

Del Mar Heights Parent Survey 2016-2017

1. Rate your satisfaction with the following aspects of your volunteer experience at Del Mar Heights:

Answer Options	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Indifferent	Not satisfied	Response Count
Ease of signing up	77%	16%	4%	3%	105
Amount of advanced notice	68%	23%	6%	4%	105
Number of opportunities (whether you took advantage or not)	80%	16%	2%	2%	106
Clarity of instructions (Did you know what to do?)	64%	23%	6%	8%	105
Degree to which you felt welcomed	71%	14%	10%	5%	106

Comments

It would be nice if the parents could have greater opportunity to see their 3rd grade and above students in action in class - even if doing clerical work only for the teacher in the classroom. It's very connecting for parent and student. Also for field trips - it would be better instead of first come/first serve responding to email, if a more fair system was in place, (such as drawing names) so a variety of parents got the opportunity to go along.

It seemed like the talent show snuck up, as well as jump rope for heart, but I'm not sure that is a PTA event.

I volunteered to help during the talent show but did not receive direction from the chair.

I filled out the blue volunteer form very thoroughly, checking off all the areas I'd like to help and was never contacted about any of them.

I am new to Del Mar, no volunteer experience

My kids will be graduated from DMHS next year, that's why we won't attend family dance

The tone of the board this year felt very critical/rules-focused and not as joyful as past experiences.

I didn't volunteer so have little input, sorry.

2. If we hold a Family Dance next year, will your family try to attend?

Answer Options	Response Percent
Yes	67%
No	33%

3. Rate the QUALITY of the program or event. (Ask your kids what they think too!)

Answer Options	Respondents	Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Poor
Speech & Debate	18	61%	33%	6%	0%
Model United Nations	11	45%	27%	27%	0%
Heights Writes: Storytellers & Journalism	26	58%	31%	8%	4%
Robotics	23	61%	30%	9%	0%
Garden Lunch Club	50	82%	14%	4%	0%
Farm-to-Table Program	35	83%	6%	11%	0%
Pop, Blues & Jazz Lunch Club	11	18%	9%	55%	18%
Drama Production (Aladdin Jr)	39	69%	21%	8%	3%

3 CONTINUED. Rate the QUALITY of the program or event. (Ask your kids what they think too!)

Answer Options	Respondents	Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Poor
Talent Show	37	57%	27%	15%	0%
Choir	37	49%	38%	8%	5%
SciFri	71	79%	17%	8%	0%
Movie Night	60	78%	18%	3%	0%
Used Book Exchange	89	81%	13%	6%	0%

Comments or suggestions about above programs or events:

My child really enjoyed Robotics and Speech and Debate. He usually does Sports as an extracurricular, but these activities really challenges him and allows him to try something new and useful. He really enjoys the mentors from TPHS.

Our experience with the play was between good and excellent. More like great. I think it all came together beautifully.

Can a little bit more time be added to the talent show for each performance?

There are a lot of special needs kids at this school. Would be nice if some of these programs would be more inclusive, i.e. If trained aides could be available

The drama production is an intense experience. It might be nice to offer something more laid back for the younger grades where they can have greater participation, such as an after school program called Drama Kids (which would also prep the kids to be ready for a bigger production as a 4th grader). I would suggest this be an additional option, maybe for 1-3rd graders.

Love that there are so many different opportunities. As a new family this was very refreshing. We are already looking forward to the next year, as we plan to take advantage of many more than we did this year.

The play, in particular, was an excellent experience - worth every penny! My child is interested in acting and this was the best children's acting program/experience I've seen, so thank you for that! We will definitely be involved next year!

Amazing job Board!!

Too much money spent on play that doesn't involve the entire school, even if kids are welcome to try out and have a part.

The drama program was above anything I could have imagined. We loved Shelly and Pam!

Can we have food trucks at movie night? Can the book exchange be at the end of the year (to get rid of stuff before summer as reading levels change) or before Christmas break (to allow for cleaning out bookshelves for giving season and to allow some book gifts to be purchased for siblings and family members). In that spirit, can the book exchange also be a toy exchange?

Some events have a small amount of disorganization and lack of communication, which causes frustration. Some events have notifications with too short notice. Some events have lack of explanation which make it difficult for children to know whether or not to even participate.

Dance: Father-daughter is preferred to the family dance concept. I understand the idea behind the family dance, but making it all-inclusive makes it "just another event" instead. Maybe call it a "parent-child" dance? Or have two events: father-daughter and a separate mother-son dance?

Some of these events I heard about too late.

My child was very excited about PB&J, but tells me "it just kinda fell apart." The drama vendor/production team is incredible!!!

We love all the programs our son participated in!

