

**San Mateo Union High School District
Proclamation Recognizing November 1-30, 2026
As National Native American Heritage Month**

WHEREAS, National Native American Heritage Month, celebrated in November, recognizes the lives and accomplishments of the Indigenous peoples of what is now known as the United States. Indigenous peoples have made distinct and important contributions to the United States, California, and the rest of the world in a multitude of ways; and

WHEREAS, in celebrating National Native American Heritage Month, the U.S. Department of the Interior reminds us that it is a time to celebrate the traditions, languages and stories of Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and affiliated Island communities. This opportunity ensures their rich histories and contributions continue to be recognized with each passing generation; and

WHEREAS, the 59th Annual Native American Day was celebrated at the California State Capitol on September 25, 2026. This year's theme was "Inherent Sovereignty: Tribal Nations Fighting to Protect Our People and Defend Our Land"; and

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the ancestral past of the Ramaytush Ohlone people spans ten thousand years, reaching back to the Ice Age and predating European contact that happened just a few hundred years ago; and today the independent tribes of the San Francisco Peninsula are known collectively as the Ramaytush Ohlone people; and

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

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

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

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

SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Passed and Adopted on this 22nd Day of October, 2026



Superintendent

Teri Chavez

President, Board of Trustees