

**San Mateo Union High School District
Proclamation Recognizing October 1-31, 2026 as
Filipino American History Month**

WHEREAS, the celebration of Filipino American History Month in October commemorates the first recorded presence of Filipinos in the continental United States, which occurred on October 18, 1587, when Filipino sailors came ashore at what is now Morro Bay, California. In 1992, the Filipino American National Historical Society set in motion an annual observance focusing on our nation's past through the economic, cultural, social, creative and other notable contributions Filipino Americans have made towards United States History; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, U.S. Congress recognized October as Filipino American History Month in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Filipino American community comprises the third largest Asian American origin group in the United States. Filipinos are the second largest Asian American group in California, according to the 2020 US Census. Roughly 400,000 Filipino-Americans call the Bay Area home. There are an estimated 80,000 Filipino residents in San Mateo County, according to the 2023 American Community Survey. Just over five percent of San Mateo Union High School District students (454) are Filipino; and

WHEREAS, Filipino American history is rich with influential voices and movements, including the powerful work of Larry Itliong (Filipino-American labor organizer and civil rights activist in the state of California) who championed the idea that the fight for farmworkers' rights was not only about improving their own conditions, but about building a more just society for all; and

WHEREAS, we also recognize the many ways that Filipino Americans have created spaces and programs to better enhance our communities; and

WHEREAS, in the words of Dr. Dawn Mabalon, one of the foremost scholars of Filipino American history, we recognize that Filipino-American History Month is "inclusive of heritage and culture, but it's also about stories of how the [Filipino-American] community changed this nation and ourselves in the process -- [its] political struggles, transformations, labor, migration, activism, impact of imperialism and war, victories, etc -- whereas 'heritage' is more limited to what [Filipino-Americans] pass down in terms of culture, tradition, legacies; " and

WHEREAS, it is imperative for Filipino American youth to have positive role models and to instill in them the importance of education, complemented with the richness of their ethnicity and the values of their legacy; and

WHEREAS, efforts must continue to promote the study of Filipino American history and culture, so mandated in the mission statement of the Filipino American National Historical Society: to promote understanding, education, enlightenment, appreciation and enrichment through the

identification, gathering, preservation and dissemination of the history and culture of Filipino Americans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo Union High School District has an important role to commit to educating students and the larger community about the history, traditions, and diversity of the Filipino American community. In our schools, we celebrate the month through various Filipino student clubs and organizations (including clubs at Aragon, Burlingame, Capuchino, Hillsdale, Mills and San Mateo High Schools) spreading the word about the importance and celebration of visibility and representation of Filipino American History Month. Events include speakers and celebrations where all students and educators are invited to participate; and

WHEREAS, the most recent Panorama survey shows that 81 percent of SMUHSD Filipino students report that they feel a sense of belonging at school compared to 79 percent of SMUHSD students overall, we recognize our responsibility as a District to improve these outcomes for all students and we see Filipino-American History Month as an opportunity to highlight this data and help Filipino students to feel a better sense of belonging which in turn can help other students feel a sense of belonging; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Mateo Union High School District hereby proclaims October 1-31, 2026 as Filipino American History Month and encourages all residents to honor Filipino American history and culture.

SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Passed and Adopted on this 24th Day of September, 2026



Superintendent

Teri Chavez

Board President