



Delano Public Schools

2010-11

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. Delano students continue to score high on all measures of academic achievement for 2010-11.

Quality Compensation Program

Delano Schools participates 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. This program has become an important focus for staff development, collaboration among teachers and motivation to focus on specific goals in math and reading. Achievement goals centered on reading.

Finances

While Delano students perform at high levels, the school district uses tax dollars efficiently. In fiscal year 2010 Delano spent \$8,269 per student in total General Fund expenses compared to the state average of \$10,251.

Enrollment

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 school district has been in the process of implementing the Project Lead the Way curriculum the past several years. This curriculum focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and is being enthusiastically received by both teachers and students.

The state of the economy makes for financial challenges that will be with us for awhile. School districts have been faced with flat funding during the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years. 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. So far, Delano School District has been able to manage these shifts and delays without having to borrow for cash flow purposes, like many school districts, because of a healthy fund balance. The school district's operating levy will expire for the 2012-13 school year requiring it to be renewed and increased on November 8, 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

2011 MCA Test Results

MCA-II Reading

In 2011, 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. Additionally, when comparing the results with the data from one year ago, there were significant gains at almost every grade level.

MCA-II Reading for Students enrolled by Oct. 1, 2010								
	Not Proficient				Proficient			
2011	Does not Meet		Partially Meets		Meets		Exceeds	
	Standards		Standards		Standards		Standards	
Grade	Delano	State %	Delano	State %	Delano	State %	Delano	State %
3	1.2	10.6	4.3	10.9	15.9	24.7	78.7	53.8
4	1.8	10.2	6.0	14.7	33.5	37.4	58.7	37.8
5	3.7	6.6	11.1	13.1	37.0	40.1	48.1	40.2
6	2.4	8.4	7.1	16.5	27.1	32.5	63.5	42.6
7	1.2	11.4	16.8	18.9	34.2	31.9	47.8	37.7
8	3.4	11.9	18.6	20.0	33.3	30.2	44.6	37.9
10	4.6	8.1	7.6	16.5	43.7	39.2	44.2	36.1

MCA-III Math

Students in grades 3 through 8 at Delano took the MCA-III test in mathematics while students in grade 11 took the MCA-II. The MCA-III tests were written according to the Minnesota Academic Standards revised in 2007. These standards are more rigorous than the MCA-II standards approved in 2003 as these are the standards that align students to complete Algebra I by grades 8; this was the first full year of testing according to these more rigorous standards.

The state as a whole saw a slight dip in proficiency levels from a year ago due to these more robust standards. Delano was no different in that we saw the proficiency rate fall at the elementary school from 93.5% to 88.9% and from 85.2% to 68.9% in the middle school.

MCA-III Math for Students enrolled by Oct 1, 2010								
	Not Proficient				Proficient			
2011	Does not Meet		Partially Meets		Meets		Exceeds	
	Standards		Standards		Standards		Standards	
Grade	Delano	State %	Delano	State %	Delano	State %	Delano	State %
3	1.2	13.4	9.1	16.4	50	41.0	39.6	29.1
4	3.0	16.4	9.0	16.4	42.5	36.7	45.5	30.5
5	7.5	19.8	27.3	26.6	46.0	37.7	19.3	15.9
6	9.9	23.0	14.0	26.7	48.8	32.5	27.3	17.8
7	5.0	18.9	29.6	29.3	42.1	33.4	23.3	18.3
8	3.4	21.0	27.8	25.7	39.8	31.8	29.0	21.4
11	16.1	32.9	17.4	18.5	29.8	27.4	36.6	21.2

MCA-II Science

The MCA-II Science test is given to students in grades 5, 8 and in high school upon completion of Biology. Students across the state of Minnesota took this test on-line. 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. The rate of proficiency at one of the three grade levels improved from the 2010 test. Grade five student proficiency levels fell from 53% to 48.5% and grade eight student proficiency fell from 62.3% to 57.8%. The high school saw a gain in the rate of students deemed proficient from 63.7% to 67%.

