarked on a mission to further her quest to inform, inspire, and engage others in dialogue about the African American experience - in the hope of empowering others and bridging the gap of misunderstanding one person at a time." Over the course of two days, students from more than 10 classes heard her presentation and learned how, for many Black families in the United States, quilts became a way to tell stories, including family history, important events, and community life. Seven of her quilts were on display at the event.
- **California Council on Adult Education (CCAЕ)** - SMACE hosted the [California Council on Adult Education \(CCAЕ\) Bay Section's Conference](#) on February 21, 2026. Bringing adult education leaders, staff and students together in advocacy, professional learning,

networking and recognition.

- **Lunar New Year** - SMACE celebrated the Lunar New Year on March 3 with a beautiful student performance featuring a traditional cultural dance and festive attire. The event provided a meaningful educational experience, helping expand awareness and appreciation of Lunar New Year traditions and their significance within Asian cultures.
- **SMACEs' Apprenticeship and Internship Fair** - on February 26 was a big success! More than 12 vendors and organizations participated, including skilled trades, pre-apprentice programs, and companies that offer structured employment pathways. This event was open to SMACE students and the community at large. SMACE Workforce Consultant Terrie Crenshaw organized the event with help from many staff members and student volunteers.
- **Career Fair** - SMACE hosted a Career Fair on May 12, 2026, in partnership with the NovaWorks Workforce Development Board with 30 employers participating, providing students and the broader community with access to employment opportunities and career-focused resources that support economic mobility. The event was organized by SMACE Workforce Consultant Terrie Crenshaw, with support from many staff members and student volunteers.
- **Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE) Student Ambassador Training** - Two SMACE student council officers completed the COABE Student Ambassador Training and participated in the annual Student as Leaders Summit in April with SMACE Student Success Coordinator Marina Kravtsova.

San Mateo High School

- **World Language** - Four students from Spanish 3 participated in the 22nd Annual Spanish Poetry Contest in Palo Alto. An 11th grade student won 3rd place in the Advanced Spanish category.
- **Multilingual Learners (ML)** - SMHS ML students had a 97.34% completion rate on the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC).
- **Music** - Jazz Ensemble received a Unanimous Superior rating at the CMEA Jazz Festival at Mills High School. SMHS hosted the 20th annual SMHS Winter Show on February 28 with 30 schools, 40 performing units, and 120+ drum majors. Chamber Orchestra received an Excellent rating at the CMEA Band & Orchestra Festival at Capuchino High School.
- **SMHS Winterguard** - team placed 1st in Scholastic Regional A division at the Woodcreek Winter Festival. The Winterguard team won the 2026 NCBA Scholastic Regional A Championships.
- **Physical Education (PE)** - PE will be getting a new PE Uniform design for the first time in 20 years voted on by the students!

- **Athletics**
 - Jimmy Ikeda was recognized as one of the Central Coast Section NFHS Coaches of the Year at this year's Board of Managers on April 15.
 - The girls wrestling team was recognized as PAL Champions at the Board meeting on April 16.
 - Two students competed in the Arcadia Invitational during the weekend of April 11th. Arcadia is one of the most prestigious high school track and field competitions in the United States.
 - On April 30 at PAL trials, a student broke the school record when he dropped over 2 seconds in his 100 backstroke. He swam a 53.39, beating the old record of 53.57.

- **Publications** - Yearbook students completed and submitted for printing all 304 pages of Vol.120 of The Elm!

- **Visual Art - SMHS held:**
 - Senior Art Certificate Art Exhibit in the M building art gallery
 - Chalk Fest 2026 April 27 on campus
 - Art Certificate activity day and critique on April 27
 - Several extra curricular art contests happening from in school to congressional district wide to county wide to national.
 - District Art Exhibit off campus at the SWA Gallery in San Bruno

- **Math** - MateoMatics - April 10th - Our math team hosted a math competition for 46 middle school students from Bowditch, Burlingame Intermediate and Bayside. Twelve students from the Math Team competed at the Stanford Mathematics Tournament on April 18.

- **Science**
 - Two science students placed in the Golden Gate STEM Fair and will move on to the next level of competition. An 11th grader was the Grand Prize Winner and a 10th grader placed second. A student also won third place in the California State Science and Engineering Fair.
 - Science department members participated in a professional development release day funded by the LIGHT Award on 3/18/26 to learn and practice new strategies for supporting multilingual learners in heterogeneous science classrooms.
 - Science students from the Biotech program, the Marine Biology club, the Science Bowl club, Mateobotics, and Vulcan Robotics led demonstrations and activities for K-8 students at Bayside's Annual Fab Lab Maker Faire event on 3/13/26.
 - A student represented San Mateo HS and the Golden Gate STEM Fair at the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Phoenix, AZ from May 11-15, 2026. She was one of 2 high school students awarded the Grand Prize to

compete at ISEF from 9-12th grade students in San Francisco, San Mateo, Marin, Sonoma, and Napa counties.

Academic Support Programs

- **Advancement Via Individual Determination(AVID)**
 - AVID students across the District were admitted into over 50 different universities; included ALL of the UCs and CSUs in addition to private schools such as LMU, USF, and Occidental among many others.
 - All of our AVID schools hosted college field trips this spring to schools through California; included three schools who hosted multiple day trips.
 - AVID educators and the Board of Trustees recognized four 12th grade AVID standouts at their April 30 Board Meeting.
- **Ethnic Studies** - Ethnic Studies teachers participated in two days of professional learning focused on various access points into the curriculum for students and co-constructing lessons together.

District Governance/Operations

- **One Word** - Site Principals and District Leadership and Trustees participated in a “One Word” Activity in January to examine the District’s priorities and goals. District leaders shared the following words:

Morals	Collaboration	Consistency
Stability	Balance	Motivation
Compassion	Intentional	Focus
Impact	Punchy	Accountability
Service	Bridge	Action
Momentum	Steadfastness	Understand
Vision	Equity	

These words can serve to us as a constant reminder of what we want to be intentional about when we are making decisions and working with people.

- **Cell Phones in Schools** - On March 26, the SMUHSD Board of Trustees voted unanimously to implement a District-wide policy banning student use of cell phones for the entire school day also known as a “bell-to-bell” policy starting in the 2026-27 school year. The policy meets the obligations outlined in the [Phone-Free School Act \(AB 3216\)](#) signed by Governor Newsom last September which requires schools in California to adopt a policy by July 1, 2026 to limit or prohibit the use of smartphones by students during the school day. District leaders and school site educators have developed a plan to implement the policy and have selected a vendor to provide cases for storing student cell phones during the school day. In addition to the adoption of the bell-to-bell policy, the District is committed to developing and implementing a comprehensive digital citizenship

curriculum to ensure students build the skills needed to navigate technology in healthy, responsible, and developmentally appropriate ways.

