



Tiger Territory

Delano High School Newsletter December 2022-January 2023

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Dates to remember

December

6.....Gr. 7-8 choir concert, 7 p.m.
12.....Conferences, 4 p.m.
12.....PIE meeting, 6 p.m.
12.....Registration mtg., 6 p.m.
18.....Jazzy Christmas, 4 p.m.
19..School board mtg., 5:45 p.m.
19.....Gr. 7-8 band concert, 7 p.m.
21.....Two-hour early release
22-31.....Winter break, no school

January

1-2.....Winter break, no school
3.....Classes resume
9.....PIE meeting, 6 p.m.
9.....Registration mtg., 7 p.m.
16.....MLK Jr. Day, no school
20.....End Quarter 2, early release
23.....Registration mtg., 7 p.m.



Second at state

The girls swimming and diving team took second place at the state meet on Sunday, Nov. 18. A total of 44 teams were represented in the Class A competition. Diver Avery Lommel also claimed the individual state championship. See more on Page 9.

Registering with a new schedule

By Barry Voight
Principal

The pace of the school year is hastening now that we find ourselves in December. Believe it or not, we are in the midst of preparing for student registration for courses to be taken next school year.

This is a big task in a normal school year, but even more so this year because DHS will be employing a new schedule for the 23-24 school year. It is my hope that this isn't news to any of you; however, now that the registration season is upon us, it is important for students and families to learn of the changes



Barry Voight

and what impacts they will have on their remaining high school experience.

Student registration will occur the first week of February but, due to the upcoming changes, we encourage students and families to gather information and do their research now.

To explain the changes in the simplest terms, all 7-12 students will now experience a six-period day rather than the four-period block that students in grades 9-12 are accustomed to. Further, all 7-12 students will operate over three trimesters rather than the current four quarters. This is called a 6x3 schedule, meaning

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Makela, others honored for leadership

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Each year Delano Public Schools staff members honor a few outstanding individuals with Leadership in Educational Excellence Awards.

On Nov. 2, DES physical education teacher Mollie Graham, DIS social worker Nicole Gohman, DHS language arts teacher Kellie Makela, and 2021-22 Delano Teacher of the Year Ashley Johnson, who teaches English Language Learners, received their awards at the regional award banquet in St. Cloud.

Graham and Makela will be featured in their respective building newsletters. A full feature about Johnson as the Teacher of the Year is available at <https://bit.ly/TeacheroftheYear22>.

Kellie Makela

Makela has 20 years of classroom experience, and is in her seventh year of teaching in Delano.

"My first two degrees were in child development and child psychology," Makela said. "I originally thought I wanted to work in research and therapy. As time went on, I realized that where I really wanted to be was in the classroom. I went back to college and started my teaching journey."

The transition has been a successful one, as Makela has emerged as a leader in the language arts department, Q-Comp, interventions and the process of making data-driven decisions, according to an



Delano educators receiving Leadership in Educational Excellence Awards on Nov. 2 included, from left, DIS social worker Nicole Gohman, English Language Learner Instructor Ashley Johnson, DHS language arts teacher Kellie Makela and DES physical educational instructor Mollie Graham.

anonymous nomination submitted on her behalf.

"She strives to create growth in every student she encounters and works tirelessly to find resources to meet each individual's needs," the nomination said. "Kellie is a valuable staff member not only due to her knowledge and use of data, but in the classroom as well. Her passion for creating meaningful units and incorporating technology in Communications Arts has allowed her students to collaborate and

learn in new and exciting ways."

The best teachers never stop developing themselves, and consistently sustain their enthusiasm for working with students. Makela said those things are part of what she enjoys most about her job.

"I enjoy learning and collaborating with teachers who also want to continuously grow, and I still get excited seeing my classroom full of students," she said.

Another successful drive to aid vets

The eighth annual clothing drive for veterans was a success.

The effort by school staff and families netted 350 new clothing items, and monetary donations were used to purchase winter boots for 10 female veterans who are undergoing treatment at the Eagles Healing Nest. The boots were purchased at the request of that facility's director.

