



Delano Public Schools 2009-2010 Annual Report

On Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement

We are pleased to present the Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement for Delano Public 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 assure that students are achieving to their maximum potential. Delano Public Schools has risen to the task of being one of the top public schools in the State of Minnesota. Delano Elementary School was recently awarded the Minnesota School of Excellence Award from the Minnesota Elementary Principals Association, and Delano High School was awarded the National Blue Ribbon School Award from the United States Department of Education. In addition, Delano students continue to exceed state standards in MCA II testing and ACT college placement exam scores.

The Delano School District prides itself in exceeding expectations in all areas of education today and in the future. We hope you will review this report and share in our successes. These accomplishments reflect positively on the students, staff, parents and the community.

Educational Excellence is our Foremost Goal

Delano students continue to score high on all measures of academic achievement for 2009-10. It is worthy to note that the ACT composite score of 24.2 was the highest in school history with more students taking the test than ever before. This compares to the state average of 22.9.

Quality Compensation Program

Delano Schools participates in Minnesota's Alternative Teacher Professional Pay System (Quality Compensation Program otherwise known as QComp). QComp provides career advancement opportunities for teachers; teacher-led staff development; comprehensive teacher evaluation; and an alternative pay schedule. This program has become an important focus for staff development, collaboration among teachers and motivation to focus on improving math and reading test scores. Achievement goals centered on math in 2009-10 and achievement goals were met.

Finances

While Delano students perform at high levels, the school district uses tax dollars efficiently. In fiscal year 2009, the latest year comparative data is available, Delano spent \$7,907 per student in General Fund operating expenses compared to the state average of \$10,119.

Enrollment

Enrollment increased from 2248 in 2008-09 to 2287 in 2009-10. While the district isn't experiencing the kind of growth increases it saw previously, all buildings are over their design capacity in terms of enrollment.

Outlook

The state of the economy makes for financial challenges that will be with us for awhile. School districts are faced with flat funding this biennium and the outlook for the next biennium is not good either. Minnesota school districts have been experiencing funding shifts into the next fiscal year and delays in aid payments due to the state's poor cash flow situation. Unlike many school districts, Delano School District has been able to manage these shifts and delays without having to borrow for cash flow purposes because of a pretty healthy fund balance. The school district's operating levy expires at the end of the 2012-13. In order to maintain services, the operating levy will need to be renewed and increased in November 2011.

I am often asked why it is that Delano students continue to excel in academic achievement. Research will show that the following factors contribute to high achievement: 1) Teacher and principal quality, 2) curriculum aligned with state and national standards, 3) great parent support and community demographics and 3) high expectations. The district's focus statement, "Educational Excellence is our Foremost Goal," keeps us focused on high expectations for everything we do.

Thank you for your interest and support of Delano Public Schools.

John M. Sweet, Ed.D.

Superintendent

<http://suptslog.blogspot.com/>

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.

The first major assessment used by our district is the MCA-II. These tests are the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments II. All students, grades three through eight, are given MCA-II tests in math and reading. The MCA-II science test is given to all students in grades three, five, eight and high school students after they have taken Biology. The data in each of these grades is given to the homeroom teacher and evaluated for needs in each class. There are additional tests in grade 9 for writing, grade 10 for reading, and grade 11 for math. The grade nine writing test and grade 10 reading test are tests in which students must pass in order to earn a high school diploma.

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. The data are 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.

The MCA-II 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.

Northwest Education Association (NWEA) has developed nationally normed tests called the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) that are administered in the areas of Mathematics, Language Arts, and Science. The Math and Language Arts tests were administered to all students in grades K-8 last year. The data was then issued to classroom teachers to determine an academic improvement plan in that particular course.

2009 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 five school years ago and are now being used by educators to evaluate trend line data. Minnesota students in grades three through eight were tested in Math and Reading. Further testing occurred in the subject of writing in grade 9, while grade 10 students were tested in Reading and grade 11 students were tested in Math. Additionally, students in grade five, eight and in high school were tested in Science.

