

# Tiger Territory

Delano High School Newsletter March 2019

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**Announcements** 

# Dates to remember

warcn	
7	lazz Festival, 9:45 a.m.
7	Jazz Concert, p.m.
11	HS PIE, 6 p.m
11-15	Spring Break
18	School board listening
	session, 7 p.m.
<b>25</b> Sc	hool board mtg., 7 p.m.
26	Take Note band and
	choir concert, 7 p.m.
April	
5	End of HS Quarter 3
6	DHS Prom

9.....Sci-Tech, noon to 3 p.m.



# State send-off

Students at Delano Elementary and Delano Intermediate cheered on the state-bound DHS hockey team with posters, chants, autograph requests and more on Tuesday, March 5. The team was scheduled to start its state tournament campaign against Greenway at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6, at Xcel Energy Center.

# Week added to third quarter

By Dr. Steven Heil Principal

Snow days, two-hour late starts and an early release have captivated our families, students and staff in Delano the past month. Looking ahead, March tends to bring a few days of similar weather.

There are a some courses at Delano High School that run by quarters or have their curriculum programmed out by quarter needs. To accommodate these classes and even out the amount of days per quarter, Delano High School will be



Dr. Steven Heil

adjusting third quarter by one week. The new end of the quarter, which means the end of third quarter grading, will be Friday, April 5.

This adjustment does take into account if we have additional snow days that are added to the end of the year when taken from third quarter.

#### Sheridan Story

Another program we are excited to offer at Delano High School is The Sheridan Story

See Heil Page 4



# **National Merit finalist**

After emerging as semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program last fall, DHS senior Gretchen Wuerger had already distinguished herself far beyond most of her peers around the United States. On Thursday, Feb. 14, she learned that she was a finalist. "It's a very big deal," said DHS Principal Steve Heil. "It's nice to have one of our students accomplish this. We have one or two almost every year, but a lot of schools will go many years before they have one. I'm proud of her. She's done a lot of hard work and it's paying off now." "It feels good. It's really exciting," said Wuerger. Scholarship winners will be announced in the spring. For more about Wuerger's National Merit accomplishments, see bit.ly/NMerit18.



John Fitzer

# Fitzer a state semifinalist

Last month's newsletter shared about how DHS Spanish Teacher John Fitzer was named Delano Teacher of the Year.

In late February Fitzer was named a semifinalist for Minnesota Teacher of the Year. A total of 40 semifinalists have been chosen out of 168 nominees. Finalists will be named in late March.

Congratulations, Señor Fitzer!

# First at state

Delano High School's Science Olympiad participants finished first out of 10 teams in the Small School Division at the state tournament, and 16th out of 33 teams overall, on Saturday, March 2.

Top 10 finishers at the event included: Lucius La-Fromboise and Colin Schrein (sixth in Circuit Lab and 10th in Designer Genes), Katlyn Drusch and Maddie Kurth (ninth in Disease Detectives), Lauren Kantrovich and Liliana Schroedl (eighth in Thermodynamics), and Gretchen Ness and Ethan Ring (eighth place in Write It, Do It).



Team members pictured here include, front from left, Naomi Thoelke, Katlyn Drusch, Maddie Kurth, Lauren Kantrovich, Amanda Stafford and Liliana Schroedl. In the back row, from left, are Lucius LaFromboise, Alex Mika, Gretchen Ness, Dylan Grengs, Ethan Ring, Matt Goebel, Colin Schrein and Caleb Schrein. Not pictured: Sara Hartley.

# Fifth Jazz Festival arrives March 7

Appearances by a variety of jazz bands, and a performance by professional jazz musicians, are slated for the Performing Arts Center Stage Thursday, March 7, at Delano High School.

Delano Public Schools will host its fifth annual Jazz Festival beginning at 9:45 a.m. This is a non-competitive event. The goal is for middle and high school jazz students to see bands from five different schools perform, and to have the chance to work with professional musicians.

The featured group this year is the "JazzMN Orchestra." The ensemble, the Twin Cities' premier professional jazz orchestra, performs a broad range of jazz repertoire spanning classic and contemporary styles, showcasing outstanding jazz musicians from throughout the region and featuring world-class guest artists.

