

Delano Public Schools 2007-2008 Annual Report

on Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement



We are pleased to present the Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement for Delano Schools. The purpose of this report is to inform the public regarding the achievement levels and accomplishments of our students and the continuous improvement processes that are in place to assure that students are achieving to their maximum potential. Please review the publication and the accomplishments of Delano students, which also reflect positively on parents, staff and community.

Educational Excellence is our Foremost Goal!

Educational excellence is the focus statement at Delano Schools. We often measure our decisions by this statement to assure that we are on the course to educational excellence.

Delano students continue to score high on all measures of academic achievement. Last year's ACT composite score of 24 is the highest score Delano students have achieved. The state average was 22.6.

Delano Schools participate in Minnesota's Alternative Teacher Professional Pay System (Quality Compensation Program otherwise known as QComp). QComp provides for career advancement opportunities for teachers; teacher-led staff development; performance pay comprehensive teacher evaluation; and an alternative pay schedule. Delano students met the achievement test score goals tied to QComp in 2007-08.

Finances

While Delano students perform at high levels, the school district uses tax dollars efficiently. In fiscal year 2007, the latest year comparative data is available, Delano spent \$7,781 per student compared to the state average of \$9,364.

Elections

The school district held two elections in 2007-08. In November there were three questions on the ballot: 1) an operating levy for a new building, 2) a 4-6 building with a capacity of 625 students and property on which to place the building; and 3) physical education/athletic fields and community education building upgrades. In this election question one was passed.

In April another election was held with two questions on the ballot: 1) the purchase of 13 acres of land contiguous to the existing campus; and 2) the 4-6 building. In this election question one was passed.



As a result of the two elections the district has authority to levy for the operation of a new building. It is the intent of the school board not to utilize this levy until such time that a new building is built. The district is in the process of closing on the three adjoining properties located directly across the street west of Delano Elementary. The school board has not set a timeline to pursue another election for a 4-6 building.

Enrollment

In 2007-08 enrollment increased by 78 students, or about 3.8%, which mirrored the increase of the three years previous. The district has grown by approximately 360 students in the past five years, which puts enrollment at capacity in each building.

Outlook

The school district continues to keep educational excellence in the forefront. Continuous improvement processes are in place for teacher training utilizing QComp and staff development funds. Delano Schools will continue to produce high performing students by all measures of achievement.

School finance is going to be a challenge in the near future. The state funding system does not allow schools to keep up with the costs of inflation. The district currently has a \$425 per student operating levy. This levy will need to be renewed and increased in the near future in order for the school district to maintain current programs.

John M. Sweet, Ed. D.
Superintendent

2007 MCA-II Test Results

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment – II (MCA-II) is given to all Minnesota students in order to be in compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. The MCA-II's were first given to students two school years ago and are now being used by educators to evaluate trend line data. Minnesota students grades three through eight were tested in Math and Reading at while grade 10 students were tested in Reading and grade 11 students were tested in Math.

The scale scoring of tests for the MCA-II will be labeled according to their grade. The first one digit (or two digits if in grade 10 or 11) will correspond to the grade while the last two digits will correspond to their achievement level within that grade. The MCA-II tests have four achievement levels. A scale score of 39 or less indicates the MCA-II level of "Does not meet the Standards"; 40 to 49 scores indicate "Partially meets the Standards"; a score of 50 to 61 indicates that the student has "Met the Standards"; and 62 to 99 "Exceeds the Standards."

The following tables show the raw data from the Delano Public Schools MCA-II testing during the 2006-2007 school year.

MCA-II Test Results Summary

In 2008 Delano students continued to demonstrate excellent reading performance at the state level. In grade 10 nearly 57% of the students earned scores in the highest category of exceeds standards. Another 30% of the students fell in the next highest quadrant, the level that meets the state reading standards. Therefore, over 87% of students in tenth grade are meeting or exceeding all the state standards in reading. This is a phenomenal feat. Additionally, the Middle School surpassed the state percentage of students at or above standards by nearly 12%. The Elementary School had another phenomenal testing year with 89% of the third and fourth graders meeting or exceeding their standards. This rate was nearly 15% better than the state average.

