

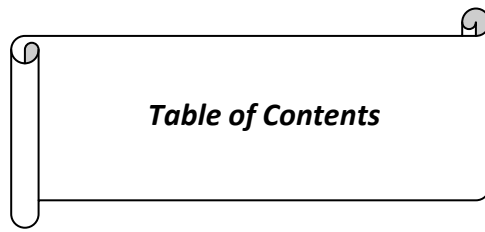


# English Learner Family Support Handbook

*Welcome to our new families!*

Parents play a very important role in the education of their children in America. We hope this booklet helps you become familiar with your new school.

*James D. Peabody, Superintendent  
Del Mar Union School District*

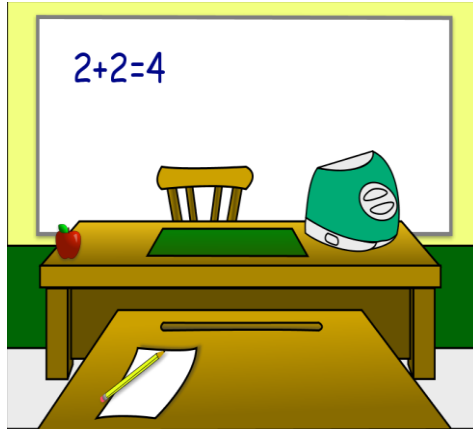


Welcome!

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# WELCOME!



The best way to receive current information about your school and the district is by visiting our website at [www.dmusd.org](http://www.dmusd.org)

You may also reach us at the following numbers:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>	<i>Principal</i>	<i>Admin Assistant</i>
Ashley Falls	858-259-7812	Shelley Petersen	Terri Alper
Carmel Del Mar	858-481-6789	David Jones	Maxine Gazdik
Del Mar Heights	858-755-9367	Wendy Wardlow	Kathy Zack
Del Mar Hills	858-755-9763	Susan Fitzpatrick	Linda Mettling
Ocean Air	858-481-4040	Ryan Stanley	Karen Holty
Sage Canyon	858-481-7844	Peg LaRose	Marian Rubino
Sycamore Ridge	858-755-1060	Emily Morris	Lesia House
Torrey Hills	858-481-4266	Susan Paul	Nalani Grossman
District Office	858-755-9301	Jim Peabody, Superintendent	Sherry Forte

In order to make your transition into our school as easy as possible, we have compiled a list of frequently asked questions.

## How do I enroll my child?

Enrollment information is available at [www.dmusd.org](http://www.dmusd.org). Click on the **Student Registration** Link.

Enrollment forms are available at each of the 8 schools and at the District Office located at:

**Del Mar Union School District**

225 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Del Mar, CA 92014

Phone: (858) 755-9301 ~ Fax: (858) 755-4361

**ASHLEY FALLS SCHOOL, Shelley Petersen, Principal**

13030 Ashley Falls Drive, San Diego, CA 92130

**CARMEL DEL MAR SCHOOL, David Jones, Principal**

12345 Carmel Park Drive, San Diego, CA 92130

**DEL MAR HEIGHTS SCHOOL, Wendy Wardlow, Principal**

13555 Boquita Drive, Del Mar, CA 92014

**DEL MAR HILLS ACADEMY OF ARTS & SCIENCES, Susan Fitzpatrick, Principal**

14085 Mango Drive, Del Mar, CA 92014

**OCEAN AIR SCHOOL, Ryan Stanley, Principal**

11444 Canter Heights Drive, San Diego, CA 92130

**SAGE CANYON SCHOOL, Margaret LaRose, Principal**

5290 Harvest Run Drive, San Diego, CA 92130

**SYCAMORE RIDGE SCHOOL, Emily Morris, Principal**

5333 Old Carmel Valley Rd, San Diego, CA 92130

**TORREY HILLS SCHOOL, Susan Paul, Principal**

10830 Calle Mar De Mariposa, San Diego, CA 92130

## ***International Family Contacts***

The following family volunteers are happy to help you.  
Feel free to contact them with any questions you may have.

