SAN MATEO-
FOSTER CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Newsletter

Superintendent's Welcome - August 2017

Dear SMFCSD Community,

Welcome Back Everyone! We are truly looking forward to an exciting year ahead filled with new connections with our students, families and colleagues. We are appreciative of our new language arts materials, continued building plans at our middle schools, a new elementary school in Foster City, the opening of a K-8 STEAM/STEM program at Bayside Academy, the development of two Montessori programs at North Shoreview Montessori and Parkside Montessori and so many innovative ideas coming from our newly energized SMFC Education Foundation and parent groups throughout the District!

Our emphasis must continue to be a two-pronged approach focusing on the improvement of the academic achievement of all students in the San Mateo–Foster City School District and the

development of social and emotional safety nets. Academically, we are continuing to develop a high quality math program throughout the District. We have beautiful, new language arts textbooks in all of our classrooms and our English Language Development program is already positively impacting student achievement.   Dr. Trudy Arriaga, Retired Superintendent and Professor, is working with our District to delve deeply into our policies and practices to help us find additional avenues to improve student access and achievement.

As stated above, of equal importance is the work that our school sites engage in to ensure that our students are supported. Positive Behavior and Intervention Supports along with Restorative Practices are important frames to utilize when we need to intervene or respond to students in need. This year a new Countywide Suicide Protocol and Threat Assessment will be implemented which adds to the resources available to our staff and students should the need arise.

In order to support our students' academic growth and well-being, they do need to be in school. We have noticed that a number of our students meet the definition of being chronically absent by missing 10 percent or more of the 180 days in a school year. Let's challenge ourselves to improve this statistic and ensure that our students arrive at school on time, every day.

Our District is in continued negotiations with the San Mateo Elementary Teachers Association (SMETA). Mediation began in the summer and we are hopeful that this process will lead us to a positive resolution.

As for our facilities, you will notice that all of our schools' wireless capabilities have been upgraded over the past year and this summer the phones and paging systems are being improved. When complete, District staff will have the ability to make emergency announcements from any phone on the campus at any time. Several of our schools had roofing, painting and flooring projects completed and a special thank you goes out to our Maintenance and Operations staff for madly preparing our schools over the summer in order to be ready for the start of the new school year.

I look forward to seeing you at your schools or district wide events throughout the year and invite you to keep up with the latest San Mateo–Foster City news throughout the year by utilizing the following mediums:

- District Website – www.smfcsd.net
- SMFCSD Newsletter – Emailed home monthly, you may also sign-up at www.smfcsd.net or at the bottom of this newsletter
- Community Reports – Mailed home to all residents in San Mateo and Foster City and available on our website
- Facebook – Like us @SanMateoFosterCitySD
- Twitter – Follow us @SMFCSD
- School Newsletters/Email Blasts

Sincerely,

Joan Rosas, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Welcome New Administrators!

Some of San Mateo-Foster City's finest! Welcome New Administrators - Andrew Campbell (Abbott AP), Alexis O'Flaherty (Brewer Island Principal), Sue Wieser (Human Resources Asst. Superintendent), Terry Vander Stouwe (Child Nutrition Coord.), Jeannette Ramirez (Fiesta Gardens Principal), Dennis Hills (Human Resources Director), Maria Valencia (Bayside Academy AP), Ricky Carrillo (Interim M&O Manager) & Abbie Wishart (Parkside Principal) **#SMFCSDFirstDay**

Upcoming Events

Tue, Aug 15
First Day of School

Thu, Aug 24
Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- District Office

Mon, Sept 1-4
Labor Day Holiday
- No School

Send Us Your #SMFCSDFirstDay Photos!

Email your Back to School photos to **communications@smfcsd.net** to have them featured in our **Facebook @SanMateoFosterCitySD** photo album! Welcome back to all of our students and staff! **#SMFCSDFirstDay**

Building a Sense of Belonging at Bayside Academy

Elementary school opening in San Mateo presents officials unique challenge.

Even after nearly 20 years as an educator, John Cosmos is still finding new professional challenges. The coming opening of Bayside Academy in San Mateo presents such an opportunity for Cosmos, who is the principal leading the unification of an established middle school with a burgeoning elementary program.

When the first bell rings next week, 250 elementary students will join the 650 middle schoolers at the institution formerly known as Bayside STEM Academy, at 2025 Kehoe Ave. in the Shoreview neighborhood.

Read the full article...

By Austin Walsh Daily Journal Staff Aug 9, 2017

Schools Benefit When YOU Complete Your School Meal 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 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 2017-18 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 27, 2017. 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.

Again this year, students who are eligible for reduced-price meals will not be required to pay a copay for breakfast or lunch because the San Mateo-Foster City School District waives the copay.

If you have questions regarding the free/reduced meal program, please call the Child Nutrition Services at 650-312-1968. **To apply online for Free/Reduced-Price Meals: https://smfcsd.rocketscanapps.com**

SAVE THE DATE! Run2FunD Education - September 24

Save the date: Sunday, September 24, 2017 from 2 - 5pm, the San Mateo-Foster City Education Foundation will host the new and improved RUN2FunD Education, A Health and Wellness Fair at Hillsdale High School Track.

We have expanded the annual middle school FunRun to include TK through 8th graders! Join us to walk/run laps with your classmates, participate in fun activities and learn more about health and wellness. Learn more at www.smfcedfund.org.

If you would like to help with the event, please email **volunteer@smfcedfund.org**. SMFCEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, donations are tax-deductible. Tax ID 94-3110731

School Board Meeting Summaries & Upcoming Agendas

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

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 7:00 pm. Community members are encouraged to attend.

2017-2018 SMFCSD Student Calendar

- August 15 - First Day of School
- September 1-4 - Labor Day Holiday
- October 6-20 - Fall Break
- November 10 - Veteran's Day Holiday
- November 22-24 - Thanksgiving Break
- December 22 - January 8 - Winter Break
- January 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday
- February 19 - President's Day Holiday
- March 12 - Teacher PD Day - No School
- April 2-13 - Spring Break
- May 28 - Memorial Day Holiday
- June 21 - Last Day of School

2017-2018 SMFCSD Student Calendar | **2018-2019 SMFCSD Student Calendar**

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