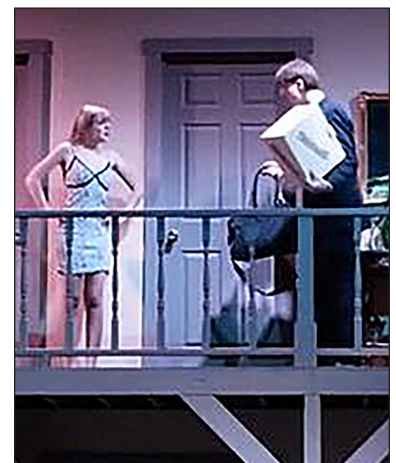
"On behalf of Delano Schools, I would like to thank the Delano community and staff for your continued support of our Annual New Clothing Drive," said drive coordinator Ginny Schuelke. "Thanks to your generosity, we will be supporting male and female veterans undergoing treatment and healing at the Eagles Healing Nest, as well as veterans receiving treatment at the St. Cloud and Minneapolis VA Hospitals. Donations will be delivered over the next two weeks."





'Noises Off'

The fall play, "Noises Off," provided "a behind-the-scenes look at a chaotic stage production populated with frenetic and unstable actors, a volatile director, and an overworked and overly emotional stage crew," according to director Jack Neveaux. Five shows were held between Nov. 11 and Nov. 19. The show included a cast of nine, two dozen crew members, and a rotating two-story set.



Voight

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students will have access to 18 credits per year rather than the 16 credits they are used to.

This schedule is the recommendation of our Schedule Redesign Task Force, a group of students, staff, and parents who have spent the better part of the last two years studying this impending change.

Benefits of the new schedule include increased flexibility of staffing to support students needs, improved budget efficiency, and expanded opportunities for students.

Important info sessions

With the new schedule coming, it will be very important for students and families of all grade levels to attend an informational session or two, to learn about new opportuni-

ties and requirements. We are excited to share information related to changes in course sequences (math and social studies) as well as changes to course offerings (study hall, senior privilege, student internships and altered graduation requirements).

In addition, we want families to be knowledgeable and prepared to take advantage of college credits during their high school career and make

students aware of their access to Wright Technical Center.

Mark your calendars to attend at least one of the following informational sessions:

- Monday, Dec. 12, at 6 p.m. in the PAC.
- Monday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. in the PAC.
- Monday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. in the PAC.
- Course Registration Help Session, 3 to 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 6, in the main office.

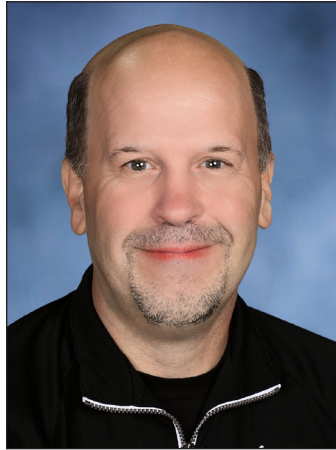
'THINK' before speaking or posting

By **Steve Schaubberger**
Assistant Principal

Greetings from Delano High School! I can't believe that December is here and one-third of the school year has been completed.

Winter activities are heating up, and there are many things to be thankful for this school year. We have a great staff and students! Now is the time for students to get active and involved in their interests and talents.

Again, I want to bring to your attention the need for all of us to have meaningful conversations with our students about proper use of social media posting, phone cameras and picture/video taking. The school student handbook prohibits students from using electronic devices to record (visual, audio, etc.) or take pictures of other students or staff without the consent of teachers, students and administration. One of the challenges that I pose to



Steve Schaubberger

students is to THINK before speaking or posting on social media. The guiding principles to this self-reflection are from a acronym that I saw back in the middle school years ago:

T = Is it true? Avoid spreading rumors. Words matter!

H = Is it helpful? Help others. Be kind!

I = Is it inspiring? Build people up with positive feedback!

N = Is it necessary? When in doubt, ask for help from an

adult, staff member or administrator!

K = Is it kind? Praise goes a long way in making someone's day!

Nutrition is key

Also, as we transition into the second quarter, I'd like to challenge, encourage and educate our students and families about one of the important parts of our district wellness policy: Nutrition Promotion and Education.

As you may know already, our school complies with the nutritional requirements of the Federal School Lunch Program. We are also working tirelessly to improve and meet SMART Snack guidelines in competitive food and beverages (vending machines, fundraisers and after-school snacks) made available to students in the school.