Now 20 years old, the



JazzMN Orchestra will conduct clinics with students during the day, then perform a feature concert at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, in the Performing Arts Center.

JazzMN Orchestra has featured international jazz artists such as Bob Mintzer, Nicholas Payton, Rob McConnell, Gordon Goodwin, Paquito D'Rivera, Arturo Sandoval, Phil Woods, James Moody and Dave Weckl.

JazzMN will provide clinics

during the day and will hold a master class in the afternoon. The day will conclude with a JazzMN concert in the Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m.

This will be a high energy concert you don't want to miss! Tickets for the concert are \$10

for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. To purchase tickets in advance, contact Mike Dailey at Delano Intermediate School.

Performances by student ensembles during the day are also open to the public.

# Why make up school days? For now, last day is set for June 6

By Paul Downer Communications Coordinator

Many parents have wondered why Delano is planning to make up all of its school days canceled due to weather so far.

There has also been some confusion stemming from the governor's announcement that schools do not need to make up days.

So why are make-up days important to Delano Public Schools?

"The district has long maintained the philosophy that every student contact day is vitally important," said Superintendent Matt Schoen. "The instruction our teachers provide to students is the main reason Delano Public Schools has maintained educational

excellence and ranked among the top school districts in the state."

Schoen added that Delano is not content to meet minimum state requirements regarding instruction hours,

'Every day counts to provide a world-class education.'

Matt Schoen Superintendent

but will hold itself to a high standard.

"As educators, we all value the time we have with students in our classrooms," he said. "When our activities department cancels a game, there are immediate calls to reschedule it. We should value our academic days in the same way."

One day that will not be made up, due to highly unusual circumstances, is the Feb. 8 closure because of a heating problem in the high school. Staff members did report for work that day.

"Because this particular day was a very unique situation, the district decided to facilitate an alternative to a student make-up day. However, the district will continue to follow the school board-approved calendar and add student make-up days at the end of the school year due to additional closures, if necessary," said Schoen. "We feel that every day counts to provide a world-class education."

# Two days added to end of school year

After extreme weather resulted in the cancellation of four school days earlier this year, make-up days will be in effect. Dates when school was canceled included Jan. 29-31 and Feb. 20. See the article at left regarding the unique Feb. 8 closure.

Make-up days set before the beginning of the school year included Monday, Feb. 18, and Monday, April 22. In addition, two days have been added to the end of the school year, so class will be in session through Thursday, June 6.

Additional days will be added to the end of the school year, if necessary, during the remainder of the year.

## Students aid others through blood drive

By Paul Downer Communications Coordinator

Students at Delano High School turned out to donate blood on Wednesday, Feb. 13. A total of 92 students volunteered, and 67 total units were collected.

"A lot of these students, including me, hadn't done anything like this before," said junior Spencer Poll, who helped to organize the event along with junior Nathan Sladek and seniors Anna Blonigan and Lily Teig. "We've seen it done, but actually doing it was a completely new experience and a lot of people felt really good about it. It's a service project that potentially saves lives, and it was a lot of fun."

Senior Nathen O'Sullivan was one of the students who donated for the first time. He said he was looking forward to helping someone who might need it.

"I'm a little nervous, but it's exciting too," he said. "You only live once."

Guidance counselor Susan



Senior Nathen O'Sullivan donated blood for the first time on Wednesday, Feb. 13.

Farbo has been the faculty member behind the event for the past several decades, and said it is a valuable experience for students who organize it and donate. Poll agreed.

"We've had people signing up for almost two weeks. Seeing fruits of your labor, all the people coming in, was great. It was a positive experience and I'd definitely do it again next year."



Junior Lizzie Bies was one of many donors.



There was strong turnout at the student-run event.

## Heil

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program. Ms. Servaty and Ms. Boleman have been working to bring this program to families who may need this type of service.

The Sheridan Story is a non-profit organization that provides free food for students over the weekend. Their focus

is to help fill in food "gaps" -- the times when children are not at school to access meal programs. Students participating in The Sheridan Story program will receive a bag of food that will be discreetly placed in their locker every Friday before leaving school.

