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Dr. Quiauna Scott, Superintendent

"Thank You!" from EUSD

In June of 2014, the community of Emeryville voted to extend the previous parcel tax. The tax allocates at the rate of \$0.15 per square foot of total building area, which helps ensure the funds necessary to continue bettering the school's programs.

Dr. Quiauna Scott, Superintendent of Emery Unified School District, would like to extend a warm thank you to the community for prioritizing education and supporting the school. For the students and staff alike, that support means the world.

Because of the funds provided by the parcel tax, EUSD has been able to improve existing resources, further develop several programs, and even implement new resources.

Reduced Class Sizes

One direct result of the parcel tax is the ability to reduce class sizes. Dr. Scott cites smaller classes as an integral part of a quality learning environment.

Smaller classes mean less stress on teachers, and more personalized support for students. These efforts ensure that no child falls through the cracks, and helps to create an inclusive yet individualized learning environment.

Kala Art Institute

The parcel tax has also allowed the school to develop its visual arts program. Emery offers art classes to elementary, middle school, and high school students. Due to the extension of the parcel tax, Emery has been able to bring Kala Art Institute into the classrooms of Anna Yates Elementary School and Emery Secondary School.

Kala is a non-profit arts organization based out of Berkeley, which sends instructors to Emery classrooms. They lead hands-on, visual arts activities aimed at illustrating art's real world uses. The instruction often connects the making of art with other academic disciplines, for a fuller, more comprehensive learning experience.

As part of Kala's program and workshops, Emery students have been given the opportunity to participate in a variety of projects.

Technology in the Classroom

Funds from the tax have allowed Emery to implement technology in the classroom in new and engaging ways. According to Dr. Scott, the tax has directly funded EUSD's ability to offer Chromebooks in classrooms. These one-to-one devices allow teachers to create more innovative lessons that enrich the curriculum and help deepen understanding of course material among students.

Because of these developments (and many others) made possible by the tax, Dr. Scott would like to thank the community for voting. She says Emery Unified School District is "very fortunate to have a community that has supported us and has made a commitment to continue doing so for an extended period of time." When it comes to the quality educational programs, the small class sizes, the art programs and other resources, Dr. Scott directly credits the community. "We couldn't do it without them," she states.

Where Does the Parcel Tax Support EUSD?

SMALL CLASS SIZES
VISUAL ARTS
LITERACY
SCIENCE
TECHNOLOGY
ENGLISH LEARNERS
MATHEMATICS
MUSIC
SCHOOL LIBRARY
COUNSELING
SUMMER SCHOOL
PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES
TEACHER RECRUITMENT/RETENTION
WELLNESS



Emery Goes Green



An outstanding school doesn't just perform the standard functions of an educational institute; it also aims to meet the needs of the community. In fulfilling this mission, Emery realizes its obligation to be environmentally conscious.

In the last two years, Juliette Dunn, the Wellness and Food Service Director, says that EUSD has started focusing on reducing its environmental footprint. In assessing current practices, the school has adapted to become a more eco-friendly institution.

One example of this initiative is illustrated by the new bins which have been placed in cafeterias. They allow the waste from the school's food service to be sorted appropriately into compost, food waste, and recycling.

In Collaboration with Community and City

The bins and other green efforts are in direct collaboration with the city; they are one way Emery is partnering with the surrounding community. Efforts to sort waste and recycle the cafeterias' leftover materials are initiatives executed mostly by parents.

Each day, parent volunteers offer their time to help make sure waste is sorted and recycled. Because Emery's cafeterias serve breakfast and lunch as well as dinner, volunteers are on duty throughout the school day. Because of their dedication, along with the help of the students and staff, Emery is quickly reducing its environmental footprint.

Training Programs

Emery has also launched a series of educational programs and trainings. These programs are directed at staff as well as students to help promote recycling. They make Emery's green initiative a team project. From the initial sorting of waste to the overall facilitation and oversight, everyone is doing their part.

