



# Tiger Territory

Delano High School Newsletter December 2021-January 2022

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Veterans Day event

## Dates to remember

### December

7.....Gr. 7-8 choir concert, 7 p.m.

10.....Mid-quarter

12.....Jazzy Christmas, 4 p.m.

13.....HS PIE, 6 p.m.

13.....Conferences

15.....Two-hour late start

20...Gr. 7-8 band concert, 7 p.m.

23-31.....Winter break, no school

### January

3.....Classes resume

10.....HS PIE, 6 p.m.

17.....MLK Jr. Day, no school

21.....End Semester 1



**Swimmers take third at state. See Page 2.**



## Honoring the flag

Delano High School returned to its traditional in-person Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11. The event featured a variety of student performances, guests from the Delano American Legion, a keynote address by Rep. Joe McDonald, and more. See Pages 7-8.

## Grit is more than a buzzword

**By Barry Voight**  
Principal

Last month's edition of the DHS newsletter included the start of a series in which I'm detailing the elements of our TIGER Way and discussing the meanings of these terms as they are used and applied at DHS.

Teamwork and Inclusion were the focus at that time, and as we continue the series this month I'll focus on Grit. These are key pillars of the TIGER Way, and we expect them to be exhibited by all staff and students here at DHS.

The term "grit" has been an especially effective buzzword in education over the last decade



**Barry Voight**

due to the popularity of the work done by psychologist Angela Duckworth and her colleagues. Duckworth defines

grit as "a positive, non-cognitive trait that is based on an individual's perseverance of effort combined with the passion for a long-term goal."

Duckworth and colleagues coined this term as a differentiating characteristic between individuals whose levels of success were varied when other factors, like intelligence, were controlled. Summarily, the researchers concluded that the more "grit" an individual had, the more successful they would be.

It is easy to understand why educators would rally around this term, as it can be a

**See Voight**  
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# Swimmers take third at state meet

## Kern sets new Minnesota backstroke record

The Delano High School girls swim and dive team took third place at the 2021 state meet the weekend of Nov. 20. The team scored its highest point total ever, had three first-place individual or relay finishes, and set one individual state record. Here are some of the results:

- Emma Kern set a new state record with an Auto All-American time in the 100 backstroke. She also won the 100 butterfly with a new school record and Auto All-American time in prelims, and an All-American Consideration time in finals.

- Kern was also a member of the first-place 200 free relay team, including Hannah Wadholm, Josie Strobl and Kaia Georges, which finished in an Auto All-American time and set a new school record.

- The 200 medley relay of Norah Seguin, Abby Wadholm, Abby Seguin and Georges placed fourth, and the 400 free relay of Kern, Shelby Benker, Wadholm and Strobl placed



**The Tigers had a very successful appearance at the state swimming and diving meet this fall. Here, they display their third-place trophy.**

third with a new school record.

- Other individuals who placed top 16 were Georges, who placed ninth in both the 50 and 100 freestyle; Abby Seguin; who placed 13th in the

100 fly; Benker, who placed 16th in the 500 free; and Norah Seguin, who placed sixth in the 100 backstroke. In addition, Avery Lommel had a big move up from 14th place to eighth

place in the diving competition.

Congratulations to all swimmers and divers on a fantastic end to the season!

## They made it to state

DHS recently honored fall athletes who went to state as individuals. In the front row, from left, are swimmers Abby Seguin and Emma Kern, cross country runner Justin Zens, and swimmers Josie Strobl and Abby Wadholm. In the back row are, from left, swimmers/divers Bella Kern, Lydia Jostock, Hannah Wadholm, Norah Seguin, Avery Lommel and Kaia Georges. Not pictured: Shelby Benker.





# Voight

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motivational rallying cry to encourage students despite their various levels of skill or intellectual abilities. After all, our role is to nurture the success of ALL students.

I fear, however, that we, as a learning community, can become complacent with buzz-words or jargon.

In many ways, this is the very reason for penning this series on the Tiger Way. We need to reclaim the meaning and intention of Grit and rededicate ourselves to this and the other pillars.

