

Tiger Tracks

Delano Intermediate School Newsletter



March 2020



Students presented their research projects during History Day. See Page 5.

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5.....Delano Jazz Festival

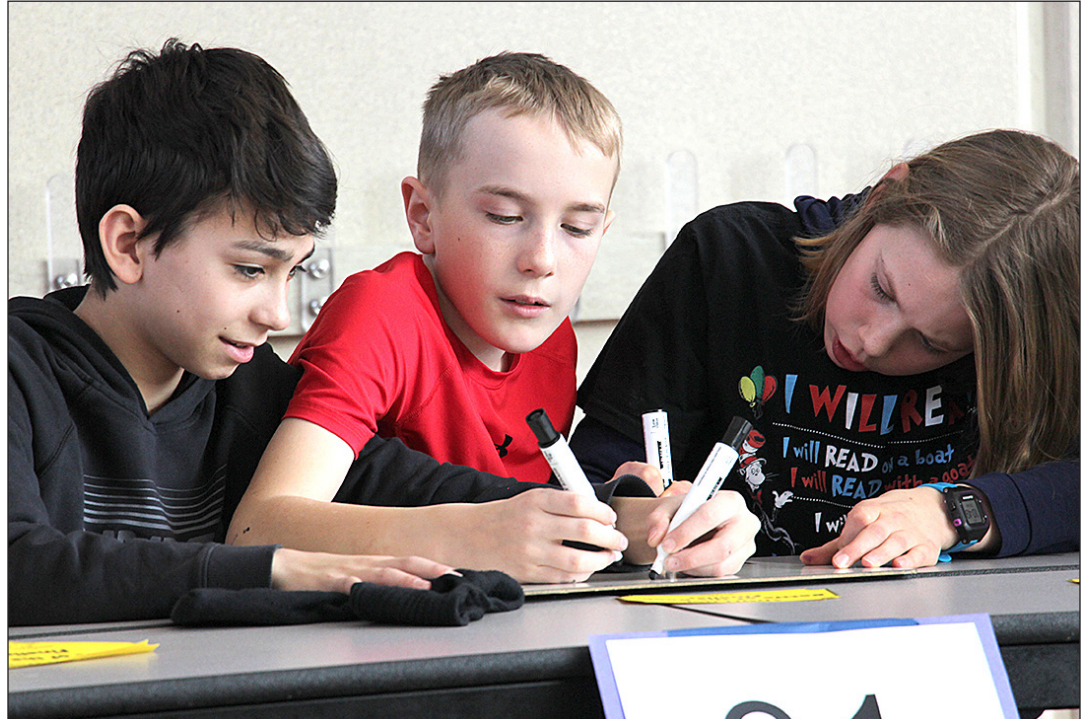
9-13.....Spring break, no school

16.....School board listening session, 7 p.m.

18.....Two-hour late start

28.....Tiger Fun Fair, 12-4 p.m.

• See www.delano.k12.mn.us for additional information.



Calling all hands

Blake Merritt, Harry Stenback and Alexis Zens were the picture of teamwork while answering questions during the Battle of the Books finals on Thursday, Feb. 13. The competition featured 61 teams and came down to a close finish. See Page 4 for more.

MCA season approaches

By Barry Voight
Principal

Greetings, DIS families.

As we move into the spring season at school, DIS staff begin planning for our students to take the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs).

It is likely that every member of our community has a different opinion on the value of the MCAs as a measure of student/school progress. I'm taking this opportunity to share mine, and to encourage all of our students to do their very best.

First, let me say that stu-



Barry Voight

dents taking the MCAs, and their results, are not the most important thing we do in our

work at Delano Intermediate School.

It is easy for all of us to become short sighted in the presence of our scores and miss the big picture.

While the MCAs do provide us with one perspective about how our students are performing relative to grade-level benchmarks in the areas of reading, math and science, they can overshadow the depth and breadth of the valuable learning that occurs within these walls.

See Voight
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Above, art instructor Laura Holland places a newly painted ceiling tile, while at left students prepare their own tiles for installation.

Ceiling art brightens DIS hallway

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

A new art initiative at Delano Intermediate is brightening up a busy hallway and keeping encouraging messages in front of students as they work through each school day.

Laura Holland's art students have spent the past few weeks planning, mapping and producing messages for the ceiling of the hallway that enters the academic wings of the building. Students gathered in randomly chosen teams of two and three to create messages for ceiling tiles, and to organize a coherent plan for the full area.

