

TIGER TRACKS

DMS School Climate Survey

Greetings DMS Families,

The Delano Middle School Site Base Leadership Team (SBLT), consisting of administrators, teachers, school board representatives, and parents recognizes a school's climate as an integral part of a student's educational experience. A positive school climate is essential for promoting student achievement and developing the personal characteristics we wish to instill in our students. Over the past several years, we have not utilized a formal process for assessing the climate at DMS. As such, the SBLT included the development of a school climate assessment tool and the collection of baseline data as one of our goals for the year. This was approved by the Board of Education in October.



This spring, all students, staff, and parents will have the opportunity to participate in a survey process that will give our SBLT baseline information as to the state of the climate at DMS. Students will take the survey in their language arts classes on May 11. The survey, and all questions included, are anonymous and optional. Students will use their school-provided Google login to access the survey. This is only needed to maintain the security of the information and **WILL NOT** be used to track student responses.

Any parent/guardian who wishes to view a copy of the survey prior to distribution is welcome to do so. Copies will be available in the DMS office up to the date of the survey. Parents will receive an invitation to take their version of the survey at the same time as students. The parents survey link will be live for one week.

The SBLT would like to thank you, in advance, for your participation and look forward to getting the results so that we can work together to create the most positive and conducive learning environment for students at DMS. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

**- Barry Voight
Principal**

What are Your Kids Watching?

Delano Middle School is committed to supporting the social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students. As such, we want to remind parents and guardians to be aware of television programs and movie selections that your children are choosing and continue to monitor your child's social media accounts and activity on the internet. With television viewing now available and accessible on any mobile device or laptop, being aware of what your child is watching is more challenging than it used to be. Oftentimes, students are streaming shows by themselves or with other teens present, and some are sharing Netflix IDs and passwords with friends so they can access online content.



We want to remind students that while all of us experience challenges, there are adults who care and can provide support to make it through difficult times in life. Stigma can be a barrier to reaching out to others. Please consider taking this opportunity to engage in conversations with your child about the supportive adults in their life and help to end the stigma of talking about mental health. Reassure your child that talking openly and honestly about emotional distress (their own or a friend's) with a trusted adult is always okay and encouraged.

Please know that all DMS teachers, administrators, and the school social worker are always willing to listen and able to provide support and guidance to all students.

If you have individual concerns about your child related to mental health, or need additional resources, please contact DMS's School Social Worker, Nicole Gohman by email, nicole.gohman@delanoschools.org or via phone at 763.972.3365, ext. 3110.

History Day Projects Rise to the Occasion



Regional History Day Participants



Congratulations to all the DMS students who participated in the Regional History Day Competition! Many participants received honorable mentions for their projects and several projects advanced to the state competition which was held at the University of Minnesota on Saturday, April 29.

1300 students competed in the State History Day Competition. 8th graders Bridget Sundheim, Claudia Schmidt, and Adia LaFromboise place 5th in the documentary category. The 6th grade teams of Shelby Benker, Corbyn Menz and Ashlynn Kley and Rachel Eskola, Georgia Slavec and Emma Grover received honorable mentions in the exhibit category. The documentary team of Cole Schmidt, Justin Zens and Caden Zens, pictured bottom right, received a special topical prize of \$500.00.



A special congratulations to Gwen Briesemeister, Delano's Gifted and Talented Coordinator, for being selected as this year's Minnesota State Middle Level History Day Teacher of the Year.

Minnesota's History Day competition is one of the biggest in the nation with over 27,000 students participating.



Sharing Their Gift of Song

Delano Middle School 6th grade choir members Grace Elsen, Olivia Rowbotham, Alanna Jaworski, and Claire Revier shared their beautiful voices in the Celebration of Young Musicians Festival Choir in Howard Lake on April 8.

This festival is designed to create a memorable musical experience for choir students while providing teachers with an opportunity to observe, show and learn from a guest clinician/musical director.

What a great experience for these young singers!



5th Grade Math Masters Shine!



Congratulations to the 5th Grade Math Masters Team. These students competed against 22 other teams in the regional Math Masters competition and several students came away with individual awards. One of the top awards went to Meredith Duis who received first place out of 112 participants in the fact drill category.

School Food Service Accounts End of Year Notice

Effective Wednesday, May 10, through the end of the year, there is no charging of any amount to purchase a lunch or breakfast. This will eliminate negative balances at year end.

Account deposits must be turned in to the office by 10 a.m. each day to be recorded by lunch time. To check your current account balance you can login to Family Access on the Delano schools website at www.delano.k12.mn.us and click on "Food Service."

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Tracie Erickson at 763.972.3365, ext. 2136, or via email at tracie.erickson@delanoschools.org

Volunteer Registration Procedures Changing in 2017-2018

To ensure the safety of our students, beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, volunteers will be required to complete a secure background check prior to participating in most school-related activities.

The entire registration process, including the background check, can be completed on the District 879 website. Each volunteer will be responsible for the background check fee of \$12.

More information will be forthcoming on the district website and in the *Welcome Back* newsletter in August 2017.

DMS WE Club Members GO GREEN!



On Saturday, April 22, three members of the Delano Middle School WE Club volunteered at the Great River Greening Project in Wayzata, MN. Students Larissa Gust and Lindsey Gunderson, along with DMS Language Arts Teacher Melody Soderberg joined a group of 300 people who planted 2,000 trees, bushes, shrubs, and perennials to cultivate Highway 101 and Bushaway Road. They also learned what it takes to organize a successful service project - and hope to plan a local service project in the near future!

May Calendar

4	5 th /6 th Band Concert	7 pm
	<i>All concerts are held in the MS Auditorium</i>	
9	5 th /6 th Choir Concert	7 pm
15	MS PIE Meeting	6 pm
16	7 th /8 th Choir Concert	7 pm
17-19	Long Lake Conservation Center 5 th Grade Trip	
24	Last Day of School	
31	8 th Grade Washington DC/NYC Trip	

DMS Staff and Administration wish you and your family a safe and wonderful summer!



This parent e-newsletter is published by Traci Lawman, District Communications Coordinator, 763.972.3365, x2111, traci.lawman@delanoschools.org. Delano Middle School resides at 700 Elm Avenue E., Delano, MN. To find out more information about our award winning middle school join us on Facebook or go to our website at www.delano.k12.mn.us.