If you are interested in participating in The Sheridan Story program, please fill out the enrollment form at bit.ly/SheridanFood. You can also find

the link posted under the Guidance and Counseling webpage. If you would like a paper copy of the enrollment form please contact Elise Boleman or Lisa Servaty.

There is no criteria to participate in The Sheridan Story, and all information is kept confidential.

For information regarding the Sheridan Story please visit: www.thesheridanstory. org.

Have a great spring break.







# **Sharing history**

Eighth-graders presented research projects in a variety of formats on History Day, Feb. 21. Above left, Dylan McDonald shares his website about 'The Eradication of Smallpox.' Above right, Ashley Hebner, Emma Grover and Rachel Eskola present 'Louis Zamperini - A True American Hero.' At left, Sophi Herman and Zoe Anderson present 'Anne Frank and Her Diary.' This year projects focused on triumphs and tragedies in history. Regional and state competitions will follow for students who advance.

# Why does taking the MCAs matter?

By Shane Baughman Assistant Principal

As we bring the third quarter of the 2018-2019 school year to close, there are many things to celebrate in the realm of academics and extracurricular activities.

However, our work is not done. Beginning in the middle of April our high school students will take the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs). The MCAs offer students, parents, and staff the opportunity to utilize data to make well-rounded and informed curriculum and instruction decisions. They allow us to continuously improve and adjust to meet individual student needs during the high school experience and beyond.

At Delano High School, our team utilizes MCA data in various ways including, but



**Shane Baughman** 

not limited to, class placement, remedial programming, interventions and summer school identification. The assessments provide valuable information about the college and career readiness of each individual student with subject or grade level assessments. While the

MCAs are only one measurement of student achievement, they help us glean more information about our students, allowing our team to reflect, modify, and strengthen our curriculum and instructional practices.

Effective in the fall of 2018, legislation went into effect stating the Minnesota State System can use MCA scores to determine initial course placement at their schools. There is now a direct connection to MCA scores and college coursework; consequently, MCA data and scores could potentially be a cost-saving measure for students and families.

If a student scores high enough (meets or exceeds), demonstrating career and college readiness, he or she will not be put in a non-credit development course, as the student will have already demonstrated the necessary content and skills to place them in the college-level course.

This will be financially beneficial for families by alleviating payment for a non-credit course designed to prepare a student to take a general education course. Second, it increases the chances of a student graduating in a timely manner, thus saving time and money.

For more information, including a table identifying scores, coursework, and placement, please visit http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/About/mde070432. The Minnesota statute can be found at https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/120B.30.

As always, thank you for being an integral part of what makes Delano High School a truly special place!

# Pennies for Patients gears up again

By Paul Downer Communications Coordinator

After raising more than \$95,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society over the previous 15 years, Delano students began their 16th Pennies for Patients campaign on Monday, Feb. 11.

"It's really about you caring about something bigger than yourselves," DHS social studies teacher Marji Miller told students at a school-wide kickoff assembly Monday afternoon.

Miller knows firsthand the difference made by campaigns like Pennies for Patients, as her daughter was diagnosed with cancer at age 6. She also encouraged students to show support for those touched by cancer not just through monetary donations, but also through kindness, notes of support, gifts and other actions like donating blood.

Senior Alex Weed also spoke about his battle with cancer, humorously explaining how it wasn't all bad.

"I've used cancer to get out of many situations," he said. "'Alex, take out the trash.' I can't. I have cancer."

Weed has been cancer free for almost two years now, and thanked staff members for helping him catch up with his school work after missing large



Students participate in a relay race during the Pennies for Patients kick-off event on Feb. 11.

portions of his sophomore and junior years.

The assembly also included a relay race organized by the

'It's really about you caring about something bigger than yourselves.'

Marji Miller

Student Council in which cancer cells represented by brown balloons were replaced on the outline of a body by red and white balloons.

Pennies for Patients was a well-established tradition for the Delano Middle School Student Council, and is continuing this year for the full grade seven through 12 high school.

"This is something we've been doing since before many of you were born," staff coordinator Melody Soderberg said at the assembly.

The campaign was put on

hold during the week of March 4, and will resume after spring break. A variety of activities and fun events are planned. After raising a school record \$9,062 last year, Delano's goal for 2019 is to raise an even \$10,000.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society exists to "cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families."



