

FOR FOOD, FOR FRIENDSHIP,  
FOR THE BLESSINGS OF THE DAY:



A CAMPAIGN FOR THE  
DEERFIELD ACADEMY  
DINING HALL



“SHARED EXPERIENCES FUEL  
DEERFIELD’S UNIQUE AND POWERFUL  
SPIRIT. THE DINING HALL IS THE  
HEART AND SOUL OF OUR CAMPUS.”

—DR. JOHN P.N. AUSTIN, HEAD OF SCHOOL



“THE DINING HALL IS OUR COMMUNITY AT ITS BEST.  
IT’S WHERE WE ALL COME TOGETHER TO SHARE STORIES  
OF OUR DAY, MAKE NEW FRIENDS OR CONFIDE  
IN OLD ONES. THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT WE BUILD  
HERE WILL LAST A LIFETIME AND CREATE MEMORIES  
THAT DEFINE OUR DEERFIELD SPIRIT.”

—LEILA GOVI '93 P'26, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Built in 1948, the Dining Hall responded to the needs of a thriving school, created sufficient space for students and teachers to gather for meals, and represented a significant step in Mr. Boyden's vision for Deerfield. To Mr. Boyden, learning was experiential, happening across the full range of school settings and, most importantly, through immersion in community. To this day, the Dining Hall, perhaps more than any other campus setting, embodies our commitment to community and shared experiences.

It is vital to our culture, traditions, and identity.

WE ASK YOU TO JOIN US IN RENEWING THE  
"HEART AND SOUL" OF DEERFIELD'S CAMPUS.



# TIMELINE



# GOALS

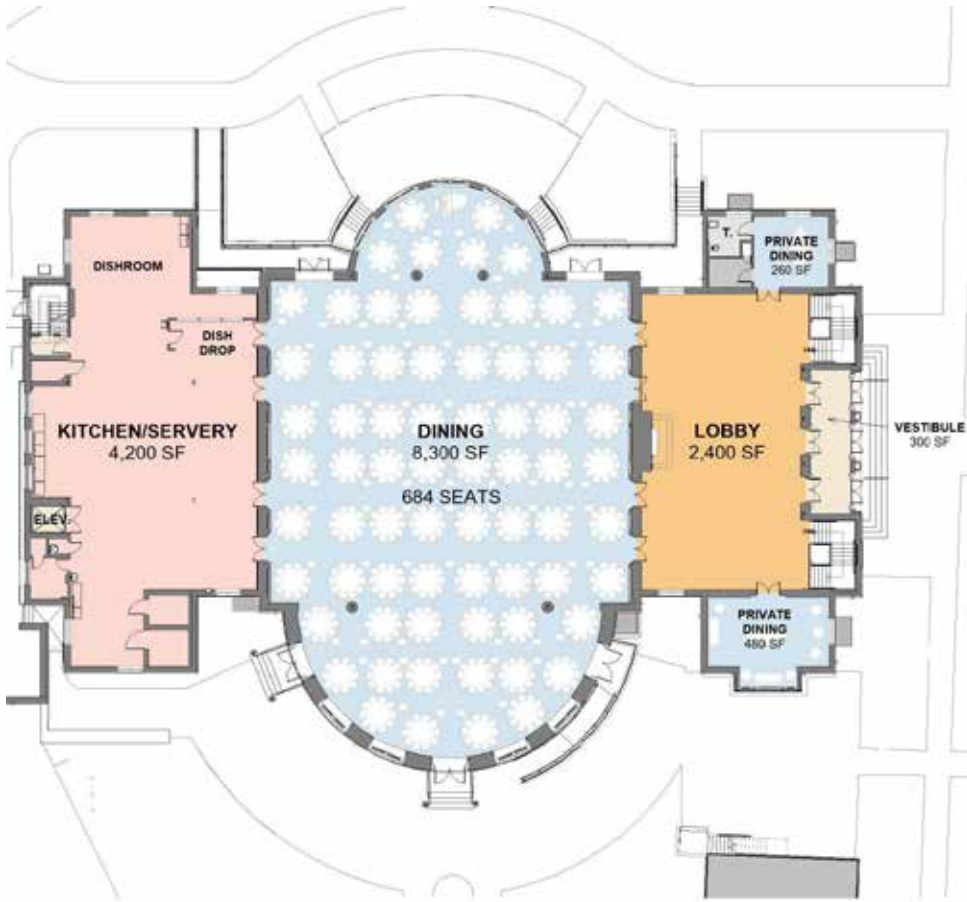
- Maintain the historical feel and grandeur of the interior and exterior spaces
- 12,000 sq. ft of dining space for all students to participate in all sit-down meals\*
- Modernize servery and kitchen
- Improve servery flow
- Promote wellness and greater nutritional awareness
- Focus on locally-sourced food
- Sustain our commitment to inclusion, community, and joy
- Offset our carbon footprint with responsible technologies

