

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Holly McClurg, Ph.D.

Fall Edition 2021

Dear DMUSD Families,


It is with a profound sense of gratitude and optimism that I look to this new school year! Gratitude for the unwavering dedication of so many on behalf of our students. Optimism about the coming months and the joyful, meaningful learning our students will experience throughout the year.

In DMUSD, we have an awesome obligation to look out for the well-being of every child and to enrich the lives of all. Our district's mission is to ignite the genius in every student. Our vision is the unrelenting pursuit of the extraordinary school experience. Our DMUSD school experience is built around how we nurture a happy, positive, empathetic, can-do disposition in each child all while we adhere to the current California Department of Public Health mandates and follow mitigation measures for the physical health of students and staff.

Even as we navigate the logistics of this year, we are fortunate to belong to a community of people who believe in the power of education. Our district is made up of people – children and adults – who want to grow and think, and who want to learn from one another. Above all, we collectively nurture our students to make the world a better place.

Welcome to all of our new and returning families! You are an important part of an incredible community! Our year is off to a wonderful start and we look forward to all the great things to come!

Sincerely,



Holly McClurg, Ph.D.
Superintendent

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The safety of our students and staff continues to be our highest priority. The District's Health and Safety Plan for the 2021-2022 school year is based on guidance and requirements issued by the California Department of Public Health. The foundational principle of that guidance is that all students have access to safe in-person instruction. Our protocols include layered mitigation strategies that reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and ensure that our schools are safe so that students can stay healthy and remain in school.

The District's health and safety protocols include masking for all students indoors, stable groupings, increased ventilation and hand hygiene. As an alternative learning option, students whose health is at risk due to a medical concern related to COVID-19 may enroll in independent study.

The District continues to consult with local and state health officials regarding safety protocols in the case of a confirmed positive case of COVID-19. The DMUSD health protocols will be updated as needed based on state guidelines and requirements.

FACILITIES

The Del Mar Heights School Rebuild project continues to make progress in moving through the process of addressing the litigation brought by a small group of community members and completing the permitting process in order to begin construction.

Pacific Sky School, the District's newest school in Pacific Highlands Ranch, is under construction and scheduled to open for students on August 15, 2022.

Planning for the District's next major project, the modernization of Del Mar Hills Academy, is under way. District staff have been gathering input from the students, staff, and community and working with architects to develop a plan that will then be brought to the Board of Trustees.

Across the district, additional projects are being completed that modernize classrooms, improve play areas, and upgrade fields with a focus on bringing an impact to our students as quickly as possible.

New families...

We have welcomed 434 kindergartners and 271 new children in first through sixth grades to our Del Mar family over the summer.

185.4

Teachers

4

K-1 Spanish
Immersion Teachers

29.6

STEAM+ Specialists

3

6th-Grade
Spanish Teachers

22

Education Specialists*

31.4

Service Providers**

*Education Specialists are credentialed teachers who provide special education service.

**Service Providers include Psychologists, Counselors, Speech Language Pathologists, Adaptive Physical Education teachers, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Board Certified Behavior Analysts, Mental Health Therapists, and Nurses.

New leadership...**Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources**

Ryan Stanley is the District's Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. Mr. Stanley is an experienced leader with twenty-six years of service in education, including the roles of teacher, assistant principal, and most recently, principal for ten years at Ocean Air School in the Del Mar Union School District. Ryan is a highly regarded leader in DMUSD due to his ability to work collaboratively with students, families, and staff to develop a rich, positive culture in which excellence is in abundance! He is thrilled to serve our district's community in this role!

Director of Maintenance, Operations, and Facilities

Matthew Lenz is our new Director of Maintenance, Operations, and Facilities in DMUSD. Mr. Lenz is an experienced leader who previously served as the Assistant Director of Maintenance, Operations, and Facilities for the Poway Unified School District. Prior to his work in school districts, Mr. Lenz served 20 years in the US Navy as a Civil Engineer Corps Officer. He brings to the District extensive knowledge in organizational operations and facilities, along with broad experience in leadership roles in large organizations. Mr. Lenz is excited to be in this position and support the important work of our district!

Principal, Ashley Falls School

Karly Pecorella is our new Ashley Falls School principal. Most recently, Ms. Pecorella was the Assistant Principal of Del Mar Heights School. Prior to joining DMUSD, Ms. Pecorella was an educator in the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District where she taught kindergarten through sixth grade for 20 years. Ms. Pecorella is recognized for her understanding of high quality instruction and outstanding leadership. Ms. Pecorella is full of enthusiasm about the year ahead!

Principal, Ocean Air School

Krista Berntsen is the new principal of Ocean Air School. For the past six years, Ms. Berntsen has been a principal in the Vista Unified School District, and she previously served as a Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction in Vista and taught kindergarten through eighth grade in the Carlsbad Unified School District and in Utah. In addition to Mrs. Berntsen's principal experience, she has overseen the Vista Unified STEM Collaborative and is involved with the National Institute for School Leadership. Mrs. Berntsen is delighted to be at Ocean Air!

STEAM+ SPECIALISTS

DMUSD's STEAM+ program continues to grow and change to reflect the needs and interests of our students. This year, Integration Specialists are facilitating and designing cross-curricular, authentic learning experiences connected to classroom standards. By leveraging multiple technologies and resources, Integration Specialists plan and lead inquiry-based learning experiences for students that promote design thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication. These experiences are expertly guided by our specialists and draw upon students' talents and understanding within science, technology, art, and music.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

Attached to this Fall Message is the Annual Report for the 2020-2021 school year, which gives an overview and summary of the previous school year in the Del Mar Union School District.

This year is off to a remarkable start, and even from the earliest weeks we feel excited about our forward momentum, robust learning, and anticipated outcomes!

VISION

Unrelenting pursuit of the extraordinary school experience.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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MISSION

To ignite genius and empower students to advance the world.