MCA-II Science Achievement Levels								
	Not Proficient				Proficient			
2011	Does not Meet		Partially Meets		Meets		Exceeds	
	Standards		Standards		Standards		Standards	
Grade	Delano	State %	Delano	State %	Delano	State %	Delano	State %
5	19.2	24.0	32.3	30.0	40.1	37.4	8.4	8.6
8	7.5	20.6	34.8	35.0	33.7	30.6	24.1	13.8
HS	7.4	17.7	25.6	28.5	53.7	45.4	13.3	8.4

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 their 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 dropped a bit from the previous two years to 3.8. This compares with the state average of 3.5. When looking at the data in the table below, note that 2.9% of our writers scored a 6.0. 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 2010-2011							
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	4.9	38.7	40.7	12.8	2.9	3.8

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

As of print time, the Minnesota Department of Education had not released the AYP information. This was due to a couple of reasons: 1) The state government shutdown in July and 2) the fact that the state of Minnesota has applied for a waiver of the AYP requirements to the Federal Government. Once the status of the waiver is completed, this data will be release to the districts.

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 of MN
Writing Grade 9	95	89.1
Reading Grade 10	89.4	78.7
Mathematics Grade 11	77.8	59.2

MAP DATA

The Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) are standardized assessments that are administered over a two week period in late September and again in May, to Kindergarten through 8th grade students in the areas of Reading and Math. Additionally, the middle school administers the Language Usage test. These assessments are computerized and adjust the level of difficulty of the question as the student is

progressing through the test. Scores are immediately provided upon completion of the test. A correlation study provides a prediction of how the student will score on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA).

Data from these assessments does not indicate a grade level equivalent but rather the student's learning level and the amount of academic growth made over the course of the school year and/or regression over the summer. This assists teachers in guiding instruction to their students' specific academic needs. Additionally, this data is used to identify trends, strengths and areas of concern within the curriculum and among subgroups of students.

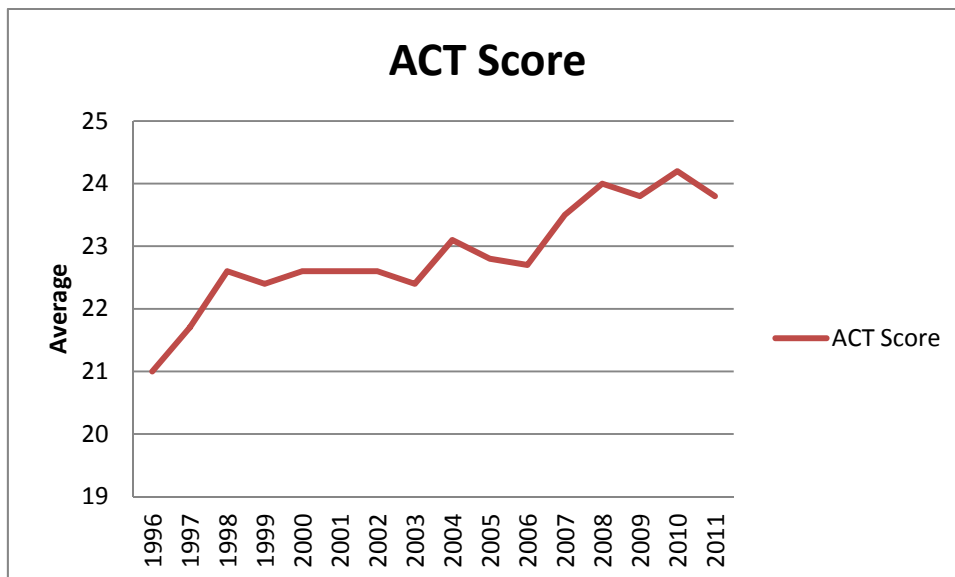
ACT scores at Delano Remain Strong

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, more Delano students (approximately 82%) are taking the test than ever before. The ACT average of 23.8 was not as high as the previous year, however the upward trend of the data continues as seen in the graph below. Minnesota's scores on the 2010 ACT remained constant at 22.9. This score was ranked first in the nation for the *sixth* straight year among states that test a critical mass of students. Delano High School students have traditionally performed better than the state average with no exception this year.

