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Del Mar Union School District opens applications for community friends in Inclusive Preschool Program



The Del Mar Union School District offices. (Karen Billing)



By **NEWS RELEASE**

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Families interested in providing their child with a unique and enriching preschool experience are encouraged to apply for the Community Friends Early Childhood Inclusion Program in the Del Mar Union School District (DMUSD). The program brings children with and without disabilities together in a supportive, play-based learning environment where all students grow and learn side by side, according to a news release.

Community Friends serve as peer models and play an important role in supporting their classmates' learning and social development. Through daily interaction and collaborative play, children build friendships while strengthening communication and social skills. Community Friends also benefit from a high quality early childhood learning experience that encourages empathy, confidence, and leadership.

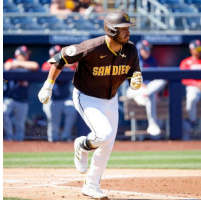
"One of the most special aspects of this program is watching children naturally support and learn from each other," said Leslie Montoro, DMUSD's executive director of Student Services, in the news release. "Students build friendships, strengthen communication skills, and develop empathy while learning together in a supportive classroom environment."

The program is free of charge and open to children ages 3 to 4 years old who are fully toilet trained and demonstrate age appropriate communication and self-help skills. Eligible children must reside within Del Mar Union School District boundaries, Cardiff, or Rancho Santa Fe, or be the child of a district employee.

Applications are due by April 30, 2026. All eligible applicants will participate in a screening process to help ensure a positive and enriching experience for every child in the classroom, the news release stated.

For more information or to apply, contact Kelly Brady at kbrady@dmusd.org.

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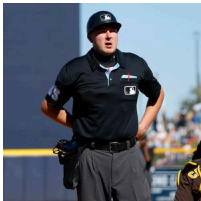
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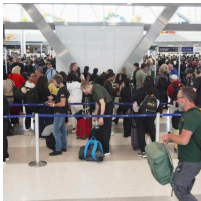
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