Reading

School	Meets/Exceeds Standard	State Percentage
Elementary (Grades 3 & 4)	89%	75.5%
Middle (Grade 5 – 8)	80.1%	68.4%
High School (Grade 10)	87.6%	70.7%

Math

School	Meets/Exceeds Standard	State Percentage
Elementary (Grades 3 & 4)	91%	76.5%
Middle (Grade 5 – 8)	79%	62.5%
High School (Grade 10)	65.9%	44.3%

Students in grades three through eight and eleven at Delano took the MCA-II test in mathematics. The MCA-II tests were written according to the Minnesota Academic Standards. These standards are rigorous and all of our students are required to take this test. Although the percentages are not necessarily appealing at the high school level Delano's results are quite favorable in comparison to the state percentages. The high school did improve their overall percentage by nearly 10% over last years testing group.

The middle school had a 16.5% higher proficiency rate than the state average. By accomplishing a 79% proficiency rate they too improved by comparison to last years data. The elementary posted an incredible 91% proficiency rate. They continue to set the pace for proficiency across the state.

Science

School	Meets/Exceeds Standard	State Percentage
Grade 5	57%	39.1%
Grade 8	54.7%	28.2%
High School	65.6%	42.7%

The 2007-2008 school testing year put into place the first ever MCA Science test. Students took this test on-line all across the state of Minnesota. For the first time the data were compiled and averages were given back to schools. The data in the table above indicates that Delano performed very well by comparison to the state average. The interesting piece in the data is that the percent of students at proficiency increased in the high school. This has not been the case in either the reading or math tests.

Additional data can be found at the Minnesota Department of Education website (<http://education.state.mn.us>). The data found at this site will be similar to the MCA but not exactly the same due to the addition of MTAS and MTELL. These additional tests are for students as English Language Learners or the alternate tests which are given to the 1% of the student population who do not qualify to take the MCA-II tests. The Department of Education website will also allow users to compare data with other schools.

Basic Skills Test and GRAD Data

Due to legislation passed in 2004, the high stakes tests required for graduation are now contained inside the math and reading tests already administered at the high school level. Students in eight grade prior to the 2005-2006 school year are still required to take and pass the BST for graduation. All but one of the Delano students who are required to pass the BST's have passed these tests.

Students entering eighth grade in 2005-2006 and after are still required to pass a Writing, Reading and Math component for graduation, however these tests are administered at grade 9, 10 and 11 respectively. These students are required to pass the Graduation Required Assessment for Diploma (GRAD). GRAD questions for both Reading and Math are embedded in the MCA-II tests.

Several students who were tested in 07-08 were students either new to the district and had not taken the BST before and a few were students who had not previously passed. The results of the tests from 2007-2008 are in the table below: The following data indicate testing information from the BST's and GRAD's.

BST Retake Data

	Math			Reading			Writing		
	Pass	No Pass	% Passage	Pass	No Pass	% Passage	Pass	No Pass	% Passage
Grade 10	NA	NA				NA			NA
Grade 11	3	1	75%	4	0	100%	3	0	100%
Grade 12	3	0	100%	3	1	75%	4	1	80%

GRAD Data

	Reading			Writing		
	Pass	No Pass	% Passage	Pass	No Pass	% Passage
Grade 10	181	22	89%	5	0	100%

Writing Tests

The state writing test required for graduation is changing from the Basic Skills Test (BST) to the Graduation Required Assessment for Diploma (GRAD). This test is a high stakes test meaning that it is required for graduation. The scoring for the writing test has papers read and rated on a 1, 1.5, 2, 3, 3.5 or 4 scale (4 being the highest). The papers earning a score of four on their first reading are given a second reading with the highest score possible of 6.0. This year's average increased from 4.1 to 4.2. The following is data from last years test.

