



Tiger Territory

Delano High School Newsletter April 2022

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Dates to remember

April

- 9.....DHS Prom,
Grand March at 5 p.m.
- 11.....HS PIE meeting, 6 p.m.
- 11...Schedule info mtg., 7:30 p.m.
- 12...Schedule info mtg., 6:30 p.m.
- 15.....Good Friday, no school
- 18.....School board listening
session, 7 p.m.

- 20.....Two-hour late start
- 20.....Summer job fair, 3-5 p.m.
- 24.....NHS Induction, 1 p.m.
- 29.....Spring musical, 7 p.m.
- 30.....Spring musical, 7 p.m.

May

- 4...Senior Awards Night, 7:30 p.m.
- 5.....Spring musical, 7 p.m.
- 6.....Spring musical, 7 p.m.
- 7.....Spring musical, 2 p.m.
- 9.....Conferences, 4-7 p.m.



Sobottka Photography

Freezin' for a reason

A total of 32 Delano High School students and staff members took part in the Cool School Polar Plunge in Minneapolis on March 4. The event helped raise money for Special Olympics of Minnesota and the unified basketball team. See Page 8 for more.

Succeeding amidst challenges

By Barry Voight
Principal

Greetings, DHS families. This edition of the newsletter finds us heading into the homestretch of the school year. Many others have stated this previously, but this has been a most challenging year – certainly the most challenging year I've experienced in my 19-year career.

The fact that our students and staff have continued to achieve at high levels despite these challenges is a testament to their dedication and effort. This is not to imply that we haven't made mistakes or stumbled a time or two. As educators we are fortunate to serve



Barry Voight

a supportive community, and the continued effort toward improvement, as observed daily in our students and staff,

continues to impress me.

Through The TIGER Way (Teamwork, Inclusion, Grit, Excellence and Respect), as shown by individuals and groups, our students and staff have achieved to date:

- State participants in wrestling, girls and boys swimming/diving, gymnastics, dance, nordic skiing, and boys and girls cross country.
- The boys basketball team won the coaches association Team Academic Championship.
- A record number of medalists at the state Science Olympiad competition.

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Science Olympiad soars at state

Delano finishes first in Small Schools Division

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Delano's Science Olympiad team took first place in the nine-team Small Schools Division at the state tournament on Saturday, March 5, at Bethel University.

The Tigers also finished seventh out of 31 teams overall, just behind Minnetonka and ahead of Bloomington Kennedy.

"I'm very proud of our team this season," said DHS science teacher and co-coach Karen Hohenstein. "We have finished well in the small school division in the past, but to finish in the top 10 overall against such large high schools is quite an accomplishment."

Those team results carried on a strong run at state in recent years, including a first-place finish in 2019 before COVID interruptions, and third-place finishes in 2018 and 2017.

Delano's medal winners included Zachary Hemmesch and Sydney Kazin (second place in Trajectory), Campbell Logan and Lexi Semeizer (second in Rocks & Minerals and third in Chemistry Lab), and Noah Hemmesch and Bryce Prior (third in Detector Building).

"Individually, team members have worked hard and it has paid off," said Hohenstein. "This is the first time in team history that we have earned medals in four different events at the state tournament."

About the program

A total of 35 Delano students took part in Science Olympiad this year, with participants splitting up into A, B and C teams. Only 15 students were allowed to compete at state.

"We didn't do it last year because of COVID, but the last few years before that we had some pretty big teams," said Stephen Schaack, DHS science teacher and co-coach along with



Delano finished first in the Small Schools Division, and seventh out of 31 teams overall at the state competition on Saturday, March 5.



Juniors Zachary Hemmesch and Sydney Kazin took second at state in the 'Trajectory' event.

Hohenstein. "This year most of our C team and some of our B team kids were freshmen trying it for the first time, and we had a lot of juniors who did it for the first time two years ago. So it's

a big team and a lot of kids are really excited about doing it."

