

Through Tiger's Eyes

Delano High School's Family Newsletter
February/March 2011

ACT Prep Class to be Offered This Spring

By the time you read this newsletter, most of you will have attended the all-important registration conferences this past Monday, January 31. It is our hope that this process is as efficient and effective as possible, while continuing to involve parents, students and advisors in the decision making process regarding appropriate course registration for the 2011-2012 school year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our teachers/advisors and parents for taking the time to prepare for these conferences and to attend the registration conferences.

We implemented our finals schedule for the first time this school year on the last two days of the semester. Based on informal feedback to date, a majority of students and staff members appreciated the modified schedule and use of additional time. Our hope is that the academic performances on the exams have improved based on the new schedule. We will keep you posted!

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce to you that I have started a principal's blog that is posted on the high school website under the heading, "About DHS." The blog is intended to increase the communication to our community at large regarding the happenings at DHS. It is intended to be visual in nature, containing many photos and videos of events at the school. I encourage you to visit the blog to stay up-to-date and to comment as the tool is a two-way online interactive communication method. Most recent postings

included photos of students taking final exams and other learning activities within the classroom at the high school. Please take time to visit the blog as I believe it presents another opportunity to learn online about Delano High School.

One of the major goals at Delano High School is to increase our overall student performance on the ACT test. The ACT test is a college entrance exam that over 80% of our students will take prior to graduation. I would like to share an opportunity that your student has during the fourth quarter of this school year to take steps to improve their ACT score. We are offering an ACT prep class that meets before school on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00-7:45 a.m. for eight weeks beginning Tuesday, April 5. These classes are subject-specific, covering Science, English, Reading, Writing and Math. The class is intended to prepare students to take the ACT test on June 11. The majority of these students will be juniors, but the class is open to sophomores as well. The cost is \$50.00 and students could potentially earn credit for successful completion of the class.

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

**Check out DHS's new blog!
Log on to our website, look
under high school and click on
"About DHS." Take a peek
into the lives of our students!**

Junior Emily Holm Represents DHS in Oratorical Contest



Junior Emily Holm recently won the local oratorical contest at DHS with her submission of a speech she wrote which was inspired by Delano resident Walter Grotz, a WWII veteran and Prisoner of War who delivered a Veteran's Day speech to students in the fall of 2009. This annual "Constitutional Speech Contest" was developed to instill a better knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States in high school students. It also encourages the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly, and it helps prepare students for acceptance of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. In addition, this program can assist students in their effort to pay for the high cost of a post secondary education with scholarships beginning at \$1,500.00 up to \$18,000.

After Emily delivered her speech to local veterans at the Delano American Legion, she competed in the regional competition in Anoka. Emily was nervous to take part in this new experience, but was no stranger to stage performances, having acted in 15 theatrical performances at school. The oratorical contest was a new opportunity for DHS students this year. Emily learned a lot from other students that presented their speeches at the contest this year and plans on taking part in this contest again next year.

Attendance & Discipline

-Joe Vieau, Assistant Principal

We proceed through the year many times and often do not take time to see the forest through the trees. Since we are midway through the year, it is a good time to take a step back and look to see how things are progressing thus far. From the eyes of the Assistant Principal, there are a couple of gauges which monitor the system and how we are doing. Two of these include discipline and attendance analysis.

It is our goal to have 95% attendance throughout the school year. Ultimately, it would be nice to have 95% attendance during each month of the year, but we have never accomplished this goal. We would also like to attain 95% attendance for the school year, yet we have not reached that goal in four years. **We set this goal because there is a strong correlation between attendance and student achievement.** This year our 95% attendance goal was attained in September, and we were encouraged when our efforts seemed to pay off when our average for the first semester was 95.44%.

The other gauge worthy of analysis is the number of discipline referrals. At the time of publishing, the number of student referrals is down nearly 3% from one year ago. So far this year, there have been 341 referrals for a required offense report to be filed. As is typical every year, the vast

majority of offenses are related to attendance. Of all referrals, 57% fall under the category of unexcused absences, tardiness, or leaving school or class early. Additionally, another 18.5% of referrals are due to students who have missed their detention and need further consequence. Therefore, 75% of the referrals being filed are directly related to attendance or missing detention. In comparison to data from last year, by percentage these numbers are extremely close and consistent. This means that about 25% or 85 referrals are due to behaviors that are questionable in the classroom. When you look at the more than 775 students who have entered our building and attended 4-6 classes daily for about 85 days so far this year, 85 referrals for questionable behaviors is truly a tribute to our students and staff.