Writing Results 2007-2008							
All scores are given in percentages							
	1.0 or 1.5	2.0	3.0 or 3.5	4.0 or 4.5	5.0 or 5.5	6.0	Avg Score
GRAD Grade 9	.5	.5	23.9	53.2	18	3.9	4.2
State GRAD	2	8.2	44.6	36.2	7.5	1.2	3.5

Delano ACT Scores Higher than 2006-2007

Delano's ACT test scores improved ½ point to its highest level ever of 24. In addition to this, Delano had more students take the test in 2007 than in any other year. As a general trend, the larger number of students who take the ACT test, the lower the average test score. This was not the case for our Delano students. Minnesota's scores on the 2007 ACT increased two tenths of one point to 22.5. This score was ranked first in the nation for the third straight year among states who test a critical mass of students. Delano High School students have traditionally performed better than the state average with no exception this year. Our ACT average of 24 is the highest ACT composite average in recent history as depicted in the table below.

ACT Testing Results				
<u>Composite Scores 2007-2008</u>				
2007-2008 ACT Averages		Delano ACT Historical Results		
Delano	24	2007	23.5	
State	22.6	2006	22.7	
Nation	21.1	2005	22.8	
		2004	23.1	
		2003	22.4	
		2002	22.6	
		2001	22.6	
		2000	22.6	
		1999	22.4	
		1998	22.6	
		1997	21.7	
		1996	21.4	

Teacher of the Year



Teresa Langton was selected as Delano's 2008 Teacher of the Year by her colleagues. She is a third grade teacher at Delano Elementary School.

Teresa Langton views community service and involvement as a very important part of her students' learning experience. The lessons learned when interacting with members of the community are invaluable and follow her students into adulthood. One special project her students participate in is monthly visits to the Golden Living Center in Delano. The students do crafts, perform songs and short plays, read with, and play games with the residents there. The relationships built through those visits provide a unique opportunity to learn and grow.

Teresa graduated from Heron Lake-Okabena-Lakefield High School located in southwestern Minnesota. She received her undergraduate degree from Southwest State University in Marshall, and a Masters of Art Degree in Education from St. Mary's University.

Teresa began her career here in Delano in 1992 when she began teaching kindergarten. After several years in kindergarten and one year teaching kindergarten and first grade, she moved into her current position as a third grade teacher.

During her time in Delano, Teresa has worked on many committees, including the Elementary Site Base Team, elementary communication committee and School of Excellence Committee. She is also the elementary Targeted Services Coordinator.

Outside of school, she is currently serving as co-president of the Twin Cities Area Reading Council. She teaches Faith Formation in her church. Teresa lives in Buffalo. Her children are 16, 13 and 8. They keep her very busy with homework, school activities, and carpooling.

Students Held Accountable for Performance Goals

It is the goal of Delano Public Schools to ensure that all graduates will be able to function effectively as purposeful thinkers, effective communicators, self-directed learners, productive group participants and responsible citizens.

According to state-mandated K-12 Minnesota Academic Standards, students will be required to demonstrate the following standards:

- Language Arts
- Reading
- Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Health and Physical Education
- Career and Technical Education
- World Languages

In addition, graduates must pass the Graduation Required Assessment for Diploma in Reading, Mathematics, and Writing. The Minnesota Basic Skills Test is the required test for Senior students.

2008-2009 State Testing Dates

Nov 18	BST/GRAD Writing Retest	Grades 10-12
Nov 19	BST Math Retest	Grades 10-12
Nov 20	BST Math Retest	Grades 10-12
Feb 3	BST Math Retest	Grades 10-12
Feb 4	BST Reading Retest	Grades 10-12
Mar 31	BST Writing Retest	Seniors only
Apr 1	BST Math Retest	Grades 10-12
Apr 2	BST Reading Retest	Grades 10-12
Apr 8	Written Composition Retest	Grades 10-12
April 13 May 1	Elementary/Middle School MCA-II testing window	
April 27 – May 22	Middle/High School MCA-II Science testing window	
Apr 14	GRAD Written Composition	Grade 9
	MCA-II Reading Sections 1 & 2	Grade 10
	MCA-II Math Sections 1 & 2	Grade 11
Apr 15	MCA-II Reading Sections 3 & 4	Grade 10
	MCA-II Math Sections 3 & 4	Grade 11
May 18-20	MCA-II Science	Grade 11 (Computer Test)

Student Demographics: 2007-2008

The following information box indicates the number of students who have successfully passed the required graduation tests. Additionally, the number of exempt and passing individual students is listed. This will highlight the fact that Delano has very few students who do not take and pass the state required tests.

