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# Detroit Lakes High School **Shifts, Highlights, and What's Next**

May 18th, 2026



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# Big Picture - Listening & Questions

- This year focused on refining systems and experiences at DLHS
- Small structural changes led to some meaningful impacts
- Communication was central.
  - Office Announcements - Daily with Visuals to Support
  - Weekly WAVE
  - Meeting teachers and staff conversationally to understand roles and responsibilities and what brings them joy
- Growth and learning happened for both staff and students throughout the process

DETROIT LAKES

**LAKERS**



# Shifts

- Academic Showcase for Registration Night
- Day of Caring - Academic Excellence - Signing Day

# Academic Showcase

## Registration Night Shift

- Registration night was redesigned for a better overall experience
- Guided building tours were added for families with Ambassadors taking the lead
- Communication was more intentional before, during, and after the event
- The goal was a stronger, more welcoming first impression of DLHS

## Why It Mattered

- Families experienced DLHS beyond paperwork and “sit and get”
- Early relationship-building with staff and spaces
  - Students were heard to have commented when registering that they were taking that class because of the showcase.
- Clear communication reduced confusion and improved flow
- Helped establish trust and connection from the start



# Day of Caring - Academic Excellence - Signing Day

## Day of Caring Highlights

- Strong participation from students and staff
- Visible impact across school and community spaces - 75 sites
- Reinforced service, pride, and teamwork
- Coordination and communication helped the event run smoothly
  - Kudos to Mr. Swenson & our Ambassadors for their organization and leadership in the process

## Afternoon Schedule Adjustments

- Afternoon schedule was adjusted to better align time and priorities
  - Academic Excellence Awards Ceremony
  - Signing Day
- Improved student access and participation
- Required clear communication across staff and teams



### **DAY OF CARING**

Wednesday, May 6

- Academic Awards - 2:00 PM
- Signing Day - 3:00 PM

We look forward to a great day of service and celebration!

# Highlights

- E-Laker
- Communication

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## E-Laker Learning & Growth

- Continued growth in E-Laker learning experiences
  - Numbers doubled at Semester 1
  - Numbers doubled again at Semester 2
- Focus on flexibility, access, and student responsibility
  - Incorporating courses that connect with our Academy work
- Staff and students learning together through implementation
- Communication supported consistency and expectations
- Feedback was collected from students on their experiences and the choices they made to be an E-Laker.



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## What We Learned

- Communication is essential to successful change
  - Clear systems improve student and staff experience
    - Why and *purpose* matter
    - What's the story we need to share
  - Flexibility creates opportunities for engagement
    - When we work with humans, this matters a great deal!
    - *Educators must be flexible.*
  - Growth comes through reflection and adjustment
    - When we are service providers, this matters a great deal!
    - *Educators must be reflective.*
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# What's Next?

- Welcoming our ALC students & staff
- Academy Showcase
- How can our ALC model build into our Pathways?

# Welcoming ALC to DLHS

- Excited to welcome ALC staff and students to DLHS
  - May Communication
    - ALC Staff, ALC Students
    - Location Planning
    - Where are the new homes of our ALC staff and our DLHS staff
- Focus on belonging, support, and shared expectations
  - The language we use...
    - We/Our/All
  - Schedule planning
    - Lunch session
    - Scheduling strategies - use of spaces to support learning (PAES for skill building)
- Strong communication will support a smooth transition
  - Individual conversations with DLHS staff & communication with the whole building
- Opportunity for community growth and connection



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# Academy Showcase/Parent-Teacher Conferences



**Our Showcases are chances for us to show-off our academies and our academic programs.**

## **Fall 2026**

- Shift conference night toward a learning showcase model with a focus on Academies
  - Highlight student work more interactively AND our offerings within the academies more clearly
- Include E-Laker learning experiences
- Improve communication and flow for families
- Preparation for Registration and understanding the Registration Guide sent in January

### Goals:

- Exposure for our building and programs.
- Familiarity for what students choose.
- Parent-family connections.

Coupling with our Parent-Teacher Conferences Night will benefit our communications with families.

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## We will continue to get better...

- DLHS continues to grow through communication and reflection
- Systems are improving to better serve students and families
- Momentum is built through intentional planning and teamwork
- Excited for what's next together

I look forward to meeting with you all next year at this time to report back and to bring some additional data points.

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# Questions?



