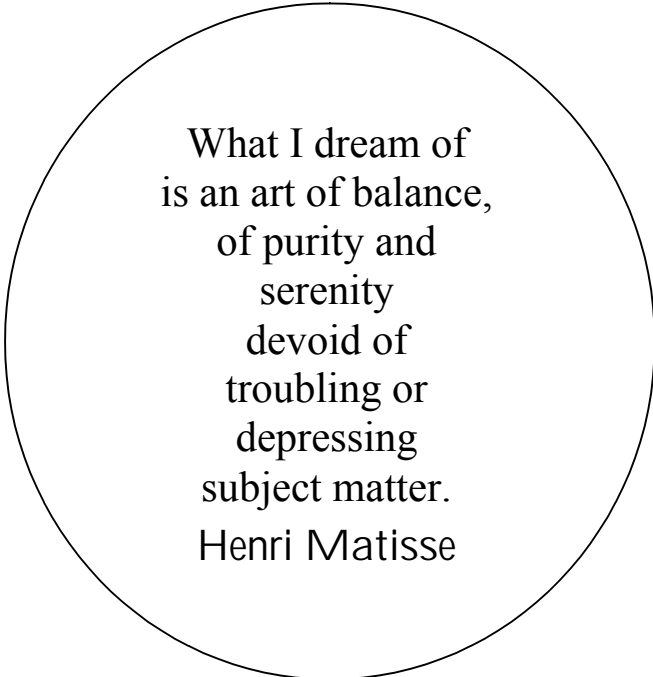


“A Year with the Arts”
Dunn Middle School Theme
2009-2010



What I dream of
is an art of balance,
of purity and
serenity
devoid of
troubling or
depressing
subject matter.
Henri Matisse

Hello students and parents:

Welcome to Dunn Middle School. Our theme this year, “A Year With the Arts” will be a way we can take a concentrated look at the visual, performing, and even other sensory arts. The options are unlimited, but we also hope to link the arts to all our academic subjects. We are not alone in our quest. Most of the major universities now have blended fields between art and science/math/music/history/language and more.

As you may know, our ongoing school motto “carpe diem” means “seize the day.” I can think of no stronger link to the arts than the ultimate challenge to seize the day. Students this year will be challenged in the academic arenas, the arts, and most importantly the blending of these fields and connecting them all in a meaningful fashion.

Sixth through eighth grade is, in our opinion, the most exciting stage of development for young people. Now is the time that they discover the world around them and the importance of their influence on the world. As educators, we believe our primary goal is to educate the mind of our students rather than simply filling the brain with facts. We want students to begin to think for them-selves, make conscious decisions, and believe that they can control their destiny in a positive fashion.

Every aspect of DMS is linked, in some fashion, to our goal of helping students to become well-rounded and intelligent decision makers. We are prepared for helping them through the bad decisions, and we celebrate the good decisions and accomplishments. We believe a strong partnership with parents is the key to our success. Together we can support and nurture our next generation.

This handbook should be kept in a safe place. It will help you greatly throughout the school year.

Carpe diem!

Linda Marie Smith, Head of Dunn Middle School

Mission Statement

The mission of Dunn School is to focus on scholar-ship, leadership, teamwork, and compassion.

Dunn School is committed to:

- Building each individual's academic and personal potential.
- Building self confidence and character.
- Fostering individual and collective excellence.
- Educating students for success in college and beyond.

At Dunn School everything we do is considered part of our curriculum. As a college preparatory school (6-8 grade day students and 9-12 grade boarding and day students), we offer a broad pro-gram of academics, athletics, arts, community service, and outdoor leadership within a diverse community of students, faculty, and staff. The depth and quality of the relationship between students and teachers is central to our process of education. Small class size promotes one-to-one communication and rapport between teacher and student which best stimulates the desire to learn.

Important Numbers

You will be issued a directory soon after school begins. In the meantime, this list of numbers should help you.

Dunn School
P. O. Box 98
2555 W. Highway 154
Los Olivos, CA 93441

Dunn Middle School	688-2404
Dunn High School	688-6471
DMS Fax	686-9715
DMS Homepage	http://www.dunnschool.org CLICK — "Middle School"

The office is open **7:45 A.M. to noon and 1-4 P.M.** There is an answering machine available if we are not there.

If you have something that can be answered by email, please contact the staff via these addresses.

Linda Smith (day)	lsmith@dunnschool.org
Linda Smith (evenings)	electronlinda@earthlink.net
Eric Gaylord	egaylord@dunnschool.org
Lenna Bowden	lbowden@dunnschool.org
Mackenzie Duncan	mduncan@dunnschool.org
Donna Frost	dfrost@dunnschool.org
Noah Morales	nmorales@dunnschool.org
Dawn Robinson	drobinson@dunnschool.org
Marc Kummel	mkummel@rain.org
Middle School Office	dmsoffice@dunnschool.org

When you have a concern, it is best to contact Linda Smith or Eric Gaylord first so that they can process the request or so that they can stay informed on all issues.

