

# Through Tiger's Eyes

Delano High School's Family Newsletter  
October/November 2010

## Beat the East in Three

Last year, as well as this year, and in future years, Delano High School has and will make a concerted effort to improve our composite ACT scores. To review, the ACT is a college entrance exam used by universities across the country. This test measures the student's skill set and gives a numerical prediction of how successful the student will be in college. **Why is Delano High School focusing on the ACT? The answer is simple; over 82% of our graduating seniors in the past three years have taken the ACT.** This indicates that a large percentage of our student body has aspirations to go to a four year college. It is therefore our job to prepare students to be both college and career ready by the time they graduate. ACT does an excellent job in articulating the benchmarks of skill sets needed for students to be successful in English, composition, mathematics, reading and science. Together with the Explore and PLAN tests, we will be able to make adjustments to our curriculum in order for our students to achieve the highest score on their ACT test. We began this effort last year, with the end result of the Class of 2010 setting a record composite score of 24.2. The state average composite score in Minnesota was 22.9, leading the nation. In other words, we are on the right track!

Now to explain the article heading, Beat the East in Three. Even with this high average ACT score, there are a few Minnesota high schools to the east of us with a higher average score over the past three to five years. Our focus over the next three years will be to

implement successful strategies in order for us to improve and surpass the average ACT scores of these schools. Our staff is excited and impassioned to facilitate necessary changes within our curriculum in order for us to focus on the skill sets articulated by ACT to improve scores.

Every three to five years the ACT Corporation goes out to higher education (colleges and universities) and industries (Fortune 500 companies), and ask in a very comprehensive fashion, "What is required of high school graduates to be successful in college and their career?" The most striking results of these surveys over the past 10-15 years is that companies are requiring the same skill sets necessary for students to be successful in their field as are needed for students to be successful in college. With that said, I am pleased to announce that we are heading in the right direction regarding this endeavor.

### Our System

There are three major assessments that ACT provides for students throughout their high school career. The first assessment is given to all eighth graders in the fall. This test is the first of three that give parents, students and educators an idea of how their student is doing regarding the benchmarks established by ACT to be college and career ready. The second assessment, the PLAN test, is given

to all grade 10 students each fall. The final and third assessment, the ACT test, is taken by a majority of our students in their junior and/or senior year. Our staff will utilize this comprehensive educational information in order to provide the best opportunities for students to be college and career ready when they graduate from Delano High School. If you are interested in finding out more about the ACT, visit their website at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org), to view important information for educators, parents and students.

I look forward to seeing the results of our ACT scores with the next graduating class. Remember, this is an entirely new and unique group of students. That is why it is important to evaluate this information over the course of three to five years to view measureable trends.

Welcome back to the new school year. It remains our intention to continue to provide the ultimate educational experience possible at Delano High School.

**-Matthew W. Schoen, EdS.  
HS Principal**

## Go Tigers!



# Efforts to Improve Student Achievement are Paramount

Improvement is difficult. The high school, as well as the district, is continually seeking ways to improve student achievement. Each year the high school, as well as each building and the district, set goals via their School Improvement Plan (SIP). The high school improvement plan contains several academic achievement goals. As mentioned in Mr. Schoen's article, we want to beat ACT scores of schools to our east in three years. This past year 82% of our seniors took the ACT and scored a school record average composite of 24.2. Additionally, when considering the positive test scores Delano has enjoyed in the past, getting to the next level of performance is definitely a stretch goal. When we have reading proficiency scores of 86.3%, for example, an improvement of 2 or 3 percentage points will be challenging. In order to make improvements such as these a reality, the district staff development committee is committed to offering research based professional development to our staff over the next three years.

We began this school year by training staff members in the area of formative assessment. Formative assessment is an active and intentional learning process that partners the teachers and the students to continuously and systematically gather evidence of learning with the express goal of improving student achievement (Moss and Brookhart, 2009). Essentially this means that we will be making efforts to gather information which indicates learning has taken place. If no evidence has been gathered, then other interventions must be made to assist in the learning process.

For our first training opportunity we were able to bring in a couple of training experts from St. Cloud, Rebecca Koelln and Tammy Quist. Rebecca Koelln provided training for our K-6 staff, while Tammy implemented the training to our 7-12 staff. Our second training will be given by internal staff members and cover some of the basic definitions and procedures which are critical to the overall process of formative assessment. Over the course of the next three years we will be training staff on the facets of implementing this type of program. Some of our future trainings may include topics such as: instructional strategies, teaching students the process of goal setting and self assessment; how to engage in asking questions; and possibly grades and grading. According to research these topics would complete the entire process included in formative assessment. Additionally, research has indicated that with the implementation of these strategies, we can hope to see continued gains in student achievement.