However, we also ask for your help in discussing with your students what foods and beverages they should bring

to school for their bag lunch, classroom celebration treats and snacks. We encourage families to talk about nutritionally balanced and healthy choices.

Try to challenge your students to think out of the box and try new items. It is so important to work together as a consistent team so our students understand that the sooner they make independent and healthier choices, the better it will impact their health in the long run.

The web address below is a fun way to see if a snack meets the smart snack guidelines. You will need to enter the "per serving" information from the packaged food. See the Smart Snack Calculator at <https://foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org/calculator>.

Thank you for allowing us to serve your students. It is an exciting time to be a Delano student, educator, parent and community member!

Record DASA scholarships this year

Student support organization seeking new members

Delano Area Scholarship Association (DASA), formally known as Dollars for Scholars, is a well-established, volunteer-run organization that provides scholarships to Delano High School seniors for post-secondary education.

Since 1986 this group has awarded over \$1 million dollars in scholarships to students that have participated in our program.

The scholarship money is raised through a combination of efforts between student fundraising activities and generous donations from Delano community businesses and private individuals.

This year, a record 69 students have started the process of qualifying for a scholarship



The Delano Area Scholarship Association is seeking new members to help students continue their schooling.

by taking part in our fundraising. Later this spring, each student will complete an application highlighting their school, community and work

activities. Applications will be reviewed anonymously by the DASA committee and awarded scholarships at the DHS Senior Awards event in May.

The Delano Area Scholarship Association committee (DASA) is comprised of parents, teachers and local residents dedicated to helping students fund their post-secondary education. Many of our current members have served over 15 years with this organization. Due to this longevity, the DASA committee has become a highly successful, well-organized program.

DASA is currently seeking new members to replace outgoing members and lead this committee into the future. If you are interested in this rewarding and fulfilling opportunity, please contact us at delano.scholarship@gmail.com.

DHS holds annual Veterans Day event

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

The same sense of mission and purpose that led Nick Faus to join the Army after witnessing the Sept. 11 attacks as a high-schooler have carried through to his new career in education.

The first-year Associate Activities Director for Delano High School shared about his path to and from military service in a memorable address during the school's annual Veterans Day program on Friday, Nov. 11.

In his speech, Faus recalled watching the terrorist attacks unfold on the television screens of his high school classrooms.

"As a 17-year-old I had never seen a tragedy of that magnitude on American soil," Faus told the assembly of students and local veterans. "The U.S. hadn't been attacked on the home front since Pearl

'That's what it means to be a veteran to me. It's not just my past, it's my future.'

Nick Faus

Harbor. Something awoke in me that day. Something awoke in America that day – something that had been dormant since 1945 when the Second World War ended. What came alive that day could only be described as true patriotism. ... It wasn't 'patriotism' for self-benefit, for show. For the first time in a long time, we were united. We all stood together."

Faus had intended to join the military after high school, following in the steps of several family members, but felt he couldn't pass up an opportunity that he was given to play college football.

However, "within a week



Associate Activities Director Nick Faus shared about his experiences in Iraq as the keynote speaker.

of being at fall camp, I knew I made a mistake. I knew I wasn't in the right place. I knew I had answered the wrong call," Faus said.

After a period of soul searching, he determined it wasn't too late and joined the Army in 2004, shortly after the Iraq war began in 2003.

"It was about serving my country. It was about protecting those I cared about," Faus said.

After arriving in Iraq, Faus

and the 630th Military Police Company conducted combat patrols and trained the Iraqi Army and police.

"During the night, some of those same people were attacking our bases and patrols," Faus said. "When we drove through a neighborhood we didn't know who was or wasn't the enemy."

Indelible experiences

Faus said that while time has passed, the experiences of

combat created indelible marks in his life.

"I saw and heard things I can never put away. I can push them back, but they are always there, waiting," Faus said, explaining that certain sounds still cause him to freeze up – a visceral reaction to intense memories.

"There are nights that I still lie awake in bed and ask myself, did you deserve to come home?" Faus said. "I lost amazing people over there, people who I considered more important than myself. People I couldn't protect. People I loved. I have learned to keep moving forward, even when it's hard. I have learned that while that part of my life is over, I still live it every day."