"It's a new building, and this helps make it a more kid-friendly space," said Holland. "It adds color, and it helps kids make a positive mark on the building."

The quotes and qualities shared on the ceiling relate to Tiger Pride values of Positivity, Respect, Independence, Dependability and Empathy. Students researched and gathered the quotes in their Life Skills class, then came up with their own styles and color

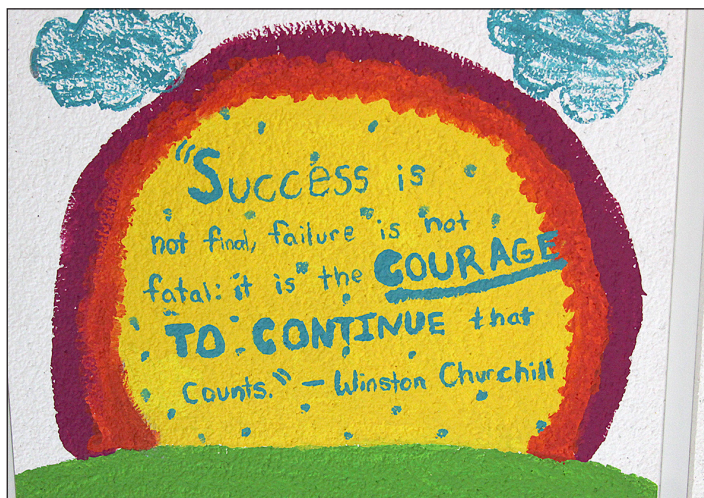


schemes to share them on the ceiling tiles.

"In this case it made art collaborative because they were working in groups," said Holland.

Artistic lessons they learned along the way included learning about complimentary colors, spacing and acrylic painting techniques.

The project has created a community art space within the school, and future students may also have the opportunity to contribute as grade levels pass through the building.



Engineers demonstrate ingenuity

By Paul Downer

Communications Coordinator

Zero Hour offers students the opportunity to learn and explore in ways that typical school days sometimes do not.

Last month the engineering group tried out their own complex designs under the watchful eyes of engineers Devin Overstreet and Bryant Jones from Landscape Structures. Pete Dubay of the University of Minnesota 4H Engineering Design Challenge helped facilitate the project, along with Nicolle Berg.

“Zero Hour has presented a unique opportunity for the students to learn through experience,” Berg said, adding that the constraints of a conventional day don’t always “allow the time it takes to think, create, fail, rethink and recreate. The students are afforded that luxury in this class.”

After each team had demonstrated its machine, all of which were made to raise a flag after a sequence of events, the judges -- including DES Assistant Principal Greg Hinker -- deliberated and named the “Paper Dragons” the winning team.

The Dragons were fifth-grader Jack Horch and



In these photos, students set up and demonstrate their machines, which perform a complex set of tasks in order to raise a flag, during Zero Hour.

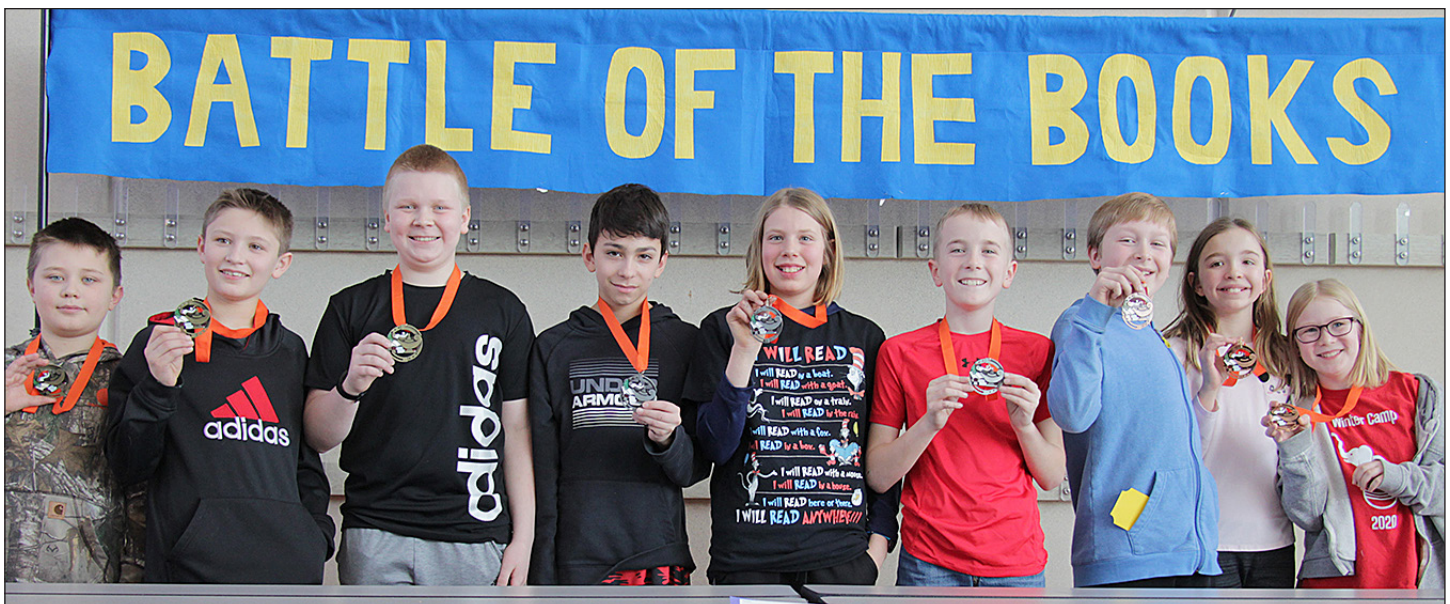
sixth-graders Rylan Hagerdorn and Luke Grosshuesch.

