

**San Mateo Union High School District
Proclamation Recognizing September 17, 2026
As Constitution Day and Citizenship Day**

WHEREAS, The United States Congress recognizes September 17 as "Constitution Day and Citizenship Day" observed annually, commemorating the signing of the United States Constitution on September 17, 1787, and recognizing the enduring framework of representative government established by the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Citizenship Day recognizes those who become citizens of the United States, whether by birth or naturalization, and provides an opportunity to reflect on the rights, responsibilities, and opportunities that accompany participation in our civic life. The San Mateo Union High School District (SMUHSD) supports a path to citizenship through San Mateo Adult and Career Education's (SMACE) Citizenship Classes each summer. On July 9, 2026, 13 students celebrated their new American Citizenship in a ceremony at the school.

WHEREAS, for more than two centuries, the United States Constitution has been the bedrock of our nation's government, providing a framework for the ever evolving American experiment that continues to this day. Crafted through compromise and collaboration, the Constitution brought America's states, with all their differing interests, together into a more perfect union and established a system of representative government grounded in the sovereignty of the people and constrained by constitutional principles; and

WHEREAS, the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution reflects the enduring principles that the freedom it bestows applies to all people within the United States, regardless of their citizenship status. It serves as the foundation for the diverse backgrounds of those who call the United States home, living and appreciating the freedoms and protections it grants to all. These explicit protections have drawn and continue to draw generations of individuals to live in the United States. These constitutional principles are reflected through SMUHSD, through its inclusive, diverse, unique, but no less unified educational environment, where all students can succeed and learn to their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, the history of the United States reflects both the enduring ideals expressed in its founding documents and the nation's continuing effort to extend those ideals fully and equitably to all people; the United States Constitution enables the nation to progress and adapt to change, allowing SMUHSD to move toward a vision of unity in which all members of the community feel welcomed, empowered, and represented, regardless of citizenship status; and

WHEREAS, the year 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, known as the Semiquincentennial, prompting reflection on the nation's history, civic institutions, and the responsibilities of citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the study of history and civics helps students understand the principles, rights, and responsibilities that shape our constitutional democracy while encouraging thoughtful dialogue, debate, critical thinking, and informed participation in civic life; and

WHEREAS, public education plays an essential role in preparing students to engage respectfully with diverse perspectives derived from individual experiences, appreciate the nation's evolving history, and contribute positively to their local communities and beyond; and

WHEREAS, SMUHSD is committed to providing students with educational opportunities that foster civic knowledge, historical understanding, and the skills necessary to participate thoughtfully in our constitutional democracy; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board encourages schools, students, educators, and the broader school community to observe Constitution Day and Citizenship Day through educational activities that deepen understanding of the Constitution, the nation's history, and the importance of informed and respectful civic participation as citizens.

WHEREAS, On Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, SMUHSD joins the nation in recommitting to the principles of equality, freedom and opportunity for all in the ongoing cause to form a more perfect union.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Governing Board of the San Mateo Union High School District hereby recognizes September 17, 2026, as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day and acknowledges the continuing significance of the United States Semiquincentennial as an opportunity for learning, reflection, and civic engagement.

SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Passed and adopted on the 9th day of September, 2026.



Superintendent

Teri Chavez

President, Board of Trustees