<b><i>Language</i></b>	<b><i>Name</i></b>	<b><i>School</i></b>
Chinese		
Farsi		
French		
Hebrew	Jennie Starr	Del Mar Hills
Japanese		
Korean		
Mandarin		
Russian	Maria Zueva	Sage Canyon
Serbo-Croatian	Svetlana Maric	Ocean Air
Spanish	Lucy Woodbury	Del Mar Hills
Vietnamese		

### International Cultural Centers

Below are a few International Cultural Centers you may find useful:

Balboa Park House of Pacific Relations International Cottages – hosts 32 international cottages and numerous cultural events throughout the year: [www.sdhpr.org](http://www.sdhpr.org)

American Turkish Association of Southern California: <http://www.sdturks.org/>

International Ethnic Groups Cultural & International Multicultural Events in San Diego: [http://www.runoftheworld.com/san\\_diego\\_international\\_ethnic/](http://www.runoftheworld.com/san_diego_international_ethnic/)

Japanese Friendship Garden: <http://www.niwa.org/>

Little Italy San Diego: <http://www.littleitalysd.com/>

Persian Cultural Center: <http://www.pccsd.org/>

San Diego Chinese Historical Museum: <http://www.sdchm.org/>

San Diego World Beat Center in Balboa Park: <http://www.worldbeatcenter.org/>

Tarbuton, and Israeli Cultural Center: <http://www.tarbuton.org>

UC San Diego Cross-Cultural Center: <http://ccc.ucsd.edu/Links.asp>

## ***How can I become involved in the school?***

Parents play a very important role in the education of their children in America. Teachers want to see you and talk to you about your children.

The most important first step is to get to know your child's teacher and to share important information with that teacher.

At Del Mar Schools, we have many opportunities for parents to participate directly in their child's education:

- ❖ Volunteering in the classroom
- ❖ Joining the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)
- ❖ Serving on committees
- ❖ Attending Parent-Teacher conferences

You may also consider participating with English Learners by joining:

- ❖ International Family Contacts
- ❖ District English Learner Advisory Committee
- ❖ School English Learner Advisory Committee

*Please call the school to learn how you may become involved.*

*You can schedule a time to talk with your child's teacher at any time.  
See the school office assistant or e-mail the teacher.*

There is a staff list on each school website with phone extensions and email addresses of all teachers.

# What is the school schedule?

Supervision on the blacktop and in the kindergarten area begins at 7:45 a.m.

There is no supervision available before 7:45 a.m.



Students attend school every day from 8:00 – 2:30, except Wednesdays. Every Wednesday is a minimum day in the district and students are dismissed at 12:30.

Grade	Start Time	Recess*	Lunch*	End Time
<b>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday</b>				
Kindergarten	8:00	9:30 - 9:50	11:30 - 12:15	12:40
Grades 1-6	8:00	10:00 – 10:15	11:30 – 12:15	2:30
<b>Wednesday</b>				
Kindergarten	8:00	9:30 – 9:50	11:45 – 12:30	12:30
Grades 1-6	8:00	10:00 – 10:15	11:45 – 12:30	12:30

\*Recess and lunch times may vary at each school site. Please check at your school office or school website for the current daily schedule.

## ***What is a typical day in the classroom?***

Exact blocks of time for each content area or subject area will vary among grade levels.

Most classrooms begin the day with a **Morning Meeting**.

The Pledge of Allegiance is recited:

I pledge allegiance to the flag  
Of the United States of America,  
And to the Republic, for which it stands,  
One nation under God, indivisible,  
With liberty and justice for all.



Many Del Mar Union School District classrooms also recite the PeaceBuilders Pledge:

I am a PeaceBuilder.  
I pledge. . .  
\*To praise people  
\*To give up put downs  
\*To seek wise people  
\*To notice and speak up about hurts I have caused  
\*To right wrongs  
\*To help others  
I will build peace at home, at school,  
and in my community each day.

The **English Language Arts** block of time is when students focus on reading, writing, and speaking.

