



Dream School of the Arts

Hello friends and supporters of Dream School!
Here we are at the start of autumn already!

This year seems to be flying by, and we are moving at a quick pace here as well! We are off to a great start this Fall Session with a full schedule of activities for our kiddos! Thanks to the support of people like you, Dream School continues to be unique in what we do, and how we do it. As one student put it,

"Dream School is different from other after-school programs. Most of the programs are just flat out homework time and you leave... But in Dream School you have snack time, homework time, free art time, music and fitness; so you're not just doing your homework, you're having fun!"



Summer Session Two ended with a very special day out in the community. On July 24th, our summer enrichment programming

came to a close with two field trips! The students spent the first part of the morning at the University Heights Library. We had a wonderful librarian, Susan Alden, who gave the students a tour of the library and assisted those who did not have library cards in getting their very own. We were so excited to have a San Diego City Lifeguard share his time with our students with a read-a-loud of two fun books. After sharing some very important beach and pool safety tips, he led us outside where the students experienced the lifeguard truck up close, exploring the rescue gear, and getting a real feel for what lifeguards do in action! This was of course highlighted by the siren screaming, red and yellow lights flashing much to their delight. By incorporating literacy, safety and sharing the availability of local community resources, we can help provide vital life skills to the Dream School students. This directly impacts their young lives with skills that are crucial for academic success as well as personal wellness and safety while living, playing and growing in our coastal community.



Finishing the Summer with a Celebration!

The second half of our special day continued as we navigated two city blocks, all lined up in our (mostly) matching Dream School t-shirts to for our day at the park! Students, staff, volunteers, parents and siblings enjoyed playing soccer, hitting the volleyball, throwing the football and to their amazement, most of our kids ran one mile around the park! Dream School is a place where Young Stars are encouraged to set goals, and work hard to achieve them. Through discipline, perseverance and the support of their peers these kids continue to shine in new ways! Of course there was more to our day at the park than just sports. We celebrated this special day with pizza, cookies, popsicles and juice. A big thank you to everyone who pitched in with food and supplies for our end of summer celebration!



Second Year at Dream School!

When our students returned to us in September, for the start of year two at Dream School, we were really excited to welcome them, knowing that we had a whole bunch of new and improved programming ready for them. Our work with our community partners, as instructors and volunteers allow us to keep the kids engaged and entertained. One of our Golden Volunteers said this,

"I look forward to my days with the kids for their energy, their questions, curiosity, etc. It gives me more energy being around them! Being a part of Dream School and watching the kids grow and become a team touches my heart deeply."

Dream School continues to be intentional with our intergenerational support to the students. We have three Golden Volunteers, three college interns and we look forward to onboarding new high school volunteers this fall. We are so grateful for all of our support team that dedicate their time and energy to our students.

Thank you to our Amazing Instructors!

We welcomed some amazing instructors back this fall. Each of them returns to DSOA in support of our A-HA! model



Mr. Philip returned with a fun art lesson on portrait sketches using pencils and markers. The students had a lot of fun drawing one another, and then drawing their own faces while looking in a handheld mirror. It was great to see Mr. Philip and the seven students laughing and learning. He shared with them notes about various portrait artists including: T.C. Canon, Frida Kahlo, Picasso, Twin Seven Seven, Barkley Hendricks, Jacob Lawrence, Jose Clemente Orozco, and more! The beauty of a safe place for creative expression was heard in their infectious laughter, and seen not only in their faces, but also in their portraits.



Musical Melodies

Teacher Lilith from Villa Musica returned after a successful Summer Session One of guitar lessons. The students are working hard to learn a new instrument, however their knowledge of music theory from Mr. Brian's sight reading classes prove to be "instrumental" in the lessening of the learning curve. Mr. Brian's instruction, with a focus on rhythm and piano playing, truly makes the transition easier for our students. Teacher Lilith will be working with the students one hour per week, and encourages the students to take their guitars home throughout the week. Mr. Brian is with the students two hours per week. These music classes offer our students a chance to cultivate discipline, patience and an opportunity to learn music after school in a fun and supportive environment.



Social-Emotional Learning

Ms. Sheilah led her first mental health workshop of the fall with a focus on self-esteem. Through exploring ideas and feelings around self-esteem, our students have the opportunity to create their own coping skills and proactive self-awareness necessary to navigate the challenges they face each day at school as well as in their homes and neighborhoods. Dream School of the Arts has also partnered up with Ms. Maxine Dumser, Clinical Supervisor, to provide wellness workshops, once a month with our students!