Recycling leaves Emery in the Green

According to Dunn, recycling does more than cut waste; it also saves the school money. The funds saved through waste reduction can then be reinvested in furthering recycling initiatives and the expansion of educational programs.

Dunn sites that she's proud of the development of their recycling program and excited to be working with the city on further eco-minded projects. As this year proceeds, Emery looks forward to further developing its green initiatives and continuing to improve environmental impact.





College and Career Readiness at Emery Secondary School

A well-rounded education doesn't just involve teaching students skills like math, science, reading and writing; it also involves preparing them for their future careers. Because a student's journey doesn't end when school is over, Emery High School has invested time, energy and funds into preparing students for what comes next.

Graduation Rates Soar

In the last two years, the number of students completing the requirements to graduate has nearly doubled at Emery. As a result, last year, the high school boasted a 95 percent graduation rate, which is astronomically higher than the nation's average.

"Our goal is 100 percent, every year," Principal Jessica Goode says. With time, effort, and added resources, Emery is nearing that goal.

Planning for the Future

Last year, 94 percent of graduates went on to some type of continuing education or formal career development. 44 percent went on to four-year colleges or universities, and 30 percent were accepted into two-year programs.

However, college or university isn't a good fit for all students. For this reason, Emery High School has also incorporated resources for those wanting to explore other options. Superintendent Goode remarks, "We're here to prepare kids for what comes next, whether it be college, university, or vocational school."

Last year, around 13 percent of Emery graduates went into a vocational training. These training programs put them directly on track to receive the qualifications that will help them excel in future careers.

The Goal

The overall goal of Emery's career readiness initiative is to give students the resources they need so that 100 percent of students secure opportunities to further their education. This year, Principal Goode is proud that they came close to reaching that goal.

As a step towards improvement in future years, this year, the high school has brought in a full-time college counselor. Tawnya Enriquez works with kids to discuss post-graduation options and help them make decisions that suit them. The school also offers a financial aid night, which is a great opportunity for parents and students to get help filling out their FAFSA forms.

College visits

During their four year high school career, each Emery student has the opportunity to take part in a college tour. These tours are designed and fully funded by the school.

Tours last between four and eight days, during which students have the ability to see and explore between ten and fifteen universities from Monterey Bay down to San Diego. The tours cover room, board, food and also transportation, all at no cost to the student.

Principal Goode notes, "We're really proud of the pathways we're creating for students to move forward after high school." The school has made future success of students an absolute priority, and it's definitely paying off.

Emery Center for Community Life

Part of EUSD's commitment as a Full Service School, according to Mr. Kevin Edwards, entails "encompassing the needs of the community where the school is." Part of this overall mission is embodied in the recent developments at the Emeryville Center of Community Life.

This school-based health center is one of the many facets of EUSD's wellness program, which was made possible through a joint effort by the city and he school. Located on campus, the Center first offered services exclusively to students, but has now extended their offerings to meet the needs of the surrounding community

Medical services at the ECCL

This year, the ECCL facilitated two flu clinics, which were provided to students and community members free of charge. The Center also provides students with immunization and vaccines, such as the Tdap vaccine, which is required to enroll in the 7th grade.

Currently, there is a pediatric provider available 20 hours a week on site. Wellness and Nutrition Director Juliette Dunn says that, eventually, the Center would like to have the pediatric provider present for a full 40 hours per week.

These developments, along with others, are evidence of the ECCL's steady progression towards better serving the students and residents of the Emeryville area. The ultimate goal is to provide select medical care to the community. However, Dunn notes that due to safety concerns, it cannot function as a drop-in clinic. Any services that cannot be performed at the Center are outsourced appropriately.

Looking forward

Dunn is excited about the ECCL and its development. "We're expanding our services," she says, "and trying to make ourselves relevant to the needs of our students and community." This is no easy job, because those needs change with each passing year.

According to Dunn, the Center would also like to expand to accommodate more of the community's kids. There are 5 other institutions in the EUSD area that exist outside of the public school system, and ideally the ECCL would like to work with them more.

