

# the pursuit



## A Message From Our Superintendent

Dear DMUSD Families,

**This time last year...** We were just beginning to bring to life our Portrait of a Learner, which identifies the skills, mindsets, and competencies that our students need for success in this rapidly changing world. It's remarkable to reflect on the progress we've made in just one year.

**One year later...** Our Portrait of a Learner competencies are being integrated into everyday learning experiences for students. Our students are collaborating with purpose – listening to diverse perspectives, building on each other's thinking, and engaging in meaningful, authentic work. These moments are not just school experiences; they are life skills in action.

Outside of school, employers are clear: success today depends on more than test scores. While academics are an important part of a high-quality education, it is imperative that we know employers seek problem-solvers, team players, and creative thinkers. We're proud that our students are developing exactly these skills.



Lessons in our DMUSD schools extend beyond teaching content. Our teachers are designing high-quality learning opportunities where students' thinking is made visible, and students build on each other's ideas, working together to solve complex problems. Students are empowered to own their learning, to think deeply, to ask questions, and to make informed choices throughout

their school day. These are competencies that matter in today's world, and even more so in tomorrow's.

### Planning for next year...

As we plan the next steps in our strategic plan implementation, we are looking forward to opening up the conversation to our educational partners again this spring! All parents and community members are invited to participate in our Destination 2028 Team, which will meet once in May and once in September to provide feedback and input to guide our next steps and plan for the 2025-2026 school year.



*Save the date!*

**Meeting 1:** May 8 at 5:30pm – 7:00pm  
(Location: Ocean Air School)

**Meeting 2:** Early September 2025, watch for an email!

Whether you are participating in a districtwide strategic planning meeting, attending our school events, or sharing your ideas in other ways, we thank you for being a part of this supportive community that cares very much about providing a superb educational experience for our students.

Sincerely,

*Holly McClurg*

Holly McClurg, PhD  
Superintendent

Our work as a District is anchored by these priority areas:



scan for translation  
번역을 위해 스캔하다  
扫描翻译

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## What Our Students Say About Being a Global Citizen



“A Global Citizen is someone that thinks differently, analyzes both sides of an argument, asks questions, listens, is considerate, and curious.”

— Sierra, 3rd grade student

“You can be a Global Citizen inside and outside of school by smiling and helping others who are in need because those two things can make someone’s day.”

— Reyna, 3rd grade student

“It means being nice to people who are from all different cultures and speak other languages.”

— Urmila, 2nd grade SLIP student

“To me, being a Global Citizen means respecting everyone and doing the right thing even when no one is watching.”

— Colette, 5th grade student



### OPPORTUNITIES FOR THINKING

When we design meaningful experiences for students, we pave the way for deeper thinking, which by extension opens the door to meaningful learning.

## MEASURE MM UPDATE — YOUR BOND DOLLARS AT WORK!



Facilities improvements continue to occur at every school in DMUSD. We have larger projects in various stages at multiple sites, including the Del Mar Hills Academy Modernization Project which is nearing completion, the Carmel Del Mar School Modernization which is in the planning stages, and the Ashley Falls School Modernization which will begin planning shortly. Classrooms are modernized at every school site in the district each year, with 34 modernized last summer and another 33 planned for the summer of 2025. Your Measure MM dollars are impacting classrooms,



playgrounds, and entire school sites, benefiting students at every school across the district.

**34** modernized learning spaces\*



**2** playgrounds replaced\*

\*this school year



Architect's Rendering of Del Mar Hills Academy

**August '25**

re-opening to students

## Partnering for Student Success:

### DMUSD'S COMMITMENT TO PARENT ENGAGEMENT

DMUSD recognizes the vital partnership with parents in every child's educational journey. Throughout the 2024-25 school year, we've hosted impactful parent education events designed to promote collaboration and equip families with valuable insights. From understanding the importance of unplugged quality time, presented by DMUSD counselors, to navigating the digital landscape with Cyber Safety Cop Clayton Cranford, these sessions have provided practical strategies for supporting student growth.

Parents also engaged in learning opportunities aimed at supporting and empowering their understanding of their children's diverse needs. Events such as Sensory Regulation, Honoring Neurodiversity, and Understanding Behavior offered valuable insights and practical tools. Together, we are building a supportive community where every child thrives.

Join us for the next Parent/Guardian learning event at Sage Canyon School on May 13 where our school counselors will share how play shapes young minds and builds emotional strength, resilience, and connection.