STEM & Homework Support

Ms. Claudia has returned to DSOA as a Homework Buddy. She'll also be leading some fun and exciting science activities including experiments and learning labs. Her commitment to academic success comes from a lifelong passion for education and community. Ms. Claudia has been a middle school teacher for decades, and still finds the time and energy to be with our students after a full schedule of teaching. We are so grateful for her passion and her desire to engage with our students by

supporting their literacy and math skills, and by introducing science lessons to them too. In addition to academic support, we curated a couple of workshops this year! We had Neuroscience Workshops scheduled with Dr. Jena Hales and John Loggins from USD. Most of our curious questions that we had during our September workshop will be answered during a follow-up workshop in November!



Welcome, SDSU Fall Interns!

We're thrilled to officially welcome our bright and talented interns who are joining us for the semester! They're already jumping in to build rapport and bringing joy with our students and team. We're excited to see what they will learn during the fall semester with us. Read more about them below!



Megan E.

Why do you want to be an educator?

I want to be an educator because I want to make a meaningful



Madison D.

Why do you want to be an educator?

To embody the adults that helped to make a positive impact in my

impact in a students life and really be able to be that teacher they always look to for overall support.

What is one thing that inspires you to work with the next generation of students?

One thing that inspires me to work with the next generation of students is encouraging curiosity and sharing experiences and learning new things about everyone who is in my future classroom or school.

What is your favorite thing about Dream School?

My favorite thing about dream school is the close-knit community and being able to make meaningful connections with everyone who walks through the doors.

life. Their mentorship, guidance, and kindness shaped me into the person I am: Being able to do that for someone else, even just one child, is my main motivation.

What is one thing that inspires you to work with the next generation of students?

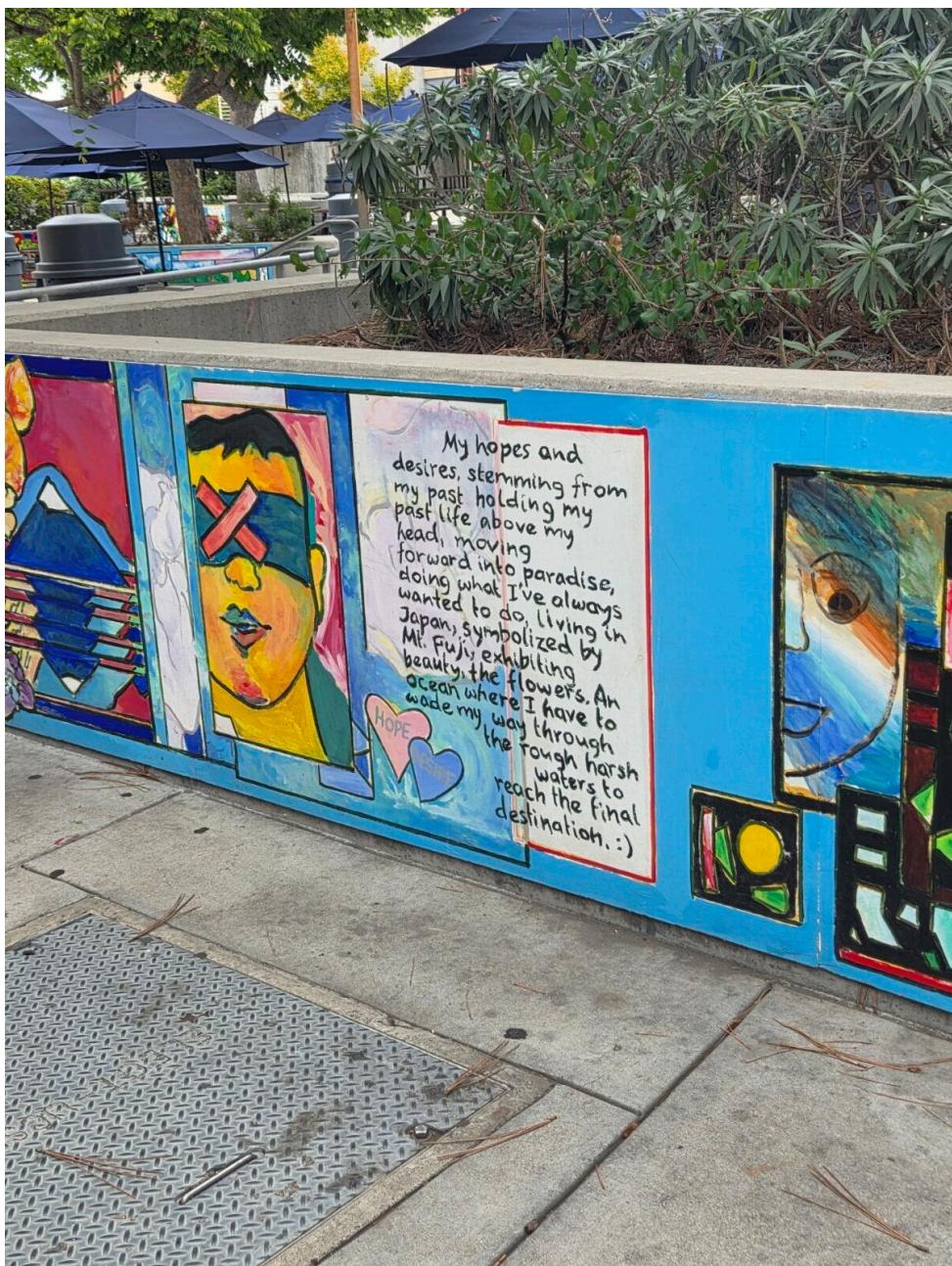
Being an auntie!

