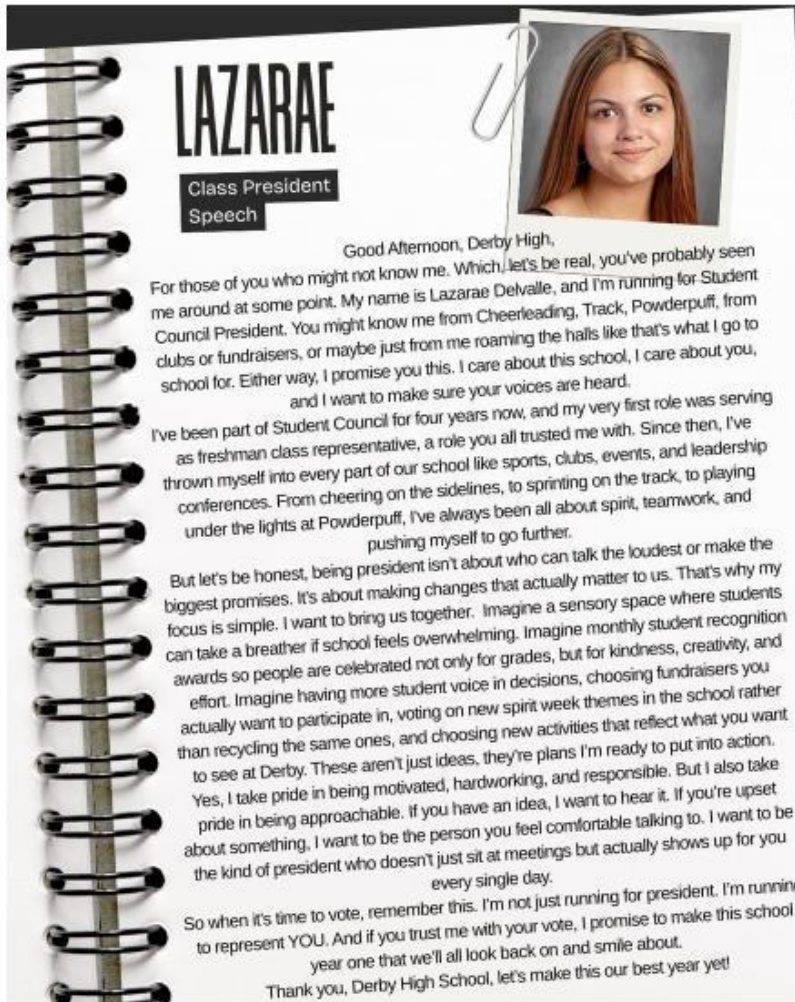


Meet the President



LAZARAE

Class President
Speech

Good Afternoon, Derby High,

For those of you who might not know me. Which, let's be real, you've probably seen me around at some point. My name is Lazarae Delvalle, and I'm running for Student Council President. You might know me from Cheerleading, Track, Powderpuff, from clubs or fundraisers, or maybe just from me roaming the halls like that's what I go to school for. Either way, I promise you this. I care about this school, I care about you, and I want to make sure your voices are heard.

I've been part of Student Council for four years now, and my very first role was serving as freshman class representative, a role you all trusted me with. Since then, I've thrown myself into every part of our school like sports, clubs, events, and leadership conferences. From cheering on the sidelines, to sprinting on the track, to playing under the lights at Powderpuff, I've always been all about spirit, teamwork, and pushing myself to go further.

But let's be honest, being president isn't about who can talk the loudest or make the biggest promises. It's about making changes that actually matter to us. That's why my focus is simple. I want to bring us together. Imagine a sensory space where students can take a breather if school feels overwhelming. Imagine monthly student recognition awards so people are celebrated not only for grades, but for kindness, creativity, and effort. Imagine having more student voice in decisions, choosing fundraisers you actually want to participate in, voting on new spirit week themes in the school rather than recycling the same ones, and choosing new activities that reflect what you want to see at Derby. These aren't just ideas, they're plans I'm ready to put into action.

Yes, I take pride in being motivated, hardworking, and responsible. But I also take pride in being approachable. If you have an idea, I want to hear it. If you're upset about something, I want to be the person you feel comfortable talking to. I want to be the kind of president who doesn't just sit at meetings but actually shows up for you every single day.

So when it's time to vote, remember this. I'm not just running for president. I'm running to represent YOU. And if you trust me with your vote, I promise to make this school year one that we'll all look back on and smile about.

Thank you, Derby High School, let's make this our best year yet!

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:04 pm, Oct 06, 2025

Student Rep Report- October 7, 2025

Lazarae Delvalle ('26)

Orientation for Class of 2029- Incoming Freshmen were officially introduced to DHS, giving them the chance to meet staff, learn about the school expectations, and start building connections

Back-to-School Barbecue- Students came together where they reconnected with friends, enjoyed food, and celebrated the new 2025-2026 school year. Which turned out to be a success

Senior Sunrise- Welcoming the class of '26 back as seniors, gathering early morning together to celebrate the beginning of their final year as a class

Grade Level Meeting- Mandatory meeting for students covering expectations and other important beginning of the year topics

School Spirit Day: The first spirit day, which encouraged student participation through wearing their class colors

Pep Rally- Engaging event where recognition was given to all fall sports teams and players.

- The cheerleaders energized the crowd with their performances
- The eighth graders were also invited to join in the celebration, giving them a chance to experience Derby High School's spirit.

Student Leadership: All three student body president candidates, Sofia Rudus, Carter Ruggerio, and Lazarae Delvalle, delivered campaign speeches, sharing their vision for DHS and why they should be elected (new aspect of campaigning this year). Also gaining first-hand experience in a presidential position by leading the pep rally.

Personnel Recognition During Pep Rally

- Dr. Delgado was recognized on her last day
- Ms. Jennifer Moffat was honored for National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Day

Unified Sports- Sign-ups are currently open, where over 80 students have already signed up. The school will soon be recognized as a National Banner School, with further details coming later.

Open House- Held this month and provided an opportunity where parents and students were able to visit the school and meet the staff

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:04 pm, Oct 06, 2025

Hispanic Heritage Month: The school is actively celebrating with announcements highlighting famous Hispanic figures and recognizing Hispanic staff. In addition, multiple decorative displays are set up throughout the building to honor Hispanic culture and contributions. On Oct 10th there will be an empanada/churro sale.

School Picture Day and Senior Portraits- Students dressed up for their seasonal photos and senior portraits

Cell Phone Policy: Clarification was issued regarding changes from last year's more lenient policy. Under the updated rules, headphones are not permitted, and students are required to place their phones and all electronics in the cubby storages during class.

Uniforms and Merchandise- Derby High School has fully transitioned into uniforms

Feedback

- Students expressed a desire for more options regarding fitted uniforms or uniforms tailored by gender rather than only unisex styles.
- Students have shown interest and questions in incorporating Derby sportswear and school logo'd merchandise as part of the overall uniform policy

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National Custodian's Day



By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:05 pm, Oct 06, 2025

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October 2, 2025



Willie Alicea, Irving School
Patrick Balducci, Bradley School
Courtney Hudson, Maintenance
Todd Kozey, Derby Middle School
Lou Luskey, Bradley School
Edward Lydon, Derby Middle School
Toni Mazan, Derby High School
Chaliss Mitchell, Irving School
Joseph Park, Derby Middle School
Malgorzata Pawelec, Attendant LRU
Pedro Perez, Irving School
Frank Pczonka, Derby High School
Darren Pierre, Part-Time Floater
Dave Wrigley, Part-Time Floater

Jim Hoffman, Director, Facilities Department

THANK YOU COACHES!



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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:05 pm, Oct 06, 2025



Fall 2025

Jen Olson, Principal
Derby High School
75 Chatfield St.
Derby, CT 06418

Dear Jen,

Congratulations!

On behalf of Special Olympics International, we are honored to declare Derby High School an official Special Olympics national banner Unified Champion School! Under your leadership, the Derby High School staff and students have demonstrated their commitment to inclusion.

Your school community has shown impressive determination and is helping us achieve our collective goal of creating a truly “*Unified Generation*” of young people who embrace differences and lead social change. You are redefining the future as you make your communities more inclusive of people with intellectual disabilities, making the world a more accepting place for all.

Since you’ve come this far, we want to personally challenge you to push even further. Continue to support the innovative minds of youth and adults in your school and be leaders in inclusion in your community.

We look forward to seeing Derby High School forge new paths toward inclusion for people of all abilities and transforming the world. Seize this moment and claim your rightful place as agents of dignity and unity.

Best wishes,

Handwritten signature of Timothy P. Shriver in black ink.

