

TIGER TRACKS

TOGETHER...We Are Better!

Greetings from Delano Middle School! We have passed the midpoint of the school year and I must say that I am very proud of our middle school students and staff. Our students are focused and the staff is dedicated to the mission of our school. As we head into the challenge of building construction, I see daily examples of flexibility and resiliency. Most important, I see students and staff persevering while challenging and supporting each other in and out of the classroom. Our school truly is about people and relationships. We never take either of them for granted.

The key ingredient to maintaining this success is a balance of the four A's: 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 number one. 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. 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!

As we move forward in our journey the next two years and beyond, towards the exciting challenge of our new intermediate school for grades 4-6, and the secondary high school which will educate students in grades 7-12, please help us keep a balance on the four A's. We can achieve our common goals by addressing both task completion AND building relationships. We will continue 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!

- Steven Schauburger, Assistant Principal

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Please Slow Down... Safety First!

It is of the utmost importance to all Delano staff that your students arrive and leave school safely. With our campus under construction, the parking lots and Tiger Drive are very congested. Please help us make sure everyone stays safe by following these important reminders:



- Give buses the right of way.
- Stay off your cell phones at all times when driving, this is especially true when on campus.
- When dropping off your student, **ONLY ALLOW STUDENTS TO EXIT YOUR VEHICLE IN THE DROP OFF LANE AND NEVER ON TIGER DRIVE!**
- Pedestrians should always use the crosswalks.
- Leave early to provide plenty of time - **ACCIDENTS HAPPEN WHEN WE ARE IN A RUSH!**
- Always drive slowly through campus.
- Do not use the bus drop/pick up zone for students before school or after school before 3:30 p.m.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us to keep students, staff, and visitors safe!

Triscuit Challenge



FUN! During the 2017 DMS Pennies for Patients Fundraiser, the Triscuit Challenge pushed staff to their limits while washing down triscuits in a race to raise dollars for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Students cheered on the teachers as they raced against the clock! Keep the pennies coming!

Reading is Alive and Well at DMS!

More than 220 students participated in this year's Battle of the Books program at the Delano Elementary and Middle School.

This was an all time participation record for this event, which has been around for more than 10 years. Students in grades 3-8 may participate in this annual reading competition.

Students form their own team of three, read books from an assigned list over a two month period, and prepare for the contest. The Battle of the Books contest is set up like a game show. A question is read and each team writes their answers on a white board and holds them up for the judges during a predetermined time period. Each team earns points for correct answers. Students are required to remember details from their books and be able to identify which book the details can be found. It is an exciting event that gets students reading genres they may not normally choose on their own. Battle of the Books also allows students to collaborate with others to prepare for the contest and just have some plain reading fun!

The Battle of the Books program is sponsored by the Talent Development Program, coordinated by Gwen Briesemeister. A BIG Thank You to the parents who volunteered their time to make this event successful and fun for the students!



DMS Battle of the Books Champions: Erica Kazin, Megan Westberg and Meredith Duis

Delano Middle Staff Help Raise Funds for United Way

Each year around the holidays, Delano Public Schools holds a district wide fundraising campaign for the United Way. The final numbers came in for the 2016 United Way Fund Drive and through the donations of over 100 district employees, the school district raised \$11,283 to support the Delano-Loretto United Way.

As a reward for the most amount raised, Delano High School staff was recognized with a pizza luncheon for contributions totaling \$5,842.

A special thank you to teachers Karen Hohenstein, John Bingea and Kalsey Rheingans, along with Community Education Director Diane Johnson, for leading their building campaigns this year. In addition, the Delano-Loretto United Way wants to thank all the employees who contributed. It is campaigns like this that show how Delano Public Schools support an ongoing commitment to help build better lives and strengthen the community in which they live and work.



Congratulations Honor Band Members!



