

DEXTER SOUTHFIELD



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School Profile 2026–2027

Dexter Southfield is an independent, college-preparatory, coeducational day school for students in PreK–Class 12 with robust academic, arts, and athletics programming.

Students are provided a foundation for excellence as they gain the character, confidence, and compassion to become leaders, lifelong learners, and engaged citizens. Character education and leadership lessons are part of daily practice. Dexter Southfield builds individuals of strong character and action to become leaders in the world.

Students live by the School motto, *"Our Best Today, Better Tomorrow."*

DEXTER SOUTHFIELD AT A GLANCE

- **PreK–Class 12**
- **1,094** total enrollment
- **442** Upper School students
- **121** communities represented
- **100%** of graduates matriculate to four-year colleges
- **112** students in Class 12
- **5** academic course minimum per semester
- **42** Honors courses available
- **20** AP courses offered
- **32%** of Upper School students receive financial aid
- **36%** of the Class of 2026 recruited to play varsity athletics at the collegiate level

Class Rank: Students are not ranked.

Reporting Discipline: The School does not disclose student discipline to colleges unless the School decides that a student's standing at Dexter Southfield is in doubt because of the student's actions. Questions about reporting discipline should be directed to John Reilly, Dean of College Counseling.

The Cum Laude Society: Induction for Class 12 students is in the spring, and is based on scholarship, character, and devotion to excellence. Students must fall within the top 20% of the class.

School Memberships & Accreditation: NAIS, AISNE, NACAC, BISCCA, ACCIS, New England Association of Schools and Colleges

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- **English:** 4 years
- **History and Social Sciences:** 3 years with US History
- **Math and Computer Science:** 3 years with Algebra II
- **Language:** 3 levels
- **Lab Science:** 3 years
- **Visual and Performing Arts:** 3 semesters
- **Public Speaking:** Students learn to speak and write effectively by preparing and delivering an annual public address to fellow students, faculty, and administrators.
- **Community Service:** All students must complete at least 40 hours of community service prior to graduation.
- **Senior Independent Learning Experience:** In May, seniors explore passions or new areas of interest through real-world experiences. Students are required to complete 100 hours of supervised activity, reflect on their experience, and present to a panel of peers and faculty to showcase the culmination of their work.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Public Speaking is a cornerstone of a Dexter Southfield education, helping students develop confidence, poise, and effective communication skills from Kindergarten through Class 12. Through a coordinated curriculum, students learn to think critically, speak articulately, and connect with audiences. In Upper School, students participate in weekly Public Speaking classes and deliver annual culminating speeches tailored to each grade level.

DEXTER SOUTHFIELD SCHOLARS

The Dexter Southfield Scholars Program gives students the opportunity to pursue independent research in an academic area of their choice. Guided by faculty and professional mentors, students engage in advanced research, hands-on learning, and real-world problem-solving. Students in excellent academic standing must apply to the program and successfully complete Research Methods Honors, Scholars Program I, and Scholars Program II.

GLOBAL STUDIES

The Upper School Global Studies program is founded on the belief that meaningful learning extends beyond the classroom through immersive, firsthand experiences. International travel allows students to engage with diverse cultures, languages, and perspectives while deepening their understanding of the world and their place in it. These experiences foster empathy, cultural competence, adaptability, independence, and critical-thinking skills.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP HONORS COURSE WITH BABSON COLLEGE

Our partnership with Babson College enhances the Entrepreneurship Honors course with innovative, real-world approaches to entrepreneurial thinking. Through teacher Bob Donahue's certification in Youth Entrepreneurship Education, students gain practical experience developing and pitching business ideas. The course also builds the financial, analytical, creative, and leadership skills essential for future success.

HARVARD MEDSCIENCE

Our partnership with Harvard MEDscience provides Middle and Upper School students with an immersive introduction to medicine and the life sciences. Through hands-on coursework, emergency room simulations, and weekly experiences with medical professionals, students explore anatomy, physiology, and clinical case studies while developing critical STEM skills. In 2025, we expanded the program to include MEDscience Clinical Honors and MEDscience Emergency Response Honors.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS BOSTON DOCENTS

Upper School Museum of Fine Arts Docents train with Visual Arts faculty to lead engaging tours for Lower School students. The program provides students with opportunities to apply their public speaking skills in a real-world setting. Through research, presentation, and leadership experiences, students strengthen communication, collaboration, and critical-thinking skills.