- **Board Study Sessions** - The Board held two special meeting study sessions: on the District English Language Advisory Committee on April 23 and a Student Board Representative Dinner with the Board and Artificial Intelligence on May 14. The Board is scheduled to conduct a study session on Special Education on June 3.
- **Coast2Coast Advocacy** - Board President Teri Chavez and Board Clerk Greg Land travelled to Washington, DC in April to attend the California School Boards Association (CSBA) - and the Association of School Administrators (ACSA) on the Coast2Coast Conference where they met with legislators to advocate for [full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#).
- **Student Board Representatives** - The San Mateo Union High School District Student Board Council is made up of student representatives from each of the District's high schools who represent diverse interests of the student body. This semester students supported the creation of proclamations (National Black History Month; School Board Recognition Month; National Women's History Month; Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, National Arab American Heritage Month; Autism Awareness Month; Jewish American Heritage Month; Educator Appreciation Month; Asian American Pacific Islander Month; LGBTQIA+ Pride Month; Juneteenth; and Disability Pride Month) for Board Approval. Read all Board Approved Proclamations on the [District website](#). The group meets monthly and this semester participated in discussions with District leaders about Artificial Intelligence and its impact on teaching and learning, the new cellphone policy and the implications (the student board drafted a letter to the Board of Trustees with their recommendations). Students also learned a great deal about positive leadership this year, connecting with Dr. Kempkey, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Royce and Mr. Booker at their monthly meetings. Through their insights and cultivated relationships throughout the year, members of the student board made significant impacts to their school communities and the district. To name just two of those specific impacts: a student from San Mateo HS developed a Peer Advocacy and Appeal Process for Disciplinary actions with the help of Dr. Burnette of Student Services and Mr. Hudelson, Student Board Coordinator and Summer School Principal. The student will be working directly with the summer school administration and students in a few weeks to pilot this program. Students also coordinated a Middle Eastern Club event on March 27 at Hillsdale High School in collaboration with other club leaders across the district and the Hillsdale Administration to celebrate the Middle Eastern community. About half of our student board members were able to serve on the dais for Trustee meetings this year.
- **Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 5 Administrators of the Year Awards** - Dr. Julia Kempkey and Dr. Samia Shoman, who were both recognized by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 5 Administrators of the Year Awards Gala on April 24! Dr. Julia Kempkey, associate

superintendent of curriculum and instruction, was named as the Curriculum and Instruction Administrator of the Year for ACSA's region five. Dr. Samia Shoman, principal of the Bridge Academy and manager of academic support programs, was named as the Secondary Principal of the Year for ACSA's region five. These awards honor the impressive and impactful work these leaders have accomplished which strengthens systems, uplifts communities, and most importantly, improves outcomes for students.

Communications

- **Videography**
 - **Middle College Video** - The Communications Team launched school promotional videos in English and Spanish for Middle College.
 - **Construction Video** - With the support of Voler Strategic Advisors, the Communications Team directed the production of videos in English and Spanish highlighting construction projects both completed and underway in the 2025-26 school year. Watch all of our videos on the [SMUHSD Youtube Channel](#).
- **Educator and Community Messaging** - Communications educators continue to produce a number of communications tools including digital newsletters, web content and social media campaigns to disseminate information both internally and to the broader community so that all interest holders can access programs and services offered by the District.
- **Prioritizing Accessible School Newsletters** - In Spring 2026, the Communications Department collaborated with Peninsula High School and Capuchino High School on creating more accessible and user-friendly newsletters for families. The purpose of the collaboration was to provide families with a newsletter that is not only ADA friendly but also accessible in their preferred language! The team continues to assist Aragon High School with their weekly newsletter.
- **Earned Media** - In February the District coordinated coverage of San Mateo High School's Production of Les Mis on [KPIX](#).
- **Facilities Master Plan** - The District has embarked on a Facilities Master Plan to create a comprehensive, long-term roadmap that aligns an organization's physical infrastructure with its strategic goals. The Communications Team is supporting these efforts to ensure that educators, parents, students and community members are informed of this process.
- **Cell Phones in Schools** - Communications professionals developed and disseminated student, parent and educator surveys to ensure that the District collected data prior to a Board decision regarding policies on the use of cell phones in schools.
- **Advocacy in Support of Full Funding of IDEA** - The Communications teams Supported Trustees Greg Land and Teri Chavez in preparation for their advocacy efforts to support [full funding of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#) in Washington DC at the California School Board Association Coast2Coast Conference in April.
- **LinkedIn Growth:**
 - LinkedIn School Pages continue to see increased followers and engagement, with the highest engagement rate related to posts about student achievement

and Career Technical Education Field Trips. Followers (as of May 11):

- SMUHSD: 1,950 (+202 since January 1)
- AHS: 2,523 (+189 since January 1)
- BHS: 2,679 (+308 since January 1) <<<<< Largest growth
- CHS: 78 followers (+12 since January 1)
- HHS: 386 followers (+282 since January 1) <<<< Fastest growth
- Middle College: 31 (This account was created in October 2026)
- MHS: 1,500 (+128 since January 1)
- PHS: 53 (+11 since January 1)
- SMHS: 2,443 (+262 since January 1)

Key takeaways include:

- LinkedIn users (both followers and non followers) are more likely to interact with our posts (Comment, Like, Repost) when a company or person is tagged in the post.
 - We are continuing to see that more and more high school students have an established presence on LinkedIn!
 - Alumni continue to engage with school page content
-
- **Interpretation** - Multilingual Communications Specialist, Dulce Hatch developed a process to certify SMUHSD staff interested in serving as Spanish interpreters for the district. This process included a brief interview, an evaluation of interpreting skills, and an assessment of the educational terminology. As a result, one additional educator was successfully certified as an SMUHSD interpreter through this alternative process.
 - **Spanish Social Media:**
 - **Spanish Facebook:** From January 1 - April 21, the [SMUHSD Spanish page on Facebook](#) has 17,768 page views, 227 content interactions (up 9.7 % from the previous 100 days), and 482 followers.
 - Some of the most popular posts have been related to events specifically for Latino Parents including Latino Parent Organization (LPO) meetings and events, Cultural Nights, San Mateo High's Grupo Folklorico performance (April 24) and posts in general about Family Engagement Coordinators.
 - The Multilingual Communication Specialist continues to engage in person at events to encourage our Spanish speaking families to follow the page on Facebook.
 - **Additional Transcreated Content (Spanish content on Instagram/Facebook):** The Communications Department continues to post (when available) hundreds of pieces of content/graphics in both English and Spanish to its [SMUHSD Instagram account](#) and original [SMUHSD Facebook page](#). **More than 110 pieces of content have been translated for newsletters/social media since January 1.**
 - **Outreach to Schools and LPOs** - The District's Multilingual Communications Specialist continues to visit school sites Latino parent meetings to promote the SMUHSD Spanish Facebook page and Instagram account. The goal is to ensure Spanish- speaking families receive timely and relevant information in their primary language.

