Del Mar Schools Education Foundation (DMSEF) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that exists to raise funds to assist in paying for the compensation packages for specialized, credentialed teachers in the Del Mar Union School District’s (DMUSD) STEAM+ curriculum.

Why are you asked to help fund STEAM+?

DMUSD provides students with a high-quality, engaging education. However, the property taxes and other public funding granted to DMUSD are simply not sufficient to cover specialized STEAM+ teachers. In most California public elementary schools, classroom teachers do their best to teach these subjects (if they’re offered at all).

This partnership with our District is a key component in making us a premier School District in the nation and consistently placing our district in the top 1% of school districts in California.


SCIENCE: Students work in science labs to collect, analyze and interpret data, develop scientific models, and engage in arguments from evidence.

INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY: Students use technology to engage in cross-curricular project-based learning and design thinking challenges.

ART: Students develop visual literacy, the ability to interpret, appreciate, and create, focusing on the artistic process, rather than the end product.

MUSIC: Students learn how to read music, play new instruments, and gain performance experience.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Students challenge themselves and collaborate while learning social responsibility, emotional control and leadership skills.

SPANISH: Students build confidence while practicing Spanish conversation and develop an appreciation of Spanish culture.

PARTNER IN FUNDING FUTURE LEADERS

Donating early helps to keep our incredible teachers and achieve our goals of 100% family participation and $1.4 million.

GIVING TIERs

VISIONARY: $1,000+ per student
INVESTOR: $800 per student
COLLABORATOR: $600 per student
DEVELOPER: $400 per student

Families contributing the recommended $800/student (or $100/month*) or more will be included in opportunity drawings during the Fall Campaign and Jogathon.

WAYS TO GIVE

Make a tax-deductible contribution online at give.dmsef.org.

Use the DMSEF envelope to submit a tax-deductible contribution.

Increase your giving power by taking advantage of matching contributions from your employer. Check online at DMSEF.org to see if your company matches.

*Based on an 8 month recurring payment
What is our District Goal and how is it determined?
Our goal across the District is $1.4 million. Your contributions to DMSEF help cover the $1.4 million (40%) shortfall from state and local funding to fund the salaries for credentialed STEAM+ teachers at all nine schools.

How do School Goals work?
Each school’s goal is based on their school’s enrollment as of 9/1/23. Visit dmsef.org to see your school’s goal for this year.

How can I find out what my child does in STEAM+?
Each school has a unique program and its own process for sharing what your child learns in STEAM+. These include newsletters, performances, art displays, STEAM+ Family Nights, your school’s website, etc. We encourage you to talk to your school’s Principal, STEAM+ specialists or DMSEF Directors and Ambassadors to learn more about the specific programs in your child’s school.

I already give to the PTA. Do I need to give to DMSEF too?
Yes, parent support (through contributions and volunteering) is critical to both organizations. All contributions given to the District through DMSEF are restricted monies and can only be used to fund STEAM+ specialists’ compensation packages. Donations to the PTA support projects, programs, events, and grants specific to each school.

What is a credentialed STEAM+ specialist and why is it important?
DMUSD hires credentialed specialists for STEAM+ instruction in our schools, unlike most California public elementary schools where the classroom teacher does their best to teach these subjects (if offered at all). These teachers are state certified educators in their area of expertise, as well as experienced educators who bring their passion for their discipline to STEAM+. Following state-mandated standards for their subjects, these specialists tailor their content to each grade and collaborate with classroom teachers to enhance the core curriculum by facilitating rich authentic learning experiences that prepare students for the future.

Why give the recommended $800/student?
An average after school art class for one student costs $45 per hour or $1665 per year. With your meaningful donation to DMSEF, the District provides your child weekly classes in multiple STEAM+ subjects taught by exceptional specialized and credentialed teachers. These teachers educate the “whole” child by providing students with opportunities for hands-on activities, problem-solving, and teamwork through innovative teaching methods that build key skills and ignite students’ passion for learning.

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More information coming from the District.