

# COMMUNITY REPORT



SAN MATEO-  
FOSTER CITY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



The end of the year in our school community is a time of celebrations and planning for new beginnings. We have enjoyed final projects, drama productions, concerts and field days. We appreciate our staff and send best wishes to those who are retiring after many dedicated years with our District and look forward to new staff coming on board for the upcoming school year. We are proud of the accomplishments of the 2017-2018 school year and excited to see what 2018-2019 will bring!

### SCHOOL YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

In looking back over the year, highlights include:

**Curriculum Advances** – The use of our new standards-aligned math curriculum and language arts program were significant undertakings. We continued our focus on early literacy and supporting English Learners. In fact, this year we celebrated over 200 English Learners who tested proficient in the English language throughout our District. Implementation of these new programs have required substantial efforts on the part of our teaching staff and we thank them for continuing to improve instruction.

**Student Wellness** – We provided additional programming and support for our students throughout the year including the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Program, which was piloted at the three San Mateo middle schools and will start at Bowditch next year. The AVID program supports students who may be the first in their family to attend college. Work in the area of mental health continues to be a focus for our students through our counseling programs, Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) programming and Restorative Practices.

**Parent Engagement** – Six schools participated in the Family Engagement Learning Institute in order to develop a team approach to support academic achievement and social-emotional learning. Parents continue to significantly support our schools through volunteer hours and donations.

**School Safety** – School safety continues to be on everyone's radar. Our District conducted a safety inventory and made facilities adjustments that will continue over the summer. Specialized emergency preparedness training was provided regarding evacuation drills, alternative family reunification sites, and active shooter training. District staff will be working throughout the summer on protocols to further ensure student safety.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Special recognitions for our schools were also in order this year. The annual Kent Award from the San Mateo County School Boards Association went to Bayside Academy for their Fab Lab and College Park Elementary was awarded the California Distinguished School Award.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Our Community Partners were especially busy this year and we can't thank them enough for all they give to our students each year from book donations, gardens and gardening equipment, funding for projects, tutoring and more. You will learn more about our new partnership with Gilead Sciences in this Community Report.

### EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION MEASURE ON NOVEMBER 2018 BALLOT

Despite efforts to increase efficiencies, our District faces an ongoing structural budget gap. The Trustees voted to place a parcel tax measure on the ballot for the November 2018 election. The measure is \$298 with a CPI for nine years providing \$10 million in annual revenue for our District and would provide the funding we need to attract and retain excellent teachers, enhance core academics, provide innovative science and technology programs, and support the arts. This proposed measure includes an exemption for seniors and provides for an independent citizens oversight committee to ensure all funds are spent as promised. To learn more, visit [www.smfcfsd.net](http://www.smfcfsd.net) and watch for more information about the parcel tax measure in coming months.

### WELCOME TRUSTEE KENNETH CHIN

In closing, the last Community Report opened with a welcome to three new Trustees and in this Report, I am pleased to introduce Kenneth Chin, who was appointed to fill a Board



Trustee Kenneth Chin

vacancy. This newly formed Board of Trustees has boundless energy and great heart. They are working tirelessly on behalf of the students, families and staff of the San Mateo-Foster City School District and I continue to appreciate and support their work as their tenures unfold.

I wish you a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing our students and staff in the fall.

Sincerely,

Joan Rosas, Ed.D.,  
Superintendent

## CALENDAR

- Thur, Aug 9  
Board Meeting, 7:00pm
- Tue, Aug 14  
First Day of School
- Thur, Aug 23  
Board Meeting, 7:00pm
- Fri, Aug 31 – Mon, Sep 3  
Labor Day Holiday, No School