- **Collaboration with District English Learner Advisory Committee** - The Communications team attended the DELAC meeting on January 28, 2026 to present an update on the progress made in response to the committee's recommendations for improving communication between the district and multilingual families. The Director of Communications shared several key updates: The communication team continues to translate materials as requested by school sites and has expanded its use of transcreation - an approach that goes beyond direct translation to reflect the cultural nuances of multilingual communities. In addition, the communications department provides interpretation services in multiple languages for a wide range of school events, including Back to School Night, ELAC meetings, Athletic Parent Sports Night, 8th Grade Parent Night, PTO meetings, College Info Night, and others. The purpose of this presentation at the DELAC meeting was to maintain ongoing collaboration with the committee and to ensure that its recommendations continue to guide efforts that support the success of multilingual students.

Health and Wellness

Student Health

- **2nd Annual Heart Screening Event** - Hosted by the San Mateo Union High School District, Kyle J. Taylor Foundation and Peninsula Health Care District this second annual event took place on February 21, 2026 at San Mateo High School. Over 270 youth and young adults participated in the free heart screening event. Five abnormal electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG) were detected and were seen by an on site with a cardiologist for followup. Eight echo-cardiograms were provided to identified students with abnormal screenings and referral to follow up care were provided. Nearly 30 community members were seen as walk ins. We have screened a total of 509 youth since February 2025
- **Nursing Services** - The District provided the following nursing services to students:
 - **Case Management:**
 - Collaborated with physicians to develop and implement individualized student care plans, securing necessary medical orders for daily clinical support
 - Partnered with families to ensure seamless continuity of care by proactively managing updates and adjustments to student health requirements
 - Followed up on student referrals regarding various health concerns
 - **Specialized Health Care oversight of the following:**
 - 4 students who require feedings via G-tube
 - 9 students with diabetic care
 - Created an emergency response guide for a student with a history of seizures
 - **Trainings Delivered:**
 - Held a class training on individual anaphylaxis emergency response plans and EpiPen administration.

- Held 3 class trainings on individual seizure emergency response plans and emergency medication administration.
- Facilitated comprehensive medical emergency preparedness training for high school administration teams, covering critical protocols for asthma, seizures, anaphylaxis, and diabetes management.

Employee Wellness

- **Wellness Classes and Offerings** - SMUHSD Added additional in-person lunchtime class at SMACE for Hatha Yoga. The District Renewed corporate partnership with Crunch Fitness.
- **[Commute.org](#) Employer Summit** - Ana Herold, Health Services & Employee Wellness Lead, attended the Commute.org Employer Summit on February 24 where she presented on the SMUHSD Eco-Commuting Incentive Program! On behalf of the SMUHSD Employee Wellness Program, she accepted the Gold Level Certification award from [Commute.org](#) for the number of employees participating in the Commute Star program. 214 staff qualified for the District's eco-commuting stipend.

Employee Health

- **First Aid Training** - The District provided training for 57 staff and coaches who have been trained and certified in CPR, AED, and First Aid.

Human Resources

- **Classified** - The District hired 12 classified staff and 53 classified substitutes and completed the reclassification for the four (4) groups: Campus Safety, Instructional Assistants, Student Nutrition Services, and Transportation.
- **Certificated** - The Human Resources team attended job fairs and built a mailing list of possible candidates to ensure that they're able to locate and apply to our postings
- **Substitutes** - Due to the District's high substitute retention rate, along with a significant decrease in unfilled absences, we temporarily paused the hiring of new substitute educators at the end of the Fall 2025 semester. We will reassess staffing needs over the summer to ensure continued support for our schools. Currently, we have 133 active substitute educators, including 31 valued SMUHSD retirees.
- **Administration** - The Board approved a contract for Mr. Peter Alvarez to be the new principal of Aragon High School. They approved a contract for Lauren Kelly to be the new principal of Burlingame High School and for Chad Slife to be the new assistant principal at Burlingame. The District will hire a new full time principal for Peninsula High School prior to the start of the 2026-27 school year.
- **Panorama Survey Results** - Indicate that educators show high confidence in maintaining a safe environment (over 90% reported feeling confident addressing hate speech. These findings are consistent with broader district data trends. 81% of families responding report fairness from staff.

Benefits - The Human Resources Department has:

- Continued to successfully support the district-wide rollout of the Difference Card effective January 1, 2026. A significant enhancement to the employee medical plan which required a lot of coordination and staff training for all district sites.
- Invested time and effort to proactively address employee concerns and troubleshoot issues as they arose, minimizing disruption to staff and demonstrating HR's commitment to employee well-being and benefit accessibility.
- Developed and delivered employee education efforts in partnership with the Difference Card to help employees understand the Difference Card process — including how it works alongside the existing medical plan, when and how to use it, and how to resolve common issues — ensuring employees could access their benefits with confidence.
- Served as a frontline resource for employees who have questions on the Difference Card as well as general benefit questions. Provided individualized guidance to all district employees as well as guidance on next steps for those who will be retiring at the end of the current school year.

Athletics

- 193 Total Coaches for Spring 2026
- 58 New Coaches hired in Spring 2026
- 35% of coaches are district employees
- 22 Certificated, 47 Classified, 124 Classified-Non Employee
- 29 Coaches 15+ years longevity
- 31 Coaches 10+ years longevity
- 132 Coaches 5+ years longevity

- **Student Workers** - 16 Student Workers were cleared to work in the School Cafeteria, Tutoring Center, and Workability Program

- **Volunteers** - 153 Volunteers (Tier II to Tier IV) were cleared during the Spring semester.

- **Classified to Teacher Program** - Our Classified to Teacher program supported 9 aspiring classified employees interested in pursuing teaching credentials. 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. This year, we have two more program completers, with four of our program participants currently teaching in SMUSHD classrooms! These former classified employees are Webster Cruz, Nancy Fraser, Russell Horton, and David Lopez.

- **Teacher Induction Program** - Our teacher induction program supported 32 teachers this year, with 16 positioned to be ready for a clear credential recommendation this June. Across the district, 23 mentors provided support for teachers in special education and general education classrooms. Mentors engaged in seven mentor colloquiums and candidate meetings throughout the year focused on supporting novice teacher development

- **Instructional Coaching Program** - 34 instructional coaches supported over 160

teachers on full evaluation this year, engaging in five cycles of inquiry related to professional SMARTER goals and the California Standards for the Teaching Profession. Instructional coaches and mentors engaged in over 19 hours of professional learning on coaching through seven workshops throughout the year, this year with a special emphasis on understanding the revised California Standard for the Teaching Profession.

