



Welcome to Del Mar Heights School!

We are thrilled that your family is joining Del Mar Heights. We know that sending your child to a new school can be overwhelming, so we hope we can make your adjustment just a little bit easier.

Del Mar Heights is not just a school; it's a community. We work hard to nurture the connections between families, the school and our local community. We are also blessed with amazing teachers and staff who care for our students in a way that makes it easy to send our children to school each day.

The Del Mar Heights PTA works closely with teachers and staff to support the 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.*

We look forward to meeting your family in the coming months and are here to answer any questions you have. In the meantime, this packet should serve as a starting point for getting to know Del Mar Heights. In this packet you will find:

- How to Stay Connected
- How to Get Involved
- PTA Program Highlights
- Contact Information

Should you have any questions beyond this packet, please feel free to contact our PTA President, Mireille Barnard, at president@delmarheightspta.com.

We welcome you to our school and wish you and your family all the best on your new and exciting journey here at Del Mar Heights!

How to Stay Connected

Dolphin Digest Weekly eNewsletter: Our most essential form of communication with parents is the Dolphin Digest, our weekly eNewsletter. Both the school and the PTA work together to ensure all important information is in this one place. If you haven't signed up yet, please make sure to go to tinyurl.com/HeightsDolphinDigest or click on the Dolphin Digest picture in the right-hand column of the PTA website. This newsletter is the **best way** to keep up-to-date on what exciting programs events are coming up, what enriching programs are available and how to get involved.

Del Mar Heights School Website: You've probably already discovered the school website (<http://www.dmusd.org/heights>). It is a great resource and we recommend you bookmark it, along with the PTA website for quick reference.

PTA Website: The PTA Website (www.delmarheightspta.com) has detailed information on upcoming events and programs, important links to school and district information, a combined school & PTA calendar, a spirit wear store and so much more.

eBlasts: Our Dolphin Digest subscribers also receive periodic eBlasts regarding special events, surveys, reminders or other important issues. Your privacy is guaranteed – we will never sell your email address.

PTA Breakfast Briefings: Get a serving of helpful information on upcoming events and programs while you enjoy breakfast and a steaming cup of coffee. Hear the answers to your gnawing questions about Del Mar Heights from PTA President Amy Chelesnik, Principal Wendy Wardlow, and fellow Heights parents. These briefings are a wonderful way to meet other parents, share ideas, and become more involved in the school community. Breakfast briefings are held 5 times a year from 8-9 a.m., hopefully making it easy for you to head on over after you drop off your child(ren) in the morning. Check the PTA website for the current schedule. We hope you can join us!

Online Combined PTA & School Calendar: Both the PTA leadership and school administration compile this online calendar. It includes school holidays, field trips, special assemblies, PTA programs & events, spirit days and more. You can find it on the PTA website at www.delmarheightspta.com. The calendar is continually updated, so check back frequently or even better, sync it to your personal calendar.

After School Program: The District operates an After School Program for families on the school campus until 6 pm. It also offers after-school Enrichment classes that generally meet once or twice a week for an hour or so each class. You can peruse the schedule and enroll your child on the District's After School Program (<http://www.dmusd.org/asp>) page.

How to Get Involved

Research indicates that being an active participant in your child's education truly makes a difference.

When parents are involved in school, children earn better grades, enjoy school more and are more likely to attend college.

(Henderson & Berla, 1994; Henderson & Mapp, 2002; Jeynes, 2005)

Involved parents have better access to information about opportunities for students, allowing them to be stronger advocates for their children.

(Henderson & Mapp, 2002)

The Del Mar Heights PTA has plenty of opportunities for you to make a personal, meaningful impact on your child's education. Whether you are a stay-at-home parent, a working parent, have a lot of time to give, or just a little, we welcome your participation! Whether you want to help at a one-time event, volunteer on a weekly basis, or become a Chair or Co-Chair, we likely have the perfect spot for you! Don't have time to come to school? No problem! There are plenty of options that you can do entirely from home. Parent involvement and support is one of the things that makes Del Mar Heights so special.

