Del Mar Heights School
Family Handbook
2021-2022

Del Mar Heights
• SCHOOL •

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Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year!

Dear Del Mar Heights Families,

Building upon our tradition of over fifty years of educational excellence, Del Mar Heights School is proud of our deep history within the community while exuberantly embracing the potential of moving into a new school year filled with the excitement of new beginnings, new experiences, and new opportunities to learn and grow.

Del Mar Heights is committed to providing a nurturing and inspiring educational program for all students. It is our goal that each student realizes his or her potential through our challenging academic program. In addition, we want each child to develop the skills they will need to be successful in the 21st century – effective communication, critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and character.

The purpose of this Handbook is to assist our families with important information regarding school policies, procedures, and the mutual understandings we need to ensure this is an enjoyable, productive school year. Your understanding and support of this information helps us to establish a learning environment that is respectful, conducive to learning, and ensures the safety and welfare of all students.

Please keep this handbook and review the guidelines with your child as discussions about school arise throughout the school year.

We appreciate your support and involvement as we work together to fulfill the promise of our school's Mission: *We will provide a dynamic academic environment that ignites and unites the passions of its community to deliver a world class learning experience for every child.*

Warmly,

Jason Soileau, Principal

DEL MAR HEIGHTS SCHOOL HOURS

FRONT OFFICE HOURS
7:30AM - 3:30PM

First Grade - Sixth Grade Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8:00 am - 2:30 pm

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri
7:45 Beginning of supervision of campus
7:58 Warning Bell
8:00 Start of School Bell

11:30 Start of Lunch Bell
11:52 Transition Bell
12:15 End of Lunch Bell
2:30 Dismissal

Wednesday
8:00 am - 12:30 pm

7:45 Beginning of supervision of campus
7:58 Warning Bell
8:00 Start of School Bell

11:30 Start of Lunch Bell
11:45 Transition Bell
12:00 End of Lunch
12:30 Dismissal

Kindergarten Schedule

August 16th - September 24th

8:00 am - 12:40 pm	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8:00 am - 12:30 pm	Wednesday

September 27th - June 3rd

8:00 am - 2:30 pm	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8:00 am - 12:30 pm	Wednesday

After September 24th: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

8:00 am - 2:30 pm

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri

7:45 Beginning of supervision of campus
7:58 Warning Bell
8:00 Start of School Bell

11:30 Start of Lunch Bell
11:52 Transition Bell
12:15 End of Lunch Bell
2:30 Dismissal

Wednesday

8:00 am - 12:30 pm

7:45 Beginning of supervision of campus
7:58 Warning Bell
8:00 Start of School Bell

11:30 Start of Lunch Bell
11:45 Transition Bell
12:00 End of Lunch
12:30 Dismissal

May 31 - June 3, 2022 - All Students

8:00 am - 2:30 pm	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
8:00 am - 12:30 pm	Thursday, June 3 (Last Day of School)

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Parent-Teacher Conference Weeks – November 15-19, 2021 and March 7-11, 2022
The District sets aside two weeks each school year for parent-teacher conferences. To provide quality time for parents to meet with teachers, a minimum day schedule is followed every day during these two weeks of the school year (see the minimum day schedule above).

Smarter Balanced Assessment Testing Window – Dates to be determined (May 2022)
This year we will participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) exams, which are a part of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) assessment system. Our 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade students will participate in these assessments for English Language Arts and Math. In addition, 5th grade will take a Science Test.

2021-2022 School Holidays: There will be no school during the following holidays/breaks.

September 6, 2021	Labor Day
November 11, 2021	Veterans Day
November 22, 2021 - November 26, 2022	Thanksgiving Break
December 24, 2021 – January 7, 2022	Winter Break
January 17, 2022	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 21, 2022 & February 22, 2022	Presidents' Days
February 23, 2022	In Lieu of Admission Day
February 24, 2022 & February 25, 2022	Local Release Days
April 4, 2022 – April 8, 2022	Spring Break
May 30, 2022	Memorial Day

Del Mar

• UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT •

District Design 2022

Our Vision:

Unrelenting pursuit of the extraordinary school experience.

