



Del Mar Pines Parent Handbook 2024-2025

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General School Information

Del Mar Pines School was founded in 1978 to provide students with excellent academic programs and a nurturing environment with close student-teacher relationships. Del Mar Pines prepares students for success, both personally and academically. At Del Mar Pines, children discover how to work alone and as part of a group.

They learn to apply critical thinking and problem-solving strategies to all aspects of their lives. And most importantly, we give each student the opportunity to meet his or her full academic potential, while developing and refining the qualities essential for positive personal development.

Welcome to Del Mar Pines! We hope you will find this handbook helpful in familiarizing you with all aspects of the school. Please use this handbook as a reference for any questions you may have. If you don't find the answer, please feel free to contact the school. We are always available to help you.

Our Vision

Empower students to create a better world.

Our Mission

Challenging minds, nurturing character, and respecting individuality in a supportive community.

Expected Schoolwide Learning Outcomes

Every student will be able to communicate effectively, apply interdisciplinary knowledge and skills, solve complex problems, think critically, and act with integrity, compassion, and a growth mindset.

Values

Be respectful, responsible, open-minded, and empathetic.

Our Results

Our results are impressive! The Median Scale Scores and National Percentile Ranks for students in third through sixth grade at Del Mar Pines are significantly above the national norms and independent schools norms on the CTP-5 standardized tests that we give each Spring. Our graduates are motivated, self-confident, well-organized students with excellent study habits. They possess the ability to analyze and synthesize factual and abstract information, and express

ideas clearly in oral and/or written form. When they graduate from Del Mar Pines, students are prepared for the personal and academic challenges that lie ahead in middle school and beyond!

Address

Del Mar Pines School
3975 Torrington Street
San Diego, California 92130

Phone Numbers

858.481.5615
858.481.0942 (fax)

Website

www.delmarpines.com

School Tax ID Number

95-3280285

DMP Foundation for Education

The Del Mar Pines Foundation for Education is a charitable organization, formed to support and enhance the educational experiences of students at Del Mar Pines School. Internal Revenue Service 501(c)3 not-for-profit status, offering tax deductibility to donors. Individual donations are welcomed at any time. Foundation tax ID # 26-4676082. Please contact a Foundation representative through our website for more information.

The Foundation is the main organizing body for fundraising activities. Fundraising is a wonderful opportunity to enhance and support Del Mar Pines, as well as an opportunity for parent involvement.

Ki's Lunch Service

(760) 828-5236
www.kisschoollunches.com
Special new account code: 1956

Ordering Uniforms

Lands' End or Target uniforms

Land's End Information: School Number: 9000-6905-5

Logo Number: 0249849K

Hours of Operation

Arrival and Playtime.....	7:40 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
Regular Daily Student Hours	8:00 a.m. to 2:35 p.m.
Late Dismissal Days due to TPHS early release (approx. 2 times/month)	3:05 p.m.
After Care	2:35 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.
Office Hours	7:40 a.m. to 3:40 p.m.
Minimum Days	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Tuition Payment Options - Tuition paid through Parent Locker

- Balance paid in full by July 1. Tuition insurance is optional.
- Balance paid in two equal payments—due July 1 and January 5. Tuition insurance is required.
- Balance paid in three equal payments—due July 1, November 5, and February 5. Tuition insurance is required.
- Balance paid in 10 equal payments—due July 1 and the fifth day of each month from August through April. Tuition insurance is required.

Re-enrollment Registration

- Forms are available through Parent Locker in mid January for re-enrolling the following school year.
- Registration forms, Enrollment Contracts, and deposits for the following school year are due by February 20.

Required Forms

New Students

Kindergarten and new first-grade students will receive a Health and Immunization form to be completed by your child's physician. Del Mar Pines also needs a copy of your child's birth certificate and immunization record. Each student must show proof that their immunizations are

in accordance with the requirements of the California State Department of Health. We need school transcripts from your child's former school. Transcript request forms are sent to all new parents.

All Students

Fall Enrollment Information

Sent through Parent Locker, E-Blast, email, or flyers

- Registration/Enrollment Forms
- Preliminary School Calendar
- Tentative Student Directory
- KI's Lunch Program Information
- New Families 1st - 6th grades Transcript Request
- Event Flyers. i.e Movie Night, Science Discovery Day
- Parent Volunteer Opportunities and sign-up sheet

Required forms requiring parent signatures through Parent Locker

- Student Emergency Information Form
- Special Medical Form to Administer Medication if prescription (e.g. Epi Pen, Asthma inhaler, migraine, etc.)
- New Families 1st - 6th grades Transcript Request
- New Families Copy of Birth Certificate, Immunization Record, K & 1st California Medical Examination from physical
- Student Dismissal/Pick-up Authorization Form
- School-wide approval & permission sheet
- Field Trips Grade Permission Form & payment by grade
- Field Trip Disclaimers

Student Directory

Parents have access to the school directory through Parent Locker. Please make any changes to your information - change of address, phone number, email - through your Parent Locker account. This information is used as a way for staff to communicate with parents. The Student Directory is a wonderful resource for parents to plan playdates, carpools, birthday parties, parent get-togethers, etc. **The Student Directory information is for school/personal use only!**

Yearbook

We would appreciate you sharing any special pictures taken with the classroom photographer and/or the office. Your tuition covers the cost of the yearbook.

Lost & Found

Please label your child's belongings. Any items left at school (i.e. lunch boxes, clothing, backpacks, etc.) will be put in the office. Check the Lost & Found first if any of your child's possessions are missing. All unmarked items in the Lost & Found will be periodically donated to a charitable organization.

Emergency Situation

All Del Mar Pines staff members are CPR & First Aid trained and trained to do specific duties in our emergency plan. An emergency supply of food and water, and first aid supplies are available for students and staff members. Fire, earthquake and lockdown drills are held several times during the year. In the case of a real emergency, it is critical that you do not call the office so that phone lines are open for contacting emergency personnel. Email and text notifications will occur when available.

Communication

Parent-Staff Communication

Teachers make every effort to keep parents informed through weekly emails, Instagram, progress reports, parent-teacher-director conferences, and individual emails and conversations. Parents are encouraged to schedule a conference with any staff member at any time. Please be aware that teachers rarely check email during school hours. If there is an urgent issue, please call the school.

Student-Teacher Electronic Communication

Teachers are permitted to communicate with students via Del Mar Pines' email accounts for educational purposes only. All communication via email must be cc'd to the students' parents or legal guardian. Please be aware that teachers rarely check email during school hours. If there is an urgent issue, please call the school.

Bi-Monthly eNewsletter (1st and 15th of each month)

Bi-monthly newsletters will be emailed to keep parents informed regarding activities, events, special procedures, etc. Parents, staff members and students are encouraged to contribute information of interest.

Information and flyers about community events are often dropped off for circulation. These will sometimes be sent home with students, but parents should be advised that this distribution does not signal a Del Mar Pines endorsement. We feel it is the parents' responsibility to investigate after school activities and events. We are merely passing on information regarding their availability.

Medical

General Health and Safety Measures, Including COVID

We know that our students, families, and teachers' health and safety are one of our highest priorities as we return to school. We will continue to follow all county, state, and CDC public health guidance and requirements for schools to ensure that our campus is a safe, healthy, and engaging place for students to learn, grow and thrive.

1. Air purification system in all HVAC systems

We purchased 13 units in April 2020, one for each HVAC system on campus, which covers all classrooms, the office, and the lounge. The product was installed by Action Air (who maintains all our HVAC units). The product is the Phenomenal Aire Series R Cold Plasma Generator. It uses bipolar ionization to clean the air whenever the fan, heating, or air-conditioning system is on (which will be all the time when people are indoors). Here is the link, with a video, for your review: [Our School's HVAC Air Purification Systems](#).

2. Hand sanitizer dispensers

Dispensers are stationed at the front gate and installed in all classrooms, the front office, and the lounge. We use Environmaster's service to provide our school with all paper products, antibacterial soap, and hand sanitizer. Students are required to sanitize their hands before coming on campus, entering their classroom, and at other times throughout the day.

3. Follow the COVID-19 Decision Tree for K-12 Schools. The San Diego County Office of Education updates the Decision Tree whenever changes occur. Del Mar Pines School follows the

most updated Decision Tree for any student or staff member who has any symptoms or who has been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

4. Masks are a Personal Choice for All Students and Teachers. It is up to each student, teacher, and family whether they wear a mask either inside or outside while on campus. Masks will be optional for visitors and volunteers.

Keeping sick children home is one of the most important ways we can keep our community healthy all year!

Decontamination units to be used in case of an outbreak on campus. If there is an outbreak on campus, we have two ways to quickly disinfect all classrooms and outside areas for any viruses or bacteria. We purchased these items back in 2020.

