



# Eye of the Tiger

Newsletter for District 879 Students, Parents and Community

October 2012

[www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us)

## Why is Delano Public Schools Asking for More Money from the Taxpayers?

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you facts and information about Delano Public Schools with respect to our funding situation. In 2002, voters of the Delano Public School district approved a 10 year operating levy that brought much needed revenue to our district. This existing levy is expiring and funding will cease at the end of the 2012-2013 school year. This expiring levy represents approximately 1.1 million dollars of revenue in our school district budget.

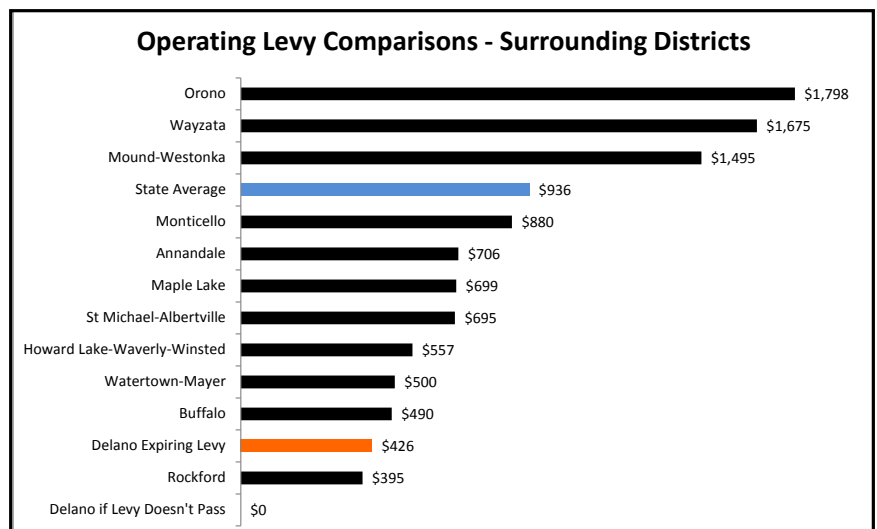
Last fall, the school district asked voters for an increase in the dollar amount per student to support the educational programs in our schools. That levy failed thus requiring the school board to make spending cuts and increase fees. In the spring of 2012, our district tightened it's belt and made approximately \$750,000 in cuts and fee increases in order to remain fiscally responsible. Even with these additional cuts and increases the school district is still deficit spending approximately \$300,000 from our reserves.

There will be two questions on the ballot this November. Question 1 will ask voters to renew the existing operating levy. Voters will be asked to renew the current levy at \$426.86 per student. If Question 1 passes, there will be no tax impact. Question 2 will ask voters to approve an increase to the operating levy of \$325 per student. This amount will help bring in additional revenue that is needed due to years of inadequate funding from the state of Minnesota. If Question 2 passes, it will raise property taxes by approximately \$12 per month for the average homeowner in Delano. The average home in Delano is valued at \$220,000.

If only Question 1 passes and Question 2 doesn't, the school district will need to make additional cuts to programs and staff, raise fees, and class sizes will increase. The passing of Question 1 only will not meet the revenue needed to continue educational excellence in the Delano Public School district.

The problem we have in Delano is a revenue problem, not a spending problem. Delano's existing levy is lower than most neighboring districts as shown in the chart to the right. What will the increase in dollars levied do for you, students, community members and business owners? It will alleviate additional program/staff cuts, class size increases and fee increases. If our schools start to decline, the entire community will feel the impact. Property values and sale prices are higher in strong, high performing school districts and local businesses thrive in communities with strong schools.

I encourage you to be informed and remember to vote on November 6. We will continue to exhaust all efforts in providing the ultimate public school education for every student at an extremely efficient and effective cost basis.



**- Mr. Matthew Schoen, Ed.S.  
Superintendent**

## Delano Elementary School Earns Reward School Designation

Under the Multiple Measurement Rating (MMR), Minnesota's new measurement of school performance, Delano Elementary School has been identified as a Reward School. The school's MMR is based on points earned in test proficiency, student growth and achievement gap reduction.

According to the Minnesota Department of Education, a Reward School is the highest performing 15 percent of elementary schools in the state. These schools will be identified every year and publicly recognized for their good work.