Past and future

While the memories remain, Faus has found new direction in his educational career, channeling his ongoing desire to serve towards benefiting students and his community.

"Now I have all of you," he said. "I have a new team and squad, a new platoon and company."

In some ways, the work of providing opportunities and celebrating successes has been fulfilling in the same ways as his military service.

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American Legion Scholarship essay winners were, from left, Cody Lambert, Greta Persian and Katelin Weber. Lambert read his essay during the ceremony.



Athletes sign with colleges

Six DHS student-athletes signed National Letters of Intent on Wednesday, Nov. 9, to play on at the college level in locations across the country. They are, from left: Cade Bruett (University of Minnesota, baseball), Emma Kern (University of Texas, swimming), Kylah Link (University of Wisconsin-River Falls, lacrosse), Abby Menk (University of Colorado Pueblo, soccer), Corbyn Menz (Northern State University, volleyball), and AJ Rasmussen (Washington State, baseball).

Muckenhirn honored with ESSA recognition

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

In recognition of her outstanding work with students and staff, former DHS paraprofessional Kim Muckenhirn has received an Educational Support Staff Award.

Muckenhirn was nominated for the honor last spring, and ESSA winners from elsewhere around the district received the awards at a regional banquet in November.

Other local winners included DIS paraprofessional Joelle Strandquist, DHS paraprofessional Kim Muckenhirn, and bus driver Janet Berzins. Each individual will be featured in their respective school newsletter.

Muckenhirn worked at Delano Public Schools from 2008-2022.

An anonymous nomination submitted on her behalf last spring praised her steady approach and overall contributions to creating a quality learning environment.

"Kim is consistent, patient, supportive and encouraging to students," the nomination said. "She helps so much to keep the classroom environment positive and flowing well."



Kim Muckenhirn

Veterans

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"I still get to place others before myself. Your successes as students, coaches, teachers and a community are my successes," Faus said. "I get to celebrate all of you in everything you achieve and lift you up, the best I can, when you need it. That's what it means to be a veteran to me. It's not just my past, it's my future."

Program highlights

The program opened with a presentation of the flag by members of the Delano Legion Post 377 Color Guard, and Delano Legion Commander Paul Hoiland served as the emcee.

Members of the "Sound Revolution" vocal ensemble

sang the Star Spangled Banner, and the DHS Wind Ensemble played "Marches of the Armed Forces" to honor all those who served in the different branches of the military. Trumpet player Vincent Vanderheiden played "Taps."

During the ceremony three students were honored as American Legion scholarship essay winners: Cody Lambert, Greta Persian and Katelin Weber. Lambert read his essay addressing the topic "What does patriotism mean in 21st Century America?" contrasting the actions of those who broke into the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021 with true patriotism.

"To be patriotic does not mean to turn your back on the country and turn your back on those people who oppose your beliefs," Lambert said.

"To be patriotic is, instead, to

stand by your fellow Americans through thick and thin, and we need to start defining it as such. All of us, your neighbors, your friends, and even your enemies make up America.

"Despite the countless categories we have to describe ourselves – political affiliation, race, gender and the infinite other categories – we can place all of us into one, and that is American. And as Americans, it is our duty to our fellowship, to our country, to be loyal to one another by respecting each other's beliefs and differences and supporting each other despite them. It is only by expressing this loyalty with unyielding courage and resolution that we will restore the true meaning of patriotism."

See more on the Delano Public Schools Facebook page.

Speaker emphasizes kindness

Personal story shows the difference one can make

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Guest speaker Jonathan Friesen visited Delano High School on Wednesday, Nov. 16, to present his "Make Them Visible" talk to students in grades 7-12.

The award-winning young adult author, international speaker, storyteller and educator shared about his journey with Tourette syndrome and epilepsy, and how every person asks two questions: "Does anybody see me?" and "Does anybody like what they see?"

"You have words that you can say that give life to each other," Friesen said. "We all have a light. Someone else needs to see it."

Friesen explained that his medical conditions, which developed when he was 6 years old, mostly went unnoticed during his elementary years,

'You have words that you can say that give life to each other. We all have a light. Someone else needs to see it.'

Jonathan Friesen

but worsened and made him an outcast by seventh grade.

"I was twitching and shaking all the time," he said. "(School) wasn't a happy place."