- Safezone 850M9 mobile UV-C decontamination unit. This is a hospital-grade mobile unit that can disinfect an entire room's surfaces in 10-15 minutes using UV-C light. Here is an informational link: [Our Schools UV Light Decontamination Cleaning System](#).
- Victory Electrostatic Backpack Spray with hospital-grade disinfectant. This product can be used both indoors and outdoors to quickly and thoroughly kill all bacteria, viruses, etc. on surfaces. [Our School's Hospital Grade Disinfectant Spray System](#).

I would like to thank the Del Mar Pines Foundation for Education for granting our request to purchase these cleaning and sanitizing products for the health and benefit of everyone in our community.

Medication

In order for any staff person to administer any medication, you must give Del Mar Pines permission by checking that box on your child's Student Emergency Information Form and signing at the bottom. Any type of medication that is intended to be taken at school, including cough drops, must be left in the office, by an adult, when the student arrives in the morning. Medication must be in the original bottle and clearly labeled with your child's name and specific instructions by parent and/or physician.

Illnesses

We greatly appreciate your cooperation in keeping sick children at home. Students must not be contagious and must be symptom-free for 24 hours prior to returning to school. If your child will be absent from school, please notify the office personnel and teachers. If you want homework sent home, please call the office and/or email the teacher before 8:00 a.m. Please allow our teachers up to 24 hours to gather the students' work. If your child becomes ill at

school, he or she will be sent to the office. You will be notified to come and pick up your child, if deemed appropriate.

Allergies/Known Conditions

If your child has known medical conditions or allergies, please list them on the General Emergency Information Form and inform the office personnel and teacher. EpiPens, inhalers, and all other medication will be stored in the office. You must fill out an authorization for administration of medication form. Please make certain medications are current at all times.

Student Attire

Normal Day Attire

Del Mar Pines School requires uniforms for all students. Our uniforms help to create school pride, unity, and community spirit. Approved uniforms can be purchased through [Land's End](#) or from the limited uniform supply at [Target](#). Only approved uniforms are listed for purchase when you access the website using our school number (9000-6905-5). Please, only purchase items that are approved for our school. Land's End typically has several sales on school uniforms during the summer. Whenever we receive one, we will pass it along to all families.

Uniforms must be in good, clean condition with no holes or frays. Skirts and dresses may be no more than two inches above the knee. Leggings or tights are allowed, but only under a dress, skirt, or skort. Leggings may **NOT** be worn on their own. Sweatpants are **NOT** approved as uniform attire. Shoes must be closed toed and can be of any color and design. Clogs, boots (except rain boots on rainy days), crocs, open-toed shoes, sandals, and shoes with lights or music or wheels are not allowed. Athletic shoes are required on your children's scheduled PE days. Socks can be any color or pattern.

Students who come to school in non-approved attire will be sent to the office and given the proper attire to change into.

Spirit Day Attire

On one designated day per month, students and staff may show their school spirit by wearing clothing that goes with the specific Spirit Day (ie. Sports Day, 100th Day of School, Clash Day, etc.). If students choose not to participate in Spirit Days, school uniforms must be worn. Shoes must be closed toed.

Free Dress Attire

Typically, the last Friday of the month is designated a student Free Dress Day. School uniforms are also appropriate attire on these days if children choose not to wear Free Dress attire. Clothing must follow the general guidelines of everyday uniform. Clothes must be in good condition with no holes or frays. Skirts and dresses may be no more than two inches above the knee. Spaghetti straps, short shorts, or midriff showing are not allowed. Shoes must be closed toed.

School Calendar

The DMP Parent School Calendar on Google is updated on a regular basis. Please add this calendar to your computer or mobile device to stay up to date on all school activities. You may use this link for the monthly calendar: [DMP Parent School Calendar](#), or click [HERE](#) for the 24-25 Year-At-A-Glance calendar.

Event Details

We realize that the amount of time each family has to contribute to events varies greatly. We always appreciate any assistance parents are willing to give to the school.

Meet and Greet 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Swing by the day before school starts to meet your child(ren)'s new teachers and friends and see their new classroom.

Lunch with the Director's Meeting

Join Mrs. Marci McCord for an informative session to review goals and objectives for the upcoming school year.

Flag Salutes

Flag salutes are at 8:00 a.m. and run generally about 20-30 minutes. Awards are given to students who have shown academic and/or personal achievement, accomplishment, and/or effort at school and/or in their communities. Teachers will notify you at least one day before the flag salute if your child will be receiving a special award. Parents are invited on campus from 7:40 am until Flag Salute concludes.

Parent-Teacher-Director Conferences

Individual parent/teacher/director conferences are conducted three times each year. We consider these conferences to be vital to the overall Del Mar Pines experience. Your child does not attend school during his/her conference days.

The beginning-of-the-year conferences are an opportunity for you to tell us about your child. We'd love to hear any specific goals for your child or areas that have been challenging in the past. Your child does not attend school during his/her conference days. The first reporting period culminates with winter conferences. Parents will receive a report card with grades in all subjects prior to the conferences. The next reporting period ends with spring conferences, the last of the three conferences. In addition to grades in all subjects, you'll receive write-ups from the teachers. Parents will receive an End Of Year report card the last week of school. Instead of a conference, parents are invited on campus for the Student-Led Open House to review their children's work from the entire school year.

In addition to the final report cards and narratives, second through sixth grade parents also receive standardized testing results at the end of the school year. If needed, Mrs. McCord would be happy to meet to help with interpreting your child's standardized testing results. If you would like an appointment, please call the school office.

Signups for Parent/Teacher conferences will be made through Parent Locker. All conferences are in person, or parents can choose to have a phone conference if needed.

Back-to-School Open House

This is an informational evening for parents only. It is an opportunity to meet your child's teachers and learn about the daily class schedules, specific classroom requirements, policies and procedures, volunteering opportunities, and an overview of what your child will be learning. There will be two sessions: Kindergarten - Third Grade will have their session from 4:45 - 5:30 p.m. and Fourth - Sixth Grade will have their session from 5:30 - 6:15 p.m..

Parent Group Meetings

The Parent Group serves as a liaison for parents and coordinates the Halloween Carnival, teacher appreciation, and end-of-the-year field day/picnic. The Parent Group holds regular meetings throughout the school year usually on Fridays after flag salute. Decisions regarding special events and fund raising activities, as well as other issues and concerns, are made at these meetings. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Family Movie Night

This is a fun, casual, family time, and an opportunity to meet new families and socialize with old friends. More information will follow.

Book Fairs

The book fairs are a fundraiser for Del Mar Pines' library to purchase new books and materials. Many parent volunteers are needed to work at the fair for two-hour time slots to collect payments for the books. This is a great time to get acquainted with the library, purchase some wonderful books and holiday gifts, as well as socialize with parents of all grades.

Science Discovery Day

Science Discovery Day is a departure from a traditional student science fair. The event is a hands-on approach from a group of enthusiastic parents and members of our community who are interested in sharing their interest in hobbies or occupations that rely on scientific, technical or mathematical principles. The purpose of the program is to demonstrate and expose our students to the vast array of scientific principles and applications that surround our everyday life. The students walk away from the day enthusiastic and excited about science.

There are two ways to participate in this very special day of science, either as a presenter or a volunteer. Presenters will share their science expertise with four different groups of students. Each of the four presentations are 28 minutes. We've had a wide range of presentations over the years—a microbiologist demonstrating the use of the microscope to view bacteria, a fitness trainer teaching a group of students about the importance of exercise and body control, a flight instructor presenting the dynamics of airplanes through diagrams and construction of planes out of paper, and many more. Volunteers are needed on site the day of the event from 9:00 – 12:00 a.m. to help presenters distribute and collect materials, assist students, welcome guests, and set up refreshments.

Halloween Carnival

Parents and students get ready for a fun-filled carnival featuring games, food, a haunted house and much more! Volunteers are needed for activities and food booths. At 11:15 a.m., students put on their costumes for an all-school parade to Torrey Pines Senior Living followed by a carnival and treats. This is organized through the Parent Group.

Picture Day

Individual and class pictures will be taken for the yearbook. Family purchases of pictures are strictly optional.

Young Artists Day

Young Artists Day exposes students to a variety of creative endeavors. Parents, grandparents, aunts and community volunteers exhibit their works while teaching children about wide-ranging areas of artistic expression. Topics usually range from pottery to music and sculpture to woodworking to photography to creating pages for the Del Mar Pines yearbook. Volunteers are needed to help presenters and assist students. Fine Arts Day culminates with an art show at the end of the day.

Shining Stars

Our students benefit tremendously by doing something for children and families who are less fortunate. Shining Stars is an opportunity for students to get a gift for a less fortunate child in the San Diego area over the holiday season. This program requires one or two parent volunteers to coordinate with the charities as well as distribute the donations to the organizations.

