



Tiger Territory

Delano High School Newsletter November 2021

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Dates to remember

November

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

11.....Veterans Day

12-13.....Fall play, 7 p.m.

17.....Two-hour late start

18-19.....Fall play, 7 p.m.

20.....Fall play, 2 p.m.

22..School board mtg, 5:45 p.m.

24-26....Thanksgiving, no school

December

13.....Conferences

15.....Two-hour late start

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



Fall sports highlights are included on Page 6.



Digital narrators

Students in the Communications Arts class recently had the opportunity to create a complete digital narrative incorporating story, acting and video editing. See Page 2 for more about the process.

Re-establishing our identity

By Barry Voight
Principal

The local, national and global political climates, along with increasing patterns of discipline referrals at DHS, have reaffirmed for me the importance of defining our identity as a school community.

Over the summer, many of us were excited about our "return to normal" this school year. During that time of preparation, we were cognizant of the many ways that the pandemic created a "loss" for our students.

As we look back on the first months of the school year, our biggest "pandemic loss" might be that we collectively lost an



Barry Voight

understanding of our identity. Understanding our identity as a school is simply the first step; more importantly, we need to

intentionally act to make our identity a reality for all our students at DHS.

Defining our identity has been at the core of our work through the DHS Schedule Redesign Task Force. The task force has listened to feedback from students, parents and staff about what it means to be a Delano graduate. We've begun to answer the question, "What is the profile of a Delano graduate?"

The good news is there is a strong consensus among those stakeholders about what we desire for our students. There is also a lot of consistency with

See Voight
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Project develops video editing skills

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Students in Kellie Makela's Communication Arts class recently had the opportunity to work with advanced video editing software to construct a digital narrative.

The project involved the full sweep of editorial work, including creating a topic and content, performing the script and then editing the final product.

"They work collaboratively in small groups on pre-production skills, including prioritizing segment selection, scripting and storyboarding," said Makela. "They film their stories using video equipment, lighting, microphones and props."

A portion of the project also involved instruction in the narrative arc of stories, including the mechanics of a dramatic structure and plot.

Additional tools, like appropriate camera movement and audio work, were also a focus of study.

In the end, students used Final Cut Pro to edit their video clips and put on the finishing touches -- a more robust video editing platform used by The Growl for its productions.

"The overall objective of this project is to collaborate,



Students concentrate on making the final edits to their digital narratives projects.

troubleshoot, and use critical thinking skills with a team in order to create a digital story," said Makela. "Groups had to create one vision and work together through the entire process."

Students said they enjoyed the opportunity to work together, gain acting experience and use the editing software.

"It's good if you want to learn how to make videos," said eighth-grader Blake Nemec.

Other class projects have focused on news and cyberbullying.



The project developed teamwork and software skills.

Voight

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our Tiger Way: Teamwork, Inclusion, Grit, Excellence, Respect. As a school community, it is critical that we teach and model these characteristics with intention. Before we can teach and model the Tiger Way, we need a collective understanding of the terms. The purpose of these next few newsletter articles will be to provide that shared understanding. This month, we'll start with Teamwork and Inclusion.

Teamwork

Teamwork is the collabora-

tive effort of a team – defined as a group of people working interdependently to achieve a common goal. Our common goal at DHS is educational excellence for EVERY learner.

We must also consider that educational excellence does not just mean academics. As a school, we have the responsibility to nurture students beyond academics and to aid in the development of executive functioning and social/emotional skills.

In order for our team to be successful, every member of the team (staff and student and parent) must be successful. In this pursuit of success, we have to recognize there will be times

when we fail. We may drop the ball from time to time, but it is our response to try again and do better that will ultimately define the success of our team. Those internal efforts, accompanied by the support of our teammates, will lead to success.

Inclusion

Our pursuit of excellence as a school community depends on the individual and collective efforts of each member. Our students and staff will not be able to successfully fulfill the demands of their role on our team if they don't feel safe and welcome and supported.

Inclusion is critical to the success of our school – excel-

lence for EVERY learner. Our behaviors and attitudes need to reflect that each student at DHS is a valued member of our team. We shouldn't choose to honor, value and support each other simply because a person fits a certain profile or group standard.

My hope and expectation is that we all give students the freedom to be who they are and who they want to be. It isn't our role to persuade or convince or enforce our beliefs and attitudes on others. Rather, we must choose to tolerate, accept and include each student based on the simple fact that each is a Delano Tiger.