In Science Olympiad students work with partners in a variety of events that encompass many branches of science. Some

events include tests on anatomy, rocks and minerals, chemistry and astronomy. There is also a "codebusters" event, "disease detective," "experimental design," "remote sensing," and "ping pong parachute."

At tournaments students can earn gold, silver and bronze medals for excelling in their categories. The season runs from November through March.

Second in trajectory

Juniors Zachary Hemmesch and Sydney Kazin entered the "Trajectory" event in which they had to build a contraption powered by elastic that would hurl a ball onto targets of different distances after it was triggered from at least 75 centimeters away.

To comply with those rules, the students modified one of the trebuchet launchers used by science students in Delano to power it with an elastic strap rather than weights, and to be triggered

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Science

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by a stick from the proper distance. Their objective had simply been to save points by participating in the event rather than taking an automatic 0 by not having an entry.

"It will help our team score," said Kazin before the event.

"We just don't want to be dead last in that event, so we just put this together so we'd have something to compete with," said Hemmesch.

The pair ended up taking second place at state.

Both students said they joined Science Olympiad at the encouragement of their teachers, Schaack and Carley Spiese, who noticed their enthusiasm in regular science classes. Hemmesch said he most enjoys physics and engineering, while Kazin prefers other areas.

"I like science in general, more the biology and chemistry, but it's been kind of fun to build this and do something more hands-on," she said.

Water clock

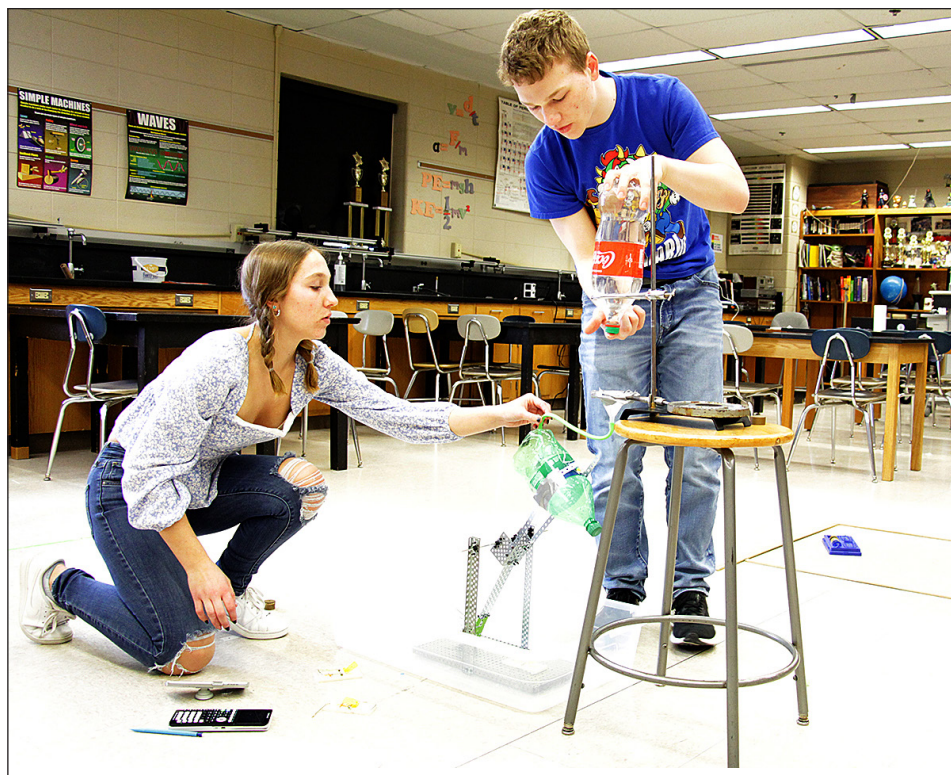
Another unique project undertaken by Delano students this year was the water clock built by juniors Evan Truman and Addie Persian for the "It's About Time" category. The event challenged students to create what was essentially a stop watch out of materials that are not normally used to keep time.

