Statement from Superintendent Richard A. Carranza on the passing of Ruth Asawa Lanier

August 06, 2013 (San Francisco) – “The San Francisco Unified School District community is deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Ruth Asawa Lanier. She will be forever remembered for her dedication to the school children of San Francisco and loving work to make our city and schools more beautiful and joyful learning environments. Our condolences and thoughts go out to her family.

Ruth Asawa was a pioneer who brought arts education to countless students. She created the Alvarado Arts Workshop and established the “artists in the schools” model of public school arts education, a model that has become a benchmark for arts education in American schools.

Asawa was the driving force behind the establishment of the San Francisco High School of the Arts, at McAteer High School in 1981, which was renamed in her honor by the Board of Education in 2010.

Her legacy will live on in the young and hopeful artists who attend Ruth Asawa School of the Arts, A Public School. Her art and influence is sure to touch San Franciscans for generations to come. “

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