Our Mission:

To ignite genius and empower students to advance the world.

Belief Statement:

We must seize opportunities to revolutionize the traditional school system to better prepare today's students. A wise investment in time and resources will radically change and improve the school experience.

We believe:

The school experience is built upon a strong academic foundation within a safe, secure environment.

In the joy of learning.

In student choice and ownership of learning.

In the genius of each child.

In developing integrity, compassion, and empathy.

In empowering students to be thinkers and change makers.

In the power of curiosity.

In the power of team.

In taking risks and not settling.

Our students, as engaged citizens, will positively impact their community and the world.

DEL MAR HEIGHTS COMMITMENT

Our commitment is to educate our children for the future and forge a path for tomorrow's innovative, global thinkers. The information contained in this Family Handbook is the glue that binds us together to achieve our comprehensive educational program based on 21st Century learning skills. Your support and participation ensures that each child grows as a:

- ***Self-Directed Learner***: the ability to be responsible for one's own learning
- ***Community Contributor***: the understanding that it is essential for human beings to work together
- ***Complex Thinker***: the ability to demonstrate critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- ***Quality Producer***: the ability to recognize and produce quality performances and products
- ***Effective Communicator***: the ability to communicate effectively
- ***Effective and Ethical User of Resources***, including technology

ATTENDANCE

Because of the way we teach in today's classroom, it is difficult to replicate the teaching and learning that your child misses when s/he is absent from school. In an effort for your child to make consistent progress it is essential your child come to school and be on time to achieve his/her learning goals.

Students should arrive at school between 7:45-8:00 a.m. *Please plan to arrive on campus at no later than 7:50 a.m.* This sets your child up for success to directly walk to their classroom and be ready to start their day promptly at 8:00 a.m. If your child arrives after 8:00 a.m., he/she is required to check in at the office and receive a tardy slip to be given to the teacher. After checking in at the office, your child will be expected to enter the classroom quickly and quietly to join the learning that is already taking place. Your child may be expected to make up any missed learning.

If your child is absent from school, a phone call is required to the school office via the absence line at 858.755.9367 or report the absence through our website under *Quick Links* and click on *Report an Absence*. Leave your child's name, teacher's name, your relationship to the child, and reason for the absence. This is one of the ways we can ensure that your child is safe. Please note - calling in an absence does not make it an excused absence.

If a student needs to leave the school campus for an appointment, please have the adult come into the office, bring your ID, and sign them out. Remember to wear your mask. We encourage parents to utilize the afternoon (after 1:30 pm) to make doctor and/or dental appointments. **We can only release students to adults listed on the Student Emergency Card who have a valid ID with them.**

Daily Home Health Screening of Children.

Each parent/guardian agrees to screen his/her child(ren) for COVID-19 before bring them to to school each day. Specifically, each parent/guardian agrees to do all of the following:

- Parent/Guardian shall screen child(ren) for any of the following symptoms associated with COVID-19: dry cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, or a new rash. Parent/Guardian agrees that if child(ren) presents with any of these symptoms, Parent/Guardian will not send child(ren) to school.

- Parent/Guardian agrees that if child(ren) has a fever of more than 100 degrees, Parent/Guardian will not send child(ren) to school. Parent/Guardian further understands and agrees that his/her child(ren) will not be sent to school if child(ren) has been administered medication for the purpose of reducing a fever within the last 24 hours.

- In the event child(ren) has been exposed to anyone who has tested positive or are presumed positive for COVID-19 in the last two weeks, Parent/Guardian will not send child(ren) to school. Parent/Guardian shall notify the District that the student has been kept home for this reason. Parent/Guardian understands that his/her child(ren) will not be able to return to school until permitted by the District in compliance with direction from the San Diego Health & Human Services Agency and the San Diego Public Health Order.

Health Screenings at School. Parent/Guardian understands and agrees that all students will be monitored throughout the day for signs or symptoms of COVID-19. Any student exhibiting symptoms of illness throughout the day will be sent home.

