

There's been a lot going on at Denfeld lately! This year has been our first school year 100% back to normal post covid and while I could just sit here and lie and say that there's only been a few struggles but that wouldn't be the truth. Last year was rough for everyone but coming back this year has really proven to all of us that the hunter pride we all share keeps our school strong. To get all of the nitty gritty, not very fun stuff out of the way, Denfeld's school Improvement Plan for 22-23 has been submitted and features 2 goals, one to increase attendance and the other to increase students feeling safe at school. Currently only 44% of students enrolled at Denfeld are at school 90% of the time or more. This has been a steady 16% decrease since 2018, and in a climate survey sent out to students at the end of the school year last year the majority of students who took the survey reported not feeling safe in school, specifically for Denfeld the bathrooms are a big contributing factor. With the school improvement plan we hope to focus on these problems and hope to improve on them! Now onto the fun stuff!

The theater department performed their One Act Play, "I Hate Valentines" during WIN for students and in the evening for the community on February 10th. My long time friend Maddie Juntunen is the president of the drama club and here's what she had to say about the performance: "We had an amazing time doing it but unfortunately we didn't make it to sections. Our cast was so positive and it was great to see people who've never done theater before show their colors and it was just an all around great time!" Speaking of WIN and Valentines day Denfeld's GSA hosted a Valentines day party during WIN on Valentines day where any student who's a part of the LGBTQ+ community or those who are allies could come meet current members of the club while decorating Valentines themed cookies!

The Denfeld BSA group collaborated with the Exec board to make a black history month themed spirit week for students to participate in the week before break! Some of the dress up days included Melanin Monday where students were to dress in shades of brown and class color day with each grade assigned color correlating with the African flag. F-Green, S-Yellow, J-Red and S-Black. It also included decorating the halls in African Flag colors after school and the Black History Month assembly which took place on Friday 2/17. Speaking of assemblies we also had our annual athletic court assembly on Wednesday the 15th which is a tradition that was started by our beloved Central High School where after a beautiful rendition of Adele's cover of "Make You Feel My Love" originally written by Bob Dylan was performed by a trio including senior Olivia Maki, junior Liv Christner and

sophomore Kate Christner and a melody of songs from Les Miserables played by the Denfeld orchestra Denfeld seniors Liu Newland and Charles “Charlie” Juntunen were crowned kings. This years athletic court line up was unique in the way that out of the 10 seniors that were nominated 6 were male and only 4 were female instead of the traditional 5 males and 5 females. Denfeld also hosted its first Family Feedback and Fun Night on Monday, February 13 in conjunction with Spring Conferences which were held on Feb. 13 and Feb. 15. This event featured a meal, a state of the school address, gathering stakeholder feedback and grocery bingo!

Now on to sports and other winter activities! Starting off with Boys basketball with a quote from junior Ethan Starstead “we’re doing great, we have a better record than last year currently sitting at 10-12 and we just beat zimmerman by 20 points. We’re doing a lot better than last year because of more team improvements and teamwork.”

Next we have boys hockey with a quote coming from junior Conner Doyle “We’re doing pretty well, not as well as we expected but not horrible. We lost a lot of talent when we lost last years seniors but were still pulling through.”

Next we have Girls basketball with a quote from sophomore Holly Magariner “our scores were not great but we have TONS of spirit. We bring the Denfeld hunter pride and spirit to every school we go to. Our scores don't reflect that but as a team we’re doing well!”

Next we have the Denfeld Dance team with our quote coming from sophomore Kylie Keller “The Shoreliners dance season wasn’t great competition wise, we lost a lot more this season than we have in past seasons. We placed 5th in jazz and 6th in kick at sections, which is the worst placement we’ve received in kick since 2016. Despite not doing well at competitions this year we had a very strong hardworking team this season!”

And for Denfeld cheer we have a quote from senior Leah Clark “we’re having fun and we’re doing good! We’ve been learning new stunts and we have a new routine we're doing tomorrow (2/16) and we’ve been doing a bunch of team bonding and our senior night is March 2nd!”

And next we have GOLDS with our quote coming from junior Ian Tuani “In GOLDS we haven’t really done much. We’ve been doing a lot of group work and collecting data from students. Recently we have been looking at how we can represent more of the cultures we have at Denfeld. Currently we’re working hard on ways to positively represent Denfeld on social media and how we can make changes within Denfeld for

good in the future!” and finally we have the Denfeld speech team with a quote from me! “Speech has had a successful season so far with at least one team member breaking into final rounds at every competition we’ve attended. We’ve persevered even with a two week break in between our first and second competitions of the season. It’s been so fun watching our new team members find their places on our team and having those “Aha” moments when they figure out what category they want to compete in this season!”

Back to Denfeld as a whole. We had our first SOARing Hunters student recognition activity for those meeting and exceeding our expectations. We took almost 200 students to see Wakanda Forever on Thursday, January 26. We also celebrated our hunters of the month, which is 2 students from each grade level who have been nominated by teachers for going above and beyond the expectations.. They were rewarded on the week of January 6th with lunch provided by Olive Garden for the winner and a plus 1 the winner also received a gift bag with some Denfeld goodies inside. Something new coming to Denfeld is mental health based therapy dogs! Students had access to some sweet therapy dogs on Tuesday the 14th during WIN. The new steeple for the iconic Denfeld tower was installed on Saturday the 25th which signified the end of a 2 year long project! In addition to the steeple being attached some other repairs were made to our tower including repainting the clock faces, replacing some of the hands on the clocks, and other structural repairs. Speaking of repairing things! Some members of the community and students from East high school made new hands for the clock faces so the tower clocks will actually tell time again! Another addition from members of the community, a group of people are working on our pipe organ! The goal is to have it fixed up and 100% functional again by its 100th anniversary in 2027!

When we came back from our winter break the sophomore class had the opportunity to choose one of two field trips that will help them to explore the career and college options they have in the future! They can pick from attending Construct Tomorrow, an event held at the DECC that focuses on jobs in trade fields like construction and electric work on April 26th OR the college and career fair at Fond Du Lac on March 15th. Some more upcoming events at Denfeld include our 8th grade orientation on March 7th, Denfeld orchestra goes to St. Scholastica for a combined concert on March 8th, Denfeld choirs and orchestra combine for a short concert on March 9th. That’s all for Denfeld at the moment!