ACT Testing results Composite Scores 2010-2011

Delano – 23.8 State - 22.9 Nation – 21.8

Delano ACT Historical Results



2010-2011 State Testing Dates

Sept. 20 – Oct. 1	MAP Testing	Elementary School
Sept 28 – Oct. 8	MAP Testing	Middle School
Oct 13	PLAN Test	Grade 10
Oct 20	PSAT	High School
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)

Teachers at Delano Public Schools furthering their own education in 2010-11:

Delano Public School teachers maintain an extremely high level of educational degrees. At Delano Public Schools, 58.4% of the staff had earned a minimum of a Master's degree. The following teachers have furthered their educational background this past year.

Master's degree teacher who earned 30 additional graduate credits

Shallyn Tordeur
 Kimberly Knisley
 Jessica Benker
 Jane Larter

Master's degree teachers who earned 15 additional graduate credits

Nicole Pfeifer
 Jessica Bahe

Teachers earning their Master’s degree

Nathan Peterson
Heidi O’Donnell
Matthew Nohner
Andrew Brown
Chad Wagner
Gerrit Van Bergen
Rebecca Rue
Teri Kuperus
Jason Koets

Bachelor’s degree teacher who earned 60 additional graduate credits

Kelly White

Bachelor’s degree teachers who earned 45 additional graduate credits

Jessica Nelson
Amy Larson
Jennifer Froehlich
Joseph Finn

Bachelor’s degree teachers who earned 30 additional graduate credits:

Sandy Meyerson
Ashlee Hunter
Natasha Reitenour

Bachelor’s degree teachers who earned 15 additional graduate credits:

Nicole Jensen
Rachel Kunde

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.

Curriculum Advisory Council 2009-2010

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

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 2010-2011 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 87% of students meeting or exceeding standards in Reading. The actual rate of achievement in the Elementary was 93.35% which was more than an 8% increase over the previous year.

Delano Middle School set a Reading goal for proficiency (Meeting or Exceeding Standards) at 88.77%. Their actual results were 83.9% an increase of .1% from the previous year, but not attaining their goal. The High School also chose to set their goal in the area of Reading 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 87.7% 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 90.9%. These results show that each building is continually increasing student achievement.

Improvements in English Language Art Placed on Hold

As a result of the state of Minnesota and the nation moving toward the adoption of a nationally recognized document known as the Common Core Standards, the English Language Arts committee was placed in a holding pattern until the approval of those standards. The school year began with a plan by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to revise the English standards and have them approved by the end of the legislative session in 2010. At that time the school district moved the rotation of the review cycle to push Language Arts to be in sync with MDE. Almost simultaneously, a national movement began to take center stage with regards to the English and Mathematics standards. MDE then adjusted their timeframe for the completion and approval of the Common Core Standards.

In the final process, MDE and the state of Minnesota approved the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and not for Mathematics. The reason for not adopting the Mathematics standards appears to be that Minnesota has higher standards (i.e. Algebra in grade 8) than what was represented in the national document and the state could not see approving lower standards. The English Language Arts standards met the criteria of the State Department of Education and thereby approving those Common Core Standards. Unfortunately, these standards were approved far too late for our staff to act on them and align our curricula during the 2010-2011 school year. These improvements will be made and aligned in 2011-2012.

Improvements in STEM Education take place

In recent years, an increase of focus for schools has been placed in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Different programs have been developed throughout the county. Delano has been working toward the implementation of one such program titled Project Lead the Way (PLTW) at the high school level and Gateway to Technology (GTT) at the middle school level.

Gateway to Technology (GTT) is an activity-oriented program designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity of middle school students and is taught in conjunction with a rigorous academic curriculum that integrates pre-engineering skills from the areas of math, technology and science.