I believe we need to teach, encourage and demonstrate Grit for what it truly represents – perseverance towards a long-term goal, rather than using it as yet another source of stratification for students.

Our support of Grit blends nicely with the other pillars of Tiger Way, specifically Team-work. As staff and parents,

it is our job to continuously challenge and encourage our students to achieve goals. We need to help our students set goals first, and then develop a plan for how to achieve them.

We must continue our support with frequent check-ins and include our students in the evaluation of their progress. Most importantly, we should openly discuss the obstacles our children are facing and strategize how these obstacles can be avoided or overcome.

These conversations will allow our students to develop critical thinking skills as we model the problem-solving approach. Our students will come to see us, as teachers and parents, and their classmates as critical supports – as team-mates.

Continued thanks to all staff at DHS, regardless of their role, and to our parents and community for partnering with us in this most important work of preparing our students.



## Veterans Clothing Drive a success

**Thank you to our students, families and staff for your generous support of our annual Veterans Clothing Drive for veterans in need. More than 250 clothing items and 80 personal hygiene bags were collected. Donated items will go to the Eagles Healing Nest, which provides housing and treatment to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder; the St. Cloud and Minneapolis VA Hospitals Clothing Closets; the Hastings Veterans Home; and the Community Resource and Referral Center in Minneapolis that serves homeless veterans. Here, fifth-graders recently assembled personal hygiene bags for homeless veterans using resources donated during the drive.**

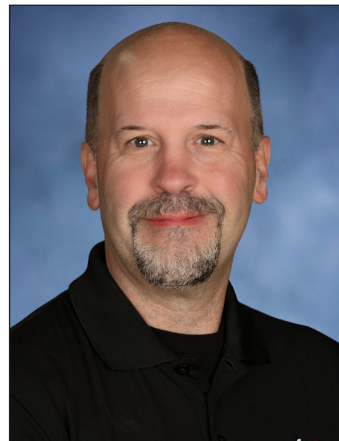
# Guidance to ‘THINK’ before speaking

**By Steve Schauberger**  
Assistant Principal

Greetings, from Delano High School! The first quarter is in the books. We have accomplished so much together as a team of staff, students and families.

It has been a challenge and a success to reintegrate our 1,200-plus students and staff back together in the building. Students and staff have been reconnecting and rebuilding relationships, norms and expectations. I ask for your assistance in helping our students be kind to others and to maintain good nutrition as we head into winter!

One of the challenges that I pose to students is to THINK before speaking (posting on social media or interacting with others). The guiding principles to this self-reflection are from a acronym that I saw back in the middle school years ago:



**Steve Schauberger**

**T = Is it true?**  
Avoid spreading rumors.  
Words matter!

**H = Is it helpful?**  
Help others. Be kind!

**I = Is it inspiring?**  
Build people up with positive feedback!

**N = Is it necessary?**  
When in doubt, ask for help from an adult, staff member or administrator!

**K = Is it kind?**  
Praise goes a long way in making someone's day!

### Wellness

Also, as we transition into the second quarter, I'd like to challenge, encourage and educate our students and families about one of the important parts of our district wellness policy: Nutrition Promotion and Education.

As you may know already, our school complies with the nutritional requirements of the Federal School Lunch Program. We are also working tirelessly to improve and meet SMART Snack guidelines in competitive food and beverages (vending machines, fundraisers and after school snacks) made available to students in the school.

However, we also ask for your help in discussing with your student(s) what foods and beverages he/she should bring

to school for their bag lunch, classroom celebration treats, and snacks. We encourage families to talk about nutritionally balanced and healthy choices. Try to challenge him/her to think out of the box and try new items.

It is so important to work together as a consistent team so our students understand that the sooner they make independent and healthier choices, the better it will impact their health in the long run. The URL below is a fun way to see if a snack meets the smart snack guidelines. You will need to enter the "per serving" information from the packaged food. See the Alliance product Smart Snack Calculator at <https://foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org/calculator/>.