Core Academic Staff

*Sometimes the things that scare you the most
turn out to be the best times of your life.*

Lenna Bowden is the 6th grade Language Arts teacher as well as an enrichment instructor for Surf Club, Cooking Club, and French. Lenna joined DMS in 2006 after teaching middle school at Anacapa School and grades 9 and 10 at Santa Barbara High School. Lenna earned her English teaching credential from California Lutheran University after completing her Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism (with the department recognition award among others) from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Lenna has extensive community service including work with Direct Relief, United Way, Santa Barbara Natural History Museum, and Ty Warner Sea Center. Lenna's husband is a revered photography instructor at Dunn, and they have a new baby Matthew born in 2009. Lenna and her family live on the Dunn campus.

Mackenzie Duncan is our beloved sixth and seventh grade social studies instructor. Holding the unique role as the first alumni hired by DMS, Mac received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale University where she was active in the arts and theater. As part of her studies, Mac traveled to Italy to study art history and fresco painting. She worked for four years at the American International School in Genova, Italy, where she discovered her love of teaching (and met her husband Michele). Mac and Michele live in Los Alamos, but they return to Italy every summer to visit family and eat lots of pesto. Mac loves painting, hiking, bicycling, gardening, playing the guitar, and—what many people don't know—is an excellent pasta and pizza chef!

Core Academic Staff

Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one. (Einstein)

Donna Frost has an amazing background ranging from geologist to Paradise store owner. Her educational background includes doctoral work at UCSB in geology with her Bachelor of Science in geology from San Diego State University. Donna's graduate work took her to many exotic locales including a study of the geology in Nepal. In addition to her enviable ability to make even complex math make sense, Donna has taught enrichment courses such as band, fishing, percussion, rock hounds, kite construction, cooking, and childhood games. Be sure to ask Donna about her fascination with Marvin the Martian as well as her recent fishing accomplishments. Donna has a daughter Sarah who is a recent graduate of UCSB. Sarah is planning an October wedding to her fiancé Justin. Donna lives in Santa Barbara.

Eric Gaylord, DMS 7th and 8th grade science teacher, will be helping Linda out in his new position as the Assistant Head of Dunn Middle School. While teaching science on Dunn's upper campus for the past nine years, his favorite classes were Environmental Science and Anatomy and Physiology, but during his time there he also enjoyed teaching courses in conceptual physics and chemistry. Eric received his Bachelor of Science degree from Oregon State University in wildlife science and his Master of Science degree from New Mexico State University in biology. He is passionate about gardening and making progress toward environmental sustainability. Eric resides on campus with his wife, Ilise Garvin, and two elementary school age children, Kaela and Miles. He finds his greatest enjoyment adventuring in the outdoors, and he can often be found exploring rugged terrain with his family.

Core Academic Staff

Your best friend is someone who comes to your dance recital and names gold fish after you.

Noah Morales, 7th and 8th grade pre-Algebra and Algebra instructor, received his Bachelor of Science degree from UCSB in Physical Geography with an emphasis on GPS/GIS remote sensing. Noah is a man of many talents and many interests, not the least of which include traveling the world during summer vacations. He was raised on a large property in the small town of Tollhouse (not too far from Shaver Lake) where he perfected the fine craft of paint balling and other fun activities with three brothers. Living in a rural area, Noah spent the majority of his childhood roaming the rivers and creeks, floating plastic boats, and enjoying the great outdoors. Noah loves surfing, snorkeling, diving, and many other endeavors connected to the ocean. He has worked in several marine labs as well as terrestrial labs. Noah also enjoys snowboarding, hiking, cooking, learning how to play guitar, and gardening. Noah lives in Santa Barbara.

Dawn Robinson began her connection to Dunn School in the outdoor education program but quickly discovered that her passion was connected to teaching 7th and 8th grade language arts in the classroom. A cum laude graduate with a concentration in Sociology and English from Brandeis University (with the Justice Brandeis Scholarship), Dawn spent three years working with a variety of outdoor programs including Naturalists at Large, High Mountain Institute, and National Outdoor Leadership School. Dawn's amazing talents have taken her on many extreme adventures including teaching in Central America, traveling in Europe, South America, and New Zealand, backpacking kayaking, rafting, and mountaineering. Dawn also served as the academic mentor for National Outdoor Leadership School. She has a twin sister studying at Berkeley, she is a certified wilderness first responder, and Dawn is fluent in Spanish and sign language. Dawn is married to Eric, a native of Paris, France, and they live on the Dunn School campus.

Core Academic Staff

Linda Smith is the Head of Dunn Middle School, but she also loves to teach. After over 15 years of teaching primarily Language Arts but also teaching all other subjects, Linda is happy to be teaching primarily enrichment classes. Born in Chicago, Linda graduated from UCLA and has been married for 32 years to Dr. Douglas Smith, a local psychologist. Her son, Cameron, works as a GIS Analyst in Lawrence, Kansas, and her daughter, Carly, is now a landscape architect living in Davis, California. Linda's passions include gardening in her back yard, sewing, cooking, listening to more music and podcasts than any human should ever hear, and creating mixed and altered art projects.