“I enjoyed building it. It was fun all the way,” said Horch. “I did not think we were going to win.”

Hagerdorn agreed.

“It was hard coming up with the idea, but once you figure out what the materials are and what you can do with them, the rest follows,” he said.





From left are first-place winners Thomas Depa, Isaiah Depa and Blake Nemec; second-place winners Blake Merritt, Alexis Zens and Harrison Stenback; and third-place winners Landon Lundquist, Emma Ristau and Lydia Homan.

Nemec, Depas first in 61-team contest

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

After four days of competition featuring 61 teams and 177 students in grades 4-6, Thomas Depa, Isaiah Depa and Blake Nemec took first place in the DIS Battle of the Books on Thursday, Feb. 13.

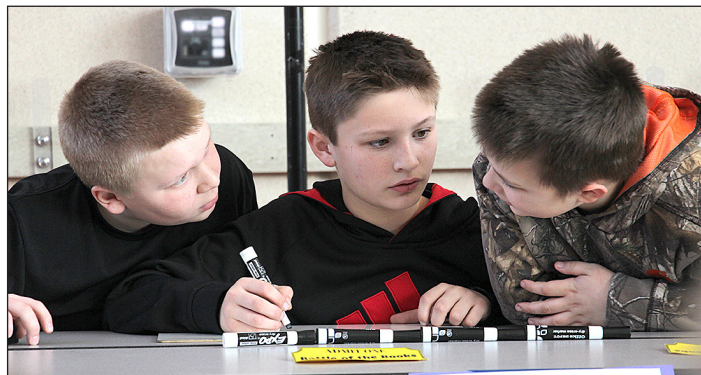
"The last few days have been hectic for us because we've been reading non-stop," said Isaiah Depa, a sixth-grader. "I think I've read about eight hours in the last three days."

Nemec, also a sixth-grader, said his main reaction after hearing the final results was relief.

"At the beginning I thought it was going to be really close because everybody was getting the same thing. It ended up being really close too," he said.

Gifted and Talented Coordinator Heidi O'Donnell, presiding over her first Battle of the Books competition, said the final score was 26 for the winning team, 22 for second-place finishers Harrison Stenback, Alexis Zens and Blake Merritt, and 20 for third-place finishers Emma Ristau, Lydia Holman and Landon Lundquist.

Thomas Depa, a fourth-grader, had been part



From left, Blake Nemec, Isaiah Depa and Thomas Depa discuss how they want to answer during the finals.

of the winning team at Delano Elementary last year, and said it felt good to take the top prize again.

"This was a lot bigger than last year," he said. "This year you compete against more grades."

"They were really stoic about it, but you could tell inside that they were really excited," said O'Donnell. "It's really impressive. You can tell that they really spent a lot of time going through their books and spending the time it would take to get to the top."

In the Battle of the Books, students have two months to pick a team, read 12 books and prepare for trivia questions derived from the stories. They must also name the author of

the book when they answer the question.