The book exchange is an amazing program, but please screen the books for appropriateness! My 5th grader came home with a book that was rated ages 15+ on Common Sense Media and read the whole thing before I knew she had picked it up during lunch! It was pretty evident from the cover that the content was not elementary-appropriate. The organizers do a phenomenal job with the book exchange, and it's one of the best programs we have, so I hope this is just a minor adjustment.

The play has been fantastic and must be an annual part of our school life! It has been fantastic for all the many participants and for the school community to appreciate!

4. How would you rate the quality of last year's yearbook? (Ask your kids what they think too!)

Answer Options	Response Percent
Number who responded and received last year's book: 74	
Excellent	38%
Good	36%
Acceptable	18%
Poor	8%

Comments:

One request from us (specially from my kid), please don't put pictures of politicians in the yearbook

The pictures were too small.

The photos are too small to see anyone.

the layouts are too busy and the pictures too small in the collages.

Yearbooks should be sold at cost. NOT TO MAKE A PROFIT. Kids should make the yearbook in a year long yearbook club.

My kids were very disappointed. There were very few pictures of them in the yearbook. The group pictures were too small. The same children were found in every section. There was not enough space for signatures. In their words, "This is a magazine! I want a yearbook!"

Loved last years yearbook!

Seems like every page has way too many pictures, and they're too small to really see clearly.

Photos were too small to see properly. The layouts were confusing and not very attractive. The paperstock was also not high-quality. This year, we've opted to use Shutterfly to create our own yearbook.

Wish it had fewer pictures so the ones in there were bigger and clearer.

It has been poor for at least the past 4 years. Can't see the pictures (too small). Same format every year. Poor representation of students. It needs someone who will spend time on it.

Hard cover would be nice

Photos too small!

5. What has been your experience when uploading pictures for the yearbook?

Answer Options	Response Percent
Respondents who have uploaded pictures: 45	
Uploading pictures is easy-- no problems at all.	71%
Uploading pictures has been a hassle-- please indicate reason	29%

Comments:

I just wish I could email my photos. I am never home so would just like to send them via email

I have some photos but tend to forget to upload it.

I always forget :(

Not something that you really get around to, since it's not part of the regular routine or checklist for weekly school activities. missed it

Have not made the time

Yearbook Picture Uploading Comments CONTINUED:

I must have missed the emails...

Last year I had to assign a name to each picture, that it became to time consuming to upload just one. Haven't uploaded any since.

Takes a lot of time to enter all of the names when there are a lot of children in the photo.

This is our first year

Because I do not know how to upload it, where to upload it, who to talk to. That is why I do not order year book as well, because I do not see my kid at any of the school pictures, other then same kids all over at the whole year book.

1st year at the heights

having to identify every person in the picture is a challenge. There were many great pix I couldn't upload because I didn't know who the kids were.

It takes too much time. This should not be a patent driven item. Kids should make their school yearbook!

Too slow. Have to do one at a time. I gave up. Maybe you can set up an email address where we can send them? Or maybe have the room mom collect them or assign a class "photographer" who can submit them to the yearbook staff? I don't think there were enough reminders to send in photos, but honestly, it shouldn't be my job to submit photos for the yearbook.

Time, I can barely upload my own personal photos, usually only done 1 to 2 times per year on school breaks.

Our class photos are all uploaded to a Shutterfly site, shared with all of our class's parents.

Tried but it didn't work

it's a hassle because you can only choose one picture at a time to upload. it would be much easier if you could multi-select and upload a bunch at a time.

My spouse did it.

I haven't taken many pictures

Takes a long time

I didn't know this was an option!

Have not reviewed how to upload

I have to send one at a time and it takes too long

It would be ALOT easier to be able to just text them to Heather or someone and they upload them? We can all store her number in our phones and send so much easier. I haven't uploaded any this year, just too busy....

super easy.

I don't have any to upload

Uploading is somewhat of a slow process and the required fields are a pain.

I haven't taken any pictures.

Can you include the link to upload pictures to the yearbook again in newsletter?

Slow and it would be easier to have something at the end of events like air drop from phones -

I'm not a picture taker.

6. Weekly, students have been learning mindfulness techniques to help them focus and be aware of themselves, their thinking and their actions. (Choose all that apply.)

Answer Options	Response Percent
I am aware of the mindfulness program.	82%
I was not aware of the mindfulness program.	9%
I'd like to learn more about the school's mindfulness program.	22%

7. What suggestions do you have for specific items we should include in our Spirit Wear line next year? (t-shirts, shorts, water bottles, hoodies, hats, socks, etc.)