Thank you for allowing us to serve your students. It is an exciting time to be a Delano student, educator, parent and community member!

# Hinkle to play baseball for the Bulldogs

By Paul Downer  
Communications Coordinator

Only about 3% of high school athletes go on to play in college, so family and plenty of friends gathered to watch Delano High School senior Oran Hinkle sign a letter of intent to play Division II baseball for the University of Minnesota-Duluth on Wednesday, Nov. 10.

"It's a great thing to see a student who is able to not only be a leader and be successful in our high school program, but who also has the opportunity to play at that next level," said Delano Activities Administrator Ryan Tool before citing the statistic above at the signing ceremony. "It obviously shows a lot of work on his behalf to put in the training and the time to be successful, but it's also a big deal for our community, for coaches and teammates and everyone else who has worked with him for a long time. So we're excited to see what you can do as you have that opportunity to keep playing."

The Bulldogs compete in the 15-team Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference, or NSIC, with the likes of St. Cloud State, Minnesota State Mankato, Winona State, Bemidji State, Sioux Falls, Upper Iowa and more. Why did Hinkle choose UMD?

"I definitely liked the area a lot. I liked the coaches, and I wanted to stay close by but still compete at a high level," he said. "I actually always wanted to play DI, but I chose not to because I wanted to play base-



**Oran Hinkle signs a letter of intent to play for UMD on Nov. 10 while his parents, Nathan and Bridgit, look on.**

ball right away. I didn't want to redshirt and sit a couple of years. I wanted to get going right away."

Hinkle mainly patrolled shortstop and third base for the Tigers, but he won't be picky about where the Bulldogs position him.

"As long as I can hit and play, that's all I care about. Put me anywhere," he said.

Last year Hinkle batted .356 as a junior with an on-base percentage of .422 and a slugging percentage of .507. His 73 at-bats resulted in nine walks and 26 total hits, including five doubles and two home runs. He batted in 21 runs and scored 15 himself on the way to all-conference and Delano Herald Journal All Area honors. He was also named Delano's Offensive Player of

the Year, and will be a two-year team captain next spring.

DHS head baseball coach Jeff Olson told the crowd at the signing ceremony that the Bulldogs coaching staff has chosen wisely.

"UMD is getting a special young man for their team and their university," said Olson, adding that the words to best describe Hinkle include passion, energy and leadership. "The passion he brings, the care and love he brings to everything and the people around him, has been pretty special to see and witness these past few years."

Olson said the teammates present could vouch for his leadership ability.

"He leads with his example and also with his words. He's not afraid to lead vocally and

try to get the people around him to rise up – to bring the best out of everybody."

In a brief speech during the ceremony Hinkle thanked his teammates and his coaches for their support.

"My biggest shout-out though is to my parents. ... You're the only reason I'm even close to where I am now," Hinkle said. "All the times I've thrown with my dad, the fun times we've had, and all the times my mom would console me after a bad game – I just want to say thanks to everybody. You guys mean a lot to me."

While his spring senior season is still ahead, Hinkle said his best Delano baseball memory so far was a game in Litchfield where the Tigers trailed 5-0 as they came to bat for the final time. They ended up winning in a 6-5 walk-off.

"That was just a great night," he said.

Although he doesn't have a definite major in mind yet, Hinkle said he will likely begin working toward a degree in accounting or business at UMD. Asked at what point he began to believe he might actually have a chance to play high-level college baseball, Hinkle said it has been a consistent goal all along.

"I think I always knew I had the ability to do it," he said. "I just kept working at it, and now I find myself here."

• Hinkle is the son of Nathan and Bridgit Hinkle of Maple Plain.

## December is music month

December is a busy month for Delano school musicians. At right, the eighth-grade mixed choir singers warm up for their Dec. 7 concert. Fifth- and sixth-graders will perform their choir concert on Dec. 9, the Jazzy Christmas event takes place on Dec. 12, and other band concerts will be held on Dec. 16 (grades 5-6) and Dec. 20 (grades 7-8).





