

# the pursuit



of the extraordinary school experience

## A Message From Our Superintendent

Dear DMUSD Families,

Our work across the Del Mar Union School District continues to be guided by our strategic plan, *Destination 2028!* At the heart of this plan are four levers that shape how we serve students every day. This update highlights Lever 2: **Responsive and Caring Culture**, which calls on us to create safe, inclusive learning environments where every student and adult feels valued, supported, and deeply connected. In a world that is increasingly complex and interconnected, this work matters more than ever.



Our schools are places where students learn not only academic skills, but how to understand one another, engage in meaningful dialogue, and lead with empathy. Through this lens, we are intentionally developing students as **Global Citizens**, young people who value diverse perspectives, consider the impact of their choices, and take action to make a positive difference in their communities and beyond. Through collaboration, inquiry, and real-world learning experiences, students discover that their voices have power and their actions matter.

Equally central to this work is our focus on **Emotional Integrity**. Students are learning to recognize and manage emotions, resolve conflict, reflect on mistakes, and build strong, trusting relationships. Through social-emotional learning, restorative practices, and inclusive school cultures, we are helping students grow with confidence, compassion, and purpose. These skills are essential not only for success in school, but for life.

Lever 2 reminds us that meaningful learning flourishes when students feel safe, respected, and known. As a district, we remain deeply committed to nurturing a culture grounded in empathy, belonging, and shared purpose in preparing our students to lead with heart, courage, and responsibility now and into the future.

With gratitude,

Marisa Janicek  
Superintendent



## What Our Students Say About Building a Responsive and Caring Culture

“In Peace Patrol, I am like a mini teacher who helps make sure everyone plays fairly and is kind. I like helping younger kids solve problems and being someone they can go to when they need help. It makes me feel good knowing I am helping others and making our school a kinder place.”  
- Soraya, 4th grade student

“I help encourage understanding by showcasing other people’s beliefs and opinions through creating the student-led newspaper, which our entire school reads. Our student-led team also advocates for what matters to the students and staff at my school by sharing different causes and actions we can take. For example, we showcased the importance of being kind to one another.”  
- Zain, 6th grade student

“I understand my actions and how they can either help stand up for other people or they may hurt someone in a way, and I want to choose the better option. I know that I can use my words to help others or use my verbal language to stop hate.”  
- Beryl, 6th grade student

EMOTIONAL INTEGRITY



GLOBAL CITIZEN



scan for translation  
번역을 위해 스캔하다  
扫描翻译

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# Creating a Strong Community

IN DEL MAR UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT



“Students learn best when they feel known, valued, and respected by both the adults in the school and their peers.”  
*from Cultures of Thinking in Action, by Dr. Ron Ritchhart*



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## DMUSD Earns Highest Ranking in Statewide Assessments

Del Mar Union School District is proud to share outstanding results on the California School Dashboard. DMUSD earned blue, the highest performance color, in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. These results reflect continued academic growth across the district, with increased proficiency in all three content areas. Notably, Students with Disabilities, Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Students, and Hispanic Students demonstrated especially strong gains, highlighting the impact of high-quality instruction, focused supports, and our shared commitment to success for every learner.

English Language Arts



Mathematics



Science

