College Park Elementary Receives $1.4 Million FLAP Grant to Support Mandarin Immersion Program

Foster City, CA. The San Mateo-Foster City School District is proud to announce that College Park Elementary School is the recipient of a $1.4 million Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) grant. The school sought funding to expand the current K-3 Mandarin immersion program into a fully articulated, pre-K through grade 12 Mandarin Chinese Scholars program of sufficient quality to enable students to gain a superior level of Mandarin fluency. The project will address the priority of improving and expanding programs in critical languages, employing cutting edge, diverse technologies to promote Mandarin learning, and serving as a national model for replication by other schools and school districts. The project is unique due to its very inclusive nature. All students enrolled at College Park, regardless of background or home language, will participate in Mandarin immersion.

College Park will partner with the University of California Berkeley, the National Center for Chinese Language Pedagogy, College Park Mandarin Pre-School, the Shaolin Chinese Cultural Center, the Kuai Le Mandarin Afterschool Enrichment Program, and the San Mateo Unified High School District to meet specific project goals including:

- Building enrollment and retention in local Mandarin language instruction, pre-K-16.
- Developing standards- and content-based Mandarin language curricula for a quality program.
- Ensuring all students exiting grade five will have reached an intermediate level of proficiency, as measured on the ACTFL proficiency scale.
- Reducing the achievement gap for English Language Learners (ELLs), Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, and other significant subgroups of students, as measured by the state Academic Proficiency Index (API).
- Increasing the Mandarin language instructional capabilities of teachers.
- Implementing strategies to increase meaningful parent and community involvement in the school and district Mandarin programs to increase support for and retention in the program, pre-K-16.

“Our Mandarin Scholars program provides students of all languages and backgrounds the opportunity to learn one of the most influential languages of the 21st century. Our bi-lingual and tri-lingual students learn the California standards in both English and Mandarin for all academic subjects including language arts, math, social studies, science and physical education. What a rare and fabulous opportunity for our fortunate students and our school,” stated Diana Hallock, school principal.

For more information on the Mandarin Immersion Program at College Park, please contact Principal Diana Hallock at (650) 312-7691 dhallock@smfc.k12.ca.us or visit the schools’ website at www.mandarinimmersion.com. Tours for 2011-2012 enrollment begin November 2010.

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