This recognition reflects the gains Delano Elementary has made in proficiency, growth and achievement gap reduction. Delano Elementary School received very good results on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments with 93.3% of third grade students earning an achievement level of meeting or exceeding the standards in Reading and 93.3% in Math. Fourth grade students had 94.6% of the students in the top two achievement levels in Reading and 95.1% in Math. This reward is a reflection of the school staff's tireless efforts to improve outcomes for students.



As a school district, it is nice to share the successes of our schools with the community. Thanks to the elementary school staff, parents and students for their tireless efforts in achieving such great success.

Delano Elementary is truly aligned with our core value of educational excellence being our foremost goal.

## Delano Schools Needs Your Family Census Information

Each year, school districts throughout Minnesota are required by state law to conduct a census of the students who live within the district. The census information allows our school district to:

- Have on file the names of preschool age children for Early Childhood Health and Developmental Screening (Preschool Screening).
- Have on file the names of upcoming kindergarteners for Kindergarten Round-Up and other pertinent enrollment and program information.
- Help determine the funding for Early Childhood Family Education.
- Help determine the funding for Learner Readiness, as well as other school programs.

Parents are asked to report their family census information by calling the Early Childhood Family Education office at 763.972.6210, press 4, by email at [jschaffer@delano.k12.mn.us](mailto:jschaffer@delano.k12.mn.us) or by mailing your census information to: Community Education Center, 140 Elm Avenue E., Delano, MN, 55328. The census information requested includes: Parent/Guardian Name(s), County of residence, home address, home telephone number, name and birthdates of all children.

Rather than conducting a time consuming and costly door-to-door or telephone census, the School District is asking parents to help in this endeavor. Your assistance ensures that the Delano School District receives full program funding from the State of Minnesota, and it is greatly appreciated. The information that the school district collects will be used only for school business and will be handled in a confidential manner.

## Open Enrollment Information

According to Minnesota Statutes 124D.03, "Once enrolled in a nonresident district, the pupil may remain enrolled and is not required to submit annual or periodic applications. To return to the resident district or to transfer to a different nonresident district, the parent or guardian of the pupil must provide notice to the resident district or apply to a different nonresident district by January 15 for enrollment beginning the following school year."

Families that are open enrolled to other districts that have questions about this, please call the District office at 763.972.3365, ext. 2111.



## Delano Public Schools Expand Project Lead the Way® Program

Project Lead the Way® (PLTW) was integrated into the Delano Middle School curriculum during the 2009-2010 school year. This program's curriculum offers five 9-week units that are called Gateway to Technology which focuses on developing stronger math, science and technology inquiry skills by showing, not telling, students how engineers use technology to solve everyday problems. Classes began in the eighth grade with *Design and Modeling* and *Automation and Robotics*, sixth grade curriculum was added with the *Magic of Electrons*. In the fall of 2010-11, *Science and Technology* was added to the middle school curriculum and is taught to seventh graders. During this semester long class, students are taught about basic physics through the six simple machines, the conservation of potential and kinetic energy, the force of gravity and alternative energy for our future. The cornerstone of student learning is the projects the students' build. The Rube Goldberg Machine project allows students to put forth new found knowledge of the six simple machines and Newton's Law of Energy and for the Alternative Energy unit, the students are able to build their own alternative energy website and design wind turbine blades. These projects are all done through collaborative brainstorming, creative invention and critical problem-solving. All these classes are activity-oriented programs designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity of middle school student minds. They also provide a unique opportunity for students to gain exposure to technology through engaging activities and developing an understanding of how technology will impact their future.

As students move on to Delano High School, Project Lead the Way classes are offered beginning in 9th grade through graduation. DHS began with *Introduction to Engineering Design* and began offering the *Principles of Engineering* in the fall of 2011-12. Beginning in the fall of 2012-13, the third of three foundational courses in the PLTW curriculum will be offered, *Digital Electronics*. At the secondary level, these PLTW courses are considered the Pathway to Engineering (PTE) program.

This program is a sequence of courses which follow a proven hands-on, real-world problem-solving approach to learning. Throughout PTE, students learn and apply the design process, acquire strong teamwork and communication proficiency and develop organizational, critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Students discover the answers to questions like, "How are things made?" and "What processes go into creating products?" Students use the same industry-leading 3D design software used by companies like Intel, Lockheed Martin and Pixar. They explore aerodynamics, astronautics and space life sciences. Students design, test and actually construct circuits and devices such as smart phones and tablets and work collaboratively on a culminating capstone project. It's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education and it's at the heart of today's high-tech, high-skill global economy. These three courses, offered at Delano High School, will prepare students to take the capstone course entitled *Engineering Design and Development*, which will be offered at Wright Technical Center in Buffalo.

