



Student Handbook

Summer 2026

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1. Welcome Students and Families!

EXP at Deerfield Academy is a community of curious students, teachers, and staff who come together each summer to learn, innovate, and have fun. We are thrilled that you've decided to join this adventure in 2026, and we hope that you are ready for a life-changing experience.

Communities depend on common expectations and procedures that help us reach our common goals. Our program motto is:

$$E=MC^2$$

Or

EXP: Maximize your Creativity and Character

The rules and expectations laid out in this handbook make sure we are all safe, comfortable, and on the same page when we begin. Please read it through, so we can get right to the fun, exploring, creating, and growing when we are together.

We look forward to welcoming you to campus. If at any point you have questions, please contact our office, and we'll be glad to help.

Here's to a great summer!

Jordan Brown

Director of EXP at Deerfield Academy

2. Important Contact Information

Feel free to reach out to the EXP office if you have questions or issues during the program. You are welcome to email anytime, or you can call our office during the hours listed below. We will do our best to return phone calls and emails as soon as possible. The after-hours number listed below is monitored 24/7 by Deerfield Academy Security.

· **EXP Phone Number:** 413-774-1498. (Monday-Friday 9:00 AM EST- 3:00 PM EST)

· **EXP Email:** exp@deerfield.edu

· **In Case of Emergency:** 413-772-9880

3. Time on Campus

EXP 2026 runs from July 8th to July 26th.

All students must commit to full attendance of the entire session. Students may not arrive late to the program or leave early.

Boarding students will not be allowed to leave the program for any reason; this includes weddings, family events, athletic events, arts events, or academic events. **Day students** must attend every weekday from 8:15 am to 5:30 pm.

Day students are also invited (though not required) to join the rest of the program for evening and weekend activities. Arrangements for joining in these activities will be made during the morning drop-offs.

Failing to attend your entire session will forfeit the student's graduation certificate, all comments and feedback from teachers, and payments.

4. ID Cards and Spending Money

ID cards and lanyards will be issued at registration. Students must wear their name tags and carry their ID with them at all times.

All students will be enrolled in the Deerfield One Card program. Spending money will be deposited directly into your Deerfield One Card account. Your ID card can then be used like a debit card at the campus store. Students can also take out cash from their account prior to excursions off-campus. **Students are not allowed to keep large sums of cash in their rooms or on their persons while on campus.**

As part of the registration process, families may deposit money into the student's Deerfield One Card account. Additional money can be deposited through the Deerfield payment site at any time before or during the program. Remaining balances will be refunded during the month following the program.

5. Dorm Rooms

Dorm life is based on the corridor where between 16 and 20 students live with Activity Assistants. Staff members are involved in the lives of the students who live on their halls. This forms the familial atmosphere found during EXP.

Boarding students will have 1-2 roommates. Our dorm rooms are large enough to give students ample space. Each student will have their own storage for clothing and personal items, an 80" twin bed (with linens), wastebasket, full-length mirror, and overhead light. Every room is carpeted, and window curtains are provided. Each dorm floor has a filtered water system to provide filtered tap water for drinking. Smart strip surge protectors, alarm clocks, and fans are not provided, but students are encouraged to bring these items with them. Our dorms are not air-conditioned.

Although **Day students** will be living off campus, they will have access to the dorms during free time and will be members of halls for the sake of any program activities. Day students will also have access to dorm areas where they can change clothes during the day should the need arise. (For example: to change before/after co-curricular activities.)

6. Laundry

Boarding students will be provided with a pillow and bed/bath linens consisting of two sets of sheets with pillowcases, one blanket, and three bath towels.

Boarding students will be enrolled in a local service that will pick up and drop off laundry twice throughout the program, on approximately day 6 and day 13. Washers (with detergent) and dryers are also available for use if the need arises, and our staff will help students with this process.

7. Technology

At EXP, we believe in fostering a strong sense of community and encouraging students to engage fully in the program. To ensure that everyone enjoys a balanced and immersive experience, we have a technology policy that allows students to use their phones during short designated times (Tuesday and Friday evenings) to call home and check in with family. Outside of these times, students will disconnect from digital distractions and participate in the diverse range of activities and social interactions our program offers. This approach helps create an environment where students can form lasting friendships, develop new skills, and make unforgettable memories!

