

TIGER TRACKS

Delano Middle School Newsletter



April 2018



Tory Spanier is a leader in the national Project Lead The Way program. See Page 4.

At a glance

Page 2

Intermediate meeting
Media Center dates

Page 3

State History Day
Citizens of the Month

Page 4

Spanier honored

Page 5

Honor choir
Announcements

Page 6

State writers
Reward program

Dates to remember

April

- 6.....HS spring musical, 7 p.m.
- 7.....HS spring musical, 1 p.m.
- 9.....MS PIE, 6 p.m.
- 9.....District PIE, 7 p.m.
- 10.....SciTech Showcase, Noon
- 13.....Midterm of Trimester 3
- 16.....MS conferences, 5 p.m.
- 18.....DIS info mtg, 6:30 p.m.
- 19.....District Advisory Council meeting, 7 p.m.

May

- 1.....7-8 band concert, 7 p.m.
- 3.....5-6 band concert, 7 p.m.
- 8.....5-6 choir concert, 7 p.m.

Testing season arrives

By Barry Voight
Principal
Steve Schaubberger
Assistant Principal

Greetings, DMS Tigers. Testing season is right around the corner. Students in grades 5-8 will be taking the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments-III (MCA-IIIs) in April and the Formative Assessment System for Teachers (FAST) assessments in May.

These tests cover reading and math for all grades. Fifth-graders and eighth-graders will also be assessed in science with the MCA-IIIs.

Please consider that these assessments do not represent all the learned skills our students have acquired in these subject areas. These assess-



Barry Voight

ments also do not accurately measure all that is important in school. Nevertheless, these assessments do help us, as a collective team of educators,

better identify student skills in a standardized way. The results also provide us with information that can be used to assess the quality of our programming throughout the K-12 system.

Help from home

We ask for your help with these assessments in a couple of ways. First, pay attention to the testing schedule included in this newsletter. Staff members work extremely hard to ensure that all students have the opportunity to show what they know within the parameters of the tests protocols. It is helpful if students can avoid any unnecessary absences

**See Testing
Page 2**



Record year

DMS raised its largest total ever, \$9,062.04, in this year's Pennies for Patients drive to benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Fundraising topped last year's total by nearly \$700 and was aided by the Triscuit Challenge, which included colorful contestants like science teacher Brian Allison, left, and fan sections among the students.

Intermediate information meeting on April 18

Parents of next year's Delano Intermediate students in grades 4-6 are invited to a public information meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 18, in the Delano Middle School auditorium.

Principal Barry Voight will provide an overview of the planning efforts for the new school. The main portion of the meeting will be reserved for responses to questions that audience members have regarding the new school. Contact Mr. Voight at barry.voight@delanoschools.org with specific questions in order to help orient his presentation toward questions that families currently have.

Those unable to attend will still have access to the information through the school website. A slideshow and audio recording from the meeting will be posted.



Contractors are putting the finishing touches on the intermediate school, and staff plan to start moving in the day after school ends in May.

Testing

from Page 1

testing time. It is important to note that the attached schedule does not include those students who are receiving specialized services. Students should check with their classroom teacher and/or case manager for specific information regarding their assigned test.

Second, help us to reiterate the importance of each student applying their best effort. Just like successful athletes pay attention to practice, routines and healthy nutrition to enable

'You can help by making sure your students get a proper night's rest and a healthy breakfast before their tests.'

their bodies to perform physically, students should do the same for their minds.

Our teachers have worked with your students repeatedly to prepare them mentally for these upcoming assessments; you can help by making sure your students get a proper night's rest and a healthy breakfast before their tests.