Delano educators earn honors

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Each year teachers from around the region honor a select handful of their outstanding peers to receive Leadership in Educational Excellence Awards.

Four staff members from Delano Public Schools earned the award and were among those honored with a ceremony at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud on Wednesday, Oct. 13. They were DES Dean of Students Paul Ludwig, sixth-grade math and life skills teacher Andrew Waldbillig, DHS math teacher Emilie Kalvig, and Delano Teacher of the Year Monica Kunkel.

In addition, Delano Superintendent Matt Schoen addressed the gathering as the Superintendent of Record for the evening.

"Tonight we honor the incredible courage that it takes to be an excellent educator in these most unusual and trying times," Schoen told the assembly. "The honorees this year deserve special recognition, as they have achieved excellence in their field at a time when educational challenges have never been greater."

Read on for more information about Kalvig, the DHS representative for the evening.



Delano educators earning Leadership in Educational Excellence Awards this year include, from left, Paul Ludwig, Monica Kunkel, Andrew Waldbillig and Emilie Kalvig.

Emilie Kalvig

Now in her ninth year of teaching in Delano, and 12th overall, Kalvig said she aims to impart skills that can benefit students as they go out into the world.

"I enjoy helping others learn," she said. "It is fun to see students' confidence grow in and out of the classroom. My goal is not to make every student love math (if they do that would be great), but to get them to appreciate it and understand just how much they can accomplish with it."

The anonymous nomination for Kalvig said she is a valuable

member of the high school team who makes good use of effective teaching tools and methods.

'She takes the time ... to establish relationships with students in her classroom.'

Nomination statement

"As a math teacher, she takes the time each morning

to establish relationships with students in her classroom," the nomination said. "She starts the lesson with review and practice of content-specific vocabulary. She uses Explicit Teacher to introduce new concepts and uses the gradual release model to ensure that each student has an understanding of the concept being taught."

Kalvig said she appreciated the award, and that she most enjoys the personal connections she is able to make as a teacher.

"It is always nice to be appreciated and noticed by your peers and administration," she said. "I like being able to connect with students and help them grow academically and as a human in general. We help to make 'good people' at Delano, and I think that is just as important as making sure they understand the math in my classroom."

Monica Kunkel

Kunkel is in her 14th year at Delano. She has served as the media center specialist at the high school, and is currently on special assignment overseeing curriculum, assessment and literacy.

She earned an LEEA award in 2019, and was the district's Teacher of the Year for 2020-21. See more about Kunkel at <https://bit.ly/Kunkel21>.

Veterans program

Delano High School will hold its annual Veterans Day program at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 11.

Although some visitors from the Delano American Legion will be present, the event is not open to the general public due to COVID considerations.



'Our Town'

Fall play examines universal themes

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

About 30 Delano drama students will enact one of the great classics of American theater this weekend when "Our Town" opens in the Delano High School Performing Arts Center.

Opening night is Friday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m. Additional shows follow at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 13, Thursday, Nov. 18, and Friday, Nov. 19; and the series concludes with a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, Nov. 20.

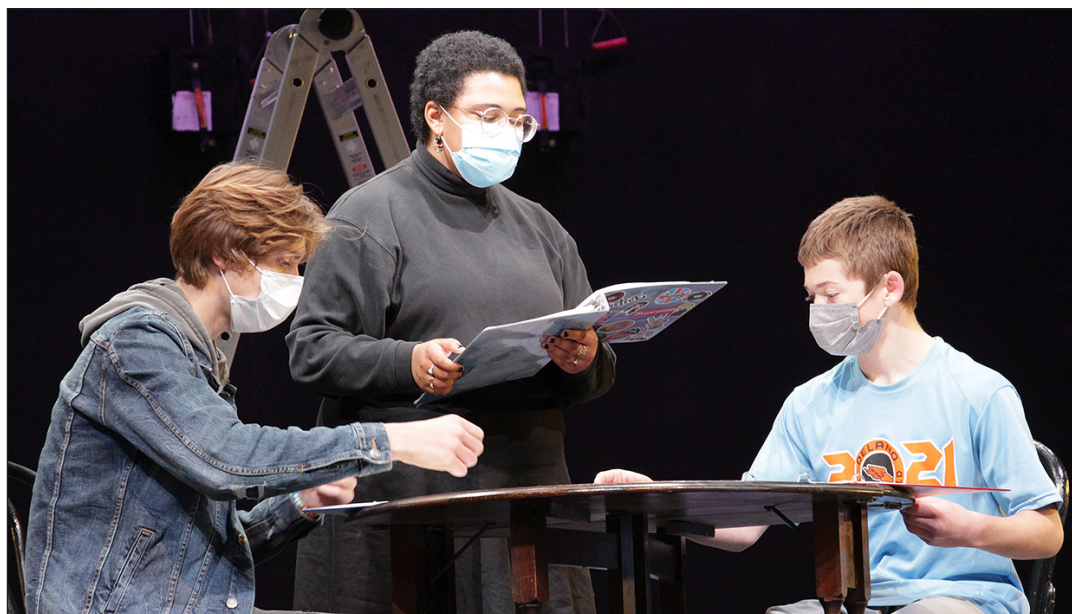
Written by Thornton Wilder, the production won the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1938. Jack Neveaux, who is directing the DHS show, called it both a classic and "a touching study in person-to-person relationships."