"You're given certain intervals of time, and it has to be able to time out that interval and then make an audible or visual signal at the end when it's done," said Persian. "But we can't use clocks ourselves, so what we've done is used weights and water."

The students created the device using two-liter bottles of water and regulating how quickly water flows between them, while using counterweights to keep an arm moving at the proper speed through an arc. At the end of the arc, the arm tripped a mouse trap.

"It's cool when it works, but it's finicky sometimes," said Persian. "We have good days and bad days."

Truman said he originally joined Science Olympiad as a freshman in the "codebusters" event.



Addie Persian and Evan Truman tune up their water clock prior to the state tournament.

"I chose that event because I really like solving puzzles, and it was really fun so I kept coming back. I had a lot more free time in ninth grade than I do now, but I got hooked then," he said with a laugh.

Before heading off to state Persian said the Delano students were looking forward to an in-person event after a season that consisted mostly of remote events due to COVID.

"This going to be a new experience, having to worry about (transporting all the materials), but it's going to be fun," she said.

Satellite tournaments

COVID concerns did mean that students usually competed from Delano High School rather than going to college campuses for tournaments as in past years.

"More than half the kids who did Science Olympiad this year have never actually competed in person," said Schaack. "A lot of the fun of competition is getting to go to a college campus and be there with 500 other high school kids doing a science tournament. They get to see that it's not just them, but

there are all these other kids who are doing this stuff and getting excited about science. It's just a fun experience."

But there were also some benefits to the remote "satellite" events. Delano students were able to participate in a number of tournaments based in other states, including Ohio and Wisconsin, over the course of the season.

"Everyone would come here on a Saturday and hang out for five or six hours," said Schaack, adding that tests were taken online and that video was taken of hands-on activities like the catapult or bridge building. Measurements and other tests were carefully recorded for submission and ranking against all other participating schools from around the country.

"Those were busy days, but they were fun," said Schaack. "We thought the kids might get sick of doing things that way, but we always fed them well and they always had a good time. And we had some of our highest scores overall that we've had in about 10 years, so that was great to see."

It's a good time to become a substitute

Have you ever thought about serving as a substitute teacher? Delano Public Schools is seeking substitutes to help cover gaps in staffing.

Teachers on Call is the agency that provides substitute

teachers in Delano. You can apply with Teachers on Call by visiting www.teachersoncall.com, or calling 952-346-1656.

Substitute teachers can:

- Choose their own schedule.

- Choose to work close to home or experience many different schools and districts.

- Find jobs through easy online job scheduling.

- Work short- or long-term positions.

- Explore a variety of classroom settings, from primary to secondary levels.

The hiring process is relatively simple, and free training is provided to new substitute teachers.

History Day projects advance to state

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Six research projects by eighth-graders from Delano High School have advanced to the State History Day competition after high performance in the virtual regional competition in late March.

The students in the accelerated language arts program conducted historical research and presented their findings via documentary videos, websites or exhibits during the local competition on Feb. 9. Of the 27 total projects presented by sixth-graders and eighth-graders in the local competition, 17 advanced to regional competition.

Overall, Delano students did quite well at regions, with 13 of the 17 projects qualifying for state, and an additional project earning an honorable mention award.

The theme for this year's projects is "Debate and Diplomacy: Success, Failures, Consequences." The virtual state competition will be held from mid-to-late April, with the award ceremony set for Sunday evening, May 1.

State qualifiers

Among eighth-graders, three projects advanced in the documentary category. They are:



State-bound History Day eighth-graders include, front from left, Luke Gilliland, Hayden Rue, Jack Hausladen, Andrew Bruett and Carter Van Beusekom. Standing, from left, are Kaia Georges, Eleanor Hajas, Rhett Bahe, Benjamyn Tellers, Alaina Schoepke and Allison Moen. Not pictured: Grayson Poppler and Anya Scandrett.