Based on the results of each test, students' results were then placed into one of four categories "Does Not Meet Standards;" "Partially Meets;" "Meets;" and "Exceeds Standards." Also, for the purpose of being in compliance with No Child Left Behind (NCLB), the top two achievement levels are categorized as being "Proficient" and the other two achievement levels are categorized as being "Not Proficient." The following tables show the raw data from the Delano Public Schools MCA-II testing during the 2009-2010 school year:

Reading

In 2010 Delano students continued to demonstrate excellent reading performance compared to the state level. The table below indicates the percentage of students in each of the achievement levels as well as the respective state percentage. Delano outperformed the state in the "exceeds" achievement level at every grade. The term "proficient" refers to the No Child Left Behind definition for a grade and/or school making satisfactory academic progress. In examining the data table, note that at each grade level Delano is lower than the state average in all of the "Not Proficient" levels.

MCA-II Reading Achievement Levels								
	Not Proficient				Proficient			
2010	Does not Meet		Partially Meets		Meets		Exceeds	
	Standards		Standards		Standards		Standards	
Grade	Delano	State %	Delano	State %	Delano	State %	Delano	State %
3	4.7	13.3	3.6	10.5	22.5	25.4	69.2	50.9
4	6.3	11.0	15.0	16.5	27.5	32.8	51.2	39.7
5	1.2	8.5	7.2	15.2	45.2	45.4	46.4	31.0
6	3.1	10.3	11.9	18.0	33.8	31.8	51.2	39.9
7	4.4	13.6	12.1	20.3	35.7	29.1	47.8	37.0
8	5.6	12.9	17.3	19.0	33.5	31.7	43.7	36.4
10	6.1	8.8	7.9	15.8	30.5	37.2	55.5	38.1

Math

Students in grades 3 through 8 and 11 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 are required tests of all our students. 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 its overall percentage by nearly 10% over last years testing group.

The middle school had a 6% higher proficiency rate as compared to their proficiency last year. By accomplishing an 84.9% proficiency rate they too improved by comparison to last year's data. The elementary posted an incredible 93.5% proficiency rate surpassing the previous year by 2.1%. Additionally, the percent of students in the "Exceeds" category increased by 12 points compared to 2009.

MCA-II Math Achievement Levels								
	Not Proficient				Proficient			
2010	Does not Meet		Partially Meets		Meets		Exceeds	
	Standards		Standards		Standards		Standards	
Grade	Delano	State %	Delano	State %	Delano	State %	Delano	State %
3	1.8	4.6	3.6	12.6	32.5	40.6	62.1	42.2
4	3.8	8.1	4.4	14.9	40.9	40.7	50.9	36.3
5	3.6	12.5	7.2	18.9	38.6	36.5	50.6	32.1
6	4.4	12.0	10.0	19.0	41.9	44.8	43.8	24.1
7	5.5	13.8	8.7	21.8	51.9	40.5	33.9	23.9
8	7.7	19.1	13.8	22.3	55.1	38.3	23.5	20.2
11	14.5	34.5	20.0	22.2	34.0	28.2	31.5	15.0

Science

The 2009-2010 school year marked the third year of the MCA-II Science test. Students took this test on-line all across the state of Minnesota. These tests were written following the Minnesota Academic Standards passed into law by the legislature. The data in the table below indicates that Delano performed quite well by comparison to the state average. An interesting notation after looking at the table is that the percent of students at proficiency increased as each of the grade levels increase.

MCA-II Science Achievement Levels								
	Not Proficient				Proficient			
2009	Does not Meet		Partially Meets		Meets		Exceeds	
	Standards		Standards		Standards		Standards	
Grade	Delano	State %	Delano	State %	Delano	State %	Delano	State %
5	9.0	24	38	30	44	36.7	9.0	9.3
8	7.7	18.5	30.1	33.7	44.4	35.4	17.9	12.5
HS	10.7	17.9	25.6	30.4	54.2	43.5	9.5	8.3

Writing Tests

The state writing test is called the MCA-II/GRAD Writing test. All Graduation Required Assessment for Diploma (GRAD) writing tests are read and initially scored on a 4.0 scale (1, 1.5, 2, 3, 3.5 or 4 with 4 being the highest). The papers earning a score of four on the first reading are given a second reading for the MCA-II piece with the highest score possible of 6.0. This year's average score remained constant from 2009 at 4.0. Congratulations to those students. The first opportunity to take this test is in grade 9. This test is a high stakes test meaning a passing score is required for graduation. The following are data from last years test.

