



# Tiger Territory

Delano High School Newsletter May 2019

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## Dates to remember

### May

1.....DHS Senior Awards Night

2-3.....Spring musical, 7 p.m.

4.....Spring musical, 1 p.m.

5.....NHS induction, 1 p.m.

6.....HS choir concert, 7:30 p.m.

7.....Gr. 7-8 choir concert, 7 p.m.

13.....HS PIE meeting, 6 p.m.

13.....HS band concert, 7:30 p.m.

14.....Gr. 7-8 band concert, 7 p.m.

20.....School board mtg., 7 p.m.

21.....School board listening session, 7 p.m.

24, 28.....Senior finals (full days)

29.....Graduation rehearsal

### June

2.....Graduation 1:30 p.m.

5-7.....Weather make-up days

6-7.....Finals days (half days)

See more events at  
[www.delanoschools.org](http://www.delanoschools.org)



## SciTech experience

Students had the opportunity to connect with a variety of businesses, colleges and other organizations during SciTech on April 9. Some of the visiting vendors had jobs or scholarships to offer, and others provided students with interview tips and more. It was the sixth year that the event has been held at DHS. See Page 3 for more.

## A new era at the high school

By Dr. Steven Heil  
Principal

The close of the school year ends a new chapter for Delano High School.

We were still under construction as we opened this year with a new 7-12 configuration of grades. As the school year went on, new parts of the building became available for our students and staff to use, mainly in the fine arts areas.

The end of construction for the high school should occur this summer, as locker room flooring is finished and safety



Dr. Steven Heil

upgrades are completed.

Speaking directly of school safety, a passion of mine, the high school has been working on a large safety initiative. This initiative will eventually encompass the entire district. We are designing a comprehensive plan, with advice from multiple law enforcement agencies, that incorporates best practices from many organizations, both educational and non-academic.

A large component of this plan is training, not only for

See Heil  
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Kelli Carroll's photo, left, and AJ Ragan's shot using a lens ball were both named 'Spotlight on the Arts Best in Show' at a Minnesota State High School League festival in Chaska last month.

# Artists stand out at Chaska Festival

**By Paul Downer**

Communications Coordinator

Amid a substantial list of successful art entries at the recent Minnesota State High School League Art Festival at Chaska, two from Delano stood out in the photography category.

Delano's 13 students at the festival collected 12 "superior" ratings and one "excellent," while seniors Kelli Carroll and AJ Ragan each took "Best in Show" honors for their striking photographs. Both photos will be displayed at the Perpich Center for the Arts, along with other Best in Show works from around the state, from 1 to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 11.

**'I like to make stuff ... that people have to think about.'**

**Kelli Carroll**

Carroll's work, titled "A Portrait of My Inner Demons," shows a flower held in front of the lower part of a face. The flower, hand and face all appear to be spattered with mud or dark paint.



**Kelli Carroll**

"I wanted to make something that when people look at it they kind of don't know what's going on, but when they read the title they're like, 'OK, I see,'" said Carroll. "It was a project in Mr. Cordes' digital photography class. We were supposed to emulate an artist. In my photography I really like using aspects of nature. So I thought it would be cool to take the ideas I got from this other photographer's work, and then my own nature ideas, and put them together."

Carroll took the photo of herself holding the flower using a self-timer in the basement of her home, and used acrylic paint as the covering.

"I like to take close-up



**AJ Ragan**

pictures of nature, and I like making surrealist artwork," said Carroll. "Basically exact opposites. I like to make stuff that's really cool to look at, and that people have to think about while they're looking at it."

**'It takes time. You have to trick the camera.'**

**AJ Ragan**

Ragan's shot, showing an upside down city skyline through a glass ball as snow falls, was titled "The Underground Tower." He said it was a product of the same artist emulation assign-

ment. The artist he was modeling had done a lot of work with a "lens ball," a perfect sphere made of glass.

