# *Dexter High School*

## *Honors Convocation*




***May 27th, 2026***

***Center for Performing Arts***

# *Honors Convocation Ceremony*

***Welcome****.....Mr. Ryan Bruder, Superintendent*
*Ms. Abby Holland, Interim Principal*

***'Most Influential' Awards****.....Student Representatives*

***Students Honored****.....Ms. Rachel Hervey, Assistant Principal*

*(awards distributed by DHS Counselors)*

***Closing Remarks****.....Ms. Abby Holland, Interim Principal*

# *'Most Influential' Award*

*This year's outstanding staff members were selected by students from the Class of 2026. They identified the staff member who has had an impact on them throughout their experience in Dexter Community Schools.*

*The following students selected these individuals:*

*Violet Vrsek……Krickett Chamberlain, DHS*
*Layla Stewart……William Floss, DHS*
*Caleb Wilson……Alex Heidtke, DHS*
*Gavin Heichel……Drake Reinert, DHS*
*Brenden Sedlar & Fern Arnold……Patrick Stolkey, DHS*
*Addison Allen-Grubb……Wilbur Tong, DHS*
*Jason Mergler……Elizabeth Treppa, DHS*

# *Local Scholarships*

***Seniors were given the opportunity to apply for these generous scholarships offered by local organizations and families***

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***American Legion**: Presented to a graduating male who has performed with distinction in the following areas: citizenship, leadership, scholarship, and service to their community.*

***Chelsea State Bank -** Presented to a graduating senior who is pursuing a degree in business or finance.*

***Dexter Education Association**: This scholarship is awarded to a senior interested in pursuing a teaching degree or post-secondary schooling in the field of education.*

***Dexter Garden Club**: This year, the Garden Club scholarships are being awarded in honor of Mrs. Pat Cousins, a beloved member of our Dexter Community. Pat was a founding member of the Garden Club who for decades quietly, tirelessly, joyfully, and effectively helped build the club into the strong organization it is today. This scholarship is for graduating seniors who have been admitted to a college or university full-time to follow a career path in Biology, Agriculture, Horticulture, Organic Gardening, Botany, Environmental Studies, Landscape Design, Ecology, or Conservation.*

***Dexter Lions Club**: Awarded to graduating seniors to apply towards their pursuit of a post-secondary degree or certification. Students will be evaluated in three areas: academics, community/school involvement, and how future goals will impact the community.*

***Louie Ceriani Scholarship:** In honor of one of their oldest, and longest involved members, Louie Ceriani, the Dexter Lions are awarding a scholarship to a senior who is planning on going into the education field, or any area that serves the community members.*

# *Local 'Memorial' Scholarships*

***Helen S. Thomas Memorial Scholarship****: Mrs. Thomas broke through barriers and attend the University of Michigan during a time when females were discouraged from science and math programs. This scholarship is awarded to a graduating female student who has been admitted to the University of Michigan to pursue an education and career in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.*

***Ron Raiford Memorial Scholarship****: As a lifelong resident of Dexter, a DHS alumni, member of the Lions, and owner of ShopDexter.com, Ron Raiford regularly worked with Dexter Community Schools to promote and support their activities. This scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior enrolling in a trade or vocational program after graduation.*

# *Local & State Awards*

***Student Council - School Wide Support & Community Service***
*This organization encourages the development of leadership by organizing and carrying out school activities and service projects.*

***Michigan Interscholastic Press Association (MIPA)***
*Students who enrolled in at least four semesters of a journalism class with an A- average or better, held a leadership position on a publication staff, won one or more journalism awards on the state or national level.*

***Principal's Award***
*Selected from seniors who entered the Principal's Award speech contest, resulting in the privilege to deliver a speech at the 2026 commencement ceremony. Speakers were evaluated and selected based on presentation, content and delivery.*

# *Academic Distinctions*

***Summa Cum Laude*** *3.90 – 4.0+ GPA*

***Magna Cum Laude*** *3.75 – 3.89 GPA*

***Cum Laude*** *3.50 – 3.74 GPA*

# *University, College & Trade School Scholarships*

*These scholarships have been awarded in recognition of outstanding academic achievement, scholarly promise, and potential contribution by the post-secondary institution to which students have committed.*