"According to the Wilder Family Estate, a production of Our Town is being performed at least once a day somewhere in the United States or abroad, but it has never been performed at Delano High School," said Neveaux. "I wanted to give Delano Drama students a chance to share in that legacy."

Plot and themes

The three-act production focuses on the circle of life as exemplified in a relationship between George Gibbs and Emily Webb, who grow up as neighbors in Grover's Corners, New Hampshire. Their childhood friendship leads to adulthood, marriage, and eventually death.

"It makes you think about life as a whole," said senior John Lahlum, who plays a unique Stage Manager role that makes him both an active participant in the goings on and a philosophic narrator who breaks the "fourth wall" to address the audience directly. "He's just a regular old guy who



Students practice a scene from 'Our Town' during a recent rehearsal. The show uses minimal props and background, and explores the meaning found in everyday life.



Drew Nielsen, left, and Abby Hohenstein play main characters George Gibbs and Emily Webb in 'Our Town.'

tells it like it is, but he talks about some pretty heavy stuff sometimes. That's a big theme in this play, just how life goes for most people. It makes you think about living every day like you mean it."

Senior Abby Hohenstein, who plays the role of Emily Webb, has appreciated the play's straightforward approach to big themes represented in everyday life.

"I'm really liking that I can do some more professional-type acting instead of just musicals," she said. "I can actually step into character and play somebody else that's not just me. It's more serious. We get to kind of let loose and really feel the emotions of the characters."

Freshman Drew Nielsen, who plays George Gibbs, said that approaching more

down-to-earth subjects than past productions like "Elf" or "Aladdin," when he was in middle school, offers its own challenges.

"Finding the person at the beginning is the biggest thing," he said, explaining that actors can project the same lines in different ways that dramatically change the portrayal. "Once you kind of find the personality of the character – how you are going to portray them – it's easier, because then you can guess how they would act it. (Not all portrayals) have to be the same."

Unique features

One of the more unusual features of the play is its minimalist set and props. In most cases, the characters simply pantomime actions rather than actually interacting with props.

"It's mostly left up to the imaginations of the actors and the audience, so we have to be very compelling," said Lahlum. "Even if something is not there, we have to make sure the

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Buddy party

Members of the Delano High School Best Buddies program recently held a Halloween party. Best Buddies is a program that connects students with special needs to their peers and organizes fun activities for students to enjoy together.



Aiming for continuous improvement

By Shane Baughman
Assistant Principal

I have the honor to serve as an assistant principal at Delano High School. As such, I have the opportunity to be part of an amazing team of educators who are dedicated to our students' success and growth by focusing on continuous improvement.

James Collins stated, "A great vision without great people is irrelevant." I couldn't agree more. Delano High School would not be able to provide a top-tier education to our students without our talented educators.

Even with the numerous awards and accolades our students and building have received, our staff members



Shane Baughman

recognize that there is more work to be done, and they are dedicated to continuous improvement to meet the needs of our students.

Our staff continues to work

on the district-wide literacy initiative, which focuses on implementing skills and practices across curriculums to benefit our students. It is truly a collaborative partnership with our educators to learn and implement best practices. It is an example of staff having a growth mindset and working together to continuously improve and positively impact student achievement.

Our educators continue to incorporate and enhance the learning environment by utilizing technology to improve curriculum and instruction practices, promote communication, and increase access to resources. They have demonstrated flexibility and patience in the process, rising above challenges to utilize technology

in their classrooms.

Finally, a group of educators have been implementing our new advisory program that was put on pause during the pandemic. Our advisory program is a building-wide initiative that emphasizes a whole learner approach while building relationships with our students and staff.