Victoria Schaffer, Collin Schrein, Paul Diem, Caleb Schrein, Blake Koehler, Charlie Kolstead, Dylan Grengs and Thomas Kenison (not pictured), were chosen to be members of the Central Minnesota Honor Bands. These students, along with many others from surrounding schools, took part in a concert on Saturday, January 14 at Elk River High School. This event consisted of two select bands, grades 7-8 and grades 9-10.

Congratulations to these outstanding musicians for their accomplishment!

"Music is the universal language of mankind."

*- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
American Poet & Educator*

History Day 2017

National History Day competition is open to any student in grades 6-12, but is a required assignment for students in the advanced language arts classes at Delano Middle School. Students work for 3-4 months researching and developing their projects around a central theme and then choose a final product to highlight their knowledge of their topic. Throughout their preparation, students learn to conduct in-depth research, use primary and secondary sources, read a variety of texts, analyze and synthesize information and write and present historical content. Students can choose between an exhibit, documentary, performance or website.

This year's theme, "Taking a Stand in History," was the inspiration for such topics as the Salem Witch Trials, Amber Alert, Helen Keller, The 1980 Olympic Boycotts and Jane Goodall to name a few. The National History Day office chooses a theme to help students direct their research to show a connection between the theme and their topics. The themes that are chosen are broad, allowing students to research topics on all levels from local history to ancient history.

Projects selected to advance to the regional competition will display their work at Mankato State University on Tuesday, March 28.

Thank you to all the judges that volunteered at DMS's History Day and Good Luck in Mankato Tigers!



Thank You for Clipping Those Box Tops!

Delano Middle School recently received the first check from Box Tops for Education for \$840. Yes, every box top does matter! DMS P.I.E. will provide an ice cream treat to the grade with the most box tops at the end of the year - so keep sending those box tops to school with your students! Currently, 6th grade is in the lead with 2741 box tops.

THANK YOU parents for clipping, saving and sending them in to school. Each dollar makes a difference in helping to provide educational items for students at Delano Middle School.



February Events

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| 2 | Winter Activity Day | |
| 6 | 2017-18 HS Registration Conferences (8th grade only) | 4:30-8 pm |
| 20 | President's Day - NO SCHOOL | |
| 25 | Tiger Fun Fair Tiger Activity Center | 12-4 pm |
| 27 | MS PIE Meeting | 6 pm |
| 28 | End of 2nd Trimester | |



Happy Winter!

Txt4Life Regional Coordinator Visits DMS Health Classes

"A person's response to emotional and mental health difficulties is as unique as the person. When a person is moving toward, or has reached the point of crisis, it is time to reach out for help from a crisis resource such as Txt4Life."



We are fortunate to have a new mental health and suicide prevention resource available for our students this school year called Txt4Life, which is a texting program created to help prevent suicide among youth. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth and young adults in Minnesota according to the Center for Disease Control, 2014. Txt4Life caters to youth in grades 7-12. It is a free, confidential counseling program where youth can text the line to talk with trained counselors about a variety of mental health concerns. During the 2016-17 school year, Molly

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth and young adults in Minnesota.

Wiemann, the Txt4Life Central Minnesota Regional Coordinator, has visited 8th grade health classes to speak about Txt4Life. Molly visits schools throughout central Minnesota to educate students about suicide prevention. She provides students with information about how to access Txt4Life if needed. Students are typically hesitant to talk face-to-face with others or to call a hotline when they are experiencing a mental health crisis. This is why we feel it is essential for them to learn about Txt4Life. If you would like more information about Txt4Life, please visit <http://txt4life.org/>.

If your student is in need of therapy or other mental health resources, please contact the middle school social worker, Nicole Gohman at 763.972.3365, ext. 3110 or via email at nicole.gohman@delanoschools.org. I would be happy to help with any questions or concerns you have about your student(s). Please note that I will be on maternity leave from February 2-April 21. There will be a substitute school counselor, Alex Lindstrom, available in the middle school during my leave. You can reach Alex at alex.lindstrom@delanoschools.org or via phone at 763.972.3365, ext. 3110. We are here for your student's educational needs as well as their mental health concerns.

- Nicole Gohman, DMS Social Worker



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