

MAKING WAVES AT DCS



The Compass: Student-Run Store Sells Stylish Swag

The new and improved DHS school store is again open for business



Collaboration is a word often used at Dexter Schools. Practiced in the classroom, among staff and teachers, and with local community partners, collaboration is a driving factor behind the District's mission to "develop, educate and inspire" each DCS student. The recently reopened school store at Dexter High School is the embodiment of this concept, with multiple students, staff and school organizations working together to create DHS-branded "swag" for the student body.

DHS alumna, current art teacher and junior class advisor Crickett Chamberlain spearheaded this latest reimagination of *The Compass*, having worked at the school store when she was a student. "The last time anyone remembers the store open and selling merchandise was back in 2011," she says, showing a sweatshirt from that era featuring the word "DreadNation." Around Homecoming time last year, Chamberlain remembered how fun it was to work in the store selling merchandise before big school events and began to consider how it could be relaunched.



"Vintage" Sweatshirt

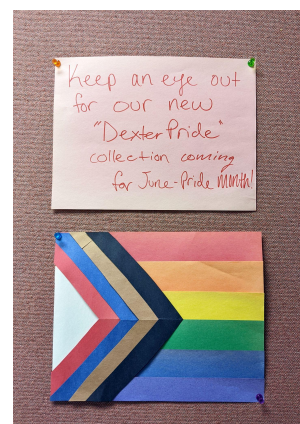
Chamberlain talked with students in her art classes about the possibility, receiving immediate interest from several who are now merchandise creators and store staff. Items sold at *The Compass* are 100% student designed and created, thanks to a close partnership with GraphX,

the high school's in-house graphic design and print shop. "GraphX helps order the clothing and other items we sell," says Chamberlain," and they also do our printing, etching, and decal work."



Student artists are hard at work creating new and exciting products for the store. Right now, most items being sold feature the standard "Dexter Dreadnaughts" ship logo, but the store has received permission to use the cartoon-style ship "Dready", as well as the Old English font "D" (e.g. Detroit Tigers "D") for future items. After finding a few of the old "DreadNation" sweatshirts still lying around (which quickly became a big seller), the staff plans to recreate a version of that logo, as the original is no longer available.

In addition to clothing items, other student-created merchandise includes clay keychains made by students in Roger Sprau's Ceramics and Foundations of Art classes, hand-cut decals, etched metal water bottles, pens, tote bags, beanie hats and more. There are also some "vintage" items left over from the 2011 store. One exciting item, hoped to be available before the end of the year, is a 100+ page coloring book featuring the work of DCS Illustration and Advanced Paint and Drawing students. Also in the works are Pride-themed items (rainbow & tie-dyed) for June, college logo decals (MSU, U-M, etc.) and positivity posters created by Digital Photography students. Partnering with the yearbook staff, 2021-2022 yearbooks will also be available to purchase in the store.



At the forefront of this new venture are Jessie Wagenschutz, Chloe Fawcett and Téa Salemi. After having a blast working on the junior class float for Homecoming, Wagenschutz was looking for a similarly fun and collaborative experience. "Working with these amazing people gives that same vibe," she says. Fawcett admitted that before working on *The Compass*, she hadn't really found something with which to be involved at DHS. "I wanted to do something that would contribute to the school community, and this is a great opportunity," she says. Salemi agreed, "it is really cool being part of something like this that benefits the whole school." These three students have been so inspired by working on the store that they have all enrolled in the GraphX class next year.

These three students were also effusive in their praise for Chamberlain: "she's the best, words can't even describe how awesome she is!" The camaraderie between the students and Chamberlain is visible; they love working together and creating something special for their fellow students.

Located in the DHS Cafeteria, the store is currently open 7:30-8:00 am (Tues-Fri), most lunch hours, and 3-3:30 p.m. (Mon-Thurs). They also hope to be open before and after major school events in the future, such as senior honors night, drama club productions, etc. You can follow *The Compass* on Instagram @dhsschoolstore22 for the latest updates.

The Compass Staff:

Jessie Wagenschutz, Decal Maker and Manager

Chloe Fawcett

Téa Salemi

Emily Schultz & Hannah Schultz, Designers and Advertising

Sabrina Luckhardt, GraphX Production Manager

Tyler Jankovic & Ryan Slaven, Screen Printers

Keira Gotcher, Substitute Screen Printer

Krickett Chamberlain, Advisor