Talent Shows

Del Mar Pines talent shows are organized by students, directed by students, staged by students, and performed by students – for an audience of students. Performances range from 20 seconds to 2 minutes in length. While we realize that performances would be much more polished with parental involvement, is not the intent of these events. Instead, we are encouraging children to unleash their own innate creativity. All we ask of parents is that they offer encouragement and support while ensuring that their child's material and costume are grade-level appropriate. We will try our best to include every student who auditions. While space is usually quite limited, we realize that every parent wants to attend his or her child's performance. A schedule with the approximate times will be shared before the event.

Annual Spring DMP Foundation for Education Fundraiser

Join us for a dinner and fundraising event that benefits the DMP Foundation for Education. Each year has a different theme and raises funds for different projects or needs of our school and students.

Dr. Seuss Reading Across America Event

Once again we will celebrate “Read Across America” by inviting parents to bring a blanket and a book to enjoy reading around campus with your child(ren). Please join us from 2:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Spring Sing

Spring Sing is a musical extravaganza featuring the entire school celebrating music and dance. Mr. Spurgiesz artfully directs this show. Volunteers are needed to help with costumes, props, backdrops and more.

End-of-the-Year Student Led Open House

All grades will host the student-led family event showcasing your child(ren)'s work throughout the school year.

Field Day

All grades celebrate the end of year with a field day and picnic. Parent volunteers are needed to coordinate food, walk to and from the park, and assist in running the games and activities and coordinate lunch. This is a great opportunity to spend the day playing with your child and his or her friends.

Graduation/Promotion Ceremony

Our Graduation and Promotion ceremony is scheduled for the last day of the school year and is a minimum day. All students participate in the program, and parents, relatives, and friends are invited to attend this celebration!

Note: Reserved seats are available for parents and relatives of graduating sixth graders. After 8:30 a.m., attendees may enter the staging area and hold a maximum of five seats per family. Seats may be held only if one individual from the party is seated at all times.

Room Parents

The room parent or a designee attends Parent Group meetings and serves as a key communication avenue between the Parent Group, classroom teacher, and parents in each classroom. Additionally, room parents take the lead on teacher appreciation events, class parties, holiday celebrations, liaison to parents from the Spring Sing committee, and securing volunteers for field trips.

Teacher Appreciation

During the year our parents ensure our outstanding teachers are pampered and appreciated. Room parents and the Parent Group plan food, flowers, car wash, massages, and small gifts, etc. for our teachers.

Class Parties/Holiday Celebrations

Parties and celebrations are always exciting for the students. Any help parents can offer would be greatly appreciated.

Field Trips

Several times each year, students will enjoy off-campus events. Students are required to have a signed permission slip any time they leave our campus. Parents are urged to volunteer to join in the fun. Please sign up to be a chaperone during a field trip with your class room parent.

Student Birthdays

Room parents help coordinate student birthdays. Birthday celebrations occur once per month for all birthdays for that month. Please check with your child's teacher regarding any student allergies. If you are having a birthday party for your child and want to hand out invitations at school, you must invite the entire class, all the boys, or all the girls.

Musicals

Kindergarten

All the fun and creativity of Del Mar Pines' kindergarten class is showcased in this rendition of The Three Piggy Opera. The inspiring story of the three little pigs reproduced in an operatic format, complete with recitatives, arias and choruses.

First Grade

Del Mar Pines' first grade class will perform Character Matters, a lively review of principles of good citizenship. Students explore positive traits like fairness, responsibility, respect for others, etc., in the context of common fairy tales. Join us and watch as the Fairy Tale Advice Council meets to discuss the problems and predicaments of its members.

Second Grade

The second grade class culminates its studies about family members and the countries from which their ancestors came. Our Ancestors will delight parents as students sing, recite poetry, share a family heirloom or family story, and participate in sampling traditional foods.

Third Grade

Our third graders will take a trip into outer space visiting our Solar System in an out-of-this-world musical called Vacation to Mars.

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade students present California Missions – And More! Students will depict the early history of California, up to statehood. Beginning with the arrival of Cabrillo, the production includes the life of California Native Americans, missions, presidios and pueblos. Rancheros, traders and adventurers will be portrayed in the war with Mexico and the Gold Rush. Our talented fourth grade students will portray all these colorful characters.

Fifth Grade

From the French and Indian War to the election of George Washington as the first president, The American Revolution gives students the chance to sing their way through the most exciting period in our nation's formation. Betsy Ross-a bit prone to exaggeration-tells her grandkids how the colonies became a nation. It's a difficult time; taxes are high, Sam Adams hates tea and Paul Revere keeps forgetting his horse. The colonies don't even like each other that much, and John Hancock is spending way too much time practicing his signature. But it's a glorious story nevertheless, and will help enliven an exciting part of our history.

Sixth Grade

The sixth grade class will offer an educational and fun-filled presentation based on the Greek myth Theseus and the Minotaur. Will the half man, half bull creature devour all the Athenians? How will Theseus become the hero he was destined to be?

Typical Week Schedules

Kindergarten

Kindergarten Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-8:30	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting
8:30-9:00	Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing	Poetry
9:00-10:00	Reading Groups	Reading Groups	Reading Groups	Reading Groups	Reading Groups
10:00-10:15	Snack/Recess	Snack/Recess	Snack/Recess	Snack/Recess	Snack/Recess
10:15-11:20	Number talk/ Math Groups	Number talk/ Math Groups	Number talk/ Math Groups	Number talk/ Math Groups	Number talk/ Math Groups
11:20-11:55	Lunch	Lunch	(11:00-11:55) Art	Lunch	Lunch
12:00-12:30	Spanish	Music	Buddy Lunch	Music	Spanish
12:30-1:00	Rest/Story Time	Rest/Story Time	Social Studies/Science	Library	Rest/Story Time
1:00-1:30	Free Choice Centers	Social Studies/Science		P.E.	Social Studies/ Science
1:30-2:00	PE	Technology	Free Choice Centers	Social Studies/ Science	Fantastic Friday
2:00-2:30	Super Kid		Hands On Science/ Direct Draw		
2:30	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal

First Grade

1st Grade Schedule	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-8:30	Morning Meeting/ Poetry	Morning Meeting/ Poetry	Morning Meeting/ Poetry	Morning Meeting/ Poetry	Morning Meeting/ Poetry
8:30-9:00	Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing
8:45 - 9:55	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
9:55-10:15	Snack/Recess	Snack/Recess	Snack/Recess	Snack/Recess	Snack/Recess
10:15-11:20	Math	Math	Math	Math (Pack up)	Math
11:20-11:55	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
11:55-12:30	Shared Reading	Shared Reading	Technology	Spanish	Shared Reading
12:30-1:00	PE	Spanish		Art	PE
1:00-1:30	Social Studies/ SEL	Social Studies/ SEL	(Pack up) Show-n-Tell/ Read Aloud		Library
1:30-2:00			Hands-on-Science/ Class Science	Music	(Pack up) Show-n-Tell/ Fantastic Friday
2:00-2:30 (3:05 on Late Dismissal Days)	(Pack up) Show-n-Tell/ STEAM	(Pack up) Show-n-Tell/ STEAM			

Second Grade

2nd Grade Schedule	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-8:45	<i>Morning Routine/ Spelling</i>	<i>Morning Routine/ Spelling</i>	<i>Morning Routine/ Spelling</i>	<i>Morning Routine/ Spelling</i>	<i>Morning Routine/ Spelling/Grammar</i>
8:45-9:55	<i>Math</i>	<i>Math</i>	<i>Math</i>	<i>Math</i>	<i>Math</i>
9:55-10:15	<i>Snack & Recess</i>	<i>Snack & Recess</i>	<i>Snack & Recess</i>	<i>Snack & Recess</i>	<i>Snack & Recess</i>
10:15-11:20	<i>Language Arts</i>	<i>Language Arts</i>	<i>Language Arts</i>	<i>Language Arts</i>	<i>Language Arts</i>
11:20-11:55	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
12:00-12:30	<i>Grammar/Read Aloud</i>	<i>Spanish</i>	<i>Grammar/Read Aloud</i>	<i>Handwriting/ Family Journal</i>	<i>Spelling Test</i>
12:30-1:00	<i>Social Studies/ Science</i>	<i>Art</i>	<i>Writing</i>	<i>Spanish</i>	<i>Library</i>
1:00-1:30			<i>PE</i>	<i>Writing</i>	<i>PE</i>
1:30-2:00	<i>Hands On Science</i>	<i>Music</i>	<i>Technology</i>	<i>Social Studies/ Science</i>	<i>Friday Business Fantastic Friday</i>
2:00-2:35					

