

## CLASS OF 2026 Summary Report

39 graduating Seniors (2025 was 58, 2024 was 45, 2023 was 59, 2022 was 33, 2021 was 58, 2020 was 36)

- 77% of them started in 4K together
- 22 Females/17 Males
- Two (2) Valedictorians (female and male)
- One (1) Salutatorian (female)

ACT (administered to all during Junior year)

- Top Male: 28 Top Female: 28
- Class Avg. 18.6

Top Ten

- 8 Females / 2 Males
- Avg. ACT score: 23.3

High Honor Roll (3.5 GPA)

- 18 out of 39 (46%)
- 12 females / 6 males
- Avg. ACT score: 21.6

Where are they going?

- 60% 4 Yr. College
- 11% 2 Yr. College
- 20% Work
- 8% Apprenticeships

### Are you satisfied with your education?

- Have general understanding of most topics
- Can study and try harder topics
- Good course selection and offerings
- Helped me learn what I'm good at
- Would like more hands on, tactile
- Feel prepped enough for my career choice
- Love small school connection
- Teachers taught well, helpful
- Got what I needed to learn, got into my college and career choice
- Would have liked more rigorous classes, higher level classes
- Learned new things in all my classes
- Learned a lot
- Have not comparison, but learned a lot
- Got extra help if needed
- Some classes helped me to think about stuff, got what I needed to learn

### Common student stressors?

- Balance of extracurriculars and academics
- Grades, homework, tests, ACT test, AP tests
- Time management, staying on top of work
- Drama in friendships, sense of belonging within groups
- Jr to Sr year-there is a lot to do
- Future-graduation, college

### **School strategies to help students with stress?**

- Share tips on Demon Digest
- Note-taking skills, study tips, could use more of this freshman year
- Reminders of physical care of body-eating habits, stretching
- Remind kids to talk to someone, talk to a friend, talk to a teacher
- Encourage kids to work out, walking daily
- Deep breathing

### **Change about DHS?**

- Off campus lunch
- More course options
- Microwave in lunch room
- Universal free period for all students so music kids get a resource
- More rigorous classes, higher level classes
- Class diversity
- Carry backpacks to class
- More field trips

### **How do students use AI and what would you like to know about AI?**

- Cheating, get answer to homework
- Tutoring tool for math
- Help explain material from the book
- Look up information, study topics, tools
- Get writing ideas, summarize a chapter
  - How does it work?
  - Not reliable as a source
  - Freaks me out, don't understand it
  - How to use properly, don't understand deeper knowledge behind it
  - What is the end goal? Will it take jobs or be a helpful tool?
  - Prompt engineering
  - How to use as a tool in everyday life

### **What do you think the Class of 2026 will say about their time at Deerfield Schools?**

- Bittersweet-happy to leave but will miss it a lot
- Interesting time-went through COVID and construction
- Good race, had to come to an end
- Time flies, graduation came quick
- Fun, lot of good years
- Hopefully enjoyed it, had its challenges
- Overall liked it, some have specific complaints
- Ups/downs, pretty good, it was alright, eventful, interesting

### **General Observations**

- Large majority look at email and Skyward grades daily, or several times a week
- Best ways to get information to students is student email and Instagram
- Read signs on lockers and in bathroom stalls, like schedules and positive messages
- Love the new TV monitors in the halls-menu, weekly schedule, word of the day
- Appearance continues to be most mentioned form of bullying/harassment - clothes, hair, comments typically behind the person's back or within same "friend" group
- Vaping and alcohol assumed to be two substances most frequently used by HS kids