\*With a target enrollment of 650—a number we feel is the right fit for Deerfield—we face a challenge also faced by Mr. Boyden: *Bringing the full school together*. We no longer are able to seat all students upstairs in the main Dining Hall, requiring a large rotation of students to eat downstairs. In keeping with our historic commitment to community and connection, we embark on the expansion and revitalization of the Dining Hall—a project that will touch the life of every Deerfield student, teacher, coach, and mentor.

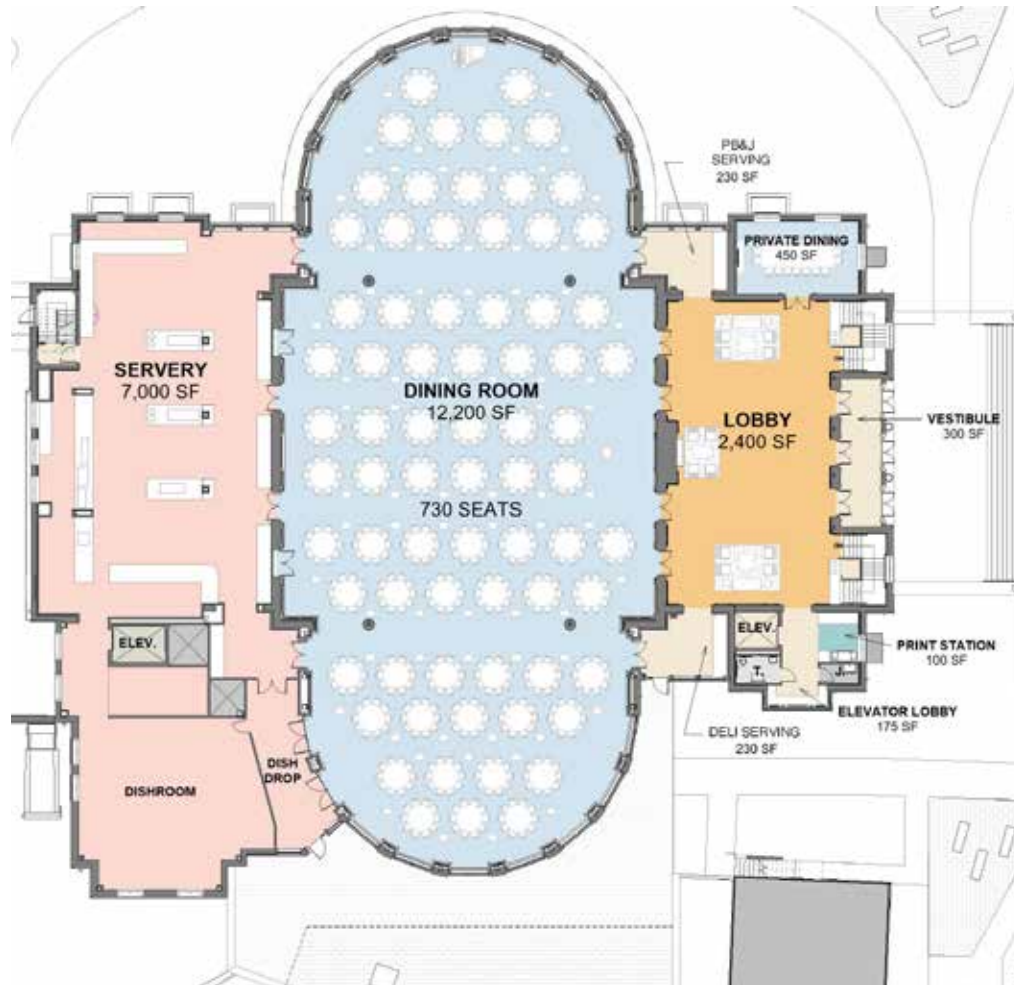
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST: \$58 MILLION