Third Grade

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00 – 8:45	MR / Cursive	MR / Spelling	MR / Grammar	MR / Grammar	MR / Grammar
8:45 – 9:55	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
9:55 – 10:15	Snack & Recess	Snack & Recess	Snack & Recess	Snack & Recess	Snack & Recess
10:15 – 11:20	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
11:20-11:55	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:00 – 12:30	Read Aloud & Spelling	Catch Up &  Read Aloud	Spanish	Science / Soc St 12:30 – 1:10	Spelling 
12:30 – 1:00	Science	Music	PE	Read Aloud 	Hands-On Science
1:00 – 1:30	PE		Read Aloud & Spelling	Spanish	
1:30 – 2:00	Soc St 	Art	Cursive 	Technology	Library
2:00 – 2:30	Writing		Writing		Fantastic Friday

Fourth Grade

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-8:10	Unpack / Morning procedures	Unpack / Morning procedures	Unpack / Morning procedures	Unpack / Morning procedures	Unpack / Morning procedures
8:10-8:25	Morning Work/Silent Read	Morning Work/Silent Read	Morning Work/Silent Read	Morning Work/Silent Read	Morning Work/Silent Read
8:25-8:35					
8:35-8:45	Read Aloud	Read Aloud		Read Aloud	Read Aloud
8:45-8:55			Writing with Miss Lewis (8:30-9:15)		
8:55-9:05					
9:05-9:15					Math (8:45-10:15)
9:15-9:35					
9:35-9:45			Math (9:15 - 10:15)		
9:45-9:55					(Usually Math continues, but we take our weekly spelling test at this time on Dr. Perez days.)
9:55-10:05					
10:05-10:15					
10:15-10:30	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
10:30-10:40					
10:40-10:50	Lang. Arts (10:30-10:50)	Lang. Arts (10:30-10:50)	Read Aloud (10:30-10:50)	Lang. Arts (10:30-10:50)	Lang. Arts (10:30-10:50)
10:50-11:00					
11:00-11:10					
11:10-11:20					
11:20-11:30					
11:30-11:40					
11:40-11:50					
11:50-11:55			HW/PACK UP (11:45-11:55)	HW/PACK UP (11:45-11:55)	HW/PACK UP (11:45-11:55)
11:55-12:30	Lunch: Eat/Play	Lunch: Eat/Play	Lunch: Play/Eat	Lunch: Eat/Play	Lunch: Eat/Play
12:30-12:40					
12:40-12:50	Library (12:30-1:00)	Social Studies (12:30-1:00)			
12:50-1:00					
1:00-1:10					
1:10-1:20					
1:20-1:30					
1:30-1:40					
1:40-1:50					
1:50-2:00	Flex Time (1:45-2:00)	PE (1:00-1:30)		PE (1:30-2:00)	
2:00-2:10	HW/PACK UP (2:00-2:10)	Social Studies (2:00-2:20)		Spanish (2:00-2:30)	Science Lab (1:30-2:30)
2:10-2:20	Magnificent Monday (2:10-2:30)	HW/PACK UP (2:20-2:30)			
2:20-2:30					
2:30-2:45	DISMISSAL	DISMISSAL	DISMISSAL	DISMISSAL	DISMISSAL

Fifth Grade

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8-8:20	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting
8:20-8:30	Grammar/Word Study	Grammar/Word Study	Grammar/Word Study	Grammar/Word Study	Grammar/Word Study
8:30-9:30	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
9:30-10	Social Studies	Social Studies	Science	Social Studies	Science
10-10:15	Quickwrite		Quickwrite		Quickwrite
10:15-10:30	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
10:30 - 11:50	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
11:50-11:55	Pack Up	Pack Up	Pack Up	Pack Up	Pack Up
11:55-12:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:30-1	Science	P. E.	Performing Arts	Writing/15 min. Read Aloud	Technology
1-1:30		Spanish			
1:30-2	Library	Writing/15 min. Read Aloud	Art	Spanish	Dr. Perez OR Writing/Read Aloud
2-2:30	Brain Games/ Mag. Monday			P.E.	

Sixth Grade

6th Grade Schedule 2023-2024		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00 – 8:30	Unpack/ CNN/Grammar	Unpack/HW/Grammar	Unpack/HW/Grammar	Unpack/HW/Grammar	Unpack/HW/Grammar	Unpack/HW/Grammar
8:30 – 9:45	Math	Math	Math	Math	8:30 – 9:30 Math	Math
9:45 – 10:10	Daily Write Grammar/Roots	Daily Write Grammar/Roots	Daily Write Grammar/Roots	9:30 – 10:10 SS	Reading	
10:10 – 10:25	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
10:25 – 11:40	Reading Writing	Reading Writing	Reading Writing	10:25 – 11:20 Reading/Pack	Dr. Perez Or Reading/ Grammar/Roots Read Aloud	
11:40 – 11:55	Read Aloud	Read Aloud	Read Aloud Pack	11:25-11:55 Spanish		
11:55 – 12:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch W/Buddies	Lunch	Lunch	
12:30 – 1:00	Sci	SS	Science Lab	Music	SS	
1:00 – 1:30	Sci	SS/Pack	Science Lab	Music	SS	
1:30 – 2:00	SS/Other	PE	Library	Art	Tech	
2:00 – 2:30	Pack/Mag Monday (8-days First Monday of Month)	Spanish	PE	Art	Tech	
2:30	Dismissal	Dismissal	2:30 Dismissal OR	Dismissal	Pack/Dismissal	
			2:30 – 3:00 Additional Class time 3:00 Dismissal			

*This schedule is subject to slight changes.

Ancillary Programs

Art

Art is an important tool for learning and a basic part of human nature. We create art for our pleasure as well as to communicate. The visual arts provide not only a way for our children to express thoughts, feelings and hopes, but also the means for them to learn more about history and the world. Art can help our children express their thoughts and ideas when words fall short. It can also assist them in becoming better learners by helping them analyze, interpret and work hard to complete a goal. Art is a global language. As with written language, the visual arts language has an alphabet (the elements of art) and grammar (the principles of art). There are techniques and styles used by celebrated artists that show us how this language can be used effectively.

At Del Mar Pines, students enjoy sixty minutes of visual art instruction per week. They learn how this powerful language communicates across time and borders. They learn the basic components of art by using a wide range of materials and techniques. Children are provided with opportunities to express ideas, feelings and emotions in their own personal style; solve creative problems where there is no right or wrong answer; and reflect, analyze and evaluate the merits of their efforts. They also study the works of others, and learn to empathize with the concerns and choices made by artists who lived in different times and cultures than their own.

The framework used for helping students journey through the arts at Del Mar Pines are standards set by the National Art Education Board.

Technology

The Del Mar Pines technology program is designed especially to help prepare our children for their tomorrow. With state of the art resources including: iPads, MacBook Air Laptops, Google Apps for Education, projectors, document cameras, every student has a chance to experience technology-enhanced learning.

Students begin their interaction with computers in kindergarten via iPad technology. As first and second graders, they become more familiar with iPads and their operation, while augmenting basic skills in reading, problem-solving and imaginative expression. iPad apps like ShowMe, StoryKit, and ePub Bud help our young learners develop these fundamental skills through a fun, hands-on and interactive process.

Third graders build on these bases, as they begin typing. Del Mar Pines utilizes Ultra Key software, in combination with several unique online tools, to develop fine keyboarding skills.

All fourth to sixth graders have daily access to MacBook Air laptops and Google Apps for Education. Fourth graders begin fine-tuning their word processing skills as they are introduced to the Internet as a research tool.

Finally, fifth and sixth grade students concentrate on graphics integration, working with spreadsheets and using PowerPoint and Prezi as a presentation tool. Sixth graders also continue onto advanced word processing and Internet - based collaboration projects via Google Apps. Through employing this instructional continuum, we ensure that Del Mar Pines graduates become great explorers of technology as well as innovative leaders of their own generation.

Spanish

The Spanish program at Del Mar Pines starts in Kindergarten and continues through sixth grade. It is a sequential FLES (Foreign Language in the Elementary School) model developed by our teachers, for our school. All classes receive two 30-minute classes per week with an elementary school Spanish teacher.

Program Goals and Beliefs

- To enhance the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in Spanish and English
- To develop high-order cognitive skills
- To support content area instruction at each grade level
- To promote global awareness and cross-cultural understanding
- To develop increased proficiency in all aspects of the language with each year of study

Language Expectations

The expectations for students learning Spanish as a second language who complete the K-6 sequence are to attain the Novice-Mid to Novice-High level as described in the [Proficiency Guidelines of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages \(ACTFL\)](#). At a Novice-Mid to Novice-High level, the students are able to engage in simple conversations, speak and write short sentences, and read and understand brief text.

