

SQUALL.

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UNFORGETTABLE SEASON

A 12-2 record led the Dreadnaughts to the state championship game for the first time in school history. Pg. 3



Cover

AN UNFORGETTABLE SEASON

The Dreadnaughts celebrate with the district championship trophy after beating No. 1 seeded South Lyon, 41-27, on November 7. The Dreadnaughts would add two more trophies during their playoff run – the Regional Championship trophy and the State Finalist trophy.

Photographer - Ryan Maki

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FINAL FOUR BOUND: Coach Jacobs is surrounded by his players as the Dreads celebrating winning the Regional Championship after defeating No. 2 seed Gibraltar Carlson 56-42. **Photographer - Ryan Maki**

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AN UNFORGETTABLE SEASON

Despite coming up short in the State Championship game, the Dreads made history

WRITERS  ZANE EISEL & JACOB CLARK



DREADSTRONG: According to the MHSAA, around 11,000 Dexter fans showed up to cheer on the Dreads for the Division 2 State Championship game. **Photographer - Ryan Maki**

What a season it was for the Dexter Dreadnaughts. After arguably being the most underachieving team in Dexter history last season, the Dreadnaughts were motivated. That turned into a historic 12-2 season that ended with a trip to Ford Field for the first time in school history.

The team's motivation started in the off-season. Head Coach Phil Jacobs had a conversation with Nathan Gersh, one of Dexter's captains. "What should our goals be this season?" Jacobs asked. "Coach, let's go 1-0," Gersh responded.

And the 1-0 saying really motivated every player to go even harder. During two-a-days, players were being evaluated and starting spots were being won. There were some surprises, but all the guys, including scout guys, were important to this team. During the first five games of the season, the Dexter team was good, but it still seemed like the players were trying to find a rhythm.

It was Week 6 against Bedford is when players said things began to click even more. Then, the final three weeks of the regular season showcased the team's potential. During Weeks 7-9, Dexter's defense surrendered 38 points total while averaging 53 points per game. "We were just clicking," junior tight end Holden Niemi said. "It was just automatic with this team."

The hype for a playoff run kicked off in Week 10 with Dexter taking on Livonia Franklin. However, the playoffs didn't come without adversity. Senior defensive back Dylan Darby broke his leg on the first snap of the game. The injury left fans and players in shock and they were worried about Darby. After a 20+ minute delay, Dexter used the injury as motivation to win the game easily 42-7.

In the District Championship game at South Lyon, Dexter found itself in a battle. Niemi went down with a season-ending injury, and Dexter had some crucial turnovers and defensive lapses late. But the Dreadnaughts knew that if they did not keep going 1-0, they would have flashbacks from last season's disappointment. In the end, Dexter survived to win 42-27. The Regional Championship game at Gibraltar Carlson was an instant classic. As defensive line coach Tony Quint said, "This will go down as one of the greatest football games in Dexter football history with electric play after electric play." The Dreads came from behind to win 56-42 and make the second Final Four appearance in school history.

The state semifinals against Birmingham Groves proved to be one of the easier playoff games. The Dreads dominated the whole game on both sides of the ball for a 41-6 vic-



RISING TIDE: LB Nathan Gersh leads Dexter onto the field before the state semifinal game against Birmingham Groves. **Photographer - Lauren Palkowski**

tory. "The strongest friendship you have, the greater team you have," senior left tackle Owen Winder said. Added senior quarterback Cooper Arnedt: "The tightest group I have ever been with." Outside of the victory, the game provided the perfect stage for senior wide receiver Cole Novara to break multiple MHSAA records. Novara set the single-season receptions, yards, and touchdowns record against Groves. "Me and Cooper have a great relationship, which is huge," Novara said. "Cooper is a great quarterback, and our game plans are always working."

The Dreads were fired up after this huge win, punching their ticket to the state title game for the first time. Dexter was practicing hard all week knowing it was the hardest week of their lives.

"Everyone was more energetic and excited knowing it was our last game win or lose," senior Eli Winkler said.

Dexter came in as underdogs against Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

Story continued on Page 7



FINAL	 50	PASSING COOPER ARNETD 25/34, 414 YDS, 3 TD
	 27	RUSHING JOHN MICHAEL JEROME 16 CAR, 88 YDS, 3 TD
	GAME 1	DEFENSE MITCHELL WARD 6 TKL, INT




FINAL	 48	PASSING COOPER ARNETD 13/15, 200 YDS, 3 TD
	 7	RUSHING JOHN MICHAEL JEROME 5 CAR, 34 YDS, 3 TD
	GAME 2	DEFENSE NATHAN GERSH 9 TKL, 2 SACKS

Dexter was leading 35-14 at the half against Brighton. The Dreadnaughts then cruised to victory after key mistakes by Brighton in the 3rd. It was a huge win for the Dreads against a talented Brighton team. "We had an interception and a safety early in the game that helped us," Varsity assistant coach Rob Dubay said.

Dexter took the lead at halftime 41-0 and never looked back as they cruised to victory thanks to fantastic play by Cooper Arnedt with 300 yards and 3 TDs and Cole Novara's 110 yards and 2 TDs. "We were just able to get a few scores on them early, and our defense shut them down," Dubay said.



FINAL	 48	PASSING COOPER ARNETD 18/20, 300 YDS, 3 TD
	 16	RECEIVING COLE NOVARA 7 REC, 119 YDS, TD
	GAME 3	DEFENSE SAM CORMIER 9 TKL, SACK, INT



FINAL	 34	PASSING COOPER ARNETD 25/35, 352 YDS, 4 TD
	 61	RECEIVING COLE NOVARA 10 REC, 140 YDS, 3 TD
	GAME 4	DEFENSE NATHAN GERSH 10 TKL

Dexter cruised to an easy win over Ann Arbor Huron. Leading at the half 34-3, the Dreads were just the tougher and the better-coached team from start to finish. Dexter had their backups in most of the 4th quarter. "We had over five explosive plays in the game," Dubay said.