VACATION/TRAVEL ABSENCES

The Del Mar Union School District recognizes regular school attendance plays a key role in student achievement. California Education Code 48200 calls for each child between the ages of 6 and 18 to be subject to compulsory full-time education. Although exemptions to compulsory attendance may be granted in rare circumstances, as allowed by law, it is the responsibility of the District to ensure that students attend school regularly.

In this effort, the District affirms compliance with compulsory attendance laws by providing this information on accountability practices for student attendance. All schools within the Del Mar Union School District will participate in consistent monitoring of student attendance. The student information system has been programmed to generate attendance letters for individual students at prescribed intervals.

After three (3) *unexcused* days of absence, unresolved absences, or unexcused tardies of more than 30 minutes, a letter will be sent to the home to make families aware of the attendance problem. After four (4) unexcused days of absences, unresolved absences, or unexcused tardies of more than 30 minutes, a second letter will be sent to the home asking parents to attend a School Attendance Review Team (SART) meeting at the school. After five (5) unexcused absences, unresolved absences, or unexcused tardies of more than 30 minutes, a third letter will be sent home informing parents that the student will be referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB). A student may have several consecutive unexcused days that constitute one absence. For this reason, all students will be afforded the three-letter process, regardless of the actual number of unexcused days of absences. This will ensure each student maximum opportunity to correct problematic patterns of attendance.

It is important to note that, according to Board Policy 5113, absences due to travel and/or vacation are unexcused unless a short-term independent study contract is in place. Absences due to travel and/or vacation have potential to negatively impact your student's attendance record, and could result in a referral to the School Attendance Review Team (SART) or the School Attendance Review Board (SARB). While vacations are always unexcused, justifiable personal reasons that necessitate travel should be discussed with the school Principal in order that an appropriate determination can be made.

Short term independent study is available to students who will be out of school for travel for between five and twenty school days. Parents/guardians of students who are interested in independent study should contact the Principal at least five days before the

first absence due to travel. All student work related to an independent study contract should be turned in on the day the student returns to school.

It is the Del Mar Union School Board policy that missed schoolwork and homework will not be provided before an unexcused absence. Upon returning from vacation, the student has a predetermined amount of time to complete the missed work. For example, if a student is absent for 10 days, the student has 10 days to complete and return that work.

TRANSPORTATION

The safety of all our students is our highest priority at Del Mar Heights. Because of the high traffic that comes in and out of our school twice daily, we have designated procedures to accommodate and promote the smooth flow of traffic. We need all families to help and support the safety of all students and assist our school in being a good neighbor in our residential community.

DROP-OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES

- Drivers may not use a hand-held cell phone at any time while driving in the school parking lot.
- Drivers should remain in the car. If drivers plan to get out, cars must be parked in a marked stall or on the street. Do not park along the red curb in front of the school.
- Remain in one lane, single-file at the curb when unloading in the drop-off areas in front of the school. Please be respectful and follow the instructions of the staff assisting so that the traffic flows.
- Dogs of any size are not allowed on campus.

Before School: (7:45 a.m- 8:00 am.)

- Students will enter through designated gates and go directly to their classroom.
- Parents/Guardians are not allowed to enter campus and will say goodbye to their children at school entrances.
- Have your child's backpack next to them so that they can exit the car quickly. Do not place materials in the trunk or wait to pull up to the front of the line if you need more time for your child to exit the car.
- Masks are optional outdoors.
- Once they enter their classroom, students must wear a mask.

Afternoon Pick-up:

- Parents may not enter campus at the end of the day.

- Students may be picked up after school in the drive-through loop or at the school's front gates.
- Parents should leave campus prompt later reuniting with their children.
- As many of our students and families walk to and from home, please be mindful of your speed and drive safely in and around our neighborhood.

