



# Tiger Territory

Delano High School Newsletter October 2018



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## Dates to remember

### October

- 1.....Kindness in Chalk, 9:40 a.m.
- 2.....PIE meeting, 6 p.m.
- 10.....Picture retake day
- 15.....Conferences, 4 p.m.
- 16.....Conferences, 4 p.m.
- 18-19.....MEA break, no school
- 24.....Unity Day



## Homecoming royalty

Anna Keranen and Jacob Praska were crowned Homecoming King and Queen on Friday afternoon, Sept. 28. Other members of the court included, from left, Michaela Paskach, Maggie Jacobs, Sophie Seurer, Lindsey Dreger, Sam Kern, Carson vanSytzama, Joey Snell and Trent Peterson. See Page 4 for more.

## Final projects underway

By Dr. Steven Heil  
Principal

Welcome back to school. The beginning of the school year is often an exciting time, and that is especially true this year. Students, staff, parents, and community members have been curious about how the construction is coming along.

On the first day of school we opened the new media center, some of the new restrooms, the STEM labs and the art suite. These new spaces have afforded the students some new curricula and places to spread out, both for academic and social purposes.

Later, we held an opening ceremony for the new diving well on Sept. 20. In early



Dr. Steven Heil

October the new family locker rooms will open where the middle school office was formerly located.

During MEA break the boys

and girls pool locker rooms will be completed by fixing some of the old, broken tiles. These two locker rooms did undergo additional restoration this summer with new lockers, restrooms and epoxy flooring.

The weekend of Nov. 9-11 will mark the grand opening of the Performing Arts Center. The events will consist of the Faculty Follies on Friday evening, Nov. 9, the Fabulous Armadillos on Saturday evening, Nov. 10, and a school and community concert and building tours Sunday afternoon, Nov. 11. Ticket information and a more specific time schedule will be out in the next couple of weeks.

See Heil  
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## Exchange students

Foreign exchange students at DHS this fall include, front from left, Jolien Uiker (Switzerland), Karito Haugsbee (Norway), Lisa Fantin (Italy) and Robin Mortier (Belgium). Standing, from left, are Leire Gervasio Caruezo (Spain), Ramiro Rodriguez-Bermejo Pulido (Spain), and Ariadna Vera Roumeas (Spain).

## Delano a Top 10 district

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

For the second straight year, the national school evaluation website SchoolDigger.com has named Delano Public Schools one of the top 10 districts in Minnesota.

In rankings released on Thursday, Aug. 30, Delano maintained its No. 9 position out of 440 districts that were analyzed. Five of the top 10 districts in the ranking were charter schools, with Delano fourth among traditional public school districts. Delano also ranked No. 9 last year and was No. 12 in 2016.

"We're very proud to consistently be one of the top performing school districts in the state, and we will continue to make every effort to provide a world-class education for all of our students," said Delano Superintendent Matt Schoen.

To calculate its rankings, SchoolDigger gathered

**'We're very proud to consistently be one of the top performing school districts in the state, and we will continue to make every effort to provide a world-class education for all of our students.'**

**Matt Schoen**

results from the 2017-18 MCA tests in math, reading and science, then put those numbers through a formula to determine a more comparison-friendly average standard score.

Neighboring districts included Orono (5), Westonka (13), Rockford (61), Wayzata (64) Watertown-Mayer (75) and Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose (82).

In regard to the rankings, SchoolDigger acknowledged that test scores alone are a limited measure of success.

"We would be the first to

argue that this is not the ultimate way to rank schools and that there are certainly many, many more criteria – objective and subjective – that add to, or subtract from, the overall quality of a school," said a statement on the website. "But we believe that listing schools by test scores is useful, and as a tool should be used by parents in conjunction with all the other criteria available."

For complete results and further explanation of the methods used in the rankings, see [www.schooldigger.com](http://www.schooldigger.com).

## When to keep kids home from school

**By Samantha Tribble**  
District Nurse

How do you decide when your child should stay home from school if they are not feeling well?

- As a general rule, if a child has a fever of or over 100 degrees F, is vomiting or has diarrhea, they should stay home for 24 hours after symptoms have resolved without the use of medication.