Despite leading 13-0 early and 27-19 at halftime, the Dreadnaughts couldn't hold their lead against the Hornets. Dexter fell apart in the second half when the defense couldn't get a stop. "We just had too many turnovers, and we couldn't stop their offense," Dubay said.



FINAL		42	PASSING COOPER ARNEDT 33/37, 415 YDS, 3 TDS
		28	RECEIVING HOLDEN NIEMI 8 REC, 142 YDS, 2 TDS
	GAME 5		DEFENSE NATHAN GERSH 18 TKL, 1.5 SACKS


In this big-time rivalry, the Dreads beat Chelsea at Al Ritt for the first time in 30 years. Thanks to the spectacular play by Cooper Arnedt and Nathan Gersh, the Dreads led 35-14 at the half. Dexter maintained the lead with their stout defense and great offensive play. "We came out with more aggression and determination. We knew that we had what it took to beat them!" Dubay said.



FINAL		38	PASSING COOPER ARNEDT 15/22, 238 YDS, 3 TD
		13	RECEIVING COLE NOVARA 8 REC, 127 YDS, 2 TD
	GAME 6		DEFENSE SAM CORMIER 9 TKL, 2 SACKS

Dexter was up at the half 17-7, and never looked back, cruising to another victory. It was a sloppy win for the Dreadnaughts, but their defense was great this game, which helped secure the win. "Our defense and offense played a great game. We were solid on both sides of the ball. That led us to victory," Dubay said.



FINAL		48	PASSING COOPER ARNEDT 10/12, 330 YDS, 5 TD
		7	RECEIVING HOLDEN NIEMI 4 REC, 118 YDS, 3 TD
	GAME 7		DEFENSE MATEO KIPKE 5 TKL, SACK

Dexter was absolutely dominating this game, leading at the half 42-0. The backups played for almost the entire 2nd half. The Dreads were dominant, winning 48-0 until Skyline scored on the last play of the game. Defense and offense played excellently this entire game. "Everyone played their role to perfection," Defensive Line coach Andrew Foerster said.



FINAL		69	PASSING COOPER ARNEDT 13/17, 326 YDS, 5 TD
		19	RUSHING BRADY ARBAUGH 10 CAR, 160 YDS, 3 TD
	GAME 8		DEFENSE JACOB STEPANIAK 6 TKL, 1 FF, 1 FR

Dexter yet again absolutely dominated with the offense playing out of its mind the entire game. Cooper Arnedt and Cole Novara went off with a combined eight Touchdowns. Dexter was leading at the half 55-13 and never looked back. "Clogging their run holes was a key to stopping Pioneer so well," Foerster said.



FINAL	 42	PASSING COOPER ARNETT 18/22, 287 YDS, 4 TD
	 12	RUSHING BRADY ARBAUGH 9 CAR, 113 YDS, TD
	GAME 9	DEFENSE WYATT RICHARDS 9 TKL


FINAL	 42	PASSING COOPER ARNETT 12/13, 215 YDS, 3 TD
	 7	RUSHING BRADY ARBAUGH 8 CAR, 101 YDS, 2 TD
	GAME 10	DEFENSE MATEO KIPKE 7 TKL, 2 SACKS

Dexter was leading 35-0 at the half, thanks to perfect play by the offense and defense. The Dreadnaught backups played meaningful minutes in the 2nd half of the last regular-season game. "So many 3rd down stops were key in this game," Foerster said.

Dexter was absolutely dominant in their first playoff game. Despite losing senior cornerback Dylan Darby to a broken leg on the first defensive play, the Dreads led 35-0 at halftime.. "The defense was phenomenal," Defensive Line Coach Tony Quint said.



FINAL	 41	PASSING COOPER ARNETT 14/17, 365 YDS, 4 TD
	 27	RECEIVING COLE NOVARA 10 REC, 293 YDS, 3 TD
	GAME 11	DEFENSE NATHAN GERSH 17 TKLS

FINAL	 56	PASSING COOPER ARNETT 29/41, 590 YDS, 8 TD
	 42	RECEIVING COLE NOVARA 11 CAR, 230 YDS, 4 TD
	GAME 12	DEFENSE CHARLIE POMO 11 TKL, 1 FF, 1 FR

Dexter was rolling in the 1st half, leading against South Lyon 28-7, but South Lyon started to gain momentum in the 2nd half due to some miscues on both offense and defense. However, Dexter did just enough to hold on for the win, securing it with a diving interception by Will Simpson late to ice the game. "We made many mistakes against South Lyon, but we found a way to win," Quint said.

Dexter was behind early in their third playoff game. The Dreads trailed 35-21 early in the third quarter. But the Dreads made explosive plays in the 2nd half thanks to Cole Novara and Oliver Hutchinson, who both scored deep touchdowns, helping Dexter reach the semifinals for the 2nd time in program history. "This will go down as one of the greatest football games in Dexter football history with electric play after electric play," Quint said.

“This will go down as one of the greatest football games in Dexter football history with electric play after electric play.”

-DL Coach Tony Quint

The Dreads, at first, were shutting down Orchard Lake St. Mary's offense.

“We were just flying around on defense,” junior defensive lineman Jonathan Whittaker said. “The start of the game was probably the best football we played all year defensively.”