Senior Alex Weed shares about his experiences with cancer during the kick-off on Feb. 11.



Staff and students paid to help cut senior Lucius La-Fromboise's hair and raise funds on Friday, March 1.

# Wrestlers are top academic team

Record four individuals win places at state tournament

By Paul Downer Communications Coordinator

The 2018-19 wrestling season was an unprecedented success for the Tigers.

For the first time in school history, the team had four individual place-winners at the state tournament. Edward Hajas took third place at 220 pounds, Carson Tschudi took fifth at 132, Tanner Kroells took fifth at 145 and Reier Sjomeling was sixth at 120 pounds. Delano had three individuals earn places at state in 2018 and 2017.

Even better, the Tigers were named the 2019 Class 2A Academic Team Champion by the Minnesota Wrestling Coaches Association. That means out of 96 wrestling programs in Class 2A, Delano posted the highest grade point average among the top 10 individuals on the section wrestling roster. It was



Delano was named the state's top academic team for Class 2A with a 3.83 GPA.

the first time Delano has ever achieved that honor.

"We've been up near the top a number of times, but haven't been first," said Delano head coach Jeff Olson. "This is just a really, really great group of kids who are great representatives of Delano student athletes. They do a great job in the classroom and in the athletic arena."

Delano's collective GPA was 3.83.

"In all my years, that's the highest we've ever had," said Olson.

Olson said coaches remind their wrestlers about the importance of time management and the priority of academics, and also check in with students who might need to put additional emphasis on their studies. He placed all credit for the achievement squarely on the students, however.

"It's indicative of just a phenomenal job done by our guys,"



## State celebration

Students at Delano Elementary and Delano Intermediate sent off the state-bound hockey team with chants, signs, high-fives and more as team members walked the halls on Tuesday, March 5. The first game against Greenway was set for Wednesday night.

# Swimmers finish 13th at state

The Delano-Watertown Boys Swimming and Diving team sent seven individuals to state last month, where they captured 13th place as a team.

State qualifiers included John Kenison, Bryce Borland, Colby Kern, Per Anderson, Nick Black, Joe Coyle and Gentry Nuytten.

The 400 freestyle relay (Ken-

ison, Borland, Black, Kern) had the top finish for Delano at the state meet, placing eighth with a time of 3:17.52.

Kern also took ninth in the 200 freestyle, and the 200 freestyle relay (Kern, Borland, Anderson, Kenison) finished 11th with a time of 1:31.12.

Compete results are at bit.ly/StateSwim19.

# Pinoniemi, Coons place on the beam

Delano gymnasts Leah Pinoniemi and Jennifer Coons competed at the state gymnastics meet on Saturday, Feb. 23, at the University of Minnesota. Pinoniemi, a junior, finished 30th overall on the beam in her first state appearance.

Coons, an eighth-grader, was 47th on the beam in her first appearance as well.

# Singers stand out in statewide auditions

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

A highly select group of singers from around the state gathered in Minneapolis for an honor choir experience on Thursday, Feb. 14, and three Delano choir students were among them.

About 1,000 students in grades nine and 10 auditioned for the American Choral Director Association's three ensembles, and only about 400 were chosen.

"The kids that choose to audition do a great job. It's always hard when they have to pick X amount of kids. So to get even three from our school is actually a really big deal," said DHS choir director Eric Conway.

It was not the first honor choir event for sophomore soprano Sydney Wuerger or freshman soprano Autumn Langdon, but freshman bass



From left, John Lahlum, Sydney Wuerger and Autumn Langdon participated in ACDA honor choirs on Feb. 14.

John Lahlum was new to the experience and said he was able to grow as a singer.

"We really learned a lot

of different details," he said.
"There were a lot of little things that I wouldn't have thought of too much before."

Wuerger said students were challenged to try various techniques in order to achieve the best possible sound, and that an open mind was needed.

"I think it's a really incredible experience because you're around other singers who are obviously quite talented because they made it through the audition process," she said. "And then you're working with this amazing director who goes above and beyond to make sure it's an incredible experience for everyone there."

Langdon agreed.

"It's a great place to make connections. You're in a choir with a bunch of people who enjoy being there and who are very talented," she said.