## Join the Wellness Committee

Delano Public Schools is seeking community members, parents, students and school staff to serve on the District Wellness Committee. The committee's main objective is to monitor compliance with the district's student Wellness Policy (No. 533) and the Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 in the areas of student nutrition and education, physical activity, and wellness support (i.e. mental health).

This committee will meet three times during the year and will review data from all three areas above, and from the student wellness goals submitted by each of the three school student wellness committees.

If you wish to help ensure student wellness, contact DHS Assistant Principal Steve Schauburger at 763-972-3365, ext. 1703, or [steve.schauburger@delano.schools.org](mailto:steve.schauburger@delano.schools.org).



## Students of the month

Delano High School recently announced its Students of the Month for November. Those honored included: Lauren Scanlon (Compass), Meghan Erwin (Tiger Way), Jake Schultz (social studies), Trais Triplett (PLTW/tech ed.), Jaidyn Workman (choir), Mikie Melcho (math), Ben Voss (work seminar), Chuck Georges (science), Trent Techam (business), Hannah Murdock (language arts), Tynone Mellgren (language arts), Haley Champeau (art), Brady Schultz (language arts), Mary Grgas (FACS), Jenna Daniels (world languages), Oliver Beck (PE/health), Nick Poliwada (social studies), Drew Kangas (math) and Dylan Teig (band). Congratulations to all of these students for their outstanding attitude, effort, energy and dedication.

## Desutter earns support staff award

By Paul Downer  
Communications Coordinator

It takes more than classroom teachers to keep a school running, and four individuals at Delano Public Schools were recently honored with Education Support Staff Awards.

Award recipients included preschool assistant Natalie Kimball, DES alternative delivery of specialized instructional services (ADSIS) behavioral paraprofessional Holly Workman, DIS paraprofessional Joan Gust, and DHS media center assistant Lona Desutter.

### Lona Desutter

Now in her 14th year with Delano schools, Desutter has expanded her role from high school media center assistant to also help cover gaps in the DIS



Lona Desutter

media center and DIS cafeteria this year. A nomination for her award called her "valuable" and "indispensable" to both the media services departments and the district as a whole.

The nomination added that

Desutter has approached her evolving role "with professionalism, flexibility and a problem solver's mindset, as coordinating schedules, building needs and restrictive time frames was no easy task. Her efforts ensure that media services continue to meet the needs of students and staff in both buildings and get the students fed at DIS."

Desutter originally joined the schools in 2008, opening a new chapter in her career.

"After years in accounting, then at home raising kids, I wanted to return to a job that

I was passionate about," she said. "I am an avid reader and believe that reading is a core part of education."

She said she appreciated the recognition from her colleagues, and the encouragement that her role "is an important part of the overall education at DHS."

What does she enjoy most about her work?

