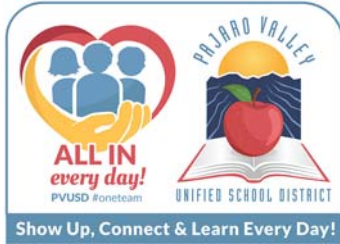


**PAJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District is to educate and to support learners in reaching their highest potential. We prepare students to pursue successful futures and to make positive **contributions to the community and global society.**



Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PVUSD Pajaro Middle School Student Reflects on Hamilton's Lasting Lessons

Watsonville Ca, December 3, 2019 – On October 23, 2019, thanks to the vision of the Constitution Project sponsored by the Dan and Lillian King Foundation, all 8th grade students at Pajaro Middle School enjoyed Hamilton: The American Musical. The experience was significant and exposed students to history and social science content standards in a memorable setting.

This unique opportunity still reverberates for Natalie Ortega-Hernandez, a PMS student, who encapsulates her feelings in the following essay:

When I found out the eighth graders from my school were going to San Francisco to watch Hamilton, I was extremely thrilled. I had heard many people say wonderful things about the musical, and felt so lucky I was getting an opportunity to experience this.

The bus ride was long, but it was definitely worth it. San Francisco is a beautiful city. It looked like something straight out of a movie. When we walked into the theater, I looked around in awe. There were intricate designs all over the ceiling and walls.

The music was amazing. I had goosebumps throughout the whole show. The songs made me feel so alive and the dances conveyed so much emotion. The acting made it feel as if we were up on the stage with them. The cast was also amazing and they interpreted Alexander Hamilton's story in the best way.

In my opinion, this experience is going to stick with all of us, because it taught us great life values. Learning about history this way really does help us understand it a little better. It tells the story of our nation in a more familiar style. It makes kids interested in this story, and motivates them to learn about something that might otherwise seem a bit boring to some kids.

I think U.S. history is definitely easier and more fun to learn about when it's in the form of a musical.

Dr. Michelle Rodriguez, Superintendent of Schools, stated, "Natalie's unforgettable experience serves as a thank you to the Dan and Lillian King Foundation and is a testimony to the Constitution Project of the realization of their vision of students learning about the principles of freedom, liberty and justice."