



August, 2021

Dear Downtown Magnets Suns!

I am thrilled to be welcoming everyone back to school for the 2021-2022 school year! I have eagerly anticipated the full reopening of our campus for over 18 months, and it's finally here. I am looking forward to seeing your smiling faces, even if they are under the required masks. What a moment to celebrate!

But wait, there's more: ***Our school turns 40 this year!*** That's another milestone. We are going to celebrate together. Its time we reflect on our past, learn from the successes and mishaps, and shape our future together. ***Happy birthday DMHS!***

School will begin on **August 16, 2021 at 8:30am** and end at 3:27 most days. Attached (and on the website) you will find the latest schedule, which includes the early Tuesdays and the minimum days for the school year.

In the coming school year, we will continue our progress towards creating a school community where everyone belongs and excels. We will continue our progress for equity and higher levels of literacy and numeracy using the R.E.A.L. framework I introduced last year (adapted from the work of G. Muhammad [2018] and Z. Hammond [2015]).

- **R=Redesigning** our curriculum, classroom spaces, school procedures and policies to make this school a space for ALL to excel.
 - *We will prepare our students to be globally aware and technologically savvy*
- **E=Enlarging** our curriculum, activities and procedures to create a broad, global sense of our world representing the diversity and its beauty.
 - *We will prepare our students to be lifelong learners and scholars.*

- **A=Attuning** our actions, words and behaviors to align with the needs of our students: academic, socio-emotional, and wellness.
 - *We will prepare our students to be effective communicators and responsible.*
- **L=Loving** our school community to engage in dialogue and partnership to improve academic skills and sustain a sense of belonging for all.
 - *We will prepare leaders.*

I can't wait to celebrate the innovations that made possible our successes through a pandemic, and highlight our actions in our progress report for our accreditation visit this Spring, 2022. Our school community will re-examine our practices and self-assess our growth as school using surveys, focus groups and listening sessions. *We will take a closer look at mission/vision: Does it fit our current reality and future?*

Due to the continued impact of COVID-19, we will continue to use mitigation strategies. We are still committed to the highest safety standards:


- Required masks for all students, staff and visitors indoors and outdoors
- Upgraded ventilation systems and filters
- Periodic testing for students and staff
- Using the dailypass.lausd.net for all students and staff
- Signage depicting best hygiene and safety practices throughout our school

Some basic guidelines for a successful school year start:

- Bring your smile, flexibility and excitement to the school year.
- Find a face mask that fits properly and can be worn all day. You may want to have a few for the week. Have your student find something that fits their personality.
- Continue to practice for regular hand-washing and hand sanitizing. Hand sanitizers will be available in classrooms and designated areas around the school.
- Get vaccinated at one of the LAUSD vaccination sites.
<https://achieve.lausd.net/Page/17638>
- Sign up for the parent portal.
<https://parentportalapp.lausd.net/parentaccess/>

- For those ***all students and staff, periodic testing will be required. All students will need to have a baseline COVID-19 test before August 16.***
 - DMHS will have mobile testing unit here on Monday August 2 and August 9 from 8:00am-2:30pm to get your baseline test.
 - Parent/Guardian must accompany the student if this is your first COVID test with LAUSD.

I am excited about all that this new school year has to offer and look forward to working collectively as a family to ensure that our students are provided with the best educational experience possible. I can be reached at sarah.usmani@lausd.net or 213-481-0371.

Go Suns!
Dr. Sarah Usmani, 
Principal