- "The Heart of Environmentalism: Earth Day," by Anya Scandrett.
- "Marathon Woman," by Allison Moen, Eleanor Hajas and Kaia Georges.
- "Pete Rose Gambling Scandal: Gambling His Career Away," by Andrew Bruett, Ben

Tellers and Carter Van Beusekom.

Another three projects advanced in the website category. They are:

- "Tiananmen Square Massacre: The Parade of Death," by Hayden Rue, Jack Hausladen and Luke Gilliland.

- "The Washington Summit of 1987," by Grayson Poppler and Rhett Bahe.

- "A Question of Life or Death: Capital Punishment and Mental Illness," by Alaina Schoepke.

Announcements

DHS to host summer job fair

DHS will host a summer job fair on Wednesday, April 20, from 3-5 p.m. in the commons. Students interested in summer employment should come and check out the local businesses that will be attending.

DHS administration will send a notice to students/families in advance with a list of participating businesses. Any business interested in participating should contact DHS principal Barry Voight at barry.voight@delanoschools.org.

Notify school of address changes

Moving? Changing schools? If your family is moving out of the school district, whether or not your students will continue attend-

ing Delano Public Schools next year, please notify the DES office at 763-972-6200, the DIS office at 763-972-7602, or the DHS office at 763-972-7601. This information is vital for class assignments and staffing needs for the 2022-23 school year.

Schedule redesign info sessions

Delano High School will host a pair of information sessions for parents and students about the redesigned DHS schedule that will take effect in the 2023-24 school year.

The first session will be at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 11, in the Delano High School Performing Arts Center. The second session will be at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12, in the DHS PAC.

All are welcome to come and hear about the new structure, how credit requirements will transition, and more.

COVID concerns ease as spring arrives

After some ups and downs throughout the school year, including a strong January surge, COVID cases among staff and students subsided considerably in February and March.

As a result, the school district paused its weekly case updates on March 17 after no new cases were reported over the previous week.

Local, state and federal mitigation measures have also been relaxed.

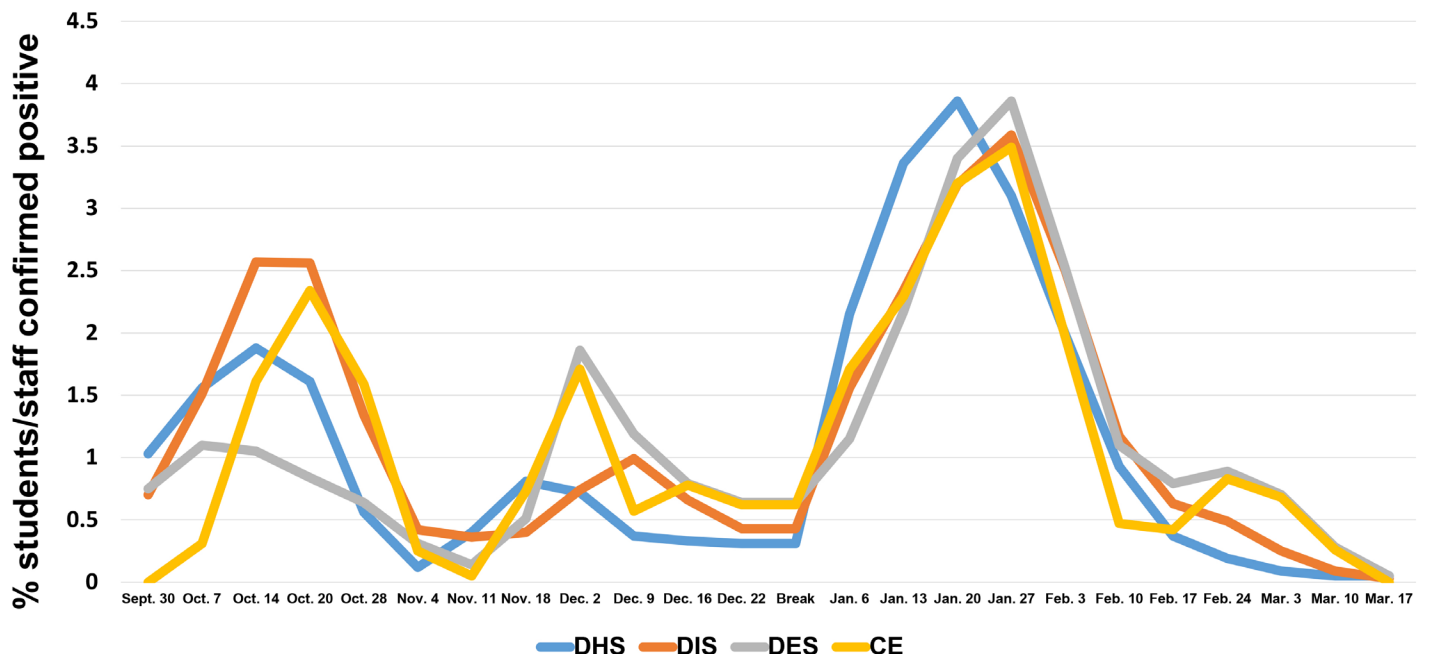
The trajectory of case rates in all four district buildings is shown in the graph at the bottom of this page. If there is a resumption of any significant COVID activity this spring the district may resume its weekly updates as needed, but for now staff and students are enjoying a return to more normal learning conditions.