"It creates a competition where there is intrinsic motivation as well as just the feeling of success from having read so many books," said O'Donnell.

The DIS competition had so many teams that there were five preliminary rounds. Two teams from each preliminary round advanced to the 10-team semi-finals, and three then moved on to the finals.

Going into competition, the Depa brothers said they felt confident because they had each read and re-read about five books, while Nemec and specialized in a separate three books so that the whole field was covered.

"We got a bunch of the

practice questions and stayed up late doing questions and memorizing authors," said Isaiah Depa.

Some of the group's favorite books were "Poppy and Rye," "Stone Fox," "Joey Pigza" and "The Chicken Doesn't Skate."

"Those books were amazingly fun to read," said Isaiah Depa. "They had vivid descriptions that really allowed me to make mental pictures."

Nemec said the contest caused him to read several books he might not have ordinarily picked up.

"It was fun just to have something different to read," he said.

O'Donnell said the contest is a unique opportunity for students to work together as teams in a challenge that doesn't involve getting a letter grade. Rather, they learn to hold themselves accountable for their team's performance in the competition.

"The kids were nervous and excited, which is kind of how I felt too," said O'Donnell. "But by the end of it, it was really neat to see all the work they'd done and all the progress they made, and to see them interacting over books and getting excited about reading."

History Day puts research on display

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

After deep research and extensive work to prepare a presentation on their findings, Delano students in grades six and eight presented their projects to judges and other audience members on History Day, Tuesday, Feb. 4.

This year's theme was "Breaking Barriers in History," and students in the Advanced Language Arts program presented documentaries, websites, exhibits and even a performance on topics of their choice.

'I like that we got to choose our research topic, and we got to present it our own way.'

Sydney Pink
Grade 6

"It gives us an opportunity to look into things we want to learn about," said eighth-grader Owen Stowman, who along with classmate Nathan Schneider built a website about nuclear weapons and how they have changed warfare.

"All these projects let us look into history without just going through a text book," said Schneider. "It lets you explore on your own and find what you want to narrow it down to and learn about."

Out of 25 local projects, 13 were chosen to advance to the regional competition in March. From there, students will compete to advance to state.

Sixth-graders Braylon Beier and Samuel Kodesh presented an exhibit on Prince, and said that they enjoyed their first opportunity to participate in History Day.

"At the start it was kind of hard to get a grasp of what we were trying to do and how to



Samuel Kodesh, left, and Braylon Beier dressed the part for their exhibit on Prince and the ways in which his music broke barriers. Both are in sixth grade.



Sixth-grader Ariana Langdon and partner Weston Bridges presented 'The Black Wings of Death: How an Epidemic Changed Vaccines.'

do it, but once we got into it and figured out our work flow we just took the challenges as they came," said Beier.

"It was challenging," agreed Kodesh, adding that the process of presenting to the judges was nerve-racking, but that finalizing their research and their exhibit was gratifying.

"Actually seeing everything come together was my favorite part," said Kodesh.

"We felt very accomplished," added Beier.

Sydney Pink and Kaelyn Wittwer, also sixth-graders, built a website to support their project, "A League of Their Own: Creating a Path for

Women's Rights and Giving Women a New Opportunity." They said that working with a new History Day website builder was the primary hurdle to overcome.

"This was the first run of the new website. So there were some difficulties," said Wittwer. "Last year they had a different website builder. This year we were the first people to try it, so it was very challenging."

While working the bugs out of the system presented some adversity, both students said they enjoyed the process.

"I like that we got to choose our research topic, and we got to present it our own way," said Pink. "It was fun getting to research a topic for that long and getting to really know it."

The regional competition will take place at Minnesota State University, Mankato on Monday, March 23, and students have an opportunity to fine tune their presentations before then, using feedback received from judges at the local level.

Those who advance through regionals will compete at the University of Minnesota on Saturday, May 2, in the state event.

Pirates and magic in upcoming play

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

A play featuring more than 80 of Delano's budding young actors from grades 2-6 will take place later this month.

"Magic Tree House: Pirates Past Noon" is an adoption of Mary Pope Osborne's award-winning fantasy adventure book from the Magic Tree House book series.

This time around, Jack and

Annie's tree house takes them to an exotic island filled with exciting creatures -- and with pesky pirates. Here, the two discover the power of friendship and the simple pleasures in everyday life.