"The glass ball does this really cool optical trick where, because of the internal reflections, it flips any image upside down," said Ragan.

He took the photo in Plymouth while traveling to his brother's house. With snow falling and city lights illuminating the scene, he pulled over on a bridge and quickly captured the moment. Although working with the lens ball could be difficult, Ragan had previously ironed out a number of issues in a long photo shoot focusing on a river and melting snow.

"It takes some time. You have to trick the camera into thinking the ball is a face, because then it will focus right there and not on anything else," he said.

## **Other Delano artists**

The other artists who contributed to Delano's strong showing at the festival included Graeson Quast, Magdalena Schaffer, Emma Rametta, Olivia Motley, Kristine Lewis, Autumn Trujillo, Margaret Goebel, Ella Jaunich, Adia La-Fromboise, MacKenzie Drews and Sam Kern.



# Trujillo chosen for MBDA honor band

Freshman Karson Trujillo participated in the Minnesota Band Directors Association State 9-10 Honor Band at Shakopee High School Saturday and Sunday, April 6-7.

Students rehearsed between 8:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday before a 2 p.m. concert on Sunday.

The Minnesota Band Directors Association sponsors two honor bands annually, one comprised of students in grades six through eight, and another comprised of students in grades nine and 10.

The MBDA Honor Bands provide the opportunity for select students from across the state of Minnesota to immerse themselves in an invigorating environment of music-making under the direction of a distinguished guest conductor.

Students were selected based on recorded auditions, which were evaluated by qualified music educators. While there was an emphasis on selecting the highest scoring students, instrumentation was also determined by the needs of the guest conductor and the music.



**Karson Trujillo**



**Students met with colleges and businesses during SciTech on Tuesday, April 9.**

## SciTech builds connections

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

From job and internship openings to fun activities and interview tips, Delano High School students had plenty of opportunities to benefit from the sixth annual SciTech event on Tuesday, April 9.

A total of 29 colleges, technical schools, businesses, military recruiters and more shared what their organizations had to offer.

"We had a lot of businesses show up with actual job offers for seniors. Colleges came back with the names of students they had talked to in past years, so we pulled some students

**'It opens up doors for our kids.'**

**Dr. Steve Heil**

for them to talk with again. That was a little different this year," said DHS Principal Dr. Steve Heil. "We're hoping to grow this where we have that good communication and help students make the connection to college and career. I knew it would take a few years to get to that point, and we're starting to see that now."



**Participants examine a virtual reality feature from Wright Tech during SciTech.**

As an example of the opportunities at the site, Heil pointed out that several students who had expressed interest in trades were connected with a construction business offering a three-week summer course in carpentry, plumbing and the electrical field.

"You spend three weeks of your summer, they teach you about it, and then you have a better idea if you'll like it or not. I think that's good," said Heil. "And they're not just looking for construction people. They're looking for business people and finance people.

They're looking for their whole businesses."

A pair of local businesses brought extra employees to help teach students what they look for during the interview process, "so it is becoming more educational for our kids too," said Heil.

While the size of the event was intentionally kept smaller over the past two years during school construction, Heil said he hopes to see SciTech expand in the years ahead.

"It's a good day," he said. "It opens up doors for our kids."



# East Coast tour a learning experience

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

In a four-day whirlwind, 26 Delano High School students in grades eight and nine visited the nation's capital and its largest city over spring break, soaking in plenty of history along the way.

The group was headed up by Delano teachers Ashley Johnson and Jill Gareis, and also included four adult chaperones. Students flew to Washington, D.C., on Saturday, March 9, took a train to New York City and returned on Wednesday, March 13.

## *The capital*

"In D.C. we visited pretty much every monument you can think of," said Johnson. "We went to the White House, the Lincoln Memorial, Mount Vernon, the Martin Luther King Jr. monument, the Capitol, the Air and Space Museum and the National Archives, where we saw the Declaration of Independence."