**Mathematics** activities occur daily.

Students also study **Science** and **Social Studies**.

**Physical Education** and **Extended Studies instruction** (technology, art, and/or music) is offered at different times throughout the week.

**Daily recess** is when children go outside to play and eat a snack. (Children bring snacks from home.)

## ***What is Extended Studies Curriculum?***

The Extended Studies Curriculum (ESC) is an enriching curriculum taught by teacher specialists and provided to all students. Your child will receive extended instruction each week in one or more of the following areas:

- ☞ Science
- ☞ Technology
- ☞ Music
- ☞ Art
- ☞ Physical Education



## ***What is the Del Mar Schools Education Foundation?***

The Del Mar Union School District has established a foundation to help pay for the Extended Studies Curriculum (ESC) programs in art, music, science, technology, and physical education. You will be receiving information about this foundation. We hope you will consider making a contribution to support these extended programs.



## ***How will my child receive support in learning English?***

If your child is an English Learner (EL) based on the results of the California English Language Development Test (CELDT), he or she will receive extra help to learn English. This is not a bilingual program, and there is no fee charged for English Learner support.

Hampton Brown Avenues is the District adopted curriculum for English Learners.

Your child may also receive extra support from an English Learner Aide. The aide may work with your child in the classroom, or your child may work with the aide in another classroom for a short time during the school day.



## ***Is attendance important?***

It is VERY important that your child is in school on time every day. Your child will miss a lot of information if they are absent.

If your child is sick and needs to stay home, please call the school office and tell the office staff. It is very important for you to call when your child is absent.

When reporting an absence, be prepared to tell the following:

- Your child's name
- The teacher's name
- The grade
- The date
- Your name
- Your relationship to the child
- The reason for the child's absence



Absences due to travel and/or vacation are unexcused and any missed homework must be made up.

Each school has a health office if your child is hurt or sick during class or on the playground.

School psychologists are also available at each school campus.

## ***Change of address and/or phone number***



It is very important that the school always has your current address and phone number.

If you are moving during the year, it is important to let the school secretary know immediately so that emergency information may be updated. Please check with the school to see if you will remain within the same school boundary area.

## ***What type of assessments will my child receive?***

### **CELDT Testing**

In order to determine your child's English level, he or she will be given the state-approved test called the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) at the beginning of the school year. You will be mailed the results of this test in late fall or early winter. Your child will either be an English Learner (EL) or be designated as Fluent English Proficient. If your child is Fluent English Proficient, he/she will receive no further language assessment. If your child is an English Learner, he/she will be tested annually until he or she reaches a level of Fluent English Proficient. English Learners also receive additional support in learning English, as described on page 10.

### **STAR Testing**

In the spring, usually the first week of May, Del Mar Schools administer the California Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) tests. The school will send home information to parents prior to STAR testing week. Your child's STAR testing results will be mailed home in August.



## What are parent conferences?

Classroom teachers meet with parents in the fall and again in the spring. Your child's classroom teacher will schedule a conference with you during Parent Teacher Conference Week to review your child's current classroom work and long-range instruction goals. You may also discuss any issues and concerns about your child's progress with his or her classroom teacher at that time.

To be able to provide quality time for parent-teacher meetings, **students are dismissed at 12:30 p.m. every day during Parent-Teacher Conference Week.**

Please note that **Kindergarten Extended Day and After-School Enrichment Classes are canceled during Parent Teacher Conference Week.** Please confirm the schedules for childcare, as well.

Please check the current school calendar for scheduled Parent Conference Weeks.



## ***What school supplies will my child need?***

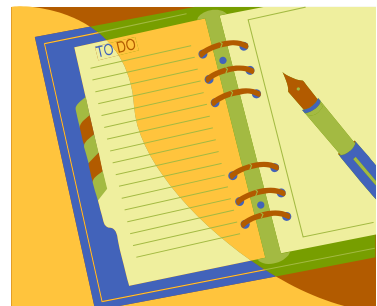


A list of requested supplies for each grade level will be posted on the district website each summer: [www.dmusd.org](http://www.dmusd.org)

You may purchase them before school starts.

