

the pursuit



of the extraordinary school experience

A Message From Our Superintendent

Dear DMUSD Families,

As we continue our journey with our *Destination 2028* Strategic Plan, we are reminded that preparing students for the future requires both **adaptability** and **depth of knowledge**, two the key competencies outlined in our *Portrait of a Learner*. In a rapidly evolving world, our goal is not only to equip students with skills, but to cultivate thoughtful, curious, and connected learners who can navigate complexity with confidence.



At the heart of this work is a strong belief in human connection. Relationships between students, staff, and families are the foundation of meaningful learning. While technology continues to expand what is possible, we remain intentional in its use, ensuring it enhances learning experiences without replacing the collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking that define a DMUSD education.

Equally important is our partnership with you. Your voice, insights, and engagement are essential as we shape the future of our schools together. When we come together as a community, we create opportunities that are richer, more inclusive, and more responsive to the needs of every learner.

We invite you to join us and be part of the conversation at our next Destination 2028 Team Meeting, where we will reflect on our progress and gather input to guide our next steps.

DESTINATION 2028 TEAM MEETING

Thursday, April 30, 2026

5:30–7:00 PM (Dinner available beginning at 5:00 PM)

Ocean Air School MUR

11444 Canter Heights Drive, San Diego, CA 92130

This is an opportunity to share your voice and help shape our roadmap for the 2026–2027 school year. Dinner and childcare (Grades K–6) will be provided.



PLEASE
RSVP
← HERE

Thank you for your continued partnership and for being an essential part of our learning community. Together, we are building a future where every student thrives.

With gratitude,

Marisa Janicek
Superintendent



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It Takes a Village

PARENT AND GUARDIAN LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

With a strong commitment to parent and guardian engagement, DMUSD continues to prioritize meaningful partnerships between home and school, recognizing their essential role in student success. Throughout the year, DMUSD offered a robust series of learning opportunities designed to provide families with practical tools, shared language, and research-based strategies to support children's growth.

This commitment was reflected in multiple offerings across the Parent and Guardian Engagement Series. In the Shift to Empowerment workshop, school counselors guided families in building children's accountability, agency, and resilience through practical real-world strategies. These include modeling responsibility, allowing natural consequences, and reframing mistakes as opportunities for growth.

The six-week Parenting the Love and Logic Way series, held in January and February, provided practical strategies to reduce power struggles, set clear limits, and teach responsibility while maintaining strong parent-child relationships. It also offered a supportive space for parents to connect, share experiences, and practice techniques they can use right away at home to encourage cooperation and build confidence in their children.

On March 18, morning and evening sessions of Helping Children Build Independence, led by Licensed Educational Psychologist Jenny Ponzuric focused on strengthening executive functioning skills, with strategies such as breaking tasks into manageable steps, using "look, plan, start" routines, and supporting emotional regulation through consistent structures at home.

On April 16, DMUSD welcomes back Cyber Safety Cop Clayton Cranford, returning by popular demand to share updated insights on the rapidly evolving digital landscape and emerging risks facing children. His presentation equips families with practical strategies for proactive, informed parenting, including setting clear boundaries, delaying access to technology, and maintaining open communication. The session reinforces the district's commitment to supporting families in raising responsible, safe, and informed digital citizens.

Watch your student's Wednesday Folder or the DMUSD website for parent and guardian learning opportunities.



scan QR code for upcoming learning and engagement events



Parents and guardians packed the Torrey Hills School MUR in March to learn about executive functioning skills.



What Our Students Say About Using Their Depth of Knowledge

I demonstrate Depth of Knowledge by thinking of new ideas and trying to use these ideas to solve something. This happened when we were learning about measurement, and I started to think about negative numbers to help me. I discovered my strategy worked!
— 3rd grade student

I demonstrate Depth of Knowledge by sharing my ideas and talking with others. I try to explain it in different ways by drawing or showing them.
— 4th grade student

I demonstrate depth of knowledge because I am always trying to apply what I learn to the real world.
— 5th grade student

In sixth grade, we use a lot of knowledge. Everything is connected, for example, math with our stock market project... so many examples I can't even think of them all.
— 6th grade student

MEASURE MM UPDATE

Projects continue to move forward in DMUSD! Del Mar Hills Academy re-opened in August 2025, construction at Carmel Del Mar is set to begin in June 2026, and the Ashley Falls modernization is in the final design and approval stages. In addition, the remainder of K-6 classrooms are scheduled to be modernized to learning studios in summer 2026, completing all K-6 classroom modernizations in every school across the district. Over the past eight years, your Measure MM dollars have impacted every school across the District, modernizing play structures, school sites, and building a central kitchen.



Ribbon cutting day at Del Mar Hills Academy



New Play Structure



Modern Learning Studio



Child Nutrition