Enrichment Staff

Marc Kummel is in his first year of teaching part time but his trillionth year of teaching at Dunn. After 27 years, this is the first year that Marc will not be teaching science, but he is serving as a great mentor to Eric Gaylord. Marc's passions are numerous. While his doctoral work was in philosophy, his interests have taken him to varied fields of science and photography. Marc challenges students and parents each week through his "stumper," a problem or question which is often generated through an experience of that particular week. Marc loves kayaking, hiking, photography, and collecting local mushrooms and fossils. Marc's greatest loves are his family which includes his wife Julie, his sons Ewan and Ryan, and his new twin grandsons. Marc lives off Camino Cielo Road (off Highway 154) and is actively involved in the Santa Ynez Natural History Society.

Illness/Injury

If a child becomes sick or injured at school, DMS staff members will do our best to make the student as comfortable as possible. All teachers are Red Cross certified in CPR and first aid. Students in or around the swimming pool or ocean must be monitored and assisted by a Red Cross certified lifeguard.

If a child has prescription medication, the student's parent should give the medication with written directions to Linda or someone in the office. **If a child needs medications such as Tylenol for a headache or fever, we will ask the parent to take the child home. Sick children should not be at school.** With the exception of extended trips, no staff member has permission to provide pain relieving medication to children during school hours no matter what the parent has requested.

If a child is in need of over-the-counter medication while on a trip, the school nurse will determine the need and dosage.

In case of an emergency, students will be taken to the nearest hospital. Parents will be notified immediately. The school Director will transport and stay with the child until a parent is available.

Any student who is well but not able to participate in physical activities will be excused from P.E. and placed in a study hall if we have received advance notice from a parent or doctor.

Sample Daily Schedule

Monday-Thursday

8:00-8:15	Deck Meeting
8:20-9:10	Math
9:13-10:03	Science
10:03-10:28	B – R – E – A – K
10:28-11:18	Language Arts
11:21- 12:11	Social Studies
12:11-12:40	Lunch
12:40-1:00	Silent Reading or Chess
1:00-1:45	Music (6th grade), Spanish or Chinese (7th/8th grades)
1:47-2:30	Enrichment elective
2:32-3:15	P. E. or Independent Study

Sample Daily Schedule

Friday

Morning schedule remains the same until 12:40

12:40-1:00	Reading Newsnote and upcoming week schedule
1:00-3:15	Friday Elective

Enrichment Classes

One of the joys of being a student at DMS is the experience of the breadth of enrichment classes over the course of three years. Each afternoon is filled with the sounds of music, attempts at speaking Spanish, unique film screenings, whittling, wood working, sewing, cooking, gardening, art classes, and so much more. While there are some requirements, there are many choices as well. The three tiers on the following pages provide the goals for each student:

TIER 1

Music and Foreign Language

SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS

Music requirements include a full year:

- First term: Guitar
- Second term: Band Instruments I
- Third term: Vocal Performance
- Fourth term: Band Instruments II
- Fifth term: Band Instruments III

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS

Each student must choose one language each year. One year of language will be the equivalent of one semester of high school language instruction.

Options for 2009-2010

SPANISH or MANDARIN CHINESE

TIER 2

Physical Education

Our goal in the P.E. program is to provide fun, athletic skills, education about our bodies, healthy competition, and develop healthy habits for life. There are several additional classes provided, but each student is required to complete the courses listed below:

Health/Nutrition	Aerobics/Fitness
CPR/First Aid	Surfing/Ocean Rescue
Life Skills (8th grade)	Swimming
Martial Arts	Tennis
Yoga	Basketball
Bicycling	Baseball
Volleyball	Ultimate Frisbee

Sixth grade students must participate in P.E. unless a special arrangement has been made with Head of DMS. Special arrangements are provided when there are physical injuries or exceptional athletic commitments outside the school day.

Seventh and eighth grade students may have independent study during one trimester if he/she is involved in a competitive sport after school at least five hours each week. Students are expected to do homework in a supervised setting without disrupting other students. Students who do not comply will be returned to P.E. classes.

TIER 3

Enrichment Requirements

Tier 3 includes the breadth of offerings DMS provides every afternoon. Each term, several of the classes listed below are offered as well as a variety of other classes. The classes listed below are the required course of study. There are many other courses that are offered each year that students may take. Students are allowed to take a favorite class twice over the course of 3 years.

Required Enrichment Classes

(you have 3 years to complete this list...
there are 2 classes you sign up for 5 times each year
for a total of 10 classes per year).