## ***What kind of homework can we expect?***

The amount of homework varies in each grade level.  
Homework can begin in kindergarten.  
Please ask your child's teacher about required homework.



## ***How will the nutritional needs of my child be met?***

Parents can provide lunch for their child every day, or a hot lunch can be purchased for a fee. Your child will receive information about purchasing hot lunches throughout the school year.

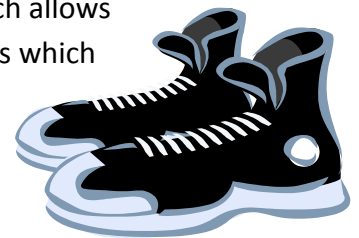


Parents are also encouraged to provide a healthy snack for their child each day. Examples of healthy snacks include fruit, yogurt, raisins and vegetables.

No candy, gum or other sugary snacks are allowed at school.

## ***What type of clothing is appropriate?***

Children should come to school wearing comfortable clothing which allows them to move freely. It is especially important children wear shoes which allow them to run and play without injury.



The Del Mar Union Board of Trustees has adopted a dress code policy for all students. You may obtain a copy from the district website or from the school office.

## ***Is child care provided after school?***

Child care is provided after school **for a fee** in two locations:

- ☞ The **Del Mar After School Child Care Program** is located at each school site and is available after school every day. You can call **858-793-0071** for more information.



**CHILD CARE PROGRAM, Julie Geisbauer, Director, ext. 3049 #858-793-0071**  
**Cindy Yamate, Administrative Assistant, ext. 3040**  
**Lisa Swann, Office Assistant Child Care ext. 3044**  
Office @ Ashley Falls School, Room #704  
13030 Ashley Falls Drive, San Diego, CA 92130  
Phone: (858) 793-0071 ♦ Fax: (858) 793-6957  
Locations: Ashley Falls School ♦ Carmel Del Mar School ♦ Del Mar Heights ♦  
Del Mar Hills ♦ Ocean Air ♦ Sage Canyon ♦ Sycamore Ridge ♦ Torrey Hills

Bilingual instruction *may* be offered after school. Please check the DMUSD After School Programs webpage for current information.

- ☞ The local **Boys and Girls Club** also offers child care each day after school. They can be reached at **858-793-9196**.

## ***School Events***

**Back to School Night** – Orientation night in the Fall for parents to find out the latest information about the school from teachers and the principal

**Field Day** – a day of games and fun for the whole school

**Halloween Parade** – a chance for students to come to school dressed in a costume

**Jog-a-thon** – a combination of a school fundraiser and run/walk activity for all students and staff, supported by parents and friends; students wear clothing for jogging and walking

**Lunch Time Clubs and Groups** – activities available for children during the free time of the lunch period

**Open House** – an evening in the Spring for families to visit the school campus and see the work of students displayed in the classrooms

**Parent Teacher Conference** – one-on-one meeting between parents and a teacher to discuss the academic progress of a student, held in the fall and in the spring

**PTA Food Drive** – voluntary collection of non-perishable food for families in need, organized by the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)

**Red Ribbon Week** – a week of drug awareness, including the teaching of refusal skills and the dangers of using drugs and alcohol

**Reflections** – an art competition open to all students

**Sixth Grade Camp** – a week-long overnight outdoor education program for sixth-grade students, facilitated away from their families in cabin camps around San Diego



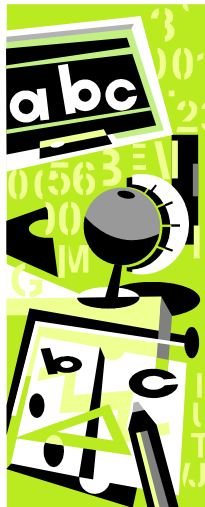
**Sixth Grade Promotion** – A ceremony celebrating the end of elementary school and the beginning of middle school. Each site has its own celebration on the last day of school for their sixth graders.