In 2010-11, Phase II of GTT implementation at Delano Middle School took place. GTT courses are one quarter in length and are automatically included in a student's schedule. During Phase I students in Eighth and Sixth grade were scheduled in GTT courses. The implementation of Phase II allows students to be experience one GTT course in Sixth grade, two courses in each Seventh and Eighth Grades.

The following GTT courses were offered during 2010-11:

6th grade

Magic of Electrons gives students have the opportunity to explore the science of electricity, the behavior and parts of atoms, circuit design and sensing devices.

7th grade

Science of Technology teaches students about the mechanics of motion, the conversion of energy, energy transfer chemical engineering and nanotechnology.

Energy and the Environment investigates the importance of energy in our lives and the impact that using energy has on the environment.

8th grade

Design and Modeling introduces students to the design process. Using design briefs, students create models and documentation to solve problems.

Automation and Robotics explores the history and development of automation and robotics while teaching students about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems.

At the high school level, the endeavor began a couple of years ago with the implementation of "Introduction to Engineering." In 2010-2011 the high school offered the second class in the series called "Principles of Engineering." The course is one semester in length and has a course description as follows:

"Principles of Engineering" is a project-based course that introduces students to the profession of engineering and engineering technology by exploring various technologies related to manufacturing processes and engineering systems. Students will use critical thinking skills to analyze, synthesize and design engineering systems. Students will apply skills and knowledge of math, science, communication and technology in complex problem solving activities. The course also includes risk analysis and engineering reliability impact on social, political and liable consequences of technological advancements. Project Lead the Way is funded in part by a grant from the Kern Family Foundation, Delano Public Schools and a number of community business partners.

Delano High School has also become involved with FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). The mission of First is "to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership." FIRST was introduced to Delano High School by SIL-PRO, a local silicon molding manufacturer that serves the medical industry. SIL-PRO has made significant financial contributions as well as human resources to involve DHS students in the participation of building a robot for competition each spring.

Several College Credit Options Offered at Delano High School

Over the past several years Delano has been steadily implementing college credit courses offered on our campus. Students realize the extreme benefit of taking college level courses without leaving Delano and also benefit by not having to pay tuition for those courses. The financial savings to Delano students last year was easily in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Students are eligible to enroll in these courses if they are in the top one-third of their class as a junior and in the top half of their class as a senior. Other qualifications and deadlines must be met in order to be considered. Last year 60 % of the eligible juniors and seniors were enrolled in a College In the Schools (CIS) classes. This represents 30% of all students in the junior and senior classes.

Delano High School has articulated agreements with the University of Minnesota, St. Cloud State University and Southwest Minnesota State University to commence the credits. College credit courses include: Microeconomics (3 Cr.); Spanish I (3 Cr); Calculus I (5 cr.) Calculus II (5 cr); Chemistry I (5 Credits); Chemistry II (5 Cr), Composition (3 Cr); Literature (3 cr); Psychology (3 cr); and Writing Studio (3 cr.). Additionally, the high school offers several on-line courses through Rasmussen College.

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: The staff will be highly/consistently implementing common formative assessment.

All buildings will encourage professional development related to improved academic standards.

- Professional Development training sessions were focused on the formative assessment process.

Goal 2: The continued implementation of the staff development academy will provide learning opportunities for staff.

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.

Other Professional Development

The district has been involved with the state sponsored Quality Compensation (Q-Comp) program for the past several years.

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, \$32,000 was allocated to the elementary school; \$32,000 was allocated to the middle school; \$32,000 was allocated to the high school \$69,305 was allocated to the district staff, and of the amount designated to the building, \$6,000 was allocated to our District Staff Development Academy for in-house training of staff.

