



# Tiger Territory

*Delano High School Newsletter October 2020*



Liliana Schroedl has been named a Commended Scholar in the National Merit program. See Page 2.

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## Dates to remember

### October

12.....Conferences, 4-8 p.m.

14.....Conferences

15-16.....MEA, no school

19.....Virtual school board listening session, 7 p.m.

21.....Two-hour late start

21.....Unity Day

22.....Picture retakes, Team B

26.....Picture retakes, Team A

### November

1.....Daylight Saving Time ends

6.....End of first quarter

12-14, 19-20.....Fall play



## On the offensive

Delano soccer players had their Jordan opponents scrambling during a September win. Fall sports have been in flux this year thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, with football and volleyball just beginning while other teams are already in playoff mode.

## Navigating an unusual year

By Barry Voight  
Principal

Greetings, DHS families. First, on behalf of the DHS staff, I want to thank all of you for your flexibility and patience as our return to school has evolved. We know that you've all received countless emails with new updates and changes regarding all the procedures and activities that consume our day. It has been a challenge but we are working through it together.

I am so pleased by the level of compliance that our students are demonstrating with the mask policy and all the other changes. We know that none of this is fun, or preferred; our experiences this year are vastly



Barry Voight

different than what we had hoped for during our return to school.

Nevertheless, our students and staff are making the most

of it and I am humbled by our community's dedication and support for each other, and our students.

### Attendance

One of the challenges that warrants a reminder relates to our attendance procedures. While we offer distance learning for all, we must track attendance for those students who are supposed to be in the building on any given day. To be present, each student must either be live in class or live on the Google Meet.

Regardless of your student's attendance record for the day, we strongly encourage all of

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# Schroedl earns academic honors

## Senior named Commended Student in National Merit program

By Paul Downer

Communications Coordinator

Academic success is not new to Delano High School senior Liliana Schroedl, but she reached a new level of achievement last week when the National Merit Scholarship Program identified her as a Commended Student.

To qualify for that honor, Schroedl scored among the top 3 percent of roughly 1.5 million students nationally who took the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test last October.

"The National Merit Scholarship Program is a big deal for high schools all across the country. To receive a letter of commendation is certainly a valuable recognition of Liliana's accomplishments," said Delano High School Principal Barry Voight.

The top 50,000 scorers nationally are divided into 34,000 Commended Students and 16,000 semifinalists in the competition for National Merit scholarships. While in rare company, Commended Students do not move forward in the scholarship competition.

"Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," said a statement from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. "These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to



**Liliana Schroedl was among roughly the top 3 percent of 1.5 million student test scores on the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.**

the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will

**'These students represent a valuable national resource.'**

**National Merit Scholarship Corporation**

help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."

### *Scientific mindset*

Schroedl was surprised when Voight notified her of her success last week.

"I'm excited. I think this is a really cool thing and something that will definitely help for college applications," she said.

The senior said she did not have any notion that such an honor might be on the horizon as she took the test last fall.

"I had no idea," she said. "I don't think I felt particularly confident or not confident about the test. I was just kind of in the middle."

Schroedl's favorite subject is

school is science.

"I love chemistry and physical science the most, but I like all types of science," she said. "Those two are really interesting to learn about. There is a little bit more math to them, and I also enjoy math a lot. Doing different labs is really fun too."

Two Delano High School teachers who Schroedl has particularly appreciated over the years are science instructor Karen Hohenstein and Nathan Peterson in social studies.

"They're both really fun and make their classes enjoyable, and they also are just really good at teaching information in a way that I can understand," said Schroedl.

There is no particular secret to Schroedl's academic success, just straightforward hard work and studying, she said, adding that she makes a point of taking thorough, accurate notes to work from.

"That helps me a lot," she said.

Aside from class, Schroedl participates in Science Olympiad at Delano High School, and she also dances at a studio outside of school. Her future plans are not yet finalized.

