



Tiger Territory

Delano High School Newsletter April 2019



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Dates to remember

April

5.....End of HS Quarter 3

6.....DHS Prom

8.....HS PIE, 6 p.m.

9.....SciTech, noon to 3 p.m.

19.....No school, holiday break

22.....Make-up day, school in session

22.....School board mtg., 7 p.m.

26-27.....Spring musical, 7 p.m.

May

1.....DHS Senior Awards Night

2-3.....Spring musical, 7 p.m.

4.....Spring musical, 1 p.m.



March music

March was a busy month for Delano musicians. Above, the jazz bands were in action during the fifth annual Jazz Festival on March 7. Band members performed a set of songs and learned from professional clinicians at the event. Later, band and choir members traveled to Chicago during spring break. See Pages 4 and 7 for more.

Business and career options

By Dr. Steven Heil
Principal

Over the past six years the high school has been developing relationships with local and regional businesses, as well as higher education institutions.

During SciTech, the high school's college and career showcase, students can hear about how some companies and colleges are changing the career pathways options. Many businesses are working directly with higher education institutions on creating a more direct route to job placement.



Dr. Steven Heil

This could involve an alternative route to a bachelor's or master's degree where businesses pay for college credits as incentives to their employees. Students are also able to look for summer employment, seek internship opportunities, and talk with two-year and four-year institutions.

We look forward to SciTech each year to help our students, and families who want to attend, connect with employers and colleges.

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DELANO DRAMA PRESENTS:

Disney's

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL ON STAGE



at the
**DELANO
PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER**

Students
\$5
Adults
\$7

**APR
26**

7PM

**APR
27**

7PM

**MAY
2**

7PM

**MAY
3**

7PM

**MAY
4**

1PM

Tickets available online at: **delano.k12.mn.us**

Into Germany

History and personal connections highlight trip

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

From the barren remains of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp to the observation dome of the Reichstag, and from the shadowy “underworld” tours of Berlin’s bunkers and tunnels to the cozy living rooms of their host families, Delano High School students had an unparalleled opportunity to experience Germany over spring break.

Six German language students and their teacher, Jane Aksoy, departed for Germany on March 6 and returned 10 days later with a wealth of memories and experiences behind them.

“It was exhausting, but really worth it,” said senior Ava Gilbert. “The whole trip was exhausting, but in a really good way.”

Overview

The group, comprising students at varying levels of German language studies, spent the first three-plus days of their trip in the German capitol. Then each individual student spent a week with separate German host families in the vicinity of Kirchberg, about a three-hour train ride from Berlin.

“Traveling to Germany makes an enormous difference because they see that the things we’re doing in class are real,” said Aksoy. “It gets them excited about not just language, but culture. It’s really the family stay that is important to me, because it shows that there is a German culture, there is a German language, there is a German everything. And that’s not something you can necessarily put in a classroom.”

Evidence of Berlin’s tumultuous history was everywhere, from the World War II-era flak tower outside the group’s hotel to the city’s Holocaust me-



DHS students who visited Berlin and other German cities over spring break included, from left, Ethan Williams, Steven Orthengren, John Jacobson, Annabel Frake, teacher Jane Aksoy, Olivia Theis and Ava Gilbert. The students, shown here in the observation dome atop the Reichstag, also spent a week with German host families.

monial and the half-destroyed Church of Remembrance.

Students also took a tour of underground tunnels dug by East Berlin residents trying to escape to the west beneath the Berlin Wall during the Cold War, which was a highlight of the trip.

‘Traveling ... gets them excited about not just language, but culture.’

Jane Aksoy

“It was very eye-opening how much we did not know about the Berlin Wall,” said senior Olivia Theis.

Later on, Gilbert had a unique opportunity to hear

about the wall’s impact at a personal level.

“The grandparents of the family I stayed with were part of the very first movement against the Berlin Wall, part of the very first demonstration, so I got to hear about how that took place,” she said.

Theis said her host family grandparents remembered seeing the flames from Dresden, well over an hour away, after it was bombed and all but destroyed by a resulting firestorm during the war.

“You don’t think of those things as being as recent as they are, but then you meet people who actually lived through it,” said Gilbert.