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 Nation 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:

National Merit Scholarship Corporation			
School Year	Scholars	Semi-Finalists	Commended
2010-11	Joe Janas		Alex Kraft Harold Stevens Patrick Sweeney
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		

Activities and other recognitions

Wrestling:

In 2010-11, the Delano Wrestling team finished 5-12; and placed 6th in the WCC. The Tiger Wrestlers were honored with the Academic All-State Team Award – Silver Category with a 3.38 Team GPA. The season was highlighted by the achievements of its three graduating seniors. Derek Butcher finished the season 29-9, finishing 5th Place in the State Tournament at Hwt. – becoming just the 7th wrestler in Delano history to place in the top 6 in the state. He earned WCC All-Conference HM. He entered the 60-win club, finishing with a career record of 62-27. Conner Dahl finished the season 19-13 and placed 4th in the Section 2AA Tournament at 152. Chris Gallus finished the season 23-11, and became a State Qualifier when he placed 2nd in the Section 2AA Tournament at 160. He earned WCC All-Conference HM. He entered the 60-win club, finishing with a career record of 68-55.

Other season highlights: Chad Booth, jr., finished 5th in the Section 2AA Tournament at 140. Lucas Schoen, jr., finished 6th in the Section 2AA Tournament at 145. Connor Dalbec was named 1st Team WCC All-Conference, going 9-0 in WCC competition. Miles Hammerlund was named 1st Team WCC All-Conference, going 8-1 in WCC competition.

Baseball

2011 Varsity Baseball team had a great year. We had 14 great seniors who led the Tigers to the Wright County Championship (Co-Champs with D/C), Section 5AA East Subsection Championship, Section 5AA Championship and the Consolation Championship in the 2011 Class AA State Tournament held in St. Cloud. We experienced improvements as a team all year long culminated by a great team performance in the State Tournament.

Boy's Track and Field

Boys' Track and Field had an outstanding season in 2010-11. We had 17 seniors on our roster that provided much experience and leadership on and off the track. We finished 3rd at the Conference Meet and 4th at the True Team Section Meet. Two boys qualified for the State Meet at Hamline in June. Devin Sowers qualified for the 3rd consecutive year in the discus throw and Devin also qualified in the Shot Put. Travis Collins qualified in the 110M Hurdles and the 300M Hurdles.

Conference Champions included: Devin Sowers in the Discus, Travis Collins in the 110 M Hurdles and 300M Hurdles, and the 4 x 100M Relay team of Dennis Trousov, Aaron Klaers, Jerry Wacholz and Matt Linden.

Girls Golf

The spring of 2011 presented numerous weather challenges, as the Tiger Girl Golfers had but one outdoor practice before traveling to the Monticello Invitational. The Tiger Girl's worked hard at their game indoors and as the weather improved, so did the Girl Tigers. A very tough field of teams in the Wright County Conference, as usual, and our girls consistently finished conference matches between fourth and 6th place. When the smoke cleared for the season finale, the girls finished 6th out of the 10 team Wright County Conference. Lead by Litchfield, who won the conference by a 90 stroke margin, over the season's matches. Captains for this season's team were: Olivia DeSutter and Jordan Meyer. All Conference Honorable Mention, went to Kristin Kreklow (8th grade), who missed all conference honors by one stroke, and also to senior Jordan Meyer. The section 5AA meet was hosted by Fox Hollow in Albertville, and after a very wet spring, the Crow River was not kind to this course. The Delano Girls finished 6th out of 16 section teams, with both Jordan Meyer and Kristin Kreklow advancing to the final day of competition. Jordan shot a 39 on the back nine, tying a Delano girl's golf record.

Girls playing in varsity competition this season: Jordan Meyer and Olivia DeSutter, Kelsie Nelson, Sierra Harju, Kourtney Ryan, Megan Etzel, Jessica Gallagher, Hannah Bigot and Kristin Kreklow. We have 7 girls returning that have played in a varsity match, we are excited about the next season, and very much looking forward to a good weather start and improved play by all of our experienced golfers.