Research and Development
Digital Photography
Philanthropy or Random Acts of Kindness
Introduction to Cooking
Knitting, Crocheting, or Sewing
Entrepreneurship or Leadership
Theater Arts or Improv
Childhood Games
Ceramics
Gardening
Introduction to Drawing
Introduction to Woodworking
History of Music (jazz, classical, rock & roll, or opera)

Resident Artists

To honor students who take the initiative to pursue several classes in one field of study, DMS created a Resident Artist program. Students may be awarded a Resident Artist in any of the fields listed on the next page *OR may petition for an independent course of study*. Each field has several layers which must be completed before a certificate is awarded; however, the introductory level may be granted through a test if the student has demonstrated prior skill level achieved through instruction outside of DMS in a specific area (i.e. music).

Resident Artists will receive a certificate of completion, a letter of commendation which may be used for jobs in the future, and acknowledgement of their accomplishments at graduation. No student is required to pursue Resident Artist status, but a student may choose to achieve Resident Artist status in more than one field.

Our goal in creating the Resident Artist Program is to provide goals and clear opportunities for students who are seeking to identify strong interests in a particular field. *This program is not designed to be guided by parents, teachers, or other adults*. Students who have earned the title Resident Artist have pursued the goal on his/her own.

We will continue to encourage students to experience the joy of our classes which may only be offered one time such as “Music of the 60s” or “Makeover Everything!” These opportunities provide the unique experience and breadth that DMS students rave about. All Resident Artist opportunities are on next page.

Resident Artist Opportunities

Students may pursue this higher level of achievement by completing at least 3 courses offered in the enrichment division as well as completing an independent project. Each student must work with a mentor teacher, all course work must be completed prior to the 5th enrichment block in 8th grade, and students must petition for the Artist in Residence credential prior to January of 8th grade. All petitions must be submitted to the Head of DMS for approval.

COMPUTERS

Suggested course work includes Digital Photography, Web Page Design, and Computer Programming. Mentor Teacher: Marc Kummel

COOKING

Suggested course work includes Introduction to Foods, Chefs' Club, Pies, Pizza & Pasta, Soups & Stews. Mentor Teacher: Linda Smith or Lenna Bowden

FIBER ARTS

Suggested course work includes Knitting, Advanced Knitting, Sewing, and Advanced Sewing. Mentor Teacher: Linda Smith

VISUAL ARTS

Suggested course work includes Introduction to Drawing, Landscape Painting, Animation or Human Portraits, Graphic Arts or Advanced Drawing. Mentor Teacher: Mac Duncan

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Suggested course work includes Philanthropy, Leadership, Entrepreneurs, and Random Acts of Kindness. Mentor Teacher: Lenna Bowden or Dawn Robinson

ATHLETICS

Suggested course work includes Tennis, Lacrosse, Climbing, CPR/First Aid certification, Martial Arts, Yoga, and participation in two sports per year for at least two years. Mentor Teacher: Eric Gaylord or Dawn Robinson

HORTICULTURE

Required course work includes Native Plant Gardening, Organic Vegetable Gardening, Plant Art or Crafts. Mentor Teacher: Eric Gaylord

WOODWORKING

Required course work includes Whittling and Carving, Basic Wood Crafts, Furniture Construction. Mentor Teacher: Marc Kummel

General Information

Core and Enrichment Classes: The curriculum at Dunn Middle School provides students with a course of study that is well-rounded and challenging. Class sizes average 12 students. The course of learning is rigorous. Cooperative learning, critical thinking, hands-on projects, workshops, and long and short-term projects are stressed in all classes.

Communication: As a small day school, we pride ourselves on same day response to parent questions or comments. The health of our school depends upon the direct forwarding of questions or concerns to the appropriate staff person. Inquiries may be sent by note or email to a teacher. Teachers are happy to meet with parents on an appointment basis after school from 3:15 to 3:30. Many questions may be answered by the Head of DMS, the Assistant Head of DMS, or the Administrative Assistant in the office.

Friday Folders: Each Friday, a folder will be sent home which contains communication from the school. Please take time to read the contents thoroughly and return the folder (signed) on Monday.

Newsnote: Families will receive a newsletter via email each week. In order to be well informed, each parent should read the newsletter each week.

Webpage: The use of technology is a high priority at DMS. We have an awesome web page maintained regularly. Please visit it regularly for homework information, links to photography pages, news about Dunn School, and more.

Email: At times, parents need to be notified of a change in schedule or receive reminders of things that are happening. All parents on the email list will be notified of any updates. All other parents will be called if it is essential information.

General Information (continued)

Parent Partners in Learning. DMS welcomes the involvement of parents both on campus and at home. During the day, we welcome help on special projects, field trips, and some classroom opportunities. Sign-up sheets will be available on the first day of school while others will be sent via email.

With regard to homework, parents should offer reasonable assistance but not complete assignments for students. It is expected that parents will help their children find time and a good place for doing homework. Parents should be aware of the homework load and due dates for long-term projects. *Parents and teachers are expected to act as role models for students when solving problems on campus and should always maintain positive rapport with each other. Any negative or inappropriate actions or language by an adult or child will not be tolerated for any reason at any time on our campus.*

Lunch. Parents may assist in the health and welfare of their children by assuring that the child has a healthy snack and lunch each day. The school provides filtered hot and cold water as well as a microwave available for students for food preparation at break or lunch. Hot lunches may be purchased for \$4.50 Monday-Thursday.