After both teams punted on their first possession, Dexter thought it had scored the first touchdown of the game on its second possession. Arnedt hit Novara on a 55-yard swing pass and the crowd went wild. However, the officials called a holding penalty that killed the drive. St. Mary's, late in the first quarter, had a 10-0 lead but hadn't recorded a first down. Dexter was able to keep the game close at half-time, 24-14, thanks to a 96-yard Novara kickoff return touchdown. But it was all St. Mary's in the second half and Dexter lost 51-14.

Regardless of the result, this was forever a season to remember. “I know the game didn't end the way we wanted, but we are going to

get a picture, we are going to smile, because I love every single one of you and I am proud of every single one of you guys,” Jacobs told his team after the game.

Jacobs had talked about brotherhood all year, and he always told the team how this team can be very special. And in the end, it was a special team.

“We played together since kindergarten,” senior linebacker Nathan Gersh said. “We know what each guy is gonna do, and we are so tightly knit it makes a big difference.”

Offensive coordinator Rob Schwartz, reflecting on the season, said: “This season was amazing, obviously because of the wins, but also because of the kids that we got to coach. We had a group that laid it on the line for one another every game... we had some really special football players this year, which made our job as coaches easier... This year was a blast.” 



FINAL		41	PASSING COOPER ARNETT 19/26, 300 YDS, 4 TD
		6	RECEIVING COLE NOVARA 13 REC, 194 YDS, 4 TD
	GAME 13		DEFENSE MATEO KIPKE 6 TKL, 1.5 SACK

FINAL		14	PASSING COOPER ARNETT 24/37, 215 YDS, TD
		51	RECEIVING WILL SIMPSON 8 REC, 91 YDS, TD
	STATE CHAMPIONSHIP		DEFENSE GABE DOBRY 1 TKL, 1 FF

Dexter was firing on all cylinders leading 34-6 at the break with Cole Novara going off with 4 long TDs. Novara broke three single-season MHSAA records in the game (receptions, touchdowns, and yards). Dexter started to slow down their game a little in the 2nd half putting some of their 2nd strings in most of the time. Dexter controlled the whole game and punched their ticket to the State Finals for the first time in school history. “I thought against Groves, our defense took over early and then Cooper Arnedt and Cole Novara were able to establish a great connection for 4 TD's.” Dubay said.

Dexter started off fast with a long TD by Cole Novara but got called back due to a penalty. The play seemed to sway the momentum as St. Mary's lead 24-7 until Cole Novara tried to rally the troops with a quick kick off return TD to cut the lead to 24-14 at the half. In the end, St Mary's pulled away and never looked back absolutely dominating the Dreads and shutting Dexter out in the 2nd half. It was a great effort for the Dreads but in the end the Dreads just couldn't make the big plays. Despite the loss, coaches and players acknowledged it will go down as the best team in Dexter Dreadnaught football history. “We just made mistakes at critical times throughout the game. These mistakes were on offense and defense.” Dubay said.

SEASON IN REVIEW PHOTOS: Brighton (Photographer - Julie Rascol); Monroe (Julie Rascol); Ann Arbor Huron (Julie Rascol); Saline (Julie Rascol); Chelsea (Abbie Franz); Bedford (Julie Rascol); Ann Arbor Skyline (Ryan Maki); Ann Arbor Pioneer (Julie Rascol); Flushing (Julie Rascol); Livonia Franklin (Julie Rascol); South Lyon (Julie Rascol); Gibraltar Carlson (Julie Rascol); Birmingham Groves (Lauren Palkowski); Orchard Lake St. Mary's (Ryan Maki);

“THE BEST”

In nine years as the DHS Head Football Coach, Phil Jacobs left quite a legacy

WRITERS  CAMERON SWEENEY & DANIEL XUEREB

“The best coach that has ever been here.”

That is what freshmen football Coach Dubai had to say about head coach Phil Jacobs. The stats fully agree with this sentiment. Jacobs took a team that had not won a football game in three years, and made them into a powerhouse to be revered in the state of Michigan.

The turnaround is incredible and seems impossible, but getting to understand Jacobs from other coaches’ perspective makes this turnaround extremely plausible.

Firstly, all of the coaches around Jacobs agree on one thing: he has more knowledge than any other coach they have worked with. Coach Foerster believes that this is his greatest quality: “knowing the X’s and O’s and being able to be prepared for every situation.” This extensive knowledge allows for great insight and understanding. It allows players to be placed into the best spot to succeed.

Jacobs knows so much about the game that Coach Ivan, a former Indiana football player, says, “He knows more about football than many, many college coaches I interacted with,” said offensive line coach Bill Ivan, a former

Indiana football player. This D-1 level of comprehension gives Dexter a huge leg up on the other competition.

Another key to Dexter’s success is Jacobs’ attention to detail.

Coach Dubai says, “Everything is well run, well organized, fast, efficient,” Dubai

said. He compares Dexter’s high school program to a college-level program. Foerster, a former college football coach at Concordia University, said “absolutely” when asked if Coach Jacobs could coach at a college if he wanted.

Coaches also believe that Jacobs’ connection to the staff and players amplifies the success of the program.

The biggest sign of this impact is the Iron Dread program. Coach Whitt and Jacobs founded the Iron Dread program in 2017 and its impact can not be overstated.

