



## Connect with the Hillsdale High School Community

We'd like to invite you to (re)connect with the Hillsdale High School (HHS) Community by becoming a supporter of the Empowerment Through Action (ETA) Program. Please take a few minutes to read the message below to learn more about this initiative to support the Hillsdale community.

Hillsdale High School is working hard to address the high cost of living and opportunity gap that exists for so many of our students and families living on the margins in our community. Read our [Guest Perspective in the San Mateo Daily Journal](#) for more about what we're doing to meet the needs of our students furthest from opportunity.

Our program has been positively impacting students at Hillsdale for over seven years. As a result, on June 12, 2025, the SMUHSD Board of Trustees unanimously approved funding for an extension of the program, to additional schools in the district. This initiative, known as Empower San Mateo, will ensure that students and families living on the margins in San Mateo and Foster City have access to the opportunities and coordinated support they deserve. Watch the [presentation to the SMUHSD Board](#) or review the [SMUHSD Board presentation slide deck](#).

### ETA Student graduates shared what the program did for them:

- “ETA helped me learn that I can be a leader...a leader is someone who wants to inspire by setting a good example. And before ETA, I thought I reached my full potential as a student, but ETA showed me that I had a lot to learn.”
- “They told me how to support my community by being everything they taught us from being a leader and making sacrifices and being the best version of myself. They helped me achieve these things.”

### How can you help support ETA?

1. Help with [Peace Pantry](#) on Friday mornings OR with our [Community Garden](#) on Thursday afternoons.
2. Join an upcoming [Community Connector Info Session](#) to learn more about the ETA program.
3. [Connect us to potential supporters](#) - We're looking for corporations, large/small businesses or high-wealth individual donors to ensure ETA can continue to support currently enrolled students and the Class of 2029 for their entire high school journey.
4. [Explore opportunities to get involved](#) - Perhaps you're interested in becoming an ally, volunteering, mentoring, helping us find internship/job opportunities, etc.

We appreciate your efforts to help us continue supporting our Hillsdale Community!

*Hillsdale ETA Community Connector Committee – Christy Knott & Doriel Nishioka*

### For more information or to donate to ETA:

[Website](#) • [Overview](#) • [SM Daily Journal](#) • [SMUHSD LinkedIn](#) • [Donate](#)

Empowerment Through Action is a 501(c)(3) organization - Tax ID 99-4370940