Bicycle, Scooters, Skateboards, and Zucas

- Independent bicycle & scooter riding is only allowed for 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students. Younger students should ride with their parents to and from school.
- **Riders are required by state law to wear safety helmets.**
- Bicycles, scooters, and skateboards must be walked when on school grounds.
- Bicycles can be locked to the bike racks.
- Riding in a safe manner will ensure that your privileges are not lost.

SCHOOL CLIMATE

The Del Mar Heights School climate provides a structure to support a calm and safe school environment while helping children develop self-discipline, strong character, and a sense of responsibility.

COMMUNICATION

Our school is committed to a learning environment that fosters mutual respect among district staff, parents, and students. Communication between parents and staff is encouraged to enhance each child's opportunity to achieve to the highest possible level. In an effort to be productive partners in educating our students, our schools insist on positive communication and discourage communication that could have a negative impact on the learning environment. (Board Policy 1250.1)

The Del Mar Heights staff is committed to respond to email, phone calls, and other written communication from parents in a timely manner. During the school day, the priority of our teachers is to instruct students in the classroom; therefore, they are unable to respond to email and phone messages. If there is an emergency, please contact the front office.

Communication is managed through cooperation between our office, teachers, and our PTA. We are fortunate to have several tools to facilitate communication. The following is a description of the tools and how we use them to provide information at our school.

Website

Our https://delmarheights.dmusd.org/ provides important information about various aspects of our school including timely announcements, events, as well as policies and procedures at our school. Click on the Class Pages or Steam+ tab to find information about team members and classes. There are also links to individual Google Sites for each Teacher, which include a teacher bio, contact information, and links to digital tools your child may need. Click on the PeachJar icon for all community flyers.

Catapult Connect Messages

The Catapult Connect system is an automated system, which allows us to send out information to all of our families via telephone and email. This system is how our weekly Family Newsletter is sent out which includes important school events, as well as information from the PTA and DMSEF. It is critical that current phone numbers and email addresses are provided to our office to ensure families receive information sent out via this tool. In addition, this system is used periodically to provide timely reminders about upcoming meetings, activities as well as important information from both our site and from the District. This is also the system we will use in the event of an emergency, which is another important reason to ensure we have updated contact information. To ensure that you receive important updates from the school and district, please whitelist the domain @catapult-connect.com in your email account.

Social Media

Stay up to date on the learning occurring and the events happening at school by following us:

- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/hts_dolphins/
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/HTS_Dolphins
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/DMHeightsDolphins/

PTA News

Please visit our PTA website, http://www.delmarheightspta.com/, which provides information on school related functions supported by our wonderful parent organization. Sign up to receive their email updates and check out their Facebook page for more information as well.

Room Parent Emails

Our room parents will be requesting access to parent emails in order to send out important information regarding classroom specific information. Some emails will also include information about specific class requests for school-wide functions or reminders.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

To help students develop a range of skills they need for school and life, we use the research based curriculum *Second Step.*

Students engage in weekly learning through a comprehensive, research-based social-emotional program called *Second Step*. The Second Step program for Kindergarten through Sixth grade is a universal, classroom-based curriculum designed to increase students' school success and decrease behaviors by promoting social-emotional competence and self-regulation. It teaches skills that strengthen students' ability to learn, have empathy, manage emotions, and solve problems. Using Second Step skills creates a safer, more respectful learning environment that promotes school success for all.

In grades Kindergarten through Fifth Grade, the Second Step program teaches skills in the following four areas:

1. Skills for Learning
2. Empathy
3. Emotion Management
4. Problem Solving

The Second Step program in Sixth Grade teaches skills in the following four areas:

1. Empathy and Communication
2. Bullying Prevention
3. Emotion Management
4. Problem Solving

Classroom lessons, assemblies, and presentations for parents allow us to create a positive school community where we have a common language and are a team in helping our students become positive, effective, and collaborative global citizens.

DEL MAR HEIGHTS DISCIPLINE PLAN

Our school-wide discipline plan provides a structure to support a safe school environment while helping children develop self-discipline, strong character, and a sense of responsibility.