We appreciate your cooperation in avoiding high sugar foods in your child's lunch containers. We will have candy or sweets at school on occasion, but we prefer to maximize nutrition standards and have agreed as a staff to do our best to maintain those standards during school hours.

Did your child forget his/her lunch? Ramen soup noodles are available for "emergencies" at a cost of \$2.50. By encouraging children to make a lunch at school when they forget one at home rather than having a parent bring it to school, we help improve memories and create independent young adults.

General Information (continued)

Fall Conferences: At the end of the 1st trimester, conferences are scheduled for each Middle School family. The purpose is to provide time for students, parents, and teachers to discuss the student's progress and achievements. Attendance by the student and at least one parent is required. Spring conferences are mandatory for struggling students and optional for others.

Midterm Comments: At the mid-point of the first trimesters, families are sent written comments and *approximate* grades regarding student progress in each class. Parent responses are welcome.

Absences and Tardiness: Repeat or regular absences or tardies severely impede your child's academic and social growth and place a difficult burden on classroom teachers.

7:45 Students may arrive. No earlier supervision.

8:00 "Deck Meeting" with morning announcements.

8:15 Classes begin.

3:15 End of school day. All students must be picked up promptly unless they are participating in a supervised activity.

Students are considered "tardy" if they arrive after 8:00 or if they are late for any class. Students with three tardy notes will be required to meet with the Head of DMS to create a plan for prompt arrival, which is essential for success in our society.

Make-Up Work. While we believe that a child who is sick should be allowed to recover without concern of school work, it is the responsibility of each student to make up any school work missed due to absence. Work will be accepted one day late for every day of absence. *In general, parents should not call in for assignments. This is a good time for students to learn how to check the Homework Hotline.* If the absence is anticipated, the student should notify each teacher ahead of time so that an assignment packet can be prepared.

General Information (continued)

The Note System:

Green Notes

Green is Good! If a student does something that stands out for being particularly helpful, positive, or extraordinary, he or she will receive a green note. You may keep the note at home.

Orange Notes

Being prepared for school each day is an essential part of the Middle School process. Students are held responsible for having all homework, school equipment such as paper, pencils, books, materials for special presentations, and appropriate clothing for P.E. Students are expected to make up all work missed due to absence or family trips. If homework expectations are not met, students will receive an “orange note.” If three homework assignments are missed in a single term (without a logical explanation), a conference with Linda Smith, Head of DMS, will be required for the student and parents to identify solutions to the problem.

Pink Notes

Ninety percent of success is being there. It is essential for students to develop the critical skill of arriving on time. Students who are tardy for any class or for Deck Meeting will receive a “pink note” to be signed by a parent. Three pink notes may result in a mandatory conference involving the student, parent(s), and Eric Gaylord, Assistant Head of DMS to identify solutions to the problem.

Phone Calls

It is our belief that unacceptable behavior should be handled in a clear and timely fashion. If your child violates a school rule or disrupts the school day in any way that has been deemed to be unacceptable, the Head or Assistant Head of DMS will call you with details. Consequences for inappropriate behavior are discussed with the parents and are designed to help the student make better decisions in the future as well as to protect other students.

General Information (continued)

Afternoon Pick-Up: School ends at 3:15. Students should be picked up at this time unless they are involved in a scheduled after-school activity. After students leave campus, they are not to return. Students may not go to the market, purchase a snack, and return to school.

Phoning Home: In emergencies or on rare occasions, students may phone home. *Students will not be given permission to phone home for missing assignments, supplies, lunch, or social arrangements.* These restrictions have been created to minimize frustrations of all adults involved and to encourage responsible behavior.

Field Trips and School-Wide Events: Field trips and special events are a part of school life. They should be considered “classes” conducted on or off campus and are central to the socialization and maturation of middle school students. We encourage parent participation for activities such as our Sci-Fi Festival, Talent Show, Piece of Cake bike ride, DMS Track Meet, American Spirit Festival, Science Fair, slide show, and the eighth grade commencement ceremony.

Dress: Dress at the middle school should be clean and appropriate. Students must bring footwear that is appropriate for physical activity on a daily basis. Students may not wear clothing that is distracting to other students. **Pants should fit properly and not “sag.” T-shirts should not advertise alcohol, drugs, inappropriate language, or violence. Bare midriff tops, halter tops, strapless tops, see-through fabrics, and pajamas are not appropriate dress for school. Straps for girls’ tops should be wide enough to hide undergarments. Appropriate dress attire is expected for graduation, and students may not draw attention to themselves in any fashion at the expense of others.**

General Information (continued)

Cell Phones: While students may have a cell phone in their backpacks, no cell phone should be used during school hours *for any reason*. Emergency calls should be placed through the office only. **No calls should be made while on the DMS campus before, during, or after school without permission from the Head, Assistant Head, or Office Staff of DMS.** CD players, hand held games, and other possessions may be allowed on long bus trips (out of Santa Barbara County) but are not allowed at any other time on school property or trips. Violation will result in confiscation of the cell phone or electronic device and will only be returned to the parent in order that rules can be personally reviewed with the family.