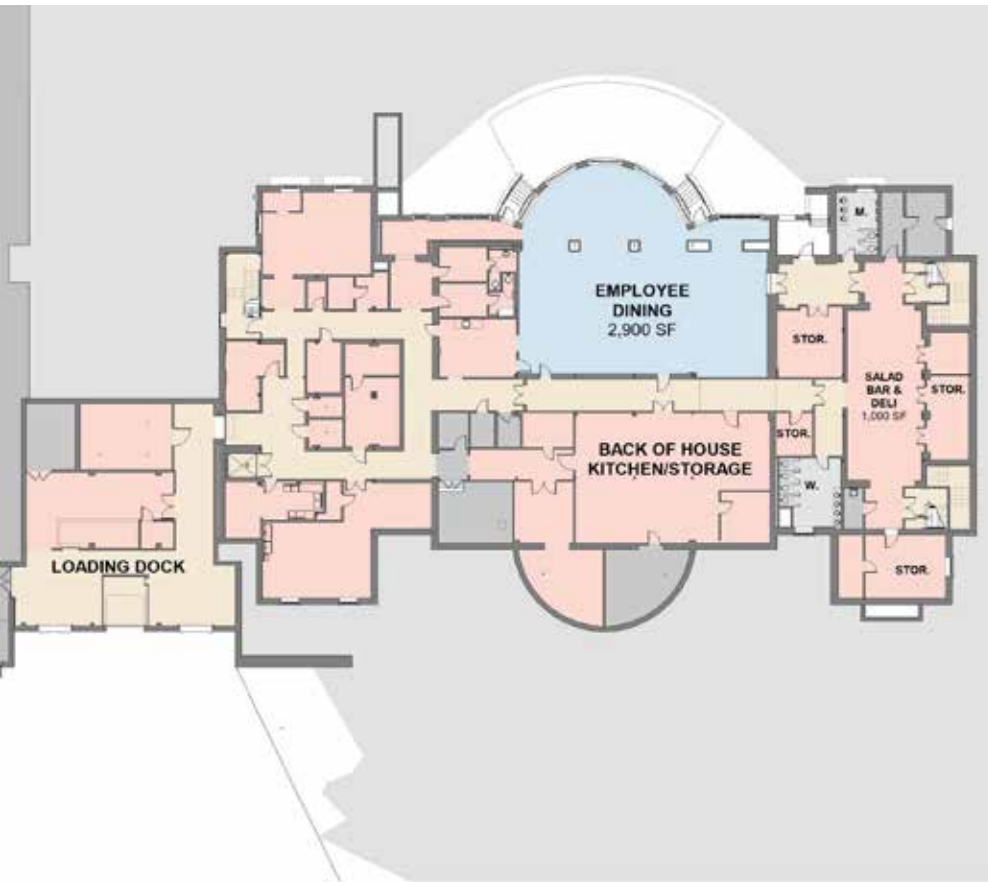
PROPOSED QUAD VIEW



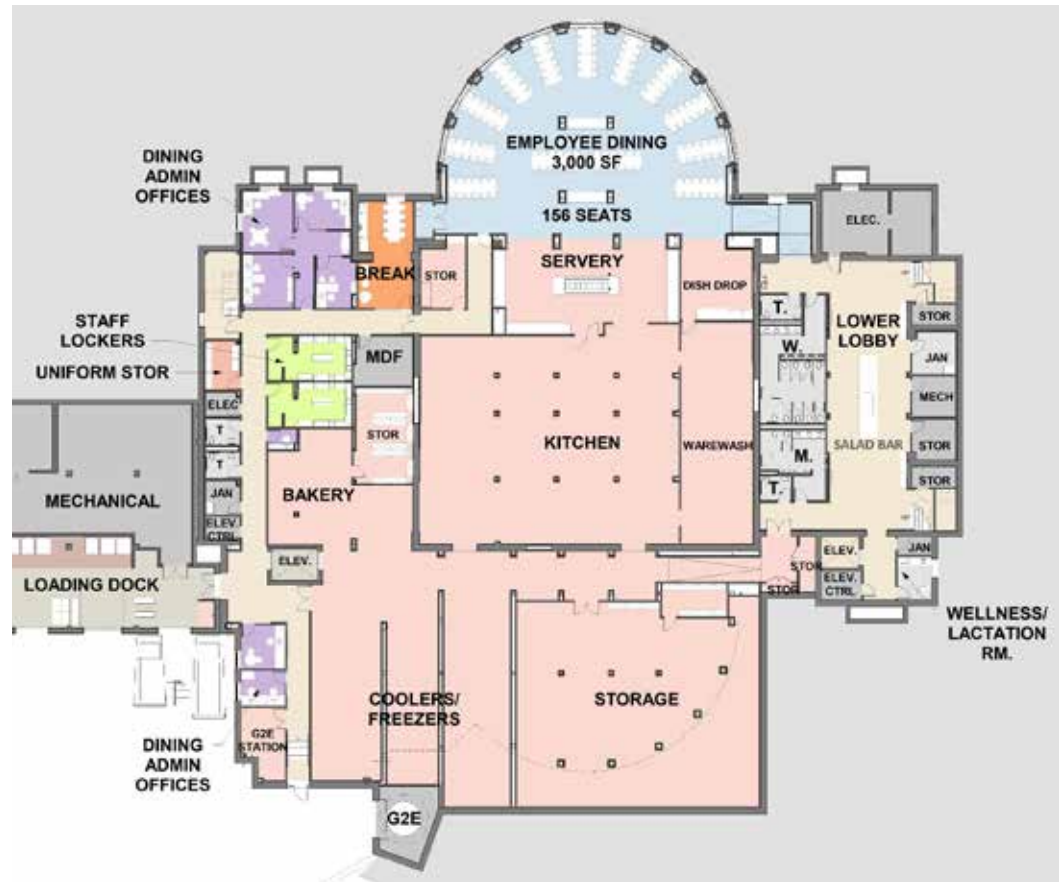
MAIN LEVEL / EXISTING



MAIN LEVEL / PROPOSED



LOWER LEVEL / EXISTING



LOWER LEVEL / PROPOSED

# PROPOSED INTERIOR RENDERINGS

LOBBY / EAST PERSPECTIVE





LOBBY / NORTH PERSPECTIVE





DINING / SOUTHEAST PERSPECTIVE

DINING / NORTHWEST PERSPECTIVE





SERVERY / SOUTHEAST PERSPECTIVE

DINING / BASEMENT SALAD BAR



# PROPOSED EXTERIOR RENDERINGS

## PROPOSED SOUTH TERRACE





PROPOSED EAST TERRACE AND ENTRANCE

# WHAT THE DINING HALL MEANS TO CURRENT STUDENTS AND ALUMNI:

GENERATIONS OF DEERFIELD STUDENTS HAVE BENEFITED FROM FAMILY-STYLE MEALS IN THE DINING HALL; CURRENT CONVENTIONAL WISDOM—AS WELL AS DECADES OF RESEARCH—SUPPORT THE IDEA THAT REGULARLY GATHERING AROUND A “FAMILY TABLE” OFFERS CHILDREN AND TEENS A WIDE VARIETY OF BENEFITS, SUCH AS HIGHER SELF-ESTEEM AND SELF-CONFIDENCE, A LOWER RISK FOR DEPRESSION, AND BETTER ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE.



