



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 18, 2021

Superintendent's Message: Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and AAPI anti-racism statement

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff and Community Members,

The SMMUSD School Board unanimously approved a resolution at its May 6, 2021 school board meeting celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage month and the rich and diverse culture and important contributions of Asians/Pacific-Americans in creating and building this great nation.

The School Board reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring appropriate lessons and units of study about the contributions of Asians / Pacific-Americans in our schools not only during this month, but throughout the school year.

The School Board also unanimously approved a resolution on April 22, 2021 denouncing xenophobia, racism, discrimination, and anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander sentiment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They reaffirmed their commitment to providing safe, welcoming environments for all students, parents, teachers, staff and visitors of any race, ethnicity, and national origin.

As I've stated in the past, we bear a great responsibility as educators for shaping society, as we have the unique privilege of educating our youth as they are forming their worldview. We have a responsibility to ensure equity and opportunity for all students, while at the same time working to create a better and more just world for our students to inherit. With renewed attention on systemic and institutionalized racism in our country, we want to let you know that we stand with our communities in supporting anti-racism policies and reforms that will provide equity, diversity, and inclusion. We embrace the opportunity to learn, grow, and act together in ways that shape our future toward justice for everyone.

The City of Santa Monica has two virtual events planned in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. For more information and dates, click [here](#).

Sincerely,

Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent

SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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www.smmusd.org **Board of Education:** Keith Coleman • Craig Foster • Jon Kean • Maria Leon-Vazquez
Laurie Lieberman • Jennifer Smith • Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein
Superintendent: Dr. Ben Drati