Grade	Number of Students	Reading			Math			Writing		
		Passing	Exempt*	Passing** Individual	Passing	Exempt	Passing Individual	Passing	Exempt	Passing Individual
9	210	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	205	4	0
10	208	NA	NA	NA	181	1	0	208	0	0
11	174	171	3	0	170	3	0	170	4	0
12	175	174	0	1	175	0	0	174	0	1

*Exempt – The student did not take the test as a result of the IEP teams decision

**Pass Individual – The student's IEP team has determined a passing score different from the state requirement

No 12th graders were denied a diploma because of "No Pass" on tests.

No Students used translated tests.

District Staff Development Goals

The Delano Public Schools has a district staff development team which is charged with setting the staff development goals. These goals transcend across buildings and are intended to guide the expenditures of staff development dollars for each building. The district goals are as follows:

Goal 1: Staff development opportunities that will promote high academic standards for all students.

Action Steps

- All buildings will encourage professional development related to improved academic standards.
- All buildings will encourage teachers to access professional development that will improve student learning in their specific grade level and curricular area.
- The implementation of the staff development academy will provide learning opportunities for staff.

Goal 2: Improve school climate for district wide employees.

Action Steps

- Plan and schedule opportunities for social interaction among staff.
- Schedule academy sessions, which will promote professional interaction among staff.

Goal 3: Support the integration of the continuous improvement process throughout the district.

Action Steps

- Data driven decision-making process.
- Use Professional Learning Communities to regularly bring staff together to learn and evaluate current teaching practices.

In addition to the staff development goals, the teachers group, along with the approval of the district, we have established Q-Comp (Quality Compensation) goals which specifically address improvements in MCA-II test scores. The district attained each of its building and district goals to improve academic achievement.

Curriculum Advisory Procedures

Membership on the Curriculum Advisory Committee (CAC) is open to all persons residing in the district. The number of CAC members matches the number of curriculum committees, plus two parent ambassadors for the Minnesota Academic Standards. Currently, 16 curriculum committees exist.

Members may self-select or be nominated by any staff or community member. Community residents must apply to serve on the committee by October of each year, unless a vacancy occurs during the year.

Vacancies will be filled as soon as possible. Membership terms are three years. Reappointment is an option, but not guaranteed. Membership looks to be improving in 2008-2009 as we have only a couple vacancies at this time. People who are interested in serving on the committee can contact Joe Vieau at 763-972-3365, ext. 3019.

Curriculum Advisory Council 2007-2008

<u>Name</u>	<u>Curricular Area</u>	<u>Term Expiration Date</u>
Vacant	Social Studies K-4	
Nancy Cordes	Social Studies 5-8	2007
Paul Nord	Social Studies 9-12	2008
Barb Janas	Health	2009
Kim Finn	Physical Education	2008
Vacant	Mathematics K-4	
Kathy Ziegelman	Mathematics 5-8	2007
Vacant	Mathematics 9-12	
Vacant	Communications K-4	
Peg Max	Communications 5-8	2008
Mary Ann Bernat	Communications 9-12	2007
Julie Grist	Science K-6	2007
Jeanne Berglund	Science 7-12	2007
Mike Schaefer	Music	2007
Vacant	Vocational 7-12	
Lorrie Mulholland	School Board at Large	2007
Vacant	Visual Arts	
Vacant	Parent Ambassador	
Vacant	Parent Ambassador	

Fund Allocations

Delano Public Schools are a site based district, which means funding dollars for staff development and mentorship programs flow directly to the building. Each site determines how to allocate their funding.