Response Text

Socks is cute , visor
Higher quality items, even if more costly
More Shirt Options and Socks would be awesome!
Shopping bag
T-shirts not grey
Zippy hoodies for adults! :)
Dog collar or leash
soft beach frisbees
White tshirts, socks would be awesome
t-shirts, long sleeves
water bottles, stickers, hats
t-shirts
hoodies, fleece pullover
Long socks if they are still in style. Tshirt. Hoody
everything in your list above; hair scrunchies
Beanie
Hats, hoodies
Water bottles
hoodies, socks
hoodies
pink dresses, children's style hats,
Water bottles
t shirts with long sleeves and polos
t-shirts, hats and hoodies
water bottles and hoodies
water bottle, travel mug, reusable lunch box containers
Retro cotton gym shorts for girls (white piping on bottom and sides)
Zippered hoodies
water bottles
Water bottles and more variety for caps; perhaps a light wind breaking jacket
Hats
Water bottles, more than one color of sweater, can the colors be more unified?
Lighter colors for hats (similar to the t-shirts)
T-shirts
light weight hoodies
Lunch box containers (personalized or place to write name included)
Boys athletic shorts
T-shirts, hats without plastic webbing, boys shorts, water bottles

Spirit Wear Suggestions CONTINUED:

t shirts, shorts, water bottles
Waterbottles would be cool. Adult sweatshirts
Please make a new logo! The letters look like Frankenstein made them! Please go back to the mascot
Sleeveless jackets
Adult hoodies, socks
Hats
Hats and socks
dark colored sweatshirt hoodies
Water bottles, more cute hats, tall trendy socks would be GREAT and likely sell well....
Water bottles (Hydro Flask with kid-friendly spout)
wet suits
No red hoodies lol Any color but red next year
What we have is great. Please don't do plastic water bottles- the environment!
Pants, shorts and socks would be nice as a new option. Also a low profile hat instead of the trucker style.
Hoodie with a zipper please
running cap or visor
license plate holders
Inclusion and Diversity
Hats
More Hoodies and long sleeve shirts
Same items you have been providing - hoodies, t-shirts, hats
Socks, hoodie
Hoodies, socks

8. How do you feel about the AMOUNT of email communications from the PTA, including the Dolphin Digest and eBlasts?

Answer Options	Response Percent
Not enough-- I feel like I'm missing out on important	7%
Just right-- they keep me well informed.	69%
There are a lot-- but I don't mind because I want to stay	22%
Way too many-- I wish there weren't so many.	2%

Comments:

Dolphin Digest is a great end/start to the week events. I rarely/never watch the WOW videos but I would watch a Heights only one to see the kids week on campus and a Principal report.

The Dolphin Digest is wonderful.

Would be helpful if there could be more communication coordination around days off, early pick up, enrichment, etc.

It might be good to check the email list you use for duplicates - I receive 3 Dolphin Digest emails per week!

Amazing job Alex!

Please stop the robocalls!!!

PTA Communications Comments CONTINUED:

There is NO WARNING about signing up for enrichment classes. Maybe it goes against what the PTA does but I want notification about enrichment. At least half of the spring classes were cancelled due to low enrollment because we get no notice as to when the sign ups are. These are well priced, convenient classes that I'd like to be notified about even if they are not funded by the PTA. At least put it in Dolphin Digest! It is part of our school.

Love dolphin digest. Helps me keep up to date and allows me to calendar dates. Easy to scan. Dates highlighted. Great job.

but still want to stay informed

I love the DD!

9. Are you aware of the many Heights Cares programs that encourage students to give back through community service programs designed to build compassion, develop an awareness of the environment and instill a sense of civic responsibility?

Answer Options	Response Percent
Yes	92%
No	8%

10. Should music education be part of the school experience? If so, should it be integrated into the school day, be an on-campus after school activity or do you prefer to do music outside of school? (Check all that apply.)

Answer Options	Response Percent
A unique class during the school day	79%
Integrated into other existing classes	39%
On-campus after school activity	33%
Outside or independent of school	10%
Music education is not a priority for our family.	0%

11. Should foreign language be part of the school experience? If so, should it be integrated into the school day, be an on-campus after school activity or do you prefer to do foreign language outside of school? (Check all that apply.)