Timothy P. Shriver, Ph.D.
Chairman
Special Olympics International

Handwritten signature of Greg Epperson in black ink.

Greg Epperson
Regional President & Managing Director
Special Olympics North America

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:05 pm, Oct 06, 2025



(https://www.submittable.com/help/submitter?orgId=18401)

(<http://specialolympics.org>)

National School Recognition Program-High Level Application 2025

Ends on Mon, Jun 2, 2025 11:59 PM

A Special Olympics Unified Champion School has an inclusive school climate and exudes a sense of collaboration, engagement, and respect for all members of the student body and staff. A Unified Champion School receiving national banner recognition is one that has demonstrated commitment to inclusion by achieving the ten standards described below. These standards are based upon the three over-arching components that include Special Olympics Unified Sports®, Inclusive Youth Leadership, and Whole-School Engagement. National banner schools should also be able to demonstrate they are self-sustainable or have a plan in place to sustain these activities into the future. While the components are listed individually, they should be implemented in coordination with each other and supported by a leadership team composed of representatives from all areas of the school, including students, teachers, administrators, and parents. Research has proven that when all three components are incorporated, there is a deeper impact on the individual participants as well as the overall culture and climate of the school. **You can access your saved draft at any time, before the June 3rd deadline.**

- Click "Save Form" at the bottom of the page.
- Log into your Submittable account at any time before the deadline to complete your application. <https://manager.submittable.com/login> (<https://manager.submittable.com/login>).
- Or, visit the [Special Olympics Submittable page \(https://specialolympics.submittable.com/\)](https://specialolympics.submittable.com/) and click Apply - you'll automatically be directed to your incomplete draft.

Contact Submittable Technical Support by email at support@submittable.com if you have problems logging into your account or accessing your saved draft. If you have content-based questions, please contact your Special Olympics State Program.

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Name of School Applying (required)

Derby High School

17 / 300 characters

NCES (National Center for Education Statistics) ID number (required)

0901110

Has your school received national recognition before?

- Yes, we are renewing our school's banner status
- No, we have not received national recognition before
- I am unsure and would like help

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Updated School Name

If answered yes in previous question, please write updated school name.

School Street Address (required)

School Address (optional)

Optional: please include additional address information if needed

City (required)

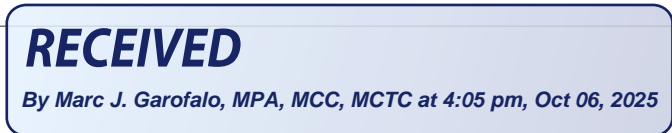
State (required)

x v

Zip Code (required)

Total Number of Students

Total Number of Students with Intellectual Disabilities



Check for Middle or High School Level (required)

- Middle School Level
- High School Level

Check All Grades Served (required)

- PreK
- K
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12

Principal/Administrator Name (required)

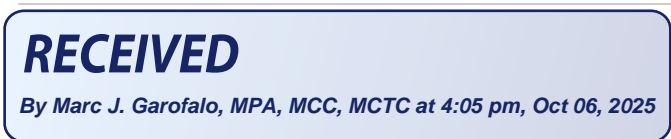
Jenniger Olson

Principal/Administrator Title (required)

Principal

Principal/Administrator Email Address (required)

jolson@derbyps.org



Submitter Name (required)

Carlin Ali

Submitter Email (required)

cali@derbyps.org

Submitter Phone Number (required)



+1 914 980 9394

Text Block

NATIONAL BANNER SCHOOL COMPONENTS & ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS

A Special Olympics Unified Champion School receiving national banner recognition is one that has demonstrated commitment to inclusion by achieving the ten standards described below. These standards of excellence were developed by a national panel of leaders in education and Special Olympics. When the standards have been met by a school, and approved by the respective state Special Olympics office, it is eligible to receive national banner recognition. Please answer each of the questions below with your school's information based on the 2024-2025 school year.

Special Olympics Unified Sports®:

Special Olympics Unified Sports®: A fully-inclusive sport/activity program that combines students with and without intellectual disabilities. Examples include such things as school-based Unified Sports teams, Unified PE, developmental sports activities or Young Athletes. Standards 1-4 relate to the Unified Sports component.

Standard #1: The school offers Unified Sports in at least 2 seasons throughout the school year (required)

Our Unified Program practices and competes in Flag Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Cornhole, Kickball, and Track. This year we have also added lessons and sideline Cheer to increase our fans in the stands and include opportunities for more students. We have a Unified PE class that runs throughout the year. We have a fitness center and weight room where we do Unified Fitness activities. Our Unified Sports Team runs throughout the year and has 42 student athletes. There are 26 students in our Unified PE class.

Please list which sports/seasons your program participates in and the number of students who participate for each sport (this also includes Unified Fitness)

Standard #2: Unified Sports participation occurs regularly over the course of each sport season or school term and includes competition (required)

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:06 pm, Oct 06, 2025

to winter break which encompassed a full flag football game with the entire school filling the stands while our athletes and partners competed and cheered.

During our Basketball Season we had many Red vs. White Halftime Basketball Games during our Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball Games. We hosted Woodland for an exhibition game of basketball as a warm up to when we faced them again at our NVL League Tournament. We hosted the league tournament including 8 schools from the NVL and we played 8 games that day. We also applied to be one of the schools with the honor of playing at Mohegan Sun for the HS Basketball Championship, we were fortunate enough to be afforded the opportunity last year and the student athletes had a fantastic experience.

We practiced in preparation for the NVL Cornhole Tournament which we hosted on February 25th. During the tournament we had 8 teams which each played 6 games. The teams represented Derby and competed against their fellow teammates as well as student teams from Torrington and Woodland High Schools.

This year we added volleyball to our list of sports and it was a big hit! We held a volleyball game where we invited our Middle School Unified Team to join us and compete as we assisted them in learning the sport as well. Each team played 6 games and each school had 2 teams playing. It was a great opportunity for both our athletes and partners to mentor their middle school peers. It also provided coaches with the opportunity to meet the incoming freshman who we plan to keep as active athletes and partners in the program next year.

In the next 8 weeks we have exciting events that we have begun preparation for, including a Kickball Game, a track competition and attendance at our league (NVL) field day event.

The team looks forward to completing the challenges that we receive from the CIAC as well. So far they have planned and participated in the Jingle Jive Video Challenge where athletes and partners worked together to choreograph how they wanted to make the video.

Members of the team also completed the Climb the Mountain of Inclusion Challenge completing nearly 30,000 mountain climbers between 42 participants and earning our "Climb Mount Everest" Achievement.

Students worked together on the March Challenge which was to complete a Trick Shot Video. Our athletes picked the parts that they wanted to include, and our buddies supported them in completing the task.

Please list the approximate number of weeks of Unified Sports participation, including practices, and number of total competitions (can include multi-team tournaments and head-to-head games)

Standard #3: An adult coach for each sport who has received training on Special Olympics Unified Sports (required)

I myself am the appointed Unified Coach. My certifications can be looked up on the CT State Website and are also attached.

Carlin Ali Training:

NFHS Unified Coaching Course

NFHS Coaching Adaptive Sports

CT Coaching Certification

Fall, Winter and Spring CIAC Coaches Meetings

Participated in Special Olympics eLearning Study, completed courses and surveys

NFHS: Administrating Interscholastic Unified Sports

Certified PE Teacher

Please list the name(s) of coach(es) who have been trained

Standard #4: Unified Sports is officially recognized by the school in a similar style as other athletics/activities (required)

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At Derby High School the Unified Sports program is treated just as any other sport is. Unified is included in the daily school announcements, it included in the daily bulletin sport schedule, and events are a part of both the school and athletics activities calendar. During seasonal pep-rallies, the team walks out together just like any other team, and athletes or partners who are a part of another varsity program walk out with both teams. The coach is paid a coaching stipend. Like any other sport, Unified is included in list of sports to register for on final forms and school website. Unified Sports is also overseen and coordinated by our athletic director.

The Unified Program is supported by the art department that helps athletes and partners create banners for our events that cheer on both our team and the visiting teams. The Wood Tech classes came together to build a sleigh for one of our athletes because he wanted to be Santa in our Jingle Jive video. The Media department is always there to video anything we ask, and the yearbook staff (HS students) come to take photos for our Team Yearbook section. Our superintendent makes a point to be sure he is in attendance at our events and even grabbed pom poms to join our cheerleaders at a basketball game (photo in slideshow). The athlete and buddy of the year were recognized by the board of education in the same manner that all state athletes are.

Please describe how Unified Sports teams are recognized by the school (e.g., inclusion of clubs/sports, stipend for coaches, included in school-wide recognition, scheduling, transportation, etc.)