*(Scholarships read have been self-reported by the students)*

# *National & International Awards*

***International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate***

*Students who have successfully completed all IB diploma requirements.*

***International Baccalaureate Exemplary Scholar Award***

*Determined by the IB teachers and given to one IB Diploma candidate who has demonstrated exceptional achievement across all IB classes.*

***International Baccalaureate Spirit of the Learner Profile Award***

*Determined by the IB teachers and given to one IB Diploma candidate who embodies the values and attributes of the IB program.*

***International Thespian Society***

*An international organization that recognizes student involvement and dedication to theater. These cords are awarded to members who have achieved the status of 'Honor Thespian' through involvement and commitment to theater.*

***National Honor Society***

*The National Honor Society promotes recognition of students who reflect outstanding accomplishments in the areas of scholarship, character, leadership, and service.*

***National Merit Finalist & Commended Scholars***

*Finalists qualify by being named a Semifinalist, representing less than one percent of the high school seniors in each state; qualifying scores; high academic standards in college preparatory courses; submitting an essay; receiving the full endorsement of the principal.*

***National Speech and Debate Association***

*A special, nationally endorsed honor society for students who participate in speech activities, receiving certificates and honor cords based on success and service to the speech community.*

# *Board of Education*

*President.....Mrs. Elise Bruderly*

*Vice President.....Mrs. Melanie Szawara*

*Treasurer.....Mrs. Jennifer Kangas*

*Secretary.....Mr. Daniel Alabré*

*Trustee.....Mr. David Pisano*

*Trustee.....Mr. Mike Cipolla*

*Trustee.....Mrs. Amy Reiser*

*Student Board Members.....Claire Beneteau and Lloyd Brand*

# *Dexter Community Schools Administration*

*Superintendent.....Mr. Ryan Bruder*

*Chief Academic Officer.....Ms. Melanie Nowak*

*Principal of Operations.....Mr. Bill Harris*

*Executive Director of Human Resources.....Ms. Barb Leonard*

*Chief Financial Officer.....Ms. Christie Bueche*

*Interim Principal.....Ms. Abby Holland*

*Assistant Principal.....Ms. Rachel Hervey*

*Director of Facilities.....Mr. Brian Schuler*

*Director of Athletics.....Mr. Mike Bavineau*

*Director of Food and Nutrition.....Ms. Jennifer Mattison*

*Director of Special Education.....Ms. Anne Nakon*

*Director of Technology.....Mr. Richard Munir*

*Director of Transportation.....Ms. Deneen Smith*

*Director of Communications/Webmaster.....Ms. Hope Vestergaard*

# *DHS Department Leaders*

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*Counseling.....Brandy Jacobs*
*Language Arts.....Andrew Parker*
*Mathematics.....Ryan Fisher*
*Music.....Matt Deloria*
*PE & Health.....Kelly Ottaviani*
*Science.....Matt Caves & Suzie Spence*
*Social Studies.....Jaime Dudash*
*Special Education.....Danna Webber*
*Visual/Applied Arts & Media.....Krickett Chamberlain*
*World Languages.....Maria Vazquez-Brieva*

*Class of 2026 Advisor.....Krickett Chamberlain*

**Thank you to the following people who have contributed their time & effort in order to make this ceremony a success:**

*Emily LaRocque, for coordinating the local scholarship opportunities, department awards, and planning this evening's event.*

*and to the….*

*DHS Administrative Team & Counseling Department*

*Teachers of Dexter Community Schools*

*Central Office Administration & Staff*

*Athletic Department*

*Technology Department*

*Buildings & Grounds*

*DCS Support Staff*

*Dexter Community Schools Board of Education*

*and*

*Hearts & Flowers in Dexter for the flowers!*

*Most importantly, thank you to our students' parents & families who continue to support these great young people!*

# Congratulations to the Honors Convocation recipients this evening!

*A complete listing of award insignia, award recipients, and accomplishments will be available on the DHS website mid-June.*

*Download a .pdf version by going to the Dexter Community Schools webpage (www.dexterschools.org), select Dexter High School, and the link will be available on the main page.*

DEXTER
DREADNAUGHTS

Any materials not picked up this evening will be available at graduation rehearsal on May 29, 2026.