- If a child has any rash that might be disease related or you don't know the cause, check with your primary physician before sending your child to school.

- If your child has started on antibiotics for any reason, keep them at home until they've had a full 24 hours of medication.

If your child is ill, please call their school daily to report illness.

If you have questions about these guidelines or you'd like more information on a specific illness, feel free to call your building nurse.



**Samantha Tribble**

### Other health tips

- Make soap and water, along with hand sanitizer, your new best flu-fighting friends, and use them often to wash your hands.

- Cover your mouth or raise your arm and sneeze into your sleeve or elbow.

- Don't give germs the chance to jump from place to place. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth when possible.

- It's harder for germs to infect a healthy body. Take care of yourself by eating healthy, getting enough sleep, and exercising regularly.



# New media center a highlight

By Paul Downer  
Communications Coordinator

Ask students and staff what they like about the expansive new media center at Delano High School, and responses vary. There are a number of common themes, however.

Space. Comfort. Appearance. Functionality.

"There's a lot more room to do your work," said ninth-grader Nick Lucking. "The old one felt enclosed. This one feels more open and bright. It's just a lot better."

Teacher Maria Menz agreed.

"I just like the space," she said. "Students do too. They can spread out, it's very bright and they can choose seating that helps them learn."

Within the media center are two glass-enclosed and nearly soundproof conference rooms, countertops, group tables and high-top tables, couches, kick stools and more. The amenities have drawn large numbers of students before, during and after school hours.

"There are a lot more students using the space than the old space," said media center assistant Lona Desutter. "There are so many different kinds of seating and areas where they can work in group settings. It's seating that fits their learning style."

That's no accident. Media center specialist Monica Kunkel said the objective in designing the space was to create an area that can accommodate multiple uses simultaneously, not unlike a college library.

"Kids go on to college and this library kind of compares



The large new media center features a variety of work areas and comfortable seating.



The countertop areas have been popular with students.

to that because there are so many spaces to choose from and they have the opportunity to feel out what kind of space they like to work in," she said. "When we think about how kids are studying at home, most of them aren't sitting at a desk. Some of them are curled up on their bed or on a couch, so they pick a space that feels right for their studying. I think we've created a lot of spaces in here that do that. There are full class areas, and we have individual seating pockets in the stacks."

The book collection itself has been downsized after some extensive weeding prior to the move. Outdated non-fiction works, those that had not been checked out in years and books in bad

condition were all removed, trimming the collection to about 8,500 items.

"It's smaller but more relevant, and a lot more up-to-date," said Desutter.

Students can search for books via iPads that are mounted to the walls among the shelves.

"That's a feature we were really excited about because in the previous media center we only had a Windows lab," said Kunkel. "Kids had to log into a computer and wait for it to boot up before they could search."

While Kunkel and Desutter said they would miss the large windows in the old media center space, which is now being used as a flex learning area, they said the layout of the new space is far more functional. The old media center included



Lona Desutter and Monica Kunkel shelf books during the media center relocation.

a computer lab in the middle of the room and narrow rows of bookshelves. As a result, the space could only accommodate one class at a time. And with students coming, going and making checkouts during the day, interruptions were unavoidable.

"We have more students now, but they seem a lot quieter and more focused academically down here than they were in the other place," said Kunkel. "It just seems to have a different vibe."

Freshman Oliver Sturman said the reason is simple.

"It's a nice, quiet workplace," he said.



Two glassed-in conference rooms allow for quiet group work.



# DHS Homecoming





# Wuerger a National Merit semifinalist

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

DHS senior Gretchen Wuerger has been named a semifinalist in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Semifinalists represent just 1 percent of roughly 1.6 million high school juniors who entered the program nationwide by taking the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

"I knew it was a possibility when I took the test, but I didn't think I would actually get it," said Wuerger. "It was really cool to find out."

In order to become a finalist, the 16,000 semifinalists must now submit a detailed scholarship application including information about their academic record, participation in school and community activities, leadership, employment, honors and awards. They must also write an essay, receive an endorsement and recommen-



**Gretchen Wuerger**

dation from their high school, and earn SAT scores that confirm their performance on the qualifying test.