DMS 2018 MCA Testing Schedule		
Date	Test	Test Time
April 9-10	Gr8 Science	During normally scheduled science class times
April 11-12	Gr5 Science	During normally scheduled science class times concurrent
April 13	G5/8 Science Make up tests	8 am- 3pm
Apr 16-18	Gr8 Reading	During normally scheduled L.A. class times
Apr 16-18	Gr7 Reading	During normally scheduled L.A. class times
Apr 16-18	Gr7-8 Read	During normally scheduled L.A. class times
April 18	Gr6 Read	8 - 9:30 and 10:25-12:25 proctored by 1st period teacher
April 20	Gr5-8 Reading Make ups	8 am- 3pm
April 23-24	Gr7-8 Math	During normally scheduled math class times
April 25	Gr6 Math	8 - 9:30 and 10:25-12:25 proctored by 1st period teacher
April 26	Gr5 Math	8:50-10:20 and 11:30-12:42 proctored by Homeroom teacher
April 27	ALL 5-8 Make up Tests	8 am- 3pm

In addition, students must bring their headphones or earbuds for each of these tests. Students may also choose to bring a mouse to navigate on a chromebook.

We want to thank our parents, students, teachers and entire middle school staff for their efforts this year to spur

the achievement that our students have demonstrated.

Please contact the middle school office if you have any questions regarding the MCA-IIIs or FAST tests coming. Mr. Schauburger or I will be happy to speak with you.

Media Center dates to remember

As the end of the school year approaches, students and families should be aware of a number of important dates relating to use of the Media Center.

- Friday, April 13: Last day to check items out
- Friday, April 27: All items must be returned to the media center
- Friday, May 4: Last day to Earn AR points for the AR Store
- Friday, May 11: AR Store
- Monday and Tuesday: May 14-15: Grade level AR parties in the digital commons.



Students advance to State History Day

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

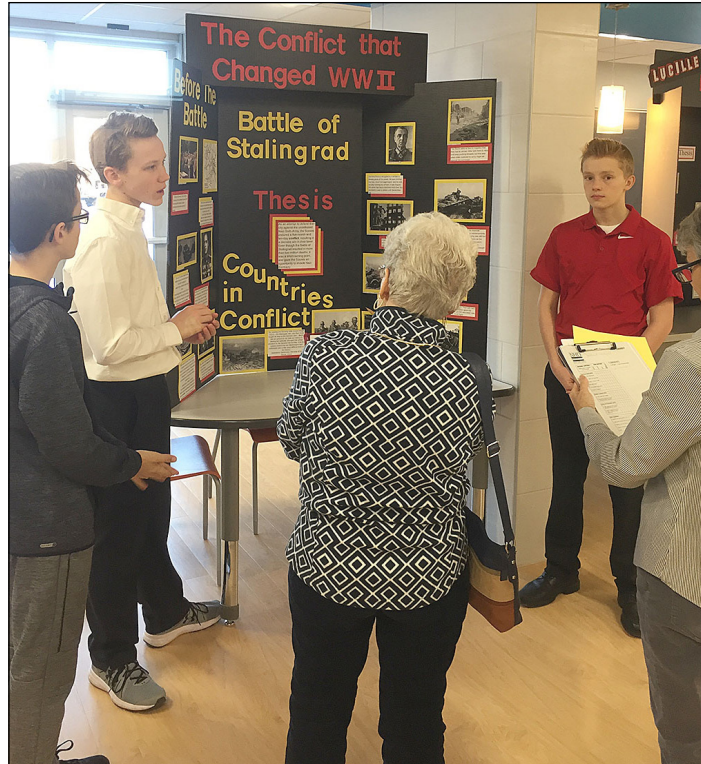
After extensive research and meticulous project preparation, nearly two dozen Delano Middle School students are advancing to the State History Day competition at the University of Minnesota on April 28.

History Day is open to students in sixth grade and eighth grade who are members of the Advanced Language Arts program. This year's theme of "Conflict and Compromise in History" challenged them to not only build a base of knowledge about a topic of their choice, but also offer analysis and an explanation of why that event was significant.

"It's just a higher level of learning," said eighth-grader Livia Loecken, who along with team members Erin Green and Grace Ward were part of a Delano sweep in the Documentary category at the regional competition in Mankato on March 19. "We do learn about some of this stuff in advance, but some of the techniques we learn as far as making videos and presenting our project and getting feedback from judges (requires more than a typical assignment)."

