



*"A vibrant, ethical community that embraces diversity,"*

Deerfield Academy promotes 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.

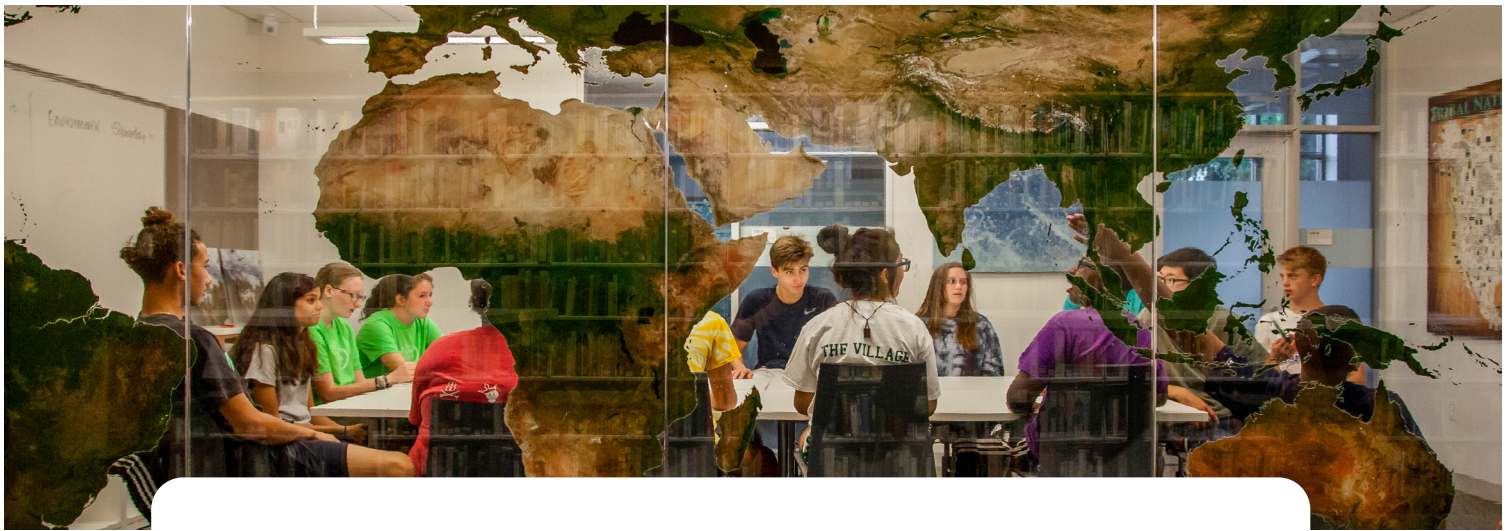
One example of this effort is the Rising Scholars Program (RSP), a four-day residential program designed and supported by the Admission Office and the Academic Affairs Office. RSP provides invited students with an early opportunity to experience living and learning at Deerfield.



*The main objectives of RSP include helping students to:*

- GAIN FAMILIARITY WITH DEERFIELD ACADEMICS AND CULTURE
- INTRODUCE FACULTY AND STAFF AS TRUSTED PARTNERS
- CONNECT TO CAMPUS RESOURCES
- FEEL A SENSE OF BELONGING
- DEVELOP A GROUP OF SUPPORTIVE FRIENDS
- REFRESH AND ENHANCE ACADEMIC HABITS SUCH AS ORGANIZATION, FOLLOW-THROUGH, AND SELF-ADVOCACY





# PROGRAM COMPONENTS

## ACADEMIC LIFE

RSP introduces students to academic life at Deerfield, where small class sizes and focused faculty attention allow students to best experience conversations in English, science, and humanities classes. Students experience collaborative learning in the lab, and are introduced to the Performing Arts.



## 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, helping to ensure 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.

# “ What participants are saying...

Being a part of RSP was a great experience for me as I got to meet newer people in the Deerfield community just like me and get a taste of what it means to be a student here. With the daily activities, meeting students and staff members, sleeping in a dorm room, and attending sample classes, I felt a part of the Deerfield family. I appreciate RSP so much because it allows new Deerfield students to feel at home so early on, even after leaving theirs. —Simi



RSP allowed me to enter Deerfield with confidence and a circle of friends I could rely on to hang out with during the first few weeks of school. As an RSP proctor I was able to guide new students and set an example of the Deerfield way. I was able to connect with students in younger grades that I would not have connected as deeply with if I had not proctored. I enjoyed doing the cultural competency exercises as it helped me grow as a person and allowed me to help others on campus become more culturally competent. This program was an amazing experience from the proctee and proctor side. As a proctor, I was able to work on my leadership, problem solving, and communication skills. —Lauren

When I arrived to RSP I was immediately greeted with friendly faces, who helped me prepare for the upcoming school year and learn my way around Deerfield. During the days of the program I could feel myself transform into a confident student and become more comfortable being at Deerfield. The next year, being given the opportunity to proctor, I was able to share the lessons I learned with the Scholars, and help them adjust to Deerfield, the way my proctors helped me. The best part of RSP is that these experiences extend past the program, and these relationships last forever. Throughout the year when I talk with the scholars and other proctors, we reminisce about all the good memories that were made in the program and wish we could relive those four days. —Sophie



For my thoughts about RSP, I would say it is a great opportunity for students to explore and feel the life in a boarding school. Living on the same hall, eating meals together, doing work in the same classroom, playing sports on the same field, and many more activities show the important feature of boarding school —forming meaningful connections with people around you through little things, lasting forever. —Mac

# ”





## *TO WORK WITH RSP STUDENTS*

*in the science classroom as they enter Deerfield Academy, and then watch their path through the next three or four years, has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my teaching career. Whether we meet again in the classroom, the dorm, the athletic field or at the sit-down table, I am always excited to reconnect and hear of their challenges and successes!*

*—Toby Emerson, Science Teacher*