- **CA Teacher Induction Conference-** Dr. Sabbie Hopkins joined a regional collaborative of induction program leaders committed to advancing program quality and strengthening research-based practices for participants across the region. In that same spirit of leadership and service to the broader education community, Dr. Hopkins also facilitated two workshops at the statewide California Induction Conference. One workshop focused on processes educational organizations can use to deepen understanding of the revised California Standards for the Teaching Profession, while the second highlighted ways to integrate adult learning theory into mentor professional learning. Together, these workshops supported more than 60 educators from across California and showcased SMUHSD's leadership in educator development.

Multilingual Learner Programs (MLP)

- **Professional Learning** - Educators have participated in a wide range of professional learning experiences and collaborative workdays this spring, furthering our Districtwide commitment to meaningful access and best practices for our multilingual learner students.

ML English and Designated ELD teachers, along with some Instructional Aides, completed their final i-Ready training and explored reading growth data and instructional tools to supplement i-Ready Pro for newcomer students.

Teachers piloting SummitK12 also engaged in their final training, focusing on tracking student growth, post-ELPAC writing support, and end-of-year learning pathways to help students finish the school year strong.

Our CLA and D-ELD teachers came together for a full day of collaboration focused on instructional strategies and planning, with particular focus on AI resources for scaffolding, student-centered instruction, language development goals, structured-student talk, and curriculum access for all students.

We were fortunate to bring a team of educators to the Quality Teaching for English Learners (QTEL) Winter Institute in Washington D.C., where TOSAs and administrators deepened their understanding of QTEL principles and immersed themselves in strategies that promote quality interactions and access to rigorous, grade-level instruction and materials.

The District's January PD Day offered multiple sessions on translanguaging and multilingual strategies & supports, facilitated by both internal and external providers. Our CLA & D-ELD teachers also connected with the District's ML Teacher Support Coaches, as they have been supporting PLCs in refining their practice and understanding of effective strategies and scaffolds for MLs in the Standard Program. We continue to expand opportunities for educators to learn through collaboration, observation, and high quality professional development.

Most recently, members of the MLP Team and other district leaders and colleagues attended the CAFE Conference in San Francisco ([group photo](#)), visited SF International High School, participated in the CalNEW Training and observations at Oakland International High school ([group photo](#)), and engaged in leadership training at the San Mateo County Office of Education. Teachers and Instructional Aides are especially appreciative of the opportunities to learn, collaborate, and strengthen practices, and we look forward to continuing this work in the fall!

- **Family Engagement (FEC)** - The District is continuously building strong partnerships between home and school by creating event flyers, communication, and newsletters for Bridge Academy families and Spanish speaking parents district wide. Provided support to hard-to-reach 8th grade families with 9th grade enrollment, reached out to 9th grade newcomer families to provide information on Newcomer and Standard programs. Consistently supported district Family Engagement Coordinators, specifically in the development of D/F communication to families. Provided support and leadership to DELAC representatives in preparation for the Board Study Session. Attended CAFE to gain awareness of best practices in family engagement.
- **Student & Family Wellness (ML Social Worker)**
Community Based Organizations - The Newcomer School Social Workers continue to build partnerships with community based organizations to provide services and support to our ML students and families with quarterly Community Network Meetings at different hosting sites by our partners.
 - We continue to work with **allcove San Mateo**, giving students the opportunity to learn about the support, treatment and tools to support mental health.
 - MLP continues to partner with **Faith In Action Bay Area** to provide support to our families related to their legal rights and those families who are facing deportation.
 - In our continued partnership with **CORA** (Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse) the group provided five workshops around healthy relationships, consent, tech safety, and boundaries.
 - **KARA** has started a grief/loss support group for SMHs students (ML/Newcomer) during tutorial class on Fridays for three weeks. Provided support around grief and loss focused on the loss students may be facing with having to leave their countries, family members being detained, death of a family/friend.
 - **Medi-cal HSA** will continue to offer clinics around the county where families are referred to work directly with Medi-cal representatives to complete their applications, and connect families to CalFresh.
 - **El Centro de Libertad** will continue to provide Prevention Education and Treatment Intervention for students and Parent Education workshops in Spanish. El Centro will be provided education around the effects of substance and instilling healthy habits in the Fall at designated schools.
 - **OYE Conference 2026** ML/Newcomer students from Hillsdale and San Mateo High volunteered and attended OYE where they had an opportunity for youth to explore questions of identity and purpose, and build community through a fun and interactive day that included hands-on workshops, inspirational speakers,

artistic expression, community resource sharing, and networking.

- **ML Intake & College Access (ML/Newcomer Intake Counselor)**

- **College Access** - At the end of April, over 50 Newcomer students participated in the first district-wide 12th grade Newcomer field trip in SMUHSD to the College of San Mateo (CSM). The goal of this experience is to provide students with a firsthand look at college life, learn more about the ESL program, and introduce them to key campus resources that will support their transition to higher education.
- **Newcomer Transition Meetings** - We continue to partner with middle schools to facilitate Newcomer-specific transition meetings that support a smooth and informed transition to high school. We have established ongoing collaboration with SMFC middle schools and Parkside Middle School, and this year expanded to include Taylor Middle School and Burlingame Intermediate School.

These meetings bring middle and high school staff together to review the social-emotional and academic needs of Newcomer students transitioning to SMUHSD. Teams engage in student-centered communication focused on language, prior educational experiences, and individual learning needs to support appropriate class placement and support. The goal is to ensure each student has a thoughtful, equitable, and well-supported transition into high school.

- **Incoming ML 9th Intake Process- As of April**

- Total Incoming 9th grade ML Students: 348**

- Students Assessed (as of April): 224 (64%)**

- Intake and assessment conducted across **5 middle schools**
 - Additional testing held at **District Office sessions**
 - Assessment window: **December – April (ongoing through summer)**

Intake and placement testing will continue throughout the summer to ensure our Multilingual Learners (ML) are placed in the right courses with the support they need for a successful transition into high school.

- **SMFC Newcomer Field Trip to SMUHSD** - On March 23, 40 incoming 9th-grade newcomer students participated in a transition experience hosted by the SMUHSD Multilingual Learner Program teams. Representing middle schools across the San Mateo-Foster City School District, students from Abbott Middle School, Borel Middle School, Bowditch Middle School, and Bayside Academy spent the day exploring both San Mateo High School and Hillsdale High School.

The visit offered students an opportunity to experience high school life firsthand through classroom visits, campus tours, interactive activities, and conversations with staff and newcomer student leaders. By creating space for connection and familiarity, the program helped students begin building a sense of belonging and readiness as they prepare to enter high school next year.

ML Clubs

- **Bridge Academy** - the ML Club hosts engaging events that encourage students to stay active while developing important skills as communicators, navigators, and collaborators. These activities also help build a strong sense of community and introduce students to traditions in the United States.