While there are many more practices that our staff members are pursuing to foster continuous improvement and growth beyond the ones in this article, what remains constant is the drive to continuously improve, grow, and positively impact our students' educational experience. With this mindset and drive, DHS is well positioned to continue to excel both now and in the future.

Play

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audience knows that it's there, or that they can tell what we're doing when we're cooking a meal or that type of thing."

Neveaux explained that the minimalistic approach was a purposeful decision by Wilder when he wrote the play.

"I wished to record a village's life on the stage, with realism and with generality," Wilder said. "... So I tried to restore significance to the small details of life by removing scenery. The spectator through lending his imagination to the action

restages it inside his own head."

With fewer physical set pieces to manage, senior stage manager Emily Barron – distinct from the stage manager character in the play – said the cast and crew are developing their skills in other ways.

"A lot of it is mimed, which is cool because it gives (the cast) a chance to grow as actors, and (the crew) an opportunity to not worry about every little set piece coming on and off," she said. "It just adds a whole different element and is something we haven't done before. Blocking-wise, it's more intricate and meaningful because you have to help people

understand what you're doing rather than just getting to your set piece."

Lessons

Lahlum said the passage of time portrayed in the show strikes a chord personally as he contemplates the final months of his high school career.

"The big lesson is, live every moment like you mean it," said Lahlum. "It's a very cheesy thing to say. Everybody says it. But especially for me this year as a senior – I remember being a freshman and the seniors then were like, 'It goes by super fast.' Now, boom, I'm a senior and I'm about to graduate.

So you have to enjoy the little moments."

Wilder viewed theater as "the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being."

"We hope to give our audiences the gift of our art," said Neveaux, "and share with them our insights into the human condition, drawn not from the stories of kings and queens, but from ordinary, small town folks like us all."

• Tickets can be purchased online by clicking the "PAC" tab on the school district website.

Much to celebrate in fall sports season

The fall sports season was one to remember for many Delano students. Athletes and their accomplishments were recognized during a pep fest at Delano High School on Friday, Nov. 5.

Below are a list of the teams, their record, and all-conference athletes honored at the pep fest.

Girls cross country (7th at state out of 16 Class 2A teams, conference and section champions)

Erica Kazin, Mya Werner, Ava Werner, Harmony Wock.

Boys cross country (conference champions)

Justin Zens (40th individually out of 160 runners at state), Caden Zens, Drew Houtari.

Girls swim and dive (conference runner-up, third place at True Team State)

Emma Kern, Avery Lommel, Shelby Benker, Abby Seguin, Josie Strobl, Hannah Wadholm, Kaia Georges.

Girls tennis (21-2, conference champions and section finalist)



Members of the girls cross country team are recognized at a pep fest on Friday, Nov. 5, prior to their seventh-place finish out of 16 teams at the Class 2A state meet the following day.

Bella Molitor, Olivia Bekkala, Katelyn Ring, Aubrey Wittwer, Greta Persian, Addie Persian.

Volleyball (17-10, conference runner-up)

Corbin Menz and Lydia Smith. Menz was also named

all-state, and Coach Becca Rue earned her 300th career victory.

Boys soccer (12-5)

Will Strandemo and Nick Farniok.

Girls soccer (11-2-5)

Marin Johnson, Abby Menk and Emma Wolf.

Football (2-7)

All-district players included Clete Scherer, Ethan Thomas, Leo Vanderlinde, Mike Krueger, Jackson Stewart and Cade Bruett.

Opportunities to get involved

District 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. The first meeting will be in early November, the second around the end of February, and the third in June. The committee will review data from all three areas above, and from the student wellness goals submitted by each of the three school student wellness committees. Areas of focus include school lunch and food service, mental health programs, and opportunities for students to participate in community and school physical health activities.

The committee submits a district compliance report to the school board every three years. The next report is due in July 2022, and an updated building report is made each year in between. If you wish to help ensure student wellness by participating

on this committee, contact DHS Assistant Principal Steve Schaubberger at 763-972-3365, ext. 1703, or steve.schaubberger@delanoschools.org.

District Advisory Council

Delano Public Schools is seeking parent and community members to serve on the District Advisory Council (DAC) for the 2021-22 school year.

The District Advisory Council serves to ensure active community participation in all phases of planning and improving instruction and curriculum in terms of state and local standards. Through that work, the DAC provides recommendations to the school board regarding rigorous academic standards, student achievement goals, and measures consistent with the MN Statute B.11. The DAC membership reflects the diversity of the district and its school sites and includes teachers, parents, support staff, students and other community residents. DAC members must be able to commit to three or four meetings per year.