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Inclusive Youth Leadership

Inclusive Youth Leadership: Students with and without intellectual disabilities working to lead advocacy, awareness, inclusion and other Special Olympics activities throughout the school year. Examples include such things as: Unified Clubs, inclusive student councils or similar types of inclusive student groups. Standards 5-7 relate to the Inclusive Youth Leadership component.

Standard #5: A Unified Club or student group that offers leadership opportunities/training for students with and without intellectual disabilities (required)

Club Name: Unified Sports - Meets on a different day than clubs so that more students can be involved without inhibiting our athletes from exploring their other interests.

Officers within the club:

- 4 Captains (2 athletes and 2 buddies)
- 2 Secretaries (1 athlete and 1 buddy),
- 4 Inclusion Coordinators (2 athletes and 2 buddies)
- 2 Fundraising coordinators (1 athlete and 1 buddy)
- 2 Membership coordinators (1 athlete and 1 buddy)

8 students (4 athletes and 4 buddies) attended CIAC Youth Leadership Summit at Rocky Hill

2 Members of the CIAC Youth Leadership Council (1 athlete and 1 buddy) attended events throughout the school year

These activities can be classroom-based, during the school day, or extra-curricular.

Please provide the name of the club (if applicable) and describe in detail the activities that take place within this club/group throughout the school year.

How many leadership roles are given? Are they given to students with and without ID? Show how these roles support the leadership development of all students.

Standard #6: The inclusive club/group meets at least once per month throughout the school year (required)

Students meet every Tuesday and additional dates and times for events (games, trips, etc.).

Please list the approximate date of the first meeting, how often the club/group meets and the approximate number of meetings held during the school year.

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Outline a typical meeting structure and how this supports the leadership development of all students.

Standard #7: The inclusive club/group has an adult liaison and is officially recognized by the school in a similar style as other clubs/activities (required)

Adult Liasons - Coach: Carlin Ali, Athletic Director: Jen Moffat

The club is recognized on the announcements, on school social media, in the school newsletter, on athletic and school calendars, on the daily bulletin and many articles in the school newspaper.

Provide the name of the adult liaison AND describe in detail how the club/group is recognized by the school. Please show how this club is similarly valued as other clubs/activities.

Whole-School Engagement

Whole-School Engagement: Awareness and education activities that promote inclusion and reach the majority of the school population. Examples include such things as the Spread the Word >> Inclusion Campaign, Pep Rallies or "Fans in the Stands" for Unified Sports teams, Respect Campaigns or student fundraising. Standards 8-9 relate to the Whole-School Engagement component.

Standard #8: At least two whole-school engagement activities per school year (required)

Kindness Day - Students in Unified Sports helped plan a day of rock painting to make a kindness rock trail outside our school. All students in the school were welcome to come paint a rock and then members of the unified team (both athletes and buddies) placed the rocks in our front courtyard.

3/21 - Rock Your Socks Day - Members wore matching shirts and their craziest mismatched socks. We had a whole school advisory activity where students in the High School and our Pre-K program decorated socks in a creative way. The socks were then turned into a clothesline bulletin board displayed in the school hallway.

3/5 - Spread the Word Day - Members wore matching shirts. Whole school assembly about the importance of the day led by the Unified Team. During lunch, students all had the opportunity to fill out pledges and received spread the word - inclusion bracelets. Students and staff were all provided with information about the day digitally and encouraged to fill out a digital pledge as well. Athletes and buddies worked with the art teacher in charge of school bulletin boards to create the board.

Please provide a description for each whole-school engagement activity that took place

Standard #9: Students with and without disabilities are involved with planning and leading the awareness activities (required)

Students with and without disabilities helped pick out the designs for the blurbs for Spread the Word Day and the socks for rock your socks day. Students also found hashtags that would be appropriate for our shirt design. Students then assisted in creating the bulletin boards throughout the school.

Students with and without disabilities went throughout the cafeteria encouraging other students to write inclusion pledges
Students with and without disabilities handed out spread the word bracelets to students and staff.

Students with and without disabilities went throughout the school encouraging other students to write messages on rocks and spread kindness.

Students with and without disabilities brought the rocks outside and created our rock garden.

Please describe how students with and without disabilities were involved in planning/leading the whole-school engagement activities

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Sustainability

Sustainability: Strategies and plans which help ensure the three Unified Champion School components will continue into the future and truly become part of the school culture. Examples include such things as: student fundraising, Unified Booster Clubs or Unified Sports/Club expenses included in school budgets. Standard 10 relates to Sustainability of the components.

Standard #10: The school is currently self-sustainable or has a plan in place to sustain the three components into the future (required)

The school has coaching stipend budgeted for. The administration (principals, athletic director, superintendent and board of education) all support unified sports and encourage it's continued growth.

This year was our biggest year, with 40 + kids signed up and it was our first year to ever have a Unified PE Class. We are doing fundraising in the spring (Penguin Plunge and Cornhole Tournament to have extra funds for next year).

The Special Education Department funded equipment needs for Unified PE Class. We submitted Grant Applications to Valley Community Foundation for Transportation. We received a Grant from the CIAC for Inclusion Event.

We already have all needed uniforms and equipment. We have submitted our athletic budget with the athletic director for proposed additional funds to the athletic budget.

Coach gets tenure next year and has no plans to leave and the Coach is also the Unified PE teacher.

Describe in detail how the school was able to sustain the 3 components moving forward. Use information such as financial plans, staff support, sustainability plans, and other supporting details to show level of sustainability.

(Optional) If desired, please share information about how your school utilized virtual programming, virtual events, and other virtual adaptations of Unified activities during the 2024-2025 school year.

At this time we have only utilized Google Classroom to Communicate.

This information will not be evaluated as part of the 10 standards, and is optional. It is simply an opportunity to share any ideas and best practices you used or found regarding virtual programming.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Please enter any additional information below. Supporting materials are not required, but are **highly encouraged** to give application reviewers a more in-depth understanding of your Unified program. Submitters may supply websites, photos, videos, articles, and any additional information to support the application.

Would you like to provide additional supporting information?

Yes

No

Please enter any additional information to support your application

We are currently working on a project that incorporates storyboards and photos that athletes and partners have submitted sharing their favorite unified memory and a photo of them at Unified that will be turned into a book in the near future.

If you have a website that you'd like us to look at, please enter it below

example.com

File Upload: If you have any files to upload, such as pictures or videos of UCS activities, please do so here

Choose File

Select up to 10 files to attach. No files have been attached yet. You may add 10 more files.

Acceptable file types: .pdf, .doc, .docx, .txt, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .mp3, .m4a, .wav, .mp4, .mov, .avi, .xls, .ppt, .pptx, .xlsx

If your school should be awarded a national recognition banner, what color would you like it to be? (required)

1. Red (Classic Special Olympics banner)



View color swatches here (<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/hjwr5l7x1s70vqdszfs/Color-swatches.pdf?rlkey=mhyjszx3lij66nr35lfd1ka4&st=gvkqct3l&dl=0>)

Note: If you would like to receive a classic Special Olympics National Recognition banner, please select red.

Administrator Sign Off - Name (required)

By clicking the Terms of Use checkbox below you are agreeing that the person listed here has reviewed and signed-off on application responses

I agree with [Terms of Use](#) *

! You must agree to the Terms of Use.

Save Draft

Apply

✔ Last Saved a minute ago

Drafts may be visible to the administrators of this program.

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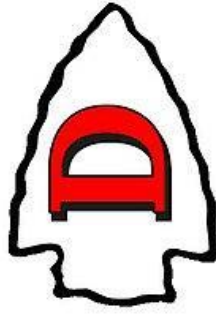
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**Derby High School
Unified Sports
Photos**



2024 - 2025

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Jingle Jive Video - Promoting Inclusion and Holiday Spirit

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:09 pm, Oct 06, 2025

Unified Athlete Gerardo trying out his sleigh for the first time. When he decided he wanted to be Santa in the Jingle

Jive, the Wood Tech Class got to work and students built him his own sleigh!