ML Club Activities & Events:

- **Movie Day** - Students enjoyed an after-school movie along with lunch and snacks, creating a relaxed and social environment.
 - **Walking Club** - Every Thursday, students explored different areas in the neighborhood, including Coyote Point, the King Center, and the track at SMHS. This activity promoted physical wellness and community building.
 - **Pumpkin Carving Activity** - Students learned about the U.S. tradition of pumpkin carving and had the opportunity to design and carve their own pumpkins.
 - **Food stand** - Students collaborated to prepare and serve mini pancakes and doritos for the Bridge community, building teamwork and communication skills.
 - **Fresas con Crema** - Students participated in preparing fresas con crema on campus. They enjoyed the snack during tutorial and lunch while gaining hands-on experience in food preparation. This was a highly requested activity to repeat.
 - **Prom** - Students contributed to prom preparations, helping decorate and support the event, fostering school spirit and collaboration.
 - **Grad Cap Decorating (MAY)** – Students will participate in a creative event where they will be able to design and decorate their graduation caps, allowing for self-expression and celebration of their achievements.
 - **Magic Water Activity (May)** – Students will participate in a fun, hands-on science activity where they will explore color mixing and simple chemical reactions. This experience will encourage curiosity, creativity, and collaboration while making learning engaging and enjoyable!
-
- **Capuchino High School** - the ML Club regularly hosts about 25 students at their weekly meetings with 30-40 students coming to the club events. In spring 2026, the ML Club hosted/hosts:
 - **Meet the Mustangs** - The 8th graders from Parkside came to Capuchino to see the campus and get to know our teachers/staff. At the end of the presentation, a bunch of clubs had tables where they talked about what their club was about. The ML Club had a table where they taught students how to say a phrase in different languages. If the student was able to, they got to get a piece of candy from another culture.
 - **Game Night** - Invited the ML students to come to the cafeteria after school to join various video game tournaments to see who is the best and win a trophy! Games included Mario Kart, Fifa, Smash Bros, Loteria and Uno. The FIFA tournament was really competitive. Pizza was also provided as a snack.
 - **Ice Cream Send Off** - To celebrate ELPAC wrapping up, we were giving out

popsicles and ice cream to ML students the Friday right before Spring Break during lunch.

- **California Academy of Sciences** - This April we will be going on a field trip to the California Academy of Sciences! This has been an idea for a couple of years, but never had the means of making it possible until now.
 - **Field Day** - All three ELD classes will be battling it out in various mini games to see which team ends with the most points! Each ML student will receive a custom shirt that their class designed and at the end we celebrate with a BBQ hosted by our Principle and Dean.
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- **Hilldale High School** - the MRC has been a vibrant and welcoming space for students throughout the year. On a daily basis, we supported an average of 10–20 students with homework help and academic support. Additionally, I created and shared a monthly newsletter with staff to highlight MRC activities, student engagement, and upcoming events. This helped increase staff awareness, encouraged collaboration, and ensured that more students were connected to the support and opportunities available through the MRC.
 - **In September and October**, we created an energetic and engaging environment by welcoming students back with a tostilocos lunch, helping everyone reconnect at the start of the school year. We also enhanced the space by adding new furniture, games, and fidget tools at each table to better support student needs. To close out the month, we celebrated Día de los Muertos by creating a meaningful ofrenda and hosting a lively lotería competition that brought our community together.
 - **In December**, we created a cozy and festive atmosphere by setting up a hot cocoa bar alongside fun Christmas-themed activities, which students greatly enjoyed.
 - **In February**, we shifted to celebrating Valentine’s Day by hosting an ice cream bar and organizing Valentine grams, giving students the opportunity to do something thoughtful for their peers. These events helped foster connection and made the MRC a more engaging and inclusive space.
 - **During March, April, and May**, we focused on both connection and recognition. We hosted a student breakfast to provide a relaxed space for socializing and community-building. In collaboration with advisors, we nominated students based on attendance, grades, and improvement, and surprised them with special treats to acknowledge their efforts. In May, we supported students during finals by providing goodie bags, and we concluded the year with a goodbye lunch that included staff, creating a positive and memorable end to the school year.
-
- **San Mateo High School** - The ML Club has become a staple for our ML students. For community, tutoring, support, and fun. We hosted fun and exciting events and activities for more than 50 students in attendance throughout the year fostering growth, leadership, community, and family. In Spring 2026 ML Club hosted:
 - **Weekly ML Club Bearcat Den** - (after school program 3:45-5:00 on Thursdays). Weekly attendance of 20-30 students. A tutoring and academic support program dedicated solely to our ML students. This is an extension to the Bearcat Den. In

collaboration with the Tier 2 team we were able to hire amazing ML peer tutors, ML IA's, and teachers to tutor. Attendance tracked on Aeries has been successful in tracking student participation and holding students accountable..

- **Created a Leadership Group** - called Multi-lingual Leaders (MLL). These incredible 11 students are the foundation of our ML Club. They are the voice of the students. Meeting every Thursday during ML Club, this group is tasked to use their creativity and leadership skills to develop and create any event/activity that they see the students want to or need. They've learned leadership qualities, budget management, event planning, and marketing skills.
- **Family night-** In collaboration with the FEC and LPO, we hosted a Family night with a catered dinner. With special presentations on Immigrant rights and resources.
- **Skyline Barbering and Automotive field trip** - 20 Upper classmen interested in mechanics and or barbering had an incredible opportunity to receive a private tour of Skyline's famous automotive program where they toured all their facilities and had the opportunities to work on cars themselves! Students were able to walk through and see the Barbering and cosmetology program live in action, some even got a haircut! Skyline was generous enough to provide catered lunch for our ML students.
- **Valentine's Day gram making** - More than 60 students stopped by the ML club to create their own candy grams for a significant other, friend, and or favorite teacher. These were delivered to their tutorial and over 200 were sent out!
- **OYE Conference** - Multi-Lingual Leaders were taken to the OYE conference. This Latino youth leadership conference helped shape identities and futures.
- **ML Club/ Osogato logo design contest.** Students were able to submit designs for this year's new Osogato shirts for the ML program! Thanks to PTO for the grant provided towards the shirts.
- **Paleta party** - As a reward for students' hard work especially in the 90 degree weather, we hosted a mini paletero stand for students to enjoy.
- **Annual SF giants game** - Thanks to the SF Giants and their generous donations of tickets for the second year in a row, 45 newcomers and students whose hard work paid off were rewarded with the opportunity to experience a ball game for the first time.
- **Fiestas y playas** - We concluded the year with "Fiestas y Playas," a beach-themed celebration featuring outdoor games, water activities, food, and community-building experiences to celebrate student success.

