

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Holly McClurg, Ph.D.



A WORD FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear DMUSD Families,

We are incredibly pleased with what is being accomplished this year! While this is the third school year that has been impacted by the pandemic, we continue to have an unrelenting commitment to making sound decisions in order to do what is right and best for children. Although attending to the logistics of operating our schools continues to be important and time-consuming, we are steadfast in keeping our focus on meaningful learning experiences and top-quality instruction. Our unrelenting pursuit of the extraordinary school experience, even during a pandemic, distinguishes DMUSD.

We care deeply about our students, and we understand that the life of each child is impacted by the decisions we make every day. We know that children everywhere have felt unsettling disruptions to their normal childhood experiences. The American Academy of Pediatrics has declared the mental health of our children a national emergency, citing the serious toll of the pandemic. The isolation of the pandemic and the increased dependence on digital platforms have contributed to concerns about mental health. Once-normal aspects of school life – lunchtime, extracurricular activities, assemblies, school trips, family events – have been altered if not eliminated.

In DMUSD, we are committed to a happy school experience with joy and camaraderie at its core. We highly value the importance of relationships and human interaction. We have identified a focus on human-to-human connections throughout this year, and

recognizing and supporting the social-emotional needs of our students is a priority at each school. We have continued to underscore the importance of events that bring people together, and the critical need to provide our students with a school experience that is meaningful and engaging.

As we move into the spring months, we will begin our strategic planning update, which will guide our district's way into the future. As we look forward with optimism, we will be reaching out to you to get input, and together, as a community, we will ask ourselves how we will do the extraordinary for our students!

Our DMUSD schools continue to be some of the safest, most wonderful places anywhere. I have deep gratitude for our incredible DMUSD employees. It is difficult to quantify the level of commitment to our students and how hard our DMUSD staff is working. I hope we all jump at the chance to express our appreciation for them whenever we can.

Sincerely,

Holly McClurg

Holly McClurg, Ph.D.
Superintendent

JULIA STORM

Digital Wellness Educator

March 14th, 2022, 6:00pm, Ocean Air School MUR



PARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Helping children navigate the world of smartphones, social media, and the vastness of the online world is one of today's most pressing issues and a priority for our district. Our Parent Speaker Series addresses this important topic. Julia Storm, Digital Wellness Educator and founder of ReConnect, will present a special event designed to give parents a common understanding of best practices for keeping our kids safe, smart, and emotionally resilient in the digital world.

CHANGES TO SCHOOL LUNCH

The State of California will implement Universal School Meals beginning August 2022. This law will require our district to offer breakfast and lunch free of charge to every student every school day. This is the state's first free school lunch program that is not limited based on household income. The requirements associated with this program mean that our DMUSD lunch program will look different and will no longer be supplied by ChoiceLunch. Given the short timeline, our District is working hard to get this program up and running by next school year.

COMMITMENT TO EQUITY

We recognize and celebrate the strength of diversity throughout our district. Every school has renewed their commitment as a No Place for Hate school through partnerships with the Anti Defamation League. The districtwide equity team will plan next steps in schoolwide and community involvement, and the District Advisory Committee will begin meeting in March. A district team will attend the San Diego County Office of Education sponsored Equity Conference in May.

SIMPLY THE BEST!

Our teachers set the standard for what high quality instruction looks like. They are highly trained and continue to participate in quality professional learning in our district throughout their entire career. Every teacher has the tools and resources needed to support a strong academic core. One of the greatest practices of equity is ensuring that every child has access to the highest quality instruction with a highly skilled educator. Throughout the pandemic, our commitment to professional learning didn't waiver.



Top left: Del Mar Heights School Rebuild. **Top right:** Pacific Sky School construction. **Bottom left:** Classroom modernization (6th grade). **Bottom right:** New playground.

MEASURE MM



DEL MAR HEIGHTS SCHOOL

The Del Mar Heights School Rebuild project is getting close to finally breaking ground. The District is very happy to share that the San Diego City Council unanimously affirmed the San Diego Planning Commission's approval of the project on January 11, 2022. We are excited to start construction!

PACIFIC SKY SCHOOL

Construction of Pacific Sky School is progressing quickly. District staff, architects, and the builders are working closely to ensure that the school is completed this summer and is ready to open on August 15, 2022! With this new school comes a new boundary for attendance. Boundary information can be found using the QR Code below.

CLASSROOM MODERNIZATION

It has been a priority since the passage of Measure MM to modernize classrooms at every school in the district. This year, many kindergarten through sixth grade classes including special education and STEAM+ spaces received full modernizations. These classroom modernizations look quite different from decades past and increase flexibility and functionality for students and teachers.

NEW AND IMPROVED PLAYGROUNDS

All school playground structures will be dramatically transformed over the next two summers. This exciting project has already begun with the playground replacement at Sycamore Ridge School earlier this year.

DEL MAR HILLS ACADEMY

Planning is underway for the Del Mar Hills Academy modernization! Community meetings were held in Fall 2021, and staff are working with our architects to develop plans for this project.

VISION

Unrelenting pursuit of the extraordinary school experience.

MISSION

To ignite genius and empower students to advance the world.

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