Sachsenhausen

After leaving Berlin the group also toured Sachsenhausen, a concentration camp that held many political prisoners

during the war. Though not a death camp like Auschwitz, the facility has its own well-documented history of horrors.

“It was very heavy and very sobering,” said junior Ethan Williams. “When you walk in there it puts a pit in your stomach and sucks all the emotions out of you. It’s a hard thing to go through.”

“But it’s important too,” added junior Steven Orthengren. “The memorial outside talking about the suffering of the people there was pretty powerful.”

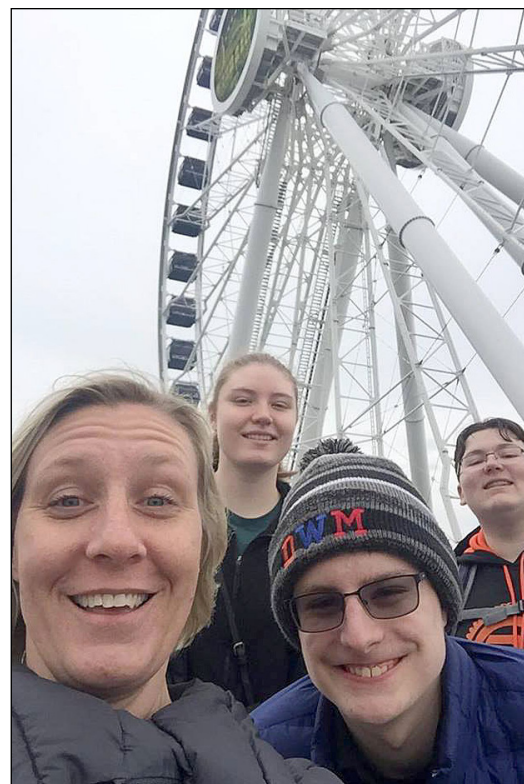
Many prisoners died even after the camp was liberated, and a sizable cemetery remained. Williams noted that many of the graves were well tended with flowers and other items of endearment, “so you could see that there was still

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Windy city wanderings

Band and choir students visited Chicago over spring break, where they performed at the Field Museum and participated in clinics at the VanderCook College of Music. There was also plenty of time for sight-seeing. Students visited the Willis Tower, Navy Pier, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Lincoln Park Zoo and more.





Winter season ends at state

For the boys hockey team, and a number of individuals, the winter sports season ended at state. At right, the hockey team celebrates its consolation championship. Individual state performances were detailed last month, but wrestlers, gymnasts and swimmers pictured above are, in the front row, Colby Kern, Kaden Georges, John Kenison and Joey Coyle. In the back row are Nick Black, Gentry Nuytten, Leah Pinoniemi, Jennifer Coons, Reier Sjomeling, Carson Tschudi and Edward Hajas.



Tips for a strong school year finish

By Steven Schaubberger
Assistant Principal

Greetings, from Delano High School! We survived our harsh winter and we are looking forward to spring and getting outdoors for many activities.

Here are a few important, helpful items to think about as we head down the stretch for a strong finish in fourth quarter.

- Consistent student attendance, every day possible at school, is crucial. Please proactively communicate your student's absences with his or her teachers, school nurse and the main office.



Steven Schaubberger

- Find a balance between celebrating the many posi-

tive accomplishments vs. the completion of school work and testing that occurs until the very last day of school.

- Monitor and guide social media use by your student and set limits when needed. Students actually need more sleep and nutrition as we head into the longer days.

- Talk with your student about the progress of your shared goals and expectations for academics, activities, friends, responsibilities at home, etc. that were set in place last fall.

- Discuss where and to whom your student can go to and access help at home and

school (counselor, principals, etc.) for any of their social, emotional, physical, bullying-prevention needs.

We can achieve our common goals by addressing both task completion *and* building relationships. We will strive to care about students' interests as well as "getting the work done." Our team must continue to take time to celebrate the wonderful things our students and staff have accomplished. Therefore, thank you for being a partner in your student's total school experience. *Together* we are better!

History projects to state

Several projects by eighth-grade students advanced through regions on Tuesday, March 19, and are moving on to the state level in the History Day competition.

State projects in the documentary category were:

- "The Night Witches: The Tragedy and Triumph of Soviet Female Aviators," by Sydney Kazin, Addie Persian and Greta Persian.

