



FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT Newsletter

Superintendent's Update - September 2018

Dear San Mateo-Foster City Community,

We've been in school about four weeks now and what a great start it has been! I hope your family has settled in well into the new year. I wanted to share with you the latest news from the San Mateo County Office of Education, as well as recent School Board actions.



The San Mateo County Office of Education just published their 2017 Report to the Community. If you look at the last page titled "School Spending", you will find

that the San Mateo—Foster City School District is still in the bottom four of the elementary school districts in San Mateo County in funding received for our students, with the top district receiving over double what we receive. The publication goes on to state, "Though California has the fifth-largest economy in the world, the state falls in the nation's bottom quintile on nearly every measure of public K-12 school funding. California has consistently underfunded public education while adding new requirements and raising standards. Adequate funding is especially an issue in San Mateo County, where districts struggle due to the high cost of housing, goods, and services." It lists that California is 41st in per-pupil funding,

45th in percentage of taxable income spent on education, 45th in student to teacher ratio and 48th in student to staff ratio.

Our District has enacted a variety of methods over the years to meet the rising costs of doing business both by making reductions and increasing revenues. In the spring of 2018, \$3 million was cut from the 2018-2019 school budget. We have also increased our revenue streams through the amplified activity of our Education Foundation, grant opportunities, and additional funding from our for-profit ventures in early childhood education and after-school care. Even with these actions, the District faces a \$5 million deficit, which will have to be addressed by the spring of 2019. Reductions that have been presented to the Trustees can be found here on the **August 23 - Board Agenda**.

- Click here to read the full Superintendent's Update on the SMFCSD website...

Upcoming Events



Join Superintendent Rosas for coffee and conversation. Meetings are designed to provide an avenue for school families and community members to stay informed about District initiatives and learn more about the great things taking place in San Mateo-Foster City

schools. We hope to see you there!

Meetings are held in four different areas of our District, but parents and community members are welcome to attend any or all Chats. New this year, morning hours for the first two Chats!

- 2018-2019 SCHEDULE -

Tuesday, September 18, 2018

9:00-10:00 am Bowditch Middle School 1450 Tarpon Street, Foster City

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

9:00-10:00 am Bayside Academy 2025 Kehoe Avenue, San Mateo *Spanish translation provided

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

6:30-7:30 pm Abbott Middle School

Important Dates

Thu, Sep 13

Board Meeting, 6:30 pm - District Office

Tue, Sep 18

Superintendent Coffee Chat, 9:00 am - Bowditch Middle School

Sun, Sep 23

Run2Fund Education, 2:00 pm -Hillsdale High School

Thu, Sep 27

Board Meeting, 6:30 pm - District Office

Fri, Oct 5 - Fri, Oct 19

Fall Break - No School

Tue, Oct 23

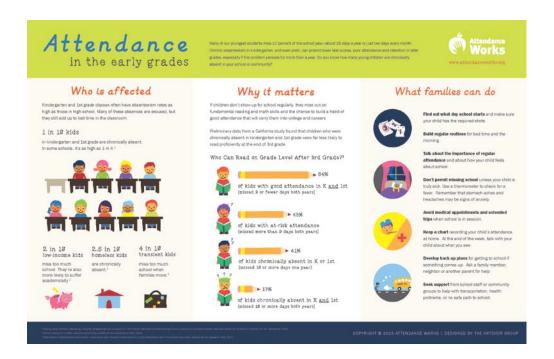
Superintendent Coffee Chat, 9:00 am - Bayside Academy

600 36th Avenue, San Mateo *Spanish translation provided

Thursday, March 28, 2019

5:30-6:30 pm
Baywood Elementary
600 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo
*Spanish translation provided

September is Attendance Awareness Month!



Chronic absenteeism, when a student is absent more than 10% of the school year, negatively affects a student's academic performance and is a serious concern in schools across California. Attending school regularly will help your child learn fundamental skills AND will give your child the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry your child into college and a career. When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and graduation rates. Visit the <u>Attendance Works</u> website for important facts about absenteeism.

Please support our efforts to ensure our students are in school every day, ready to learn!