"I definitely want to go to college, probably for chemistry at this point, and then I'll just see where that takes me," she said, explaining that she has not yet settled on which college she will attend.

Schroedl is the daughter of John and Brenda Schroedl of Delano.

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digging in to work together," said Voight.

Overall, Voight said the beginning of the year in a hybrid learning model has been a pleasant surprise, and

while some challenges related to technology and other issues remain, he credited the strong start to two main factors: the preparation of teachers and the compliance of students and families with new COVID restrictions.

"I think overall the start of the school year has been much

better than anybody had anticipated," Voight said. "I think that has a lot to do with the investment that our teachers made over the summer to troubleshoot and problem-solve, and if nothing else to just mentally prepare themselves for the craziness of this year."

"It's just been a pleasure

working with the new team. Everybody has been pretty open and accepting. I've been impressed by the compliance from this community and the efforts by the staff. They've really dug in and are doing their best to provide excellence, to the degree possible, in this return to school."



# School support

The Coborn's MORE School Rewards program netted \$1,207.17 for DHS over the past year. Here, Delano store director Joe Tipka, left, presents Principal Barry Voight a check for that amount. To participate, log into more Rewards.com and choose your school, then earn points by shopping Coborn's store brands. See moreRewards.com/school for more info.



## The show goes on Fall play, 'Jookalorum!' set to open in mid-November

Delano High School students will present their fall play, "Jookalorum!" next month.

Though indoor events have been limited so far this school year, the play has been given approval by the high school administration and will proceed in compliance with guidelines set by the Centers for the Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Health. Safety details can be found in the Performing Arts Center Preparedness Plan online at [bit.ly/DHSPay20](http://bit.ly/DHSPay20).

Shows will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 12-13 and Nov. 19-20, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 14.

### Introducing O. Henry

Jookalorum! is a singular sampling of sensational short stories from America's greatest short story writer, William Sidney Porter, better known as O. Henry (1862-1910).

When O. Henry coined the term Jookalorum! — meaning something special or spectacular — he probably never imagined it would be the perfect word to describe his stories and unique style of humor.

Readers love O. Henry's characteristic quick wit and surprise endings, along with the host of colorful characters in each story. Rivaling even his contemporary, Mark Twain, he was the most popular American short-story writer at the turn of the 20th century.

O. Henry's tales romanticized the commonplace — sometimes in the rustic West, but in particular the life of ordinary people in New

York City. His stories expressed the effect of coincidence on character through humor, grim or ironic.

### About the play

Audiences are invited to venture into the world of O. Henry through this entertaining collection of nine short stories artfully adapted for the stage. Several amusing narrators carry us through the stories as they lounge on lawn chairs by a pool on a lazy summer afternoon. Every audience member will be transported to different places and times, whisked away into various stories including "The Last Leaf," "The Ransom of Mack," and "The Pimienta Pancakes" as they come to life onstage.

The stage will change for each story, with simple props brought on to indicate each scene. The narration sequences take place on a summer afternoon in the present day, while the stories unfold in O. Henry's day, in the early 20th century.

"We at Delano Drama recognize these are unusual times and we want to assure participants, audience and the public that we will do our best to make the fall play safe, following state and federal COVID guidelines," said a press release from Delano Drama.

Event details could change if public health conditions warrant an adjustment. Find the Delano Drama Boosters on Facebook for more information, photos, videos, and more. Tickets will be available through the school website soon.

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our students to log in to the Classroom and/or Google Meet and participate virtually to the extent possible. Students who may not be feeling well or are otherwise absent may still be able to log in and keep the momentum of their learning going. We encourage all of our students to reach out to teachers, counselors, and/or administrators to help navigate and support their needs.

### Uncertainty ahead

Finally, there remains a tremendous amount of uncertainty with the year ahead. Please know that DHS staff will continue gathering and sifting through all available information to make the best decisions possible, knowing that our plans may have to pivot at a moment's notice.