- "William Still: The Father of the Underground Railroad," by Evelyn Otto, Kaylee Fude and Grace Carver.

- "The Tragedy of Japanese American Internment, 1942-1946," by Victoria Vanderheiden.

In the website category:

- "The Manhattan Project: The Project that Changed the World," by Jonathan Kivisto, John Otto and Noah Kalthoff.

In the exhibit category:

- "The Culper Spy Ring," by Nadia Slavec and Gigi Slavec.

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Every penny counts

Members of the seventh- and eighth-grade Student Council count up coins on Thursday, March 28, at the close of the Pennies for Patients campaign. As a whole, Delano High School raised a new school record of \$10,002.52. The goal for the year was to crack \$10,000 for the first time. Thank you to students, families and the Delano community for your generosity.



Structure and tips for the MCA tests

By Shane Baughman
Assistant Principal

Next month our students will take the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments in the subject areas of reading, math and science.

These assessments provide important information to our students, families and staff in terms of career and college readiness.

In order to take away as much informed data as possible, students should strive to do their best on the MCAs.

Grades seven and eight will take their assessments in their classroom for the respective



Shane Baughman

subject areas. Grades 10 and 11 will test from 9:15-11:15 a.m.

the Wednesday of the assessment window.

Test tips

Below are some recommended test-taking tips for students for the night before, day of, and during the assessments.

- Take a deep breath and relax - you will do great!
- Get a good night's sleep.
- Eat breakfast.
- Bring headphones (some assessments allow them).
- Listen and follow all directions from proctors.
- Take your time - assessments are untimed.
- Read and reread questions carefully.

- Use scratch paper if necessary.

- Answer every question to the best of your ability.

- Stay positive.

Symposiums

In order to maximize academic opportunities, DHS has partnered with outside organizations and individuals to present to students who are not scheduled to test on the particular day. These symposiums are a wonderful opportunity to supplement and enhance the learning of our students, while creating a non-disruptive environment for those who are testing.



Musical learning

Jazz band musicians from five different schools had the opportunity to perform for one another, learn from professional musicians from JazzMN Orchestra, and see the pros perform during the fifth annual Jazz Festival on March 7.



Heil

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This year's SciTech Showcase is from noon to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, in the Tiger Activity Center.

CEO program

Don't overlook a potentially life-changing program, Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (CEO).

The CEO program is different from the traditional classroom instruction. The classroom is not located in a school facility, but rather in local businesses. Students attend class onsite and learn from exposure to real-world experiences provided by

business leaders in the community.

Over this year-long course, students have the opportunity to start real businesses and learn from their successes and failures. This experience will expose students to an environment they have most likely not yet seen, and will develop skills that will benefit them for the rest of their lives.

Program goals

- Provide opportunities for students to be engaged, curious, and ready to learn about modern business practices.
- Educate students on the opportunities in their communities.
- Create new and innovative businesses.
- Provide real-world, real-life experiences for students.

- Connect students with business professionals.

- Transform the way young people view the world and their future.

- Inspire and encourage young people to return to their communities to live, work, raise families, and start businesses.

- Provide the opportunity for each student to start their own business.

- Provide a mentor from the business community for each CEO student.

Students who attend CEO do so through the Wright Tech Center. Our students who have attended CEO all have successful businesses! This is a very unique opportunity not offered to many high school students in the nation.

Have a great spring.

Germany

from Page 3

family around who were still feeling the impact of what happened.”

It wasn’t the first concentration camp visit for Theis, but she said the experience was as powerful as ever.

“I’ve been to Germany before, and last time we went we went to Dachau. I thought Sachsenhausen was a lot more intense,” she said. “It was built in a triangle, so you can stand at one point and see everything. It’s really giant. There was also a prison within the prison, and even though they tore down most of the buildings there to rebuild the town, they rebuilt part of the prison so you could see what it was like.”

Family visits

While the sightseeing and historical aspects of the trip were memorable, the students agreed that the family stays were the highlight.

“Just talking to them and getting to know them was better than any of the activities,” said Orthengren.

“They were the nicest people in the world,” said Williams. “It was so cool. They had something planned for me every day. I was up at 6 and in bed at 10. It was a full day, every day. They were just wonderful people.”