Special Education Support Services

- **Educator Recognition** - Three special education educators received recognition on January 30, 2026, by the San Mateo County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Community Advisory Committee. Congratulations went out to the Behavior Program Manager Jennifer Vilfort, Educational Specialist John Paul "JP" Luana and Administrative Assistant Janette Iniguez, who are all recognized with awards for their dedication and commitment to SMUHSD students with disabilities.
- **Special Education Local Area Plan (SELPA)** - Special Education team members Attended the San Mateo Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings held on February 11 and April 8. Where the CAC assist in advising the SELPA Governing Board, SELPA Administrator and, local plan and, parent education.

- **Advocacy in Support of Full Funding of IDEA** - The Special Education and Communications teams Supported Trustees Greg Land and Teri Chavez in preparation for their advocacy efforts to support [full funding of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#) in Washington DC at the California School Board Association Coast2Coast Conference in April.
- **Districtwide CPR/AED Certification** - The Special Education Department hosted a CPR/AED Certification Session facilitated by a team from In Case of Emergency Safety Solutions. More than 140 instructional assistants (who work directly with our students) and additional classified staff took the three-hour training for adult/child/infant CPR certification, led by Pam Isom and her team! Staff were also trained on how to use Automated External Defibrillators (AED), which are located at each school site and District Office.
- **Unified Special Olympics** - More than 50 students from SMUHSD's Adult Transition Programs (ATP), Bay University and Bay Quest, participated in the Unified Special Olympics Basketball Event held at Burlingame High School on March 27.

Student Services

- **Enrollment** - Student Services hosted evening enrollment events on January 14 and January 28 to better support families of incoming 9th graders who may find it difficult to visit the DO during regular business hours, offering a more accessible opportunity for assistance with the enrollment process.
- **Gateway Collaboration** - Student Services has built a strong and positive partnership with Gateway Community Schools, helping create a more supportive and seamless transition for students moving to and from Gateway. During our most recent transition meeting, a site administrator joined Student Services staff in meeting with the student on campus to better understand his progress and identify ways to support him as he returned to a comprehensive high school. We're pleased to share that he is doing exceptionally well in this transition and continues to make positive strides.
- **College of San Mateo Foster Youth Partnership** - Student Services has developed a positive partnership with the EOPS/NextUp Department at the College of San Mateo, grounded in our shared belief that foster youth benefit from continued support beyond high school and deserve clear access to the tools and resources available to them. We are excited to be planning an initial field trip for foster youth to the College of San Mateo, where they will have the opportunity to learn about specialized programs and the extensive support available to help them thrive.

Mental Health & Wellness

- **Strengthening a Comprehensive, Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)** - During the 2026 Spring Semester, the Mental Health & Wellness (MH&W) Program continued to strengthen and expand its Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) across all school sites. Through a balanced focus on Tier 1 prevention, Tier 2 targeted interventions, and Tier 3 individualized services, the program ensured that students had access to timely, responsive, and developmentally appropriate mental health support.

Wellness teams increased classroom push-ins, student engagement activities, and campus visibility to promote early access and reduce stigma. Targeted groups, including coping skills, peer support, and identity-based groups, provided structured interventions for students needing additional support. Ongoing coordination through Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, and Multilingual (ML) Tier 2 meetings ensured alignment across school teams and strengthened the delivery of comprehensive, student-centered care.

- **Expansion of Mental Health Internship Program and Workforce Development** - The MH&W Program continued to build internal capacity through the expansion of its Mental Health Internship Program. This spring, the program onboarded an additional intern and strategically reassigned existing intern support across multiple sites to address shifting needs following the restructuring of the District Social Work Program.

Interns play a critical role in expanding access to services, supporting students and families, and strengthening the district's long-term workforce pipeline. Through established MOUs with local universities and ongoing participation in internship recruitment efforts, the program continues to build sustainable pathways for training, hiring, and retaining high-quality clinicians.

- **Leadership Development and Staff Support Systems** - The MH&W Program maintained its commitment to developing strong, supported leaders through continued participation in the Grounded Leadership Program for site leads. This work focused on strengthening leadership capacity in areas such as emotional intelligence, communication, team cohesion, and values-driven decision-making.

In parallel, the program strengthened internal systems to support staff well-being and professional growth. Through quarterly 1:1 coaching sessions, monthly pulse checks, and upcoming listening tours, District MH&W leadership has prioritized relationship-building, real-time feedback, and continuous improvement. This layered approach supports staff resilience, strengthens team culture, and ensures sustainability of high-quality mental health services across the district.

- **Increased Student Engagement Through Innovative Outreach and Programming** - Across the district, Wellness Centers expanded creative and accessible approaches to student engagement. This included:
 - Wellness-centered classroom collaborations across disciplines
 - Interactive tabling events and campus-wide outreach initiatives
 - Therapy dog visits, wellness fairs, and student-led programming
 - Expanded use of Wellness Centers as safe, welcoming, and stigma-free spaces

These strategies have significantly increased student awareness of services and normalized help-seeking behaviors, particularly among students who had not previously accessed Wellness supports.

- **Strengthening Student Voice, Belonging, and Cultural Connection** - School sites continued to prioritize programming that builds connection, identity, and belonging. This included:
 - Expansion of affinity-based groups such as Latino Boys Club, Girls Groups, and Peer Support Groups
 - Student-led cultural events and community-building activities
 - Collaboration with student leadership groups and campus organizations

These efforts promote inclusive school climates where students feel seen, valued, and connected to their school community.

- **Expanded Family Engagement and Community Education** - The MH&W Program continued to strengthen partnerships with families through expanded education and engagement opportunities. In collaboration with Parent Venture and the Peninsula Health Care District, the district hosted the virtual presentation *“It’s Complicated: Tweens/Teens, Technology, and Mental Health,”* providing families with practical, research-based strategies to support youth in a digitally connected world. The Parent Connect Program continued to serve as a cornerstone of family engagement, offering both English and Spanish groups that equip caregivers with tools related to communication, mental health, technology use, and adolescent development. By strengthening the connection between home and school, these efforts support improved student outcomes, attendance, and overall well-being.
- **Focused Support for Multilingual Learners and Newcomer Students:**
 - Supporting Multilingual Learners (ML) and newcomer students remained a priority across all sites. Wellness teams:
 - Facilitated targeted ML and newcomer support groups
 - Collaborated closely with ML staff, social workers, and family engagement teams
 - Provided culturally responsive services addressing trauma, acculturation, and transition stress
 - Participated in articulation meetings to support incoming 9th-grade students with identified needs

These efforts ensure that students transitioning into high school experience continuity of care, early connection to supports, and a strong foundation for success.

