

My Journey As An ESPS//DDSS Alumni

- Tyler Wood



Why Did I Choose Delhi?

Growing up in a small town shaped me to value the importance of relationships and community. When searching for a high school, I valued two important factors: Education quality and a welcoming atmosphere. After visiting multiple schools, the best decision of my life was made, and it was to choose DDSS as my second home.

A second home is exactly what DDSS felt like to me. The sense of belonging and small community is something to never overlook. When growing up through your late teenage years, transitioning into young adults, trying to figure out what to do with your life, this feeling of belongingness provides students like myself, with the chance to be themselves. These years of personal development are the most important years, as it can largely impact the trajectory of a person's life. Through DDSS leaders, innovators, and growth mindsets are formed. With support from all the staff and the friendships built with not only classmates but coach's and teachers as well, I always felt like I knew who I was, and maybe not exactly where I wanted to go, but I always knew I wanted to go somewhere to make an impact on the world.

Where Am I Now?

I am currently attending University of Guelph, enrolled in Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering. I am in my second year of studies while earning my spot on the Dean's Honour Role. This is a great academic achievement I am certainly proud of and honoured to be where I am. Every step of my academic journey has led me to achieve everything I have, especially my high school education. My first semester of university felt very academically smooth. I met new friends from many different high schools, and I could tell very quickly that I was lucky to have the high school education that DDSS provided me. With

classes like calculus, chemistry and physics, I had a much more distinguished understanding compared to many of my fellow classmates. Being introduced to University level material in my upper years at Delhi provided me with a big head start on many other students in my engineering program. As many other students struggled with the university content in first semester, I felt comfortable enough for my first semester to feel more like review.

How Did My Experience Help Me Get to Where I Am Today?

Now as I mentioned earlier, high school is a very important transition phase from childhood to adulthood which is very important in regard to personal development and setting up a person's future. High school is very important for providing a good education but also plays a very important role in aligning students' future on a more personal level. This is what I feel can not be found anywhere else other than Delhi. Schools are able to control the level of education, or accelerating sport programs, but one thing they cannot control, is the environment the students and staff provide to help build up and shape one's identity as a soon to be adult.

Through leadership programs like "Link Crew", I was able to build an unimaginably strong bond with many of my classmates which will be remembered for the rest of my life. Memories were made through this program which I still reminisce about today. However, most importantly I learned how to be a leader, be kind and make a positive change in the world. I also witnessed this program turn friends of mine from an introverted kid into an extroverted, self-expressing leader.



The athletics program within DDSS is another aspect of my experience in which truly changed my life in the best way possible. I was able to build unforgettable, everlasting bonds with not only many teammates of mine but my coaches as well. As older role models for me, they felt like another parent of mine. Mentoring me through my athletic obstacles but also personal challenges I was facing. They helped show me how to be mature, successful and watched me grow into the adult I am today.



What Is My Fondest Memory or Thought About Delhi?

Now choosing one fond memory of my high school experience is very hard, however I can say there is a foundation on which many of my best experiences come from and this is all the involvement DDSS had to offer. For me, these included sports teams, student council, leadership groups/classes and even the opportunities provided to me through my science classes.

While being apart of many sport teams including volleyball, basketball, soccer, and many more, I was provided the opportunity to be the captain of a few of these teams. This showed me how to be a role model for others and to always think of how others feel. I learned quickly how to become a fantastic leader thanks to the friendships I build with my teammates and coaches. The teams I was able to be apart of were very successful as well competing at a provincial level twice and nearly returning twice more.

Another fantastic opportunity I was given was to be apart of the health science class. This type of class was only offered in one other school at the time making this class a great privilege of DDSS. Me and my friends were able to do a lot of hands-on learning and field trips! Throughout the semester, we were able

to visit many health clinics around Dehi like the optometrist's office and the Norfolk Family Health Team. While visiting the Norfolk Family Health Team, the class was split into two big groups to present case studies in which we conducted plenty of research prior to the visit to present our findings to professionals in the field.

What Should Others Know About Delhi?

Describing the high school life at DDSS is nearly impossible to express through words. It is fulfilling, life changing and honestly the only way I can imagine high school should be. Building unbreakable bonds with everyone around you, able to name nearly every student you see giving a sense of home and belonging and being provided a personalized high school education catered to fit all your needs to succeed. With the sense of community and small class sizes, the teachers can get to know each and every one of their students allowing for all student to have someone who believes in them and truly wants them to succeed. Students can make a difference in their school by getting involved and making a positive change in the world as early as grade nine. With exceptional teachers and staff to support you along the entire way, success comes naturally. Life after high school becomes much easier after being given the support of a fantastic high school. This is seen through many kids from my graduating class alone becoming paramedics, engineers, teachers, nurses and even business owners. There is no other school to provide such a beautiful balance of personal and professional success and I would not change a single thing about my high school experience.