The students spent time in Zwickau, the largest city in the region, and commented on the amazing variety and quality of home-cooked food, particularly bread. They found that most of the young people they encountered were pretty fluent in English, but the older Germans were less so. Still, most of the Delano students were comfortable enough in their German skills to converse freely with their hosts.

“The parents didn’t know a lot of English, so that’s where you were challenged. They were so much fun to talk to though,” said Gilbert. “The older people were really enthusiastic to meet



Along with family visits, students had the opportunity to explore Berlin, including its iconic Brandenburg Gate.



Students had the opportunity to visit a portion of the Berlin Wall that is still standing.

us. I had to work a lot more on my German then, because you really had to force out a complete German sentence. But it wasn’t bad. I did better than I thought I could.”

The Soviet legacy in East Berlin was still discernable. Williams, for example, noted that while his host family loved American music, their knowledge of it was partial.

“The former East Germany was under heavy censorship

from the USSR. Anything that got there went through the USSR first. So their taste in music is really strange,” he said. “They know all of the big artists, but it’s deep tracks only. They didn’t know any of the greatest hits. The student I lived with was a huge fan of Johnny Cash, but had never heard the song ‘Walk the Line’ before, which I thought was really interesting.”

During their stay, students

enjoyed the opportunity to sharpen their language skills. Each student interviewed for this story felt they improved greatly during the trip.

“The language you’re learning in that week is everyday stuff, because you’re in their everyday lives,” said Gilbert. “So the vocab you’re using is very current. I think that’s important, vs. what you get out of an old textbook.”

In all, Aksoy said the trip was a success from a cultural, academic and personal standpoint.

“Their family stays were all wonderful. I anticipate that some of the kids will reconnect with the kids they stayed with. That doesn’t always happen, but in this case I think it will because there were some really good connections,” she said.

Theis agreed.

“You really do make a connection with your family in those five days,” she said. “In that amount of time you’re just getting used to it and getting comfortable. It was really tough to leave.”

Unified team making a difference

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Now in its second season, the Delano High School Unified Basketball team is growing and continuing to make a difference in the lives of its players.

This year's team consists of seven athletes and 15 student partners who play alongside them.

DHS math teacher Matt Nohner, who coaches the group along with DHS social worker Marie Techam, said he was pleased with the way the program has developed after an impromptu startup last year.

"We have double the number of athletes and (have) doubled the number of tournaments we will go to," Nohner said. "We also had a group do the Cool School Polar Plunge on March 1."

The team's first tournament took place on Feb. 14 in Orono, and a second tournament will take place in either April or May.

Freshman athlete Dillion Mrnak said he is getting better in his second season on the team, which combines students with and without intellectual disabilities for practices and tournaments. What does he enjoy the most?

"Making shots. And dribbling," he said.

Can he dribble between the legs yet?

"That's too hard," he said.

Did he have fun at the first tournament?

"It was spectacular," he said. "I enjoyed new friends and having fun with the music and stuff."

Techam said the program is succeeding in its mission of building bridges between students with and without disabilities, and Mrnak's mother, Kelly, agrees.

"He really enjoys the games and practices. Every practice day he is so pumped up to go," said Kelly Mrnak. "He loves being around everyone and



Dillion Mrnak, right, celebrates a basket with teammates during an exhibition game at the Winterfest talent show on March 1.

they play his favorite music, so that makes him enjoy practice night even more. It's like a big basketball dance party to him. From what I saw, they all enjoyed that. He is always laughing and smiling through the whole night. As a mom, I loved seeing that."

Kelly Mrnak said her son has always been social, but the program has helped him to build confidence and open up even more.

"I like seeing him make friends that are outside of his normal (group)," she said,

adding that people naturally tend to avoid those who are different. "This program has helped others see that (people with special needs) really are not much different."

That progress was most evident when one of the student partners on the team asked Dillion to the Sadie Hawkins dance this winter. Dillion said he doesn't usually attend school dances, but this time was different.

"I was pretty nervous on my first date," he said, adding that it went well despite his nerves.

His mother agreed.