The relationship between attending school and student is very clear. The better the attendance a student has, the better their grades. When looking at the data above, it appears as though there is also a relationship between attendance and discipline issues. **Therefore the Delano Way: Show Up, Show Up on Time, Work Hard and Failure is Not an Option, is truly a great way to assist in improving student achievement and reducing discipline problems.**

Shoulder to Shoulder A Helpful Resource for Raising Teenagers

Shoulder to Shoulder is a website dedicated to making your job easier by connecting parents and caregivers by sharing insights of those who have been there before. From written resources and a Blog for parents of teens to relevant research and parenting tips, this website has helpful information as you navigate through the teen years with your child. Is your teen pushing your buttons? Not sure how to handle it? *Shoulder to Shoulder* is here to help you make the most your relationship, stay ahead of the game and find common ground with your teenager. Here are ten tips for the website to help you stay ahead of the game:

- Be a parent, not a pal.
- Ignore the attitude, save your energy for the big stuff.
- Talk the tough talks.
- Compliment your teens.
- Get to know teen friends and their parents.
- Don't be a maid.
- Make respect a two-way street.
- Listen, don't lecture.
- Agree to disagree.
- Have fun together.

For more information, log on to
<http://www.shouldertoshoulderminnesota.org>.

Donkey Basketball is Coming to DHS!



The Delano Senior Grad Party Committee is sponsoring a Donkey Basketball tournament to be held on Friday, February 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Gymnasium.

There will be two games:

1st game: Juniors vs. Seniors
2nd game: Teachers vs. Parents

Buy your tickets in advance for this evening of fun in the high school office for \$6.00. Tickets at the door will be \$8.00. **Come out and support the Senior Grad Party and have a great time doing it!**

Counselor's Corner

Finding the Perfect Summer Job

Even if summer vacation is still a few months away, now is the time your teenager should begin to plan and lay a foundation for finding a summer job. Summer break is a great time to pursue interests and gain experience through paid or volunteer jobs, internships and other activities. And don't forget, college admission officers see meaningful summer activities as a demonstration of commitment and responsibility. One of the best ways to find opportunities is by simply asking the people you know. Start thinking about what type of career you will envision yourself in. Start your search by contacting businesses that are related to your interests, and find out if they need summer help. If they are not hiring, they may have suggestions you can use to continue your job search.

If you already have a job that really interests you, consider asking for more responsibility, to expand your experience and knowledge. Colleges, of course, like to see that students have kept busy doing something constructive with their summer vacation. Spending a summer working at a local charity is another great way to learn about yourself

and develop leadership skills. Here is a list of places you should consider looking for a good summer job:

- Tourist attractions
- Golf and tennis clubs
- Stores at a mall
- Local merchants
- Restaurants
- Corporate offices
- Grocery stores
- Hotels and resorts
- Summer camps
- Local government summer job opportunities

The key is to start your search early and secure a job before all the jobs you are interested are taken!

-Susan Farbo
Guidance Counselor

School Energy Saving Program Launched District Wide



Delano Public Schools launched a program called *Schools for Energy Efficiency®* (SEE)

that will help the entire school district save money on energy costs. The SEE program is customized for K-12 schools to change behavior throughout the district through no or low-cost strategies.

In the summer of 2009, the mechanical system in the Delano Middle/High School was upgraded. This has saved the district approximately \$97,000 in energy costs for the year ending June 30, 2010. December 31, 2010 will mark the first full year of savings from this mechanical upgrade. The SEE program is the next logical step in the reduction of energy costs throughout the district.