Renew Student Meal Applications by Sept. 26th



Schools Benefit When YOU Complete Your Application!

Having every family complete a Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application not only helps ensure all students in need have the opportunity to receive nutritious school meals, but also helps determine the District's and each school site's LCFF Supplemental Grant funding. We encourage you to fill out an application every year either through a paper application or online at https://smfcsd.rocketscanapps.com.

Students who were receiving free or reduced-price meal benefits at the end of last school year must fill out a NEW meal application for the 2018-19 school year. Students who have NOT submitted a NEW meal application, but qualified last school year, will be required to pay full price for school meals starting Wednesday, September 26, 2018. Students who did not receive free/reduced-price meals last school year and apply this year, will need to pay for their meals until the meal application is processed. Please contact Child Nutrition Services if you need additional assistance at 650-312-1968.

Girl Scouts Build Buddy Benches for Schools



Congratulations to **Girl Scout Troop 61534** (students from Foster City School, George Hall, College Park, and North Shoreview Montessori) on creating two Buddy Benches to donate to Foster City and George Hall Elementary Schools! The girls solicited donations, fundraised for additional materials, sanded, primed, painted, and drilled the benches themselves. Through this process, they earned their Bronze Award, the highest award a Girl Scout Junior may earn! The benches were recently dedicated at both schools.

A Buddy Bench is intended to be used when kids are feeling lonely or don't have someone to play with. When they sit on the Buddy Bench, another child may approach them to play. In addition to building the benches from scratch/wood planks, the girls created short educational videos for the classrooms to show every year explaining "how to use" the buddy bench. We hope their hard work and generosity will inspire future Buddy Benches/gifts to our other schools in our district!

Parkside Montessori Gets Beautified



Parkside students were welcomed back to school in a beautiful way thanks to <u>Hands On Bay</u>
Area. Refurbishing Parkside's center patio area, building picnic tables (adult and child-sized), benches, and painting murals with a theme of growth and nature (a school-wide focus) has made the school a more inviting place for learners. Additionally, a group from **Google** came and painted a number of wall panels in patio areas and outdoor walkways to ready the space for students to paint murals around the school. We are so grateful to these groups for helping to beautify the campus!

Parkside would also like to thank two extremely involved parents who have taken the lead on these projects: **Grace Dulnuan-Turner and Laurette Grant**. They worked tirelessly to coordinate with the project leaders for these two groups, as well as organizing very productive Green Team Saturdays over the past year on campus.

SMFCSD is Hiring - Become a Substitute Today!



Become a Substitute and Make a Difference in a Student's Life Today! The San Mateo-Foster City School District is hiring and has immediate openings for the following positions:

Teachers - Clerical Staff - Custodians - Paraeducators

If you love working with students, become a substitute for our District. You can work every day, once a week, or just a few days a month. Some positions may also have flexible hours. **Apply online at EdJoin.**

To learn more, visit <u>Employment and Human Resources</u> page on the SMFCSD website or contact Anne Smith in the Human Resources Department at (650) 312-7294 or <u>ansmith@smfcsd.net</u> to get started with the hiring process!

San Mateo-Foster City Education Foundation News



9th Annual Run2FunD Education

 $\label{eq:A-Health-Wellness-Fair} A \ \mbox{Health \& Wellness Fair}$ Come Join the Fun & Raise \$ for Music, Athletics, STEM & More!

Sunday, September 23, 2018 Hillsdale High School Track 2:00 – 5:00 pm

More Info & Online Registration at https://smfcedfund.org/run2fund

or visit your school office for Registration forms & waivers

Questions? Contact Vicki at smfcedfund@smfcsd.net

Our Newest Ed Foundation Projects: makerspaces and middle school science lab equipment!

With your help and company matching donations, the possibilities are endless!

The SMFC Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax ID 94-3110731

Measure V - Excellence in Education Parcel Tax Information



Excellence in Education – Measure V

The San Mateo-Foster City School District offers innovative approaches to learning, ensuring your child will not only learn the basics, but will also become well prepared for high school, college and careers. Over the years, our schools have provided a high quality education to our students and have been acknowledged for their outstanding programs. Our



mission is to continue to build on this strong foundation, ensuring all students succeed.