In the future, Dunn says she'd like to have the Center organize a health fair and initiate the expansion of health education to include parents of students. Additionally, she'd like to increase hours of operation and have the Center open and available on weekends as well as weekdays.

To do so, Dunn says the Wellness Department plans on investing more time and effort into the development of the ECCL. "We want to listen to [the community's] needs and desires," Dunn says, "and then make those things available."



The Sky's the Limit for Girls in STEM

Even today, it's a little harder for girls to pursue careers in the sciences, technology, engineering or mathematics. Although these areas of study have traditionally been dominated by males, girls are just as capable. Sadly, many never receive the encouragement necessary to realize their talent or passion. In an effort to remedy this, Anna Yates Elementary School is teaching their female students that their dreams have no boundaries. Last year, as part of that effort, the school attended the Expanding Your Horizons conference.

Expanding Your Horizons Conference

The conference, which takes place on the UC Berkeley campus, hosts many schools from the Bay Area. Eddie Scruggs Smith, who facilitates the school's participation, says it's an important step in "taking the time to keep [girls] excited about these fields of study," a lesson that is especially important in a world where they are still considered male dominated fields.

Each conference is run and operated by the Expanding Your Horizons Network, a non profit organization dedicated to inspiring girls to recognize their potential and explore careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Anna Yates Elementary participates

Every year, administrator Scruggs Smith takes a group of girls from Anna Yates Elementary School to participate in the event. The conference kicks off with a star speaker, some of whom have included Google staff members and women from NASA.

Girls are given the day to explore various branches of science through engaging, hands on workshops. The events, which students select before going, might include classes on forensics, presentations on the classification of insects, or explorations of human anatomy.

The day-long event is also a great opportunity for middle schoolers from Anna Yates to connect with other girls, and an ideal way for them to take part in fun science-, technology- and math-related activities. Additionally, it allows them the chance to engage with women who are currently working in STEM careers or studying for STEM degrees.

The power of play

For female students, it's an entire day for exploration and a great opportunity to get excited about STEM. "It's important for them to see that girls can do this, too; that [these areas of study] are not just for boys," Scruggs Smith notes. "There's a lot of power in that."

The 2019 Expanding Your Horizons conference will be held again on the campus of UC Berkeley on Saturday, March 9th. This year, Scruggs Smith will be taking another group of girls from Anna Yates Elementary.

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Thriving and Harmonizing - Music at Anna Yates Elementary School

There's music in the halls at Emery Unified Schools! In collaboration with the high school's music program, this year, Anna Yates Elementary School is proud to announce it has further developed its existing music programs.

Choral is available for grades TK through third, while band is available for grades four and five. These programs are a great opportunity for students to explore their interests in the musical arts, as well as a valuable outlet for creative expression.

Both programs are facilitated by Mr. Tom Salvatore, the music instructor at Emery High School. The major benefit of Mr. Salvatore's involvement in both programs is that it creates a consistency in students' music education. What students initially learn in elementary school can be perfected and developed upon in high school.

A few of the instruments the students can choose from include clarinet, trumpet and saxophone. These same instruments are offered at the high school, which allows students the opportunity to practice and master an instrument throughout the course of their entire career at Emery.

Instruments are provided by the school at no cost to the student's family. Principal Carter reports that this year, Emery was able to provide an instrument for every student who showed an interest in participating. This way, every student has an equal opportunity to learn and study music, regardless of finances.

At first, instruments were kept on campus and used specifically for in-class instruction. However, as the music program has expanded, Emery has made instruments available for students to take home with them. That way, students are able to practice at home in addition to the classroom instruction they receive from Salvatore.

These developments are some of the exciting new steps Anna Yates Elementary is taking to invigorate its music program. With further developments, Emery Unified School District is ensuring that its students have the skills and resources needed to make music for years to come.



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 8..... Trimester 2 End (TK-5)
March 29..... Quarter 3 End (6th - 8th)
April 22-26..... Spring Break
May 27..... Memorial Day



A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS...

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Dr. Marcelline Krafchick

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