



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

**CONTACT: Gail Pinsker**  
**310.450.8338, ext. 70230**  
[gpinsker@smmUSD.org](mailto:gpinsker@smmUSD.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **SMMUSD Announces New JAMS Assistant Principal**

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education approved the appointment of Martha Chacon as the new assistant principal of John Adams Middle School, at its regular July 19, 2017 meeting. Her appointment is effective immediately.

Chacon has served as a chemistry teacher at Santa Monica High School since 2005, where she taught and developed curricula for all levels of chemistry, including Advanced Placement chemistry. She has also taught AVID and Freshman Seminar during her time at Samohi. She began her teaching career at Ramona Convent Secondary School in Alhambra in 1999, where she worked until joining the Samohi staff in 2005.



While at Samohi, Chacon has served as a teacher leader, instructional leadership team member, science trainer and facilitator, AVID coordinator and as a summer school principal intern for JAMS and Samohi.

Chacon was the coordinator of the California Democracy School accreditation of Samohi in 2016. For this recognition, Samohi received a three-year grant, funded by the Los Angeles County Office of Education, for developing and delivering civic curriculum in Freshman Seminar. She has lead a team of students to first place the last two years in the annual Santa Monica Pier Rube Goldberg STEAM Machine contest and lead the faculty team that received a Civic Learning Award of Merit by the Judicial Council of California for the commitment to providing Samohi students with high quality civic education.

Chacon also partners with community organizations to provide service-learning opportunities for students around environmental issues such as waste, water and air pollution.

"I am truly honored and beyond excited to be joining the JAMS family as assistant principal," Chacon said. "I look forward to working with students, staff and the community. I am grateful for the opportunities I've had to grow as a teacher and a leader at Samohi and I will miss the many friends and colleagues who have supported me."

Chacon earned her Bachelor of Science in biological sciences with a minor in Spanish from University of California, Irvine and her Master of Science in secondary education from Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles. Chacon is bilingual.

"Martha has been an exemplary teacher at Samohi and has gained valuable leadership experience as a summer school principal intern at JAMS and Samohi," Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati said. "We congratulate her on her new administrative position."

Chacon replaces Rebecca Ngo, who left SMMUSD to take a position as principal in another school district.

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**SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**1651 16<sup>TH</sup> Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404**  
**ph: 310.450.8338; fax: 310.581.1138**  
**[www.smmusd.org](http://www.smmusd.org) Follow us on Twitter: @SMMUSD**