- **Strengthening Community Partnerships and Expanding Access to Care** - The MH&W Program continues to expand access to mental health services through strong community partnerships and strategic MOUs. Collaborations with organizations such as Allcove, CORA, NAMI, RTS, and El Centro de Libertad provide workshops, student groups, classroom presentations, and on-campus resources that reduce barriers to care and increase early intervention opportunities. Additionally, partnerships with Care Solace and Daybreak Health have continued expanding access to external mental health

services, including teletherapy, family therapy, and care coordination support. These partnerships ensure that students and families have multiple, accessible pathways to care both within and beyond the school setting.

- **Responsive Mental Health Support and Crisis Intervention**

- This spring, school sites reported an increase in students presenting with higher levels of need, including elevated risk assessments and transitional stress. Wellness teams responded through:
 - Increased 1:1 check-ins and individualized support plans
 - Small group interventions (e.g., senior groups, coping skills groups)
 - Collaboration with families, administration, and community providers
 - Participation in restorative practices and coordinated intervention meetings

These efforts demonstrate the program's ability to respond quickly and effectively to emerging student needs while maintaining a strong prevention and early intervention focus.

- **Proactive Transition Planning and Articulation** - MH&W therapists actively participated in spring articulation meetings with feeder middle schools and Special Education teams to support incoming 9th-grade students with identified mental health needs. This proactive planning ensures continuity of care, strengthens cross-district collaboration, and allows for early identification and support of students as they transition into high school.

School Sites & Programs

Aragon High School

- Expanded Wellness Wednesdays through interdisciplinary classroom collaboration
- Increased student engagement through monthly tabling and classroom integration
- Led and supported Empowerment Through Action (ETA) groups, including collaboration with feeder middle schools
- Partnered with community organizations to bring assemblies, therapy dogs, and student-led wellness initiatives to campus

Burlingame High School

- Continued implementation of classroom push-ins and community circles in Social-Self Empowerment classes
- Hosted student and family engagement events including Open House and Latino Parent Group
- Expanded Tier 2 supports:
 - Latino Boys Club (community-building, cultural pride, case management)
 - Girls Group (belonging and peer connection)
 - Coping Skills Group (skill-building and emotional regulation)
- Participated in community outreach through the Wellness Pop-Up Fair

Capuchino High School

- Continued strong collaboration with administration through restorative SART-aligned interventions
- Expanded 9th-grade outreach through classroom push-ins, tours, and transition events
- Increased support for ML students through targeted groups and accessible wellness communication
- Maintained high visibility through tabling, workshops, and homeroom engagement
- Strengthened family engagement through parent presentations and community events

Hillsdale High School

- Increased support for seniors experiencing transition-related stress through 1:1 and group interventions
- Responded to increased risk assessments with coordinated, multi-level support
- Expanded ML supports including:
 - Rising Knights group for mainstreamed students
 - Newcomer Tier 2 coordination and articulation efforts
- Continued collaboration with CORA for healthy relationship workshops and upcoming Mental Health Awareness Month events

Mills High School

- Expanded campus-wide outreach through Welcome Back Week, clubs, and classroom presentations
- Strengthened partnerships with student groups (GSA, ALLICE JR., leadership)
- Increased family engagement through PTO presentations and Open House
- Continued facilitation of Girls, Boys, and Peer Support Groups (10–15 students per group)
- Sustained “Kicking it with Wellness” drop-in space to promote belonging and connection

San Mateo High School

- Continued strong integration with MTSS, SART, and family engagement systems
- Expanded classroom-based supports through Social-Self Empowerment courses
- Strengthened ML supports through partnerships and targeted presentations
- Increased outreach through Open House, transition events, and student engagement initiatives
- Expanded Tier 2 offerings:
 - Mindfulness Group
 - Coping Skills Group
 - Drop-In Stressbusters Group
- Preparing Mental Health Awareness Month outreach with community partners

Bridge Academy

- Continued development of a community school model through integrated wellness supports

- Expanded group programming including ETA, GANAS, leadership, and expressive wellness activities
- Increased use of the Wellness Center as a hub for regulation, connection, and basic needs support
- Strengthened partnerships with community agencies to provide on-site, culturally responsive services
- Increased student leadership through peer support roles within the Wellness Center

Middle College

- Facilitated self-care workshop during Spring orientation
- Collaborating with advisory to develop mental health curriculum aligned to student needs and interests

Peninsula High School

- Continued comprehensive wellness programming including:
 - Trimester kickoff presentations
 - Parent workshops on substance use prevention
 - Individualized student/family onboarding (“Pumafications”)
- Ongoing Tier 2 supports (Girls Group, Young Men’s Groups)
- Continued partnerships:
 - El Centro de Libertad
 - B-Street Boxing (Year 3)
 - Stanford Teen Van
- Expanded experiential supports including wellness retreats and animal-assisted therapy

TUPE (Tobacco Use Prevention Education) & ATS (Alternative To Suspension) Programs

- 316 total referrals to date (162 Spring), reflecting increased access and utilization
- 144 days of suspension avoided through early intervention and non-disciplinary pathways
- Continued leadership in prevention and intervention:
 - Presentation at Parent Connect (English and Spanish)
 - Participation in Stanford Cannabis & Other Drugs Conference (Best Practices for Clinicians panel)
- Submitted and supported CHKS (California Health Kids Survey) grant to support continued program development

Technology & Information Systems

- **Improved data accuracy** - across Aeries, CALPADS, and Frontline through record cleanup and validation processes.
- **Completed key system configurations** - including Golden State Seal transcripts. Supported large-scale data imports (MAP, grades, CEFR, FAFSA) to ensure accurate

reporting and student data alignment.

- **Multilingual Learner Programs** - Assisted in supporting multilingual learner (ML) programs, including placement, assessment preparation, and CALPADS reporting.
- **Canvas** - Completed Canvas enrollment and setup for ML students to ensure access to instructional resources.
- **Enterprise System Support** - Maintained high-volume support for account access, system troubleshooting, and platform usage (i.e. Canvas, Aeries, Frontline, Parent Square.)
- **Cross Department Collaboration** - Strengthened collaboration with Curriculum, HR, and Student Services on course coding, attendance, and reporting improvement. Addressed timekeeping, scheduling, and calendar issues across departments. Continued development of automation tools and system integrations.

Business and Operations/District Operations

Capital Facilities

- **District-Wide Solar** - All of the solar canopies have been erected and are ready for electrification. The last step in the construction is for PG&E to provide Permission to Operate (PTO).
- **District-Wide Public EV Chargers** - 12 new public ChargePoint EV chargers have been installed and commissioned at AHS, BHS, CHS, MHS, and SMHS. Previously, 12 new public ChargePoint EV chargers had been installed and commissioned at the District Office and HHS.
- **Classroom Transformation Project** - Received DSA approval for the first 3 schools, BHS (2026), CHS (2026), AHS (2027). Sent kick-off email to Educators at BHS & CHS. Met with the entire CHS faculty, DTA representatives, and department heads. Met with BHS department heads and DTA representatives. Held a bid process for movers.
- **CHS Theatre Cable Removal** - Removed ceiling cables in the CHS theater that were impeding the repair and replacement of house lights.
- **HHS Monument Design Out to Bid** - Put out to bid the installation of the HHS monument to be located at the corner of Alameda de las Pulgas and 31st Street.