Those qualifying for state and their categories included:

- **Performance:** Katie Harder, Faith Tellers, Isaac Jacobson
- **Website:** Victoria Scha-



Jacob Hendrickson, Nick Black and Tommy Huotari present their exhibit at DMS in January.

fer, Grace Danielson, Aubrey Wittwer

• **Exhibit:** Larissa Gust, Elizabeth Hajas, Campbell Logan, Nick Black, Tommy Huotari, Jacob Hendrickson

• **Documentary:** Erin Green, Grace Ward, Livia Loecken, Erica Kazin, Megan Westberg, Kiersten Koets, Katherine Baker, Gabby Stoudt, Abby Hohenstein.

Students earning Honorable Mention honors at the regional

competition included Paris Kolstad, Jaxon Duberstein, Dylan Teig, Logan Felknor, Larissa Pietila and Peyton Logan.

Projects

Loecken, Green and Ward presented on Eleanor Roosevelt because they wanted to explore the progression of women's rights.

"We took a trip to the Minneapolis Public Library to research more in depth about

our topic and get primary sources from their archives," said Green. "I really like doing History Day this year because this is the first year that I've done a documentary and it was really fun to put it together."

In the website category Danielson and Wittwer, both three-sport athletes, did a project on Title IX.

"We were kind of struggling to come up with a topic at first," said Danielson. "Then we looked into Title IX and realized that it wasn't just about sports, it was about education too, so we got really interested."

Wittwer said the beginning of the year consisted of research on the topic, but learning to build a website that included text, audio, video and photos was an additional process.

"Over the last two months we started putting it together and finished it," she said.

Danielson said the technical knowledge has transferred to other classes as well.

"After we started our website we started doing more of them in science and other classes, so it has helped us," she said.

Overall, Green said the chance to participate in History Day is one that she doesn't take for granted.

"Not a lot of people get to do it, so it's a good opportunity and a privilege, I guess, to be able to compete in it," she said.

Citizens of the Month

Citizens of the Month for February were recently announced. These students took being positive, prepared and academically driven to the next level. Citizens of the Month included fifth-graders Katlyn Murdock and Hunter Allen, sixth-graders Morgan Arnold and Norah Danielson, seventh-graders Lilia Melco and Raymond Gust, and eighth-graders Graeson Quast and Michael Krueger.



Spanier a Master Teacher Leader

‘Exemplary’ teaching abilities lead to national role

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

While a desire to provide the best educational experience for students is common among those in the teaching profession, Delano Middle School's Tory Spanier has also distinguished himself at a national level for his ability to equip fellow teachers with the knowledge they need.

Spanier is a 10-year veteran of the Project Lead The Way program, which focuses on hands-on projects in science, technology engineering and math. In addition to his work in the classroom at DMS, he has also spent the past five years as a Master Teacher who trains other PLTW instructors at locations around the United States during the summer months.

In recognition of his skill in that capacity, the national PLTW program recently elevated Spanier to a “Master Teacher Leader” position that will give him an influential voice in the training process.

‘Tory is about getting the job done the best he can as it relates to students’ growth.’

Bill Rae

Of the already slim group of 574 Master Teachers nationally, only 41 were chosen for those leadership positions. Spanier, along with one other Master Teacher Leader, will work with the PLTW curriculum team to help shape the training provided this coming summer for the middle school level Design and Modeling course.

Mandy Welch, senior director of trainer development



Tory Spanier

for Project Lead The Way, Inc., said Spanier emerged as a strong candidate for the role because he fit a variety of criteria, including “exemplary instructional abilities” and a “rich understanding” of PLTW and its mission. He also distinguished himself through proactive efforts that went “above and beyond” to improve the training program.

“He identified potential opportunities for improvement and provided suggestions on how to revise the materials and enhance the participant experience,” Welch said.

Improvement efforts

One colleague elevated to the Master Teacher Leader role along with Spanier was not surprised to see Spanier chosen for the role.

“Tory is about getting the job done the best he can as it relates to students’ growth, and is not afraid to voice his opinion,” said Bill Rae, a middle school PLTW instructor in Fenton, Michigan. “He is also very knowledgeable in his area’s subject material and works to expand his area of expertise.”

Expanding his expertise has been a years-long process that typically consumes five to six weeks of Spanier’s summer vacation.

“I’ve presented at state conferences and traveled all

over the place, from Georgia to Oregon,” Spanier said. “It’s certainly nice to be recognized.”

Why has Spanier been motivated to spend so much of his own time outside of the school year to grow in his field?

