

My name is Bryson Smith, and I am a sophomore attending Foothill High School. I am currently attempting to graduate from high school after my junior year. After high school, I intend to pursue an undergraduate education in Aerospace Engineering and Artificial Intelligence. I am interested in serving as a Student Board Member because I want to be able to improve the opportunities that SUHSD students have. I am currently in the process of getting ready to apply to colleges (MIT, Stanford, UC Berkeley, etc); it is shocking to me what a lot of the kids who have gotten into these programs have accomplished during their time in high school. As students in SUHSD, we are lucky to have access to AP classes. It is very difficult to compare students between different schools, and AP classes and tests are one of the most effective ways to do this. I have tried to take advantage of these opportunities to the best of my ability. I am currently a sophomore enrolled in AP PreCalculus, AP Physics 1, Honors Chemistry, Advanced Drama, and AP Computer Science Principles in addition to English 1C at Shasta College. I had to work very hard to get enrolled in some of my current classes because I am “too young” to take them, and there are other classes that I wasn’t able to take due to grade restrictions. I took sophomore year math at UPrep when I was in 8th grade, but was forced to retake the class at Foothill because I was told that I would run out of math classes to take. I would love to continue taking physics classes next year, but SUHSD doesn’t offer anything past Physics 1 because the class is advertised as senior year science. When I started at Foothill, I was intending to enroll in Chinese as my foreign language but SUHSD got rid of the class that year. I have many friends who would be interested in taking Chinese or French as their foreign language, but they are instead forced to take ASL or Spanish because they are the only languages offered. A lot of prestigious colleges don’t even accept ASL as a foreign language, a trap that I almost fell into when enrolling for classes. These things can’t be changed to improve my high school experience, but they could be changed to improve the 25-26 school year and beyond. I would love the opportunity to improve these restrictions and course offerings, and I hope that you will consider electing me to allow me to more effectively accomplish these goals.



Foothill High School

Kevin Greene, Principal

Shawn Anstine, Assistant Principal

Kevin Strohmayer, Assistant Principal

May 7, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

"The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is just that little extra." I see that quote on a teacher's wall regularly, and it strikes me as a perfect quote to describe Bryson Smith, whom I have found to commonly do what is uncommon: add that "little extra!" Bryson strikes me as an exceptional candidate to become the SUHSD student representative for the 2024-25 school year!

Bryson earned a 5 on the AP Human Geography exam after being a freshman in my class last year. How was he able to do that? I think we can peek into his routines and habits by noting he not only completed the required classwork, but began his own course of review and learning about the content from the beginning! Notice that 'little extra' there?

Additionally, Bryson exhibits excellent character! From his sense of responsibility, commitment, and integrity to his courage, humanity, and sense of caring toward others, Bryson would strive to competently represent students from the variety of schools he would need to speak for as the student representative. He would arrive to meetings prepared and anxious to participate, learn, grow, and contribute.

Finally, as seen by his grades, transcripts, extracurriculars, and goals, Bryson is an exemplary student and citizen. He is completely qualified to meet the needs of the board and the district. You will find him, as I did, to always contribute that "little extra" that makes all the difference.

Sincerely,

John Waters

John Waters

Social Science Teacher and District Department Chair, Foothill High School
jwaters@suhsd.net