Language Expectations from a 4th Grade student in a FLES (Foreign Language in Elementary School) program:

I am in the Novice range. I understand much more than I can say. I understand almost everything my teacher says during class, and I understand my classmates. I can understand short sentences with words that I have seen many times, but I need for the teacher to repeat often and use lots of pictures. If you ask me questions, I might pause to think of words to say. I might answer you in a sentence, but more likely it will be a few words or a list that I have memorized. Sometimes I can add a word or phrase to memorize sentences, but I am not very accurate when I try to express my own meaning. If you ask me unfamiliar questions, I will probably not say anything or I will speak to you in English. I can retell a simple story that uses vocabulary that I have practiced many times. (Description based on ACTFL Performance Guidelines for K-12 Learners, 2012)

I will be able to:

- Ask a few memorized questions.
- Follow routine classroom directions by my teacher.
- Recognize familiar keywords or phrases when I listen to my teacher read short stories.
- Recognize a few keywords or phrases in written passages with familiar vocabulary.
- Read aloud simple words and sentences that use familiar vocabulary.
- Retell a simple story.
- Recite common sequences such as the alphabet, numbers, days of the weeks and months of the year.
- Sing songs and recite rhymes with my classmates to learn and practice vocabulary.
- Demonstrate knowledge of cultural traditions and geography of Spanish-speaking countries.

Physical Education

Del Mar Pines School offers a structured physical education program that is wholly aligned with California State Board of Education standards. Students across grade levels (K-6th) engage in scheduled physical education classes twice per week. All fitness/sports activities assist children in managing their bodies efficiently as well as developing aerobic capacity, muscular strength, endurance, and flexibility. In this way, students are encouraged to progress through the advancement in their skills in the five health components of fitness: Cardiorespiratory Fitness, Muscular Strength, Muscular Endurance, Flexibility and Body Composition. While performing the corresponding fitness related exercises and dynamic stretches associated with each component of fitness (isometric exercises, core stability exercises, aerobic exercises, dynamic/static stretches, long distance running, sprints, planks, burpees and curl-ups), students

improve upon the assessment measures assigned to each student's age as a benchmark to achieve throughout the remainder of the year.

A variety of sports and sporting events are used to assist in developing the essential life skills of teamwork and fair play. Students are introduced to the various strategies in cooperative games as well as sports acquisition skills as a foundation to advancing sports skills in each particular movement activity in addition to maintaining fitness goals independently.

To pursue each instructional game/sport further, students learn the rules associated with each activity so as to promote sportsmanship and fairness within each unit as well as giving each student a broad understanding of the intricacies involved in each particular sport. Lastly, all students in fourth through sixth grades work towards achievement in the U.S. Presidential Fitness Awards.

Hands-on Science

Second through sixth grades have one hour of hands-on science per week with the hands-on science teacher and their classroom teacher in the science lab. Kindergarten and first grade will have one hour in the science lab every other week.

Hands-on science classes consist of engaging, hands-on investigations that stimulate students' curiosity and inquiry. Students have the opportunity to further explore what they are investigating in their classroom science content.

Students develop the scientific practices outlined in the Next Generation Science Standards.

1. Asking questions (for science) and defining problems (for engineering)
2. Developing and using models
3. Planning and carrying out investigations
4. Analyzing and interpreting data
5. Using mathematics and computational thinking
6. Constructing explanations (for science) and designing solutions (for engineering)
7. Engaging in argument from evidence
8. Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

Library

The Del Mar Pines Library, occupying its current luxurious space since 2016, is an important part of our school community, offering a carefully cultivated reading collection and providing library services to the entire school community.

Our Library offers both print and online learning resources, and instruction to expand our students' literary experience. The librarian is committed to making the library an inspiring and fun place to be with the following goals in mind:

Provide a wide selection of reading material: including up-to-date books and magazines, along with references to online reading materials. Students also have an opportunity to explore classic youth literature and favorite topics through a variety of genres.

Make the library space interesting, inviting and comfortable. A cozy corner dedicated to our younger readers allows smaller hands to reach and explore new and exciting books meant just for them. While at the same time, our older students can see ever changing displays featuring the latest releases and seasonal themes, as well as long time favorites.

Provide lessons and learning opportunities through literature. Read-alouds, games and interactive activities help students to identify and enjoy various types of literature including: biographies, folk tales, poetry, non-fiction, realistic fiction and fantasy in a variety of themes.

Promote collaborative learning involving students, their peers and their families. School-wide and family activities, book talks, author visits, student-to-student read-alouds, the annual Scholastic Book Fairs, and the annual Family Read-In bring students and families together in the pursuit of reading enjoyment.

Music

The music program at Del Mar Pines is committed to the musical growth of all students in a non-competitive environment. It provides students the opportunity to sing, play, listen and create music in a variety of musical genres. The program follows a sequential K-6 progression of musical objectives based on the National Coalition of Core Arts Standards. Students are given the opportunity to develop their music performance skills by participating in class musicals, talent shows and the annual Spring Sing. Song material from the musicals often correlates to the grade-level social studies curriculum. In addition, special attention is given to learning about the instruments of the orchestra (Grade 3), reading a musical score using the Kidstix program (Grades 2 and 3), Bucket Drumming (Grades 4 and 5) and learning to play the recorder (grade 5), and ukulele (grade 6). Compositional techniques are developed with the use of GarageBand (Grade 5).

Project Alert

Sixth Grade only

Project Alert is a comprehensive 18-hour program that teaches sixth grade children effective resistance skills to drugs, tobacco or alcohol. Taught by the school psychologist, the curriculum is designed to respond to the developmental changes that occur prior to and during middle-school years. These include social pressures to “fit in,” emulate behavior they view as mature and the need to become more independent. An emphasis is placed on helping students to identify internal and external pressures and to develop resistance techniques through role-playing, modeling, reinforcement, active student participation and validation. Each student is taught to resist peer pressure and make positive choices. In meeting these goals, their ability to adopt new behavior and change difficult behavior is heightened.

Communication Skills & Problem Solving

Fourth and Fifth Grade only

This ten-hour problem solving and communication skills program has been designed for fourth and fifth grade students. Using role playing, modeling, written exercises and dialogue, children learn how to identify problems and prospective solutions, analyze consequences of problem-solving strategies, and select and implement plans of action that best suit the issue.

The follow-up session focuses on effective communications skills. Emphasis is placed on the differences between assertiveness and aggression with students learning specific skills, which help them express opinions and feelings without intimidating or disrespecting others. The foundations of good interpersonal relations and problem solving provided by this course are further developed during Project Alert, a 18-hour program for sixth grade students.

Arrival and Departure

Student Arrival

Supervision of the playground is provided between 7:40 - 8:00 a.m.

Between 7:40-8:00 a.m. - Play Time

- Enter the campus through the front gate.
- Place backpack next to your classroom.

- Do not enter classroom before the bell rings unless it is raining or you have an appointment with the teacher and you have permission from your teacher.
- The soccer field and play-structures are open for play. Check with the teacher on duty to get a jersey before entering the field.

After 8:00 a.m. - Tardy

- Check in at the office to pick up a “Tardy Slip” before going to class.
- Tardies are recorded on report cards.

Rainy Day Arrival

- Students go directly to classrooms.

Student Arriving by Walking or Riding A Bicycle

Students who walk or ride bicycles to or from school without an adult must have a signed parental permission slip on file in the office. Children for whom there is no slip on file will not be allowed to walk or ride to or from home.

Student Arriving by Vehicle

- Pull in the back of the line of cars waiting.
- Pull forward to the first available parking space within the “Three-Minute Parking Zone”.
- A teacher will help unload your child from the passenger side of the car.
- **Carefully** pull away from the curb and continue on Torrington Street. **NEVER make a U-Turn on Torrington Street.**
- Students may not cross the street unaccompanied by an adult.

Parent Arrival

If you’re at DMP during school hours, be sure to go to the office to sign in and receive a visitor badge. The visitor badge must be displayed at all times. Upon leaving, please return the badge and check out in the office.

Student Departure

Before 2:35 p.m. (or 3:05 on late dismissal days) - Early Pick up

- Email your child’s teacher and Mrs. O’Leary if your child will be leaving early.
- Ring the bell on the front gate and we will call your child out of class.
- Teachers will send the student(s) to the office to join you for departure.
- Early dismissal days are recorded on report cards.

Between 2:35 -2:50 p.m. (or 3:05 and 3:20 on late dismissal days) - Regular Dismissal

Students Released to Vehicle

- Pull in the back of the line of cars waiting.
- Pull forward to the front of the DMP staff parking lot.
- Students are released/dismissed by a DMP faculty member.
- Students can only enter vehicles on the passenger side.
- DMP staff or students in Student Leadership will be there to help with loading.
- Drive away from the curb and continue on Torrington Street **without making a U-turn**.
- Students may not cross the street unaccompanied by an adult.

Students Released to Individual Walk up

- If parents need to park and pick up their children from their class lines, they can park past the DMP parking lot adjacent to TPHS. Parents may leave their car and wait by the east end of the staff parking lot. Students MUST inform their teacher that their parent is there before the teacher will release them. It is the teacher's responsibility to make sure that all students are released to the proper adult. Please make sure you have completed the authorized pick-up list of who is allowed to pick up your child. If you need to speak to the teacher, please make an appointment with them, conversations at the pick-up line interfere with the safe dismissal routine we have in place.