The primary goals are to:

- Establish a calm, safe, and fun learning environment
- Foster our students' development of empathy
- Teach children to think and act in socially responsible ways
- Promote respectful, kind and healthy student-teacher and student-student interactions • Have students recognize themselves as part of a team
- Help children develop self-control and self-discipline

Our approach is to help children become aware of how their actions affect themselves and others. We do our best to ensure students receive positive reinforcement throughout each day. We know and recognize that everyone makes mistakes from time to time. Our expectation is that students' responses to mistakes positively impact their behavioral growth over time. At Del Mar Heights we utilize four types of logical consequences:

- ***Reminder or redirection*** - If a child is acting inappropriately, staff will give a verbal or nonverbal reminder or redirection.
- ***"Take a break"*** - If a child is getting frustrated, angry, overwhelmed, or upset, s/he will be given an opportunity to take a break. A staff member will ask the child to "take a break" or the child may voluntarily "take a break". If appropriate, students will be asked to reflect on his/her behaviors.
- ***Loss of privilege*** - If a child continues to not abide by school agreements, s/he may lose a privilege. Loss of privilege could include removal from class, playground activities, and/or special events. Depending on the severity of the behavior the Del Mar Heights staff and administration may determine an alternative yet appropriate and logical consequence.
- ***Make it right*** - If a child continues to be disruptive, hurts another's feelings, or damages something, she/he will be expected to repair the damage. Some examples of reparative action include; sincere written and verbal apologies, helping with an activity, replacing damaged items, or an alternative apology of action as determined by the student and staff.

The purpose of any discipline plan is to assist students in learning to make better choices and thereby changing their behaviors. The following is our progressive plan to provide students with multiple opportunities to make good choices.

- **Warning/Redirection** – Students are counselled and coached by staff members and given an opportunity to demonstrate appropriate behavior.
- **Student Reflection Form** – Students are issued a reflection form so that they reflect

on their choice and discuss with a staff member to learn from this moment.

- **Principal Referral** – Principal will make personal contact with parents. At this discipline level, consequences may involve loss of privileges, apologizing and making it right, or suspension (depending on the circumstance).

While we hope all problems can be resolved using the logical consequences and progressive discipline, there are some behaviors that may require immediate referral to administration. Examples include:

- Harassment and bullying
- Physical/ Verbal aggression
- Dangerous defiance
- Possession of drugs, alcohol, cigarettes or weapons

Our ultimate goal is to provide a safe, nurturing environment where students learn and grow from their choices and are contributing and supportive members of the Del Mar Heights Community.

ANTI-BULLYING

The District will not tolerate bullying as defined in Board Policy 5131.2, or any behavior that infringes on the safety or well-being of students, staff, or any other persons within the District's jurisdiction, whether directed at an individual or group. This includes, but is not limited to, discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying based on disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

Reports of bullying should be reported to the classroom teacher, or principal, as soon as possible.

"Bullying" means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act of conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including one or more acts committed by a pupil or group of pupils as directed toward one or more pupils that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

(a) Placing a reasonable pupil or pupils in fear of harm to that pupil's or those pupils' person or property.

(b) Causing a reasonable pupil to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.

(c) Causing a reasonable pupil to experience substantial interference with his or

her academic performance.

(d) Causing a reasonable pupil to experience substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

"Electronic act" means the transmission of a communication, including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound, or image, or a post on a social network Internet Website, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager.

"Reasonable pupil" means a pupil, including, but not limited to, an exceptional needs pupil, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age, or for a person of his or her age with his or her exceptional needs.

"Cyberbullying" includes the transmission of communications, posting of harassing messages, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images on the Internet, social networking sites, or other digital technologies using a telephone, computer, or any wireless communication device, camera, computer, or pager. Cyberbullying also includes breaking into another person's electronic account and assuming that person's identity in order to damage that person's reputation.

EXPECTED BEHAVIORS

LUNCH/STUDENT PLAYGROUND STANDARDS

The purpose of the playground standards is to create an environment that encourages students to interact in a respectful and positive manner. The parameters of all activities chosen by students must support this positive environment. These standards will provide the guidelines for students to support one another, resolve their own conflicts, and assist in creating their own physically and emotionally safe environment.