Hallberg Engineering, a mechanical and electrical engineering firm based in White Bear Lake, MN, will be running this program for Delano Public Schools. Hallberg has more than 25 years of experience serving school districts. *Schools for Energy Efficiency®* was created in response to school districts need for a comprehensive energy saving

initiative specifically for schools. There are no upfront costs to enter into the SEE program, all fees paid to Hallberg Engineering are paid from cost savings generated. Using Hallberg Engineering guidelines, Delano Public Schools estimates saving approximately \$84,000 over a five-year contract period.

Delano Public Schools spends more than \$380,000 per year on energy costs. Our goal through the SEE program is to reduce energy costs by 10 percent. Through education and understanding where energy is being wasted, district employees will help reduce energy costs which will enable our schools to use those extra dollars for education initiatives for the students.

When you visit any of the Delano Public Schools, you will see posters highlighting the *Schools for Energy Efficiency®* program. To find out more and view information on successful school districts enrolled in the SEE program, log on to www.seeprograms.com.

Safe Teen Driving

When you hand your teen the car keys, are you confident or concerned?

Car crashes are the number one killer of teens and take about 3,000 lives every year. That's up to eight teen deaths a day that can be prevented. New drivers, even straight "A" students and "good kids", are more likely to be involved in a fatal crash, mostly due to driver inexperience. You can make a difference by getting involved with your teens driving. Here's how:

1. Practice driving as often as you can with your teen.
2. Discuss the rules of the road with your teen and sign a Parent-Teen Driving Agreement .
3. Lead by example.
4. Share your rules of the road with other parents of teens.
5. Get involved with "Parents Are The Key."

For more ideas visit their website at www.cdc.gov/parentsarethekey. You can share information and support other parents on their Facebook page.

Working together saves lives!

DHS Math Team Continues to Dominate

Teams at Delano High School come in all shapes and sizes. There are athletic teams and there are academic teams. The Math Team is one of the most successful academic teams in the high school and the members like to be known as "mathletes." It takes as many buses to transport the math team to their meets as it does the football team to their games.

With 74 team members, they continue to lead the pack in wins this year with placing first in their seven team conference meet that took place on Monday, December 13, 2010, in Shakopee. The Tigers placed first in all four individual events as well as the team event. Delano finished 39 points ahead of the nearest competitor. Senior Joe Janas, led the Tigers by scoring 12 points, followed by Zach Muckenhirn and James Redinger with 10 points each. Dustin Ziegelman scored 9 points as Colette Bersie, Allison Sandlass and David Swenson scored 8 points each. Here are the results by school:

Delano	82 points
Holy Family	43 points
Northfield	42 points
Lakeville South	38 points
International School of MN	34 points
Lakeville North	28 points
Shakopee	25 points

The Math Team is coached by math instructor Jerry Shouts and Assistant Principal Joe Vieau.



CIS Psychology students taking their final exam online at the end of the first semester. The new finals schedule got a lot of positive feedback from the students and faculty.

Find Us On

facebook

Yes, Delano Public Schools has a Facebook page!
Why? Facebook gives you and Delano Public Schools a vehicle for two-way communication. Our Facebook page is intended to share news and issues related to the district, and we want you to be involved!

To become a fan of our page, log on to Delano Public Schools at www.delano.k12.mn.us, and click on the Facebook icon.

February Calendar

5	One Act Play Section Contest	
8	HS Site Base Meeting	7:15 am
14	HS Math Meet	
	HS P.I.E. Meeting	7:00 pm
14-18	Winterfest Week	
21	President's Day - NO SCHOOL	
22	HS Conferences	4:30-8 pm
28	School Board Meeting	7:00 pm

The 2011-2012 School Calendar is posted on the school website under "Calendars."

March Calendar

2	Red Cross Blood Drive (students & staff only)	
4	ACT Registration Deadline for April 9 test	
7	Instrumental Large Group Contest	
8	HS Site Base Meeting	7:15 am
14	HS Math Team Tournament	
	Choral Large Group Contest	
	HS P.I.E. Meeting	7:00 pm
21	HS Band Solo & Ensemble Performance Night	
25	End of 3rd Quarter	
28-April 1	Spring Break - NO SCHOOL	

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



Delano High School Phone: 763.972.3365
700 Elm Avenue East Fax: 763.972.6706
Delano, MN 55328 Website: www.delano.k12.mn.us