Lost and Found: If a student has misplaced or lost an item such as a book, sweatshirt, camping gear, or other personal belongings, he/she should check the lost and found box, affectionately called the Dork Box, located on the deck. The Dork Box is emptied monthly so that students may make exciting discoveries. If a name is on the object, we are always able to return it.

Student “Families”: Each student will be assigned to a “family” of students which will be led by a DMS teacher and a student elected leader. Each team will include 6th, 7th, and 8th grade boys and girls. Teams will meet together at deck meeting to take attendance, record homework prepared for the day, share stories, check for essential communications, and other “housekeeping” tasks.

The goal of the family system is to have a small group to turn to for accountability and for support. Students who are new may have “family members” who will make sure their experience is positive. Likewise, students who are becoming more confident may be able to guide other members in their group with the supervision of DMS teachers.

DMS Honor Code

Throughout the Dunn Campus, our core values include:

- Moral Courage
- Academic Excellence
- Emotional Wellness
- Physical Readiness
- Social Responsibility

We believe that people have the ability to control who they are and how they behave. We believe that our students and employees choose to be good citizens in all walks of life and enjoy being surrounded by people who choose to do the same.

Plato, the great philosopher, wrote dialogues often quoted about ideal behavior. Plato gets his concept of the good life from the model of a craftsperson making something. They either do it right or not; it doesn't matter who notices, and doing it right is the reward no matter who else notices. Plato encourages us to be excellent in the craft of living. This is fundamentally different from the modern notion of "don't get caught." **Our DMS Honor Code is on the next page. All DMS teachers, students, and support staff agree to these principles.**

DMS HONOR CODE

WE AGREE TO...

- treat ourselves and others fairly and with respect.
- be honest.
- tolerate and honor our differences.
- be as helpful as possible and a good friend to others.
- abide by all laws.
- refuse to tolerate anyone who does not abide by the Honor Code.

The *Carpe Diem* Spirit

One of the interesting things that sets DMS students and faculty apart from other schools is their willingness to *carpe diem* or seize the day. As a result, *Carpe Diem* has become our school motto.

We believe students and teachers who embrace opportunities will lead happier, more successful lives. Being willing to *carpe diem* may be as simple as being willing to take a challenging bike ride or as complex as pursuing a particularly interesting topic of research. To seize the day is to make the most of each day rather than simply occupying space. We believe it is not enough simply to do what is expected; an ideal student seeks greater opportunities and adds a positive spirit to the school on a daily basis.

Likewise, DMS teachers embrace the opportunity to make the most of each day. While teachers abide by a challenging curriculum, if there is a unique experience available to our students, we will take advantage of it even if it may not have been in the plan for the day. This *carpe diem* spirit can mean everything from dancing in a snowstorm to stopping class to view a rocket blast or special news report.

CARPE DIEM!

Personal and Sexual Harassment

Dunn School is committed to maintaining an environment for all members of the Dunn community that is free from all forms of discrimination. The School does not tolerate discrimination against individuals based on age, color, creed, mental or physical disability, nationality, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or on the basis of any other condition or characteristic protected by federal, state, or local law. Harassment of any member of the school's community is considered serious misconduct and will be subject to strong disciplinary action, including termination or expulsion if warranted. Conduct that has the purpose or effect of interfering with an individual's academic or work performance or which creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning or work environment is prohibited.

Any individual who believes that he or she has been harassed in violation of this policy has the responsibility to discuss it immediately with any school administrator. All discussions will be kept confidential. Allegations of sexual harassment brought to an administrator's attention must be reported by that administrator to the Headmaster immediately. The school will take immediate action to investigate thoroughly any complaint and take steps to stop the harassment and prevent it from reoccurring.

Setting An Example

*“Example is not the main thing in life—
it is the only thing.”
—Albert Schweitzer*

DMS teachers and staff agree that the critical years we work with the students are precious teaching years, both in terms of academic endeavors and character development. We believe that certain values are essential to positive development and, therefore, important to include in our curriculum.

In order to become better stewards of the planet, students will participate in Organic Gardening classes. Students may also take a course in Philanthropy in order to better understand how local non-profit groups function and how they benefit from the generosity of others.

In addition to courses, students will participate in a variety of activities that benefit the needs of others. Whether it is walking to raise money for Friendship House or raising funds for children less fortunate in poverty-stricken areas, students will find ways to be helpful and to serve as good examples for the rest of the world.

Each 8th grade student will be challenged to create a project that will make our world a better place. It is our hope that we each will make our world a better place in which to live each day.