Other sites included the Holocaust Museum, the Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery, where students witnessed the ceremonial changing of the guard. The tours were facilitated by World Strides, so the group had a guide at all times to help explain what they were seeing.

"The students learned a lot. Even I learned a lot," said Johnson. "They gave us a lot of information so we weren't just going and looking at places, but we were understanding what it was all about."

Eighth-grader Londyn Juenke said the trip was her first flight on a plane, and that the East Coast experience has left a lasting impression.

"It's one thing to learn things in the classroom, but actually being there and seeing it yourself, you really retain it," she said.

Johnson said the visit to the Holocaust Museum, a general favorite among group mem-



**Students and chaperones who took the trip to Washington, D.C., and New York pose in Times Square.** Photo © GroupPhotos.com

bers, was well-timed because Delano eighth-graders had recently read "The Diary of Anne Frank." Student Justin Machakaire said the museum was a powerful learning experience.

"I thought I knew a lot about it, but I learned so much more," he said. "Sometimes just reading about it, it's hard to understand. But when you can see it you're able to find out more."

## *New York*

After 2.5 full days in the capital, the group boarded the Amtrak and took a four-hour trip to Penn Station in New York. In the first half day there, the group visited Chinatown and Little Italy, then went to the top of Rockefeller Center.

Another stop that made a particular impact, especially for the adults, was the 9-11 Memorial.

"Being in that museum was a whole other level of emotion because you remember exactly where you were when

it happened and seeing how your parents reacted, how the country reacted to this catastrophe," said Johnson, who was an elementary school student herself in 2001. "That was a huge learning opportunity, just a really good educational moment, even though it was extremely difficult and sad. I know the parents really had a hard time there."

"That museum was amazing," said eighth-grader Ava Peterson. "When you see it, it's easier to believe it actually happened."

"It was really interesting," said Machakaire. "There were a lot of parts from the actual incident."

While in New York the group stayed on Broadway and went to see the Broadway version of "The Lion King." Other activities included visits to Central Park and a ferry ride to the Statue of Liberty.

"We'd be up at 6 a.m. and have breakfast, and by 7 we were off," said Machakaire.

"We'd come back at like 10:30 every night. There wasn't a second that we were just sitting around doing nothing."

Aside from the lessons shared by the tour guide, Johnson said the entire experience helped students gain maturity, independence and confidence. Students who signed up for the expedition agreed.

"The trip in general made me feel like you can do things on your own," said Juenke. "You don't always have to have your parents with you. There are opportunities you can't turn down sometimes."

As for the site visits, a common theme was that the experience helped to augment much of what the students had learned about in the classroom.

"I would say students just get a really good perspective on the things they learn in their textbook," said Johnson. "It just makes things more real."





## Competing at Worlds

The Orange Crush Robotics team competed at the World competition in Detroit April 24-27, and finished 46th in its 68-team division with a 4-6 record. "Worlds was an incredible experience, a well-run event that had so much going on besides the competition that there was never a dull moment," said Coach Sue Duberstein. The team held the second and third ranking at times during play. "We went to a competition with some of the best teams FIRST has to offer and we competed at a high level," said Duberstein. "I cannot ask for anything more. I am very proud of this team!"

## Kern signs with Lewis to play lacrosse

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

Sam Kern has been a three-sport athlete at Delano High School, but the senior will focus on lacrosse when he hits the playing field next year.

Kern, who also played basketball and football for the Tigers this year, signed a letter of intent to play Division II lacrosse for Lewis University outside of Chicago on Wednesday, April 17.

"Sam has had a phenomenal career here," said Delano Activities Administrator Ryan Tool during the signing ceremony. "What's even better is the strong student and good citizen that he's been. So we're very excited for him to start his college career next year and be able to continue as an athlete at Lewis University."

Kern thanked his family and coaches for their support, and said he will be pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering with a minor in physics.