For the year 2007-2008, \$64,826 was allocated to the elementary school; \$64,826 was allocated to the middle school; \$64,826 was allocated to the high school; \$69,827 was allocated to the district staff, and \$15,000 was allocated to our District Staff Development Academy for in-house training of staff.

Student Achievement Goals

The Minnesota Academic Standards meet all of the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind legislation whereby giving our school district eligibility for Federal Funds.

The state-wide tests during the 2007-2008 school year contained the MCA-II standards. Delano students in grades K-8 will find that teachers are embedding the new standards into the curriculum. This will ensure that students have the necessary material in time for the state-wide testing. The district state-wide testing goal is to have all students meeting or exceeding the state standards at every grade level. This goal is very ambitious and aggressive. We have performed very well on the statewide exams and are striving to improve the scores even further. Additionally, Delano Public Schools are planning for future changes in legislation which will require students in grade six during the 2008-2009 school year to have Algebra I in grade eight. Further requirements for this same class will be Algebra II in high school and either Chemistry or Physics.

Delano students will graduate under the Minnesota Academic Standards requirements. In the future, there will be additional requirements mandated by the local Board of Education.

District Testing Program Review

The objectives of the Delano Public Schools testing program are to implement assessments which will give meaningful data and results back to our teaching staff. We will strive to use test results for the improvement of instruction and to help attain improved results in the future.

In an effort to improve communication about the accountability of Delano Public Schools, a testing program review is in place. The objective of our testing program is to meet the requirements set forth by the Minnesota Department of Education which also will satisfy the federal requirements of No Child Left Behind and give feedback about student progress. Additionally, the results are to be used by classroom teachers to determine curricular needs in each of their classrooms.

All data results come from the MCA-II. These tests are the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments II. The data in each of those grades is given to the homeroom teacher and evaluated for needs in each class. All grades three through eight are given MCA-II tests in math and reading. There are additional tests in grade 10 for reading and grade 11 for math. Written tests were administered in grade 5 and grade 10. The grade 9 and 10 writing tests are also a test which students must pass in order to graduate.

The results of the MCA-II tests are given to classroom teachers for their use. Teachers are given the results of the students from their classroom last year as well as the students currently in their class. This data is particularly useful in grades 4 through 6. In these classes, teachers primarily have the same students throughout the day. Therefore, the data for these teachers will be most helpful.

These test results are used to identify areas of strength and areas where improvement may be needed. The data is sorted by grade and teacher, and then given to classroom teachers to identify areas in need of emphasis during the current year.

Delano Elementary School administers the Iowa Test of Basic Skills at grades 2 and 3. The primary use of the data is Title I placement of students.

Northwest Education Association (NWEA) has developed nationally normed tests, the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) that are being administered in the areas of Reading, Mathematics, Language Arts, and Science. The Reading and Math tests were administered to all students in grades K-10 last year. In addition, Language Usage and Science was also administered at the Middle School. The tests are aligned with the MN Academic Standards and are re-normed every two years, making the data reliable, valid, and current. MAP measures the academic growth of a student, not mastery of skills. Teachers use this data to determine a student's instructional level and is a point of comparison with the student's classroom work and other assessments, in an effort to get the whole picture of the student's academic needs. This helps drive instructional strategies and materials at the student's current learning level.

Improvements made in K-12 Science and Health

Rick Haley (K-6) and Karen Hohenstein(7-12) are the facilitators for the Science Department. Char Sorenson, Maria Menz, and Mitch Rue facilitate the Health Department. They are charged with facilitating the curriculum writing process which implements the Minnesota Academic Standards. Improvements were sought in closely aligning their curricula to the Minnesota standards as well as updating textbooks and equipment in Science. It has been seven years since these two departments have had the opportunity to upgrade their curriculum. Much time was spent by each member of their respective committee researching, aligning, and developing curriculum for the purpose of improved academic achievement.