The Dining Hall is such an important experience for all Deerfield students; sit-down meals are the time when the Deerfield community really comes together as a family. I love the formality of having the First Waiter and the Second Waiter, and I hope Deerfield never gives those up; these are important responsibilities, and, thinking back, they are experiences that cannot be repeated in any other environment.

One of my most memorable sit-down meals occurred on my revisit day in the spring of 2016. I remember how nervous I had been all day. I sat down at Ms. Emerson’s table, where I received the warmest of welcomes. The meal that day was broccoli fettuccine alfredo with raspberry thumbprint cookies. The combination of the comfortable conversation and the warm meal cemented the idea of Deerfield being the right place for me.



I think I made the final decision to attend Deerfield after a sit-down lunch on my accepted student visit day. (I had been admitted to Hotchkiss as well and was leaning towards that school.) The year was 1987 and after food had been served and we ate for a bit, Mr. Smith grabbed the podium and made the announcement that Graham Harden '87 had won the New England football player of the year award while playing linebacker. The Dining Hall absolutely erupted in table-pounding synchronous applause, and the hairs on the back of my neck stood up. I had never seen or heard something so cool in my life. I wondered if that could ever be me getting recognition in front of an entire school body. The smile on Mr. Smith's face was unmistakably that of a proud coach. That one exciting day at sit-down swung my decision to DA over Hotchkiss, and I am very glad to this day of that choice. Go Big Green!

My friends and I will stay in the Dining Hall for hours after dinner, grabbing seconds and thirds of dessert and howling and laughing until we eventually have to start our homework.

Sit-downs are one of my favorite things about Deerfield. They're special to me because it feels as if I'm eating with my family back home, but it's with a group of people that I just met.

On September 11, 2001, I was a senior and my brother a freshman. Students learned of the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon independently and together. Classes were canceled or delayed, and I remember friends crying, trying to reach their parents in NY. We didn't know what would happen next, and I remember walking around, trying to figure out where I should be; who I should be with.

When it came for sit-down lunch, however, we all showed up, in our places. This gathering—a daily experience—was like muscle memory carrying some of us along, and it was holding a lot of us together. The Dining Hall was our lifeboat as a community at that time. We had a place to be, and in that dark moment of uncertainty it didn't seem strange that everyone was there, in their places.

Mr. Widmer got up and said that as far as they had been able to establish, everyone's "mom and dad were ok." We clapped then, let out breath we were holding. But, Mr. Widmer also said, our fellow schools could not say the same. I remember looking around at everyone, and as much as we were grateful to be safe, there was this sense that everything had changed and we would need to hold each other closer than ever before in the days and weeks to come.

Sit-down meals are meant to help the community become a family, to come together once or twice a day and not just eat, but get a feeling of belonging to a greater whole. On 9/11, that purpose was absolutely achieved.





GATHERING WITH FRIENDS, WAITING TABLES, APPLAUDING FAVORITE MEALS, AND SINGING THE EVENSONG ARE AMONG STUDENTS' FAVORITE MOMENTS AT DEERFIELD, AND REMAIN CHERISHED MEMORIES FOR ALUMNI.

FOR DECADES, THE DINING HALL HAS BROUGHT OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER, AS STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND AROUND THE WORLD ENJOY SIT-DOWN MEALS AND WIDE-RANGING CONVERSATIONS.



PLEASE JOIN US IN CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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