School Rules

1. Abide by the Honor Code agreement
2. No cell phones or electronic devices outside backpacks unless permission is granted in writing by Head or Assistant Head of DMS.
3. Students are allowed in classrooms only if a teacher is present.
4. Students must treat computers properly and abide by guidelines for computer use including
 - Proper language and content on any blog, Facebook, MySpace, in any email or instant message to any DMS student at any time.
 - Limiting computer use to course work such as not altering any programs or formatting of DMS computers.
 - Proper use of all software and honoring all licensing agreements.
5. Helmets must be fastened and shoes must be tied when riding a bicycle or skateboard to or from school and for any school bicycling or skateboarding event.
6. Students must have prior permission and must sign out when leaving campus prior to 3:15.
7. Students must remain on the DMS side of the campus road and the track unless accompanied by or with the permission of a DMS employee.

Helpful Hints

The following are some helpful hints to make life a bit easier.

Parent Participation: For special festival days or at the end of each six-week block period, we often have invitations to parents to join us. Please do so. Be sure to join us any time your schedule permits.

First Day of School Potluck: The first day of school is Mon-day, August 31. We will have the normal school day and then all families will return for a potluck dinner at 5:30. **We strongly encourage 100% participation at this event.** It is fun and very informative. Food assignments are as follows:

6th grade families:	Desserts
7th grade families:	Salads, any kind
8th grade families:	Main course

DMS will provide plates, utensils, and beverages.

Bicycling: There are many opportunities to ride bikes at DMS. We have one large bike ride and several short rides available. Families are encouraged to join in on the fun. Please make sure your child has a helmet and bike that are the correct size (they grow quickly in 6th-8th grade!) and in good condition. If your child has a BMX bike, you may want to consider purchasing a road bike as a birthday present. They work far better for long trips. Each new student should take the Friday elective bicycling class prior to the Piece of Cake Bike Ride in the spring.

If your child does not have a bike and you are planning to purchase one, please consider a road bike instead of a mountain bike. Road bikes allow students to have far greater success (speed, ability to climb hills, etc.), and it is the rare student who actually uses a mountain bike on dirt mountain conditions.

Helpful Hints (continued)

Homework. Please follow these steps when you are not sure about an assignment.

1. Check the on-line homework blog by going to <http://www.dunnschool.org> and clicking on "MIDDLE SCHOOL" then click "HOMEWORK."
2. If you need help, you may attempt to email the teacher if he/she has made arrangements with the class to do so.
3. Otherwise, please email the Head of DMS at lsmith@dunnschool.org. We welcome calls for teachers at school but request that you avoid contacting them at home. The Head of DMS is happy to email any information she may have regarding classes for the next day.

Parent Meetings: On the second Tuesday of most months, October through May, we will have a meeting open to DMS parents. Meetings alternate between morning meetings 8:15-9:15 A.M. and evening meetings held 7:00-8:00 P.M. Our first meeting is October 6 at 7:00 P.M. Meetings will include announcements about upcoming field trips, summaries of class-room activities, discussions of possible "hot topics," and guest speakers on a regular basis. **No parent meeting will last longer than 1 hour.**

DMS Dances: Once each month September-December we have a casual dance for all students. We teach kids how to do fun dances such as the Chicken Dance, Swing Dancing, Line Dancing, Limbo, and more. The dances are well chaperoned, fun, and are appropriate for their grade level. Students may bring a friend who does not attend DMS as long as we have written permission from a parent along with an emergency phone number (preferably a cell phone in case the parent is away from home). Any student who misbehaves at a DMS dance will not be permitted at any DMS function in the future.

Helpful Hints (continued)

Dress-up Days: There are 2 festivals and a few special days when kids are encouraged to dress up. Planning for these in advance helps many families. This year we will have:

Sci-Fi Festival: (Halloween) This year students will be dressing in costumes that connect with the many characters depicted in a collection of science fiction novels. The options are almost endless, but costumes are mandatory. Projects will be discussed in class.

East Meets West Festival: A festival with booths from Spanish speaking or Asian countries around the world. Students in 7th or 8th grade are expected to do research, bring food reflecting that country, dress in Spanish or Asian attire, and perhaps try to enter the first East Meets West Cooking Throw Down! contest.

Pancakes ‘n Pajamas Day: Wake up and come as you are. We will serve pancakes cooked by the most remarkable collection of Pancake Papas as well as hot chocolate and juice. Following pancakes we will have the very competitive DMS Chess Tournament.

American Spirit Festival: This Spring we will have a festival honoring the many traditions, games, crafts, foods, and history of the families that brought our students to this country. This festival honors the immigrant experience or the melting pot of the American history. In the afternoon, students will participate in traditional American contests ranging from pie baking and eating, frog jumping, hog callin’, and much more. Many parents and grandparents will join in on the fun.

Helpful Hints (continued)

Calendar Explanation: There are several opportunities listed on the calendar that may be unfamiliar to you. Some are events we have each year, and some will be new this school term.

Internships: Students volunteer to work at a local business to get on-the-job experience in a business that interests them.

Holiday Gift Exchange: Students will gather food and gift items for needy families. They will also draw a DMS student's name, create a meaningful card designed especially for that person, and present them with a gift valued at less than \$15. Be creative...Gifts may be hand made!!

