

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE



SUMMER 2023 REPORT TO THE SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY

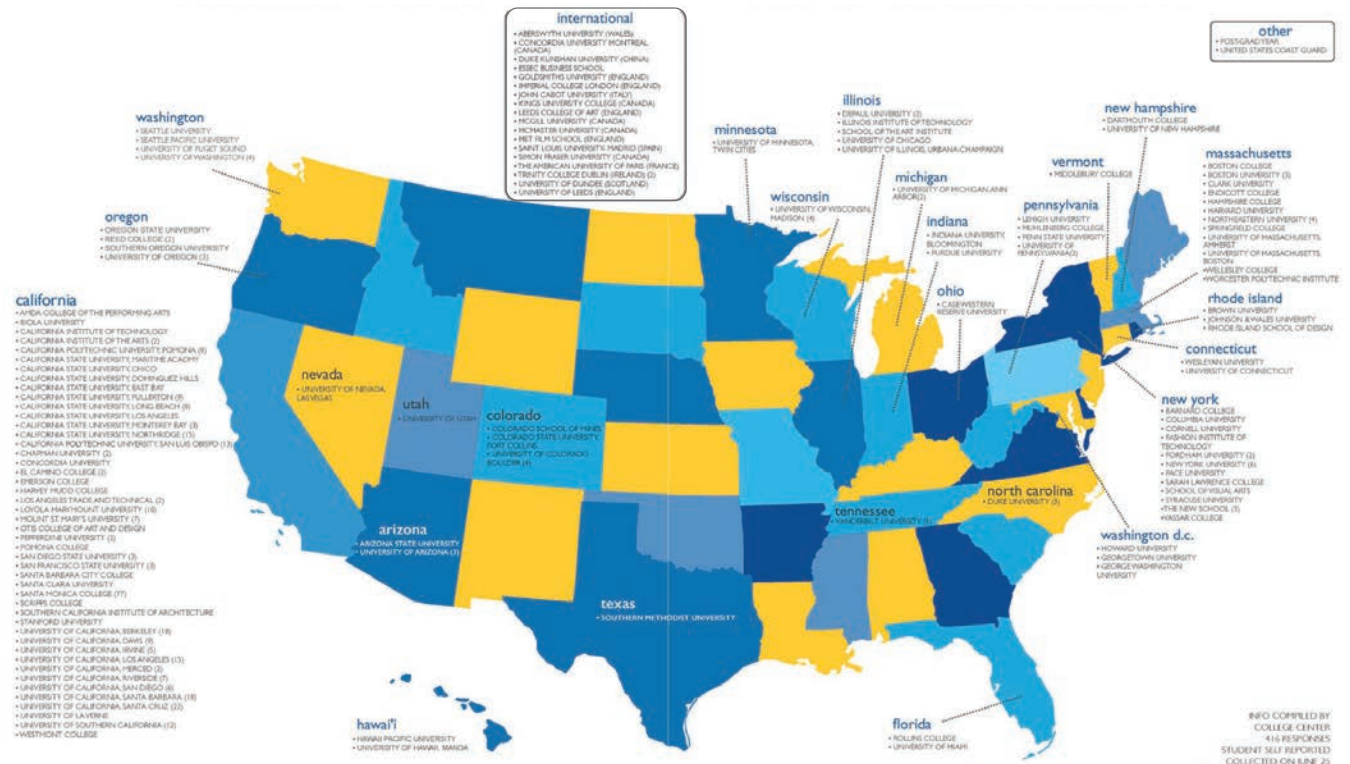
Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District
1717 4th Street
Santa Monica, California 90401
www.smmusd.org

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
XXXX

CONGRATULATIONS TO SAMOHI CLASS OF 2023



Join our neighborhood mailing lists
to learn about projects/events at your
neighborhood SMMUSD school!
Visit: bit.ly/HelloNeighborSignup
or scan this QR code:



a map of senior destinations for fall 2023

AN UPDATE FROM SMMUSD SUPERINTENDENT DR. ANTONIO SHELTON

Dear Parents and Neighbors,

I am truly excited and humbled to serve as the new superintendent of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD). As a current member of this amazing school community, I believe that we can continue to perform at a high level. This District is truly a gem in the Los Angeles area and in the state of California. We have tremendous successes to celebrate while working to ensure access and opportunity for all students.



Continuing Excellence in SMMUSD

SMMUSD schools are committed to cultivating a 21st-century learning environment that curates authentic learning experiences achieved through deep engagement with high-interest, relevant, real-world, curriculum-related assignments and projects throughout our students' journeys – beginning in pre-kindergarten through high school. We prepare our students to graduate ready for the global marketplace of information and ideas as they move on to college, career certification or work experience.

Santa Monica and Malibu High Schools rank in the top 6% of schools in the State and Nation, according to U.S. News & World Report 2022 Best High Schools. Our graduation rates and test scores continue to outperform averages in the County, State and Nation.

The First Step of Improvements

In 2018, Santa Monica voters generously approved Measure SMS to improve, repair and modernize outdated classrooms, labs and facilities. Thanks to you, many critical projects have already been completed and local students are thriving in new or improved facilities. More projects have broken ground, and there are still more upgrades to come to ensure all students have equal access to programs and state-of-the-art facilities. Our progress is detailed in this newsletter.

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, I look forward to working closely with the community to ensure our local schools remain among the best. If you'd like to read more about my 90-day entry plan visit:

English: bit.ly/90dayplan-Shelton-Eng

Spanish: bit.ly/90dayplan-Shelton-Span

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Antonio Shelton".

Dr. Antonio Shelton

Superintendent, Santa Monica-Malibu School District



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREERS

High-Achieving, Award-Winning District

- Graded A+ in Academics, Best Teachers and College Prep
- Awarded "Best Communities for Music Education Award" by National Association of Music Merchants for the 21st consecutive year
- 97% Santa Monica High School Graduation Rate

School Safety and Improvement Projects

Thanks to generous voter support, local bond measures funded urgent repairs and upgrades to existing facilities to ensure the health and safety of students, including:

- Modernized school security, including cameras, intruder protection systems and fire/emergency alarms
- Updated classroom windows, doors and flooring
- Replaced aging HVAC systems for clean air in classrooms
- Updated ADA accessibility to provide proper access for those with disabilities
- Added 21st-century classrooms, science labs and school libraries, designed to support high-quality instruction
- Upgrading Samohi's arts and physical education facilities
- Upgrading or replacing failing, deteriorating portable classroom trailers at elementary schools
- Upgrading aging shop classrooms for modern, hands-on programs that teach today's skills

Building for the Future

While many projects have been completed and funded, much still remains to be done to ensure that all students have access to a safe, modern learning environment where they can acquire 21st-century skills. Please look out for further information about upcoming plans and priorities and opportunities to give your own input and feedback.



"SMMUSD has done a fantastic job updating and modernizing its facilities with funding from Measures ES and SMS. The District has been transparent about their needs and has completed projects on time and spent the funding as promised."

– Michael Dubin
Chair, Citizens' Oversight Committee