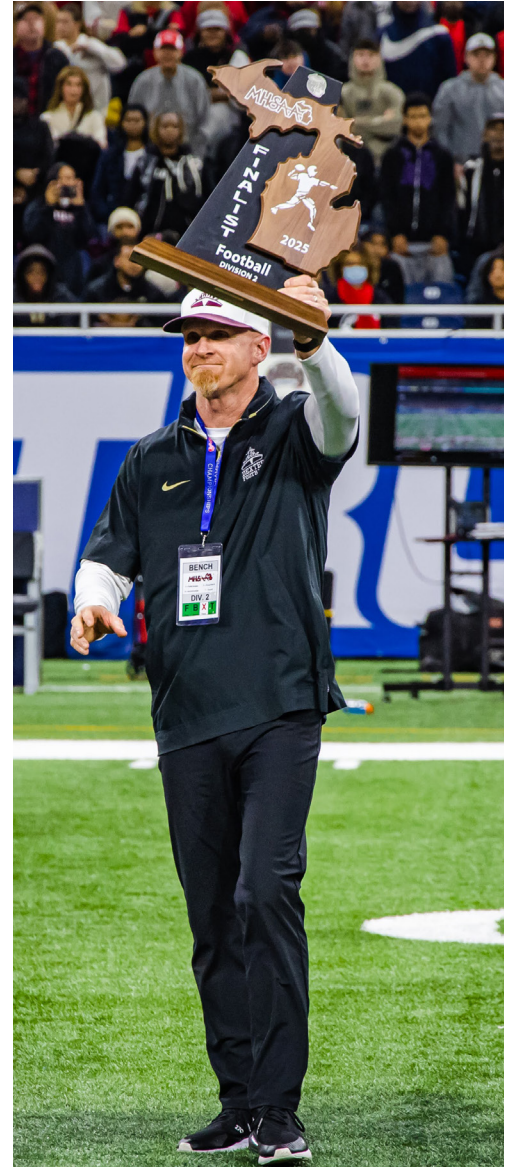
Coach David Teddy has said that Coach Whitt has made a “huge difference,” and Coach Dubai believes that the weight program “put us on a different level with other schools.” This staff that Jacobs has built allows him to fully focus

on his strengths and build a great program from the freshmen to the seniors. However, the staff are not on the field making tackles, so it is crucial that Jacobs connects with the people who are. Luckily for the Dreadnaughts, Jacobs is.

“His ability to connect with kids and get the best out of them (is his greatest strength),” Coach Ivan said. “He creates really, really strong

relationships with students, and he’s able to challenge them to maximize their potential.”

These are some of the factors behind the incredible success of Dexter football over the past nine years. But what have they amounted to?



RAISING THE TROPHY: Coach Jacobs holds up the State Finalist trophy after Dexter’s State Championship game loss to Orchard Lake St. Mary’s. *Photographer - Ryan Maki*

“
HE CREATES REALLY, REALLY STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH STUDENTS, AND HE’S ABLE TO CHALLENGE THEM TO MAXIMIZE THEIR POTENTIAL.”

-OFFENSIVE LINE COACH BILL IVAN



“The biggest turnaround in the history of Michigan high school football,” Dubai said.

Prior to Jacobs’ arrival, For three straight years, Dexter was on a 32-game losing streak; Dexter hadn’t won a game in more than three years, never competed with Chelsea, and never made the playoffs in Dexter’s entire history. In Jacobs’ nine

seasons, Jacobs has made eight playoff appearances, won the SEC twice, beaten Chelsea three times, made two semifinal appearances, and reached a state championship game.

The impact Jacobs has made is evident on the field, but it is visible in other things as well. Iron Dread has helped boost every other sport in Dexter, and may have been a major selling point to get the \$230 million bond passed.

The city itself falls in love with the football team every fall, businesses

write “we believe” on their windows, and families constantly attend games. Jacobs also helps with non football-related things too.

“He is someone you can go to and talk about everyday life,” Coach Ivan said, adding that Jacobs “means the world” to the entire staff.

Simply put, according to Coach Teddy, Jacobs is “the man.”

Jacobs officially announced his retirement on Wednesday, January 7, during a meeting with the team.

“He had sent us a text saying to meet in Mr. Dubay’s room at 3:30; That never happens,” junior linebacker Wyatt Richards said. “All the coaches were piling in, so I kind of expected it. The first sentence he said, ‘every coach dreads this’ and everyone in the room knew.”

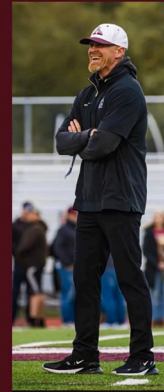
Remembering Jacobs will not be difficult, but Coach Ivan believes there is one way to make sure no one ever forgets his legacy.

“Name a field house after him,” he said.



PROUD COACH: Head Coach Phil Jacobs congratulates Kyle Siso (0) after a great defensive play during Dexter's first round playoff game against Livonia Franklin. **Photographer - Julie Rascol**

THANK YOU DREADNAUGHTS



After nine incredible years as the head football coach at Dexter High School, I want to express my deepest gratitude on the journey we've shared. It has been an honor to coach such amazing young men, and to work alongside an outstanding coaching staff. None of this would have been possible without an administration that values athletics, and a supportive community and passionate fans. Most importantly, thank you to my rock - my wife - and family for their unwavering support over my 35 year coaching career. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to have been part of this amazing program, and I leave with a heart full of pride and lasting memories. Thank you, Dexter, for allowing me to be a part of this incredible journey. **GO DREADS!**



COACH JACOBS SPEAKS ON HIS LEGACY

WRITER  CAMERON SWEENEY

The turnaround of the Dexter football program has been amazing, and that might be underselling it. Dexter had never reached the playoffs and now has gone to Ford Field all in the span of nine years. Head Coach Phil Jacobs is the person who has orchestrated this incredible change and now he can take a look back and reflect on how he did this.

When Coach Jacobs took the job back in 2017 he stated that he wanted Dexter to be the “strongest pound for pound” team in the SEC. This sentiment still rings true as Coach Jacobs believes “it’s been the number one impact,” when it comes to Dexter’s recent success.

