

Support Services Frequently Asked Questions

How can students access a support team member if they are in crisis?

If a student is experiencing a crisis situation that requires immediate intervention, that student should come to the Counseling Center. Students often prefer to meet first with their counselor, but can request to see a support team member, also. The counselor or support team member will then make an assessment based on the situation to determine the need for further intervention or contact with parents/guardians and other staff.

How is the role of a Social Worker/Psychologist different from a Counselor?

In junior high, the role of a Counselor is commonly defined differently than at the high school level. At Deerfield High School, each student is assigned a Counselor for his or her four years of high school. The Counselors assist with course selection, educational goal-setting, and social-emotional issues. At times, students may require additional support for social and academic concerns. Based on the needs of the student, a support team member may conduct a diagnostic interview or provide ongoing support through weekly individual sessions or support group meetings.

How can a student access support services?

The referral process for support services includes a variety of avenues for accessing services. A counselor can refer a student for additional support or a parent/guardian can contact their student's counselor to explore the need for support services. Often, students who have received support for a crisis situation will choose to continue meeting with a team member. The Red and Gray Team, comprised of counselors, social workers, psychologists, special education staff, deans, school nurses, and teachers, may determine that a student could benefit from extra support services.

What kinds of services do social workers and psychologists provide?

Social workers and psychologists function in a variety of ways to meet the needs of our students. Most often they meet with students individually on a short-term basis or for the duration of the year. In addition, they are always available to assist individual students or the school as a whole in a time of crisis. As well as working with students individually, support team members are responsible for leading support groups that help students who are dealing with issues similar to those of their peers. In each of these settings they provide support, offer guidance, and help the student(s) design problem-solving strategies to allow them to succeed at DHS. Finally, the Support Services Team is responsible for the Parenting the Adolescent Program which provides education and support to the parents/guardians of our students.

What kinds of support groups are available and how does a student join one?

A variety of support groups are provided by the Counseling Support Services Team and are available to all students throughout the school year. Typically, groups meet weekly during the school day and on a rotating schedule. Students may be referred by teachers, counselors, parents/guardians, or by self-referral. The appropriateness of a specific group will be discussed with each student. To find out more about a specific group, students or parents/guardians may contact the appropriate counselor or Shana Axelrod, social worker. For a list of support groups on the DHS website, go to: Counseling / Social Emotional Support / Documents / DHS Support Groups.

What kinds of issues do students talk about with social workers and psychologists?

Social workers and psychologists provide a safe and confidential place for students to discuss a variety of issues that are of concern to them. These issues may be related to school performance, communication with teachers, relationships with friends or classmates, relationships with siblings and parents/guardians or any other concerns important to the student. In order to protect students, the Support Services Team is required to break confidentiality if concerns about safety are raised by the student.