After students arrive at EXP, staff will collect and securely store any phones and technology that students bring to the program. If a student does not bring a phone with them to EXP, we can provide one for them to use during phone call home time. Please let us know if this will be the case for your student so that we can plan accordingly. Any technology necessary for classes will be provided to students in the classroom so we ask that students do not bring their own computers, laptops, or e-readers with them to campus.

Even though our students will have a break from technology during the program, it doesn't mean that families are disconnected from their student's experience! You are welcome to reach out to us at any time to check in on your student. We will also post photos daily and send out program updates on a regular basis. If there is ever an issue or concern with your student, rest assured that we will reach out directly to you as soon as possible.

8. Co-Curricular Times

Each day, students will be required to participate in one co-curricular activity. This time allows students to take a break from classes and participate in an activity of interest. Activities may include athletic, arts, or academic offerings such as Squash, Dance, Swimming, Theater, etc. Students will sign up for their desired co-curriculars while at EXP.

If students wish to participate in swimming during EXP, they must pass a swim test.

9. Field Trips and Excursions

During EXP, we will be taking many off-campus excursions. Trips may include recreational, cultural, academic, or adventure-related activities. Students are expected to maintain the same rules and expectations when on excursions as they do on campus.

Evening and weekend field trips are optional for **Day Students**. All students are required to attend field trips which are part of their coursework.

10. Mail and Packages

Mail and packages may be sent to students during EXP at:

[Student Name]
EXP at Deerfield Academy
7 Boyden Lane
PO Box 87
Deerfield, MA 01342

11. Dining

Our Dining Hall menu features foods from around the world and includes vegetarian, gluten-free, and vegan options. Our dining staff is happy to work with students to accommodate allergies and restrictions as well. We will ask students ahead of time for any allergies and dietary restrictions on forms completed during the registration process.

Though many meals are walkthrough style, students will experience Deerfield sit-down meals at weekday lunches. Sit-down meals are an important Deerfield tradition and serve as a critical community-builder during the program. **Day Students** are required to attend weekday lunches. They are also invited to join us for dinner any evening they are staying later for additional activities.

12. Diversity and Inclusion

EXP is an incredibly diverse program. Students will come from all corners of the world, including just down the street. Members of the community may have different customs, beliefs, and traditions. Students and staff are encouraged to use this opportunity to understand more about each other's cultures. Challenge yourself to ask questions and learn more about each of your community members. Treat everyone with respect and stand up against behaviors that are inappropriate and unacceptable.

13. Day Student Specifics

Morning Check-In - Day Students should arrive between 8:10am and 8:20am on class days. They will meet an EXP Staff Member in front of the Main School Building to check-in and turn in their cell phone.

Afternoon Check-Out - Day Student families should arrive on campus to pick up their students at 5:30pm every class day afternoon unless they have made arrangements to stay through the evening activity period. Students can only be released to individuals approved by the student's parents or guardians ahead of time.

Evening Check-Out - Day Students are welcome (but not required) to stay for dinner in order to participate in any special activities in the evening. If they choose to stay, parents should then arrive at 8:30pm to pick up their students.

Weekends - Day Students are also welcome (but not required) to join us for weekend activities. These include day and evening field trips, movie nights, and other EXP events. This optional participation in activities is included in tuition and there will be no additional charges for participating in any or all of them. However, arrangements must be made ahead of time if students would like to participate in field trips so that we have accurate numbers. Staff will need to know by the Wednesday prior to the weekend when the student will be joining us on the weekend. At that time, drop-off and pick-up times will also be set.

Overnights – Day Students are welcome to stay overnight in the dorm with friends on Friday or Saturday nights if they would like. An email must be sent from the parent/guardian to the director at exp@deerfield.edu by Thursday afternoon at 5:30pm granting permission for the student to stay over and stating which night and which host student they would like to stay with. The day student should bring all necessities, a pillow, and sleeping bag with them to stay overnight.

14. Rules and Expectations

Deerfield Academy maintains the following Values Statement:

“I will act with respect, honesty, and care for others and
will seek to inspire the same values in our community and beyond.”