The Curriculum Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended to the board that the curriculum written by the Science and Health departments be approved. This action was taken and accepted by the Board of Education in June 2007. A copy of the curriculum can be found at the district website (www.delano.k12.mn.us).

National Merit Scholars Semifinalist

Each year more than one million students take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) in October. Upon completion of this test, students are entered into the National Merit Program, a nationwide competition for recognition and awards conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). In April of each year, 16,000 of the more than one million students who take the test are identified as semi-finalists nationwide, while approximately 34,000 are recognized as commended students.

Following the identification of the 16,000 semi-finalists, these students then become eligible as finalists. In the finalist stage, between 10,000 and 11,000 of these students become recognized as National Merit Scholar Finalists. At this point, they become eligible for myriad scholarships and opportunities nationwide. Over the past several years, we have developed a rich history of positive student performance on this test. Recipients include:

National Merit Scholarship Corporation			
School	Year	Scholars	Commended
	2007-08		Adam Mankowski
	2006-07	Elizabeth Dake Margaret Englehardt Ben Zeug	Katie Gregg Catherine Newcomb
	2005-06	Laura Janas	
	2004-05		Amy Bohler Anna Meehan
	2003-04	Lindsay Gorton Kari Haley Heidi Hayes Chris Shouts	Nathan Bohler Paul Janas
	2002-03	Carolyn Hurst Molly Jordan Jake Workman	Michelle Jordan
	2001-02	Jayne Lady	

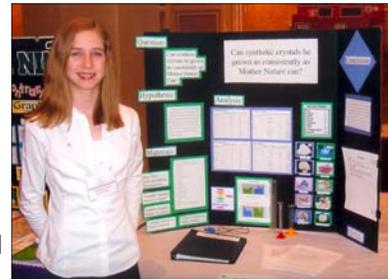
History Comes Alive at State History Day

Five Delano Middle School students qualified to compete at the State History Day competition held at the University of Minnesota. The students advanced to the state competition after receiving first place medals at the regional competition held in late March. The student projects were created around this year's History Day theme, "Conflict and Compromise in History." Students were given the option to present their information in the form of an exhibit, performance or documentary film. Students in grades 6-8 participated in this event. Rialee Todd and Juliana Lillehei performed a skit about the lives of abolitionist, Sarah and Angelina Grimke. The tragic Native American hangings in Mankato, Minnesota was re-enacted by Colette Bersie and the team of Matthew Stevens and Evan Lemmerman created a documentary about the First Crusade. Rialee Todd, Juliana Lillehei and Colette Bersie all advanced to the finals in this year's state contest and received honorable mention awards.



Middle School Science Fair State Participant

Eighth grade student, Stephanie Smith qualified to compete at the state science fair competition held in May. Stephanie has a passion for science and decided to create an science fair project as an independent study. Her project focused on synthetic and manmade crystals and she received a first place ribbon at the regional competition earning her a visit to the state contest for the first time. Her mentor, Mr. Briesemeister, believes that her enthusiasm and knowledge catapulted her all the way to the state level. She plans to return next year with the experience of participating at the state level under her belt. Stephanie is planning on using this experience to her advantage next year.



5th and 6th Grade Math Masters

5th and 6th grade students from the region converge in Hutchinson every spring to test their math skills against the top students from throughout the area in the areas of math reasoning, problem solving and computation. This year's participants came away with a host of team and individual awards.

Fact drill competition

Michael Redinger - Grade 5 - blue ribbon

Individual Problem Solving

Luke Make - Grade 6 - blue ribbon

Nate Meyers - Grade 5 - blue ribbon

Michael Redinger - Grade 5 - medal

Rylee Sevigny - Grade 5 - medal



Team Awards

Delano #2 (Eric Mikkelsen, Shane Impola, Daniel Clark, Rylee Sevigny, Michael Redinger).

They received ribbons for their 5th place finish out of 30 fifth grade teams.