PTA Volunteer Opportunities: With over 50 programs and events, the Del Mar Heights PTA has many opportunities for you to get involved. Check out the attached PTA Program & Event Brochure for short summaries on each of these programs. See something you like? Contact our Membership VP (membership@delmarheightspta.com) or download a volunteer form on the PTA website (<http://www.delmarheightspta.com/how-to-volunteer.html>). Have an idea you would like to pursue? Let us know!

Classroom Volunteers: One of the most valuable ways to support your child's learning is to volunteer in the classroom. Each teacher has his or her own way of using parent volunteers, from assisting in the classroom, to copying homework packets, to leading art projects. Please be sure to contact your child's teacher to learn how you can help.

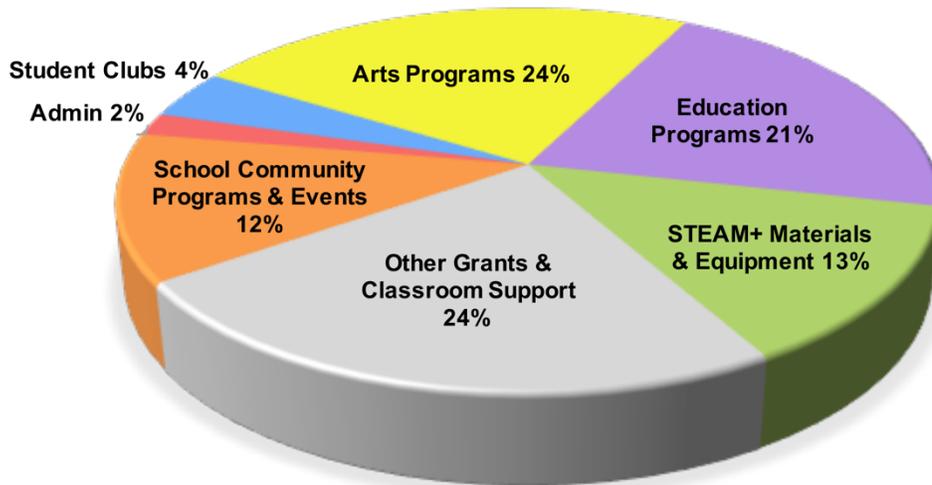
Room Parents: The role of room parents varies from class to class, depending on the teacher. Typically, the room parent organizes class parties at the holidays and coordinates parent volunteers for special projects, field trips and events.

PTA Board of Directors: The PTA is overseen by an executive board, composed of 15 members, that meets monthly. Specifics about the board positions can be found on the PTA website and in the organizational bylaws. If you're interested in becoming involved at this level of leadership, please contact Mireille Barnard at president@delmarheightspta.com.

PTA Program Highlights

It is through the continued support and involvement of parents like you that the Del Mar Heights PTA is able to fund and staff over 50 incredible programs and events including Science Fridays (SciFri), Understanding Differences (disability awareness), Heights Cares (philanthropy), a Farm-to-Table series and Dads' Club Pancake Breakfasts. See the PTA Program & Event Brochure for more information about our 50+ programs.

Here's a snapshot of the PTA expense budget for the 2018-2019 school year:



During 2018-2019, our PTA will spend almost \$280,000 to enhance learning and ignite the potential in each of our students. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive school community. Our most recent giving campaign was a record-breaking year with 92% participation! If you would like to join the Del Mar Heights PTA, more information is available at www.delmarheightspta.com.

Contact Information

Online School Directory: Our online directory (MySchoolAnywhere) is secure, password-protected software that can be accessed via web browser or smartphone app. It includes contact information for families, teachers, and staff. For more information, contact our Membership VP at membership@delmarheightspta.com.

PTA Contact Information: Please refer to the PTA website for current contact information for all board members and/or chairpersons. We are here to help.

Del Mar Heights Office: The main office line is (858)755-9367 or you can contact Karrie Beach, the administrative assistant, at kbeach@dmusd.org.