"His first date and just in general his first real outing is a memory that's going to stick in my heart just as much as his," she said. "If it wasn't for this program I honestly think he would not have gone to Sadies. I was so happy when I found out that someone wanted to take him. He was super excited. He went out and got a fresh new haircut and new outfit with his dad. He was counting down the days. He kept saying he was so excited and can't believe he's going out on a date. It made my heart happy to see him so excited."

Each practice night is a relaxed time to mingle and have fun, a scene that Kelly Mrnak thoroughly enjoyed one night this year.

"It helped him be a regular 15-year-old boy who got to go out and make some new friends outside his normal circle ... he wasn't attached to a para or teacher," she said. "He, for a hour or so on a Monday night, was just Dillion."



Team members gather for a photo at the Orono tournament in February.

History

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Honorable mentions

Projects that received honorable mention honors but did not advance to state included:

- “Vincent Van Gogh,” by Julia Gibson and Annika Gibson.
- “Slavery of Faith: The Tragedy and Triumph of the Jonestown Massacre,” by Hannah Werder and Wynn Russek.
- “Louis Zamperini - A True American Hero,” by Ashley Hebner, Emma Grover and Rachel Eskola.



Kaylee Fude, Grace Carver and Evelyn Otto are headed to state for their documentary about William Still.

Announcements

Reduce stress, optimize health

Caring deeply for your child or youth with disabilities can be stressful, and that stress can impact your health and wellbeing.

The PACER Center (8161 Normandale Blvd. Minneapolis) will host a guided lesson for parents, caregivers and professionals featuring L. Read Sulik, a child, adolescent and adult psychiatrist, on two dates in April. The first session is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, and the second is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, April 29. Register online at <http://bit.ly/Sulik-PACER>.

Sometimes the best thing you can do for the children you care about is to take better care of yourself. Learn how to use scientifically proven techniques to reduce your stress and start a journey to optimize your health and wellbeing.



L. Read Sulik

Food assistance offered

The Sheridan Story is a non-profit organization that provides free food for students over the weekend. Their focus is to help fill in food “gaps” -- the times when children are not at school to access meal programs. Students participating in The Sheridan Story program will receive a bag of food that will be discreetly placed in their locker every Friday before leaving school.

If you are interested in participating in The Sheridan Story program, please fill out the enrollment form at bit.ly/SheridanFood. You can also find the link posted under the Guidance and Counseling webpage. If you would like a paper copy of the enrollment form please contact Elise Boleman or Lisa Servaty.

There is no criteria to participate in The Sheridan Story, and all information is kept confidential.

For information regarding the Sheridan Story please visit: www.thesheridanstory.org.

County seeking foster families

Wright County is seeking foster families who will allow children experiencing difficult situations to remain in their school.

“We try to keep foster children in their current school district to allow for more stability in their already unstable lives,” said Wright County Case Aide Valerie Steele. “We are trying to reach every community to help spread the word about the need of additional foster parents in each Wright County city.”

Wright County has a pressing and ongoing need for foster families. All children need a safe home where people will nurture and respect them. Children enter foster care due to significant life factors, often including abuse or neglect. The overall goal of foster care is to provide children with a temporary, stable and caring family setting until they are reunited with their family or until a permanency plan is established for them.

If you would like more information about becoming a foster parent, contact Marisa Ferguson at 763-682-7484 or marisa.ferguson@co.wright.mn.us.

Weather make-up days

After extreme weather resulted in the cancellation of four school days earlier this year, make-up days will be in effect. Dates when school was canceled due to weather included Jan. 29-31 and Feb. 20.

Make-up days set before the beginning of the school year included Monday, Feb. 18, and Monday, April 22. In addition, two days have been added to the end of the school year, so class will be in session through Thursday, June 6.

Additional days will be added to the end of the school year, if necessary, during the remainder of the year.

A fifth canceled day that will not be made up, due to highly unusual circumstances, is the Feb. 8 closure due to a heating problem in the high school. Staff members did report for work that day.



This e-newsletter is published by District Communications Coordinator Paul Downer. Contact Paul at 763.972.3365, x1911, or paul.downer@delanoschools.org. Delano High School is located at 700 Elm Avenue E. in Delano. For more information, see www.delano.k12.mn.us, or find Delano Public Schools on Facebook and Twitter.