Answer Options	Response Percent
A unique class during the school day	75%
Integrated into other existing classes	41%
On-campus after school activity	32%
Outside or independent of school	4%
Learning a foreign language is not a priority for our family.	1%

12. We offered several parent workshops this year. How does having childcare as an option affect your ability to attend?

Answer Options	Response Percent
If childcare is available, it's much easier for me to attend.	62%
The option of childcare doesn't generally affect my ability to	38%

13. Name a topic you would like a parent workshop to cover next year.

Response Text

Time management
Sibling Rivalry/Peer Competition,
Protecting Children from Bullying
How to be a friend and how to develop a friendship - helping your child navigate these waters
Helping your child understand their special needs peers
Cooking for Children
Bullying/social media
preparing for middle school
Kids electronic and social media use/privacy protections/safety
Teaching kids financial literacy
Diversity
how to ask a parent if they have guns in the house before scheduling a playdate
N/A
how to behave around bullies and mean people
Technology and screen time
Technology
How to bully-proof your children, Effectively handling power struggles ("no, you can't make me!)", Enhancing self-esteem, Teaching and modeling self control,
Conflict resolution techniques and how to teach to them children - I know that's more than one!
Kids friendships at school (making them and keeping them)
How to help my child improve reading and writing skills at home?
Internet safety. Parent child mindfulness
Different social "styles" of kids (e.g. extrovert vs. introvert) and how to nurture each kind
Techniques to wean your child off of electronics and engage in the real world.
Free range kids/non helicopter parenting

14. We are considering adding Science Olympiad to our PTA programs next year. Science Olympiad is primarily a 6th grade program, with a few 5th graders included. In order to make it work, we need 23 parents who would commit to being

Answer Options	Percent	# of people
Yes, I'm willing to be a coach in order to get Science Olympiad	8%	8
No, unfortunately I'm unable to commit to that amount of time.	92%	94

15. What new programs, equipment or improvements would you like the PTA to fund?

Response Text

Camp out at the heights . We were so bummed that did not happen
Reading program.
Also consider adding a Robotics competition with First Lego League(FLL)
I would like the PTA to fund the supply list for the special needs classes
Drama Kids - after school drama club, Spanish Club - after school for higher level students, Picnic tables for eating lunch
PTA funds should get used in hiring STEAM+ teachers or part time. I am aware that their salaries are funded by DMSEF. But school should have a right to hire part time staff thru PTA funds. Currently, there is one-on-one with teacher quarterly OR PTA meetign with all parents in school. but i would like to have better communication channel betn parents of a classroom. like email group, whatsapp chatting group of 1 st graders in Mrs S class.

15 CONTINUED: What new programs, equipment or improvements would you like the PTA to fund?

buddy bench

Fingerprint recognition for singing in an out, both for school and aftercare to keep up with, for example, Solana Highlands. Also looking into funding tables for the children to sit at an enjoy their lunches rather than on benches with no tables.

intramural sports, such as soccer

Music, language, geography

Replace broken chrome books, etc., field trips, another country-themed night

I would like the PTA to keep in place the excellent programs it has, like the play. If there are funds left, maybe sports equipment for use at recess or Arrowhead water dispensers in a few locations so that kids can fill their water bottles.

Support for kids exceeding or needing a challenge in grades 4-6.

Foreign language, Cultural Heights, parent community building

Understanding and accepting kids with ADHD, ADD etc.

Spanish language instruction

Kids after school sports like soccer or basketball

multigrade math club

Arts and music programming. Perhaps, a beginning band program.

Language! Music!

None! I think we have almost too many. :) And they are all great!

Music for kids

Band

Teacher training for how to teach kids on the spectrum. Inclusion is very important.

While the email communication is just right, the telephone blasts were way too many, obnoxious and annoying.

I love the music, as it is good for the brain. Maybe more snappy than choir and have instruments for sure. Another language should be mandatory.

Band

Please continue to focus on the ARTS and arts programming. The kids get plenty of academics in school/class, PTA is uniquely positioned to keep all the "non-core" enriching activities present for our kids!

Full day Wednesday with outside specialists in afternoon.

As mentioned earlier, a more robust music program - it's somewhat shocking to me that the school doesn't have a music program as part of the main curriculum.

Shaded areas on the playground. I feel our school is weak on language instruction, music and, to some extent, art. I'm not sure that's the job of the PTA to provide these instructions, but rather the school itself. Unfortunately, these areas don't seem to be a priority for the staff or administration. If this school wants to compete with private schools, it needs to do a better job in these areas.

Basketball and other PE equipment and Dance to promote more exercising.

Minecraft club after school (not during recess). All the stuff that happens during recess my son won't do because he'd prefer to exercise and play not sit or do something structured. This would require a parent or someone that knows minecraft to oversee. This is the most popular club for boys and girls at other schools.

Shade structures

Water filtration system. Lunch tables.

Advance Art programs and Music programs especially teaching kids to play Keyboard or Piano.

Continue to support furniture and equipment that support teaching in classrooms and the library.

New playground equipment. Tinkering toys, large playground building things

The upper grade play structure is falling apart and playing is still a big part of recess for many older kids.

Priority #1 is to keep the play going! Gaga court for students, find a way to help get kids to use the torrey pines reserve, language and music programs, develop a maker space or innovations/engineering lab.

Sound booth improvements like mounting the mic receivers higher to avoid interference from people standing in the way.