Taking over a team that has had such little history is a daunting task for any-




body asked to turn the entire program around, but Jacobs envisioned winning since day one. When he first met with all Dexter football players in the spring of 2017, Jacobs said, “Losing is unacceptable.” The players and coaches all had the goal of Ford Field, the setting for the state championship every year, in mind. “If you’re not striving for the best, what are you doing?” he said.

Even with all the winning that has followed Jacobs, he doesn’t want to be remembered by that. Jacobs wants to be known as “someone who cared about their players... I think everybody, every coach, wants to win, but it’s more than the wins and losses. It’s about the relationships that you

COACH JACOBS’ YEARLY COACHING RECORD

2025: 12-2, State Finalist
2024: 10-1, District Finals
2023: 7-4, District Finals
2022: 12-1, State Semifinalist
2021: 5-4, District Semifinals
2020: 5-3, District Finals
2019: 8-2, District Semifinals
2018: 6-4, District Semifinals
2017: 0-9

build with the players. And, you know, I hope someday kids can say “Thanks, Coach, you had an impact on my life.”

Whatever he does from here on out, one thing will stick with him: he is the greatest Dexter football coach ever. 

LEAVING

Six senior field hockey players — Alli St-Amour Aiden Weinmann, Mitchell — became the first class in Dexter Field Hockey history to

WRITER: KAYLA



A LEGACY

Claire Dubuque, Addison Zogaib, Audrey Owen-Smith, and Lillian play in the state championship game all four years of high school

KAYCE MCALLISTER



Photographer - Kayce McAllister

In 2019 and 2020, the Dexter Field Hockey team won the MHSAA D1 State Championship, putting them on the map as a top-level program. In 2021, the team fell short of reaching the state championship game, but had big expectations going into the 2022 season.

“Aiden, Claire, Lillian, Audrey, Addison and Alli joined a program with high expectations and with the understanding the goal was to bring home another state title,” Head Coach Keely Tamer said.

Bringing home state titles is exactly what this group of six accomplished. In 2022 & 2023, the Dexter Field Hockey team won back-to-back state championships, and in 2024 & 2025 they were state runner-ups.

Aiden Weinmann, Claire Dubuque, Audrey Owen-Smith, Addison Zogaib, Lillian Mitchell, and Alli St-Amour became the first class in program history to play in the state championship all four years of high school.

Since their freshman year, these six have made an impact on the team, on and off the field. But, as juniors and seniors, their impact became even more significant: “They showed up everyday ready to work hard, ready to make the program the best it could. They loved the sport, worked on their personal game and fitness level outside of the team practice,” said Coach Keely.

Senior goalie, Owen-Smith reflects on the team chemistry this group had with each other, that impacted the whole team: “We’ve been playing with each other for so long that we know each other well enough to work really well together!” This is a key component for success for the entire program. “We also have always wanted the same goal, which helped us make it to the championship every year,” said by Zogaib about the cohesiveness of these seniors. Their knowledge and experience of playing field hockey was on a different level. Their wisdom passed down to their teammates, setting them up for success these past few years, and in the future.

“Dexter Field Hockey is seriously the best thing I’ve ever done in my life,” said St- Amour. She states how she is forever grateful for the lessons she learned from Coach Keely.

They were asked to look back on their accomplishments with Dexter Field Hockey and share what they will remember about the history they made. Owen-Smith said, “No matter the outcome of the games, we played every [state championship] game that we could in high school, and that’s really cool.” They all expressed how proud of themselves they are and the team.

Weinmann explained how it feels to be, “a part of something bigger than

They will remember the time spent with their teammates, making memories, while making history. Dubuque reflected on her memories and said, “I will always remember how fun high school field hockey is. I got to play the sport I love with my friends everyday.” All six of them mentioned their teammates, friends, and having fun as their favorite memories.

Sharing meals with each other was when they got to bond with each other off the field. Zogaib talked about pre game meals at La Marsa, “It was also so special to become friends with the older girls when I was a freshman, and becoming friends with the younger ones when I was a senior.”

Five out of the six will be continuing their field hockey careers collegiately at the Division 1 level.

All five of these girls explained how excited they are for their next chapter, playing collegiate field hockey. Mitchell talked about how even though these girls aren’t teammates anymore, they will still continue to see each other, “Although I committed first, I knew I would get to play MSU and CMU, teams that two of my teammates were interested in and will now be playing for next year.”

St. Amour had the opportunity to continue to play field hockey beyond high school, but she decided to end this chapter here: “I had suffered several debilitating long-term injuries, and it got to a point where playing field hockey caused me an immense amount of pain,” she said. “I decided that playing college field hockey would only be more taxing on my body... I still loved the sport and was sad to turn down the opportunities I was given.”

A two-time captain and two-time All-American, Mitchell received the Michigan Field Hockey Association Player of the Year award in her final season for the Dreadnaughts. She’s been a key player for the program since her freshman year, highlighted by her “stellar work ethic and tenacity on the field,” according to Coach Keely. Mitchell found out she received this award at the team banquet, and was confused about what the



**NO MATTER THE OUT-
COME OF THE GAMES,
WE PLAYED IN EVERY
[STATE CHAMPION-
SHIP] GAME THAT
WE COULD IN HIGH
SCHOOL, AND THAT’S
REALLY COOL.**

**— Audrey Owen-Smith
Field Hockey Senior**



myself.” It wasn’t one standout player leading the team to success, it was an entire team effort, led by an outstanding senior class.

However, they won’t just always remember the wins, stats, or records.



“Aiden, Claire, Lillian, Audrey, Addison, and Alli joined a program with high expectations and with the understanding the goal was to bring home another state title.”


— Keely Tamer, Field Hockey Head Coach

award meant. But once she realized what Coach Keely just told her, the emotions hit.

