



## A Walking Tour of Dreher High School

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News about Dreher at <http://dreher.richlandone.org>. Click on the twitter link.

**Dreher High School** is a modern, three-story structure oriented toward Millwood Avenue and opening to the city that lies to the west and south. As you visit Dreher you will be reminded of the old, introduced to the new and delighted by shades of Devil blue.

Enter through the front doors and you will be followed by the natural light that illuminates and brightens nearly every public space in the building. At your feet is the **school's seal** arranged in shades of blue, beige and gray tiles on the floor of the vestibule. The seal affirms that Dreher was established in 1938.

Glance above to see the flags of our country and our state. Suspended from the rafters are banners commemorating Dreher's selection as Palmetto's Finest, a School of Promise, and a Red Carpet School. Since tradition is valued at Dreher, portraits past principals are hung on the wall.

Visitors who leave the vestibule to the right to register at the reception desk will notice our principal's portrait, painted by Dreher's award-winning Art teacher, David Vandiver. Beyond the reception desk are the administrative suite, the guidance suite and the parent volunteer room.

Walk straight ahead through the vestibule into the **main lobby**. As it was in the old building, Dreher's extensive art collection decorates the walls. The attendance office and the nurse's office both open onto the lobby. Turn left and head west along the first floor corridor paralleling Millwood Avenue to view ongoing exhibits of student art. Opening onto this corridor are classrooms for seniors, visual artists, and guitar students. The tutoring center is located mid-way down the hall.

As you turn at the end of the hall you will pass the computer lab and classroom of Project Lead the Way. On the right as you walk toward the rear of the building are expansive classrooms for dance and drama. Beautiful sprung wooden floors cushion the steps of students rehearsing for shows.

Opposite the dance and drama rooms to the left is the spacious **auditorium** decorated in shades of blue. One outstanding feature is the orchestra pit which rises and falls to accommodate Dreher's award-winning performing arts productions. Beyond the auditorium, which has its own entrance from the Millwood parking lot, are the classroom and rehearsal

spaces for the orchestra, chorus and band.

Exit the arts wing to the right and you enter the **student commons** area. While the cafeteria has a distinctly new feel, students nevertheless enjoy a taste of the old along with their meal. As before, students often choose to gather outside at lunch. The shaded **plaza** is to the left of the commons area. The grassy **courtyard**, open three-stories to the sky, is to the right. The fountain of graceful dolphins will be illuminated as in the past to celebrate special occasions.

Exit the commons through the double doors straight ahead, and you will pass through the athletic and physical education wing, housing a practice gym, a wrestling room, locker rooms, and coaches' offices. Visit the centerpiece of this wing,

the **Ken DuBard Gymnasium**, named to honor the long-time Dreher coach, athletic director and father of the current athletic director, Mike DuBard. The sprung wooden floor is emblazoned with the Devil head, a motif that is repeated in tile on the floor of the lobby outside of the gym. Climb the stands to the second level to try out the soft-surface track that rings the court. From the track you view the weight room.

Leave the gym from the second level and you will pass by the ROTC classrooms. Proceed south toward the front of the building. Occupying the southeast corner of the building is the **Media Center**, with dramatic two-story views of Millwood, Adger and Devine. Within the Media Center is access to two computer labs, the Dreher news room and the cyber café.

Exit the Media Center and continue west down the second floor hall paralleling Millwood where you will pass general classrooms and the videoconferencing room. Retrace your steps to the Media Center lobby and you can catch the elevator to the third floor, home of the Freshman Academy and five science classrooms, each with its own lab space.

Return now down the elevator to the first floor. Exit through the front doors to the covered portico. To the left are benches in a memorial garden along commemorative brick pathways. There is a parking lot along Millwood for students and one in the rear of the building for buses and faculty cars. Completing the outdoor campus are tennis courts and fields for physical education, athletics, color guard and marching band.