- I will eat and play in my class' designated zones.
- I will participate in all activities in a respectful and safe manner.
- I will use playground equipment in a safe and respectful manner.
- I will use respectful language and speak honestly and kindly.
- When I use the bathroom, I will wash my hands before returning to class or playground.
- When the bell rings I will stop playing, return all equipment, and walk back to class.

DRESS CODE

The purpose of a school-wide dress code is to establish a school environment that supports a productive work atmosphere, which supports students' learning and reflects the values of our greater school community. Please take time to review our school's Dress Code with your children. The following items of clothing/accessories are considered inappropriate and/or disruptive to the educational process, and are therefore **NOT** allowed:

- Clothing advertising alcohol or containing disrespectful words, signs or symbols
- Clothing that exposes the midriff or undergarments
- Clothing and/or accessories that are distracting to the learning process

In order to participate in sports and recess activities, footwear that provides adequate protection is to be worn at all times. Tennis shoes or sneakers are recommended. Sandals must have heel straps. Flip-flops or shoes with wheels are not acceptable footwear for school.

Students wearing inappropriate clothing may be asked to go to the office, call their parents, and have alternate clothing brought from home.

TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT

Our schools are state of the art facilities with many opportunities for students to use computers and technology equipment. All students must follow district guidelines and demonstrate digital citizenship while using technology. Violations may result in a loss of privileges.

CELL PHONE GUIDELINES

We realize some parents may choose to have their child carry a cell phone to school for before/after school communication. Cell phones are expected to be put away and remain off during the school day. Cell phone texting, video recordings, and picture taking during the school day are prohibited. Cell phones that are out and/or on may be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the day. If your child needs to communicate with you during the school day, they will be given access to a school phone at an appropriate time.

DROPPING OFF ITEMS FOR YOUR STUDENT

If you need to drop off a lunch, snack, eyeglasses, clothing, books, etc. for your student, please come into the school office and leave it on the bookshelf for them to pick up. Please put the child's name and teacher on the item. Please remind your child to go check

the office for their item, or if they do not have lunch or a snack. The school office will do their best to make sure students get their items.

LOST AND FOUND

If something is found, it will be placed in the lost and found. Small or valuable items may be turned into the office. Sometimes it takes a few days for items to reach the lost and found bin from various areas of campus. If items are not claimed after they have been displayed on tables for a few days, they will be donated to charity.

SCHOOL SAFETY

DISTRICT VISITATION POLICY

The safety of all children is of paramount importance. Parent/Guardian understands that due to the current public health emergency, nonessential visitors will not be permitted to be on campus.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Your child's safety is of the utmost importance at Del Mar Heights Because student safety is our number one concern, the Del Mar Union School District works closely with the San Diego County Office of Education, the San Diego Office of Emergency Services, and the San Diego Sheriff's Department to develop, strengthen, and align school safety plans with the National Incident Management System. Throughout the year, we will be practicing different drills so in case of emergency all students, staff, and visitors have clear expectations of what to do in different situations.

GATES

In order to maintain a safe and secure school site environment and to address related concerns of the community, all gates at the Del Mar Union School District schools will be locked throughout the school day. Please use the main office as your point of entry and exit when school is in session.

DOG POLICY ON CAMPUS

Dogs are not allowed on school grounds. This is a district wide policy for the safety of students, parents, and other campus visitors. Therefore, if families are including a dog walk at the same time they are picking up or dropping off their child, we request that you meet or say goodbye to your child on the sidewalk thereby not bringing the dog on campus. Thank you for your willingness to ensure student safety.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

The DMUSD's educational program is a child-centered program based on the unique needs of each student. To ensure that the needs of our students are met, a goal of the DMUSD program is to provide meaningful, rigorous learning opportunities commensurate with the qualities and potential of each student. The DMUSD educational program incorporates practices for all learners with these identified outcomes:

- Determine the potential of each student.
- Provide learning opportunities commensurate with the qualities of advanced students.
- Offer rigorous, stimulating learning environments.
- Assist in cultivating self-generating problem solving abilities.
- Foster healthy self-concepts.
- Develop communication skills.
- Develop the skills involved in productive interpersonal relationships and positive leadership.