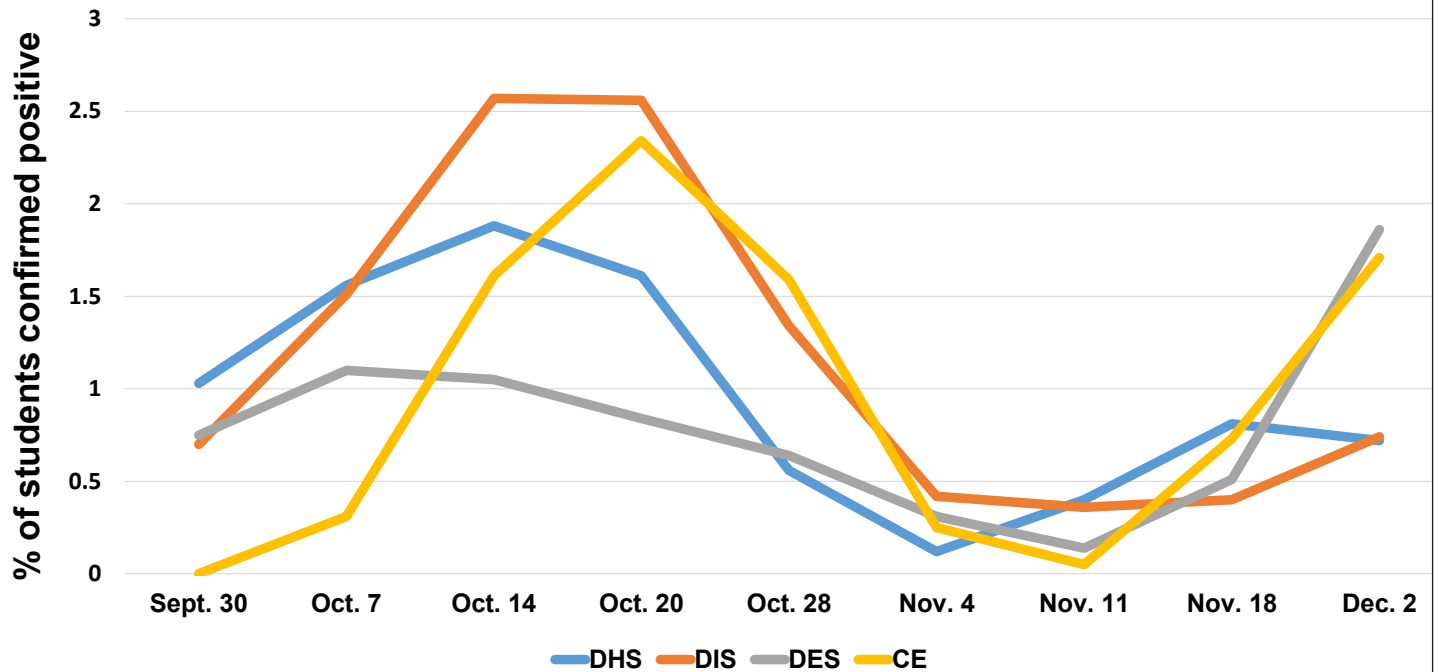
"Connecting students with books they

love and that open their minds to other places and peoples," she said.

**'[She approaches her work] with professionalism, flexibility and a problem-solver's mindset.'**

### Nomination statement

## COVID cases 2021-22 (14-day case rate)



Ellia Aebly



Zane Kestner



Kayla Simonson



Ella Steffl



Miranda Wagner

## Five students making a difference for wellness

Five Delano High School students were recognized by the DHS Wellness Committee for making positive choices in the areas of physical activity, nutrition and mental health (including acts of kindness for one-self or others).

Freshman Ellia Aebly “is a kind and respectful student who is eager to help her peers” and make sure all are included,

according to a nomination statement from a staff member.

Zane Kestner, an eighth-grader, was honored for offering a helping hand for staff and fellow students alike. “He truly cares about others and it shows,” said a nomination from a staff member.

Sophomore Kayla Simonson was recognized for outstanding physical activity

in school sports, club sports and fitness activities.

Freshman Ella Steffl was recognized for her exceptional efforts to develop her abilities as a figure skater.

Finally, a staff member nominated sophomore Miranda Wagner because of the kindness and empathy she shows to classmates.

## Weekend meal assistance available for DHS students

Every Meal, a weekend food program, is available to DHS families again this year. The non-profit’s mission is to fight child hunger through community and school partnerships.

The program is free for all families, and no qualifications

are required for enrollment. No information is collected for enrollment, and privacy is protected for participating families.

Those interested can sign up at any time during the school year, and school staff will dis-

creetly provide the food.

Families can choose from a variety of food bags that contain nutritious, non-perishable food, including fruits, vegetables, proteins, grains and soups or entrees.

For more information,

contact DHS counselors Katie Chandler at [katie.chandler@delanoschools.org](mailto:katie.chandler@delanoschools.org), or Elise Boleman at [elise.boleman@delanoschools.org](mailto:elise.boleman@delanoschools.org).



# Traditional veterans program returns

By Paul Downer  
Communications Coordinator

Delano High School observed Veterans Day on Thursday, Nov. 11, with its traditional in-person program.