About 15,000 semifinalists are expected to complete those steps to become finalists. A total of 7,500 National Merit Scholarships totaling more than \$31 million will be awarded next spring. Those who receive scholarships will

be selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

## ***No stranger to success***

The highly select group of semifinalists, and the further whittling that occurs before scholarships are awarded, might make the ultimate chance of success seem minuscule to those attempting to qualify at the outset, but Wuerger is no stranger to rarefied air.

In May she, along with her Destination Imagination teammates Nicole Pupp and Annabel Frake, took first place out of 52 teams in the Maze Craze challenge at the DI Global Finals in Knoxville, Tennessee, besting teams from China, Poland, Turkey and from coast to coast in the United States. Wuerger said she may use that accomplishment as the topic for her National Merit essay, which asks students to write

about an experience they have had, someone who has impacted them or an obstacle they have faced.

## ***Senior and beyond***

At Delano High School Wuerger said she has particularly enjoyed classes in chemistry, psychology and math. Some of her favorite teachers include Jerry Shouts and Amanda Weinandt in mathematics.

"They're really good teachers, but they also connect with you outside of just teaching," said Wuerger.

After school hours Wuerger plays varsity soccer, is involved with the math team, and participates in journalism and the National Honor Society.

When she graduates next spring Wuerger plans to go to college, but she hasn't settled on a location or major yet.

"I'm thinking maybe pharmacy, but we'll see," she said.

## Announcements

### ***Conferences set for Oct. 15-16***

High school conferences will be held on Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 15 and 16. For students in grades nine through 12, conferences run from 4 to 7 p.m. on Monday only.

For students in grades seven and eight, the time is from 4 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, and again from 4 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

### ***Student IDs issued with pictures***

Student ID cards were inside picture packets that were handed out to students on Wednesday, Sept. 26. Even if a student did not order any pictures, an ID was given to them.

It is very important that all students keep their IDs. Eventually, students will need their ID to enter the building after school has started. Students will be notified later when this takes effect.

In addition, students will need to scan their ID in the office when leaving the building before the end of the school day.

### ***College preparation assistance***

Seniors and their parents are invited to a Financial Aid Presentation at 7 p.m. in the DHS auditorium on Monday, Nov. 12. The college financial aid process can be a challenge. A Financial aid officer will provide information on completing the required Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Any student who hopes to receive federal/state aid or student loans must complete the FAFSA.

In addition, October is College Knowledge Month. DHS Counselor Susan Farbo will meet with all interested students to help them apply to a Minnesota State College for free Oct. 25-31.

For seniors undecided about their post high school plans, the Minnesota National College Fair will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 24. It is one of the largest fairs of its kind and annually attracts representatives from over 300 different colleges and universities. The event also includes workshops on such topics as financial aid, writing application essays, and comparing college options.

For more information, contact Farbo at [susan.farbo@delanoschools.org](mailto:susan.farbo@delanoschools.org) or 763.972.3365, ext. 1717.

### ***School rewards program***

Support Delano Schools through Coborn's paperless MORE School Rewards program. There are three steps to participate.

1. Designate your preferred school (DHS, DIS or DES) by logging into [moreRewards.com](http://moreRewards.com) or the MORE Rewards mobile app. Click the Rewards tab at the top of the page, then the School Rewards tab.

2. Shop Coborn's for the store brands (Food Club, Full Circle, Top Care, Paws, Tippy Toes and more) to earn points.

3. The points your school earns will increase its share of a total available pot of \$150,000 that is distributed among participating schools. The more points a school earns, the larger its piece of the pie will be. See [moreRewards.com/school](http://moreRewards.com/school) for more information.

# Heil

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December will mark the finishing of the physical education offices and storage space, and the 9-12 locker rooms located in the TAC. The black box theater/dance room/multi-purpose room will also be completed in December. Those projects mark the end of major construction. It will then take a couple of months to finish punch list items.

We are excitedly anticipating a completed project as we move through the school year. The staff and I thank all the community, parents and students for their patience during this project.

As we continue to move forward, we will add the last of the security items directed at providing a secure campus. In short, we're looking forward to a great year.



