



Dear New Families,

Congratulations on your invitation to join the Derryfield community. You are about to begin a journey that will change your child's trajectory and impact your entire family, as it has ours.

Our experience with DS began back in 2005 when our oldest son was looking for alternatives to our local schools. At the time Derryfield had a great reputation for academics and teaching faculty, but had limited facilities. Ultimately, our son decided to attend Phillips Andover Academy—this detail will become important later in our story! Fast forward 12 years. Our two younger sons were not being challenged in their local elementary schools and once again, we decided to search for an alternative. This time, Derryfield jumped to the top of the list.

We were looking for a school that could push them academically, athletically, and personally, and still send them home every night to sit at the dinner table and share their day with us. Our kids have always been motivated students who take pride in their work, but we knew they were capable of so much more. As parents, we were searching for a school environment where dedicated teachers, administrators, and staff would know our kids and encourage their personal growth. We were also impressed that Derryfield had invested in its campus so the spaces now matched the high quality teaching and program. The addition of the Carter Center for Science & Innovation with new laboratories, robotics classroom, and STEAM workshop; the 42,000 sq. ft. Athletic and Wellness center, upgraded turf field, and Berk Tennis Complex; and the most recent addition of The Matarese Commons all demonstrated to us Derryfield's commitment of providing the best for its students.

Michael started Derryfield in 2017, entering sixth grade, and two years later his brother Mitchell joined him. Our sons' experience at DS has exceeded our hopes and expectations. Because of Derryfield's small size, no student sits in the back row. All students are challenged in ways that are meaningful to them. Derryfield manages to understand each bright, motivated child and to find ways to customize their experience, stretch their capabilities, and expose them to opportunities that draw them out of their comfort zones. The global trips offered to both middle school and high school students help enrich what is taught in the classroom and bring to life

real world learning. These experiences elevate Derryfield from a school that offers a great education to a school that provides an exceptional growth experience.

One recent graduate put it best: "DS provides a curriculum that allows and incentivizes you to learn from your curiosities rather than from the desire to get a good grade. In essence, DS makes learning fun by allowing you to explore your interests."

Michael graduated in 2024. He had several great options for college and ultimately decided to follow his older brother and attend the University of Denver. He is pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering and continues to enjoy his passions of golf and skiing. He also continues to push himself athletically—something Derryfield instilled in him—and he plays club lacrosse for Denver in the Rocky Mountain Lacrosse Conference.

We saw firsthand the return on our investment in a Derryfield education during the college process. Michael received over \$40,000 per year in merit (non-need based) scholarship offers!

Mitchell will be graduating this coming June. He will be attending USC this fall as part of the inaugural early decision class for the Marshal School of Business.

The choice to send our kids to The Derryfield School was a big step. Looking back, we do not have any regrets. Derryfield prepared Michael well for his first year of college and it has been an easy transition, both academically and personally. DS has given our children an intellectual curiosity and an appetite for lifelong learning that will help guide them no matter where their individual paths lead.

Again, we congratulate your entire family on starting this amazing journey.

Best wishes,

Bob and Jennifer Grunbeck P'24, P'26