After suffering a severe seizure in front of his classmates, Friesen finally gave up trying to fit in.

"I thought, 'I am a freak. Who is going to want to spend time with me?'" he said. "I went back to school the next day and there was nobody."

He spent most of the next two years shut in his bedroom



Students talked with guest speaker Jonathan Friesen after his presentation at Delano High School on Wednesday, Nov. 16.



Friesen said every person asks two questions: "Does anyone see me?" and "Does anyone like what they see?" Giving someone affirmation in those areas, he said, can make a world of difference.

at home, until a girl came to visit him.

"She just talked to me and smiled at me. I said not one word," Friesen said. "Then she got up and left, but she didn't go alone. It was like she sucked

something out of the room. It was that hate I had for myself."

He gradually returned to school and managed to graduate high school and college before becoming a special education teacher.

"One person, one human being, made me visible," he said.

He explained that everyone asks those two questions mentioned above in their own way, whether through social media posts or other methods of presenting themselves. He added that he also spoken in prisons, where inmates have been desperate to share their life stories with him because "they are in the most invisible place on earth."

"If those guys needed to unload, tough as they were, I'm guessing you do to," Friesen told the audience. "I hope you have a lot of people in your life who can help you unload. I hope you have parents and friends and siblings. And you have each other."

He encouraged students to reach out to those around them, no matter how different, and show life-giving kindness.

"I don't know how much time you have with each other," he said, referring to graduation. "Some of you may only have one more year. You have the words. Seems like a nice time to say them."



Students of the month

Delano High School recently honored its Students of the Month for November. They were recognized for outstanding attitude, effort, energy and dedication in the areas of the TIGER Way: Teamwork, Inclusion, Grit, Excellence and Respect. Those honored included, front from left, Niccole McClay (grit, excellence) and Adrianna Esler (teamwork, grit). In the second row, from left, are Addison Owens (wellness), Cristian Matsuda (excellence, respect), Kylie Corbin (wellness) and Isaac Jaunich (respect). In the back row, from left, are Abbie Pietila (grit, excellence), Mya Tellers (excellence), Jack Hohenstein (excellence), Owen Gerling (teamwork, inclusion, grit, excellence, respect, wellness) and Cody Lambert (excellence). Not pictured are Ellia Aebly (inclusion, grit, respect), and Brody Roers (excellence, respect).

Buddies hold bowling bash

By Addie Persian
Best Buddies Journalist

Best Buddies' December event took place at Huikko's Bowling Center during the first weekend of the month.

Huikko's is very involved in Delano's chapter of Best Buddies and generously donated to allow for this fun-filled day. They kindly allotted the Best Buddies group an hour of bowling and provided funds on arcade cards. Their generous support is very much appreciated.

The day commenced with an hour of bowling, and the buddies enjoyed playing themed games such as "Angry Birds." Many strikes, along with laughs, were had!

Everyone then headed for

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Members of the Delano High School Best Buddies chapter, which connects students with and without disabilities, enjoyed a day of bowling and arcade games at Huikko's Bowling Center last weekend.

Farm to School program highlights local food

Intensity, First Kiss, Zestar and Honeycrisp! Each of these unique, Minnesota-grown apples made an appearance in the Delano schools cafeterias in October, in celebration of National Farm to School Month.

All of the apples were supplied by local growers: Knapton's in Greenfield, Yellow Dog in Delano and Gilchrist Orchard in Buffalo.

Now, as we move into the winter months, school meals will feature hot dogs from local beef producers at Thousand Hills Cattle Company. Watch for these on an upcoming menu!

Finally, the food service team is excited to prepare a special meal on Tuesday, Dec. 20, featuring roasted turkey from Ferndale Market in Cannon Falls.

We have been able to highlight these great local products in our menus thanks to a grant we received from the Minnesota Farm to School program. Farm to School, run by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, connects students to our regional farmers by serving locally grown foods in school meals and teaching students about local agriculture.

We have applied for additional grant funding for 2023 and are excited to feature even more locally grown items on future menus. Stay tuned for more delicious details in the coming months! In the meantime, check out Farm to School in Minnesota to learn more (<https://extension.umn.edu/about-farm-school/farm-school-minnesota>), and be sure to ask your kids what they had for lunch!