As mentioned earlier, to improve student achievement, it will take improving what takes place in what is already an extremely positive classroom experience for our students. Our staff is committed to providing the best possible experience for our students. These trainings should further improve those experiences as well as student achievement.

**-Joe Vieau  
HS Assistant Principal**

## Delano High School Students Receive AP Scholar Awards



Two seniors at DHS were recently awarded Advanced Placement Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement in Advanced Placement (AP) exams. Joe Janas, pictured to the left, received an AP Scholar with Honor award which is a student who received an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken AND scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. Dustin Ziegelman

received an AP Scholar award which is for a student who receives scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams. Austin Meyer, Emily Hemingway and Sandra Arnold, all 2010 graduates, also received recognition for their AP exam achievements.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program provides motivated and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP exams.

***Congratulations Joe and Dustin!***



**Take Charge  
of  
Education**

Now that the new school year has begun, don't forget to change your desired school on your Target Red Card account to Delano High School! You can change your choice by:

- Go to Target.com
- Click on "Manage my Red Card"
- Click on "Rewards and Benefits"
- Click on "View or Change Schools"

If you have a Target REDCard and have not enrolled yet, you can go to Target.com and enroll today!

Target donates 1% of all purchases that you make on your REDCard at Target and Target.com to your designated school. Delano High School appreciates your support!

## Meet the New Staff at DHS



Andrew Beard  
Vocal Music



Katie Beshears  
Spanish



Jennifer Froehlich  
Special Education



Jeremy Wenzel  
Social Studies



Jason Monke  
Science



Amy Larson  
Special Education

Also welcome Laura Holmquist, Special Education teacher, who is not pictured.

## Funds Needed for Special Olympics!

Delano Middle and High School Special Education programs are continuing to take part in Special Olympics of Minnesota! We are participating in Bowling, Track & Field, and possibly Basketball this winter. The students on the Special Olympics team need your help in raising funds for the cost of busing to meets/practices and the cost of equipment for these sports. We are selling raffle tickets in partnership with Special Olympics MN and the Lions Club. Each ticket is \$5.00 and 100% of the revenue goes back to our team. The prizes are as follows: Grand Prize is a 2011 Target Field Suite (game TBD), other prizes include an autographed Twins Memorabilia, \$1000.00 cash prize, and a 32" Flat Panel TV. To purchase tickets, contact Jessica Nelson at 763.972.3365, ext. 3056 or via email at [jnelson@delano.k12.mn.us](mailto:jnelson@delano.k12.mn.us). The deadline to purchase tickets is December 20, 2010.

**Thank you for your support!**



## Delano Tiger Activities Winter Registration

On Monday, November 8, winter activity registration eligibility and physical examination forms will be available online at [www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us) and in the activities office. These forms must be completed and returned to the activities office **BEFORE** your student begins practice. The start dates for winter activities are as follows:

10/25	Dance Team
11/1	Girls Hockey
11/15	Girls Gymnastics
11/15	Boys Hockey
11/15	Girls Basketball
11/22	Boys Basketball
11/22	Wrestling
11/29	Boys Swimming



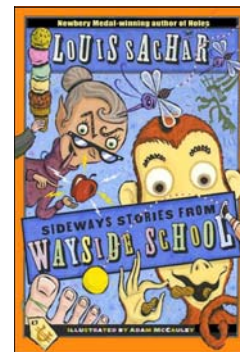
All Delano athletic schedules can be found at [www.wconference.org](http://www.wconference.org). This website has the most current schedules available with changes and updates posted daily. You can purchase a 2010-11 Season Pass to all Delano High School home sporting events at the Activities office.

Delano High School will be webcasting some varsity athletic events this year. Please log on to [www.webcast50.com](http://www.webcast50.com) for upcoming events!

## DHS Drama Department Presents...

### *Sideways Stories From Wayside School*

Come see this hilarious play, based on the books by Louis Sachar. The actors will tell the stories of a wacky school which was built 30 stories high by accident. The cast includes seniors Abby Bohler, Autumn Ike, Kaeli Todd, Rachel Bodin, and Liz Roering.



Sideways Stories from Wayside School will be performed on Thursday, November 4 and Friday, November 5, at 7:00 p.m. There will also be a performance on Saturday, November 6 at 1:00 p.m. All performances will be held in the DMS Auditorium. Tickets are available at the door for \$5.00.

# Counselor's Corner

## The Importance of College Entrance Exams

Although test results are only one measure of student achievement, they have become increasingly important in assessing student learning. There are two major college admission exams: ACT and SAT. They are typically taken by high school juniors and seniors and used by colleges and universities to help with admission decisions. Students can take the test as many times as they wish. The SAT reasoning test assesses reading, writing and math skills. The ACT is a curriculum-based achievement test consisting of separate exams in English, reading, math, and science, plus an optional writing exam. SAT is scored on a scale of 600-2400, while the ACT uses a scale of 1 to 36. The results of college admission exams can be used to see how well students are prepared for their post secondary education. The ACT and SAT are accepted by every four year college and university in the US that requires such a test.