Interested parents and community members can request an application by contacting Monica Kunkel, Curriculum Coordinator, at 763-973-7601, ext. 1731, or monica.kunkel@delanoschools.org.



United for kindness

Unity Day was observed by Delano students on Wednesday, Oct. 20. Compass students shown here created two large banners for each end of the high school and passed out colorful paper to language arts classes so students there could write what kindness means to them. The pages were then displayed with the banner. Students also created origami butterflies that were hung with one of the banners to symbolize the way small things can make big changes, and passed out 'Compass Kindness Cards' with suggestions for random acts of kindness. Students were encouraged to pass those cards on to others after completing an act of kindness to keep the positive efforts flowing.

Meal help available

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 discreetly 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 or Elise Boleman at elise.boleman@delanoschools.org.

Flexible learning days a new option

At-home learning will eliminate closures due to weather

In lieu of school closures for weather or other emergencies, Delano Public Schools will conduct flexible learning days this year.

Delano High School students will access course work and assignments for flex days through Google Classroom. Teachers shall inform students of the flexible learning day process on the first day of each quarter in which flexible learning days could be implemented.

High school students and staff will utilize the two-hour late schedule articulated in the DHS Student Handbook on flexible learning days. This schedule indicates that the school day will begin at 10 a.m. The following information outlines the responsibilities of teachers and students for the successful implementation of a flexible learning day:

Teachers:

- Will post work to each Google Classroom page by 9:45 a.m. If live instruction

is offered, teachers will post necessary information for students to connect while following the two-hour late schedule.

- Are required to mark all students "present" and update attendance with the DHS office for students as necessary. Students who do not complete their assigned work within three days will have their attendance record changed to "unexcused absence" unless parents have communicated with the office.

- Are encouraged to facilitate live Google Meets for the purposes of reviewing instruction and student support. Due to the potential of students not having internet access, teachers may NOT require attendance during live virtual sessions.

Students:

- Are required to have their Chromebook or personal device at home for use during a flex learning day.
- Are encouraged to check their school email, calendar and classroom pages for

information from their teachers by 9:45 a.m.

- Are required, to the extent possible, to complete their assigned work following the two-hour late schedule.
- Are encouraged to log in and participate in live sessions to the extent possible.
- Are required to complete any newly assigned work and turn it in according to teacher directions within three school days.

Specialists

Specialists (counselors, social workers, psychologists, media specialist, speech pathologist) will submit a summary of the work completed on a flexible learning day to their building administrator. These can include contact with students, general education or special education teachers regarding caseload students, professional development activities, or other daily job duties.



Brass in the bleachers

DHS band students helped set the tone for a pep fest honoring fall sports athletes and recognizing the upcoming fall play on Friday, Nov. 5. Band and choir students held their first concert of the year on Monday, Nov. 1.



Veterans clothing drive ends Nov. 11

Delano Public Schools is conducting its annual clothing drive for veterans in need again this year.

The drive began on Monday, Oct. 18, and ends on Veterans Day, Thursday, Nov. 11. All donated items must be newly purchased.

The clothing drive will continue to support veterans who are hospitalized at local VA hospitals in Minneapolis and St. Cloud, as well as those who are transitioning from the hospitals to independent living. In addition, this drive will support veterans who are undergoing treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder at the Eagles Healing Nest.

The past 18 months have been challenging for all of us, but especially for veterans with mental health needs. With your donations, we can help these



Some of the Delano donations from a previous year are dropped off at a VA hospital.

men and women who have served our country and sacrificed so much continue the healing process and transition to independent living.

Please consider donating the following items.

For men: Socks, boxers (M-XL), undershirts (M-XL), pajama pants (large to 2X),

T-shirts (M to XL), sweatpants or sweatshirts (M-XL), jeans (waist 30-42, length 30-34), winter boots (size 9-14), slippers, winter coats, hats and gloves and exercise clothes.

For women: Socks, underwear, pajamas, shirts, sweatpants, jeans of any size, slippers with rubber bottoms, exercise clothes and winter boots, hats and gloves.

- If you would like to make a monetary donation, collected funds will be used to purchase the items of greatest need based on the request of each facility.

Make your check payable to Delano Public Schools, and note "veterans clothing drive" in the memo. Thank you in advance for your continued support of this project.



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