While some visitors were allowed in connection with the Delano American Legion, access for the general public was limited due to COVID considerations. Still, after last year's video-only program due to the pandemic, this year's event was a step toward normalcy.

After a welcome by DHS Principal Barry Voight, members of the Delano American Legion posted the colors, and the Sound Revolution vocal ensemble sang the national anthem.

## Students recognized

Senior Ainsley Nuytten was recognized for her participation in the Girls State program, and Jeremy Christenson, Commander of the Delano American Legion post, congratulated Victoria Shafer and Olivia Bekkala for winning the Legion's scholarship essay contest. This year's contest asked students to share about how watching the last American troops leave Afghanistan affected them and their views on patriotism.

Shafer was the overall winner and read her essay, saying that "the war in Afghanistan has been a focal point of our



Members of the Delano American Legion salute after posting the colors at the opening of the Veterans Day program on Thursday, Nov. 11.

country and the premise of the defense of a democracy for 20 years."

She noted how the evacuation abandoned allies who had aided Americans in Afghanistan, and resulted in the loss of additional American life.

"They paid the ultimate sacrifice for a war that was already over," she said. "The loss of these 13 soldiers was devastating. These heroes died for the highest of American ideals (while) saving the lives of others."

In the end, Shafer said the pullout contradicted national values of loyalty to friends and resistance to evil-doers.

"The evacuation shook our country and those that spent decades fighting in a war to bring freedom to those oppressed by terrorism," she said.

## Keynote speaker

Minnesota Rep. Joe McDonald, a Delano resident who serves on the state's Veterans Committee, was the keynote speaker.

He spoke about the service of his father as an aerial photographer and photo analyst in the Air Force, and about his own exploration of military service opportunities. Though he did not ultimately serve in that capacity, McDonald asked all students and staff members who had family connections to the military to stand. Nearly everyone present did.

"It seems that almost every

**See Veterans**  
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Above, contest winner Victoria Shafer read her essay about the departure of American troops from Afghanistan. At left, members of Sound Revolution sing the national anthem.



# Veterans

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one you here today enjoying our freedoms can thank your family members,” McDonald said.

He urged students to step out of their comfort zones and thank other veterans for their service as well, and said one way students could serve their nation was by studying American history.

“If we ever forget where our nation came from, and about those who sacrificed to build this great nation where you have freedoms and liberties at your fingertips, we will fail,” he said. “The day we do not stand up and thank a veteran, or volunteer to serve in the military, or be grateful for our nation – to be grateful in appreciation for our freedoms – our nation will fail.

“But I don’t believe it will. Myself and many of the adults here, the teachers, have hope for the students, have hope for the future, that you do have grateful hearts for our nation, that you are willing to fight for your nation in many ways, and defend her liberties. America is not perfect. We know that. We have our warts. We have



**Students stand for the national anthem during the Veterans Day ceremony.**

our bad history. But we need to learn from that, correct it, improve it, and be a kinder, gentler nation. ... It’s your generation, your age, that will defend America and will keep her free, keep her liberties, honor the flag, and live a vibrant, free and productive life.”

## ***‘Brave and selfless’***

After McDonald’s address the DHS Wind Ensemble played “Marches of the Armed Forces” to recognize those who served in each of the military branches, and DHS senior Karson Trujillo played “Taps.”

“No matter what branch you served in, whether you were

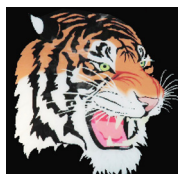
peacetime or wartime, whatever your job path or how many years you served, raising your hand and committing yourself to service in the military was a brave and selfless act,” Christenson told the veterans present. “Remember, veterans always put us and America first. Today, we put veterans first.”



**Rep. Joe McDonald was the keynote speaker.**



**The DHS Wind Ensemble plays the Armed Forces March.**



This e-newsletter is published by District Communications Coordinator Paul Downer. Contact Paul at 763.972.3365, x1911, or [paul.downer@delanoschools.org](mailto:paul.downer@delanoschools.org). For more information, see [www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us), or find Delano Public Schools on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