**Construction is nearly complete.**



## Diving well now open

**Members of the girls and boys swimming teams, school administrators, school board members, construction consultants and contractors cut the ribbon to officially open the new diving well on Sept. 20. The ceremony included brief remarks, and swimmers presented a signed kickboard commemorating the event to Superintendent Matt Schoen.**



## Kindness in Chalk arrives Oct. 1

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

After a much-acclaimed debut in 2017, Delano Public Schools will participate in its second Kindness in Chalk event on Monday, Oct. 1.

October is National Bullying Awareness Month, and Kindness in Chalk is an activity that demonstrates to students how they can have a positive impact on others through words and actions.

"This year we have tied it together with a lesson plan on kindness," said high school social worker Marie Techam.

"The kids talked about what kindness means to them and what aspects of kindness they could bring to the school community. They also discussed random acts of kindness they could choose to do on their own. That went really well."

On Monday students and their advisors will be dismissed to a pre-assigned location at 9:40 a.m. and have time to write messages or create chalk art that aims to build others up before returning to class at 10:30 a.m. Delano students will focus on the sidewalks surrounding the school campus, including a line stretching

down Elm Ave. past the Community Ed. building to River Street, and from there past the city park and up County Road 30 back to the campus.

"We have some talented artists. We saw that with last year's art," said Techam.

School Within A School instructor Shallyn Tordeur said the activity has positive benefits for all participants.

"I think students respond really well when they see not only their peers writing kind messages, but their teachers, business owners, neighbors, the sheriff's department and other people like that," she said.

"Sometimes kids don't think they can have a big impact on a community or on others, but this helps drive home that message that you don't have to be an adult to have an impact on others. You can at any age."

Business owners and homeowners are encouraged to write their own messages on sidewalks or driveways to help spread the spirit of kindness even more. The Wright County Sheriff's Office plans to participate, and daycare groups have been notified as well.

"We want everybody to be a part of it. We're not excluding anyone," said Tordeur.





## New staff at DHS

New high school staff members are, front from left, Tannah Frawley (7-8 art), Lisa Servaty (counselor), Abigail Bohler (algebra 1 and 2) and Nathan Starks (7-8 learning disability). In the second row, from left, are Julie Algaard (DCD), Erin Megna (7-12 PE/DAPE), Emily Walters (7-8 special education), Eric Conway (7-12 choir), Cody Foster (7-8 social studies), Stephanie Harbulak-Barron (7-8 language arts/interventionist) and Samantha Bialozynski (9-12 special education).

## Four 'As' lead to student success

**By Steven Schauberger**  
Assistant Principal

Greetings, from Delano High School! The new school year is off to a great start and it is wonderful seeing students, staff and families once again!

I am one of the two assistant principals at Delano High School. In addition to other district and school-wide responsibilities, I will work primarily with seventh- and eighth-grade students, staff and families concerning attendance, discipline, interventions and celebrations.

Shane Baughman will be doing the same with ninth-through 12th-grade students, staff and families.

### *Keys to success*

The key ingredients to maintaining student success and life balance are the four As: academics, activities, attendance and attitude. If we work hard at all of these, then we achieve the "fifth A," which is achievement.

Academics is job No. 1. We collaborate with families to help students succeed in both content knowledge and in obtaining life-long learning skills.

Attendance is more than just being here. It's defined as doing your best every day to make an impact and a difference.

Activities engage our students to demonstrate their leadership skills, along with refining and showcasing their talents.



**Steven Schauberger**

A positive attitude is the required glue to hold everything else together. We teach our students that an "I can" attitude

develops exponentially when we learn from our mistakes. Never waste the precious gifts of time and resources!

We can achieve our common goals by addressing both task completion *and* relationship building. 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!



# Fall Play



## 'Robin Hood'

About 35 students in grades five through eight performed 'Robin Hood: A Musical - Sort Of' Sept. 6-8. Director Brooklyn Riggs outlined most of the stage movement, but credited the students with making many artistic decisions, including choreography and blocking. 'They know the play is the way it is because of their voice, because they had an opinion and said something,' said Riggs.