"I know this signing day is about my commitment to play lacrosse, but most importantly, I'm thankful for the opportuni-



**DHS senior Sam Kern signs a letter of intent to play Division II lacrosse at Lewis University near Chicago during a ceremony on Wednesday, April 17.**

ty to get this education at a top academic institution," he said.

Head Delano lacrosse coach Aaron Hagerdorn said Kern's productivity "has been second

to none" on the field, and that he was a key member of the team off of it as well.

"He's a natural leader. People follow him. He's a good person,

sets good examples, does what he's asked to do and helps guys along the way," said Hagerdorn.





## Third at state

The 7-9 Science Olympiad team placed third at state out of 20 teams in early April. "I thought our year went really well," said coach and DHS science teacher Carley Spiese. "Students put in a lot of hard work and it definitely paid off! I am very happy with placing third at state, especially since we were up against some really good teams. It just shows how dedicated our kids were this year, and I'm excited to see what we do next year."

## Survey feedback will provide guidance

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

Earlier this school year Delano Public Schools conducted a survey of students, staff and families to gather input about school climate and the strategic plan.

The Panorama survey was conducted from Nov. 19 through Dec. 7, 2018, and asked participants to weigh in on topics like student-staff relationships, perceptions about safety, student engagement, and more.

"We appreciate everyone who took the time to respond to this survey," said Superintendent Matt Schoen. "The feedback provided will help us make informed decisions regarding our strategic plan and our daily efforts toward continuous improvement."

Although certain segments of the school community have been surveyed periodically for specific purposes, it had been several years since a general district-wide survey was conducted. Similar surveys

**'The feedback provided will help us make informed decisions regarding our strategic plan and our daily efforts toward continuous improvement.'**

**Matt Schoen**

will take place in the future to give constituents a consistent opportunity to provide feedback and to allow the district to identify themes.

### ***Strong relationships***

About 92 percent of Delano students in grades 3-12 responded to the survey that asked questions related to school climate.

One highlight was that students generally feel they have good relationships with their teachers. In grades three through five, 78 percent of students said they had positive relationships. In grades six through 12, 82 percent of students said they felt respected by their teachers.

That rapport extended to teachers and families, with 71 percent of teachers reporting that they have positive relationships with the families of their students.

Parents and guardians also reported an extensive level of support for their students in the home, with more than 70 percent saying they talk with their children about class activities, help them understand content, know their child's friends well and help their children learn to do things for themselves.

### ***Safety and climate***

Delano students tend to feel safer in school than their peers around the nation.

Seventy-four percent of students in grades three through five responded favorably when asked if they felt safe at school, and 66 percent of students in grades six through 12 also replied favorably. Both numbers were about 10 percent higher than average national results.

Family responses were consistent with student safety perceptions, with 68 percent replying favorably.

In terms of overall school climate, about 75 percent of students in grades six through 12 said their school was characterized by positive or neutral energy rather than negative.

One key to positive energy, of course, is confident and competent staff members. Nearly 80 percent of teachers responded in a positive fashion to questions about perceptions of their own professional strengths and areas for growth.

### ***Areas to grow***

At all levels of the district,

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# Almquist earns 2019 Yale Book Award

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

On the way to earning her rank at the top of the junior class at Delano High School, Jennifer Almquist has learned the importance of responsibility and time management.

Another byproduct of her diligent academic effort arrived on Friday, April 26, when DHS Principal Steve Heil and counselor Susan Farbo awarded Almquist the Yale Book Award for 2019.

"It's really exciting," said Almquist. "I don't really know much about it, but I'm excited to learn more."

The award is given by the Yale Alumni Association of the Northwest to students who exhibit "outstanding personal character and intellectual promise."

"It is a big deal," said Farbo. "Yale strives to touch base with students who are the high flyers of high schools. Students who are first in the class are exceptional across the board. They take classes that are challenging -- CIS classes, AP classes. They are in leadership roles. That's just what comes with being first in the class, the expectation that you're the cream of the crop."