## THANK YOU to our Community Partners

- Black Parents Association
- Breathe California
- Central Peninsula Church
- City/County Association of Governments
- City of Foster City
- City of San Mateo
- City of San Mateo Safe Routes to School
- College of San Mateo
- Craig Newgard Scholarship Program
- Faith in Action Bay Area
- First 5 San Mateo County
- Foster City Parks & Rec
- Foster City Public Library
- HEART
- Homework Central
- Jewish Council on Literacy
- LANDED
- Latinos del Futuro Scholarship Program
- MidPen Housing Corp.
- Operation School Bell
- Parent Involvement Project
- Parent Project
- Peninsula Bridge
- Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center
- Peninsula Health Care District
- Peninsula Multi-Faith Coalition
- Peninsula Special Interest Lions Club
- Project Read
- Rotary Clubs of Foster City & San Mateo
- Samaritan House
- San Mateo Academic Rotary Team (SMART) Scholarship Program
- San Mateo Congregational Church
- San Mateo County Coalition for Safe Schools
- San Mateo County Health System of Diversity & Equity
- San Mateo County Office of Education
- San Mateo County YMCA
- San Mateo-Foster City Education Foundation
- San Mateo Parks & Rec
- San Mateo Police Activities League
- San Mateo Public Library
- San Mateo Union High School District
- San Mateo Youth Foundation Scholarship Program
- SMART Center
- St. Bartholomew Social Justice
- St. James Community Foundation
- St. Mary's College Reading Recovery Program
- Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grants

### COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: GILEAD

## Bayside Academy Receives \$200,000 Grant from Gilead Sciences, Inc.

The San Mateo-Foster City School District is excited to announce that Bayside Academy has received a \$200,000 grant from Gilead Sciences, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company headquartered in Foster City. This grant will enable the initiation of a STEM-based science exploration area on the Bayside campus and represents approximately



**Bayside  
Academy**

STEAM K-5 | STEM 6-8

50% of the funds required to complete the exploration area. Additional fundraising is ongoing. The goal of the project is to enhance students' exposure to real-life science and to introduce groups typically under-represented in STEM to a robust, hands-on, science and engineering experience.

Science classes at Bayside are currently taught in regular classrooms with associated limitations regarding hands-on experimentation. The grant will be used to build a Science Exploration Room and Horticulture Area by converting an existing classroom into a dedicated space. Bayside science teachers are currently implementing the new Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for students, which include Life Sciences, Earth and Space Science, Physical Science, and Engineering. Additionally, the school offers STEM electives including Biotechnology, Aeronautics, Astronomy and Maker Design.

Bayside has also supplemented their science curriculum with lessons provided by Science from Scientists (SfS), a national STEM

education non-profit that brings professional scientists into classrooms to teach and inspire the next generation in STEM fields. Gilead has collaborated with SfS through SfS's corporate volunteer program, STEMissaries. Through this collaboration, a team of Gilead scientists developed a hands-on virology lesson to complement the SfS curriculum. Paul Luperini, a science teacher at Bayside, has seen up close the benefits of Gilead scientists in the classroom, "Scientists teaching and talking to students about science careers is a vital part of career preparedness that students should be thinking about as early as middle school. Having a scientist 'in the flesh,' especially for students with limited exposure to professional or college-



*Architectural Rendering of Bayside Science Exploration Area*

track careers, is a bonus that we are glad to offer."

San Mateo-Foster City School District parent, Monica Tijerina, is one of Gilead's volunteer instructors. "Kids need exposure to see what is out there and to decide on what careers they might want to pursue – and it's important for them to see that scientists come from diverse backgrounds. At Gilead we have a lot of passion for science and medicine, and we've enjoyed sharing that with the kids."

To learn more about Gilead's dedication to community support, visit [www.gilead.com/responsibility/yir2017](http://www.gilead.com/responsibility/yir2017). Thank you Gilead Sciences for your investment in our next generation of scientists!

# Excellence in Education Measure on November 2018 Ballot

On November 6, 2018 voters in the San Mateo Foster City School District will be asked to vote on the Excellence in Education Measure that would generate roughly \$10 million annually for nine years through a \$298 per year with CPI parcel tax, so that the District can:

- Attract and retain excellent teachers and staff;
- Provide outstanding reading, writing, math and science programs;
- Improve programs including science, technology, engineering and math; and
- Support art, drama and music programs

## ATTRACTING AND RETAINING TEACHERS

Studies show that teachers matter more to student achievement than any other aspect of schooling. We live in one of the most expensive communities in the nation and the high cost of living has made it difficult for our teachers to stay in our community. As a result, there is a local teacher shortage.

This measure would allow the District to provide teachers with increased compensation, so we can attract and retain teachers and improve student outcomes.

## ADDRESSING FINANCIAL OBSTACLES & INVESTING IN INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

Our school district receives less money per pupil than most other San Mateo County school districts. The state's classification of the District has fluctuated between a basic aid district, which allows it to be funded through local property tax revenue and a revenue limit district, in which it is sustained primarily through state funding.