Transportation

- **Bus Driver Training Program** – Our next training class has begun and includes a current Special Education Van Driver and our new Vehicle Mechanic, both of whom will obtain a Commercial Driver License and California Special Driver Certificate upon completion, as well as a School Bus Driver who is upgrading their California Special Driver Certificate to remove restrictions.

- **Bus Driver Hiring** – We hired one new school bus driver in January 2026. This brings our total number of dedicated professionals to 27 certified school bus drivers and 5 SPED van drivers, helping continue to increase the reliability of transportation services by reducing reliance on alternative transportation companies.

Fiscal Services

- **Environment of Learning and Growth** - To promote an environment of learning and professional growth, the Fiscal Department facilitated a full-day staff development event. This session not only focused on strengthening the skills required for the day-to-day responsibilities of accounting staff at both the site and district office levels, but also included a career growth-focused presentation by the Associate Superintendent on the District budget and education funding in general. Based on the positive feedback received from attendees, the Fiscal Department will continue to promote a culture of continuous learning and career development in the future.
- **Culture of Service and Support** - The Fiscal Department continues to build on the improved culture of service and support, while strengthening the methods through which that support is delivered. Additionally, relocating District Office department accountants within the same area of the Fiscal Department has enhanced collaboration among district office accounting staff.
- **Strong Financial Operation and Budgeting** - The Second Interim report received approval with a positive certification, and 2026-27 budget meetings were successfully conducted with department and site administrators.
- **Districtwide Copiers Upgrade/Renew** - The Governing Board approved a contract to replace and upgrade districtwide copier machines in two phases. The first phase, completed over spring break, included the installation of seven new machines. The second phase, scheduled after the end of the school year, will include an additional 26 machines.

Student Nutrition

- **Kitchen Remodel** - Closed out construction for Burlingame, Hillsdale, Mills, & San Mateo. Completed planning for major upgrade to Aragon & updates to Capuchino. This new equipment will now fully support all schools to prepare scratch cooked meals, better tasting food, and more efficient cooking times at these sites.
- **Serving Updates** - New serving unit provided more efficiency for serving students and ability to create, showcase and serve scratch cooked specials.
- **Administrative Review** - We successfully completed our Administrative review from CDE in a quick and efficient manner.

- **Universal Meals** - We have served over 1,000,000 meals, this has included introducing monthly scratch cooked specials and more options at sites with new equipment.
- **Staff Professional Development** - Monthly training to support health standards and review program & District standards.

Maintenance, Operations, and Facility Use (MOFU)

Facilities Use

- **Key Facilities Use Financial Accomplishments** - The Facilities Use program continued strong revenue generation, reaching \$2,269,262 as of March 2026. March alone generated \$418,264, marking the highest single month of revenue to date. The program also completed its second site disbursement of the fiscal year, totaling \$85,831, bringing the annual total to \$185,958. These funds directly supported school sites through the purchase of athletic equipment, student desks, auditorium soundboards, and conference room furniture, enhancing both educational and extracurricular environments.
- **Key Facilities Use Events** - Facilities Use hosted a wide range of high-profile and community-focused events, including the Veterans Bowl Disabled Veterans Flag Football Game featuring NFL Hall of Famer Eric Dickerson, the Women's Coaching Alliance Parent Summit attended by Jane Skinner, and a football camp led by 49ers linebacker Fred Warner. Additional events included hosting Anthony Ray Hinton, author and advocate; Ella Al-Shamahi, National Geographic explorer and comedian; Assembly Member Diane Papan's E-Bike Safety Forum at Mills High School Theater, the Canadian Brass performance with Peninsula Symphony Orchestra at Capuchino's Performing Arts Center, and the Encore Performing Arts Competition, a national dance event.
- **Key Facilities Upgrades** - The Facilities Use team completed significant theater and technology upgrades across multiple sites, including installation of new state of the art LED spotlights at Aragon and Burlingame theaters, LED lighting upgrades at Mills, Hillsdale, and Capuchino theaters, and LED down lighting upgrades at Hillsdale Main Theater and the San Mateo Performing Arts Center. The team also began upgrading show control networks to improve system stability and reliability, and launched a redesigned smuhsd.theater website with a modern interface and updated backend functionality.

Operations

- **Key Operational Accomplishment** - The Operations team completed the mandatory District reports, including the FIT report, a comprehensive evaluation tool for assessing the condition of school facilities, and the SIPP report.
- **Key Professional Development** - The team organized Professional Development Job

Alike training for the Operations and Facilities Use crews and conducted Turf Maintenance training. This included reassessing turf usage trends and developing an updated standardized process to meet the high-use needs within our district.

- Additional efforts included work to meet ADA compliance standards at AHS, assessing and improving site radio reception, coordinating summer project site planning, and completing deferred maintenance site inspections, along with associated cost proposal assignments.

Maintenance

- **Key Grounds Upgrades** - The Grounds team completed major field improvements across multiple sites, including bullpen rebuild and playing field renovation at BHS, pitching mound rebuild and field renovation at SMHS, and batter's box rebuild with field upgrades at HHS. The team also supported large tree pruning efforts and managed districtwide chemical applications.
- **Key Electrical Upgrades** - The Electrical team responded to critical infrastructure needs, including troubleshooting and supporting a 21kV transformer failure. The team completed point-to-point systems at HHS, AHS, and Transportation, retrofitted PAC and MHS theater catwalks with LED lighting, relocated washer and dryer units at HHS, and replaced inverters at HHS and AHS theaters.
- **Key Paint Upgrades** - The Paint team completed exterior painting at BHS, including the E Building, Library, and Portables, and refreshed the interior of the East Gym at MHS.
- **Key Carpentry Upgrades** - The Carpentry team enhanced functionality and addressed structural needs, and ongoing dry rot repairs at BHS to stay ahead of painting work.
- **Key Mechanical Upgrades** - The Mechanical team completed a wide range of system improvements, including coil flushes, register replacements, and system rebalancing in the G Building at AHS, relocation of a DP switch, and installation of a new boiler and domestic hot water system at BHS. Additional work included compressor replacement at BHS, preparation and support for heating at the SMHS Joint Use Gym, storm drain and manhole installation at MHS, pool boiler repairs at CHS, and ongoing Pelican system troubleshooting across multiple campuses. The team also redesigned and installed new ductwork for the acid room exhaust fan at SMHS, completed pool drain repair and concrete work at BHS, and replaced make-up air units in the CHS Feast Room.

III. RECOMMENDATION: REVIEW AND ACTION

This item is presented for information only.