March wellness

Delano High School recently announced its Wellness Students of the Month for March. These students were nominated by DHS staff for their contributions to school wellness in physical activity, mental health (kindness) or nutrition. Students honored are, top from left: Ellia Aebly, Josh Arens and Brielle Downey. In the second row, from left, are Maddie Ring and Alexa Tomlinson.

COVID cases 2021-22 (14-day case rate)





Academic champions

The boys basketball team has earned the Team Academic State Championship for all Class AAA schools in Minnesota. The announcement from the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Association was made on Monday, March 21. The team posted a collective GPA of 3.78, better than any other team in the section, and the best of all eight section leaders in Class AAA. Team members in the photo here include, front from left: Mason Henry, Jake Schultz, Trent Techam, Austin Kramp and Max Iversen. Middle, from left: Will Strandemo, Michael Krueger, Nathan Schneider and Sage Mullen. Back, from left: Derek Willems, Levi Farniok, Jackson Stewart, Aiden Monke and JJ Longstreet. Not pictured: Dominic Lucarelli, Jacob Maschino and Frankie Nau.

Voight

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- Student participation in All-State Orchestra.
- A National Merit Scholarship Finalist.

Academically, we've continued to make progress relative to grade-level and course benchmarks among our students. According to our most recent FAST assessments (grades 7-9) 81% of our students have demonstrated proficiency in math.

Likewise, 83% of students in grades 7-9 have shown proficiency with respect to reading skills. As an example of the degree to which our students push themselves, AP

courses at DHS have been taken by 211 students. Those students will take AP assessments for college credit in the coming months. Further, 523 students have embraced the challenge of College in the Schools coursework this year at DHS.

Programmatically, dedicated staff have served on a Schedule Redesign Task Force to propose a unifying schedule for all students and staff in grades 7-12. This schedule will be implemented in the 2023-24 school year. The completion of this project will enable DHS to expand opportunities and programs, flexibly adapt to changing student needs, and manage financial resources

more efficiently.

DHS staff have also partnered with staff from other buildings to begin implementation of a comprehensive Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) framework. This effort will have significant positive impacts on student success and achievement, as we'll be better positioned to target resources and support to those students who need it most.

While this year has been challenging, we've not rested on our laurels. The drive TOWARDS excellence is an attribute alive and well among the dedicated teachers and staff at DHS. We look forward to continued success!

