

# Delano High School

Parent E-Newsletter • December 2016/January 2017

# NEWS

**Show Up.  
Show Up on Time.  
Work Hard.  
Failure is Not an Option.**

## December Calendar

- 4 HS Jazzy Concert 7 pm
- 10 Junior High One Act  
Play Festival (Grades 7-9)
- 12 HS PIE Meeting 6 pm
- 23-30 Winter Break - **NO SCHOOL**

## January Calendar

- 2 Winter Break - **NO SCHOOL**
- 9 Earning College Credits in  
High School Meeting for Parents/  
Students (Grades 9-11) 7:30 pm
- HS PIE Meeting 6 pm
- 12 1st Semester Final Exams  
8:02 am-12:17 pm
- Earning College Credits in High  
School Meeting for Parents/  
Students (Grades 9-11) 6 pm
- 13 1st Semester Final Exams  
8:02 am-12:17 pm
- End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester
- 16 Teacher Workshop Day -  
**NO SCHOOL**
- 21 One Act Play Festival
- 28 One Act Play Sub-Section  
2AA Contest



### **Congratulations to DHS student-athletes who signed Letters of Intent.**

Tori Hanson, Concordia St. Paul for Volleyball; Erin Norling, Wayne State College for Basketball; Jordan Schramel, Minnesota State University-Mankato for Baseball; and Tucker Sjomeling, University of Nebraska-Lincoln for Wrestling.

## Construction

If you have been around the campus lately, you may have noticed that construction on the outdoor fields has begun. This work will soon end for winter and start up again in the spring. This will cause delays for parents who are picking up or dropping off students for school, appointments, etc. We ask for your patience during the next two years as these building projects will cause all of us to adjust to the changing campus.



***Preparing football stadium for turf and track for resurfacing.***

As parents of our students, we ask your help in keeping everyone safe. **Please do not drop off or pick up students on Tiger Drive.** Most of the construction traffic will be using Tiger Drive. It is not safe to have students darting in and out of traffic before or after school.

As construction updates become available, the high school will send notifications via Skylert to families to inform them of these updates/changes. Again, we ask for your patience while our campus is under construction.

Looking toward 2017, I am excited about the possibilities that exist for the students, staff and our entire community. We will undergo major construction and reorganization that I know will impact students, staff and the community in many positive ways.

## Student Security

Recently, our school has been fielding some concerns from students, families and community members in the areas of race, gender roles and national origin. As a school, we need to ensure that every student feels safe and secure while attending Delano High School and at school events. At no point should any student be told to go back to their country. No one should ever have to listen to a racist/sexist comment or joke. No matter what the intention of the individual is, it is NEVER a joke and it is NEVER okay. As a school we can NEVER stand for this type of behavior. When opportunities arise, please talk to your students about these issues and how they can react and better these behaviors through positive interventions.

I wish everyone a great holiday season and look forward to a wonderful 2017!

**- Dr. Steve Heil  
Principal**

# Spanish III Students Experience Mexican Celebration



Students in Mrs. Schmidt's Spanish III class participated in *Día de los Muertos*, "Day of the Dead." This is a Mexican celebration that takes place every year on November 1 and 2. *Day of the Dead* is a time to remember loved ones that have passed. In the picture above, students are wearing the traditional *calavera* or skull that is used for decoration. Each student colored their own mask in class. Each mask demonstrates the traditional bright colors associated with the *Day of the Dead*.

## Helping Your Child Develop a Positive Attitude

Positive thinking is a way of looking at any circumstance and finding the good in it. You can increase your teen's positive thinking by giving them the skills to think more positively through interpersonal skills, problem solving skills, critical reasoning, and planning skills. Look for ways to guide your teen's thoughts in a positive direction. Having a positive attitude isn't something a child is born with. It is something that needs to be developed.

### ***How do I Instill a Positive Attitude in my Teenager?***

- Teens have the tendency to imitate the adults around them and learn positive thinking patterns by listening and watching. Modeling a positive attitude is one of the most effective ways of teaching your teen.
- Help your teen develop kindness, compassion, sympathy, and empathy. These are all skills that will help them develop a more positive way of thinking now and throughout their life.
- Encourage your teen to see his/her own strengths and to be happy with whom he/she is.
- Parents should encourage their teens to have long-term and short-term goals and to visualize success.
- Talk about the positive things happening in their life and the positive things that will happen in their future. Encourage them to say positive things about themselves and about others.
- Your teen should accept responsibility for wrong choices and then move on. Neither you nor your teen should dwell on what has happened in the past. Help your teen accept where he/she is today and move forward in a positive direction. Help your teen make positive changes that will help him/her make better choices in the future.
- Say, "I love you," often, even if your child acts like they don't care. Inside they need the reassurance that you do.