The groups rehearsed at Westminster Presbyterian Church during the day before performing an evening concert at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.



# Winter Activity Day continues

Seventh- and eighth-grade students participated in Winter Activity Day on Wednesday, Feb. 13. The middle school tradition carried on with students spending time at Powder Ridge in Kimball and the Mall of America.







# Awareness day continues to grow

By Paul Downer Communications Coordinator

A handful of students and staff members, with the aid of various community supporters, put on the fourth annual Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day at Delano High School on Thursday, Feb. 28.

Speaker Terrence Talley addressed all 7-12 students with a message about how they matter, how they can make a difference, and how they should never give up.

Fourteen students in the DHS COMPASS class (Character, Opportunity, Mentorship, Perseverance, Academics, Service and Success), along with advisors Marie Techam and Shallyn Tordeur, also organized a special walk-through area. Their stations educated students about mental health issues, provided resources and included fun activities like a "shred your worries," a temporary tattoo stop and a video collage of students making "I will" statements about how they can assist those struggling with depression or other mental illnesses.

"This year was a little bit different because I think that the school is kind of seeing a little bit more of what COMPASS does," said junior Emma Dahle. "It was cool to see how many students knew who we were, knew what we were about, and felt like they could come talk to us. I know a lot of students came to me yesterday, just wanting to talk about the day or needing comfort. It was really cool that we got to be that resource. The whole student body knew that we were there for them."

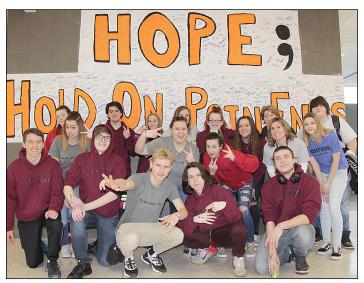
Senior Tori Nelson agreed that progress has been made over four years of the annual event.

"I think it was our best year so far," she said.

Tordeur said that was due in no small part to community support. Donations from the community covered the entire



Students sign a banner reading HOPE; Hold On Pain Ends, a theme for this year's Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day on Thursday, Feb. 28.



Members of the COMPASS class, who organized the event, pose with the completed banner.

cost of Talley's presentation, as well as some of the snacks passed out by students.

"I think the biggest thing is that this gets people talking in a healthy manner," said Tordeur. "It gets kids speaking out, and it helps kids not to be afraid to tell an adult when they're struggling."

#### **Presentation**

Talley gave three separate presentations to groups of seventh- and eighth-graders, freshmen and sophomores, and juniors and seniors. His message, illustrated with memorable stories, emphasized solidarity during difficult periods, reaching out to those struggling with various challenges, and perseverance.

Talley noted that suicide is the second-leading cause of death among the student-age population in the United States.

"It's students giving up on the hope of life. It doesn't have to be that way here," Talley said. "You can help someone have hope. My hope is that I can work myself out of job, that there will be more students in COMPASS and I won't need to come here anymore."

At one point, after sharing about the power of "dad hugs," he encouraged teachers and staff members to line the aisles and hug their students. It was a moment sophomore COM-PASS student Lexis Will said was one of the most powerful of the presentation.

"I feel like a lot of people needed that, and I think a lot of teachers needed that too," she said, adding that students and teachers alike were in tears.

Dahle agreed.

"It was crazy to see how impactful it was for the teachers too," she said. "I'm sure students think teachers are fine, but teachers go through a lot of the same things we go through. We have no idea. It was really cool to be able to relate in that way with your teachers and with the people you see every day."

Feedback from students and teachers was overwhelmingly positive.

"So many teachers came up to us and thanked us for putting the day on," said Techam. "Just going to the assembly and

> See Aware Page 12





# **Talent time**

The DHS talent show featured a staff rendition of "Bohemian Rhapsody," an impressive dance routine, a game by the Unified Basketball team, several memorable vocal solos and more on Friday, March 1.













WHEN: Monday, March 11, 2019 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

WHO: All students, parents, business partners and community members.

1405 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave NE Buffalo, MN 55313



Come for a hotdog, chips, beverage and a chance to win fabulous door prizes.

Questions about the Open House event, please call 763-682-4112.