“It was super emotional in the lead-up because the speech was the official goodbye to Dexter Field Hockey,” Mitchell said. “When Keely gave her short spiel and went over season accolades, I was so nervous for my speech, I didn’t really respond. Once my speech was over and I joined the other seniors on stage, it started to hit me. I was super excited and honored. The best players to come out of Michigan were given this award, so I was very grateful to have my name next to theirs.”

Mitchell’s biggest advice for underclassmen in the future is, “Focus on communication. It starts with your voice.” You don’t need to always have the most talent on the field, but you can make a huge impact with just how you communicate with your team. Dubuque wants to tell younger field hockey players, “Every run, practice, and

game is worth it! Cherish it while you can- every time you step on the field, make the best of it.” Zogaib shared, “Never be afraid to make mistakes. Mistakes are how you learn and grow, and not allowing yourself to mess up holds you back from so much potential.” The final piece of advice is from Weinmann: “Play because you love the sport!”

The talent and leadership of the Class of 2025 will be greatly missed. Their commitment and contributions for this program will forever be remembered. Coach Keely mentions the future of the Dexter Field Hockey program. She expresses how fortunate she feels to have a community that loves and supports the sport of field hockey. “We remain optimistic for our upcoming seasons as we have a great core or returning players who take pride in excellence and we look forward to welcoming our future to the program next year and know they intend to keep growing the program.” 



FOUR YEARS OF GLORY: (Top Left) Dexter celebrates after winning the 2022 State Championship; (Top right) Alli St. Amour (9) scores a goal that helped Dexter defeat Chelsea to win the 2023 State Championship; (Bottom left) In 2024, Dexter went 2-0-1 vs. Chelsea during the regular season before losing 1-0 in the state title game; (Bottom right) Despite many chances in front of the net, Dexter failed to score in a 2-0 loss to Ann Arbor Pioneer in the 2025 state title game.

POWDERPUFF'S OT KICKOFF RULE CAUSES CONTROVERSY

Instead of a traditional overtime, a kickoff unknowingly favored the juniors

WRITER  ELLA ROGALSKI

Knowing what she knows now, assistant principal Mrs. Hervey would have selected the powderpuff game's overtime differently.

After regulation, the juniors and seniors were tied 8-8. It was then that Mrs. Hervey Googled different powderpuff overtime rules and came upon a few options. She decided to go with a field goal kickoff.

"A couple of options came up, and I was like, let's just do a kickoff," Hervey said. "Then there won't be any issues with people fighting people and anything, and so we're like, okay, cool. We decided on that."

However, the controversy came later when Hervey realized the difference in skill level for each team's kicker. The juniors had Katelyn Jernigan, a Michigan soccer commit, while the seniors had an amazing athlete, Annamarie Myint, who does not specialize in soccer or kicking field goals. "Had the stakes been more equal, it would have been cool," Hervey said.

The end result was Juniors winning the game, 14-11, thanks to Jernigan making both field goal attempts.

Looking back, Mr. Rob Dubay, who was the head referee in the game, says a more traditional overtime might have been better.

"I think we probably could have played it out instead of doing the kicks," Dubay said. "I know they wanted to do the kicks because the game had been long... but I think just playing a regular overtime like high school football rules may have been better."

Added Hervey: "Maybe even we should have done something like they do in soccer or hockey, where it's a different kicker every time. That would have been something I would have changed as well."

In overtime, each team would enter into a kick-off. The field goal competition would start at the five-yard line and move back five yards after each attempt until someone lost a round. The first player up to kick was junior Katelyn Jernigan.

"I was not really nervous, because I didn't really know what was happening," Jernigan said, adding she was mostly confident before her first attempt, which split the uprights.

Next to kick was Senior Annamarie Myint.

"I think that everyone was pretty upset that we had to go



PRESSURE KICK: Senior Annamarie Myint makes her first field goal attempt in the Powderpuff overtime period. Myint, was responsible for all 11 of the seniors' points during the game. She scored a touchdown, made the ensuring two-point extra point, and kicked an overtime field goal.

Photographer - Ryan Maki

.....
into overtime because of the controversial last call," Myint said. "But, I think everyone kind of knew that it was over once overtime had started."

Myint, who added, "I wasn't too confident about that one," made her first 15-yard field goal to send the game to double overtime. Myint had to go and kick again, as the order flips in the second overtime. In the second overtime, the kick was five yards further. Unfortunately for Myint, she missed the second kick, a 20-yard field goal.

"You know, I wish I would have maybe lost a little bit later, but it was gonna happen eventually," she said.

This left the juniors with a chance to win. All they needed was Jernigan to make her 20-yard field goal.

"I didn't really think much of it; I just knew I had to make mine," Jernigan said, knowing if she made her kick, the juniors would go home with the victory.

Jernigan's kick went up, and it was good. The juniors claimed the 2025 powderpuff game in double overtime.



"I think we probably could have played it out instead of doing the kicks... I think just playing a regular overtime like high school football rules may have been better."



MOB SCENE: Junior players rush to celebrate around kicker Katelyn Jernigan after she made the game-winning kick in this year's Powderpuff game. The Juniors were the first non-senior team to win the game in Dexter history. **Photographer - Ryan Maki**



GAME-WINNER: Junior Katelyn Jernigan kicks the game-winning field goal, lifting the Juniors to a 14-11 overtime win. Jernigan made both of her overtime kicks. "I didn't really think much of it; I just knew I had to make mine," she said. **Photographer - Ryan Maki**



GETTING TO KNOW THE FOOD & NUTRITION STAFF

In their own words, here's a look at the staff that serves daily breakfast and lunch at DHS

WRITERS  ABIGAIL DOBRY & ALEX TRISDALE

Doreen

I have been employed with Food and Nutrition for 23 years.