At EXP, we hold to the same values. Students must be provided with a safe and comfortable environment in which to learn and play. We expect all students, staff, and faculty of the EXP at Deerfield Academy program to create this environment, and these rules and expectations are an extension of these values. Each member should have a solid grounding in the difference between right and wrong and use that understanding to guide them in the decisions they make each day. Acting with respect, honesty, and care for others from moment to moment is a guideline we hope you will follow both here at EXP as well as in your life to come.

a. Scope, Jurisdiction, and Reporting

These rules apply during the entire duration of enrollment in EXP at Deerfield Academy: from the first moment students are met at the airport or arrive on campus until they depart from the program. This includes all time spent on the Deerfield Academy campus as well as off campus during field trips and excursions. At all times, students are expected to behave in a manner consistent with school expectations.

Students should note that faculty and staff are obligated to report rule violations and student misconduct – regardless of circumstances or method of discovery.

Also note that these rules and expectations apply under most circumstances. There may be a time or situation that requires an immediate, non-standard response. We reserve the right in these instances to take actions deemed to be in the best interest of EXP, its students, and its staff.

b. Personal Conduct

EXPECTATIONS – EXP students and staff should meet the following expectations:

- Always give your best.
- Stay engaged – enthusiastically participate and resist distractions.
- Be polite, thoughtful, and considerate of others. Show appreciation often.
- Never underestimate the power of a kind and thankful word!
- Be positive and curious.

HONESTY – We value trust and honesty in all that we do during EXP. This includes honesty in word and deed. Academic Integrity is of the utmost importance and must be a guiding principle for students. Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, lying, and cheating, will be subject to disciplinary action. If ever in doubt about the meaning of academic integrity, students should speak with their teachers and document their sources.

DRESS CODE – The dress code in the summer is informal. Students are encouraged to be comfortable when attending classes and activities. However, they should maintain safety and respect for themselves and others in their clothing choices. Closed-toed shoes are required whenever working in the Deerfield Academy Innovation Lab. Shoes are always required when outside to prevent foot injuries. Revealing, sheer, or inappropriate length

clothing should not be worn. Students will need to bring at least one professional dress outfit to be worn during the final showcase. Professional dress may include dress pants, collared shirt, tie, sport coat, dress, skirt, blouse, and dress shoes. Hats are not to be worn indoors. Students will receive EXP shirts upon arrival and will be required to wear these shirts during field trips and excursions. Should you have any questions beyond what is outlined here, please do not hesitate to contact us.

CLASSES – Students are expected to attend every class. It is assumed that students come to EXP with a seriousness of purpose and will be conscientious in meeting all obligations. Staff will take attendance at multiple points throughout each day and students are expected to be present.

LEAVING CAMPUS – **Boarding students** are not allowed to leave campus for the duration of EXP, except for program-related field trips and excursions. Likewise, **Day students** are not allowed to leave campus between their scheduled arrival and scheduled departure times each day. EXP staff and faculty will provide transportation and supervision for field trips. A student may not participate in field trips unless we have a signed, authorized release form prior to the start of the program. If, for any reason, a circumstance arises in which a student must leave campus, the Director should be notified as soon as possible.

DORMITORY ROOMS – The following items are not permitted in student rooms:

- refrigerators
- electrical appliances for cooking or heating (including irons, sunlamps, hotpots, coffee makers, or space heaters); blow-dryers and flatirons are permitted but should be unplugged immediately after use
- televisions
- projectors
- gaming systems
- offensive posters, slogans, or pictures
- liquor bottles and/or beer cans
- pets
- nylon, plastic, and cloth wall hangings unless framed under glass or Plexiglas
- flammable materials, even if fire treated or framed
- polystyrene (bean-bag) chairs
- electrical string lights of any kind
- lava lamps
- halogen lamps and other high intensity lamps in excess of 100 watts

Furniture provided by the Academy must remain in student rooms. All furniture has been arranged in a way to maximize space and safety in the room, and should be left in the original position. Students or parents should speak with a staff member about any rearrangement.

Decorations may not be hung over windows or doorways.

Only one piece of stuffed, upholstered furniture is permitted. All upholstered furniture must be in compliance with the State of California Bureau of Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation Technical Bulletin Number 133. The following label must be affixed to any upholstered furniture for use in a Deerfield dorm: NOTICE: THIS ARTICLE

IS MANUFACTURED FOR USE IN PUBLIC OCCUPANCIES AND MEETS THE FLAMMABILITY REQUIREMENTS OF CALIFORNIA BUREAU OF HOME FURNISHINGS TECHNICAL BULLETIN 133.