In addition to Project Lead the Way, the extra-curricular program, *FIRST*, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, enables students to combine the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology through a Robotics competition. This program was developed to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders by engaging them in a mentor-based program that inspires innovation and fosters life capabilities including self-confidence, communication and leadership.

At Delano Public Schools, we are continually striving to enhance our curriculum, just as the world continues to move forward technologically.

## Food Service Policies for ALL Delano Public School Students and Their Families

It is your responsibility to keep track of your student's food service account. You can do this on Family Access by checking your payments, purchases, and current balance under "Food Service." Accounts cannot be negative by more than \$5.00. Delano Public Schools sends out an email and phone notification when your account reaches \$5.00. Although, if your email address has not been provided to the school district, you will not receive email notification. Your student(s) are also told at checkout in the lunch line when they need money to be deposited in their account and low balance slips are available at each computer station to take as a reminder for the students. **To avoid low balances, we recommend that you set up a personal email notification. This feature provides an automatic email notification when your balance reaches \$10.00.** To do this, follow these steps:

- You must be the payer on the account. To find out who your payer is, look in "payments" under food service.

- Click on "Email Notifications" which is located under General Information on the left hand side of the page.
- Click on "Change my Notifications", than click "save."

**Payments must be made by 10:00 a.m. to be recorded and available for your student that day. If payment cannot be made or is forgotten, please notify Tracie Erickson, Food Service Coordinator, at 763.972.3365, ext. 2136 by 10:00 a.m.**

Delano Public Schools also participates in the federal/state program entitled "OFFER vs. SERVE." Under this program, students are required to take a minimum of 3 out of 5 food items served when they eat a school meal. This option provides our students with the opportunity to choose the food for their meal and helps reduce waste.

**Delano School District**  
**700 Elm Avenue East**  
**Delano, MN 55328**

**Nonprofit Organization**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Delano, MN 55328**  
**Permit #13**

**Delano Public Schools Core Values**

- I. Academic Excellence
- II. Developing One's Full Potential
- III. Building and Maintaining Positive Relationships
- IV. Managing Resources Effectively

**2012 Board of Education**

Amy Johnson, Chair  
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 Peter Brasket, Director  
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*Eye of the Tiger* is published by Delano Public Schools, 700 Elm Avenue East, Delano, MN, 55328. Editor, Traci Lawman, District Communications Coordinator, 763.972.3365, ext. 2111, [tlawman@delano.k12.mn.us](mailto:tlawman@delano.k12.mn.us).

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**ECRWSS  
 Resident**

***Educational Excellence is Our Foremost Goal***

**October Calendar**

1	ECFE Classes Begin HS Conferences	4:30-8 pm
4	Community Education Advisory Council Meeting	6:15 pm
4-5	Early Childhood Health & Development Screening	
8	HS PIE Meeting	6 pm
	MS PIE Meeting	6 pm
	DPIE Meeting	7 pm
9	ES PIE Meeting	7 pm
10	Picture Retake Day (ES, MS, HS)	
15	MS Conferences	4-8 pm
18-19	MEA - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	
22	School Board Meeting Delano City Hall	7 pm

**Delano Public Schools  
 Welcomes New Staff**



*Delano Public Schools welcomed many new staff members this fall. Pictured from left to right are Kristine Cruikshank, HS Special Education; Jessica Paul, MS Special Education; Angie Kurth, 1st Grade; Katie Hoppe, HS Mathematics; Sarah Rude, HS Social Studies; Natalie Palmer, 6th Grade; Melanie Kern, 1st Grade; Maria Vejdani, HS Choral; Julie Newby, ES Phy. Ed./DAPE and Amanda Roff, MS Mathematics.*

**For additional information on the 2012 Operating Levy, log on to [www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us), mouse over "district" and click on "operating levy information." Delano Public Schools is committed to providing community members with as much information as possible regarding the upcoming election.**

**Remember to Vote - November 6, 2012**