Boys Basketball

The boys basketball team had an excellent season in 2010-2011. We finished with an overall record of 19-9 and a 11-7 record in the Wright County Conference, which was good enough for a 3rd place finish. The top two teams in our conference (Orono and Waconia) finished 1st and 3rd respectfully in the State Tournament. A couple of highlights were winning the Glencoe Holiday Tournament and winning our first playoff game before losing to eventual state champion Orono in the section semi-finals. The team was led by our three seniors Trevor Checkal, Trevor Jaunich, and Michael Yahnke. Michael Yahnke finished an excellent career by becoming the all time leading scorer in Delano history. He also was named to the Minnesota Coaches Association All-Star Game and the Minnesota Coaches Association All-State Academic Team. (this is the second year in a row we had someone on the Academic All-State team -- Joe Silhacek was named the year before)

Girls Tennis

2010 was another great year for the Delano girl's tennis team. They won their 5th consecutive Wright County Conference Championship and had 4 all-Conference players, Jordan Meyer, Laura Finn, Kristin Hedtke, and Cassy Finn. The girls also placed 2nd in Section 2AA tournament, losing to Minnetonka in the finals. Jordan Meyer and Laura Finn teamed up in the section 2AA individual doubles tournament and advanced to the state tournament. Playing on the 2010 team was 1st singles Laura Finn, 2nd singles Kristin Hedtke, 3rd singles Laura Parsons, and 4th singles Cassie Rammage. 1st doubles Jordan Meyer and Cassy Finn, 2nd doubles Ellie Ross and Allison Sandlass, and 3rd doubles Katie Vatnsdal and Allison Warne.

Boy's Golf 2011

The boy's golf team enjoyed the Spring season of 2011 and improved with each week we played. We were able to lower our team score throughout the season, and many individuals showed improvement as well. The highlight of the year was at Sections as we shot our best score of the season and missed qualifying for the second day by 2 strokes. We had three individuals qualify for the second day, Ted Heikkila, Jason Kreklow and Jordan Peters. Jordan played beautifully on the second day of Sections and qualified for the State Tournament.

Dance Team

The Delano Tiger Dance Team had a successful 2010/2012 season, placing 1st for High Kick in the Wright County Conference and 3rd in the Jazz category. They placed 1st in Kick and 2nd in Jazz at the Belle Plaine competition. We hosted Sections at Delano for the second year, placed 6th in both Kick and Jazz out of 13 teams. The team gained more than five new members at the beginning of the season and will lose two seniors for the 2011/2012 season.

Girls Basketball

Delano GBB, lead by 2nd year Head Coach Amy Gould, Junior Varsity coach Bill Stevens and Assistant Varsity coach Seth Potter graduated 8 seniors from the 2009-2010 season including four starters in Abby Vidmar, Maya Peters, Jessica Prinsen and Paige Schaust. Returning starter and 2009-2010 All conference honorable mention senior forward Emilee Duske co-captained the team with senior shooting guard Hailey Soukup. The Tigers picked up three wins vs Rockford, Princeton and Mound on the 2010-2011 season. Season stat leaders included high point per game scorers Emilee Duske at 12 points per game and Hailey Soukup at 8 points per game, while team rebounds were also lead by senior Duske at 10 boards per game. Emilee Duske will continue her basketball career as a mustang for Southwest Minnesota State. Three teams from a strong Wright County conference represented their class sections at Minnesota 2009-2010 state tournaments; Rogers, Watertown and Annandale.

Girls' 2011 Track & Field Season

The Girls' Delano Track & Field team had a great outdoor season last spring. Team achievements were highlighted in the 3200m relay record being broken at Mound-Westonka with a time of 10:00 (Alex Wittinger, Sarah Matthiesen, Ellie Ross, & Larissa Halonen). Strong results were achieved at the Belle Plaine Invite (3rd place), Glenco-Silver Lake Tri (2nd place), Delano Tri (1st place), and Conference Meet (5th place).

Individually, Larissa Halonen led the distance team with times that dominated the record books. Larissa's times in the 1600m (5:12) and 3200m (11:21) will go down in history as two of the best distance performances in Delano History. Larissa currently runs for NMU. Alex Wittinger (an 8th grader) was a sprinter who also became a shining star with school records in the 100m hurdles (15.30) and 300m hurdles (46.57 – top 2). Field events were led by Hannah Bauman in the shot & disc.