After 2:50 p.m. - 5:15 pm After Care or Enrichment

- Students who are not picked up during dismissal will go to After Care.
- Park in a legal spot on the street and walk to the After Care sign out area by the lunch tables. If you are picking up your child(ren) from After Care after 3:30 p.m., you may park in the staff parking lot.

Rainy Day Pick Up

- Park in a legal spot and walk to your child(ren)'s classroom.
- Notify the teacher that you are taking your child.

Friend or Relative Pick Up

Individuals other than parents picking up children must be listed on that child's student dismissal form or the parent is required to call the office or send a note or email to authorize release of their child.

Driving Safety

- Be sure to obey all traffic and parking laws on Torrington Street.
- Do not use the DMP or Torrey Pines driveways to turn around.
- **Do not make a U-turn on Torrington Street.**
- Remain between the curb and white line during drop-off and dismissal.

Torrey Pines High School Traffic

Torrey Pines High School normally begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:25 p.m. Use extreme caution when traveling on Torrington and surrounding streets during the following hours, as traffic increases dramatically from 8:15-8:45 a.m., 1:00 -1:55 p.m., and 3:15-3:45p.m.

Torrey Pines has an early release 16 Wednesdays per year listed on our Google Calendar. They dismiss at 2:25 pm and these will be our Late Dismissal Days at 3:05 which are on the calendar.

Parking

Please be mindful of the “Three-minute Parking Zone” directly in front of DMP. This unloading/loading zone is exceptionally important from 7:40-8:00 a.m. and 2:35-2:50 p.m. Del Mar Pines parking lot is for staff only and double parking is strictly prohibited. If you must leave your car for any reason, please park in the 30-minute zone before the driveway into Torrey Pines High School or on the opposite side of the street.

After Care

Let your child(ren) know on days he/she should report to After Care, if possible. However, if unforeseen circumstances prevent you from picking up your child(ren) by 2:35 p.m., your child(ren) will automatically be enrolled in the After Care program.

Between 2:35–5:15 p.m., students are supervised as they play and/or do homework. You do not need to prepay or register your child(ren) in advance. After Care attendance is taken promptly at 2:35 p.m. Students will be signed in at that time. After Care fees are \$10/hour. Fees are assessed in 1-minute increments (\$.166/minute). After 5:15 p.m., a surcharge of \$1.00 per minute applies.

When taking your child from After Care, please sign out the student on the i-Pad and notify an After Care teacher.

After School Enrichment Classes

Fall Trimester

Winter Trimester

Spring Trimester

Enrichment classes vary throughout the school year. Typically enrichment classes include Mad Science, Computer Programming, Mountain Boarding, Chess, Woodworking, Archery, Lego, Math Club, Science Club, Yearbook, Art, Fencing, Gymnastics, Band, and Mindfulness, etc. Classes vary depending on availability of space, instructors and vendors. If your child is not picked up when the enrichment class ends, they will be automatically enrolled in After Care. After School classes are paid in the front office when enrolling. Enrollment details vary depending on day of week, holidays, time of year, and the age of students. All classes begin at either 2:45 for regular dismissal days and 3:15 p.m on late dismissal days. Most classes last one-hour. Providing a snack for your child to have after school and before enrichment begins is highly recommended.

Summer Discoveries 2025

Session I: June 16– July 3

Session II: July 7 – 24

*Sign-ups begin in March

For over 30 years, Del Mar Pines summer programs have facilitated the academic process while teaching students that learning can be fun! Classes focus on both personal and academic enrichment—allowing students to develop and refine basic skills while expanding their horizons through creativity and innovation. Both students and parents agree that a Del Mar Pines summer can be a first step on the road to considerable academic improvement.

Please check with your child(ren)'s teacher to see if an academic summer program would enrich their reading and/or math skills.

Individual programs have been established for students, who are entering kindergarten through sixth grades the following fall. Registration is offered to Del Mar Pines students first and then is open to other students from other schools. All meet Monday through Thursday in air-conditioned facilities. Classes are available from 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. There is no before or after school care.

Student Expectations

All students have a right to a safe and healthy school environment. The school and community have an obligation to promote mutual respect, tolerance, and acceptance.

At Del Mar Pines we are Safe, Responsible, Respectful

Del Mar Pines School has adopted The Responsive Classroom for the 2024/25 school year. This is a teaching approach that focuses on creating a positive and supportive learning environment for children. Here's a summary of the program:

1. **Focus on Both Academics and Social Skills:** The Responsive Classroom approach recognizes that students learn best when they feel safe, respected, and valued. It aims to balance academic instruction with social and emotional learning, helping children develop important skills like cooperation, empathy, and problem-solving.
2. **Daily Routines:**
 - **Morning Meeting:** Each school day starts with a Morning Meeting, where teachers and students greet each other, share news, and participate in activities that build a sense of community, teach academic and social skills, and set a positive tone for the day.
 - **Clear Expectations and Logical Consequences:** Teachers set clear, positive behavior expectations and use logical consequences to help students understand the effects of their actions, promoting a respectful and orderly classroom.
3. **Interactive Learning:** Teachers use methods like Interactive Modeling to clearly demonstrate and practice expected behaviors and routines, ensuring that students understand what is expected of them.
4. **Student Choice and Engagement:** The approach encourages interactive lessons and gives students some choices in their learning activities, which helps them stay engaged and take ownership of their education.
5. **Collaborative Problem Solving:** When issues arise, teachers work with students to solve problems together, fostering a sense of responsibility and helping students learn to resolve conflicts constructively.

In summary, The Responsive Classroom approach aims to create a caring and effective learning environment where children thrive academically and grow as responsible, empathetic individuals. Having more consistency and explicit teaching of our school-wide expectations will positively impact our school community and foster an even greater sense of belonging and understanding between students and teachers.

Del Mar Pines will not tolerate behavior that infringes on the safety or well-being of any student. Students are expected to adhere to all of the following school rules, including the subsequent policies regarding the use of school technology, personal cell phones, smart watches as well as

student harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyberbullying.

School Rules

In addition to the California Education Codes for Student Discipline, students are responsible for abiding by the following rules:

- Follow all directions from staff members in a respectful manner.
- Be safe and do no harm.
- Be respectful to everyone.
- Do not harass, intimidate, or bully/cyberbully.
- Use appropriate language (no cussing, name calling, or vulgar language).
- Eat and drink only while sitting at a lunch table.
- Clean trash at and around your lunch table before asking to be dismissed to play.
- Receive teacher permission to enter a classroom and a teacher must remain present.
- Receive teacher permission to retrieve balls on the hill.
- Use equipment properly (do not break it or hurt others).
- Walk on White - Students must walk on all concrete surfaces.
- Tag must be done on the field or blacktop during scheduled times.
- Heading any ball is prohibited.
- Stay outside the play structure when it is wet.
- Do not jump from any part of the play structure.
- Do not go between or behind buildings.
- Use only hands on the overhead bars.
- Sitting is only allowed on the lowest and middle gymnastics bars.
- Both hands need to remain on the gymnastics bars at all times.
- Do not assist other students to reach any bars or to learn new tricks.
- Go down the slide with feet first and sitting down.
- Get a drink of water, use the restroom, and tend to injuries before or when the 2 minute whistle.

Technology Use Policy

- Keep personal tablets, laptops, smart watches, etc. at home
- Be gentle with the technology equipment.
- Keep school technology devices on campus.
- Keep food or drinks far away from all technology.
- Visit only teacher-approved sites on the Internet.
- Use only the applications required to complete assignments and projects.
- Do not attempt to change the appearance or settings of any technology equipment.
- Do not download software or media.
- Do not use chat.
- Follow and sign the Technology Use Rules and Expectations.

Smart Watch Policy

Students are not allowed to wear smart watches on campus as it becomes a distraction to themselves and others. Students can communicate with their parents by going to the office at any time and parents can always contact the office to give a message to their child. If a student wants to track their steps, they can wear a Fitbit or other device that has no texting, calling, or app capabilities.

Cell Phone Policy

It is strongly recommended that students do not bring a cell phone to school. If a parent deems it absolutely necessary for a child to have a phone, the phone must be off and in a backpack the entire time the student is on campus. If a student phone is seen by any staff member or is heard vibrating or ringing while at school, the student is in violation of school rules. The phone will be turned in to the director for a parent to pick-up the phone.

Student Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying and Cyberbullying Policy

A student shall not intimidate, harass, or bully another student through words or actions. Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated and ongoing, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. In order to be considered bullying, the behavior must be aggressive and include:

- An Imbalance of Power: Kids who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- Repetition: Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.

Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose. There are three forms of bullying—verbal, social, and physical. Verbal bullying is saying or writing mean things. Verbal bullying includes teasing, name-calling, inappropriate comments, taunting, and threatening to cause harm. Social bullying, sometimes referred to as relational bullying, involves hurting someone's reputation or relationships. Social bullying includes leaving someone out on purpose, telling other children not to be friends with someone, spreading rumors about someone, and embarrassing someone in public. Physical bullying involves hurting a person's body or possessions. Physical bullying includes hitting/kicking/pinching, spitting, tripping/pushing, taking or breaking someone's things, and making mean or rude hand gestures. Any digital communication or the use of social media to cause similar harm is cyberbullying. This policy applies to the interactions between all students of Del Mar Pines whether on or off campus.

Students and staff are expected to immediately report incidents of bullying to a director. Staff who witness such acts take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so. Each complaint of harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyberbullying should be promptly investigated.

To prevent all forms of bullying from occurring on our school campus, Del Mar Pines provides staff development training, typically through the Anti-Defamation League, in bullying prevention and cultivate acceptance and understanding in all students and staff to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment.

Teachers and parents should discuss this policy with their students in age-appropriate ways and should assure them that they need not endure any form of bullying. Students who bully are in violation of this policy and are subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

The procedures for intervening in bullying behavior include, but are not limited, to the following:

- All staff and students' parents will receive this policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, and bullying at the beginning of the school year in the parent handbook.
- The school will make reasonable efforts to keep a report of bullying and the results of investigation confidential.
- Staff who witness acts of bullying shall take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so. People witnessing or experiencing bullying are strongly encouraged to report the incident to a director immediately.

Consequences for Misbehavior

Students are expected to behave in a manner that helps to ensure that all students and teachers are treated with respect, kindness, cooperation, and dignity. However, we also understand that we are dealing with children who sometimes make mistakes and make poor choices. Our goal is to help children make better choices and to learn from their mistakes in a positive and meaningful way. Minor misbehavior is defined as a student breaking a school rule or direction from a staff member, but not deemed by the director as malicious and/or egregious.

When a student is having minor misbehavior, teachers will utilize the following steps for using The Responsive Classroom Approach for Teacher/Student Conferencing.

1. Start the Conference Positively:

- **Build Rapport:** Begin the conversation with a warm and friendly tone. Start by acknowledging something positive about the student's work or behavior to set a positive and supportive tone.
- **State the Purpose:** Clearly explain the purpose of the conference and what you hope to achieve together.

2. Engage in Constructive Dialogue:

- **Ask Open-Ended Questions:** Use open-ended questions to encourage the student to share their thoughts and feelings. For example, "How do you feel about your recent project?" or "What challenges are you facing with this assignment?"

- **Listen Actively:** Show genuine interest in the student's responses. Listen carefully, make eye contact, and provide feedback that shows you value their perspective.

3. Discuss Goals and Solutions:

- **Collaborate on Goals:** Work with the student to set specific, achievable goals. Discuss what steps they can take to reach these goals and how you can support them.
- **Problem-Solve Together:** If there are challenges or concerns, brainstorm possible solutions together. Encourage the student to think about what might help improve their situation.

4. Provide Positive Feedback and Encouragement:

- **Highlight Strengths:** Reinforce the student's strengths and successes. Acknowledge their efforts and progress, no matter how small.
- **Offer Encouragement:** Provide motivational support and encouragement. Let the student know that you believe in their ability to achieve their goals.

A major misbehavior is breaking a school rule or direction from a staff member and is deemed by the director as egregious and/or malicious. Parents will be notified when a child has a major misbehavior or a significant number of minor misbehaviors that are not improving with school intervention. After the Director has meetings and discussions with parents, teachers and leadership regarding a student serious behaviors, Del Mar Pines reserves the right to take whatever actions are deemed appropriate for the situation and previous occurrences of a student's behavior, including suspension and expulsion.

No Place for Hate/Student Leadership

- Students in grades four through six are eligible to apply for No Place for Hate/Student Leadership.
- If a student receives 1 Behavioral Study Hall in a trimester or they have no more than 1 unexcused absences they will not be able to participate for a designated time period determined by the No Place for Hate/SL Team. Responsibilities for Student Leadership include:
 - Demonstrating exemplary service, inclusiveness, school values, and school spirit.
 - Organizing projects and fundraisers.
 - Helping with safety patrol at dismissal.
 - Participating in service projects.
 - Leading by example.

Upper Grade Trimester Awards

Academic Diligence

- In order to qualify for the Academic Diligence Award, students in grades four through six must meet the following requirements for the trimester:
 - Receive an A or B on all class projects during a trimester.

- Receive no more than 3 Academic Study Halls per trimester (no more than 4 Academic Study Halls in the first trimester of fourth grade).
- Receive no Academic WMEs (Working to Meet Expectations) per trimester.
- Have no missing assignments.

Trimester Award for Citizenship

- In order to qualify for the Citizenship Award, students in grades four through six must meet the following requirements for the trimester:
 - receive no more than 1 Behavioral Study Hall per trimester
 - receive no Citizenship WMEs on their report card per trimester

Homework

Students in first through sixth grades will generally have homework assignments Monday through Thursday night. There can be some weekend homework in upper grade classes at various times. The time required to complete homework varies widely between students and grade levels.

Expected Homework Times

- First grade 10-15 minutes
- Second grade 20-30 minutes
- Third grade 30-40 minutes
- Fourth grade 40-50 minutes
- Fifth grade 50-60 minutes
- Sixth grade 60-75 minutes

Completing Homework

Homework assignment sheets or books are brought home each night. These sheets are provided to inform parents of the assignment(s) and to inform teachers about the amount of time the student spends on his/her homework. If anyone assists your child with the assignments, please indicate this on the assignment.

Receiving Assignments When Absent

If a child is not at school for any reason, parents can call the office and/or email your child's teacher before 7:30 a.m. to arrange getting your child's homework by the next day. Teachers have 24 hours to get the work together.

Work for Planned Vacations during School

Upon return from vacation, your child's teacher will provide missed assignments to be completed and turned into the teacher within the teacher's requested due date.

Helpful Homework Habits

- Have consistent times set aside for homework and skill practice.
- Pick a quiet, distraction-free study environment.
- Parents can look over homework assignments and clarify questions.
- Notify the classroom teacher, if your child is frequently having difficulty doing the homework within the expected homework times.
- Email your child's teacher, if special circumstances made it too difficult for your child to complete his/her homework. Whenever possible, please contact the teacher prior to 8:00 a.m. to make arrangements for the work to be completed.

Staff Background & Directory



Director, Marci McCord

Email: mmccord@delmarpines.com

Mrs. McCord has been at DMP since 1990. She graduated from the University of California at Davis with a degree in economics. She earned her teaching credential from University of San Diego. She has taught kindergarten, second, third and sixth grades at Del Mar Pines. Marci and her husband have a daughter and a son who graduated from Del Mar Pines.

**Front Office Manager, Lora O'Leary**

Email: loleary@delmarpines.com, office@delmarpines.com

Prior to coming to Del Mar Pines in 2014, Mrs. O'Leary was a substitute teacher in the Del Mar, Solana Beach and Encinitas school districts for eight years. She received her Bachelor of Science in biology from University of San Diego and worked at the Salk Institute for Biological studies for 15 years. She has three adult children and three grandchildren. Mrs. O'Leary loves to bike, bake and play pickleball.

**Assistant Office Manager, Christine Linxwiler**

Email: clinxwiler@delmarpines.com, office@delmarpines.com

Mrs. Linxwiler is thrilled to join the Del Mar Pines community this year! With 17 years of experience in Academic Administration, she's eager to share her knowledge and experiences with DMP. Before stepping into the world of education, Mrs. Linxwiler spent some time in the wine and retail industries, areas she still has a keen interest in as a consumer! Mrs. Linxwiler and her husband Eric spend their free time traveling to visit their two adult children who live out of state, and exploring all this amazing world has to offer. She is looking forward to a wonderful year ahead.

Art Teacher, Tanya Robinson

Email: trobinson@delmarpines.com

Mrs. Robinson joined Del Mar Pines in 2005. Although she has been a resident of San Diego for the majority of her adult life, her background includes residency in three continents. Her education includes training received in British boarding schools and Francis Parker High School, culminating in a bachelor's degree in communication and visual arts from University of California at San Diego, and a master's degree in telecommunications and film from San Diego State University. She is the founder of ASK, an image and protocol consulting firm, a member of NAEA, and a graphic arts designer. Mrs. Robinson and her husband have one son.



**Music Teacher, Scott Spurgiesz**

Email: sspurgiesz@delmarpines.com

Mr. Spurgiesz joined DMP in 2021. He taught general music education classes at All Hallows Catholic School and St Mary's School for three years. He is the owner of Music Pillars which is an afterschool music and theater school. Mr. Spurgiesz has a B.S. degree in Chemistry from Northern Arizona University and an MBA from UC Berkeley. He is also a professional pianist. He is married and has four children.