***Having a positive attitude isn't something a child is born with - it is something that needs to be developed.***

***Always remember that love is a powerful force and it gives your teen a feeling of self-worth.***

***- Marie Techam, DHS Social Worker***

# Career Preparation Begins Now!

Most students in high school are not sure about "what they want to be when they grow up" or their life after high school. It is never too early for students to start exploring the many opportunities that lie outside Delano High School walls.

Most high school students need preparation before they are ready to join the workforce and planning should be part of this process. This could include taking technical courses during high school or, after graduating, attending a college or university to earn a certificate or degree. If students have a general area of interest, this is where preparation begins - exploring the opportunities available for that interest. As stated previously, many high school students don't have any idea about what they want to do after high school. In fact, many students change their minds multiple times before they figure it out. What makes it challenging in today's society is that many of the careers that will be available in 5-10 years or beyond have not even been created yet.



***DHS students explored career and educational opportunities at Alexandria Technical and Community College.***

To help some Delano High School students explore career opportunities, Guidance Counselor Susan Farbo, School Within a School (SWAS) teacher Shallyn Tordeur and Special Education teacher Josh Tierney took 14 students to Alexandria Technical and Community College on Thursday, November 17, to explore career options. "My feeling is that high school students don't have to know the exact career they want," expressed Susan Farbo, "but they should know how to research careers by putting time into investigating opportunities, while exploring their own skills and interests." The world is full of opportunities just waiting to be discovered and individuals graduating from high school today are projected to change jobs several times throughout their life.

We don't expect students to prepare, plan and choose one career they will hold for a lifetime. Yet exploring the type of careers available and where your interests lie is imperative and will help set you up for success.

***- Susan Farbo, DHS Guidance Counselor***

## ***Congratulations Veteran's Day Scholarship Essay Winners!***

**"What do the American Flag and the National Anthem Mean to Me?"** was the question Delano High School students were asked to express their patriotism in the 2016 American Legion Post 377 Scholarship Essay Contest. This year's first place winner, Grant Hellmich, shared his essay with those in attendance at the Veteran's Day program which was held in the Tiger Activity Center on Friday, November 11.

This is an annual essay contest that is available to all DHS seniors each year before Veteran's Day. The winners receive monetary scholarships and a framed award.

***We would like to thank the members of American Legion Post 377 for sponsoring this contest that gives students time to reflect on our country and those serving and who have served.***



***Hannah Tormanen, Grant Hellmich and Andrew Weinzierl (not pictured), are this year's scholarship winners.***



# Rendering Words with Paint



Delano High School students from the program School Within a School (SWAS) visited River Street Paint House. They painted a 1940's streetcar which portrayed words from a novel they have been reading in class. It was an amazing day for the students as they partnered with a local business. This was a great opportunity for students to discover their artistic abilities outside of the classroom!

## What Happens in the Classrooms at DHS?

As the assistant principal, I have had the privilege of observing what happens in classrooms at Delano High School. I love walking into classrooms and seeing our staff and students embracing the concept of academic rigor and growth. Our staff is constantly looking for ways to remain on the forefront in education, whether it is through the use of technology, differentiation, professional development, collaboration, or other avenues of providing relevant and meaningful curriculum and instruction. Students are creating business models, printing 3D designs, building a canoe, reading graphic novels, participating in engaging and thought provoking discussions, and a plethora of other activities that are meeting the needs of our learners.

DHS students are encouraged by parents and staff to push themselves in academics, arts, athletics, and other activities. Students are challenging themselves throughout their high school career in many different ways and in turn they grow everyday so that when they graduate from Delano High School they are prepared for whatever endeavor they choose to pursue.

Finally, within the classroom I have enjoyed witnessing positive staff interactions with students, relationship building and students having fun. The learning environment our staff has established promotes a safe, supportive, and positive school community. It is evident that we have a faculty and student body that are passionate about DHS. This is something for us all to be proud of and another reason why I truly believe that DHS is a special place.

**- Shane Baughman**  
*Assistant Principal*

**Reminder Parents and Students! Come learn about how students can earn College Credits in high school at the "Earning College Credits in High School" meeting to be held on Monday, January 9, at 7:30 p.m. and Thursday, January 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the Delano Middle School Auditorium. This meeting is for parents and students in grades 9-11. For more information, contact the Guidance Counselor Office at 763.972.3365, ext. 2237 or 2238.**



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