**Here is a list of 2010-11 dates for the ACT and SAT:**

<u>ACT</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Test Date</u>
	November 5, 2010	December 11, 2010
	January 7, 2011	February 12, 2011
	March 4, 2011	April 9, 2011
	May 6, 2011	June 11, 2011

**To register, go to [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)**

<u>SAT</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Test Date</u>
	October 8, 2010	November 6, 2010
	November 5, 2010	December 4, 2010
	February 11, 2011	March 12, 2011
	April 8, 2011	May 7, 2011
	May 6, 2011	June 4, 2011

**To register, go to [www.sat.collegeboard.com](http://www.sat.collegeboard.com)**

## National Merit Semifinalist and Commended Students Announced



Delano High School senior Joe Janas has been chosen as a National Merit Semifinalist by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

Approximately 16,000 Semifinalists throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. 15,000 of these Semifinalists will advance to the Finalist levels and from this group, the National Merit Scholarship winners will be chosen. All Merit Scholarship awards are chosen from the Finalist group based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments. NSMC is a not-for-profit organization. All scholarships awarded are from NMSC's own funds, business organizations and higher education institutions that share goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the

pursuit of academic excellence. 2011 National Merit Scholarship winners will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July.

***Good luck Joe!***

DHS also has three students that have received a Letter of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Seniors Patrick Sweeney, Alex Kraft and Jack Stevens, pictured to the right, have demonstrated an outstanding performance in this highly competitive program and these young men represent some of the most academically talented students in this country.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2011 competition for National Merit Scholarships, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2011 competition by taking the 2009 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. (PSAT/NMSQT).

“Recognition of high-achieving

students is essential to advancing educational excellence in our nation,” commented a spokesperson for NMSC. “We sincerely hope this recognition will enhance their educational opportunities and encourage them in their pursuit of academic success.”



***Congratulations to all these students for their academic accomplishments!***

**Mental Health/Social Information Available via Email - Sign Up Today!**



In an effort to get resources into the hands of parents who need them, Ms. Marie Techam, the Delano High School and Middle School Social Worker is creating email groups regarding specific topics. Ms. Techam consistently receives

information regarding meetings, groups, workshops, financial assistance opportunities, etc., and she wants to be sure to make that important information available to those who would benefit. The emails will be organized into the following areas:

- Mental Health (Depression, Anxiety, Bipolar Disorder, etc.)
- Drug/Alcohol Awareness Resources
- Parenting Resources/Teen Information
- Autism Resources
- ADHD Resources
- Eating Disorders

If you are interested in receiving occasional emails regarding one or more of the above topic areas, please send me a email at [mtecham@delano.k12.mn.us](mailto:mtecham@delano.k12.mn.us) **Your name will remain confidential and will not be seen on the group list.**



**Congratulations Homecoming King and Queen Candidates!**



**Pictured from Bottom to Top:** Will Finn & Allison Field, Ben Estby & Rachel Hagen, Jerry Wacholz & Cindy Lewis, Thomas Schmidt & Caitlin Custer and Trevor Checkal & Rhea Ylitalo. Coronation will take place, Monday, October 4 at 1:00 p.m. in the Tiger Activity Center.



*Congratulations to the DHS Tennis Team for winning their 5th consecutive Wright County Conference!*

**October Calendar**

5	HS Conferences	4:30-8 pm
6-7	National College Fair - Juniors Mpls Convention Center	
11	HS P.I.E. Meeting	7 pm
12	HS SBLT Meeting	7:15 am
13	PSAT Test - Grades 9-11	
18	College Awareness Night	7 pm
18	Mixed Blood Theatre <i>Theory of Mind</i> - DMS Auditorium	7 pm
20	PLAN Test - Grade 10	
21-22	MEA - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	

**November Calendar**

1	HS Math Meet	
4-5	HS Fall Play	7 pm
5	End of Quarter 1	
6	HS Fall Play	1 pm
8	Teacher Workshops - <b>NO SCHOOL</b> HS P.I.E. Meeting	7 pm
9	HS SBLT Meeting	7:15 am
11	Veteran's Day Program Tiger Activity Center	9:30 am
22	School Board Meeting HS Math Meet	7 pm
24-26	Thanksgiving - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	

**Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held in Teacher Classrooms on Tuesday, October 5. Look for additional information via a schoolreach email reminder. Teacher Conferences are a great opportunity to meet face-to-face with your student's teachers. It compliments the data that we supply you electronically.**

*Through Tigers Eyes* is published by Delano High School. Editor, Traci Lawman, District Office, 763.972.3365, x5111,



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