Consequently, funding models for our schools have been inconsistent and unreliable, jeopardizing key programs within our schools and casting uncertainty into the future. In addition, following the defeat of Measure Y in March 2017, our schools face a structural deficit of approximately \$5 million annually.

This measure would give the District a consistent and reliable source of revenue to support innovative programming, enhance core academics, protect art and music education, and strengthen science, technology, engineering and math programs to prepare students for college and careers.

## ALL FUNDS SPENT IN OUR COMMUNITY

By law, all of the funds generated by this measure would be spent in our school district and none of the funds can be taken by the state or federal government nor used for administrator salaries.

The measure will have exemptions for seniors and will establish an independent citizen oversight committee, annual audits, and reports to the community to ensure the funds will be spent as promised. To learn more, visit [www.smfcsd.net](http://www.smfcsd.net) and watch for more information about the parcel tax measure in coming months.



## STAY IN TOUCH WITH SMFCSD

- **Website:** [www.smfcsd.net](http://www.smfcsd.net)
- **SMFCSD District Newsletter:** Sign up to receive newsletters at [www.smfcsd.net](http://www.smfcsd.net)
- **Community Reports:** Mailed home to all residents in San Mateo & Foster City
- **Facebook:** "Like" San Mateo-Foster City School District
- **NEW! Instagram:** Follow us @smfcsd
- **Twitter:** Follow us @SMFCSD
- **School Newsletters/Email Blasts:** Ask your child's school how to sign up
- **Emergency Notifications:** Parents/Guardians are automatically enrolled to receive phone and email notifications. To receive text messages, text the word "YES" to 67587 from a wireless device

## Parent Portal Allows Online Updates of Student Information

Attention Parents/Guardians, SMFCSD is pleased to announce the opening of the Parent Portal in our Student Information System (Aeries). This will allow families to login to the system to update and verify their child's contact information and complete required, annual SMFCSD forms for the 2018-2019 school year; this process is called Student Data Confirmation and the window will be open to make changes from Wednesday, August

1, 2018 – Friday, August 31, 2018.

An email invitation to update your child's information will be sent to you on August 1, 2018. For families who do not have access to a computer, paper forms will be available at your school site. Please watch for this important email in August.





## College Park Elementary Named California Distinguished School



Principal Steven Chuang, Superintendent Torlakson, Queenie Hua and Jerri Martin

Congratulations to College Park Elementary School for being named a 2018 California Distinguished School! State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson, announced that 287 elementary schools across the state are being honored in this program which returned after a three-year break and replaces the California Gold Ribbon Schools Program. "These schools shine as bright beacons for others, putting forth an exemplary effort to ensure that every student is ready for 21st century college and careers," said Torlakson. The 2018 California Distinguished Schools Program recognizes elementary schools that have made exceptional gains in implementing academic content and performance standards adopted by the State Board of Education. The schools represent examples of excellent teaching, learning, and collaborating, and successful school climate efforts.

### SCHOOL BOARD

Audrey Ng, *President*

[ang@smfcsd.net](mailto:ang@smfcsd.net)

Shara Watkins, *Vice President*

[sharawatkins@smfcsd.net](mailto:sharawatkins@smfcsd.net)

Noelia Corzo, *Clerk*

[ncorzo@smfcsd.net](mailto:ncorzo@smfcsd.net)

Rebecca Hitchcock, *Trustee*

[rhitchcock@smfcsd.net](mailto:rhitchcock@smfcsd.net)

Kenneth Chin, *Trustee*

[kchin@smfcsd.net](mailto:kchin@smfcsd.net)

### ADMINISTRATION

Joan Rosas, *Ed.D.,*

*Superintendent*

David Chambliss, *Assistant*

*Superintendent for Educational  
Services*

Carolyn Chow, *Chief Business  
Official*

Dr. Sarah Drinkwater, *Assistant*

*Superintendent for Student  
Services*

Sue Wieser, *Assistant*

*Superintendent for Human  
Resources*

### CHILD NUTRITION SERVICES

# SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM



**Free for all kids 18 and under!!!** No paperwork necessary

Lunch served from

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM at LEAD and Bayside

12:15 PM – 12:45 PM at College Park

Monday thru Friday

College Park 6/25-8/10; Bayside Academy 6/27-7/24;  
LEAD Elementary 7/2-8/3; no Lunch served on July 4th

For More Information please call Child Nutrition Services at 650-312-1968  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