“You see how valuable it is for the kids in your class, so you want to become better in your subject and provide a better opportunity for your students,” he said.

One of the aspects of his extra work he enjoys the most is forming connections with others in the PLTW field from one end of the country to the other.

“When you work with great people it makes you want to step up to their level and make them proud of what you do,” Spanier said.

‘You see how valuable it is for kids in your class, so you want to become better in your subject.’

Tory Spanier

“I’ve learned a tremendous amount, so you really want to prove your place with them and show your appreciation, show them that what they’ve helped you with and taught you about wasn’t a waste.”

In demand

PLTW trainings are often held at universities in the summer months, and the affiliates at those sites have recognized Spanier’s ability to make intensive two-week trainings effective and enjoyable for those in attendance.

“Master Teachers in other states request to work with Tory, and (he is requested by other universities) to work at their (training sessions),” said

Rene Bailey from Purdue University PLTW.

In a joint statement, Taylor Young and Donna Wise of the University of Texas at Tyler and Texas PLTW said that for the reasons mentioned above and more, Spanier is “an excellent person for his role as a Master Teacher Leader.”

“Participants not only come to be trained, but they also come for the overall experience, and having a Master Teacher like Tory makes a world of difference,” they said.

Credit due in Delano

While Spanier has grown professionally from colleagues nationwide, he was also quick to credit several individuals in the Delano district that have played pivotal roles along his career path, including former DMS Principal Renee Klinkner.

In addition, high school shop teacher Joe Finn originally brought the PLTW program to Delano, and DMS technology coordinator Jon Moen has provided invaluable tech support.

“Without Joe I wouldn’t have been able to do this. And the same with Jon Moen on the tech and computer support side,” said Spanier. “Without Jon and Joe I wouldn’t have been able to get as far as I have.”

Thanks to Spanier’s own contributions in training others, many in the PLTW program can now say the same of him. Rae said those who have crossed paths with Spanier have benefited both professionally and personally.

“Tory is a great guy and I got the opportunity to work with him one summer. I would do it again in a heartbeat,” Rae said. “He has a great passion for his profession. He is a hard worker and has a great sense of humor. Passion and hard work, all while having fun – what a combination!”

Singers excel in honors auditions

By Paul Downer

Communications Coordinator

Six DMS singers recently passed through a highly competitive selection process to earn places on a statewide honor choir that will perform in Mahotomedi on May 5.

Fifth-graders Lauren Black, Clara Lawrence and Ryan Phillips, along with sixth-graders Sean Wissbroecker, Nicholas Antonicelli and Kiersten Koets, were among 150 students chosen out of 800 who auditioned for the choir.

Students were chosen on the beauty of their tone, ability to sing in tune and rhythmic accuracy.

"The honor choir process is a 'blind' audition – the judges don't know the age or school from which students come, so it truly is a state-wide contest," said DMS vocal instructor Sandy Meyerson. "The audition pieces and scales students are required to sing are challenging, and students selected for the choir must have a near-perfect audition to qualify."

Aside from the basic enjoyment of music and singing, some of Delano's honor representatives shared their favorite aspects of choir. Black said she enjoyed memorizing the music, while Lawrence said she loved performing and doesn't feel



Honor choir members in the front row are fifth-graders Lauren Black and Ryan Phillips. In the back, from left, are sixth-graders Sean Wissbroecker, Nicholas Antonicelli, Kiersten Koets and fifth-grader Clara Lawrence.

nervous on stage. Phillips said he enjoys singing through songs for the first time and exploring new music.

"Our selected students from fifth and sixth grade have a tremendous work ethic and bring their best to every choir rehearsal," said Meyerson. "They listen carefully, accept coaching and are great risk-takers to experiment with their voices. I'm very proud of the work that they do and excited for this opportunity for them."

Announcements

Watch year-end meal balances

Beginning Monday, May 14, and continuing through the end of the year, there will be no charging of any amount to purchase a lunch or breakfast. This helps eliminate negative balances at year end. Any unpaid lunch balances will be placed for collections.

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 log in to Family Access on the Delano Public Schools website (www.delano.k12.mn.us) and click on Food Service.