Writing Results 2009-2010							
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	0	1.5	31	45.5	3.5	4	4.0
State GRAD	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.5

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 but not exactly the same due to the addition of MTAS and possibly 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.

Adequate Yearly Progress

Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation requires that states who receive Federal Title I dollars to administer accountability exams on an annual basis. Schools and districts are deemed as making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) if they meet minimum criteria in four categories: Participation; Proficiency; Attendance; and Graduation Rate. In addition to these four categories, subgroups of sufficient size (40 students or larger) must meet all of the requirements as well. Schools making AYP must have: 95% of their students taking the MCA-II exams; 90% attendance rates; and high schools must graduate 85% of their student body on time.

The final category of Proficiency is likely the most interesting category in that the requirements change each year. The goal of the law is to have all students performing at a “proficient” rate by the year 2014. Therefore, targets for proficiency levels were established in 2006, and every year since then, the percentage of student needing to be proficient is increasing until 2014 when the index will be 100%. Each state was given the task of defining what “proficiency” means; therefore, there is currently a wide dispersion among states as to performance by students gaining marks of being proficient. For example, the only exam given nationally, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), notes that in Tennessee, a state score of proficient correlates to a NAEP score of 234 for eighth graders in math. Similarly, in Minnesota, an eighth grade math student would need to earn a score of 286 in order to earn the same rating of proficient.

For schools to be making Adequate Yearly Progress each of the four categories must be met in math and reading. Additionally, every subgroup must meet the requirements of all four categories. In the event that one subgroup does not meet the requirements, the entire school would be labeled as “Not making Adequate Yearly Progress.”

Historically, Delano Public Schools has been making Adequate Yearly Progress since 2006 at each building and as a district. Delano Middle School and Delano High School are categorized as making Adequate Yearly Progress as is the District as whole in 2010. However, the subgroup of Special Education in the elementary school did not meet the proficiency requirement in reading. Therefore, Delano Elementary School is labeled as not making Adequate Yearly Progress.

GRAD Component of the MCA-II's

Graduation Required Assessment for Diploma (GRAD) are assessments which the state of Minnesota has embedded in the MCA-II assessments in grades 9 for Writing, 10 for Reading and 11 for Mathematics. Math and reading assessments contain a combination of GRAD, MCA-II, and field test questions. When the MCA-II portion of the test is scored in math and reading, students are assigned a scale score based on their results. If students earn a scale score of 50 or greater they are considered proficient and therefore have met the GRAD requirements. In the event that students did not earn a scale score of 50 or greater, test designers then look at the 40 questions that assess the GRAD components. If students earn a passing score (generally 28 of 40) on the GRAD questions, then they have passed the GRAD. If students do not meet the minimum score they need to begin the remediation retesting process in order to obtain a passing score. The GRAD Reading and Writing test are tests each student must pass (except in extreme circumstances). The GRAD Mathematics test requires students to attempt the exam at least three times in order to earn a passing score.

The table below states the percentage of Delano students who have passed the GRAD in each of the subjects on the first attempt. In the event that students do not pass the exams on the first attempt, retest opportunities in math and reading are given on line every other month. GRAD Writing retest are administered in November and July. Several Delano students who did not pass the reading and math exams on the first attempt have already begun the retesting process.

GRAD Passage Rate on the First Attempt

GRAD Exam	Delano	State
Writing Grade 9	98.5	90
Reading Grade 10	87.4	78
Mathematics Grade 11	75	58

ACT scores at Delano Reach a Record High

The state of Minnesota continued as the nation's leader in ACT test scores. Delano's ACT test scores remain higher than the state average making Delano one of the top schools academically in the nation. In addition to this, Delano had more students (approximately 82%) take the test in 2010 than in any other year. The ACT average of 24.2 this year is the highest in school history. Additionally, as a general trend, the larger numbers of students who take the ACT test the lower the average test score. Minnesota's scores on the 2010 ACT increased two tenths of a point to 22.9. This score was ranked first in the nation for the fifth 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. Below is a table indicating the historical ACT scores at DHS.