"It's going to be a huge group," said director Joe Lawrence. "I want them to learn the basics of acting and design, learn to collaborate, and the main thing is to have fun -- shouldn't be hard since

everyone loves to pretend to be a pirate or a parrot or a starfish or a lobster."

Plot and performances

The two siblings return to visit the magic tree house on a dreary day and find a book where the sun is shining and the waves are crashing. They decide to travel to this tropical place, but soon realize they are in the 18th century Caribbean, a time and place frequented by

pirates. The siblings meet Captain Bones, a mean old pirate who captures them and forces them to help him find buried treasure.

It's up to Jack and Annie to find their way back to the tree house and make their way home.

Performances will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, March 19-20, and at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 21. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

Learn how to become a substitute teacher

Have you ever wanted to try your hand at teaching? A two-day workshop is planned for people with a non-education four-year bachelor's degree from an accredited college who would like to become a limited, short-call substitute teacher. Participants will receive training in:

- The process for applying for the two-year license through the Minnesota Department of Education.
- The substitute teacher's role in the classroom and district.
- The basics of classroom management, instruction, and child development.
- Communication skills, and awareness of legal issues relating

to students and a teacher's obligations.

The workshop takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, and from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, at Resource Training & Solutions (137 23rd Street S, Sartell).

There is a fee to attend. To register, go to <http://www.resourcecoop-mn.gov/>, enter the course code in the "Search for Events" box located to the right on the homepage, then follow the prompts. The course code is 8693.

For more information, visit <http://www.resourcecoop-mn.gov> or call Kate Reichert at 320.255.3236 ext. 324 or 844.335-3276.

<div>  LUNCH </div> <div> MARCH 2020 Delano Intermediate School </div> <div> Delano Intermediate \$2.95 </div>				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot Dog 2 A)BBQ Rib Sandwich Sun Chips Baked Beans Baby Carrots Rosy Applesauce	Chicken Gravy 3 A)Polish Sausage Mashed Potatoes / Peas Lettuce / Roll Baked Apple Slices	Chicken Nuggets 4 Tritater Green Beans Veggies / Bread Fruit Cocktail	Chicken Alfredo 5 California Blend Vegetables Lettuce Salad / Toppings Fresh Fruit	Cheese Pizza 6 Corn Lettuce Salad / Toppings Pears
No School 9 Spring Break	No School 10 Spring Break	No School 11 Spring Break	No School 12 Spring Break	No School 13 Spring Break
Popcorn Chicken 16 Brown Rice Stir Fry Vegetables Lettuce Pineapple	Corn Dog 17 Potato Smiles Baked Beans Veggies Rosy Applesauce	Italian Dunkers 18 Corn Lettuce Salad / Toppings Fresh Fruit	Chicken Patty / Bun 19 A)PBJ Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Crackers / Veggies Lettuce Peaches	Tomato Soup 20 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Goldfish Lettuce / Toppings Veggies Fresh Fruit
Nachos -- Beef / Cheese 23 Lettuce / Onions / Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit	Cinnamon Roll 24 Cheese Omelet Steamed Broccoli Tritater Apple Juice Cup Orange Wedges	Spaghetti -- Meatballs 25 Garlic Bread Green Beans Lettuce Salad Pears	Chicken Nuggets 26 Tritater Corn Veggies Fruit Cocktail	Hamburger 27 A)Fish Sandwich Waffle Fries Lettuce / Tomatoes / Pickles Onions Orange Wedges
Domino's Pizza 30 Cheese / Pepperoni Green Beans Lettuce Salad / Toppings Pears	Chicken Patty 31 Mashed Potatoes / Roll Country Gravy Steamed Carrots Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges			



Sports and song

Sports were the theme for the fourth-grade concert on Tuesday, Feb. 25, in the DHS Performing Arts Center. Here are a few photos from the show.



Voight

from Page 1

Limited, but valuable

The MCAs don't necessarily report on our students' ability to think critically, solve conflicts, manage executive functioning skills, or collaborate effectively with their peers. These are all areas that are essential for developing healthy, contributing members of our future society beyond academic proficiency. These are skills and attributes that our staff at DIS value and strive to develop on a daily basis.

With that said, I do believe that MCAs are important, so long as we frame the scores in the correct context. While the MCAs are not able to provide us with highly detailed information about student proficiency relative to every single standard addressed in reading and math classes, they do provide us with the best standardized and norm-referenced measure for student proficiency.

As our staff teams analyze

'The MCA score a student receives is just one of many data points that inform our decision making.'