Every Meal provides assistance with food

Delano Public Schools is fortunate to partner with Every Meal to offer a free weekly food program to all students.

Every Meal is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to fight child hunger through community and school partnerships. Every Meal strives to make a difference in children's lives by focusing on food gaps like weekends, school breaks and summer, when students can't receive food in school.

Details

- Free for all families.
- No enrollment qualifications.
- Students enrolled in the program will receive a bag of nutritious, nonperishable food each week.
- Every Meal does not collect information from families; privacy is protected.
- Families may enroll in the program anytime throughout the school year.
- Families may choose from a variety of different weekend meal bag options.

More info

For more information, or to sign up, contact your school social worker or counselor.

DES

Lisa Armstrong
Email: lisa.armstrong@delanoschools.org
763-972-6200

DIS

Nicole Gohman
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'Pav' steps down after Hall of Fame career

Coach finishes with fifth-most wins in state history

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

The man who led three generations of Delano football players onto the field, instilling in them the values of discipline and respect regardless of outcome – but winning two out of every three games along the way – is hanging up his whistle.

"I think I've still got a little spunk left in me, but it's just time to move on, said Merrill Pavlovich.

Over 46 years, "Pav" amassed 315 wins, the fifth-most in Minnesota high school history. He was inducted into the Minnesota Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 2011, and guided Delano teams to 15 conference titles and 12 state tournament appearances. He was also named Conference Coach of the Year nine times, and Section Coach of the Year nine times.

'I think I've got a little spunk left in me, but it's just time to move on.'

Merrill Pavlovich

"I'm not big on records and wins and losses. I've always viewed coaching football as something I've really enjoyed, something I look forward to," said Pavlovich, 74. "My rule of thumb was if I got up in the morning and I didn't want to go to practice, then I was hurting the program. In December I think that time arrived."

Former Delano Activities Director Mike Lindquist said Pavlovich was well known around the region and state for his success on the field, as well as his focus on his players.

"He bled orange and black," said Lindquist. "He had a reputation as a really good football coach and an advocate for student-athletes in Minnesota."



Merrill Pavlovich retired this winter after 46 years at the helm of the Delano football program. During that time he tallied the fifth-most wins in state high school history.



Pavlovich at his Hall of Fame induction in 2011. He is accompanied by long-time assistant coaches Rick Haley, left, and Greg Johnson.

'Pav was respect by fans and competitors alike as a hard-driving and formidable opponent.'

Ted May

Former Delano High School Principal Theodore May said that Pavlovich made the football field an extension of the classroom, where lessons were

taught beyond the realm of academics.

"Pav was respected by fans and competitors alike as a hard-driving and formidable

opponent," May said. "During his tenure at DHS, records were made, victory and defeat were growth opportunities, and proud traditions were established. Those traditions will now become inspirations for future students and athletes."

Football philosophy

Pavlovich preached sportsmanship toward opponents and teammates alike.

"He had high respect for the people he played against, and never ran up a score on anyone. I think other coaches really appreciated that," said longtime assistant coach Greg Johnson.

While Delano certainly has had some standout players over the years, Pavlovich said it was important not to lose sight of the team even when looking at individual records.

"I've never been big on statistics because your success is built around the team. It's not about you," said Pavlovich. "Nobody gets credit for the

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Cool School Plunge: freezing for inclusion

By Katie Zander
DHS Teacher

Inclusion week for Delano High School was Feb. 28-March 4. There were schoolwide dress-up days, a speaker, and various in-school events in support of inclusion and awareness.

Some supported inclusion in a different way, by "Freezing for Inclusion." On Friday, March 4, 32 students and staff members boarded a bus and headed to the Minneapolis Cool School Polar Plunge.

The event raises money for Special Olympics of Minnesota, and for school clubs or teams. The Cool School Polar Plunge rallies schools from around Minnesota to support inclusion by participating in the unique fundraiser.

