

# Benefits of DCS Residential Learning Community

## Challenging Academics

Academic education in a residential setting is known for being more challenging than a day school. At DCS, we place a unique emphasis on inquiry based learning, that is, the *how and why* of critical thinking (in its many forms). The residential environment helps students grow in collaboration, autonomy, and self-discipline. Teachers teach a curriculum tailored to their strengths and interests; scholars have support systems such as tutors and structured study hall to ensure that they are learning in an out of the classroom.

## Enhanced Teacher-Peer Learning

In a residential setting, students live, play, study, and socialize among their peers. At DCS, students become a part of a community of learners from different states, schools, and backgrounds. Students bond with teachers and peers in small and large ways. Teachers have the opportunity to engage with students in lighthearted moments during meals and afternoon activities and can help students learn during study hall.

## Small Class Sizes

Small class sizes can make all the difference in a student's success. At DCS, students have the chance to interact with teachers and peers in a low-stakes environment, which allows students to engage with the subject material in a deeper and more dynamic fashion. With more time for one-on-one interactions, teachers and students develop a closer relationship in a smaller classroom. Once these relationships are established, students often feel more confident and comfortable voicing opinions and sharing their answers.

## Accelerated Personal Growth

Living away from home and residing on a campus of committed life-long learners provides invaluable opportunities for personal growth. At DCS, scholars spend an enormous amount of time with peers, student advisors, and teachers. Scholars tend to develop life skills such as time management, work ethic, independence, and resilience. While they receive support from student advisors, teachers, and their peers, scholars must take an added level of responsibility for and ownership of their own education. This growth is the secret ingredient that will help prepare scholars' for college, where these skills are necessary to succeed.

## Learning-Conducive Atmosphere

Delaware College Scholars is on a mission to support and challenge high achieving under-resourced students in Delaware and other select regions of the country. While this is a full-year program, the week residential summer program is nothing short of a celebration of learning. In short, everyone including - faculty, student advisors, and Scholars' - choose to attend DCS. With a powerful shared mission in mind, members of DCS operate with a deeper sense of purpose. DCS fosters an atmosphere that is conducive of learning the necessary skills to find success in college and the work force.