Extension cords must be of heavy-gauge wire with a three-prong (grounded) plug and carry only one outlet. If additional outlets are needed, the use of pre-wired multiple outlet strips with a circuit breaker is required.

When rooms are unoccupied, all lights should be turned off.

Dormitory room doors must be unlocked when people are in the room.

DORMITORY VISITATION – EXP has a binary housing model, with female-identifying students living in Johnson dormitory and male-identifying students living in Doubleday dormitory. Students may visit in the main common room of the Johnson Doubleday complex (the Crow Commons). Students are not allowed to visit the dorm rooms of students in the other dorm.

CURFEW – All students must check-in, in person, at curfew. Being out of the dormitory after curfew or leaving the dormitory after check-in without permission is a breach of trust and, therefore, a rule violation.

Students must be in their dorms and checked in with their Activity Assistant just after the evening activities each night. All lights must be turned off by Lights Out.

CELL PHONES - Students are permitted to bring cell phones, but usage is limited, and they, along with any other smart device (**including wearable technology**), must be turned in during the program.

Boarding Students' phones and other smart devices are kept by Activity Assistants, and calling and texting is limited to two designated evenings each week: Tuesdays and Fridays. Students will be allowed to check out their phones during these times in order to connect with family members. Unplugging from outside distractions helps us to be present with our fellow attendees and faculty in a real way. Accommodations can be made to call family members who have limited availability (e.g. due to time zone differences).

Day Students may bring a cellphone to campus. Cell phones will be collected at morning check-in for the day and returned at departure. We recognize that cellphones are important for day students to coordinate plans for pickup at the end of the day. Therefore, day students' cell phones will be kept in the EXP office, and students will have access to them as needed for these purposes.

For many students, this may be their first time away from home. We have found that it eases homesickness if students reduce the number of times they call home. Therefore, because we want students to acclimate quickly to EXP, **Boarding Students** will not be allowed to use their phones for the first 3 days on campus. At the beginning of the program, cell phones will be collected and held by staff until Friday evening, when they will be allowed to call home for the first time.

Family members may contact or leave a message for their children if necessary through the main EXP phone (413.774.1498). During EXP, this phone number will connect with the office during the business hours of 8:00 am and 3:00 pm EST. After hours, Deerfield Security (413.772.9880) can be reached 24 hours a day. Families may therefore reach the EXP staff and get in contact with their children at any time.

VISITS – We look forward to welcoming families on Registration Day and for the final Showcase presentations. In the interim, visits from family and friends are prohibited to allow students to fully connect with one another and with the EXP programming. If a special situation arises, please contact the EXP office.

TECHNOLOGY – As with cell phones, the use of personal devices such as computers, tablets, e-readers, smart watches, etc. is limited during the program. All students are discouraged from bringing personal technology to EXP. **Boarding Students'** devices will be collected and stored with their cell phones. Use will be limited to contacting home on Tuesday and Friday nights. **Day Students** should only bring personal devices to campus with prior permission for a specific purpose. Like cell phones, these devices will be kept in the EXP office and only accessible during the approved times.

With that said, technology devices are essential tools in some of our courses. Students will be provided with computers, iPads, and other tools needed for coursework during class time.

Students are expected to maintain respect, honesty, and concern for others when using technology. Misuse of technology, the school's network, or other information resources, including, but not limited to, inappropriate use of social networks, apps, and mobile devices, may violate school rules and can constitute a breach of academic integrity.

HAZING AND HARASSMENT – Every student has the right to feel safe and respected. We will not tolerate any form of harassment. Harassment is any abuse of an individual or group based on ethnic origin, religious beliefs, race, sexual orientation, gender, age, or grade in school. It includes both easily identified acts of verbal, written, or physical abuse, and equally damaging forms of harassment such as graffiti, epithets, inappropriate "humor" or any behavior – regardless of intent – that contributes to the creation of a hostile environment in which to live and learn. Any student who believes that he or she is a victim of hazing, harassment, or mistreatment of any kind should contact a faculty or staff member immediately.

Vulgar or inappropriate language, gestures, or behavior is unacceptable.

THEFT – Theft, including using others' possessions without their prior permission, is a rule violation.

FIRE AND SAFETY – The burning of anything - including but not limited to tobacco products, incense, candles or fireworks - poses a serious risk to all occupants of the buildings and is prohibited. Any open flame is prohibited. Inappropriate use of fire extinguishers, emergency lights, smoke or heat detectors or fire alarms will be considered a disciplinary matter.