We know that every student needs an experience that challenges him/her and takes into consideration individual learning styles and special abilities. Multiple measures are used to determine a students' aptitude, including district assessments and performance tasks, standardized test results, formative classroom assessments, and daily classroom work. We are committed to providing differentiated learning experiences that correspond with the student's particular abilities and talents.

The ongoing professional development provided for our district's teachers on the use of effective instructional skills is a top priority as DMUSD pursues the highest quality of instructional practices.

STEAM+

Our STEAM+ education program is taught by credentialed teachers who specialize in specific areas, like Visual and Performing Arts, Science, etc. Our STEAM+ specialists work together with classroom teachers to enhance the core curriculum and provide students with opportunities to learn through exploration, experimentation, and creativity. Through STEAM+, students develop problem-solving skills, teamwork, and gain exposure to the fine arts above and beyond the classroom experience.

STANDARDS BASED REPORT CARD

The Del Mar Union School District standards-based report card is designed to provide

detailed feedback to parents and students about progress towards specific content indicators at each grade level. With this understanding, parents are able to guide and support their child helping him/her to be successful in our rigorous academic program. Teachers use both quantitative and qualitative measures to inform student progress. Report cards are distributed at the close of each trimester.

HOMEWORK

Our District recognizes current research showing that the benefits of homework are age dependent. The Board further recognizes that for elementary-aged students, research suggests that, in contrast to homework consisting of worksheets and activities loosely related to student learning, reading at home has significant benefits, including promoting a love of school and an interest in learning. The Board recognizes the importance of after-school time for developing positive attitudes toward school, participating in extracurricular activities, and fostering healthy personal and family relationships.

Homework assignments shall be meaningful and focused on current student learning, reasonable in length and appropriate to the grade level and course. Teachers shall assign homework only as necessary to fulfill academic goals and reinforce current instruction. Age-appropriate instruction may be given to help students allocate their time wisely, meet their deadlines, and develop good personal study habits.

Although it is the student's responsibility to undertake assignments independently, parents/guardians may serve as a resource and are encouraged to ensure that their child's homework assignments are completed.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

We are particularly proud of our productive relationship with our dynamic and involved parental community. So many great aspects of our school rely on the continued support of our parents. There is no doubt that our school is thriving because of parental commitment and involvement. A school is as strong as the partnerships between its community of parents, staff and students. Please pursue whatever level of involvement that you can; opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- School Site Council (SSC)
- Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- Del Mar Schools Education Foundation (DMSEF)
- Del Mar English Language Advisory Committee (DELAC)

Our school staff looks forward to working with parents/guardians to develop meaningful opportunities for students and to be involved in district and school activities; advisory, decision-making, and advocacy roles; and activities to support learning at home.

MEDICATIONS AND HEALTH INFORMATION

Students may not bring any medication of any kind to school. This includes over the counter medications (i.e., cough drops, Tylenol, Motrin, etc.). All medications must be turned into the school office. Any medication to be given to students during school hours must be accompanied by a Physician's Statement form along with directions for the administration of the medication. These forms are available in the Health Office.

There is a first aid kit in each classroom. Students may use it under adult supervision to take care of small cuts and scrapes. Students may also receive care at the Health office if he or she is hurt or sick during class or on the playground. Students must get permission from an adult to go to the Health Office.

If the use of crutches is required, or limited activity is recommended during the school day, a physician's note is needed. The note must indicate the period for which crutches are to be used as well as any other requirements pertaining to the school setting.

Healthy Hygiene

Students will follow established routines for hand washing throughout the day. Hand sanitizer and/or hand washing will be used every time students enter/exit the classroom, before/after eating, and before/after playing.