The WRIGHT path for High School

## **Aware**

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listening to the speaker -- I think it was really important to have the students see that the teachers care and are there for them."

One story that was particularly meaningful to the seventh- and eighth-graders, according to junior COMPASS student Jaid Necas, was Talley's admonition for students to be themselves and not try to change to fit in with others.

"I think that one put in reality for a lot of kids that you have to be careful when you go out to do these parties with drugs and alcohol," he said. "If you're faking who you are to hang out with a certain group, that can cause problems and you have to be careful."

Talley also conducted an assembly open to the entire community later in the evening that included a faith-based message.

Organizing effort

COMPASS students worked hard to organize the day since the end of January, painting banners, taking photos for the video collage, setting up displays, designing memorabilia and more. The theme of the day was HOPE; Hold On, Pain Ends. The semicolon tattoos and the semicolon in the theme stand for a continuation where there could have been an ending.

"A huge part of the day is that we get to see our COM-PASS kids find their place in our school," said Techam. "When they're working to put this on, I think they just get a sense of belonging and that they matter here."

Tordeur said the sponsorships and messages of support from the community also made the day feel particularly fulfilling for the students.

"Every year it gets bigger and better, and I think that's because we get more support from outside the school," she said. "The community has been a great supporter of today. I think that is why it has had such great impact. It's not just the school and teachers saying 'This day matters,' but the community says, 'This day matters.' So all in all, it was an amazing day."

## **Announcements**

## Late starts planned for 2019-20

With the release of the 2019-20 school calendar have come a few questions regarding the two-hour late starts planned for the third Wednesday of each month. The late start will allow the district to implement a new literacy initiative.

Two common questions have arisen: What time will buses run on the late start days? And what happens to Zero Hour at the intermediate school?

On two-hour late start days buses will run two hours late as well, just as they currently do for weather delays. Child care options will be provided through Community Education programs like Tiger Kids Club. Additional information regarding logistics will be provided before the next school year.

At the intermediate school, Zero Hour will continue on the Wednesdays when there is not a two-hour late start.

### Help with senior breakfast

A brief informational meeting for those interested in helping with a breakfast brunch for graduating seniors will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, in the high school main commons.

Delano High School's Partners in Education (DHS PIE) will provide the brunch immediately following graduation rehearsal on Wednesday, May 29.

Anyone who would like to help with the event, should attend the meeting, or reach out to Erin Oldenburg at eoldenburg1118@gmail.com.

### County seeking foster families

Wright County is seeking foster families who will allow children experiencing difficult situations to remain in their school.

"We try to keep foster children in their current school district to allow for more stability in their already unstable lives," said Wright County Case Aide Valerie Steele. "We are trying to reach every community to help spread the word about the need of additional foster parents in each Wright County city."

Wright County has a pressing and ongoing need for foster families. All children need a safe home where people will nurture and respect them. Children enter foster care due to significant life factors, often including abuse or neglect. The overall goal of foster care is to provide children with a temporary, stable and caring family setting until they are reunited with their family or until a permanency plan is established for them.

If you would like more information about becoming a foster parent, contact Marisa Ferguson at 763-682-7484 or marisa.ferguson@co.wright.mn.us.

## School closing information

School may be closed for the day, started late or dismissed early due to weather conditions, emergencies, utility outages or other conditions that threaten the health and/or safety of our students and staff

Families will be notified by the school district's instant parent contact system for emergency school closings.

The following news media outlets will also be notified: WCCO 4 TV, KSTP 5 TV, KMSP 9 TV and KARE 11 TV.

Families are encouraged to have a plan in place for their students when emergency closings, late starts or early dismissals occur. Watch for calendar changes and possible make-up days due to school closings communicated via school publications, Skylert parent emails, phone calls, the district website and social media.

If you would like to receive a text message, you must set this option up in your family access account. Log into your account and on the left, click on Skylert. You can list your phone number under "Text Message Numbers" and check the categories for which you want this option applied. Then click "Save."



This e-newsletter is published by District Communications Coordinator Paul Downer.
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Delano High School is located at 700 Elm Avenue E. in Delano. For more information, see www.delano.k12.mn.us, or find Delano Public Schools on Facebook and Twitter.