Students and staff members register, then seek donations from family and friends in order to jump. With each amount raised, participants were able to earn some cool prizes the day of the event.

After a very successful fundraising effort and the accomplishment of a team goal, Delano participants ended the day by taking a leap into the freezing water of Bde Maka Ska



A total of 32 Delano students and staff members raised over \$5,000 through the Cool School Polar Plunge in Minneapolis on March 4.

Lake.

Together, Delano High School and Delano Unified Basketball Team raised \$5,142 this year. This is the highest amount Delano has raised for the Polar Plunge! Half of the money the students and staff raised will come back to support Delano's Unified Basketball team. A fun day was had by all!



Photos courtesy of Sobottka Photography



Kelly, Teig chosen for honor jazz band



Sophomore Ben Kelly, left, and senior Dylan Teig performed with honor jazz bands on March 5.

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Sophomore trombone player Ben Kelly and senior also saxophonist Dylan Teig represented Delano as members of honor jazz bands in Zimmerman on Saturday, March 5.

The event, organized by the Central Minnesota Band Directors Association, featured musicians chosen by a state jazz chairperson from a pool of nominees submitted by jazz directors.

"Directors nominate the very best jazz students they have and then the group is selected from those nominations," said Delano jazz band director Mike Dailey. "Around 20 schools typically send names in."

There were two ensembles,

one for students in grades nine and 10, and another for those in grades 11-12. Each ensemble consisted of about 20 students.

"Each student is one to a part, so they really need to be playing at a high level to succeed in a one-day event like this," said Dailey. "Dylan and Ben are two of our best. They are great leaders for our jazz program. Not only are they excellent musicians but they have a great attitude and are very dependable and active in both high school jazz bands."

Dailey said both students represented their school and jazz program well.

"I was excited they were chosen for the group and it was great to see them shine in a state-level honor jazz band," he said.

'Godspell,' spring musical, opens April 29

About 55 cast members, crew members and musicians are preparing Delano High School's spring musical, "Godspell."

Shows are at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, April 29-30, and on Thursday and Friday, May 5-6. A 2 p.m. matinee performance is scheduled for Saturday, May 7.

About the show

"Godspell" is a musical composed by Stephen Schwartz with the book by John-Michael Tebelak. It opened off Broadway in 1971, and returned to play on Broadway in 2011 and 2012. Delano students will perform the 2012 version.

The story centers on a group of young people from the streets of New York who are called together to create a community. Lessons are taught through the story of a charismatic person who comes upon a group of disparate people, all with different ideas and opinions, which prevent them from forming a supportive community.

Through the telling of

parables, acted out in hilarious vaudevillian skits and joyous music, the group begins to form a common bond and create a supportive and lasting community.

By sharing stories about living good lives and singing about love, joy, gratitude, judgment and redemption, the group of disparate individuals band together with a common purpose to face challenges and obstacles as they are tested along the way.

The purpose of the musical is to use what is familiar to the audience to help them connect with the material. Using jokes and pop culture references in the script helps to update parables from the Bible into modern times.

"Regardless of your religious stance, everyone can relate to the characters in the Prodigal Son parable, or be inspired by the passage, 'You are the Light of the World,' because we all need light, we all need each other and that's what this show is about," said Director Kerri Olson.

Delano Drama Presents

Godspell

Book by Stephen-Michael Tebelak
Music and New Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

April 29th, 30th
May 5th, 6th at 7:00
May 7th 2:00

Directed by Kerri Olson
Choreographed by Kate Foster
Musical Direction by Eric Conway & Jason Koets
Scenic & Lighting Design by Jack Neveaux

Reserve Tickets at delano.k12.mn.us

Tigers at state

Shortly before Spring Break DHS recognized its winter sports athletes who made it to state as individuals. They are, front from left: swimmers Kaden Georges, Joey Coyle, Nick Black and Gentry Nuytten. In the back, from left, are wrestler Cael Olson, swimmer Tyler Winter, and gymnasts Avery Lommel and Gabby Stoudt.