**STAR Testing** – required state tests measuring academic progress of students in grades 2-6 usually the first week of May

**Student Council Elections** – a chance for children to get involved in student government at school where they can run for offices, such as president, vice-president and secretary

**Volunteer Orientation** – information meeting at the beginning of the year for parents interested in volunteering at school

*Schools also hold events that are unique to their sites. For example, some have a Dad's Club. Some hold a Grandparent's Day when grandparents may come to school for an activity. Your school will tell you about their special days and activities.*



## ***Holidays Celebrated in the United States***

There are many holidays celebrated around the world with religious and secular traditions. Here is a list of some holidays that are recognized here and in other places:

### **AUGUST**

Del Mar Schools generally begin the new school year the last week of August. Please check the current school calendar for the first day of school.

#### *Other days to note:*

Ramadan (Islamic, Muslim, Moslem)	Pakistan's Independence Day
India's Independence Day	Liberation Day (Korea, South Korea)
Lammas and Lughnassad (Britain, Pagan, United States)	

### **SEPTEMBER**

**Labor Day** is a legal holiday celebrated on the first Monday in September in honor of the working class. Parades are held throughout cities and towns. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.

#### *Other days to note:*

National Hispanic Heritage Month (Mexico)	Yom Kippur (Jewish)
Israel Miraji Ascent of Prophet Muhammad	San Gennaro Day (Italian-American)
Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)	Autumnal Equinox (Japan)
Eid-Al-Fitr (Islamic, Muslim)	Sukkot (Jewish)
Mexico's Independence Day (September 16)	Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)
Lailat-UI-Quadr (Islamic, Muslim)	

### **OCTOBER**

**Halloween** is the eve of All Saints' Day, falling on October 31 and celebrated by children who carve pumpkins, dress in costumes and beg for treats. They walk from door to door collecting candy. The chant "trick or treat" is heard throughout the neighborhood. There is no significance to Halloween other than it is fun to dress in costumes, go to parties, play spooky music and collect candy!



#### *Other days to note:*

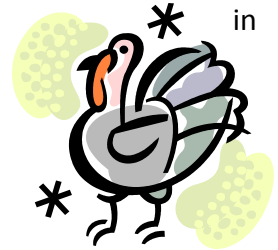
German-American Heritage Month	Simchat Torah (Jewish)
National Italian-American Heritage Month	Cirio de Nazare (Brazil)
Polish-American Heritage Month	

## **NOVEMBER**

**Veterans Day** used to be called Armistice Day and is celebrated on November 11 or the second Monday in November. It is observed to honor all the men and women who served in the U.S. armed forces during the wars. American flags are displayed outside homes, banks, and offices. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.



**Thanksgiving Day** is a national holiday set apart for giving thanks. It is celebrated in the United States on the fourth Thursday of November, usually with a feast of turkey, stuffing, corn, mashed potatoes and other foods. It was first celebrated in colonial times in New England. When the Pilgrims landed their ships at Plymouth Rock in the year 1621, they needed the help of the Native Americans to learn how to plant crops and grow food. After they had their first harvest, the Pilgrims had a feast with the Native Americans to celebrate their friendships. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.



### **Other days to note:**

National American Indian Heritage Month  
Dia de los Muertos (Mexico)  
Diwali (Buddhist, Hindu)

Birthday of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)  
Eid al-adha (Islamic, Muslim)

## **DECEMBER**

Del Mar Schools are generally closed for two weeks at the end of December for Winter Break. Please check the current school calendar for the dates of Winter Break.

### **Other days to note:**

St. Nicholas Day (International)  
Bodhi Day (Buddhist)  
Hannukkah (Jewish)  
Al Hijra - Muslim New Year  
Virgin of Guadalupe (Mexico)  
Santa Lucia Day (Sweden)

Ashura (Islamic, Muslim)  
Las Posadas (Mexico)  
Christmas (Christian)  
Boxing Day (Canada, United Kingdom)  
Kwanzaa (African American)

## JANUARY

**New Year's Day** is the first day of the calendar year, January 1. It is a celebration of the old year and the new one to come. The traditional New Year's Ball is dropped every year in Times Square in New York City at 12:00 midnight, which is seen on television around the world. Each New Year, people make resolutions to change (such as to eat better, to exercise more, or to give up bad habits) and promise themselves to keep these resolutions all year. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.



