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Del Mar Union School District honors 'Student Standouts' for exceptional achievement



Some of Del Mar Union School District's Student Standouts for the 2025–2026 school year. These awards are part of the 2025–2026 ACSA Student Standouts for the Greater San Dieguito ACSA Chapter. (Courtesy of DMUSD)



By **NEWS RELEASE**

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Del Mar Union School District (DMUSD) recently recognized its Student Standouts for the 2025–2026 school year during a district-wide celebration held on May 27 at Ocean Air School. These awards are part of the 2025–2026 ACSA Student Standouts for the Greater San Dieguito ACSA Chapter, a program of the Association of California School Administrators. Students from each of DMUSD’s nine schools were honored for their exceptional achievements and contributions, exemplifying the values that inspire the district’s learning community, according to a news release.

The Student Standout Award celebrates students who demonstrate excellence across multiple categories, including Arts, Courage, Community Service, Fellowship, Humanities, and Science. Each honoree was selected for their outstanding character, leadership, creativity, perseverance, and commitment to making a positive impact on others.

“These Student Standouts each bring unique talents and compassion to their school communities,” said Marisa Janicek, DMUSD superintendent, in the news release. “We are proud to recognize the positive impact they make through their creativity, leadership, perseverance, and care for others. Their contributions help strengthen the sense of connection and belonging across our schools.”

This year’s standouts each brought unique strengths and inspiring qualities to their campuses, the news release stated.

Leonardo DeGrand from Ashley Falls School received the Fellowship Award for his genuine kindness, calming presence, and ability to inspire others through collaboration and perseverance.

Avissa Witzens of Carmel Del Mar School earned the Arts and Community Service Awards for her talents as a singer-songwriter and performer, as well as her dedication to serving San Diego’s homeless community.

Shay Seaman from Del Mar Heights School was recognized with the Fellowship Award for her inclusive mindset, resilience, and commitment to uplifting the voices of others.

Willa Burg of Del Mar Hills Academy received the Arts Award for her exceptional musical and performance talents, along with the compassion and kindness she brings to her school community.

Kyle Feldman from Ocean Air School earned the Fellowship Award for his natural leadership, fairness, and commitment to helping others feel included and supported.

Valen Vazquez of Pacific Sky School was honored with the Fellowship Award for his infectious positivity, enthusiasm for learning, and ability to create a sense of belonging wherever he goes.

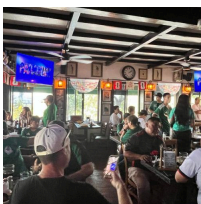
Wanyi Huang from Sage Canyon School received the Arts Award for her extraordinary talent in writing and her thoughtful contributions as a supportive member of the classroom community.

Eira P. of Sycamore Ridge School earned the Fellowship, Arts, and Sciences Awards for her compassionate leadership among peers, gifted writing abilities, and advanced achievements in mathematics and science.

Finally, Gia Manganiello from Torrey Hills School was recognized with the Fellowship Award for her optimism, leadership, and dedication to making every student feel included and valued.

This celebration not only honored the individual recipients but also highlighted DMUSD's commitment to nurturing compassionate, innovative, and engaged learners. The students were also recognized during the May 27 Board of Trustees meeting in celebration of their accomplishments and the positive impact they have made throughout the district, the news release stated.

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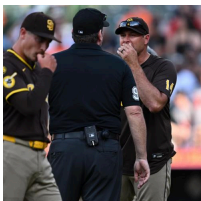
One of San Diego's oldest restaurants will close later this month

Monday, June 15



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Monday, June 15



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Monday, June 15



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Monday, June 15



Padres blanked in complete game by Cardinals' Dustin May

Monday, June 15



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Saturday, June 13



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Monday, June 15



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Saturday, June 13

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