I truly enjoy creating a welcoming environment where students can count on nutritious food that helps them learn and grow. I take pride in leading my team, staying organized, and keeping the kitchen running smoothly, especially during our busiest times.

One of my favorite meals to serve is our homemade calzones—they're always a student favorite, and seeing their excitement reminds me why I love what I do.

Outside of work, I have been married for 40 years and am the proud mother of three and grandmother to four beautiful granddaughters.

I grew up in Dearborn Heights, Michigan, and moved to Dexter in 1998, where I've built a wonderful life and strong ties within the community.

In my free time, I enjoy scrapbooking and creating diamond art, both of which let me express my creativity and relax.

Dara

I enjoy interacting with the students and having fun! I was born and raised in Redford Township, Michigan. A long, long, long time ago, my husband and I moved to Dexter and built the log home that we still live in today.

I have two amazing children that are engineers and a spunky black lab. In my free time, I like to go camping and go for walks in our woods. I also like to experience new activities which include skydiving and lugging.

I have worked at DHS for 30 wonderful years. My favorite thing to serve are the cookies.

Carolyn

I was born and raised in Illinois and moved to Michigan when I was 15. I returned to Illinois at 22 when I married. But seven years ago I returned to Michigan to live near family.

I have been working at Dexter Schools since March of [2025]. My favorite part of being a DHS Food and Nutrition member has been my co-workers. We all care about the students, not just what we feed them. We see them as



TOP CHEFS: (left to right) Lindsey, Pat, Dara, and Doreen — some members of the food and nutrition staff — smile during a pause in the lunch chaos. **Photographer - Abigail Dobry**

the future and we want them to succeed.

My favorite thing to serve are the calzones because everyone loves them. I'm certain that the students wouldn't ever look at me and believe that I was once a stock broker and an Ice Cream Shop owner.

Lindsey

My favorite part of working in the kitchen is teaming up with the other ladies — we laugh, we chat, and somehow still manage to whip up a really good meal for everyone. I started in February, last school year.

There are a few things I love to serve. I'm all for switching up the menu and trying something new, but honestly... the grilled cheese will

always have my heart!

I'm originally from Colorado, and I'm happily married with a daughter who's a freshman this year. Our home is made even livelier by our two dogs, who keep us on our toes.

I've always loved baking, but recently sourdough bread has become my big passion—I spend a lot of time experimenting and learning. I can talk about Sourdough way longer than people expect.

I also started karate not long ago, which has been a fun new challenge. And outside of home and hobbies, I volunteer with the Girl Scouts, which is something I really enjoy because it lets me support and encourage young girls in the community.



BEHIND-THE-SCENES FOR BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PREP

On a November Monday, a Squall reporter spent the entire day in the DHS kitchen chatting with the food and nutrition staff and filming the intricate culinary process

WRITER  CALEB WILSON

Caleb Wilson has always felt that the lunch staff gets disrespected because students don't know what happens behind the scenes. He decided to spend an entire school day with the food and nutrition staff, behind the scenes, producing a video and shedding light on the process.

I started by going to the back of the kitchen at 6:50 a.m. on Monday, November 17, where I got to see the start of breakfast prep for the day. As the lunch staff was doing breakfast prep, they were also preparing calzones for Wednesday of that week.

One of the things the lunch staff tries to do is work as much at the beginning of the week so they finish only what is necessary later. This means they will prepare multiple meals concurrently.

Once they clean and get their prepped food out, breakfast begins at 7:00 a.m.. At this time, the only employees present, usually 2-3 staff, will run the registers. That staff is incredibly ingenuitive, as shown with how they created a breakfast calzone while prepping breakfast and calzones at the same time.

After breakfast, more of the staff shows up. They are then split in half, so some will work on the prep for that day's lunch while others will begin working on tomorrow's breakfast. Lunch and the following day's breakfast are being prepared until the beginning of A lunch, which begins at 11:10 a.m.

A Lunch proved to be the calmest lunch of the three, which is something I never thought about. I always assumed all three lunches would be similar. This cycle continues again for B Lunch, which starts at 12:00 p.m., and again for C Lunch which begins at 12:47 p.m.

One of the things that surprised me was how quickly the staff had to think on their feet. For the first part of lunch prep, they appeared to be a shortage of waffles. The solution was to grab some flavored waffles they had forgotten about to replace them.

The staff will take breaks during the process to stay fresh. Then, when serving lunch is finished, the clean-up process begins. This is when they clean all the food the students unknowingly (or



CALZONE DAY! (top) The food and nutrition staff begins prepping Calzones for Wednesday's big day. **DUNKIN' AINT GOT NOTHING ON US:** (above) Doreen prepares donuts for Monday's breakfast. **Photographer - Caleb Wilson**

knowingly) throw on the ground, and act like it's nobody's problem. This process can take up to two hours on a given day, depending on how much of a mess is made.



BEHIND-THE-SCENES VIDEO: Check out a video that takes you behind the scenes. The YouTube description includes timestamps.

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OUR VIEW: TEACH THIS, NOT THAT!

Inside the controversy regarding Dexter's new proposed Sex Ed curriculum and our proposal

WRITER  STAFF

In every student's school career, they will eventually experience a Sex Education class and be forced to sit through the awkward conversations that are a rite of passage for every middle schooler. In Dexter Community Schools, the content in these conversations has not been updated for some time, and some of it has been found outdated when looked at through the lens of today's society.

Because of this, the DCS board of education appointed a Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB) to oversee the process of sorting through infinite curriculum options and come up with an appropriate curriculum proposal to present to the board. This SEAB committee consisted of parents in the district, upperclassmen students, health educators within the district, a representative from the DCS board, and representation from local religious communities in the district.

