

PROCLAMATION

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING DECEMBER 2024 AS

FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES MONTH

WHEREAS, we recognize the vital role that foreign language programs play in the educational, sociocultural, economic, and cognitive benefits and advancements of our youth and the broader community; we aim to increase and encourage foreign language acquisition and proficiency as a means of fostering global citizenship and lifelong learning (Office of English Language Acquisition); and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the importance of foreign languages in our daily lives and the future of our nation. Today, many citizens, schools, libraries, businesses, and organizations rely on bilingual and multilingual proficiency for a variety of purposes, including maintaining connections with family and friends, engaging with the community, conducting research, enhancing education, and facilitating business; and

WHEREAS, the understanding and proficiency gained through foreign language programs enhance cultural awareness and foster greater cultural exchange within our local community, thereby promoting cultural tolerance and appreciation throughout San Mateo County and beyond; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that proficiency in bilingualism offers cognitive benefits, including mechanisms that may protect against the onset of Alzheimer’s Disease in older adults; as well as improved attention control for all age demographics (National Library of Medicine); and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education (Fulbright Program), the Department of State (Foreign Language Training), and the Department of Defense (Defense Language Institute) all promote and support foreign language acquisition and proficiency in today’s globally connected world; San Mateo County aims to encourage and equip its students and communities with foundational foreign language education to prepare them for careers in business and public service;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County, State of California, hereby designates December 2024 as Foreign Language Studies Month.

Dated: December 10, 2024

SUPERVISORS:

WARREN SLOCUM, PRESIDENT

DAVID PINE

NOELIA CORZO

RAY MUELLER

DAVID J. CANEPA

Attest: _____
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors