

# 2023-2024 school year annual report

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## Superintendent's Update

On behalf of the Del Mar Union School District, we are pleased to bring you our 2023-2024 Annual Report. Our exceptional school system is at the forefront of education, characterized by engaging learning, innovative thinking, and a compelling curriculum.

This year was a remarkable year in DMUSD, as we embarked on the ambitious goals set forth in our new strategic plan, *Destination 2028!* This bold plan has been specifically designed for today's students who are all part of the youngest and largest generation in history — Generation Alpha. Born between 2010 and 2025, Generation Alpha has grown up in a digital world — 2010 marked the launch of the iPad, the creation of Instagram, and the selection of "App" as the word of the year — so from their earliest years, this generation of children has been "screenagers."

In DMUSD, we recognize the rapid pace and overwhelming amount of information our students encounter in today's increasingly digital world. We also understand the vital role that face-to-face human connection plays in supporting their overall well-being and happiness.



It is our commitment that every child has an extraordinary educational experience that teaches them to be lifelong learners who are curious about the world and show compassion toward one another. I invite you to take a few minutes to review this summary of the previous twelve months in our district.

Sincerely,

*Holly McClurg*

Holly McClurg, PhD  
Superintendent



## We Are Shifting the Role of Teachers and Students

Student-centered schools position students as active participants in learning. Students set direction and goals, maximize their personal potential, and develop skills to problem solve and engage as responsible community members. Students learn better when they are personally and actively engaged in the learning. Deep understanding of content develops and motivation increases as students participate in a wider range of experiences beyond listening and rote memorization. Our *Culture of Thinking Framework* helps us embrace a vision of empowered students able to take their place in the world as critical thinkers, collaborators, and change makers.

**IGNITING GENIUS,  
EMPOWERING STUDENTS**

**9**  
elementary  
schools

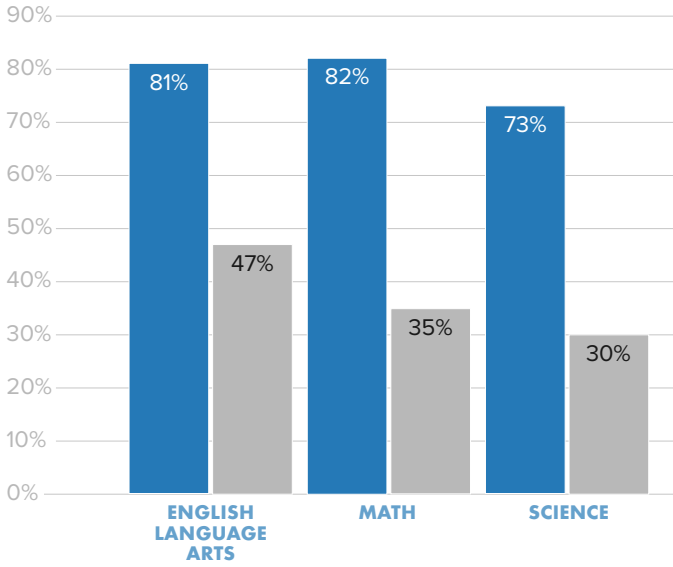
**3,675**  
K through  
6th grade students

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gee Wah Mok, Esq, *President*  
Alan Kholos, Esq, *Clerk*  
Erica Halpern, *Member*  
Katherine Fitzpatrick, *Member*  
Doug Rafner, Esq, *Member*

# Impressive Academics

DMUSD PERFORMED AT TOP 1% IN THE STATE



## CALIFORNIA STATE ASSESSMENTS

percentage of students meeting and exceeding expectations

DMUSD State

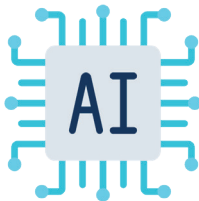
*\*DMUSD Data reflects 2024 preliminary performance levels. State data represents 2023 performance levels as 2024 state data has not yet been released.*



*Our Portrait of a Learner articulates our community's aspirations for all our students, identifying the skills, mindsets, and competencies that our students need for success in this rapidly changing world.*

# Embracing AI

As the role of Artificial Intelligence in our lives and the lives of our students grows, our educators are called to lead the way in adapting to and embracing this transformation. In DMUSD, we provide training, spotlight success, engage in conversations with other educators, and establish conditions for effective use of AI.



# Connection and Community

We are committed to connecting with one another and cultivating a sense of community. Learning and connection are accomplished in a responsive and caring environment that educators play a pivotal role in creating, where each child feels known, valued, and respected by both adults and peers. Throughout the school day, students are given numerous opportunities to connect with a diverse group of adults and students, enriching their learning experience and nurturing a strong sense of community.



Our STEAM+ program is experiential and provides hands-on opportunities with a credentialed teacher in lab and studio settings. DMUSD students embrace the mindset and skills of artists, scientists, musicians, athletes, innovators, and creators.

*The Del Mar Schools Education Foundation (DMSEF) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that raises funds to support additional specialized credentialed teachers in the DMUSD STEAM+ program.*





# Destination → 2028!

## DMUSD'S STRATEGIC PLAN

In May 2024, our Strategic Design Team, open to all parents, teachers, staff and community members, gathered to review the first year of implementation of our strategic plan, *Destination 2028!* Participants had an opportunity to reflect on the District's four Levers and the corresponding 5-year Objectives, identifying and sharing bright spots, questions, and ideas. Perspectives and insights provided at this meeting play an important role guiding our next steps as we shape our roadmap for the 2024–2025 school year.

### LEVERS

#### 01. 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.

#### 02. 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.

#### 03. STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

Human capital, fiscal resources, and facilities intentionally align in support of the extraordinary school experience.

#### 04. 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.

Priority Actions for each lever are updated annually and help us to meet the promise outlined in *Destination 2028!*





# Facilities Funds

## \$186 Million

### Districtwide Projects

- Classrooms/Learning Studios and Shared Learning Spaces
- Outdoor Learning Spaces
- Play Structure Replacements
- Field Improvements
- Facility Improvements/Modernizations

## Funding

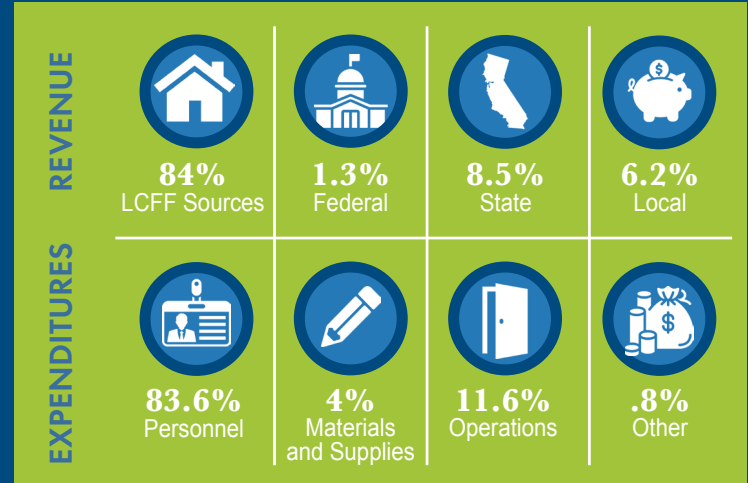
The District budget supports the priorities of the strategic plan, *Destination 2028!*, and the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). Through a commitment to proactive and responsible fiscal planning and the maintenance of a strong reserve for a community funded district, DMUSD maintains the high quality academic program that our district is known for.

# Revenue & Expenditures

(2024-2025 Adopted Budget)

**Total Revenue: \$78,101,888**

**Expenditures: \$77,959,185**



## DEL MAR HILLS ACADEMY

### MODERNIZATION

- Anticipated completion August 2025
- Full building modernization
- All new classrooms/learning studios designed for flexibility and collaboration
- New Innovation Center and STEAM+ labs and studios
- Performing Arts Center restroom improvements
- ADA access to the field
- New energy efficient roof and HVAC systems
- Photo-voltaic solar panels added to the roof



## DEL MAR HEIGHTS SCHOOL

### REBUILD

- Re-opened on August 13, 2024
- Flexible, modern learning environment designed for today's students
- Energy efficient and environmentally conscious – solar power, natural lighting, fresh air, high-efficiency systems
- Designed to maximize access to indoor and outdoor learning spaces
- Improved ingress, egress, and parking to reduce neighborhood congestion, improve safety, and increase walkability
- New field and play areas

