

# the pursuit



## A Message From Our Superintendent

Dear DMUSD Families,

**This time last year...** One year ago, we actively engaged our community in developing a Portrait of a Learner, a collective vision that articulates our aspirations for *every student* in our district. This helped propel the thinking involved in the development of *Destination 2028!*, our district's new bold and ambitious strategic plan.

Our students' voices are at the heart of our ongoing radical transformation and innovative thinking. Exceptional work and a deep commitment to a student-centered school experience are at the core of why our schools look different!

In DMUSD, our actions are centered on four priority areas, referred to as Levers: 1) Learning Experience, 2) Responsive and Caring Culture, 3) Stewardship of Resources, and 4) Design Influence. These Levers and our five-year objectives for each Lever provide clarity regarding intentional actions and the impact on the school experience as we propel to *Destination 2028!*



**Just one year later...** Our vision is clear: The unrelenting pursuit of the extraordinary school experience. It is with enthusiasm that we reflect on the remarkable progress that has occurred during this first year of implementation. This work has further advanced the outstanding work done during our previous strategic plan, which set out to revolutionize the traditional school system to better prepare today's students.

Today, the learning of our students is grounded in deep thinking and conceptual understanding. Our students think critically and apply learning to real-world contexts through the use of design

thinking, the arts, coding, and robotics. Students' curiosity and creativity are promoted as they seek out problems and innovate solutions. Our schools are places where students have more agency; where they believe in themselves and activate academic and social skills to reach their potential. Traditional classrooms have been transformed, moving away from one-size-fits-all furnishings and spaces, toward an abundance of flexible options designed for making thinking visible with opportunities for students to engage at higher levels of learning with others.

**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 2024–2025 school year.

*Save the date!*

**Meeting 1:** May 21, 5:30pm – 7:00pm at Ocean Air School

**Meeting 2:** Early September 2024, *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 close-knit community that cares very much about providing a superb educational experience for our students.

Sincerely,

*Holly McClurg*

Holly McClurg, PhD  
Superintendent



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# Destination 2028!

## Our Plan in Motion

Our Strategic Plan, Destination 2028!, identifies four Levers to help our Portrait of a Learner come to life. Our work as a District has begun with these priority areas:

**Lever 1. LEARNING EXPERIENCE** — Every learner receives equitable access to a strong academic core and high-quality instruction so that students think and learn across disciplines, connect multiple ideas, create new knowledge, and engage in breakthrough thinking.

**Lever 2. RESPONSIVE AND CARING CULTURE** — Individuals are respected and valued for their unique contributions and diverse perspectives. There exists a shared commitment to a culture of excellence grounded in empathy, compassion, and common purpose.

**Lever 3. STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES** — Human capital, fiscal resources, and facilities intentionally align in support of the extraordinary school experience.

**Lever 4. DESIGN INFLUENCE** — Rich and meaningful learning occurs at the intersection of purposeful, engaging learning, innovative thinking, and a compelling curriculum. The physical environment across all learning spaces supports rich and meaningful learning by influencing how individuals interact, their behaviors, and their engagement in authentic personal and collective learning.

01.  
LEARNING  
EXPERIENCE

02.  
RESPONSIVE AND  
CARING CULTURE

03.  
STEWARDSHIP  
OF RESOURCES

04.  
DESIGN  
INFLUENCE

## Partner Pulse

DMUSD values the input from our educational partners including students, staff, families, and community members. Through a variety of focus groups and surveys, diverse perspectives are shared which help to inform district plans like our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and our Strategic Plan, *Destination 2028!* This month, our Strategic Planning meeting will convene staff and DMUSD parents to engage the community and seek feedback and opportunities for our next set of priority actions. Through this process we hope to empower collective decision-making and enrich the educational experience for our entire community.



## Measure MM Update — Your Bond Dollars at Work!

This school year has been an exciting one for our Facilities Department! We are nearing the completion of the Del Mar Heights School Rebuild Project and will begin the modernization of Del Mar Hills Academy in June. Classrooms are modernized at every school site in the district each year, with 42 modernized last summer and another 20 planned for the summer of 2024. Measure MM is impacting classrooms, playgrounds, and entire school sites, benefiting students at every school across the district.



42 modernized  
learning spaces\*



6 playgrounds  
replaced\*

\*this school year



August '24  
re-opening to students