Photos courtesy of Marcelle Timonen





# Support the Tigers through DHS PIE

DHS Partners in Education is a group of engaged district residents, typically parents, who share the common goal of enhancing the educational and extracurricular experiences of DHS students.

The group holds a short business meeting at 6 p.m. the second Monday of each month to:

- 1) Raise funds and award grants to DHS teachers for non-budgetary items
- 2) Plan, fund and host the senior brunch
- 3) Discuss issues of concern and often hear a report from



**Taking a turn in the football concession stand is just one way the PIE group supports DHS students and staff.**

DHS Principal Dr. Steve Heil

- 4) Share experiences as high school parents.

Anyone who cannot attend the meetings but has an appreciation for the DHS PIE cause

and who would like to volunteer on an as-needed basis is welcome to consider providing the group with your contact information. A member will call when extra hands are needed.

Whether you have taken a hiatus from PIE, are new to the district, or just newly interested in PIE's cause, its members welcome you and want to include you in our efforts. For more information, see [www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us) and select "HSPiE" on the high school page.

## Volunteer to make a difference

Whether you have just a few hours a year or several a month, there is no shortage of opportunities to share your skills and interests at Delano Public Schools. Volunteers are invaluable contributors to the success of our students and make a positive impact on our school and community.

Last year volunteers contributed more than 8,000 hours in a variety of roles, such as classroom helpers, site based committee

members and chaperones. Not sure what role interests you? Take a look at the list below, and you can find additional information and descriptions on the Delano Schools website.

For more information, or to register as a volunteer, visit [www.delano.k12.mn.us/district/school-services/volun](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us/district/school-services/volun) or call 763.972.3365, ext. 2333.

### Elementary School

Battle of the Books \_\_\_\_\_  
 Book Fair \_\_\_\_\_  
 Classroom Helper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Teacher/s name \_\_\_\_\_  
 DI Team Manager \_\_\_\_\_  
 Drama Assistant \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elementary Art Show \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elementary Office Helper \_\_\_\_\_  
 ES Site Base Team \_\_\_\_\_  
 Field Trips \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hearing & Vision Screening \_\_\_\_\_  
 Math Lab \_\_\_\_\_  
 Media Center Helper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Project Judge \_\_\_\_\_  
 Publishing Center \_\_\_\_\_  
 Science Fair \_\_\_\_\_  
 Talent Development Assistants \_\_\_\_\_  
 Volunteer On Call \_\_\_\_\_  
 PIE Volunteer Opportunities \_\_\_\_\_  
 APEX Fun Run \_\_\_\_\_

Back to School Movie Night \_\_\_\_\_  
 Box Tops for Education \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dairy Queen Night \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fall Fundraiser \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fall Concession stand \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family Fun Night \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fish Fry \_\_\_\_\_  
 Memory Book \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spirit Wear Sales \_\_\_\_\_  
 Teacher/Staff Appreciation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nov. \_\_\_\_\_ May \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tiger Dash and 5K Run \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tiger Fun Fair \_\_\_\_\_

### Intermediate School

Contact the intermediate school office for opportunities at 972-7602.

### High School

After School Snack Program \_\_\_\_\_  
 Box Tops for Education \_\_\_\_\_

Cafeteria Friendly Presence \_\_\_\_\_  
 Commencement Day Help (Jr. Parents) \_\_\_\_\_  
 DI Team Manager \_\_\_\_\_  
 DHS PIE \_\_\_\_\_  
 Drama Assistant \_\_\_\_\_  
 Friendly Presence \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hearing & Vision Screening (Gr. 10) \_\_\_\_\_  
 HS Site Base Team \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lunch Server \_\_\_\_\_  
 Media Center Helper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Motivational Speaker \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prom Events Help \_\_\_\_\_  
 Red Cross Blood Drive \_\_\_\_\_  
 Talent Development Assistant \_\_\_\_\_  
 Use me as a resource (e.g. profession, hobbies, travel, languages) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Volunteer On Call \_\_\_\_\_  
 Youth As Resources Board Member \_\_\_\_\_



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). Delano High School is located at 700 Elm Avenue E. in Delano. For more information, see [www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us), or find Delano Public Schools on Facebook and Twitter.