Local Funding to Support Strong Education

The 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. Without additional revenue, our schools will have to eliminate programs and reduce staffing.

On November 6, 2018 voters in the San Mateo-Foster City School District will be asked to vote on **Measure V-Excellence in Education Measure**. This Measure would give our schools a consistent and reliable source of revenue that would generate roughly \$10 million annually for 9 years (a \$298 per parcel tax adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index) so that the District can:

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

Attracting and Retaining Teachers

Studies show that teachers impact student achievement rates more 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. **Measure V** would allow us to provide teachers with increased compensation, so we can attract and retain teachers and improve student outcomes.

All Funds Spent in Our Community

Measure V will support our staff and innovative STEM/Arts programs. 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 (property owners, age 65+) and will establish an independent citizen oversight committee, annual audits, and reports to the community to ensure the funds will be spent as promised.

Learn more about Measure V – Excellence in Education Measure

Please visit www.smfcsd.net for additional information. If you have any questions, or would like to provide feedback, please contact Superintendent Dr. Joan Rosas at (650) 312-7348 or jrosas@smfcsd.net.

NOVEMBER 2018 ELECTION INFORMATION

The San Mateo-Foster City School District Measure V—Excellence in Education Measure will attract and retain teachers, support innovative programming, enhance core academics, protect art and music education, and strengthen science, technology, engineering and math programs to prepare students for

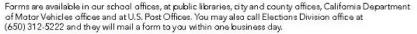
high school, college and careers.

Register to Vote Online

You may register to vote or change your registration information online. Visit www.registertovote.ca.gov, the Secretary of State's website where you will be asked to enter your personal information and provide your driver's license number and the last four digits of your Social Security number.



You may register by mailing a completed Voter Registration Form to the San Mateo County Registration & Elections Division.



The last day to register to vote is Monday, October 22, 2018!

Voting Options

San Mateo County voters now have two easy options to vote: Vote by Mail and Vote Centers. Both options are available 29 days before Election Day, providing a convenient range of voting days to meet anyone's schedule.

To learn more about Measure V-Excellence in Education Measure, visit our website www.smfcsd.net

Para recibir una copia de los materiales informativos en español, por favor envíe un correo electrónico a: aalmen@smfcsd.net.



SMFCSD's Board of Trustees invites you to its Thursday, September 13, 2018 regular meeting. The meeting highlights include information on the following topics of community interest:

- Equity Resolution No. 09/18-19
- 2017-2018 Unaudited Actuals Draft
- Potential Budget Reductions for 2019-2020

To review board presentations, upcoming agendas, and previous meeting summaries - go to the **Board Agenda & Summaries** page of the SMFCSD website.

Summary of Recent Meetings

At the August 23, 2018 Board Meeting, the Trustees:

- Discussed CSBA Nominations for Directors-at-large Asian/Pacific Islander/Hispanic
- Nominated Jerry Hill for a CSBA Legislative Award
- Received information on a Sanctuary Board Policy from the Oakland Unified School District
- Received an update on the California Dyslexia Guidelines
- Received information on Potential Budget Reductions

At the August 9, 2018 Board Meeting, the Trustees:

• Adopted the Chinese Immersion Curriculum

All Board Meetings are open to the public and held at the San Mateo-Foster City School District Office - 1170 Chess Drive, Foster City at 6:30 pm. Community members are encouraged to attend.



2018-2019 SMFCSD Student Calendar

- August 14 First Day of School
- August 31-September 3 Labor Day Holiday
- October 5-19 Fall Break
- November 12 Veteran's Day Holiday
- November 21-23 Thanksgiving Break
- December 21 January 7 Winter Break
- January 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday
- February 18 President's Day Holiday
- March 11 Teacher PD Day No School
- April 1-12 Spring Break
- May 27 Memorial Day Holiday
- June 20 Last Day of School



2018-2019 SMFCSD Student Calendar (pdf)

Parents - tired of manually entering important district dates into your calendar? Now you can export the SMFCSD Student Calendar to your device. Go to our <u>District Calendar</u> page and click on Export the SMFCSD Calendar.