Contact Tracie Erickson with questions or concerns at 763.972.3365 ext. 2136 or tracie.erickson@delanoschools.org.

Notify school of address changes

Moving? Changing schools? If your family is moving out of the school district and will not be attending Delano schools next year, please notify the school office at 763-972-6200. This information is vital for class assignments and staffing needs for the 2018-19 school year.

Volunteer at Delano schools

Whether you have just a few hours a year or several a month, there is no shortage of opportunities to share your skills and inter-

ests at Delano Public Schools. Volunteers are invaluable contributors to the success of our students and make a positive impact on the school and community.

Last year volunteers contributed more than 8,000 hours in a variety of roles, such as classroom helpers, site base committee members and chaperones. Not sure what role interests you? 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 or call 763.972.3365, ext. 2333.

Hall monitors needed in April

The middle school is looking for volunteers (who have completed district volunteer training) to serve as hall monitors during MCA testing during three sessions in April.

Volunteers are needed for 8 to 11:15 a.m. morning shifts, and for 1 to 3 p.m. afternoon shifts on Monday and Tuesday, April 9-10, from Monday through Thursday, April 16-19, and from Monday through Thursday, April 23-26. The primary need is for morning shift volunteers.

For more details, or to sign up, contact Assistant Principal Steve Schauburger at 763.972.7602, ext. 2356 or steve.schauburger@delanoschools.org.

Eight letter writers advance to state

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

A handful of Delano students have been recognized for excellence in writing, and have advanced to the state level in the national Letters About Literature contest.

Out of 495 letters submitted in the initial round of competition, 43 writers advanced to state in Minnesota, and nearly a quarter of those state qualifiers come from Delano Middle School.

"We don't usually have that many," said Jessica Benker, adding that local students have competed in the Library of Congress event regularly in past years.

In the contest, students choose a book that made an impact on the way they think or act, then write a five-paragraph letter to the author explaining its affect on them.

"It's not complimenting the author. They actually have to synthesize how the book changed them as a person," said Benker. "It's not just a summary, so it's kind of a higher level for a lot of the kids."

Sixth-graders who have advanced to state from DMS include Hailey Bilger ("Nightmares"), Haley Champeau ("Marley & Me"), Grace Danielson ("Wonder"), Owen Dickhausen ("Wonder"), Logan Felknor ("Joey Pigza Swallowed



State qualifiers in the Letters About Literature contest include, front from left, Hailey Bilger, Megan Westberg, Kiersten Koets and Logan Felknor. In the back row, from left, are Brooklyn Gillette, Grace Danielson, Miranda Wagner, Owen Dickhausen and Haley Champeau.

the Key"), Brooklyn Gillette ("The Giving Tree"), Kiersten Koets ("The 14th Goldfish"), Miranda Wagner (Warriors") and Megan Westberg ("Es-ther").

As a group, those students said they were excited to learn they were among only about 10 percent of participants who had advanced to state.

"I was surprised and happy," said Wagner.

"It was a good opportunity

to express our opinions," said Danielson.

Students and teacher alike said the project can involve a fair amount of emotion.

"It gets pretty personal, some of their letters," said Benker. "You learn about your students, the way they view the world and how a book changed their thinking."

Benker added that it is good for students to have a way to distinguish themselves in a

discipline like writing, which can't be tested and measured in the same objective way math or science can.

In the past some students have actually mailed their letters to the authors after the assignment was finished, and some have received responses back.

Students should find out if they advance beyond state to nationals by the end of the school year.

Support schools through reward program

Support for a school district can come in many forms, but anyone who wishes to aid the Delano schools through the Coborn's school rewards program should remember that the program has changed this year. Coborn's is starting its new paperless MORE School

Rewards program, which replaces the former Labels for Learning. There are three steps to participate.

1. Designate your preferred school (DHS, DMS or DES) by logging into 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 for your preferred school.

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 for more information.



Tiger Tracks is published by Delano Middle School. Editor, Paul Downer, District Office, 763.972.3365, ext. 2111, paul.downer@delanoschools.org



Delano Middle School
700 Elm Ave. E, Delano, MN 55328
Phone: 763.972.7602
Website: www.delano.k12.mn.us