Annual Dance: This is our big dance of the year. Students will help decorate the barn on the upper campus. This is our only dressy dance for the year...students tend to dress up a bit more (although it is not a formal dance), and guests are welcome. All other dances are informal.

Science Fair: Students spend a good deal of time planning and creating a science experiment that will be presented at the science fair. Everyone is invited in the evening to view projects.

Spring Trips: Each grade level will travel to a different location for an outdoor education experience. Sixth grade will be in Monterey, seventh grade will venture to Santa Cruz Island, and eighth grade will take the challenge of backpacking at Joshua Tree National Park.

Piece of Cake: This is a hefty bike ride on Santa Rosa Road for the entire school. We will be working toward this goal so that *all students feel capable of completing this challenging ride.*

Valley-Wide Track Meet: Hosted by Dunn Middle School for many years, this track meet is the only track meet for the north county middle school students. We typically have 400 students and many volunteers at DMS for the day. While we prepare students for this day during our P.E. classes, it is a great goal to work toward if any student is interested in training at home as well as at school.

After School Activities

All after-school activities are optional and most are offered free of charge.. Students benefit greatly from being involved in any or all activities. If your child is on cam-pus after 3:30, he/she *must* be participating in a supervised activity.

Weekly Activities:

Monday-Thursday 3:30-5:15: Homework Heaven (a quiet, supervised room for homework with a supervisor capable of answering most questions). Homework Heaven is available for a fee of \$25/week or \$10/day.

Clubs vary by season but will include the following:

Hike Club	Gardening/Tree Huggers
Bouldering	Chefs' Club*
Art Club	Improv on the Road
Rock Hounds	Pier Rats (Fishing)
Surf Club	Math/Science Institute*
Robotics	Chess Club
Ping Pong	Math

*fees are involved with these clubs.

After School Sports:

The following are *tentative* starting dates for sports:

September/October – Co-Ed baseball/girls volleyball
December/January – Boys Basketball/girl' tennis
February/March – Girls Basketball/boys volleyball
April — Boys tennis

Each DMS student is required to participate in one sport each school year. This participation allows us to compete even though we are a very small school.

DMS School Calendar

Some of these dates may change, but it is our hope that this will help you plan for the coming year.

- AUG. 31 First day of school 8 A.M.-3:15 P.M.
31 Potluck dinner, 5:30 P.M.
- SEP. 01 Picture Day
02-04 Back-to-School Camping Trip
07 No classes/Labor Day
08 Dunn Handshake Day
18 Make-up day for school photo
25 DMS Barn Dance 7-9:30 P.M.
- OCT. 06 Parent Meeting 7-8 P.M.
15 Enrichment Block #1 ends (2:30 P.M. presentation for parents)
16 Mid-Term Comments in Friday Folders
19-20 October break. No classes.
23 DMS Costume Barn Dance 7-9:30
30 Sci-Fi Festival 1-3:00.
- NOV. 11 Parent Meeting 7-8 P.M..
13 End of First Trimester
16-17 6th Grade Internships
16-17 6th Grade Parent Conferences
16-17 8th grade students shadow @ Dunn
18-20 7th/8th Grade Internships
18-20 7th/8th Grade Parent Conferences
23-27 No classes/Thanksgiving Break
30 Classes resume @ 8:00
- DEC. 04 Report cards in Friday Folder
10 Enrichment Block #2 ends (2:30 P.M. presentation for parents)
18 Holiday Party/Caroling/"gift" exchange
Noon release.
21 First day of Winter Break

JAN. 04 In-service for teachers
05 Classes resume, 8:00 A.M.
12 8th Grade Parent Meeting 7-8 p.m.
18 MLK Holiday (no classes)
29 Pancakes 'n Pajamas 'n Chess Day 8:00-noon
East Meets West Festival 1:00-3:00

FEB. 05 Enrichment Block #3 ends
05 Talent Show in Barn 7:00 P.M.
End of 2nd Trimester
15-19 No classes /"Presidents" break
22 Classes resume @ 8:00
26 Report cards in Friday Folder

MAR. 11-12 OPTIONAL CONFERENCES IN AFTERNOON, NOON RELEASE
25 Enrichment Block #4 ends
26 Science Fair 5-7 P.M. No classes
Tentative: gear check at 1:00
28 8th grade trip departs 8 A.M.
29 6th and 7th grade trips depart 8 A.M.

APR 02 All trips return 3-5:00 P.M.
05-12 Spring Break
13 Classes resume
23 Grandparents' Day/American Spirit Festival
10:30-12:00—Immigrant Booths
12:00-2:30—Americana!

MAY 11-14 ERB Testing
13 Enrichment Block #5 ends
14 DMS Track Meet
17-21 8th Grade Trip
25 Piece o' Cake Bike Ride
26 Serendipity Day
27 Award Presentation/noon release
Annual Slide Show 7 P.M.
28 Graduation 10:30 A.M.
Family luncheon after graduation
31 Memorial Day/No classes

JUN 04 Report cards mailed

NOTES