Sixth Grade Science Fair

Nine Delano Middle School students competed at the Elementary Regional Science Fair held at Mankato State University. The young scientists were selected to compete from more than 150 projects presented at the local 6th grade science fair. The students did a great job representing Delano Middle School receiving several purple ribbons and special book prizes. Receiving purple ribbons were: Nathan Petroski for "Rise" and Sam Thomas for "Maximum Attraction". Sam also received a third place medal in the Health and Science category and is eligible to apply for the National Science Fair held in Washington, DC. Blue ribbon winners were: Andrew Henley, Samantha Whitcomb, Riale Todd, Madeline Eichers, Gabrielle Cordes and Alex Schreyer. Rachel Wolfe received a red ribbon for her work in plant sciences. The 6th grade science fair is under the direction of sixth grade science teachers, Nicky Pfeifer, Rick Haley, Gerritt Van Bergen, Jessica Benker and Rebecca Olmscheid.



Math Olympiad

7th and 8th grade students soared in this year's Math Olympiad competition. Participants from around the globe participate in the monthly event that tests the students' mathematical problem solving abilities. Eighth graders, Eric Berglund, Michael Dietz, Brooke Jaunich, Makenzie Krause, Evan Lemmerman, Dillon McLain, Cole Patterson, Brandon Stender, Chloe Winterhalter, and seventh graders Zach Muckenhirn and James Redinger received silver pins for scoring in the top 8% globally. The eighth grade team received a plaque for their overall accomplishment scoring in the top 10% of all teams in this year's competition.

3rd and 4th Grade Writers Workshop

More than 50 third and fourth grade students participated in the annual Writers' Workshop sponsored through the Talent Development Program. During the six week program the young writers honed their writing skills, learned about writing genre and discovered the traits of successful writers. The students were required to complete one piece of writing each week and then be prepared to share their completed work with other writers in a small group setting. At the end of the program each young writer submitted a piece of work to be published in the group anthology. A Writers' Workshop celebration culminated the program. The students were each presented with their own copy of the anthology and had time to share stories and collect autographs. The Writers' Workshop is sponsored by the Talent Development Program under the direction of Gwen Briesemeister.



Battle of the Books

Delano saw the highest number of participants in the Battle of the Books competition now in it's eighth year. More than 70 teams from grades 3-8 registered for the event. Each team is assigned twelve books to read which equates to over 800 books read by the Battle of the Books teams this year.

Student Film Awards

The 2007-08 school year was a great year for Delano film students. Students in both the Middle and High Schools received a host of honors for their work in film.

John Woodward and Donald McMullen received an honorable mention award in this year's Student Cam documentary competition sponsored by CSPAN. The boys received honorable mention and a monetary award for their film about global education awareness.

John Woodward also received an honorable mention for his public service announcement about the dangers of gambling. The competition, "Video to Beat the Odds" was sponsored by Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Six girls from Delano Public Schools were selected to have their short films show at the Walker Art Center's "Girls In the Director Chair" annual event. Margaret Kittok's narrative film entitled "Stick Situation" a claymation by Juliana Lillehei, Alex Schreyer, Samantha Gildemeister and Hannah Bigot and a documentary about Judy Garland crafted by Emma Kopp and Bridget Max were among only 28 films selected from more than 100 submitted.

John Woodward's documentary about the fair trade issue was an official selection in the Twin Cities Youth Film Festival held in May.

A legacy film project was created by 5th grade students under the direction of Mrs. Briesemeister. The completed film entitled "Delano Heroes Remember" was a culmination of 8 months of work which included more than ten hours of interviews with Delano WWII veterans. The students worked in partnership with parent volunteers, community members and honor society students to bring the film to completion. The premiere screening was held at the American Legion in June and continues to play on public access channel 12.

Delano High School Math Team

The Delano Math Team competes in five conference meets per year. The winner of the conference receives an automatic bid to the state tournament. This past year Delano continued with its 20th consecutive unbeaten meet and participated in its fourth consecutive state tournament.

Delano High School Science Olympiad Team

The Delano Science Olympiad team boasted its best season ever. They finished 5th overall in the state tournament with three 2nd place medals.