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Behind the Scenes of our Jingle Jive



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Team Photo After Our Flag Football Event

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CIAC Unified Parade - NVL Football Tournament

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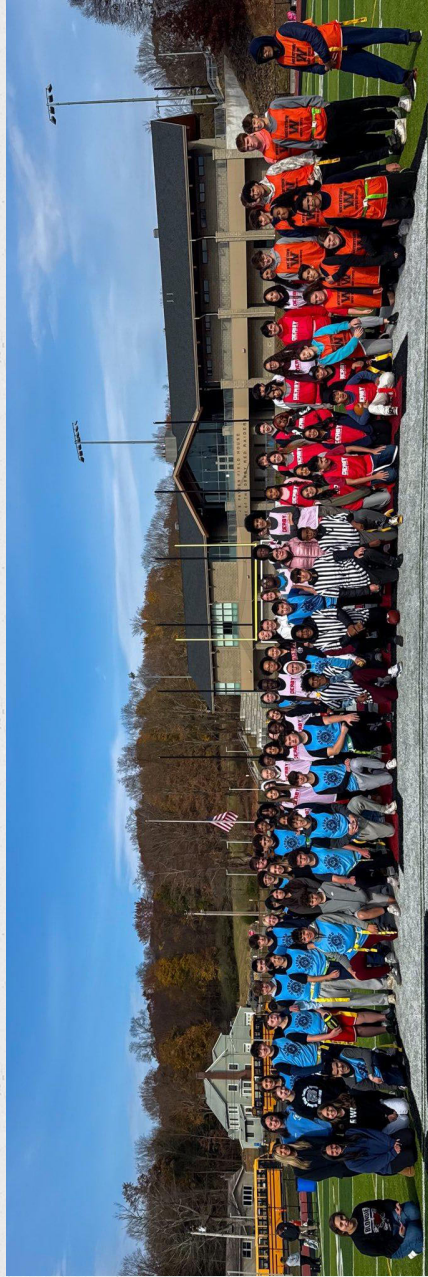
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Whole School Pep Rally Flag Football

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Unified Cheer and Fans in the Stands



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Unified Cheerleaders create a tunnel for the starting lineup of athletes to run through

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Unified Basketball with Unified Cheerleaders

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:10 pm, Oct 06, 2025



(L to R) Derby HS Principal Jennifer Olson, Derby HS Athletic Director Jenn Moffat and Derby HS Unified Coach Carlin Ali on the field facilitating Unified Flag Football

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:11 pm, Oct 06, 2025



Rock Your Socks Day Campaign

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:11 pm, Oct 06, 2025



Volleyball with Middle School Mentoring



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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:11 pm, Oct 06, 2025

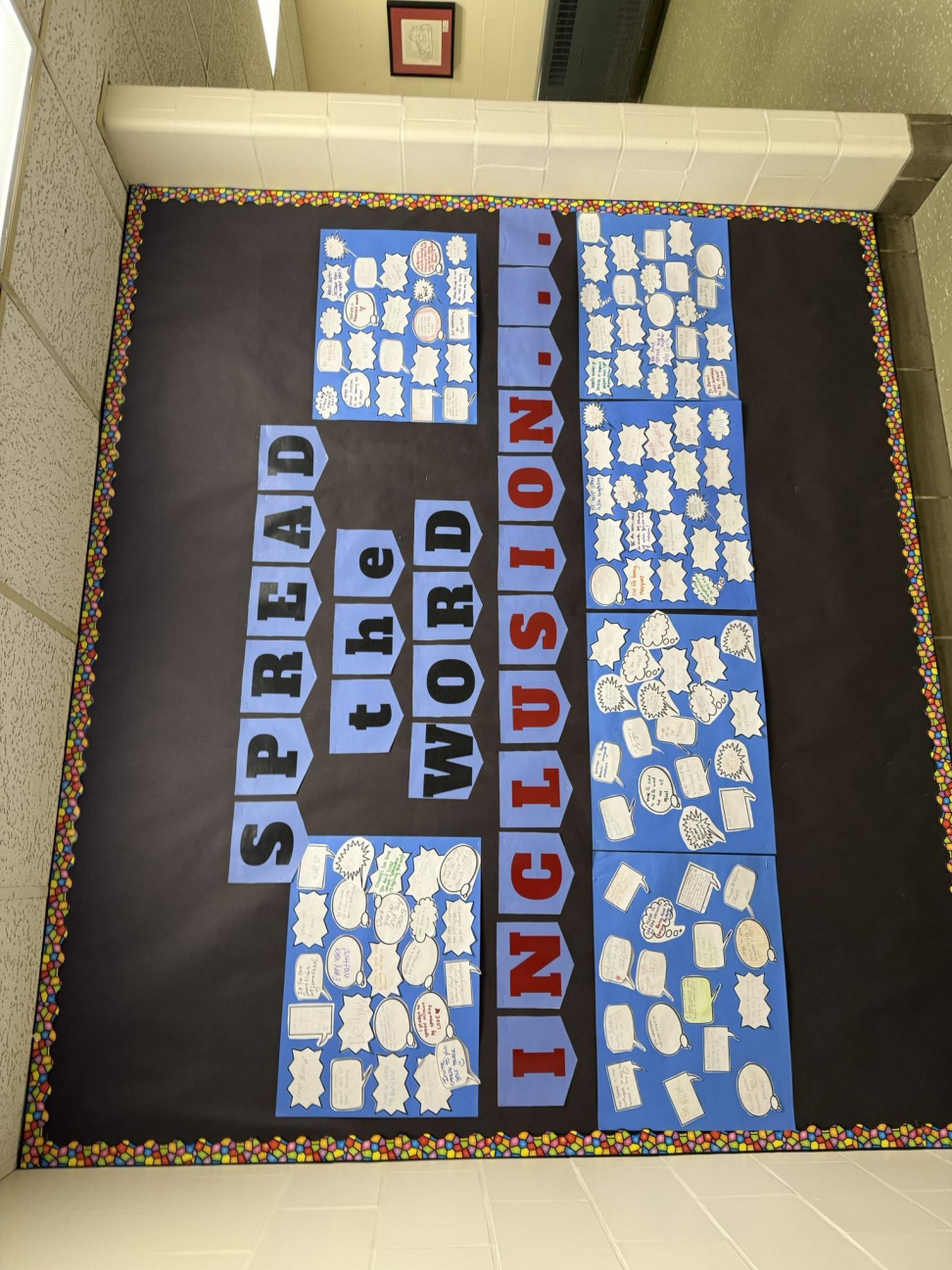


Team Walkout During Pep-Rallies

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Spread the Word
Bulletin Board
with over 150 pledges!



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Unified Sports Team at our Whole School Assembly for Spread the Word Day

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:11 pm, Oct 06, 2025



2024-2025 Athlete and Buddy of the Year

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:11 pm, Oct 06, 2025



A moment in DHS History, Day 1 of our first ever Unified PE Class

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:11 pm, Oct 06, 2025



Athletes and Buddies Collaborate with our Art Department to make signs for our team and the visiting teams whenever we host events.

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:11 pm, Oct 06, 2025



Flag Football Practice

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:12 pm, Oct 06, 2025

CIAC Youth Leadership Summit Rocky Hill High School



**Unified Sports
Unified Champion Schools**

Youth Leadership Summit
November 2024



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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:12 pm, Oct 06, 2025



Unified PE



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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:12 pm, Oct 06, 2025

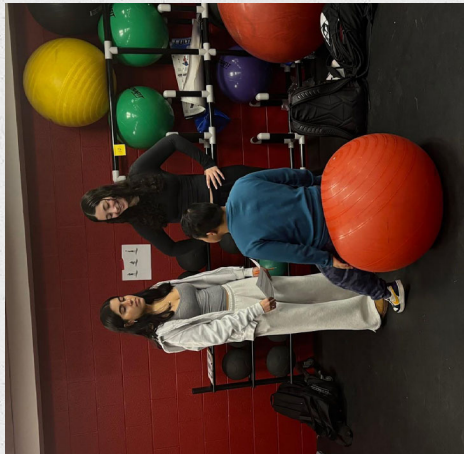


Unified Fitness



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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:12 pm, Oct 06, 2025



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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:12 pm, Oct 06, 2025



Kindness Day



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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:12 pm, Oct 06, 2025



Kickball

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:12 pm, Oct 06, 2025



Track Practice



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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:12 pm, Oct 06, 2025

Derby Cheerleaders joined by a Woodland athlete during their game



Friendships

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:12 pm, Oct 06, 2025

Unified Athlete
Bryce Orchano
being
recognized as
the High
School's A Sub
Above Athlete
of the Week



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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:12 pm, Oct 06, 2025



Trick Shot Video

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:12 pm, Oct 06, 2025



Cornhole

RECEIVED

By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:12 pm, Oct 06, 2025



Derby Unified Cheerleaders joined by
Superintendent of Schools Dr. Matthew Conway

RECEIVED

By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:12 pm, Oct 06, 2025

thank you



As we welcome our UConn ECE community members back to the 2025–26 academic year, we proudly mark the 70th anniversary of a program that has transformed the lives of Connecticut high school students by expanding access to, and preparation for, post-secondary success.