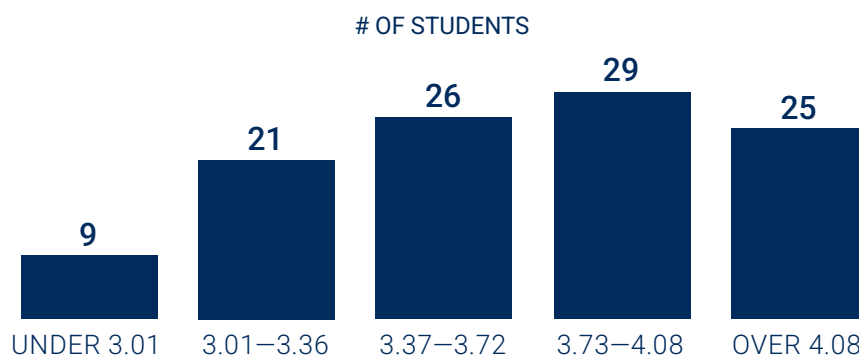
GPA GRADING SCALE

A student's cumulative unweighted GPA is inclusive of all academic course grades earned at Dexter Southfield through the last completed school year. **End-of-year grades are given one additional point of weight for AP courses and one-half point for Honors courses.** *The school publishes a weighted and an unweighted GPA.*

Please note that for the classes of 2018–2025, Honors and AP courses received equal weight. The scale below applies to the Class of 2026 and subsequent graduating classes.

LETTER GRADE	UNWEIGHTED	HONORS	AP
A+	4.3	4.8	5.3
A	4.0	4.5	5.0
A-	3.7	4.2	4.7
B+	3.3	3.8	4.3
B	3.0	3.5	4.0
B-	2.7	3.2	3.7
C+	2.3	2.8	3.3
C	2.0	2.5	3.0
C-	1.7	2.2	2.7

Class of 2027 Weighted GPA Distribution



HONORS & HIGH HONORS DISTINCTIONS

Awarded at the end of Semester I and Semester II.

- **Academic Honors:** Students who earn a weighted GPA of 3.8 or above and have no grade lower than a B- for their courses will receive the distinction of Academic Honors.
- **Academic High Honors:** Students who earn a weighted GPA of 4.0 or above and have no grade lower than an A- for their courses will receive the distinction of Academic High Honors.

AP courses and Honors-level electives are typically available starting in the junior year.

ENGLISH**AP English Language and Composition****AP English Literature and Composition**

American Literature Honors

Ethical Philosophy Honors Seminar

Gothic Literature Honors **

Individual in Society Honors

Literary Study Honors

Literature of Social Justice Honors **

Modernism: A Culture Honors

World Literature Honors

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**AP Art History ******AP Comparative Government and Politics ******AP Economics****AP Human Geography ******AP Psychology****AP US Government & Politics****AP US History**

Ancient World History Honors

British Imperialism Honors **

Constitutional Law Honors

Economics Honors **

Entrepreneurship Honors

Finance Honors **

Imperial Shadows Honors *

Macroeconomics Honors

Microeconomics Honors

Modern World History Honors

Today's China & Japan Honors **

Understanding 9/11 Honors

US History Honors

MATH AND COMPUTER SCIENCE**AP Calculus AB****AP Calculus BC****AP Computer Science A ******AP Pre-Calculus****AP Statistics**

Differential Equations Honors *, ***

Multivariable Calculus Honors **, ***

Algebra II Honors

Calculus Honors

Integrated Algebra and Geometry Honors

Geometry Honors **

Pre-Calculus Honors

LANGUAGE**AP French Language and Culture****AP Latin****AP Spanish Language and Culture****AP Spanish Literature**

Advanced Latin Honors *

French II Honors

French III Honors

French IV Honors

French V Honors

Latin II Honors

Latin III Honors

Latin Literature Honors I

Latin Literature Honors II

Spanish II Honors

Spanish III Honors

Spanish IV Honors

Spanish V Honors

LAB SCIENCE**AP Biology****AP Chemistry****AP Environmental Science****AP Physics C Mechanics**

Bioethics Honors

Biology Honors

Chemistry Honors

Immunology Honors **

Neuroscience Honors

MEDscience Clinical Honors

MEDscience Emergency Honors *

MEDscience Emergency Response Honors **

MEDscience Honors **

MEDscience Lab Honors

Physics Honors

Research Methods Honors

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS**AP Music Theory****AP Studio Art**

Advanced Studio Art Honors

** New course offering in 2026–2027**** Course not offered in 2026–2027***** This is a post-AP course and weighted the same as AP classes.*