Pav

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kid who runs 70 yards except the kid who ran 70 yards. They don't see the blocks in front or the handoff."

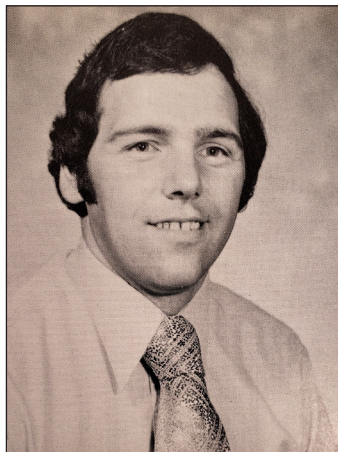
When students were on the fence about joining football, Pavlovich simply pointed out what a unique opportunity it was.

"You get to play 26-30 basketball games a year. You get eight football games," he said. "Every game in football is special. And a lot of sports can be lifelong activities. Well, you walk away from football and 99% of those kids never put a pad on again. That's the difference. I'd tell them, 'When you sit back in that rocking chair and you're my age, don't just sit there wishing you had tried it.'"

Coaching style

In all his years on the sidelines, Pavlovich never used a playbook.

"He had some formations he liked to use," said assistant coach Rick Haley, who ran the defense and patrolled the sidelines with Pavlovich for 42



Merrill Pavlovich

years. "We never had it really written down. The kids knew what the numbering system was, what the alignment was and what the terminology was."

How did the coaching staff get 11 players to move in concert without a common playbook for them to study?

"Rote memorization. It's no different than the classroom," said Pavlovich. "People will tell me 'Oh, he can't perform in the classroom.' Well, he sure knows our offense. That's always been my philosophy, that there's good in every kid and it's your job to find it."

How did Pavlovich get the most out of his athletes?

"I think he had that ability to put kids in the right spots," said former DHS teacher and longtime girls basketball coach Jerry Litfin. "He really had a knack for that, for bringing out the best in people."

Highlights

When asked about personal highlights, Pavlovich acknowledged his induction to the Minnesota Football Coaches Hall of Fame before pointing to the Butch Nash Awards honoring top assistant coaches that Johnson, Haley and Lindsay Wallace earned over the years.

"That was the strength of our program, the continuity we had in coaching and the expectations we had when we hit the field," said Pavlovich.

There were also many memorable games, including a second-place state finish in 2003 at the Metrodome. In another instance the Tigers played Holy Angels, a team that included future NFL star Larry Fitzgerald and Fitzgerald's brother, along with an individual who went on to quarterback Wisconsin for three years.

"I believe it was 1998 and nobody gave us a swinging chance against Holy Angels,"

Pavlovich said. "They had four Division I football players, and the 'farmers and hicks' rolled down to the cities, and we beat 'em. I felt good about our kids because we never backed off. We just played our game."

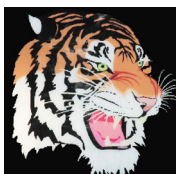
In general, Pavlovich said his lasting overall impression was that the Tigers could almost always give as good as they received.

"In those 46 years there weren't too many times I walked onto that field and didn't think we had a real good chance of winning," Pavlovich said. "That's the character of the kids from Delano. We had a chip on our shoulder. We were well respected."

As word spread of his retirement, Pavlovich said he received calls from a number of other coaches and around the state.

"Those make you feel good, but when it's all said and done it's about those kids," Pavlovich said. "It's not about me. It's about those kids."

• This is an abridged version of a feature story available at www.delano.k12.mn.us. See the district website for more.



This e-newsletter is published by District Communications Coordinator Paul Downer. Contact Paul at 763.972.3365, x1911, or paul.downer@delanoschools.org. For more information, see www.delano.k12.mn.us, or find Delano Public Schools on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