ACT Testing results Composite Scores 2009-2010

Delano – 24.2 State - 22.9 Nation - 21.0

Delano ACT Historical Results

2009	23.8
2008	24.0
2007	23.5
2006	22.7
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



2010-2011 State Testing Dates

Sept. 20 – Oct. 1	MAP Testing	Elementary School
Sept 28 – Oct. 8	MAP Testing	Middle School
Oct 13	PSAT Test	High School
Oct 20	PLAN Test	Grade 10
Oct 27	EXPLORE Test	Grade 8
Nov 3	GRAD Writing Retest	Grades 10-12
Jan 10- Jan 13	MAP Survey	Middle School
Feb 10	NAEP	Grade 4
March 28 – May 20	Elementary/Middle School MCA-II	Math testing window
Apr 11 – Apr 29	Elementary/Middle School MCA-II	Reading testing window
Apr 12	GRAD Written Composition	Grade 9
	MCA-II Reading Segments 1 & 2	Grade 3, 4, &10
	MCA-II Math Segments 1 & 2	Grade 11
Apr 13	MCA-II Reading Segments 3 & 4	Grade 3, 4, & 10
	MCA-II Math Segments 3 & 4	Grade 11
Apr 19	MCA-II Math Segments 1 & 2	Grade 3 & 4
Apr 20	GRAD Writing Retest	Grades 12
	MCA-II Math Segments 3 & 4	Grade 3 & 4
March 28 – May 20	MCA-II Science testing window	Grades 5 and 8
May 2 – May 13	MAP Testing	Elementary School
May 9 – May 20	MAP	Middle School
May 19-20	MCA-II Science	Grade 10 (Computer Test)



2010 Teacher of the Year

Christy Branes was selected as Delano Public Schools Teacher of the Year by her colleagues. She is a 2nd grade teacher at Delano Elementary School. Christy believes that teaching is a privilege, and with this privilege comes a great deal of responsibility to be the best teacher she can be. Christy believes that each student is as unique in their learning as their personality. She believes in modifying and adapting curriculum to allow students across spectrum to have their learning enhanced.

Christy graduated from Augsburg College in 1971. She received her masters of education from the University of Minnesota. Christy began her teaching experience at Pine Lake Elementary in Moundsview. Since then Christy has taught in several schools from Delano to Portugal. Christy is a member of the Minnesota Education Association, a participant in the Delano Public Schools Staff Development Academy and a Q-Comp Peer Leader. Christy and her husband reside in Delano and have three grown children, all who attended Delano Public Schools.

Curriculum

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.

Name		Expiration Date	
Camilla Kruse	Social Studies K-4	2012	
Joleen Soderberg	Social Studies 5-8	2012	
Lee Bunker	Social Studies 9-12	2012	
Barb Janas	Health	2010	
Jim Halonen	Physical Education	2011	
Rachel Barfnecht	Mathematics K-4	2012	
Nina Neiman	Mathematics 5-8	2012	
Jonathon Ness	Mathematics 9-12	2012	
Tifani Pool	Communications K-4	2012	
Chad Concard	Communications 5-8	2013	
Mary Jo Braegelman	Communication 9-12	2013	
John Sturey	Science K-6	2011	
Sue Lucking	Science 7-12	2011	
Mike Schaefer	Music	2010	
Derek Schansberg	Vocational 7-12	2012	
Amy Johnson	School Board at Large	-	
Lisa Dahlberg	Visual Arts	2012	
Dallas Balsiger	Parent Ambassador	2012	
Rebecca Drewlow	Parent Ambassador	2012	

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 and writing. Passage of the Math GRAD test is extremely desirable; students must earn either a passing math score or attempt to pass the math test three times. If students do not pass their math test, they must follow a district prescribed plan prior to being given another attempt.

Student Achievement Goals Realized from Previously Adopted Improvement Plans

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 2009-2010 school year contained the MCA-II standards. Delano students in grades K-8 will find that teachers are embedding these standards into the curriculum. This ensures that students have the necessary material in time for the state-wide testing. The district 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.