I have several nieces and nephews from my first cousins whom I love whole heartedly! I see the goodness that comes from the nurture and care I give to them - I'm inspired to share that with the next generation!

What is your favorite thing about Dream School?

The program's values in artful expression, healthy living and academic success for children and families: I believe that fostering these skills are essential to quality child and family development, that, in turn, build our communities up.

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Partner Schools!



We want to send a huge thank you to the Academy of Our Lady of Peace and The Preuss School UCSD. It was a privilege to be on your campuses, meet your dedicated staff, and learn firsthand about the amazing environment you've created for your students. We are excited to continue to partner with you to bring opportunities for students across San Diego.

These visits are invaluable as we understand the path students are on to help us better prepare and inspire our 4th and 5th graders for their next steps towards higher education.

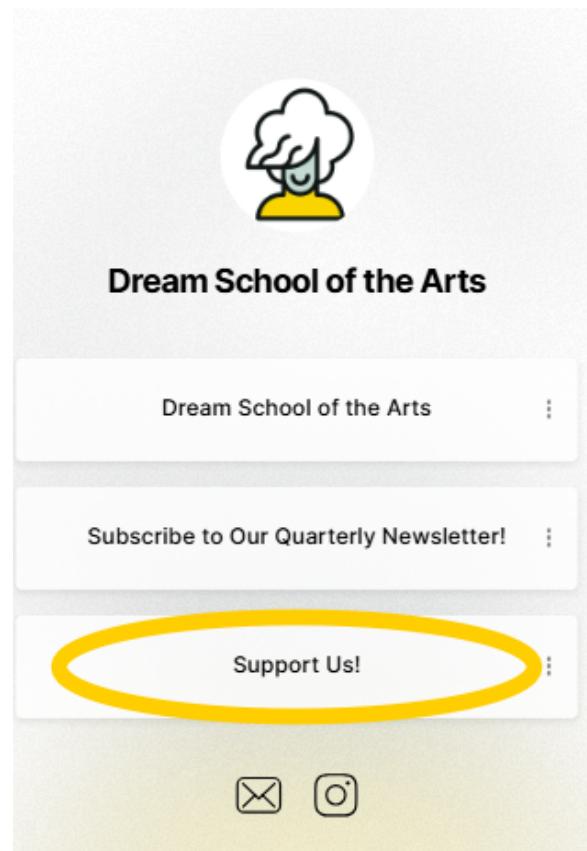
Thank You for Your Support!



None of these partnerships, field trips, or specialized lessons would be possible without the support of our donors. We are working hard to keep Dream School of the Arts the special community space that it has so quickly become. Each day proves that grassroots efforts can create lasting change. Every donation, every volunteer hour, every student breakthrough adds up to something powerful: a community center that is shaping lives and strengthening neighborhoods.

"I am very, very happy and satisfied with the learning that [my son] received at Dream School. All of the teachers were very dedicated to my son, because when he began to go to DSOA, he had problems in his school. Four months after going to Dream School he changed profoundly for the better; so much better. I will never, ever forget this place! All of fifth grade he was a star student at his school, he was happy. He wanted to go to DSOA seven days a week! So many wonderful learning opportunities for him. I'm so happy that my son participated in the school and I hope so many more kids participate because it was such a positive change that my son experienced there. It was incredible and magnificent! I'm so thankful to so many of you, the entire team at Dream School!"

Support Us!



Looking for a Special Way to Show Your Support?

We have Dream School of the Arts merchandise! These items are a fantastic way to wear your love for the arts and represent our program. Purchasing merchandise directly contributes to supporting our mission and program.

Here's how to buy your Dream School Merch:

- Go to this webpage: linktree.dsoasd
- Click the "Support Us" button in our Linktree link.
- In the "Fund Section," choose "DREAM SCHOOL OF THE ARTS"
- Enter the amount that matches the price of the merchandise you'd like to purchase

Thank you again for your unwavering support! We look forward to seeing you all again soon.

DSOA Linktree



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