Face Coverings

All students are required to wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccine status. All adults are required to wear masks when children are present indoors on school campuses. Masks are optional outdoors.

COVID-19 Symptoms at School

The District adheres to the health and safety protocols established by the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) when determining how to respond to the illness of a student. Any child who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will be required to follow the HHSA's protocol for return to school.

NUTRITION AND WELLNESS

The Del Mar Union School District is required by state law to have in place a Student Wellness Policy (Board Policy 3550 and AR5030). The state law was passed to address Californian's concerns about childhood obesity, which is linked to poor food choices and lack of exercise. Recognizing the link between student health and learning:

- Students will be seated for a minimum of 15 minutes to eat lunch.
- Students will be asked not to share food/beverages.
- All food made available by the district will follow all nutritional guidelines.
- School fundraising activities either will not involve food or will use only foods that meet the nutrition and portion size.
- Snacks served during the school day will emphasize fruits, vegetables and water.
- Celebrations that involve food (including student birthdays) during the school day are limited to no more than one per class per month. Each occasion may include no more than one food or beverage that does not meet nutrition standards.
- Food served as part of instructional activities (science, cooking class, math activities) will offer healthy choices.

Please be reminded that the District's Wellness Policy also includes the following requirements for food brought on campus for students:

- All food brought on campus by parents, teachers, or staff for students should be store bought, prepared and individually wrapped, including a listing of the ingredients. No home cooked foods should be served on campus to students in order to minimize the risk of allergic reactions and foodborne illness. This does not include individual student lunches.

LICE

Any time children come together. head lice can occur. Head lice do not spread disease and are not a serious medical condition, but they are a nuisance. Please contact the office in the event lice are found so we can follow-up appropriately at school. If a student is found to have head lice or nits less than ¼ inch from the scalp while at school, parents will be contacted and the child will be sent home to be treated. The student may return 24 hours after treatment to be rechecked in the Health Office for active head lice, or nits closer than ¼ inch to the scalp before returning to class. If it is determined that the student remains infested with head lice, school staff will contact the student's parent/guardian to discuss treatment. The student shall be allowed to return to school when no active head lice, or nits closer than ¼ inch to the scalp, are found. To help prevent cases of lice, please speak with your child about not sharing personal items such as hairbrushes, combs, and hats. If your child has long hair, wearing it in a ponytail is a good idea.

If your child has lice:

Please spend time removing nits manually. Nits are very small. It can take quite a bit of time to fully check through a child's hair to ensure they are all removed, sometimes even several hours with children who have longer hair. It is time well spent, as this is the best way to reduce the chance of additional juvenile lice hatching following treatment. Nits may not all be killed by an initial treatment. Therefore, it is important to follow the directions and follow up with a second treatment if directions indicate to do so. Addressing the home environment will also help stop reoccurrences. Washing clothing and bedding in hot water and drying on a hot cycle for at least 20 minutes works best. Seal items such as pillows and stuffed animals in a plastic bag for two weeks to kill lice. Boil combs, brushes, hair bands, and barrettes in water for five minutes, or soak them in rubbing alcohol or Lysol for one hour. Also, be sure to vacuum carpets and furniture.

PEANUT/NUT AWARE DISTRICT

The Del Mar Union School District is a peanut/nut aware district, so we do not restrict students from bringing foods that include peanuts or nuts. Students are also not allowed to share food at lunch. In addition, classrooms with students with severe nut allergies are labeled Peanut-Free Classrooms. Thank you for supporting and respecting the health and well being of all students!

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Choice Lunch will provide National School Lunch Program services to DMUSD students during the 2021-2022 school year. For more information about the lunch program and to access monthly lunch menus, please go to the DMUSD website home page and click on Child Nutrition Services under Departments.

Additionally, milk is available for all students for the school year. Under state and federal regulations, pupils from low-income families are eligible for free milk and lunch. Information is available in the school office.

Thank you for taking the time to review our Del Mar Heights Family Handbook. Let's make this a wonderful 2021-2022 school year!