There is no scholarship or



**DHS Principal Dr. Steve Heil congratulates Jennifer Almquist on her Yale Book Award Friday, April 26.**

other financial benefit associated with the award, but Farbo said that recognition by "a college organization that is definitely elitist" is an accomplishment that should be celebrated. The Yale association reaches out to Farbo annually to choose a student from Delano who is worthy of the honor, and over about 20 years Farbo has consistently chosen the top student in the class for the reasons mentioned above.

This year's book is "The mystery of sleep: Why a good night's rest is vital to a better,

healthier life," written by Yale School of Medicine professor Meir Kryger. The topic is fitting for a busy student who has more than just academics on her schedule. When asked how she has achieved such success in school, Almquist said her formula is simple.

"Work hard, but the main thing is definitely time management," she said. "Without that things don't go very well. I'm also in competitive dance with Star Seekers, so I have to get my homework done in school or right after school. I

can't wait until midnight."

Almquist said her favorite subject in school is mathematics, and algebra in particular.

"I like solving problems and finding one answer that's right," she said. "The teachers have been good too. I had Mr. Shouts in ninth and 10th grade for math. They were really fun classes and made me love math."

Another teacher who has made a difference for Almquist is chemistry instructor Karen Hohenstein.

"She is a great good teacher who really cares for her students and helps them achieve their goals," said Almquist.

With another year of high school remaining before graduation, Almquist said she does not have any definite long-term plans. While she would like to pursue a major in math at a college yet to be determined, she doesn't have an associated career in mind.

In the meantime, she will serve as the executive council treasurer for National Honor Society next year and compete on the Math Team while also continuing with her competitive dancing through Star Seekers.

Almquist is the daughter of Ken and Rhonda Almquist of Delano.



## Students honored

Four students were honored at the Students of Excellence event hosted by Resource Training & Solutions in St. Cloud on April 24. From left are student Samson Streachek, DHS Principal Dr. Steve Heil, students Nicole Pupp and Gretchen Wuerger, DHS language arts teacher Jim VanCura, DHS math teacher Amanda Weinandt and DHS science teacher Karen Hohenstein.





## Musical visit

Cast and crew members of Delano High School's spring production, "High School Musical," stopped by the elementary to treat the youngsters to a preview of the show during their lunch hour on Friday, April 26. They performed a few scenes and a song, and mixed in with the younger students to chat. Their efforts to promote the show paid off, as each of the performances have featured large crowds in the PAC.







# Students of the Month

Delano High School recently named its March/April Students of the Month in various disciplines. Those honored included: Elica Ludwig (FACS), Ellie Smith (math), Emma Rametta (language arts), Elizabeth Hajas (art), Ashley Weed (Project Lead The Way), Edward Hajas (industrial tech), Blithe Zaun (world languages), Jake Stoudt (band), Brody Paul (choir), Trey Longstreet (science), Tanner Kroells (physical education), Max Harder (health), Jake Taylor (business), Abby VanBeusekom (social studies), Joseph Robert Colanino (CIS). Seventh- and eighth-grade students, at right, included Madison Kowal (math), Brayden Coppin (art), Cole Dokter (language arts), Mason Henry (physical education), Faith Tellers (social studies) and Drake Olson (science). In addition, Lucius LaFromboise was given the Tiger Way Award for his 'fundtastic' haircut.



## Survey

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school officials would like to see higher numbers in the area of student engagement. Survey questions asked students if they were excited about going to class and what they learned there, if they were excited to participate, and if they talked about ideas from their classes outside of class time.

In grades three through five, 54 percent of students responded favorably, but in grades six through 12 only 23 percent responded favorably.

"We are confident that increased staff collaboration and student data analysis will increase student engagement," said Director of Teaching and Learning Joe Vieau, adding that an ongoing shift in classroom instruction from an emphasis on lecture formats to class discussions, small group work and self-selected projects will foster more active learners.