DHS students and staff gathered in the hallways to send off the swim and dive team with cheers, a pep band and a few speeches in the commons on Thursday, Nov. 17.

Divers take second at state Lommel claims Class A diving title

Delano's swimming and diving team claimed one individual championship and a second-place trophy at the state Class A swim and dive meet Nov. 16-18.

An otherworldly performance by Visitation earned that team the state title with 397 points. The Tigers finished with 194.5 points, ahead of Mound Westonka-Holy Family (168), Orono (122.5) and Blake School (113).

A total of 44 teams were represented at the meet. Other local teams included No. 13 Monticello (68 points) and No. 14 Waconia (61 points).

In diving, Delano senior Avery Lommel stood above the rest of the 16-individual field with a score of 20 points. The second-place diver scored a 17. No more than a single point separated divers 2-8, but Lommel was the clear favorite with a three-point margin of victory.

Other team accomplishments this year included 11 all-conference individuals, 13 state qualifiers (10 swimmers and three divers), and an undefeated season for the conference championship, as well as the Section 3A championship.



Avery Lommel was a standout winner in the diving competition, with a greater margin of separation than any other individual divers.

Tip line available to aid safety in school

Last school year Delano Public Schools established the Safe Schools Tip Line to help students, families and staff members maintain a safe learning environment.

The tip line, which consists of an orange button on the home page of the district website, streamlines the reporting of suspicious or concerning activities and behavior.

Our staff work vigilantly to provide help and support whenever concerns are raised about student safety, including bullying, harassment, self-harm, or other threats. We recognize, however, that there may be times when concerning behavior happens and we are not aware of it, whether it be outside of school hours or on social media.

We ask you, our students and families, to partner with us in monitoring concerning behavior that may impact the safety of our schools.

Incidents can be reported anonymously on this form by any staff member, student, family or community member.

We ask that any behaviors that seem suspicious or that are in direct violation of our school policies be reported using this form.

Building administrators will be immediately notified upon submission of the form so we can begin to get help to our students who may need it.

We thank you for your support of our students and schools.

Buddies

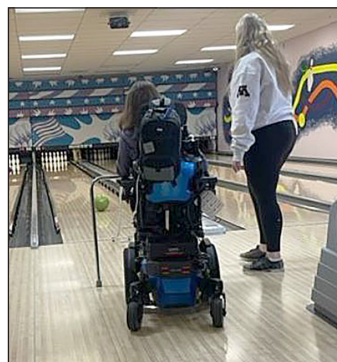
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the arcade to play claw games, skee ball, air hockey and more. The Buddies exchanged the tickets they earned from arcade games for various prizes, such as candy, bouncy balls, toys and more.

Best Buddies' next event is

coming up soon to celebrate the holidays! This event will include a holiday movie and cookie decorating on Tuesday, Dec. 20, from 3 to 5 p.m. We hope to see you there!

At right, Huikko's Bowling Center donated an hour of free bowling to Delano's Best Buddies students.



Boys fourth, girls 10th at state meet

Delano High School's cross country teams had a season to remember, as both captured conference and section titles and advanced to the state tournament.

The boys took fourth place in the 16-team Class 2A field, while the girls took 10th place out of 16 teams.

It was the first state appearance for the full boys team since 1995, while the girls were repeat contenders, having competed at state last year as well.

Mankato East (111 points) won the Class 2A boys title, while Rock Ridge (113), Big Lake (136), Delano (154) and Orono (157) rounded out the top five.

On the girls side, St. Paul Highland Park earned the championship with 79 points, and Delano scored 259.

Runners who scored for the boys team included Justin Zens



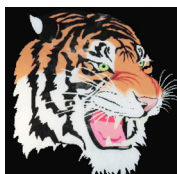
The Tigers received a rousing send-off as they walked through the high school halls on Friday, Nov. 4, then captured fourth place and 10th place at state.

(16:37), Caden Zens (16:54), Drew Huotari (16:57), Carter Jostock (17:05) and Max Baker (17:20). Also running for Delano were Lincoln Morrisette and Henry Ulberg.

Runners scoring for the girls

included Erica Kazin (19:40), Mya Werner (20:02), Ava Werner (20:40), Sierra Ingle (21:17)

and Irene Eskola (21:42). Lila Ford and Alexis Zens also ran for the Tigers.



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.

