

# the pursuit



## A Message From Our Superintendent

Dear DMUSD Families,

*Our world is changing fast. The pace of change, particularly when it comes to new technologies, means the half-life of skills is shrinking fast. The days of a “job for life” are gone forever.*  
Bernard Marr, Forbes, January 2022

Over the last five years we have experienced enormous progress as a district. We have accomplished huge goals as we embraced the rigorous and ambitious priorities set forth in our strategic plan, District Design 2022. Today, the learning of our students is grounded in deep thinking and conceptual understanding. Our schools are places where students have more agency; where they believe in themselves and act intentionally to activate academic and social skills to reach their potential. We are transforming the environments of our traditional classrooms and buildings, moving away from one-size-fits-all furnishings and spaces, toward an abundance of flexible options designed for making thinking visible with opportunities for students to engage at higher levels of learning with others.

What has been at the heart of this tremendous momentum? The obvious answer is our students, but what is it about our work that has impacted the experience of our students to this great extent? It is our teachers, staff, and leaders. They have embraced looking at school *through the lens of our students*. This might sound simple, but this is a huge undertaking for an institution, such as education, that has been grounded in tradition and practice for decades. In DMUSD, we are very clear about our role in teaching children the skills *they* need to thrive in our changing world.

The strategic planning process we embarked on in 2017 and the plan we implemented at that time intentionally addressed educational trends and predictions, curriculum issues and priorities, and facility concepts and needs. Back then, we said we would seize opportunities to revolutionize the traditional

school system to better prepare our students. Since then, we have invested our time and resources to radically change and improve the school experience for every student. Together as a school community, we have done extraordinary things!

At this time, we are gearing up for our next multi-year plan. As a member of our community, we invite you to participate in this exciting process. Information about upcoming strategic planning dates is in this letter with the QR code to RSVP. We are excited to work with you as we plan for the future!

Sincerely,

*Holly McClurg*

Holly McClurg, PhD  
Superintendent



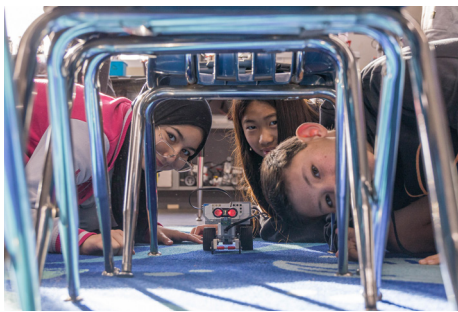
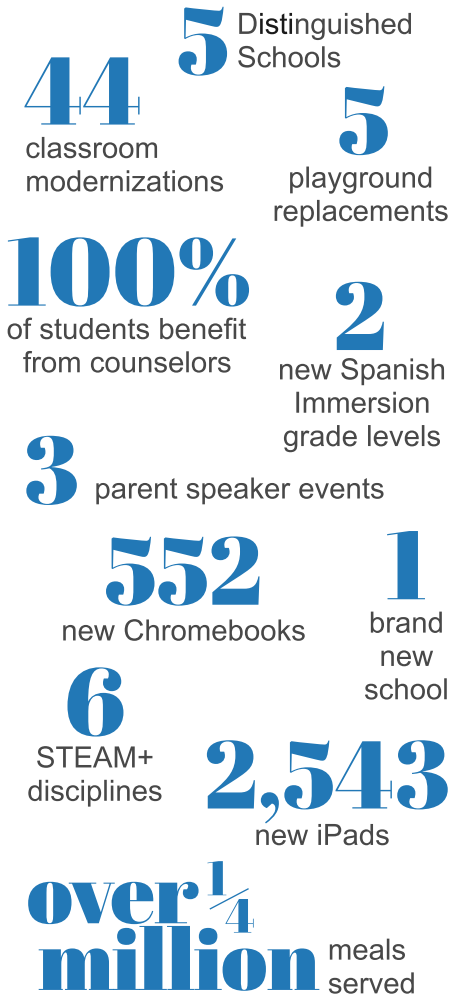
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2022-2023

# By The Numbers

(school year to date)



STEAM+

## Strategic Planning

DMUSD staff, parents/guardians, and community members are invited to attend a series of 4 meetings where we will discuss how the world is changing to inform our understanding of what skills and mindsets our students should have to thrive in the future—and specifically, what these changes mean for our district's Portrait of a Learner. Please join us!

**Meeting 1:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023

**Meeting 2:** Wednesday, March 1, 2023

**Meeting 3:** Wednesday, March 8, 2023

**Meeting 4:** Monday, March 27, 2023

All meetings will begin at 5:30 pm.

*Please note, this is a series of meetings that will build upon each other and we ask members to commit to all four meetings.*



HOW THE WORLD HAS CHANGED

ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND MINDSETS

A SHARED VISION

OUR PORTRAIT OF A LEARNER

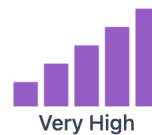
*Use this QR code to learn more about the Strategic Planning process and to RSVP (by 2/10) for the meetings.*

## Off the Charts — State Test Results Are In!

DMUSD students continue to perform academically at exceptional levels. Our students scored in the top 1% of school districts in the state in both English Language Arts and Mathematics and DMUSD had the highest percentage of students performing at the *exceeds level* in San Diego County. These results are reflective of dedicated teachers, strong leadership, and support staff who, in partnership with our families, provided the support our students needed during challenging times.

### English Language Arts

All Students



### Mathematics

All Students



## What Our Parents Are Saying

- "DMUSD is a private education in a public school setting."
- "We moved here for the outstanding schools."
- "The experience in DMUSD is far superior to the school my kids previously attended."
- "We appreciate the diversity in our community. Our kids are exposed to multiple cultures and languages."
- "We love STEAM+! It is such a gift!"
- "My school is welcoming. It really feels like a family."
- "Love the small community and the small class sizes. They are hugely important."
- "My child's special education program is inclusive and helps kids embrace differences. It's beautiful!"
- "The Del Mar Union School District does a fantastic job at fostering a school-life balance."