Drama

The Drama department performed their fall play "Sunday Night". Playwright and author of "Sunday Night" Stephen Gregg flew in for the world premiere event.

Varsity Volleyball

The girl's volleyball team had a terrifically successful season. Along with being the Wright County Conference Champions, the volleyball team participated in the state tournament for the third time in school history.

Varsity Football

The boy's football program suffered an abnormally poor regular season. They did manage to win a couple of post season games and were in the section finals.

Varsity Track

There were 46 girls out for track and field last spring. The athletes worked hard and many athletes had great personal performances. The team placed 4th in the conference meet and 6th at the True Team meet. We had two females qualify for the state meet. Alyssa Rasmussen (11th grade) qualified in the 200 meter and the 400 meter races. Krista Braegelman (8th grade) qualified in the 100 meter hurdles.

Varsity Wrestling

The Delano wrestling team of 2007-08 finished with an overall record of 15-8. They finished 2nd in the Wright County Conference with a record of 7-1. They earned a #4 seed in the Section 2AA Tournament, and advanced to the Team Section Final Four before losing to Scott West, who went on to place 3rd in the State Class AA Tournament.

Individually, senior Cody Socher set a school record for wins and finished with a record of 42-5. Socher, having placed 5th in the state in 2007, improved his finish as a senior – this time placing 3rd in class AA at Heavyweight.

Girls Tennis

Coming off a very successful 2006 season we found out in March of 2007 that we were placed in the AA class with powerhouse teams such as Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Buffalo, and Shakopee in our new section. We regrouped and we recognized more than ever the importance of taking the Wright County Conference title.

2007 was another good year. We took the team conference title for the second year, 5 of our 10 players were named all conference; Emily Knudson, Ashlee Finn-Bruhn, Rachel Luetmer, Kelly Rensink and Abby Farniok. Our season record was 14 and 1 and Kelly Rensink and Abby Farniok represented Delano at Baseline Tennis Center on the U of M campus for the individual part of the class AA state tournament.

Girls Dance Team

The girls dance team had another successful season. They were Wright County Conference Champions. For the second consecutive year they were State Tournament entrants finishing 9th in both High Kick and Jazz Funk.

Boys Golf

The boys golf team had an average season with the boys taking fourth place in the Wright County Conference. The Boys were very senior heavy with three (Dustin Thompson, Steve Tisch, and John DeSutter) seniors finishing with All Conference status.

Girls Golf

Delano Girls Golf enjoyed one of the most successful and rewarding seasons in history. The program was indeed "clicking" on all cylinders as over 30 girls both started, and finished the spring season of 08'.

The Varsity was lead by outstanding seniors and started the year with an impressive second place finish at the Becker Invitational, finishing only 3 strokes behind area golf power, Buffalo. The girls conference goal of being in the upper half of the conference, was realized when the girls finished in third place in the tough Wright County Conference, only 4 strokes behind our conference power, Waconia. Three girls finished as All Conference performers, lead by: Molly Hutchins who finished 4th overall, and seniors Leah Nygaard and Lindsey Clements. Cari Chock and Becky Schluter were All-Conference Honorable Mentions. Miranda Maxwell had a very strong year, but was hampered by illness, and missed some conference matches during the season.

We have 3 of the top 6 girls returning to the varsity in 09', and with a strong JV from 08' we hope to have another successful spring season in 09'. Our JV team competed in two varsity matches last season, and with that experience, we are hoping it will pay off in allowing the girls to be successful at the new level in the spring.

Boys Varsity Baseball

The boys baseball team enjoyed a 17-10 record finishing third in the Wright County Conference. They were the subsection 17 Champion and the runner-up in Section 5. the Tigers had three All Conference selections (Joey Alhoff, Shane Caslavka, and Michael Rajewski) with Joey Alhoff also a member of the All State team. All Conference Honorable Mentions included Chris Herkenhoff, Perry Ditty, Jon Kulzer, Josh Muckenhirn, Stefan Snyder.