In addition to embedding standards into curriculum, Delano Public Schools annually set district and building goals based on MCA-II results. The Elementary school set a goal of having 92.1% of students meeting or exceeding standards in Math. The actual rate of achievement in the Elementary was 93.5%. This was a 2.4% increase over the previous year.

Delano Middle School set a Mathematics goal for proficiency (Meeting or Exceeding Standards) at 83.6%. Their actual results were 84.9% indicating an increase of 3.1% from the previous year. The High School chose to set their goal in the area of Math and also looked at students who have been in our district since grade 8 (the last math MCA-II test). Their goal was to have 70% of the students maintaining a proficiency rating or to show growth in their achievement levels from grade 8. The results for high school math were 71.1%. These results show that each building attained its goal.

Improvements made in the Business Education, Family and Consumer Science, Physical Education and Technology Education

Jeff Olson (Business Education), Carol Johnson (FACS), Jerry Litfin (P.E.) and Joe Finn (Tech Ed.) are the facilitators for their respective departments. They were 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, or national standards where applicable, as well as updating textbooks and equipment. It has been six years since these departments have had the opportunity to upgrade their curriculum and equipment. 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 Arts and World Language departments be approved. This action was taken and accepted by the Board of Education in June 2010. A copy of the curriculum can be found at the district website (www.delano.k12.mn.us)

District Staff Development Goals

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/or curricular area.
- The implementation of the staff development academy will provide learning opportunities for staff.

Goal 2: 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, has established Q-Comp (Quality Compensation) goals which specifically address improvements in MCA-II test scores. The district attained its goal and the middle and high school buildings met their goal while the elementary made improvements toward its goal.

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 2009-2010, \$48,500 was allocated to the elementary school; \$48,500 was allocated to the middle school; \$48,500 was allocated to the high school \$69,123 was allocated to the district staff, and of the amount designated to the building, \$10,500 was allocated to our District Staff Development Academy for in-house training of staff.

Activities and Student Recognitions

In the sections below are recognitions of individual student's academic accolades as well as team acknowledgements throughout the 2009-2010 school year. Some of the highlights include the continued success of our students in the National Merit Scholars program with adding another Scholar as well as five students who were Commended.

Team athletic activities reached a milestone in 2009-2010 sending girls Volleyball, Girls Gymnastics and Boys Baseball to compete at the state tournament. In addition to competing at the state level, both the Volleyball and Baseball team competed in the Championship game. This marks the first time in school history that two teams in the same year have attained that distinction. After consulting with local experts, Delano team sports have only competed in a total of four Championship games (1982 Baseball; 2003 Football; and the 2 in 2009-2010).

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, Delano Schools have developed a rich history of positive student performance on this test. Recipients past and present include:

School		National Merit Scholarship Corporation	
Year	Scholars	Semi-Finalists	Commended
2009-10	Melissa Hedtke		Sandra Arnold Ann Berglund Emily Hemingway Matthew Koloski Joshua Stevens
2008-09	T.J. Carlson Tim Kuka Robert McMullen Mark Newcomb Mike Roth		Jacob Bohler Kathryn Kirk Chris Roering
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 Regional and State History Day

Delano Middle School sent thirty students to compete at this year's Regional History Day at Mankato State University. Seven student teams took home first place honors at this competition. All the projects were created around this year's central theme, *Innovation in History*. Students worked in small groups to develop a museum exhibit, documentary film, performance or website. The students worked for more than three months researching and developing their projects. Nationally, History Day is a highly-regarded academic challenge with more than 500,000 students involved in competition that begins in local and regional fairs and goes on to the state and national finals. The DMS students receiving first place honors included Victoria Hagen, Alex Schreyer, Maureen Booth, Lauren Kewitsch, Hannah Bigot, Claire Miller, Samantha Gildemeister, Amanda Keranen, Laura Halonen, Maureen Lax, Madaline Eichers, Lauren Tilbury, August Otto and Juliana Lillihei.



State History Day was held at the University of Minnesota on May 1, 2010. Eighth grader Amanda Keranen placed third for her documentary on Title IX. Amanda just missed qualifying for Nationals. Ninth grader, Colette Bersie took fifth place for her Human Genome Project website, and Rachel Wolfe, Riale Todd, and Juliana Lillihei received an honorable mention for their Disability Act performance.