Barry Voight
DIS Principal

MCA data, in concert with other metrics and classroom information, it allows us to make instructional decisions on how to best support our students' academic growth. The key piece here is that the MCA score a student receives is just one of many data points that inform our decision making.

School effectiveness

While the MCA is a benefit for individual students, it is, perhaps, more beneficial as a school-wide effectiveness measure. Analysis of MCA trends among our students helps us to identify gaps in our curriculum. Understanding

MCA Testing Schedule

Please make sure your students are not absent on the following days.

April 14

Grade 4 Reading

April 16

Grade 5 Reading

April 20

Grade 6 Reading

(Note date change)

April 21

Grade 5 Math

April 23

Grade 4 Math

April 28

Grade 6 Math

April 30

Grade 5 Science

these gaps helps us to improve our programming so that we can systematically improve the level of support for all of our learners.

How you can help

With that said, I'm hoping that all of our parents work with the school staff to encourage and support our students during this testing season. We don't want students to be paralyzed with anxiety heading into the MCAs; we certainly can reinforce that one MCA test is not going to make or break a student's educational career.

It is our goal that students simply do their best; truly, that is all that we can ever ask of our students. Our staff will reinforce this by encouraging them to take their time, check their answers, and other strategies that are always good practices for producing quality work.

Parents can help by making sure their students are well rested and eat a healthy breakfast, and by encouraging best effort. It is also very helpful to make sure your students are present at school on their scheduled testing days.

As always, please let me know if you have questions regarding MCA testing or any other DIS programming.

Students of the month

January Students of the Month were chosen for being dependable. They included fourth-graders Caylee Menard, Sophia Bushey, Dean Pennala and Jackson Eickhoff; fifth-graders Brita Fredrickson, Madison Ring, Brady Schultz and Ben Teal; and sixth-graders Kaelyn Wittwer, Hailey Kalthoff, Carter VanBeusekom and Nate Nielsen.



Announcements

School board listening session

Members of the Delano School Board will host a listening session at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 16, in the Delano High School media center.

All are invited for an informal discussion of topics that will be announced beforehand. Members of the public are welcome to come and share comments, questions and suggestions. A survey with potential topics will be emailed to district families. Two or three board members, along with appropriate school staff, will attend the one-hour session to share information and hear feedback.

The listening session is not an official meeting and no action will be taken, but feedback will be shared with the entire board to inform members as they make decisions going forward.

Sheridan Story offers nutrition

The Sheridan Story, a weekend food program, is available to Delano Public Schools families. The non-profit's mission is to fight child hunger through community and school partnerships.

The organization strives to make a difference by focusing on food gaps -- the times when children aren't at school to access meal programs. The Sheridan Story offers food over the weekends, summers and extended school breaks.

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 place food bags in students' backpacks

on Fridays during the school year. 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 DIS Social Worker Nicole Gohman at nicole.gohman@delanoschools.org or 763.972.7602 ext. 1515. A sign-up form is available at <http://bit.ly/SheridanDIS>.

Jazz Festival arrives March 5

Delano will be the jazz epicenter of the region on Thursday, March 5, when Delano High School hosts its sixth annual Jazz Festival. The day begins with a five-school lineup of jazz bands between 11:20 a.m. and 4:40 p.m., continues with a master class for students from 4:40 to 5:20 p.m., and concludes with a 7 p.m. concert by feature ensemble "Jack Brass Band."

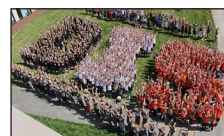
The festival is open to the public, and all events before the Jack Brass show are free. Tickets to see the Jack Brass Band are \$5 for students/seniors and \$10 for adults. Tickets can be purchased in advance by contacting DHS band director Mike Dailey at dailey@delanoschools.org. Tickets will also be available at the door. This will be a high-energy concert you don't want to miss!

The day's lineup of performances is:

- 11:20 a.m. Rockford Middle School
- Noon. Buffalo 7-8 jazz band
- 12:40 p.m. Delano Jazz I
- 1:20 p.m. Lunch
- 2 p.m. Delano Jazz III
- 2:40 p.m. Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted High School
- 3:20 p.m. Holy Family Jazz
- 4 p.m. Delano Jazz II.



This e-newsletter is published by District Communications Coordinator Paul Downer. Contact Paul at 763.972.3365, x1911, or paul.downer@delanoschools.org.



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