It is our hope to provide the same, or similar, experiences that students and our community have become accustomed to over the years. School traditions are often those experiences that make DHS a special place and provide lifelong memories for our students.

To the extent possible, our efforts will be to ensure that these opportunities are not lost for our students during this tumultuous school year.

# Principal shuffle brings Voight to DHS

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

In addition to all the uncertainty that has accompanied the 2020-21 school year, a remarkable reality is that all three of Delano's K-12 school buildings are operating with new lead principals.

The fact that none of those principals are new to the district has allowed summer planning and the opening weeks of school to proceed as smoothly as could be expected, but the administrative shuffle was needed to replace two well-established lead principals who left the district this summer to become superintendents elsewhere.

Dr. Steve Heil notified the district in April that he would be leaving his position at Delano High School to take over the St. James school district at the end of June, and longtime Delano Elementary Principal Darren Schuler departed to lead the Watertown-Mayer district at the end of July.

Due to the difficulties of conducting a normal hiring process in the COVID-19 era, and the timing of Schuler's departure, both roles were filled

internally. Barry Voight has moved from the intermediate principal position to become the interim lead principal at the high school. District Director of Teaching and Learning Joe Vieau has become the interim principal at the intermediate school, and Greg Hinker has moved from the assistant principal to lead principal position at the elementary.

In addition, DES technology coordinator Paul Ludwig has moved into the elementary office to serve as dean of students.

## ***Voight moves to DHS***

Voight has shifted from the smaller intermediate building with more direct student involvement to the high school, where a more strategic mindset is needed to manage multiple layers.

"This is a much larger building and there are a lot more moving parts," Voight said. "Operationally, the staff is organized differently. At the intermediate school ... I could be much more directly involved with the day-to-day types of things, student and staff concerns, which was sort of nice. I had my hands in all

of it and it gave me an intimate understanding of everything that was going on.

"Here, with two assistant principals, an activities director and a larger office staff, I am less involved in the day-to-day things and it's more about strategic organization. It's more management-focused, which I think suits me to some degree."

**'I think overall the start of the school year has been much better than anybody had anticipated.'**

**Barry Voight**

Voight is now in his sixth year with Delano Public Schools, having previously served as the principal of Delano Middle School and Delano Intermediate School.

He began his career as a physical science teacher at Maple Grove Junior High, and his first administrative post came as the assistant principal at Rocori Middle School.

"My priority this year is just

to look, listen and learn," Voight said, adding that while he has worked in middle schools connected to high schools as an administrator, taking the helm of a high school is a new ballgame.

"I've always been on the sidelines of the high school, so I can sort of understand the game a little bit, but until you actually get in the game and play you don't really understand all the ins and outs," he said.

Initial challenges have included the necessity of immediately addressing the numerous obstacles posed by COVID-19 without the benefit of a normal introduction and adjustment process for staff members.

"There was so much anxiety already about what the school year looks like, what distance and hybrid learning look like, and then to have to adapt to a new principal with new expectations and new ways of doing business is obviously stressful on everybody. I didn't have a chance to really get to know people before we started

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## Announcements

### ***Every Meal covers food gaps***

Every Meal (formerly The Sheridan Story), a weekend food program, is available to DHS families this year. The non-profit's mission is to fight child hunger through community and school partnerships.

The organization strives to make a difference by focusing on food gaps -- the times when children aren't at school to access meal programs. Every Meal offers food over the weekends, summers and extended school breaks.

The program is free for all families, and no qualifications are required for enrollment. No information is collected for enrollment, and privacy is protected for participating families. Those interested can sign up at any time during the school year, and school staff will discreetly place food bags in students' lockers on Fridays during the school year.

Families can choose from a variety of food bags that contain nutritious, non-perishable food, including fruits, vegetables, proteins, grains and soups or entrees.