**Martin Luther King Day** is celebrated the third Monday of January. It is a remembrance of the life and legacy of civil rights champion Dr. Martin Luther King. It is a time for the nation to celebrate the values Dr. King fought for: equality, tolerance, freedom and dignity of all races and people. Dr. King said we should create change through nonviolence. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.



### Other days to note:

Emancipation Day (African American)

Japanese New Year (Japan)

Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday (Sikh)

Three Kings' Day (Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic)

Lohri (Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh)

Religious Freedom Day

World Religion Day

India Republic Day

Tu b'Shvat (Jewish, Israel)

## FEBRUARY



**Valentine's Day** is celebrated on February 14. People send greeting cards or treats to loved ones and friends to show them that they care.

**President's Day** is an observance combining Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and George Washington's birthdays in a mid-month celebration to honor these great U.S. leaders. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.



### Other days to note:

National Black History Month

Mexico Constitution Day

National Foundation Day (Japan)

Chinese Lunar New Year (China, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam)

Tet Nguyen Dan (Vietnam)

Mardi Gras (United States)

Flag Day (Mexico)

## MARCH



Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17. There are many different customs that people do. One of the most widely known customs is to wear green on this day. One famous saying is, "On St. Patrick's Day, everyone is Irish!"

### Other days to note:

Greek-American Heritage Month  
Irish-American Heritage Month  
Spiritual Wellness Month

St David's Day (Welsh)  
Naw Ruz (Baha'i, Persia)

## APRIL

Del Mar Schools are generally closed for one week in April for Spring Break. Please check the current school calendar for the dates of Spring Break.

**Arbor Day** is a tree-planting day to beautify our cities and towns. Most public schools celebrate Arbor Day in order to teach about protecting our forests.

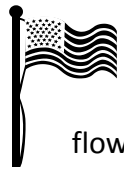
### Other days to note:

Easter (Protestant, Roman Catholic)  
Sinhala and Tamil New Year (Sri Lanka)  
Vesak – Buddha's Birth (Buddhist)

Passover (Jewish)  
St. George's Day (English)

## MAY

**Mother's Day** is celebrated on the second Sunday in May, honoring mothers. It is a time of commemoration and celebration for Mom, and all women who have acted as a mother figure in your life. It is a time for family gatherings and lots of love.



**Memorial Day** is a legal holiday on the last Monday in May, in honor of the nation's armed forces who were killed in defending their country in war. It is celebrated with parades, memorial speeches and ceremonies, as well as decorating graves with flowers and flags. Memorial Day is also a reminder that summer is on the way. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.

### Other days to note:

Asian Pacific American History Month  
Beltane (Celtic)  
Cinco de Mayo (Mexico)  
Malcom X's Birthday (African American)

Israel's Independence Day  
Shavuot (Jewish)  
Victory Day (Russia)  
Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)

## **JUNE**

**Father's Day** is celebrated on the third Sunday in June, honoring fathers. It is a day not only to honor your dad, but all men who have acted as a father figure in your life. It is a time for family gatherings and lots of love.



**Flag Day** is celebrated on June 14. The first national observance of Flag Day was one hundred years after George Washington's display of the first U.S. flag. Since that day in 1877, June 14 has been celebrated each year as the National Flag Day.

Other day to note: Martyrdom Day of Guru Arjan (Sikh)

## **JULY**



**Independence Day** is July 4. It celebrates the birthday of the U.S.A. It commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Many families celebrate this day by having picnics and going to the beach. You will also find fireworks displays in many towns and cities across America. Schools, banks and offices are usually closed.

Other days to note:

Canada Day (Canada)

Fil-American Friendship Day (Philippines, US)

Bon Festival/Feast of Lanterns (Japan)