**Spanish/Hands-on Science Teacher, Emily Fritz**

Email: efritz@delmarpines.com

Ms. Fritz began working at DMP in 2015. She taught Spanish and English bilingual classes in Seville and Herrera, Spain for three years. She taught Spanish at a public K-12 school in Wisconsin for two years. Ms. Fritz has a B.S. in business administration and Spanish from University of Wisconsin, and a master's degree in teaching from University of Southern California. She enjoys fishing and spending time with family and friends.

**Technology Teacher and IT Support, Terry Sanchez**

Email: tsanchez@delmarpines.com

Mr. Sanchez joined DMP in 2020. He previously taught photography, video/film, and digital media at Torrey Pines High School for 4 years and was a substitute teacher in various elementary schools for 5 years. He is certified in Google, Adobe Photoshop and Premiere. He has an excellent technology background and also directed live evening newscasts for KUSI-TV News for 12 years. Mr. Sanchez has a double major in Economics and Visual Arts Media, as well as a minor in Science and Technology from University of California, San Diego.

He also has a degree in Educational and Instructional Technology from National University in San Diego. He enjoys photography, video editing and is a licensed pilot.

**Writing Teacher Upper Grades, Outside Supervision, and Social****Media Coordinator, Nicole Lewis**Email: nlewis@delmarpines.com

Ms. Lewis joined DMP in 2020. She holds a B.A. in English from the University of New Mexico, an MFA in creative writing and poetry from Naropa University, a Montessori teaching credential, and is yoga certified. Ms. Lewis's true passion lies in teaching writing, where she inspires students to find their voice and express themselves creatively. Her own writing has appeared in Sage Woman Magazine, the San Diego Poetry Annual, San Diego Poets Underground, and The San Diego Union-Tribune. Her memoir, Searching For My Purple, was featured in the 2022 International Memoir Showcase and forthcoming Shaking the Tree, 2025 Anthology. In her free time, she enjoys writing, cooking, yoga, floral arranging, and blogging.

**Kindergarten Teacher, Laura Murphy**Email: lmurphy@delmarpines.com

Mrs. Murphy began working at DMP in 2002. She was the recipient of a bachelor's degree in psychology with an emphasis in child psychology from San Francisco State University. She and her husband Joshua have three daughters. All of her daughters are graduates from Del Mar Pines School.

**Kindergarten Reading/Math Teacher/Librarian, Wendy Poyhonen**Email: wpoyhonen@delmarpines.com

Mrs. Poyhonen started at DMP in 2005. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in special education, earned an MBA from the University of New Orleans, and completed postgraduate work in education at Tulane University. She began her teaching career in 1980, in addition to pursuing a career in corporate sales and marketing. Mrs. Poyhonen and her husband have two sons who graduated from Del Mar Pines.

**First Grade Teacher, Cassandra White**

Email: cwhite@delmarpines.com

Mrs. White joined Del Mar Pines in 2018. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree with an emphasis in Cultural Literature and the Arts and a minor in education from the University of Washington. She also has a multiple subject teaching credential and a Masters Degree in Education. Prior to coming to Del Mar Pines, Mrs. White taught first grade in Washington state. She and her husband, Michael, have two daughters.

**First Grade Teacher, Kate Sands**

Email: ksands@delmarpines.com

Mrs. Sands joined Del Mar Pines in 2022. She graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a B.A. in Political Science and Mandarin, with minors in Theology and Studio Art. Mrs. Sands spent a year living in Taichung, Taiwan on a Fulbright scholarship teaching English and researching bilingual education. Since returning to the United States, she pursued her passion for early childhood education by teaching and illustrating children's books. Mrs. Sands and her husband have two miniature long-haired dachshunds. Outside of school, Mrs. Sands enjoys oil painting, pilates and yoga. She feels grateful to be a part of the DMP

community, and is looking forward to a fantastic school year together.

**Second Grade Teacher, Michelle Hancock**

Email: mhancock@delmarpines.com

Mrs. Hancock has been at DMP since 2012. She has her Bachelor of Arts in liberal studies/sociology from Pt. Loma Nazarene University where she also earned her multiple-subject teaching credential. Prior to coming to Del Mar Pines, Mrs. Hancock taught in the Oceanside School District. She and her husband have two children.

**Second Grade Reading and Math / Sixth Grade Science Teacher,**

Tammy Colley

Email: tcolley@delmarpines.com

Mrs. Colley began working at DMP in 2013. Her credentials include multi-subject teaching credential from National University, Paralegal Certificate from University of San Diego, and Bachelor of Arts in psychology from the University of Wisconsin. Mrs. Colley and her husband have two daughters and one granddaughter.

**Third Grade Teacher, Julie Canzone**

Email: jcanzone@delmarpines.com

Ms. Canzone joined Del Mar Pines in 2001. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from Florida State University and her Master of Education from Mercer University in Atlanta, Georgia. Ms. Canzone began her teaching career in Atlanta before moving to San Diego. She has one daughter, a graduate of Del Mar Pines.

**Third Grade Math Teacher, Alison Cox**

Email: acox@delmarpines.com

Mrs. Cox started at DMP in 2017. She received a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education from Arizona State University. She has taught at Leonardo da Vinci Health and Science Charter School in San Diego since 2012; Holly Drive Leadership Academy San Diego from 2009 – 2012, and was a student teacher in Scottsdale, Arizona. She sets high expectations for herself and her students, and is reflective and enthusiastic about teaching. Allison and her husband have three children and enjoy living in Carmel Valley.



Fourth Grade Teacher, Rob Kelly

Email: rkelly@delmarpines.com

Mr. Kelly started at DMP in 2013. He received his Bachelor of Arts in philosophy from the University of Notre Dame, and his teaching credential from the University of North Carolina. He has been a classroom teacher at the third, fourth, and fifth grade level in Washington, DC; Wilmington, North Carolina; and San Diego, California. Before that he was a systems analyst at Merrill Lynch in New York City. Mr. Kelly and his wife enjoy traveling, surfing, hiking, camping and other outdoor sports.



Fifth Grade Teacher, Michele Damodaran

Email: mdamodaran@delmarpines.com

Mrs. Damodaran joined DMP in 2022. She received a bachelor's degree in Economics from U.C. Berkeley and a Master's degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from New York University. She worked in business for a short time but eventually turned to teaching and never looked back. While raising her four children, Mrs. Damodaran stepped away from full-time teaching. Since moving back to California seven years ago, she has worked at St. Paul's Lutheran School and the Evans School, serving as a

second-grade teacher, a fourth-grade history teacher, and a middle-school language arts and writing teacher. When she is not in the classroom, Mrs. Damodaran enjoys hiking, biking, cooking, and time with her family--especially her two grandchildren.



Sixth Grade Teacher, Janie Stoke

Email: jstoke@delmarpines.com

Ms. Stoke has been with us since 2016. She received her bachelor's degree in Speech and Hearing Science from the University of Maryland and her teaching credential from California State University, San Marcos. She has been teaching since 1992, and prior to coming to DMP she taught in the Del Mar and Solana Beach school districts. Ms. Stoke's daughter attended Del Mar Pines School and graduated from the University of Wisconsin this spring with a teaching credential. She just started her first job teaching 3rd grade!



Fourth Grade Math Teacher, Outside/AfterCare Supervisor,

Nirupa Bhave

Email: nbhave@delmarpines.com

Mrs. Bhave came to DMP during the 2017-2018 school year. She earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in history from Pune University in India. Prior to coming to DMP, Nirupa worked at Del Mar Hills Nursery School for five years. She is excited to be working with students in a variety of capacities. She and her husband have two sons.

**Fifth and Sixth Grade Math Teacher & K-6 P.E. Teacher, Ryan Fortin**

Email: rfortin@delmarpines.com

Mr. Fortin began working at DMP in 2014. He received his Masters of Arts in teaching, and has a Dual Credential in multi-subjects and special education from Point Loma Nazarene University. He grew up in Carlsbad, and continues to live there with his wife. He taught P.E. at La Costa Heights Elementary School to over 750 children in grades K – 6. Mr. Fortin serves as a role model through extensive participation in fitness activities and noncompetitive activities with a focus on sportsmanship, physical strength, endurance and flexibility. Mr. Fortin and his wife are the proud parents of triplets and a younger daughter.

**Licensed Psychologist, Dr. Lourdes Perez-Williams**

Dr. Lourdes Perez-Williams has been consulting at DMP since 2000. She received her Bachelor of Arts in psychology and Spanish from Rutgers University, and a master's degree and doctorate in clinical psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology. She has been in private practice since 1985, and is licensed as a Psychologist, and Marriage, Family and Child counselor in the State of California. Dr. Perez-Williams is a child development expert who specializes in working with children and their family members. She is a consultant to private and public schools and works with children of law enforcement professionals. She and her husband's son graduated from Del Mar Pines and is a graduate of Brown University.