For more information, contact DHS counselors Katie Chandler at [katie.chandler@delanoschools.org](mailto:katie.chandler@delanoschools.org), or Elise Boleman at [boleman@delanoschools.org](mailto:boleman@delanoschools.org). A sign-up form is also available only at [bit.ly/SheridanDHS20](https://bit.ly/SheridanDHS20).

### ***Virtual conferences next week***

Conferences will be held virtually this year on Monday, Oct. 12, from 4 to 8 p.m. and Wednesday, Oct. 14, during the school day. Links to schedule conference appointments have or will be sent by each teacher. Please make an appointment with each teacher you wish to speak with on these days. Conferences will be held via Google Meet or telephone.

Students are expected to join their parents at virtual conferences, if possible. To facilitate increased access for parents, teachers will not host live class sessions with students on Wednesday.

Due to the pandemic and virtual nature of conferences, access is limited. As a result, please consider leaving conference appointments for others if your student is finding success within hybrid/distance learning in a particular class.



## Delano School Board Share feedback at listening sessions

Members of the Delano School Board host periodic "listening sessions" to discuss matters of interest with district residents.

The next listening session will occur virtually on Monday, Oct. 19, and will provide an opportunity to discuss matters related to the school year and COVID-19. Information on how to access the event will be provided as the date approaches.

Listening sessions are not formal meetings, and open

discussion about the designated topics is encouraged. Members of the public are welcome to share comments, questions and suggestions.

Two or three board members, along with appropriate school staff, attend each session to share information and hear feedback. No official action is taken at the sessions, but feedback is shared with the entire board to inform members as they make decisions going forward.



## New staff at DHS

High school staff members who are new to the district this fall include, from left, Mike Galos (special education), Katie Utne (special education) and Wyatt Russek (social studies).

## Veterans clothing drive begins Oct. 19

Delano Public Schools will conduct its annual clothing drive for veterans in need again this year.

The drive will begin on Monday, Oct. 19, and will end on Veterans Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11. All donated items must be newly purchased.

This year the Delano community will continue to support veterans who are hospitalized at the St. Cloud Veterans Affairs Hospital. In addition, proceeds will also support veterans who access emergency services or are hospitalized at the Minneapolis VA hospital, or who are in transition from the hospitals to independent living at the Hastings Veterans Home.

Both the St. Cloud and Minneapolis VA hospitals support veterans who seek emergency care or who are hospitalized. Many of these veterans may be experiencing homelessness.



**High school students organize hygiene items collected during last year's drive for veterans. This year only clothing items and winter gear are needed.**

Those who are admitted are typically hospitalized for 60 to 80 days. When they are well enough for discharge, either from the hospitals or emergency care, the hospital staff works to ensure that their basic needs are met.

The Hastings Veterans

Home serves approximately 120 veterans. Some of these veterans are transitioning from hospitalization/treatment to independent living, and the home serves as a half-way house to ensure that their needs continue to be met during the transition.

Please consider donating the following items.

**For men:** Socks, boxers (M-XL), undershirts (M-XL), pajama pants (large to 2X), T-shirts (M to 2X), sweatpants or sweatshirts (M-XL), jeans (waist 30-42, length 30-34), winter boots (size 9-14), slippers, winter coats, hats and gloves.

**For women:** Socks, underwear, pajamas, shirts, sweatpants, jeans of any size, slippers with rubber bottoms, and winter boots, hats and gloves.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, collected funds will be used to purchase the items of greatest need based on the request of each facility.

Make your check payable to Delano Public Schools, and note "veterans clothing drive" in the memo. Thank you in advance for your continued support of this project.



This e-newsletter is published by District Communications Coordinator Paul Downer. Contact Paul at 763.972.3365, x1911, or [paul.downer@delanoschools.org](mailto:paul.downer@delanoschools.org). Delano High School is located at 700 Elm Avenue E. in Delano. For more information, see [www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us), or find Delano Public Schools on Facebook and Twitter.