POSSESSION, USE OF TOBACCO – Students are not permitted to use or possess tobacco of any kind. Smoking is prohibited.

ALCOHOL AND ILLEGAL DRUGS – The use, purchase, attempted purchase, possession, distribution, and sale of alcohol and illegal drugs is prohibited. Similarly, the possession of equipment or paraphernalia involved in the use of illegal drugs is forbidden.

MEDICATIONS AND HEALTH SUPPLEMENTS – **All Students'** medications (including vitamins and supplements) taken on a regular basis – both prescription and over-the-counter – must be listed on the medical/treatment release forms prior to the start of the program.

Boarding Students must turn these medications in to the Health Center at registration on the first day of the program. Students will not be allowed to keep these in their dormitories without the prior consent of the medical staff.

Generally speaking, we expect that in most cases **Day Students** will be taking daily medications and supplements at home. Arrangements to take medications during the day or at mealtime should be made with our

Health Center before the first day of the program. Any medications brought to campus should be turned in to the Health Center at morning check-in.

The medical/treatment release forms must be signed prior to the start of the program for students to receive any over-the-counter medications.

WEAPONS – Firearms, weapons (including knives), ammunition, fireworks or other explosives are prohibited.

15. Health and Safety

Any student who is ill or needs treatment should first inform a staff or faculty member. The staff member will assist the student and notify the medical staff if necessary. If needed, the student will be transported to the nearest medical center for treatment. If a student is too ill to attend class or an activity they must inform a staff member whereupon the staff member will contact the medical staff who will determine the best course of action.

A **Day Student** staying home due to illness should contact the EXP office as soon as they know they will be absent.

All students must have signed medical/treatment release forms submitted prior to the beginning of the program. All students are required to have health insurance coverage during the program. There are no exceptions to this policy. If you require assistance locating a short-term health plan, please contact the EXP office at 413.774.1436.

a. Fire Precautions and Drills

If students smell smoke or hear the fire alarm, they should follow the steps below:

1. Close windows, open window shades, and turn on lights.
2. Feel door surfaces before opening. If the door is warm, do not open it: signal for help from the window. If the door is not warm, exit quietly.
3. Proceed immediately to the nearest exit.
4. Students should leave doors open. (Faculty may close doors as they confirm the complete evacuation of each space.)
5. Sound alarm if needed.
6. Go directly to the designated gathering place for roll call and instructions.
7. Upon authorization from the fire marshal or designee, students may return to the dormitory.

16. Disciplinary Process

We expect students to understand that they are accountable for their actions. A student who is found in violation of rule(s) will be liable for disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from EXP. At any time, and at their discretion, faculty or staff may remove privileges as a form of discipline. Examples of this include:

- Requirement for early curfew or check-in
- Removal from activities
- Assignment of weekend and/or excursion restrictions
- Community needs assignment

Note that a severe violation (some examples being possession of drugs/alcohol/weapons; fighting; destruction of property), may result in immediate dismissal from the program at the parent or guardian's expense.

17. Full Program Participation

A student's enrollment in EXP is conditional on their ability to fully participate in all program activities. If a student's physical, emotional, and/or mental health prevent them from fully participating without undue risk or harm to themselves, their fellow students, or EXP staff, they will be dismissed from the program. A student's ability or inability to participate is at the discretion of the EXP Director, Assistant Director, and Medical Staff.

18. Dismissal from the Program and Parental Responsibility

A student may be dismissed from EXP before the program's completion. Dismissals may be the result of medical emergencies, disciplinary action, or an inability to fully participate in the program. In the case of medical emergencies, dismissal may be temporary until certain health conditions are met. A student's dismissal and any possible conditions of re-enrollment are at the discretion of the EXP Director, Associate Director, and Medical Staff. All decisions are final.

A parent or guardian must be able to arrive at the Deerfield Academy campus within a 24-hour period to retrieve their student or attend to their medical care. If a student's parent(s) or guardian(s) are unable to respond within that time frame, they may designate another individual able to respond in their stead.

19. Conclusion

Thank you for reading our Student Handbook in its entirety. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the EXP office at (413) 774-1498 or exp@deerfield.edu. Please sign the acknowledgment on the last page – we look forward to seeing you this summer!