Since 1955, generations of students have benefited from this remarkable opportunity thanks to the dedication of ECE instructors, school counselors, principals, and university faculty and staff who have worked together to sustain and grow the nation's oldest concurrent enrollment program. This milestone would not be possible without you.

With gratitude,

UConn Office of Early College Programs

RECEIVED

By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:13 pm, Oct 06, 2025



Office of Early College Program
Early College Experience

Hello UConn ECE Site Representatives, Colleagues and Friends,

On behalf of the University of Connecticut and the Early College Experience (ECE) staff, welcome to the 2025–26 academic year! As the dust settles on the start of the new academic year, take pride in the essential role you play in providing students with access to the nation’s oldest concurrent enrollment program, opening doors to opportunity and preparing them for post-secondary success.

During our Fall registration cycle (September 16th – October 16th), your students officially begin, or build upon, their journey as a member of the University of Connecticut’s second-largest student body; a milestone made possible through our partnership with each of you.

In unpacking your “Welcome Back” box, look for some exciting new items for this year:

UConn ECE 70th Anniversary Challenge Coins

To celebrate the program’s 70th Anniversary, you will find a coin & coin holder labeled for all actively teaching ECE instructors, site representatives and building principal

UConn ECE School Banners

Celebrate your school’s partnership with UConn ECE with pride! Included in your box is a UConn ECE ‘School of Distinction’ banner for you to display. Additionally, 29 schools will be receiving a “Top Ten” banner based on their previous academic year course enrollment, student count, or percentage growth.

UConn ECE Marketing Materials

Your box includes a variety of UConn ECE marketing & promotional materials including those specifically requested for your school, Policies & Procedures Guide which includes updates on 504/IEP accommodations and bus transportation requests. Your box may also include polos for new instructors and site representatives who did not receive one at their annual orientation last May.

As we celebrate 70 years of UConn ECE, we look forward to building on our legacy with outstanding student and partner school programming, honoring your daily contributions, and celebrating this milestone year together.

With gratitude,

Chris Todd and the entire UConn ECE Team

368 FAIRFIELD WAY, UNIT 4171
JOHN W. ROWE CENTER FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION
STORRS, CT 06269-4171

PHONE 860.486.1045

FAX 860.486.0042

www.oecp.uconn.edu



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CLC Life Skills Trips on the Valley Transit



- ShopRite
- Train Station
- Restaurant
- Bjs
- Public Library

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:13 pm, Oct 06, 2025

DERBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Trip Proposal / Request Form

Travel / Study Approval for Out of State and or Overnight Trips

School: Derby Middle School Principal: Mrs. Rachael Caggiano
Date(s) of Trip: April 29, 2026 Trip Organizer(s): Ms. Kelly Anroman
Destination of Trip: NY Broadway show + lunch at Bubba Gump
Grade level of student participants: 6-8 No. of Students: 50-100 students

Educational Objectives including related classroom activities prior to / following the trip:

Students will gain insight into how a narrative can be transformed into a cohesive production. They can recognize themes + analyze elements of a story

Funding Source(s): Student funded event

Complete if students are paying for all or part of the trip.

Total fees required from each student: Transportation Cost: _____ Event Fee: _____ Meals _____

Lodging: _____ Total Cost \$190.00

Source(s) of funds for students who qualify for fee waiver: _____

Cost of Nurse (if applicable): N/A Funding source: _____ No students are identified with health concerns

Name of travel agent (if applicable): Silver Mill Student Travel

Name of transportation service vendor: Motorcoach through Silvermill

No. of buses required: 1-2 Cost per bus: _____

Date / Time of trip: Departing Derby: April 29, 2026 7 AM Returning to Derby: April 29, 2026 8:30 PM

Number of chaperones on trip: 5 or more as needed

Completed forms should be submitted to the principal who, if the trip is approved, will forward this to the Superintendent of Schools and Board of Education for final approval.

Include the information below when submitting this approval form. (Place a check mark by each item indicating its inclusion in the approval packet.)

_____ Information outlining parental financial responsibility should there be an emergency cancellation

_____ Parent / Guardian letter explaining the trip and travel itinerary

_____ Parent / Guardian Permission and Acknowledgment of Risk for Student Travel Form

_____ Emergency Plan (Includes arrangements for medical needs, parent / guardian contact information, access to communication devices, and procedures for general potential emergency situations)

_____ List of Chaperone Names and Phone Numbers with MPS employees noted

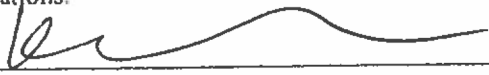
_____ Telephone Tree in the event of an emergency

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:13 pm, Oct 06, 2025

Be sure the school administrator has a list of those students participating in the activity and a copy of the emergency contact numbers.

I / We certify that this trip proposal is in accordance with Derby Public Schools policies and corresponding regulations:



Signature, Trip Organizer(s)

Trip approved 

Signature, Principal / Assistant Principal

9/25/25

Date

Signature, Superintendent or Designee

Date

Trip Denied
Reason: _____

Signature, Superintendent or Designee

Date

Out-of State / Overnight Trips Checklist

- Obtained approval at least three (3) weeks prior to the trip.
- Submitted list of participating students submitted to Principal and Health Office at least two (2) weeks prior to the trip.
- Submitted an updated list of participating students to Principal and Health Office on day of trip (No students should be added to the original list on the day of the trip.)
- Arranged substitute teacher with the Principal / designee if needed
- Arranged instructional and supervisory assignments for students not participating
- Arranged appropriate number of chaperones and provided orientation
- Clearly explained expectations of students
- Received parent permission forms and emergency medical forms
- No students are identified with health concerns

Teacher Directions: After your *School Trip Proposal / Request Form* has been approved, you are required to complete this form, and send it home to parents. Only those students whose parents have signed and returned the form to you will be permitted to go on the school trip. You should follow these directions: 1) Use one form per trip; 2) complete the school portion (top half) of form; 3) duplicate one form per student; and 4) send a copy home for parent and student signatures.

Revised: March 2018

RECEIVED

By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:13 pm, Oct 06, 2025



SILVER MILL STUDENT TRAVEL

CONNECTICUT'S PREMIER FIELD TRIP PROVIDER

GROUP TOUR PROPOSAL

Group Name- Derby Middle School

Destination- New York City

Travel Dates- April 29, 2026

Included Features

Round trip motorcoach transportation, ticket to matinee performance of Aladdin (balcony), lunch at Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., tour director (optional) gratuity for drivers included in the cost.

Cost Per Person:

Minimum 50 Per Bus: \$189

Minimum 40 Per Bus: \$199

Group will receive 1 complimentary chaperone for every 10 paying passengers
Prices based on paying passengers per bus not total passengers attending the trip

Estimated Payment Dates

Box Office Deposit (If Necessary): \$850 is due by October 16, 2025

An Additional Box Office Deposit of \$80 Per Person is due by March 1, 2026

Initial Deposit: BOX OFFICE

Final Payment: April 1, 2026

Should you have any questions or if you would like to confirm this trip, please call me at 860-877-7806 (direct line) or send me an e-mail at Josh@silvermillstudenttravel.com

We look forward to working with you.

Josh Doyon
Silver Mill Student Travel



DERBY MIDDLE SCHOOL



Mrs. Rachael Caggiano
Principal

73 Chatfield Street
Derby, CT 06418
(203) 736-1426 / (203) 736-3234 fax
www.derbyps.org / @DerbyMiddle_CT

Ms. Tracey Quartiano
Assistant Principal

Dear Derby Middle School Parents and Families:

RECEIVED

By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:14 pm, Oct 06, 2025

This year Derby Middle School students in grades six through eight will have an opportunity to take a day trip to New York City to see a Broadway show. On Wednesday, April 29, 2026 the students will travel via motorcoach to see Aladdin and have lunch at Bubba Gump Shrimp.

The cost of the trip will be \$190.00 per student. The first 50 students to provide permission slips and meet trip requirements both academically (students must be in good academic standing) and behaviorally will be eligible to attend. There will be a waitlist for this trip, and additional spots may be added based on interest. (More information to follow). In the event of an emergency cancellation, we will do our best to fill the empty spot and return payment, though ultimately the payment is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and may not be returned.

Payment Schedule (Cash only payments)

1. The first payment of \$60.00 will be due by **Friday, October 24, 2025.**
2. The second payment of \$60.00 will be due by **Friday, January 16, 2026.**
3. The final payment of \$70.00 will be due by **Friday, February 20, 2026.**

Student Expectations for New York City

The opportunity to attend the Derby Middle School field trip to New York City is a privilege that is offered to grade six through eight students. This trip is an extension of the learning experience offered at DMS and as such student conduct still falls under the provision, guidelines, and expectations of the DMS Student Handbook and the policies established by the Derby Board of Education. The following are reminders of conduct specific to the learning opportunities off the DMS campus.

1. Students represent DMS at all times and their conduct should reflect the values and expectations of our school and community. Student conduct that disregards the policies, guidelines, rules and expectations may face consequences.
2. All medication, including over the counter medications will be stored and dispensed by a designated trip chaperone. All medications must have prior physician's approval with a written order. Students are not permitted to self-administer any medication.
3. Cell phones, or electronic devices, are permitted at certain times on the New York City trip. They are the sole responsibility of the owner, and he/she takes full responsibility if lost or misplaced.

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:14 pm, Oct 06, 2025

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Print Student Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

RECEIVED

By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:14 pm, Oct 06, 2025

**PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION AND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK FOR STUDENT TRAVEL**

Teacher Directions: After your *School Trip Proposal / Request Form* has been approved, you are required to complete this form, and send it home to parents. Only those students whose parents have signed and returned the form to you will be permitted to go on the school trip. You should follow these directions: 1) Use one form per trip; 2) complete the school portion (top half) of form; 3) duplicate one form per student; and 4) send a copy home for parent and student signatures.

Parent Directions:

Please read this form, and, if you give your child permission to attend the school trip, sign and return it to your child's teacher.

Date(s) of Trip: April 29, 2026 Trip Organizer(s): Kelly Anroman
Destination of Trip: NY Broadway
Educational Objectives: Students will gain insight into how a narrative can be transformed into a cohesive live production

Supervision:

- Students will be directly supervised by adults at all times.
 Students will be directly supervised by adults with the following exceptions: _____
 A School Nurse will be present on this school trip.
Transportation Provided: School Bus Charter Bus Personal Vehicle Leased Vehicle

Related Risks: Swimming Pool Amusement / Theme Park Beach or Ocean Other None

Student Agreement:

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

While participating on this school trip, I will accept responsibility for maintaining conduct in accordance with the Derby High School Code of Conduct and I will follow directions of the school trip organizers / chaperones at all times.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent / Guardian Permission:

I have read and understand the attached description of the school trip. I also understand that participation in the school trip will involve activities off school property; therefore, neither the Board of Education nor its employees and volunteers will have any responsibility for the condition or use of any nonschool property.

I give permission for _____ to participate in all aspects of this school trip.

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Contact Number: _____

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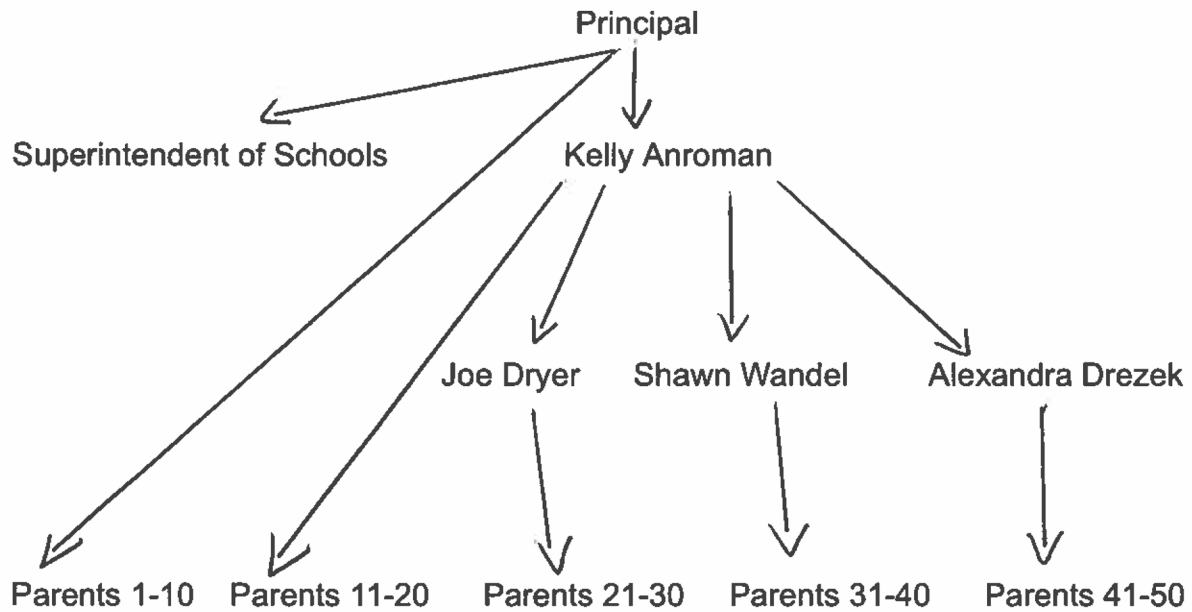
By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:14 pm, Oct 06, 2025

Chaperones for New York Broadway on May 8, 2024

Kelly Anroman	203-231-3813 DMS 8th grade teacher
Joseph Dryer	203-482-3230 DMS 6th grade teacher
Alexandra Drezek	860-806-4987 DMS 7th grade teacher
Shawn Wandel	516-312-7538 Security Officer
Rachael Caggiano	203-535-5579 DMS Administrator

Depending on the number of students attending in each grade level will determine the additional chaperones that are needed/

Emergency Phone Tree



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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:14 pm, Oct 06, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

With the upcoming trip to New York, we want to ensure that we have all lines of communication open with your child in case of emergencies. This is optional; however, if you choose, we are asking for your child's cell phone number that they will have while on the trip. Please complete the bottom part of the form and return if you choose to have the chaperones have your child's cell phone number.

I permit the chaperones on the DMS New York Broadway trip to have my child's
_____ cell phone.

The cell phone number is _____

If there is an emergency, this is the phone number to contact the parent or guardian.

Parent Name

Parent Phone Number

Parent Signature

Thank you,

Kelly Anroman

RECEIVED

By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:14 pm, Oct 06, 2025



Bradley School

155 David Humphreys Road • Derby, CT 06418-2250

Dr. Mario Ciccarini, Principal

Nicole Giardini, Dean of Students

Phone: (203) 736-5040 • www.derbyps.org/Bradley

Email: MCiccarini@derbyps.org

At Bradley School, we leave our P.A.W.S. on everything we do. We Persevere, Act Responsibly, Work and Play Safely, and Show Respect. These characteristics define us and help us become positive role models in our school and community.

October 2025 Monthly Report

Academics

- 9/02 - First day of the new school year
- 9/03 - BoY reading interview window opened
- 9/08 - Bookworms, FUNdations, and Heggerty begin
- 9/15 - USNS Math screener window opens
- 9/29 - Dibels testing window opens

Human Capital

- 9/03 - Check-In meeting
- 9/08 - TEAM meeting (Tracy L.)
- 9/09 - PPS meeting (Stacey M.)
- 9/09 - NNPS Awareness Session (Family Engagement)
- 9/10 - PDEC Pre-Planning meeting
- 9/11 - Paraeducator meeting
- 9/12 - Grades K & 1 Flexible Friday
- 9/16 - Coaches meeting
- 9/18 - Grades 2 & 3 Flexible Friday
- 9/19 - Dibels testing meeting
- 9/23 - Elementary grading plan meeting
- 9/24 - SST kickoff meeting (Nicole G.)
- 9/26 - Amplified Leadership workshop - AI for School Leaders (Mario C.)
- 9/26 - Grades 4 & 5 Flexible Friday
- 9/29 - TNTP Walkthroughs at Bradley & Irving
- 9/30 - Joy in Action workshop (NNPS) (Mario C.)
- 9/30 - PDEC meeting

Operations

- 9/05 - Flexible Friday planning meeting with the instructional coaches

- 9/05 - Review grades 2-5 groupings with the Unified Arts team
- 9/08 - Paraeducator interviews
- 9/08 - PE teacher interview
- 9/09 - JC Music Night (Maureen Z.)
- 9/10 - Monthly Safety & Security meeting
- 9/11 - September emergency drill (Fire)
- 9/17 - PMT (initial) training
- 9/18 - Lifetouch Fall Picture Day
- 9/18 - Meeting with Scouts (STEM Club for grades K-2)
- 9/18 - Special Education Supervisor planning meeting
- 9/19 - Interview with RBT (Constellations)
- 9/24 - Special Education Supervisor screener interviews
- 9/26 - Literacy How planning meeting (Mario C.)

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Culture/Climate

- 9/05 - PTA hosted welcome back staff breakfast
- 9/15 - Best Buddies meeting with Kady A.
- 9/18 - Bradley School Open House
- 9/25 - Summer Reading & Math Celebration
- 9/26 - September birthday celebrations
- 9/30 - Club Invention begins in grades 3-5 (Allison H.)

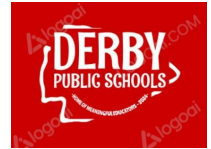
“Leadership
and learning
are indispensable
to each other.”

John F. Kennedy



Irving School

9 Garden Place
Derby, CT 06418
203-736-5043



Marc V. Russo
Principal, Irving School
mrusso@derbyps.org



Nicole Giardini
Dean of Student Affairs
ngiardini@derbyps.org

At Irving School, we use our P.A.W.S. to persevere, act responsibly, work and play safely, and show respect to ourselves, each other, and our school!

October 2025 Board of Education Report

Academics

- 9/02 - First Day of School!
- 9/03 - BoY Reading Interviews window opens
- 9/08 - Summer Math and Reading Challenge due
- 9/15 - USNS Math Screener window opens
- 9/29 - DIBELS testing window opens

Human Capital

- 9/03 to 9/26 - Check-In meetings with SpEd Staff
- 9/05, 9/12, 9/19, 9/26 - PPS Team meetings
- 9/09, 9/26 - Coaches meetings
- 9/10 - PDEC Pre-Planning meeting
- 9/11 - Paraeducator meeting and DCF training
- 9/12 - Kindergarten & 1st Grade Flexible Friday
- 9/18 - 2nd Grade & 3rd Grade Flexible Friday
- 9/23 - Elementary Report Card/Grading meeting
- 9/26 - 4th Grade & 5th Grade Flexible Friday
- 9/29 - TNTP Walkthroughs at Bradley & Irving
- 9/30 - PDEC meeting

Operations

- 9/15 - September emergency drill (evacuation - fire)
- 9/16 - JC Music Show for 4th and 5th Grade
- 9/17 - PMT (initial) training
- 9/18 - Meeting with Scouts to set up STEM Club for grades K-2
- 9/18 - Special Education Supervisor planning meeting
- 9/24 - Special Education Supervisor screener interviews
- 9/30 - Monthly Safety & Security Team meeting

Culture/Climate

- 9/01 - PTA hosted "Chalk the Walk" event
- 9/11 - Summer Reading & Math Celebration
- 9/18 - Irving School Open House

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:14 pm, Oct 06, 2025



Derby Middle School

73 Chatfield Street
Derby, Connecticut 06418

(203) 736-1426 • fax (203) 736-3234 • www.derbypride.org

Principal, Rachael Caggiano

Assistant Principal, Tracey Quartiano

September 2025

Academics

- ASSISTments Ongoing Training, Teacher Meetings, and Administrative Check-Ins
- September 11th Remembrance Lesson in all Social Studies Classes
- Constitution Day Activity and Contest in all Social Studies Classes
- Comprehensive Learning Center - Raider Cafe Open weekly to Staff
- DMS Open House- Welcome Back
- Talk Tuesday Attendance - Chronic Absenteeism tracking and training
- Unified Sports Welcome Back and Yearlong Planning
- DHS/DMS Hispanic Heritage Month Activity
- Attended TNTP visit at Irving and Bradley- DMS Piloting Bookworms this year
- Reading and Math Beginning of the Year Benchmarks administered

Human Capital

- Attended the Bi-Weekly Principals Meetings
- Held Pareducator Interviews (Currently 1 vacancy in RISE Room)
- Attended PDEC Pre-planning and meeting
- Attended CAS Board of Directors Meeting
- Attended CAS Executive Committee Meeting (Serving as Middle Level Vice President this year)
- Attended Middle Level Principals Connections meeting
- Attended CT LeadHERship Collective

Operations

- September Safety Drill held (Fire Drill with Fire Marshall on site)
- Participated in the ACES Regional Crisis Team meeting and training
- Fall Sports Photos held
- Hidden In Plain Sight - Valley Prevention Council/Task Force at DMS Open House
- Held High School Presentation for Nonnewaug High School

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:15 pm, Oct 06, 2025

Culture/Climate

- 6th Grade Welcome to Middle School Presentation - Mr. Saccu (Derby Youth Bureau)
- RISE Up Planning Meeting - project for this year, Able-table
- DMS 8th graders attended the first DHS Pep Rally of the year!

DMS Weekly Newsletter Links for September

[First Week of School](#)
[Week of September 7th](#)
[Week of September 14th](#)
[Week of September 21st](#)

What's New at DMS!



Comprehensive Learning Center students delivering delicious beverages and treats from the Raider Cafe!

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:15 pm, Oct 06, 2025



DMS 8th Graders check out the first DHS Pep Rally of the Year!



DMS Girls Soccer Team Captains - Rosaley Rodriguez and Paige Beaton

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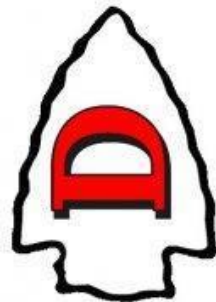
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Early Childhood



Program



Sept., 2025



Pre-K Students

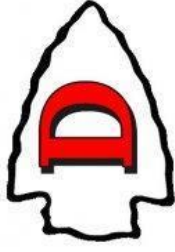


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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:15 pm, Oct 06, 2025

School	Full day	Bus students
2 3 year old class	30	6
2 4 year old classes	30	5



Academics



Unit Topics: Welcome back

Big Idea: Students will be able to identify and carry out classroom routines and rules

Students will be able to identify characteristics of themselves

Students will be able to identify members of their family

.ELDS Strands: Early learning experiences will support children to develop....)

Cognition A: effective approaches to learning
Language & Literacy E: gain knowledge of print and its uses

Math A: counting and cardinality

Science A: apply scientific practices
Social & Emotional H: social relationships

Physical Dev. A&B: gross motor/fine motor skills
Creative Arts B: explore and respond to creative
Social Studies C: understanding self, family and a diverse community

Weekly SEL: 4 year olds use The Second Step Program
3 year olds use PATHS - Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies

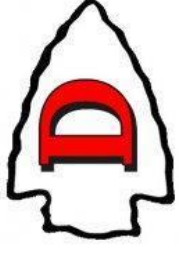


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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:16 pm, Oct 06, 2025



Operations



Open House Sept. 16, 2025

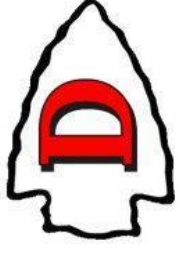


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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:16 pm, Oct 06, 2025



Human Capital



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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:16 pm, Oct 06, 2025

Fun at Speech with our new Speech Pathologist Natasha Tarbell



RECEIVED

By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 4:16 pm, Oct 06, 2025

Thank you for your time!!!





Derby High School Athletics
75 Chatfield Street
Derby, Connecticut 06418
203-736-5032 ▪ www.derbypride.org
Athletic Director, Jennifer Moffat CMAA



- We kicked off the Fall season with a high energy Pep Rally on September 12th, led by our Student Council and Cheer Team. It was a great opportunity to introduce and celebrate all of our Fall athletes while building school spirit and excitement for the season ahead
- Football is off to a 1-2 start this season and looking to keep the momentum going. They will travel to Wolcott on Friday 10/3 and then they'll face Kennedy at home on Saturday morning (10/11) at 10:00 AM.
- Cross Country is deep into league competition, and both the boys' and girls' teams currently hold solid 4-3 records. With strong performances and continued determination, they're pushing hard toward a strong finish to the regular season and onto the NVL Championship meet
- Girls Volleyball is sitting at 3 wins mid-season and they're charging ahead with eyes on another state tournament run. With grit, teamwork, and composed play, they're positioning themselves to make a strong postseason push
- The Boys Soccer team may be young and inexperienced this season, but their commitment is undeniable. They've been giving 100% effort at both practices and games, focusing on building their skills and growing stronger as a team every day
- Girls Soccer kicked off the season with their first win and have been putting in the work to chase down their second. Though small in numbers, this team is mighty in heart and hustle. A big shoutout to senior Souzveen Mekael, who was nominated as GameTimeCT's Female Player of the Week for Week 1 of the Fall season. Well deserved
- Our cheer team has been hard at work since early July, and their dedication is already shining through. They're currently putting together their competition routine while continuing to energize the team and hype up the crowd at every event. We're so proud of their spirit, teamwork, and drive
- Today, I had the privilege of attending the CIAC Sportsmanship Conference alongside nine of our student-athletes. The event was both inspiring and impactful, featuring dynamic speakers, engaging panel discussions, and highlights from the Class Act Schools initiative. We also had the opportunity to witness the presentation of the prestigious Fred Balsamo Sportsmanship Awards. Throughout the day, student leaders and administrators shared powerful

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sportsmanship success stories through video presentations, reminding us all of the vital role respect and integrity play in high school athletics

- I'm thrilled to announce that our high school Unified Sports program has been officially recognized as a National Banner Special Olympics Unified Champion School. This prestigious honor comes after a rigorous application process led by Coach Carlin Ali and reflects our ongoing dedication to fostering an inclusive and supportive school community
- Unified Sports has kicked off practice for a new addition this season, soccer. We're excited to host Oxford for our first ever "Spooky Soccer" event on October 24th from 12:00 to 1:30 PM. After that, the team will shift focus to preparing for the CIAC Flag Football tournament, which we are proud to host on November 3rd. Additionally, 2 students represented DHS at the Unified Sports Unified Leadership Council (ULC) meeting on September 29th. Formerly known as the Youth Activation Council (YAC), this group will meet multiple times throughout the year to bring new opportunities to DHS and engage in leadership initiatives at the state level
- We're excited to partner once again with Jersey Mike's for the "A Sub Above" Player of the Week campaign. Each week this Fall, we'll celebrate one male and one female student athlete for their exceptional performance on the field or court. Winners will be recognized with a certificate and a delicious Jersey Mike's sub as a well deserved reward. Keep an eye out for our weekly honorees

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**Special Education
Derby Public Schools
Derby, Connecticut 06418**

*Pre K-Elementary Supervisor: Interim: Carl Gross
Secondary Supervisor: Michael Giordano*

Update to Board of Education - October 7, 2025

Our Shared Focus and Priorities:

- Supporting and growing teacher practice.
- Collaboration with and support of families.
- Continuing educational opportunities for inclusion and individualized growth.
- Develop and grow Special Education programs within the district.

Current Happenings

Academics

- Planning and Delivering Scientific Research Based Interventions.
- Attending PPT's, (Review/Revise, Annual Review and Re-Evaluations)
- Collaboration between coaches/interventionist/special education staff.
- Conducting initial assessments to determine eligibility.
- Held two Manifestation PPT's at the Middle School for students who were suspended.
- Conducting evaluations and programming for children transitioning from Birth to Three.
- Middle School Coffee Cart rolled out in September. (students within the CLC program run a coffee cart where they sell coffee and snacks to staff members)
- High School Coffee Cart plans to begin in October.



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Human Capital

- Held PMT Training on 8/27/2025.
- Coordinating staffing and support for Resource and Learning Centers.
- Working with School-Based Clinician Program (BHCare), weekly meetings.
- Best Buddies Stipend position posted across four schools. Formal hiring projected for early October.

Operations

- Assisting with classroom set up /new room assignments/reassignments.

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- Scheduled Bi-Weekly Special Education Meetings for Middle and High School.
- Review budget and Open POs.
- Planning and establishing contracts for OOD students.
- Securing transportation for DPS students and outplaced students.
- Ordering of supplies and resources for teachers/staff.
- Met with Riverside representative to discuss the new evaluation, WCJ-V is replacing the WCJ-IV. Plan is to move to the WCJ-V for the 2026-2027 school year.
- ESY Dates were confirmed with Mr. Giordano and Dr. Conway (7/1/2026-7/24/2026)
- Mr. Giordano toured three Transition outplacements that Derby students currently attend.

Culture/Climate

- Attended back to school events and convocation.
- Provide positive feedback to all staff.
- Team meetings with department and new staff.
- Coaching and support of new staff in support of students with disabilities.

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Derby High School
75 Chatfield Street
Derby, Connecticut 06418
(203) 736-5032 ▪ www.derbyps.org
Principal, Jennifer Olson

Update to Board of Education -September 2025 (Presented October 7, 2025)

Academics:

- The Desktop Publishing Class attended a Yearbook Workshop at Southern CT State University on Sept 17. This event helped students build foundational yearbook skills. They attended workshops that introduced skills in design, photography, and writing. Students also worked with a professional cover design artist to workshop ideas for DHS' 2025-2026 yearbook cover.
- The Journalism class will be attending the 40th High School Journalism Day held at Southern Connecticut State University on Friday, Oct. 18. Students were issued a journalist notebook and a "press pass" which grants them free access to school-sponsored events like sports games, shows, and events so they can write articles about these events. Students have been interviewing staff and administration on several topics including: Dress code/uniforms, technology policy & clubs at DHS.
- Held Unified Sport Training with SAAB mentors from CT Association of Schools/CIAC (**Carter Ruggiero & Kaylee Mair**)
- School Counselors held Senior Meeting/**Financial Aid Night** on September 25 featuring guest speaker Jessica Odlum, Director of the College Place. DHS families can receive free help from Jessica to complete their FAFSA. Parents were provided a link to sign up for a private 1:1 meeting. This is an effort to increase the percentage of students applying for financial aid.
- School counselors pushed into all Grade 12 English classes to give an overview of the **Common App** and the components (Personal information, activities and extracurriculars, essays, letters of recommendation, and college-specific questions (supplemental essays, etc)

Human Capital

- Prepared the **master schedule** for daily teacher collaboration time. Teachers from a variety of departments/grade-levels can utilize collaboration time built in the school day to work on projects, co-plan, or meet with a student in need.
- Held first **Safety Meeting** to review the Incident Command structure. Meetings are scheduled once per month. Updating the All Hazards Plan with Lead SSO. Fire drill held Sept 9; October drill is a lockdown. Training provided to teachers @ Early Release PD.
- Participated with the team at **PDEC** to begin the work of developing a yearlong PD plan (school/district). Reviewed new CT School Climate Guidance & other legislative updates.
- Recognized Athletic Director, Jenn Moffat, for Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Week, sponsored by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, where she completed her advanced coursework and Certified Master Athletic Administrator (C.M.A.A.) designation certification.
- During PD with teachers, department coordinators and admin reviewed school-wide practices for PowerSchool grading to keep students and parents informed about progress, including:
 - PowerSchool grades will be updated at least once per week (at a minimum).
 - Teachers will consistently use the "collected," "missing," or "late" flags to keep students and families informed about the status of assignments.

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- Most assignments will be graded & entered in PowerSchool within 3 days; major assignments and projects will be graded within 5 days.

Operations

- Held **grade-level meetings** during Advisory to celebrate the start of new year, share important dates/information for upcoming events & activities and discuss school-wide expectations, including uniforms, phones/headphones, attendance.
- Hosted **Senior/Parent Night and Financial Aid Night** to help prepare students and families for post-secondary planning. Included, the Director of the College Place, as a guest speaker. She will share her expertise about the financial aid process and the free follow up services she can provide DHS families who would like to apply for financial aid.
- Planning Fall **College Fair** is being held in-person at DHS on October 8th
- Held first two **Department Coordinator** meetings to roll out grading expectations and common instructional models across content areas
- Installed new **bike rack** for e-bikes, scooters, bicycles. About 8 students are riding in daily.
- Held September **attendance meeting**. The team identified students with 3 or more absences. Made parent contact, held student meetings, conducted home visits, engaged outside providers, made reports to the Careline based on student needs/history. Daily attendance remained strong through the first month of school.

Climate/Culture:

- Hosted a successful **Back to School Night/Open House** with parents participating both in-person and remotely to increase accessibility and participation. Parents/guardians were able to experience a “day in the life of their teenager” and meet all of the teachers during scheduled blocks that follow our school's daily schedule. A bell rang to start and end classes and parents "switched" classes every 10 minutes. Held Open House to engage families
- Held a **“Senior Sunrise”** event to bring the Class of 2026 together for a special early morning celebration
- Held **Picture Days** (senior portraits, school photos, and sports pictures)
- Held a **school-wide pep rally** to launch the new year and celebrate fall sports with performances by our cheerleaders.
- Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15 - 10/15). Special announcements made daily spotlighting an influential individual, a new mural inspired by Hispanic artist Joan Miro is being created by students in the World Language hallway, and an empanada/churro sale is planned by the Spanish Honor Society & Spanish club on 10/10.
- Students selected clubs which will start in October. Club meetings & activities will be held every Thursday during Advisory to ensure all students can participate in a club. Helps with building connections and is great on a student resume for college/job applications.
- Student Council launched their grade-level Coin Wars to raise money for Domestic
- Met with the Culture and Climate Committee leaders and scheduled meetings throughout the school year. The committee includes 24 people who meet 1x per month during the day. This year the committee expanded and all teachers joined a subcommittee to provide voice and input. Meetings will be held during our planned Wed afterschool meetings. Committees include:
 - Academic Success, Student Experience, Professional Experience, Family & Community Engagement

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