5th & 6th Grade Math Masters

Three 6th grade Math Masters teams competed at this year's regional competition held at Belle Plaine Elementary School. Eighteen teams from the Belle Plaine area competed at this year's event. All of the Delano Mathletes received recognition, and DMS's #1 Team took home first place for the second year in a row. The students competed in a fact drill, individual and team problem solving categories. Individual awards went to the following students: Michael Dahl, Chase Soukup, Kyndall Beal, Nikki Hannan, Josh Wissbroecher, Joel Day and Erik Palan. The first place finishers pictured to the right include: Kyndall Beal, Josh Wissbroecher, Michael Dahl, Joel Day and Chase Soukup.



The DMS 5th grade teams received first, third and eighth place. The individual winners included: Jack Weber, first place; Tucker Sjomeling, second place; and Johnny Keranen, fifth place. The 5th grade competed against 30 other teams at this regional competition.

Destination Imagination

Destination Imagination is one of the world's largest creativity and problem solving programs for youth of all ages, with thousands of participants in 50 U.S. states, 15 countries and Canadian provinces participating annually. The Destination Imagination program helps kids build important, lifelong skills, such as problem solving, teamwork and divergent thinking. Teams solve two types of challenges within the program year. The Central Team Challenge involves structural, technical, or theatrical oriented challenges and takes several months to solve. Throughout that time, the teams also practice improvisational instant challenges, which stimulate the team's ability to think quickly and creatively with only minutes to prepare solutions. Each team consists of 2-7 students grades 2-12. All teams will compete at the regional level, some teams will make it on to the state level, and a few teams will make it to the global level. The global tournament is held at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where students will compete against teams from all around the world. The 5th grade team members who advanced to the global competition in 2010 are pictured above. They include: Brianna Somers, Jennifer Sprengler, Natalie Pupp, Elizabeth Soderberg, Stephanie Almquist and Ally Fake.



Geography Bee

Eighth grader Wyatt Russek took home first place in the DMS Geography Bee. Following Wyatt was second place finisher 6th grader Jonathan Kinney and in third place was 7th grader Monica Sporre.



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

The Battle of the Books program is a reading comprehension competition. The students form teams of three and read an assigned list of books over a period of two months. Then, the students go on to compete in a game show type format. The teams must compete in two preliminaries in order to make it to the final round. The students must recall details from the books as well as remember the names of authors. This program is sponsored by the Talent Development department and is open to all students in grades 3-8.



AP Scholar Awards

Two seniors at DHS were awarded Advanced Placement Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement in Advanced Placement (AP) exams. Joe Janas received an AP Scholar with Honor award which is a student who received an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken AND scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. Dustin Ziegelman received an AP Scholar award which is for a student who received scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams. Other students that received recognition for their AP exam achievements include 2010 graduates, Austin Meyer, Emily Hemmingway and Sandra Arnold.



Delano Math Team

The Delano Math Team took first place in conference and made a state tournament appearance for the seventh straight year. The team took first place in all five conference meets which earned them the right to compete at the state tournament. Seven of the top ten individuals in the conference were from Delano High School.

Girls Tennis

2009 was another great year for the Delano Girls Tennis Team. We had 54 tennis players in grades 7-12 participate in the fall season. The team won their 4th consecutive Wright County Conference Title with 7 of our 10 players taking all-conference honors. Katelyn Knudson and Jordan Meyer advanced to the Individual state tournament in doubles.

Cheerleading

We added a JV program for fall cheerleading, which was a success. We had a total of 29 girls participate in this activity. Fifteen made Varsity cheerleading and fourteen were on JV.

Dance

The dance team had a successful year finishing 4th in High Kick and 5th in Jazz for our Section. Earlier in the season we placed 3rd in Jazz and 4th in High Kick at the Waconia Invitational.

Girls Golf

The Delano Girls Golf team finished the season in 6th place in the WCC. In a somewhat rebuilding year, (graduating 3 of 6 golfers from the 2009 season), the girls goal, was to finish in the middle of the conference race. We had at least 30 girls out for the program for the 5th straight season, and will return 4 letter winners during the 2011 season.