The SEAB board started the process of selecting an updated curriculum earlier this year, and in October and November held multiple curriculum review sessions with the board in which members of the board and members of the community were able to share comments regarding their thoughts on the proposed curriculum.

These sessions wound up quite a bit of controversy within the community, with parents on both sides of the aisle passionate over whether or not to teach lessons in the proposed curriculum about Gender Identity and the LGBTQIA+ community. The controversy went as far as the popular conservative X (formerly Twitter) account "Libs Of TikTok" making a post flaming the new curriculum and suggesting #Defund Dexter.

When The Squall watched the five-hour board meeting, the main thing we noticed was that almost every parent who spoke, whether coming from a conservative or

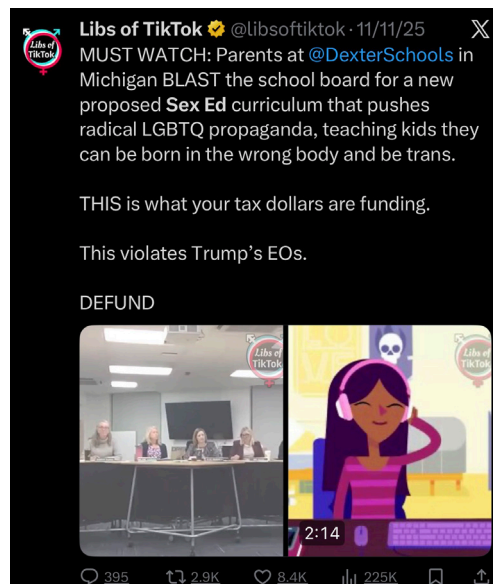
liberal standpoint, seemed to agree on the fact that it is important to teach about abstinence, the importance of avoiding teen pregnancies, and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs). The hot point came up over a proposed 5th-Grade lesson being taught, which compared people's sexuality to different ice cream flavors. After review, the board decided to approve the content but change the way in which it is presented.

We personally looked over the curriculum and had internal conversations with our staff, polled the student body, and talked to some members of Dexter's LGBTQIA+ community. After all of these conversations, here is our proposal for a DCS Sex Ed curriculum.

4th/5th Grade: The first mention of Sex Ed should come up in elementary health class when students are introduced to concepts like puberty. We decided that appropriate topics to teach in a 4th/5th-grade setting would be things related to big changes that kids begin to go through as they enter puberty. These can include anatomy, hormonal changes, periods, and other general health concepts. This curriculum is also quite brief, only lasting a few days.

7th/8th Grade: The next time students encounter Sex Ed is in middle school, where they experience the bulk of the Sex Ed content over a 14-day curriculum. This is where students should hear the "What Is Sex" talk, LGBTQIA+ definitions, Gender Identity, and an introduction to the consequences of unplanned pregnancies. These concepts are good to teach before high school, but they still require a bit of developmental maturity before students encounter them.

High School: Finally, there's DHS's Health and Wellness class, where teachers Mr. Eric Williams and Mr. David Teddy normally spend a few days towards the end of the semester teaching a small Sex Ed unit. At

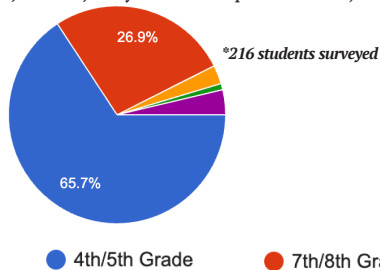


PUT ON BLAST: Uber conservative X account @LibsofTikTok flamed Dexter's proposed Sex Ed curriculum, including part of a video discussing gender ideology, in a November 11 post. At press time, the post had more than 8,000 likes and nearly 3,000 retweets.

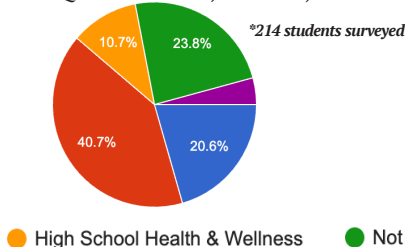
..... the high school level, it is important to talk about Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), safe sex/protection, and reinforcing the risks of unplanned pregnancies. Additionally, it is important to note that the State of Michigan law requires that all public schools teach about HIV/AIDS and STIs in the required health class.

Overall, the topic of Sex Ed will always come with controversy because in today's world, it is impossible to please everyone, no matter how hard people on the SEAB and the Board of Education try. This is why it is important to collect as many opinions as possible on subjects like this because if we all live in our own echo-boxes of opinions we will never be able to grow towards the future.

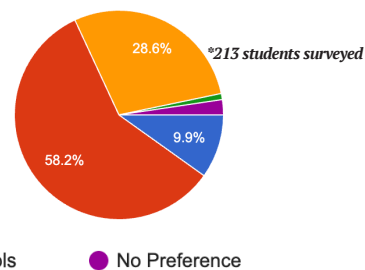
When would you teach the following topic: **Puberty** (Body changes, Periods, Early Relationship Discussions)?



When would you teach the following topic: **Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity** (Types of relationships, LGBTQIA+ Definitions, Pronouns)?



When would you teach the following topic: **Safe Sex** (Protection, STDs/STI/Os, AIDS/HIV)?



● 4th/5th Grade ● 7th/8th Grade ● High School Health & Wellness ● Not Taught in Schools ● No Preference



The Anchor

STATE CHAMPS! The women's golf team, led by (left to right) Ellie Anderson, Morgan Pomerantz, Millie Truesdell, Avery Manning, and Maddie Manning, is honored at halftime of a Dexter football game with their D2 Championship trophy. Avery, Millie, and Maddie all finished in the Top 8 individually.

PHOTOGRAPHER  Abbie Franz