Although few visitors to school events and activities such as Homecoming would question students' sense of belonging in grades six through 12, district officials also saw room for improvement there.

"We'll keep an eye on those numbers in future surveys, but in everyday observation there does seem to be a strong sense of school spirit," said Vieau.

### Strategic plan feedback

There were 206 responses from parents about how effective the four main pillars of the strategic plan have been: facilities: curriculum, professional development and technology.

In facilities, 89 percent either agreed or strongly agreed that the plan was working well, a positive sign as the district's largest ever building project came to completion.

In curriculum, 77 percent either agreed or strongly agreed that the plan was on target. In professional development, 80 percent agreed or strongly agreed, and in technology 86 percent either agreed or strongly agreed.

"We are pleased to see that our families believe our strategic plan has been effective since it was established in 2013," said Schoen. "We are currently updating the plan to create a roadmap for the next five years as we continue our pursuit of educational excellence."



# Heil

from Page 1

staff, but also for students and parents. Delano High School is open and has people in it from 5 a.m. to midnight almost every day of the week, and we need to think of school safety within this timeframe.

The high school will hold safety nights at the beginning of the school year. These nights are for communicating safety protocols for parents. Many of these protocols are universal and can be used wherever one is located.

## Graduation

Graduation is a month away.

It has been a fun school year. Many of the athletic teams have had a lot of success, as have the fall play, winter one act and spring musical. In addition, our group of students placed very well at the visual arts competition this spring -- also a Minnesota State High School League event.

The staff and I look forward

to a strong finish to the school year and wish all our spring activities success as they complete their seasons.

Also, a special wish of future success to our graduates. It has been a fun four years and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Have a fun and safe summer.

# Announcements

## *District earns finance award*

In recognition of its sound fiscal health and timely, accurate financial reporting, Delano Public Schools has received the School Finance Award from the Minnesota Department of Education.

Delano has been a regular recipient of the award, and MDE's School Finance Division announced its 2019 list of award winners for the previous fiscal year in April.

To qualify for the award, the district submitted its financial data in a timely manner and in compliance with state law, exhibited fiscal health in a variety of fund balance categories, and maintained accuracy in its financial reporting, completing the report with no errors.

## *Weather make-up days*

Extreme weather has resulted in the cancellation of five school days this year, and make-up days will be in effect. Dates when school was canceled due to weather included Jan. 29-31, Feb. 20 and April 11.

Make-up days set before the beginning of the school year included Monday, Feb. 18, and Monday, April 22. In addition, three days have been added to the end of the school year, so class will be in session through Friday, June 7.

Additional days will be added to the end of the school year, if necessary, during the remainder of the year. A sixth canceled day that will not be made up, due to highly unusual circumstances, is the Feb. 8 closure due to a heating problem in the high school. Staff members did report for work that day.

## *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 attending Delano Public Schools next year, please notify the DES office at 763-972-6200 for DES, 763-972-7602 for DIS, or 763-972-7601 for DHS. This information is vital for class assignments and staffing needs for the 2019-20 school year.

## *Watch year-end meal balances*

Beginning Tuesday, May 28, and continuing through the end of the year, students will not be allowed to purchase a lunch or breakfast if their meal account has a negative balance. Any unpaid lunch balances will be placed for collections.

Account deposits must be turned in to the office by 10 a.m. to be recorded by lunch time the same day. To check your current account balance, you can log in to Family Access on the Delano Public Schools website ([www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us)) and click on Food Service.

Contact Tracie Erickson with questions or concerns at 763.972.3365 ext. 1917 or [tracie.erickson@delanoschools.org](mailto:tracie.erickson@delanoschools.org).

## *Food assistance offered*

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](http://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](http://www.thesheridanstory.org).

## *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](mailto:marisa.ferguson@co.wright.mn.us).



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