



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

"A vibrant, ethical community that embraces diversity." Deerfield Academy encourages acceptance and understanding of the rich and multifaceted identities of all its community members. The Office of Inclusion and Community Life collaborates with all departments to support campus-wide conversations and efforts leading to the development of institutional priorities that sustain and enliven diversity and inclusion work.

One example of this effort is the Rising Scholar Program (RSP), a four-day residential program designed and supported by the Office of Inclusion and Community Life, the Office of Admission, and the Academic Dean's Office. RSP provides invited students with an early opportunity to experience living and learning at Deerfield.

The main objectives of RSP include helping students to:

- GAIN FAMILIARITY WITH DEERFIELD ACADEMICS AND CULTURE
- VIEW FACULTY AND STAFF AS TRUSTED PARTNERS
- CONNECT TO CAMPUS RESOURCES
- DEVELOP A NETWORK OF SUPPORTIVE FRIENDS
- ESTABLISH IMPORTANT ACADEMIC HABITS SUCH AS ORGANIZATION, FOLLOW-THROUGH AND SELF-ADVOCACY



PROGRAM COMPONENTS

ACADEMIC LIFE

RSP introduces students to academic life at Deerfield. Students attend three days of math/science and English classes, where small class sizes and focused faculty attention allow students to experience conversation at the seminar table and collaborative learning in the lab. Students are also introduced to the Performing Arts at Deerfield.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY

RSP provides students with a collective space in which to consider their own identities and perspectives as they prepare for success at Deerfield. Faculty and student proctors lead facilitated conversations and activities focusing on academic life, social life, and leadership at Deerfield, ensuring student success beyond the classroom.

CONNECTING WITH FAMILIES

RSP recognizes that supporting students means supporting families as well. Through an orientation including a luncheon with advisors and a Q&A panel featuring faculty, administrators and past RSP parents, RSP connects families with the information and resources needed to prepare for their student's transition to life at Deerfield.

BUILDING LASTING BONDS

RSP gives students the opportunity to create long-lasting relationships with peers and teachers by offering community service, group activities and recreational time.



PARTICIPANTS

RSP is designed for students who:

- Have attended a school that does not have a history of sending graduates to boarding school
- Are the first in their families to attend boarding school
- Have attended schools that offered limited opportunity for advanced coursework
- May benefit from additional time as they transition to boarding school



SURVEY RESPONSES

- *96% of students attending* said that many of their supportive relationships started at RSP (friends, proctors, or faculty members)
- *100% of students* found RSP's Deerfield school culture activities to be helpful in their transition to Deerfield
- *98% of students* found RSP's Deerfield academic classroom activities to be helpful in their transition to Deerfield
- *100% of parents* found the orientation luncheon and welcome activities planned for parents helpful in their student's experience



"RSP TAUGHT ME to not be afraid of taking risks and meeting new people and as a proctor, I was able to transfer the lessons I learned to the incoming 9th-graders. By doing community service, sports, arts, and schoolwork, new Deerfield students are able to explore Deerfield and see what it has to offer. I was lucky enough to be there for two years as a proctor to see their transformation and adjustment to the Deerfield community in just four days!" *Melisa '19, RSP Participant '15, RSP Proctor '16/17*

PROGRAM DEMOGRAPHICS TO DATE

GRADE - Designed for new 9th- and 10th-graders

GENDER - 49% boys and 51% girls

RACE AND CITIZENSHIP - African American 33%
White 33%
Asian/Asian American 12%
Hispanic/Latino(a) 10%
Multi-racial 6%
Unknown/not reported 4%
Middle Eastern 2%

"BEING GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY

to arrive at Deerfield and adjust from my previous public school was crucial. Knowing students and building not only student relationships but faculty relationships as well during the RSP program helped me learn the ropes at DA. Most importantly, the RSP program allows students to adjust and gives them the opportunity to make friends that will last forever."

Peter '20, RSP Participant '16, RSP Proctor '17



“I believe my objective of introducing

the RSP students to a potentially novel mode of science education was successful and of great value, since they will encounter these pedagogies in their science classes.”

-Ivory Hills, Academic Dean, Science teacher

