

# Lifting Up Asian American and Pacific Islander Staff Voices



## **Matthew Laurel**

Berkeley High School  
Teacher

**Favorite Book:** Slaughter-House Five by Kurt Vonnegut

**Favorite Food:** Bacon, Eggs, and Rice

**Favorite Performer:** Lauryn Hill

**What do you love doing when not working?:** Chilling at my house with my wife, Jocyl, and my four-year-old son, Diego.



"I love being a Filipino American from the Bay Area and have gratitude for my community's roots in hip-hop culture, social activism, and alliances with other minority groups. Pre-colonial Filipinos had a deep spiritual connection with nature and practiced animism. Filipinos, whether or not we "know" each other, share a strong sense of kinship and will typically have friendly and welcoming vibes.

"The AAPI experience is not monolithic; we have incredibly diverse, wide, and deep stories and perspectives. However, even through this heterogenous mix of refugee narratives, tales of immigration, and labor stories, AAPI folks share a common and undeniable bond of community."

# AAPI Heritage Month

**Berkeley**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS