

# Dread

## *Notes*

**DEVELOP**

**EDUCATE**

**INSPIRE**

DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



*“Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time.”*

- Thomas Merton



# Visual Arts



Connor Gleespen, Sophomore



Abigail Fillion, Freshman

***“It has been simply amazing being back in the building for art this year!”***

***- Krickett Chamberlain, DHS Art Teacher***

## Visual Arts Dexter High School

After a year or more of cancellations due to the pandemic, art shows and exhibition opportunities are opening up again this year. At DHS, we are submitting student work into as many shows and contests as possible to give students the recognition they deserve for their creativity and hard work. Five talented students' work was chosen for the Michigan Art Education Association (MAEA) Region 3 K-12 exhibition, and two of those works were chosen to move on to adjudication at the state level (Safia Untalan, sophomore & Elise Lu, freshman). Furthermore, Sophomore Reagan Cattell's Youth Art Month Flag/Banner design was chosen as the top design in the state of Michigan, and will be hung in the National Art Museum at the National Art Education Association (NAEA) Conference in March in New York City. As part of her award, Cattell received \$250 in art supplies from Sargent Art and the DHS Art Department was also awarded \$500 worth of supplies from Sargent.

Another exciting development this year is that Roger Sprau has joined Krickett Chamberlain as a second Art teacher at DHS. With the move to block scheduling

and the high number of students interested in taking Art, it was necessary to create a second position. Dexter's Visual Arts program has been growing over several years, but the pandemic really made students recognize the importance of the arts and their therapeutic abilities to help get through tough days.

Foundations of Art students have enjoyed exploring the mixture of media we use in class after being limited last year by at-home art kits. Some Foundations of Art students are excited to again be working with clay for their final project.

Digital Photography is now an official class at DHS after its implementation in place of Jewelry last year (the Jewelry class will recommence in second semester this year). It was a huge success. Recently the Education Foundation of Dexter (EFD) awarded the class a grant for 15 Canon DSLR digital cameras. These will be ready for second semester; first semester students learned all about using smartphones as cameras and different free editing apps like Snapseed and Photoshop Express for iOS and Android.



Matthew Doty, Junior



Nylah Rogers, Junior

***“The pandemic really made students recognize the importance of the arts and their therapeutic ability to help us get through tough days.”***

**- Krickett Chamberlain, DHS Art Teacher**

# Visual Arts



Eleonora Carrassi, Senior



Xavier Reyes, Sophomore

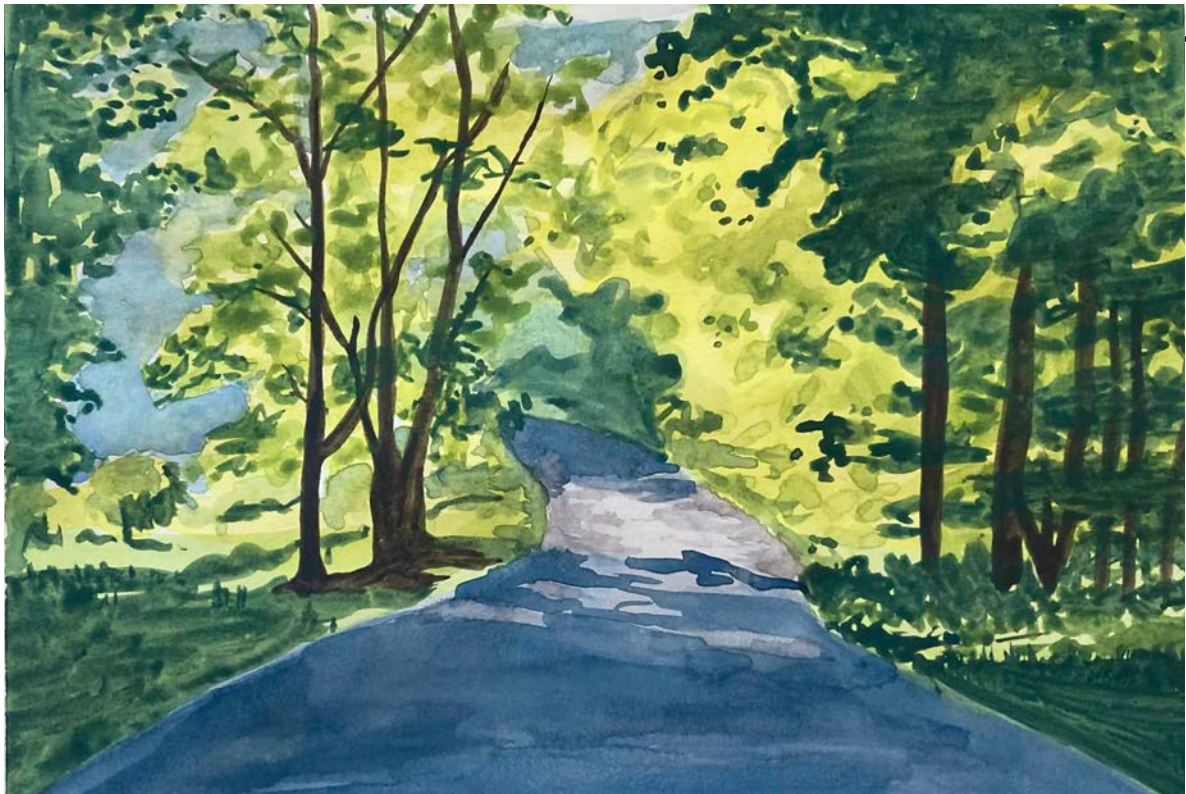
Ceramics is another class to be reinstated now that students are back in buildings. Students have been learning how to manipulate clay through pinch, coil, slab and wheel-throwing techniques. They have created projects based on ancient Mesopotamian votive statues, explored cultural masks for artistic inspiration, and developed work using themes of their choosing. Students have also learned about the clay firing and glazing process, and completed projects using updated kiln shelves, also provided by a grant from the EFD.

Illustration students recently created a metamorphosis drawing based on the work of Salvador Dali and the surrealist movement. They are also experimenting with combining watercolor and gesture drawing techniques in tandem with developing their own personal artistic style.

Advanced Drawing & Painting has for years has been known to DHS students as the “Mural” class but, due to COVID, spacing, and hallway restrictions, we were unable to run the mural project last year. New DHS Principal Melanie Nowak has been very supportive and a great idea board for restarting the mural project, and we are happy to report that there are 21 new murals in various stages of development around the high school this year.



Allie Kangas, Junior



Safia Untalan, Sophomore

## Visual Arts GraphX

GraphX Academy is just one of the many career-technical programs offered DHS students through the South and West Washtenaw Consortium. However, it is the only program housed on Dexter's campus, with classes in our full-service graphic design and print shop available to students from Dexter, Saline, Manchester, Chelsea, Lincoln and Milan. GraphX students learn graphic design industry technology and processes including Adobe Creative Suite, vinyl cutting, glass etching, screen-and press-printing and much more. "Basically, anything the industry can do, we can do," teacher Dennis Stockwell says.



Students taking GraphX classes receive industry experience similar to any professional print shop, managing projects from conception to final product. The school-to-work transition is a major focus of GraphX and the Consortium program as a whole. Stockwell strives to bring realism into the classroom to ensure students are comfortable not only with all aspects of the production process, but interacting with others in a business setting. Learning accountability and the importance of being a good team member (positive communication, friendly attitude, dependability, etc.), prepares students to successfully contribute to their workplace environment.



In mid-March, GraphX students began job shadowing at Sheridan Books in Chelsea. They will spend the entire school day at Sheridan, shadowing employees through the various areas of the company. This extended learning opportunity will give students a chance to see different career opportunities in the Graphic Communication field.

# Visual Arts

## Visual Arts IB Film

“It is so great to have the students back in person again this year,” says DHS teacher Barry Mergler. IB Film students have been working on several short films, most recently a remake of a monologue or well-known scene from a film. Using multiple cameras, different angles, lighting, etc., they created their own version of the scene in the “black box” room in Deb Marsh’s classroom. One film entitled “Jonker” featured two students recreating the final scene from the movie “Joker,” starring Joaquin Phoenix and Robert DeNiro. They utilized a low camera angle when shooting the Joker to emphasize his menacing persona, and replaced the ending gunshot with a thrown ball.

Mergler encourages students to take calculated and creative risks with their work. They study and learn from the masters, including

prolific directors such as Steven Spielberg, Alfred Hitchcock and Francis Ford Coppola.

An upcoming spring project will have students serving as the film crew for Senior Survivor. Each Survivor team will have a dedicated crew to film, edit and post videos to keep up with events as they happen. This will allow students to experience working under a very quick turnaround time, creating an authentic, professional experience.



“Jonker” featuring Johnny Waidley & Carter Wise

## Visual Arts Video Production & Photojournalism

The Video Production class is currently finishing up a small group assignment in which they had to create a short, storytelling project in a seemingly boring room, inspired by the work of Brandon Li, a self-proclaimed “nomadic filmmaker.” Their next assignment is to recreate a movie trailer shot for shot, but without the industry dollars which usually fund them.

In Photojournalism, Mergler is teaching students that the visually mundane can be made interesting. Each student takes one prop anywhere in the school building, shoots as many pictures as they can within 20 minutes, then turns in their top 10 shots.

Their next project will teach the importance of researching a topic before going into the field to take pictures. Mergler cites Sean Evans, the YouTuber

who produces the series “Hot Ones” in which he interviews celebrities while they eat progressively spicier chicken wings. One of the reasons his series is so successful is the amount of homework he does on his guests before the show, which results in a deeper and more interesting interview.

Photojournalism students will be following this concept to produce a waste management/recycling project at DHS. They will research facts before taking pictures, which will become the text of their project. Each student will be assigned a specific trash can/recycling bin in the school and must produce text, images, audio, narration, and maybe a short interview for their final product.



## Visual Arts Yearbook

Now that students are back in person, they again have the opportunity to work closely together on the 2022 issue of DHS Unsinkable. Editor Jessie Wagenschutz and a team of twenty students have been collaborating since the beginning of the school year on a colorful, retro-themed yearbook.

The yearbook staff is incorporating a new, interactive feature in this year's book, tapping into a trend which has recently taken the DHS student body by storm: Spotify playlists. After surveying students about their favorite songs, the results will be presented in a spread including a scannable icon which pulls up a Spotify playlist of the

top songs.

Students work diligently each year to get as much of the school year documented as possible before the end-of-March deadline. Weekly progress check-ins, once a month featuring donuts (courtesy of teacher Barry Mergler), help the team share ideas and stay on track.



**DHS Unsinkable  
2022  
Volume 75**

***“Sometimes the process is messy,  
but the end product can be brilliant.”***

**- Barry Mergler, DHS Teacher**

# Visual Arts Mill Creek

DEXTER ART IS BACK! Now that Mill Creek students are again in the building, they are creating many different kinds of art: large-scale installation sculptures, altered books, ceramics, sculpture, and much more. "It is exciting to see students bringing their best selves and collaborating together again in the studio," says teacher Amara Karapas.

*"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." - Pablo Picasso*



Gestural drawings with live models



Collaborative fabric artwork



Tie-dye masks



Linoleum printmaking

# Visual Arts



*Clockwise from top right: Mr. Jarvis's classroom mandalas; oil pastel landscape, Callum Ham (5th); abstract watercolor painting, Iris Esselman (5th); purple dragon eye, Kendall Redman (6th); clay tiles in kiln; cardboard expressive mask, Molly Salisbury (6th).*

## Visual Arts Creekside Intermediate

This year brought students back into teacher Jane Montero's Art room with COVID-19 safety protocols in place. Last spring, the Special Area Department at Creekside created a new rotation schedule for students: instead of seeing each homeroom for nine weeks, they divided up the rotation into one five-week session, and then a 4-week session later in the school year. This change has been extremely positive and Creekside hopes to continue it in coming years. This schedule change will give students two rotations of Art per year instead of just one.

A positive outgrowth from last year's virtual instruction has been the implementation of Digital Art projects at Creekside. The majority of the traditional art curriculum has been transformed into digital design projects since students have Chromebooks and Google Drawing.

The Virtual Art Club has reopened and offers a safe space for students to share sketches, iPad art, and anything creative they have made. There is no group instruction, just a place to share art and positively support each other's creative work.

Creekside student art was entered into the Michigan Art Education Association (MAEA) Region 3 show, which includes Dexter and other Washtenaw County schools. 5th grade falls under the elementary category and 6th grade is considered middle level. Ten students from Creekside have their work exhibited between these two levels. A jury will select pieces to move onto the State Art Show which will be held at the Taubmann Center of the University of Michigan.

## Visual Arts Wylie Elementary



Nyah Hubert, 4th

Wylie students are happy to be back in the Wylie art room with teacher Valerie Eninsche this year, with access to all the regular art materials. After teaching remotely last year, Eninsche has incorporated many of the tech tools students learned during virtual learning into the regular classroom.

This past fall, both third and fourth graders created paintings. Fourth graders created watercolor landscapes based on the Great Lakes, including local wildlife researched from field guides. Third graders drew whimsical cats in watercolor pencils based on the art of Maud Lewis. Students also created collages, oil pastel drawings, paper sculptures, and clay projects.

Third graders revisited the elements of line and pattern in an abstract landscape project. At the beginning of the year, many students rushed through drawing, and struggled to follow directions in a group setting. With last year's shortened art classes, students missed out on some of the practice which occurs in a typical year. Consequently, Eninsche spent some time slowing students down to concentrate purely on pattern making, drawing on whiteboards with the lights low. As the activity progressed, students became calm and quietly lost themselves in the process of creating patterns. Later, they applied those skills towards creating a landscape filled with fanciful lines and bright liquid watercolors. The products were beautiful and each child's work was unique.

Chromebooks have been a well-used teaching tool this year in art. One of Wylie's classrooms spans two grades, and Eninsche can differentiate lessons for each grade level by sharing them online for students to watch independently. Students also use their devices as a research tool when designing work. Fourth graders used

their Chromebooks to look up animals they wanted to include on their clay critter pots. Students practice making a design in modeling clay before creating the final product, and on that day they can look up their chosen animal and snap a photo of their creation. When they arrive at their next art class, they are confident about their unique idea and how to implement it.

In-person art shows are happening again, and five students from Wylie were selected for the Michigan Art Education Association (MAEA) Region 3 show this year. Their work is currently on display at the Ann Arbor District Library.



Allison Cabble, 4th



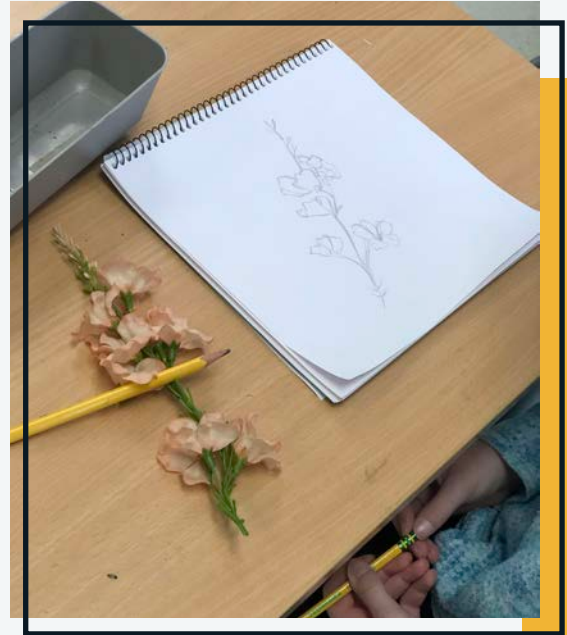
Fiona Dennis, 4th



Kaya Rossi, 3rd



Snowy Villages, Anchor 1st graders



Drawing & observing exercise, Beacon

# Visual Arts Anchor & Beacon Elementary

## ANCHOR ELEMENTARY

“It sure is great to be back full-force in the art room at Anchor Elementary,” says art teacher Kristin Walters. The Y5s through 2nd graders are enjoying learning about the elements of art, famous artists and art from all around the world. Students have been busy with drawing and painting lessons along with getting our hands in clay!

## BEACON ELEMENTARY

Teaching in person again this school year, art teacher Ashley Dorr and her classes have been able to celebrate each season through art and resume collaborative work. Beacon students made a huge winter mural to which each student contributed. Since January, our young artists have been learning and practicing how artists work. Students compiled lists of ways artists work, and are focusing on practicing **expressing** feelings through art, **envisioning** a project in our mind, and **persisting** when things don't go smoothly. First and second graders have their own sketchbooks in which they love to add and create new work.



Clockwise from top right: Ceramic disks, Anchor Y5's; Watercolor cityscape, Beacon; Using droppers to create abstract art, Beacon; Cardinals in the Snow, Anchor 2nd graders

# Speech/Writing



## Speech/Writing Debate & Forensics

The Fall 2022 debate season was very successful, and the forensics season is just warming up. The first in-person Forensics competition since March 2020 took place at Avondale HS on Saturday, March 5, 2022; almost 2 years to the date when buildings shut down.

One of the biggest changes with Debate and Forensics during the pandemic was the dependence on computers and digital sharing of information. Students have always used computers to do research and write cases in Debate, but now they use computers to share research and flow (take notes during a debate), which makes it really easy to share with other teammates.

Due to COVID-19 moving competition to an online format, the National Speech and Debate Association had to change some rules in Forensics. When in person, Forensics performances consider the student's movement and blocking, as well as their vocal and physical expressions. Seeing the whole student in a Zoom-sized digital "room" was impossible, so students were told they could limit their physicalities in order to be closer to the camera. Changes were also made to the Broadcasting event; when in person, students were given the news articles to cut and turn into a 5-minute broadcast. Because it could not be ensured students could print the articles, they created their own broadcast news articles, adding an interesting twist as judges could see what they felt was important news.

All judges had to learn how to write critiques and score students using a new computer platform created by the National Speech and Debate Association, which is now used by the entire country. This huge change has now been implemented for in-person tournaments.

This past February, senior Ben Darnell and junior Owen Carlson qualified to represent the state of Michigan at the National Public Forum Debate Tournament in June (sophomores Adyn Skowronski and Mark Remington are 1st alternatives). The Debate team had many Top 10 finishes during their fall season, including several 1st place victories.

DHS teacher and advisor Deb Marsh believes Debate and Forensics is the very best preparation a student can have for success in their future. They offer students the ability to become excellent communicators, researchers, writers, and thinkers. Students gain confidence and self-reliance. "I'm so very grateful that we have the opportunity to offer these programs to the students at Mill Creek and Dexter High School," Marsh says.



### Speech/Writing *The Squall* | Multimedia Journalism

“It’s been a whirlwind this year to make *The Squall* happen similarly to how it happened in the past,” says DHS teacher and advisor Chris Mackinder.

It took the first semester to really get students into a good groove with the new block scheduling model at DHS. Seeing students every other day was a major change, especially when they’re working on a publication. Nevertheless, the kids are resilient and have found ways to write various stories, photograph events, and produce social media content throughout the year.

The block schedule has allowed *The Squall* to revise their publication schedule for the better. While issues used to come out in October, December, and February, that was a strain due to the regular semester schedule and Winter Break. Now, a new November, January, March, May production schedule has alleviated much of the stress. Students can still submit individual work for awards, as well as our magazine publication as a whole.

The latest issue of *The Squall* was distributed in early March. Articles include a look back at the Dexter tornado from ten years ago, the rise of school vandalism, and the ever-timely discussion of the mask mandate being lifted. A large group of new students joined the staff this semester as well, many of them seniors who will get to experience the Multimedia Journalism class before they graduate.

Students will learn if they’ve won individual honors via the virtual Michigan Interscholastic Press Association (MIPA) conference in late April. Hopefully, they will be able to get back to the in-person awards conference in the future, but Covid has derailed that celebration for yet another year.

At The MIPA Spring Awards Celebration, the most prestigious team award is the Spartan Award. Three issues of *The Squall* are submitted for evaluation in regards to writing, reporting, photography, design, etc. and graded on a 1000-point scale. Anything in the “A-range” (900+ earns a Spartan Award) and that staff receive a special plaque. The *Squall* has won fourteen Spartan Awards since the 2000-2001 school year.



# Drama



***“I think that the power of art is the power to wake us up, strike us to our depths, and change us.” - Jhumpa Lahiri***

## Drama IB Theater

IB Theatre has had many more opportunities than last year, says teacher Patrick Stolkey, but there are also some new limitations compared to previous years. This year, students in IB Theatre HL are working on their Solo Theatre Pieces, a compulsory component of the course that asks students to produce, write, and direct their own solo piece of four to eight minutes. The students research individual theatre theorists/practitioners and become expert on an aspect of that theorist's theory. They then create their solo which practically includes that aspect.

Senior Emmy Rhizal created a beautiful piece focused on gender roles and based on Bertoldt Brecht's theory of SPAS, which focuses on not allowing the audience to emotionally connect with the actors in order to illicit a call-to-action more than an emotional connection. Her piece involved multi-rolling, dramatic and augmented

lighting, speech, and beautiful singing. She did a phenomenal job! Other students created speechless solos and another integrated video production into the performance. It was a stellar year for performances.

Unfortunately, due to high rates of COVID just after the winter holiday, the group was unable to have an audience for these performances. But, this same group is working on a collaborative project, one that asks them to have a non-dramatic starting point and produce, write, and direct an original piece of theatre of about 15 minutes. They are excited about the downward case trend and look forward to welcoming an audience for these performances down the road.

The class is all about collaboration, and this is a great group of individuals who bring fresh and creative ideas daily.

# Drama Club

Dexter Drama Club has weathered many changes since the onset of COVID-19: outdoor productions, masks that obscure voices and facial expressions, and limited audiences, just to name a few. But Dexter’s theater students, DHS teacher Erin Palmer, and drama production assistant David Moan have persevered and are grateful to again be performing in the DHS Center for Performing Arts. For their fall production of *The Little Mermaid*, almost 1600 people attended shows over a very successful three-day run. In November 2021, to celebrate the return to live theater after COVID-19, Drama Club joined with Musical Theater International (MTI) to perform their version of the musical revue *All Together Now!* featuring current students and alumni from 2010-2021 collaborating on a fabulous line-up of favorite Broadway hits. Most recently, a modernized version of *Romeo and Juliet*, set in prohibition-era Detroit, was presented with a cast, crew and jazz band of over 100 Dexter students.



Approximately 150 Dexter students participate regularly in Drama Club productions, which is over 10% of the total DHS student body. Productions are also open to middle school students, creating a larger student base to continuously build the program. Through frequent bonding events during the year, middle and high school students get to know each other better, which allows for more comfortable collaboration both on-stage and behind the scenes. Drama Club student leaders organize movie nights, sledding parties, tech weekend breakfasts, trivia nights, karaoke, summer events, and many more activities. These bonding events have created a tight-knit family of thespians at Dexter Schools.

# Drama



Drama Club also holds skill-building workshops throughout the year, some specific to individual productions, to help students acquire practices and techniques needed to put on a successful show. Costuming workshops, technical workshops (e.g. lighting, set building), Shakespearian acting, improv, etc. are led by both student leaders and industry professionals.



This past fall, twelve DCS students attended the International Thespian Society's (ITS) two-day Thespian Festival in Lansing. ITS is an honor society (similar to NHS) specific to theater students, where students can earn graduation cords for their participation in high school productions. Thespian Festival is an annual event where students all over the state come together to participate in workshops, individual competition events and the Tech Olympics. Several of the DCS students attending performed: one student presented a mini movie creation, a duo did a musical number, and many other individuals sang. In addition to the student peer networking

occurring at this event, colleges and universities are invited to present their drama/theater offerings. Students who perform during competition at the festival can be awarded scholarship money for college; this year, approximately \$500,000 in scholarships were offered to DCS students. Whether or not students choose to pursue drama after high school, the experience is extremely valuable and rewarding.

*Looking forward to spring, Drama Club will be producing "Footloose," April 28th - May 1st, and the 2nd Annual Film Festival is scheduled for May 6th.*





## Music DHS Bands

In fall 2020, participation in marching band was optional due to COVID protocols and many students did not experience a full marching band season. Returning to in-person learning this year allowed Dexter High School Band students to again take the field at Friday night football games as “The Pride of Dexter.” The only difference was that Director Ken Moore chose not to enter the district marching band festival, as almost half the students had never marched before. Moore wanted students to focus solely on the joy of making music together.

DHS students gave a live concert performance at the Center for the Performing Arts in December 2021, featuring all three high school bands: varsity, concert, and symphonic. The entire performance can be viewed at the Dexter Band Boosters website at [dexterbands.org/concert](https://dexterbands.org/concert). All three DHS bands also received straight 1 ratings for their performances at the MSBOA Festival held at Huron High School in March.

After a very competitive audition involving over 2500 students statewide, five DHS students were selected to perform in the Michigan All-State High School Band. Audrey Hudson (senior, clarinet), Collin Johnson (senior, trombone), Hanne Nielsen (sophomore, clarinet), Calvin Ophoff (sophomore, bassoon), and Yuma Tsubouchi (sophomore, French horn) represented Dexter at the All-State performance in Devos Hall, Grand Rapids, in January 2022. This is the highest musical recognition a student can receive in this state, and we are very proud of these outstanding artists.

# Music



## Music Mill Creek Bands

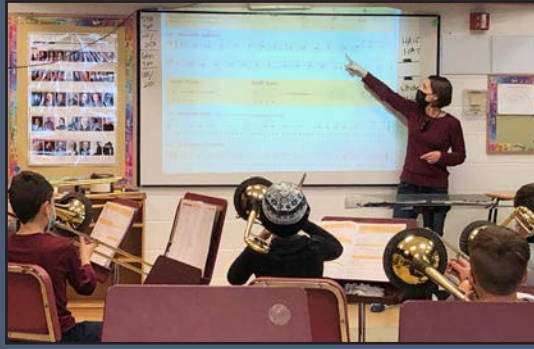
Mill Creek band director Andy Damman's biggest priority since remote learning is getting the middle school groups back to performing and playing together as much as possible. Band students lost quite a bit of that during remote learning, and it has been a long road to recovery.

This year has been a welcome restart, as students have had the opportunity to participate in concerts and festivals, regaining a sense of normalcy. The middle school students just finished virtual MSBOA Solo and Ensemble, where 97% of the events medaled this year. Both 7th and 8th grade bands recently performed in person at the MSBOA District 12 Band Festival at Thurston High School in Redford, receiving straight 1 ratings.

Two Mill Creek students (Cat Maust, 7th, and Carson Zaski, 8th) were selected from over thousands of auditions to perform with the MSBOA All-State Middle School Band.

Mill Creek is so proud of all the band students for their hard work navigating through this pandemic!





## Music Creekside Bands

Both 5th and 6th grade students started a beginning band class this year. In the 2020-2021 school year, 5th grade students did not have the opportunity to choose band, choir, or orchestra. Instead, they learned general music taught virtually by Creekside band director Rachel Wilson. Both grades are learning from the same beginning band book this year, with hopes to differentiate instruction for each group later in the year.

During the first week of school, students attended a demonstration of all the instruments available to them. During the following week, students went through an instrument fitting where they could physically try the instruments in which they were interested. Since that time, both grades have learned how to put their instruments together, how to make their first sounds and are now playing simple songs and will begin their first sheet music soon.

Creekside's first live band concert was at the modified Band Extravaganza on March 20, 2022, where Wilson noted it had been 850 days since a Creekside band performed live!



***“Everything about music is better in person!”***

**- Anthony Koch,  
Wylie Music Teacher**

## Music

# Music Anchor, Beacon & Wylie Elementary

### Anchor Elementary

Although Young Five through second grade students at Anchor do not perform until spring, music teacher Robin Radcliff is continuously developing their music skills in the classroom. Second grade students recently completed a five-week unit on *"The Nutcracker."* Students learned about the Russian composer, Peter Tchaikovsky, listened to the story upon which the ballet is based, watched a movie, and used listening maps to help study the musical form of the composition. Students used scarves and mallets to create hand puppets to perform creative movement to *"Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy."*



Recently, second grade students learned a song entitled, *"Martin Luther King"*, and are studying the many musical contributions of African-American singers, songwriters, composers, arrangers and instrumentalists across several genres. Young Five and kindergarten students typically follow a thematic-based curriculum that allows them to experience the many songs and dances associated with various seasons and holiday celebrations.



### Beacon Elementary

In January & February, music teacher Molly Hampsey and Beacon students celebrated Black History in Music by learning about a new individual or music/performing ensemble each week. Students have studied the elements of jazz music by studying the music of Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald. They learned how jazz transcends history by studying modern performers, including Trombone Shorty, the Step Afrika ensemble, and the New Orleans St. Augustine High School marching band. Additionally, 1st and 2nd graders have learned African drumming techniques by learning about African drummer, Babatunde Olatunji.



Through the study of the various Black musicians and ensembles, students have learned and experienced how music can bring people together. With this theme, students have participated in community drum circles as well as singing together as a class choir.



### Wylie Elementary

Wylie students are excited to again perform at live concerts! After rethinking how to teach music remotely last year, one learning strategy teacher Anthony Koch intends to continue using long-term is practice tracks. Koch creates lyric videos with which students can practice at home, a technique that was very beneficial during virtual learning. The software Koch uses allows him to create the exact arrangement, change keys, cut parts, etc. so students can practice at home just how it will be sung in concert.

Another learning tool that helped kids engage in virtual learning last year was the drum set. Koch used the drums to get students up and moving during Zoom classes with great success. He has now implemented dance, rhythm, and movement games into this year's lesson plans featuring the drum set, which the kids really enjoy.

Third and fourth grade students are learning ukulele in music class, and are doing so well Koch plans to include a ukulele song (*"Count on Me"*) in the upcoming Wylie concert. And when the nice weather returns, Wylie students will head outside for music class to play on bucket drums, and use soccer and other balls to bounce steady beats.

# Music



## Music DHS Orchestra

Students in the DHS orchestra program had the opportunity to work with an industry professional this past fall, learning fiddle techniques from University of Michigan resident artist Brad Phillips. Over the course of ten weeks, Phillips, who has played with artists such as Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin and Iggy Pop and the Stooges, spent one class period per week teaching string students an eclectic mix of classic fiddle songs and improvisational techniques. Sponsored by the Dexter Orchestra Boosters, Phillips's teaching sessions culminated at the DHS Winter Concert in December 2021 with a combined orchestra performance featuring Phillips himself shredding on the violin. The Chamber Orchestra also had the opportunity to play with the Dexter Community Orchestra at this concert.

In early 2020, Chamber Orchestra had been

rehearsing a commissioned piece by professor and chair of Music Education at U-M Michael Hopkins, composed specifically for their instrumentation. The orchestra never performed the piece, as all late winter and spring concerts in 2020 were canceled due to the pandemic. This past December, DHS Orchestra Director Matt Deloria brought back the piece, entitled "*Dreadnaught*," for the Chamber Orchestra to debut at their spring concert with Hopkins conducting.

Orchestra director Matt Deloria and DHS students are happy to again be performing live; they competed at the MSBOA District Festival at Huron HS in March, both orchestras receiving straight 1 ratings. Chamber and Concert orchestras will present a pops concert in April and their final spring concert in May.



## Music Mill Creek Orchestra

The Mill Creek Orchestra program debuted a new initiative this year, their first clinician concert, partnering with Jed Fritzemeier, a veteran musician and educator currently the Director of Music Education with the Jackson Symphony Orchestra. Fritzemeier rehearsed the orchestras, giving students the opportunity for feedback and instruction from a new voice and an expert in the field, as well as conducted at the concert. He is also a bass player, which was a treat for our young bassists.



“The Mill Creek Orchestras had a fantastic time learning from and working with Mr. Fritzemeier to prepare for this concert,” says teacher Alison Campbell. “We are thankful to Jed for bringing his expertise, enthusiasm, and passion for music to our orchestras!”

Due to the pandemic, a 6th grade “rite of passage” piece entitled “*Night Shift*” wasn’t performed in 2020. Those 6th graders are now in 8th grade orchestra, and finally had the opportunity to perform this student favorite at their March concert. Also a first this year, the 7th and 8th grade orchestras are combining on this piece, a move to build community between the grades and prepare them to play together in high school orchestra.

***“I know that most of the joy in my life has come to me from my violin.”***

**- Albert Einstein**

## Music Creekside Orchestra

At Creekside Intermediate, students in both 5th and 6th grades are beginning orchestral musicians this year, as 5th graders couldn’t be fitted for instruments due to COVID-19 and learned general music virtually last year. For the first time, teacher Matt Deloria is teaching a bass class at Creekside with seven 6th grade bassists. Usually, 5th graders receive their basses at the end of the year, take private lessons over the summer, then rehearse in school with the cellos.

Creekside orchestra students were excited to perform their first major concert in the DHS Center for the Performing Arts in March 2022.



***“I love how much Musical Theater Workshop teaches me about new musicals. It makes me explore songs that I wouldn’t normally sing!”***

**- Adam DeGregorio, DHS Freshman**

## **Music Musical Theater Workshop**

Due to an increasing interest in musical theatre in our community, in May 2021 the Board of Education approved a new course entitled Musical Theater Workshop. Students have the opportunity to rehearse, perform, direct, and/or choreograph/stage various songs from the Broadway genre. DHS students can also improve their knowledge in this area of theatre and get more individualized instruction on how to use their voice in a musical theatre setting. This class, taught by DHS teacher and choir director Julie Bassett, provides students with a flexible elective option to engage in the music department at DHS without participating in the traditional Choir, Orchestra or Band programs.

Students in this class study basic vocal pedagogy and how it should be applied to different musical styles within the broad scope of Musical Theatre Performance: singing, acting and movement/choreography, and to use correct terminology and vocabulary in written and oral discussion.

In the inaugural class, students in Musical Theatre performed at the Drama Club Alumni Concert in November 2021, at the Creekside Concert on February 24, 2022 and are currently prepping solos, small groups, and full class numbers for their Spring Performance.

A fun activity last semester was a trash bag costume contest. Each group was assigned a musical and had to construct a costume from the show using only trash bags and duct tape.



Haila Moazami, Chicago



Weston Myers, Grease

# Music



## Music DHS & Mill Creek Choirs

“It has been so nice to actually sing together in person and bring back some of the traditions of previous years,” says teacher Julie Bassett. In December, the DHS and Mill Creek choirs combined for their Winter Concert in the DHS Center for the Performing Arts.

DHS choir students were well prepared for Michigan School Vocal Musical Association (MSVMA) District Choral Festival in March at Clarenceville HS in Livonia. All three choirs have been working hard on their selections and made huge progress over the last two months. They are excited to have this traditional festival experience and get some valuable feedback. *UPDATE: All three choirs received straight 1 ratings at festival.*

Both DHS and Mill Creek choirs are working on musical theatre and pop selections for their spring concerts. Bassett has been taking advantage of the longer class periods at DHS this year, incorporating yoga and meditation into the daily routine. This helps students focus and make the most of their rehearsal time.

*“I am so proud of our singers; at the beginning of the year, we could handle simple songs at best and our music is so much more fun and challenging now. I’ve grown so much as a musician these last few years, and it is all because of Choir.”*

- Haila Moazami, DHS Senior

*“It’s good to have everyone back together again and to be able to work on harder songs. It feels like we are getting Choir back!”*

- Kennedy Lint, DHS Chamber Choir

*“I like choir because it gives me a sense of belonging in school.”*

- Jason Mergler, 8th Grade

*“The music in Choir is like therapy that I desperately need!”*

- Charlotte Bachman, 8th Grade

*“The choir is like a body, each part works together to make something great happen. Be it moving, talking, or singing.”*

- Dexter Krueger, 8th Grade



## Music Creekside Choir

The 5th and 6th grade Choral program has over 175 singers who meet two times per week for 45 minutes per class.

Students in the Creekside Choir program prepare pieces, often selected by the students, for performance. They learn to read the choral score, sing in both unison and harmony, and prepare to audition for solos and small group ensembles.

In addition to technical skills, teacher Molly Hampsey works to build ensemble membership by incorporating team-building activities into each rehearsal.

At their February concert, Creekside choirs performed several selections from the musical *Hamilton*. Both Creekside choirs will perform their spring concert on May 24th at 7pm at the DHS Center for the Performing Arts.





Courtney Prielipp, Senior

Josh Coffey, 8th



Ray Rascol, Sophomore



Rayne Newmister, 3rd



Charlotte Ford, 6th



***“The arts, it has been said, cannot change the world, but they may change human beings who might change the world.”***

**- Maxine Greene**

## **Index**

### **Drama**

Drama Club.....	16
IB Theatre.....	15

### **Music**

Creekside Bands .....	20
Creekside Choirs.....	26
Creekside Orchestras.....	23
DHS Bands.....	18
DHS Choirs.....	25
DHS Orchestras.....	22
Mill Creek Bands.....	19
Mill Creek Choirs.....	25
Mill Creek Orchestras.....	23
Musical Theater.....	24

### **Speech/Writing**

Debate/Forensics.....	13
Multimedia Journalism.....	14
The Squall.....	14

### **Visual Arts**

Anchor/Beacon Elementary Schools.....	12
Creekside Intermediate School.....	10
Dexter High School.....	2
GraphX.....	6
IB Film.....	7
Mill Creek Middle School.....	9
Photojournalism.....	7
Video Production.....	7
Wylie Elementary School.....	11
Yearbook.....	8