

# Tiger Tracks

Delano Intermediate School Newsletter



October 2019



DIS is now hosting Math Corps. See Page 2.

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## Dates to remember

### October

- 1...Kindness in Chalk, 1:45 p.m.
- 9.....Picture retake day
- 14..Conferences, 3:30-7:30 p.m.
- 15..Conferences, 3:30-7:30 p.m.
- 16.....Two-hour late start
- 17-18.....MEA, no school
- 21.....School board listening session, 7 p.m.
- 23.....Unity Day



## A happy Homecoming

Delano Intermediate School students enjoyed a rousing Homecoming pep fest on Friday, Sept. 20, that featured the high school pep band, cheerleading and dance performances, members of the Homecoming court and more. See Page 5 for more photos.

## Second year underway at DIS

By Barry Voight  
Principal

Greetings, DIS families.  
This, our second year at DIS, will be an exciting experience as we continue the growth and development of our students and our school. All of us at DIS hope that the great work beginning here will be an encore to the inaugural effort from last year. Collectively, we will continue working to be a school of excellence.

Some of the things you may notice as this year begins include a new reading/language arts curriculum in fourth



Barry Voight

grade, new and improved Zero Hour opportunities, improvements to our intervention

programming through the addition of Math Corps, and more. Most obvious to the casual observer, however, is our district's literacy initiative. I hope you have a chance to view some of the district's promotional items related to this effort, as we've remodeled the school calendar to support this essential learning.

### Standards-based grading

The one thing I'd like to highlight with this article is

See Voight  
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# Math Corps boosting DIS students

**By Paul Downer**  
Communications Coordinator

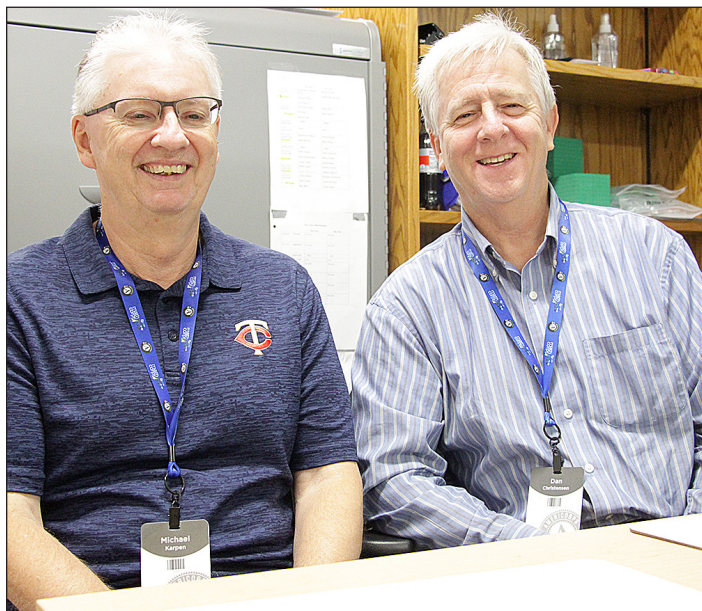
An extra service is helping DIS students solidify the skills they need, as Minnesota Math Corps has joined the district for the first time this year.

The counterpart to Minnesota Reading Corps, which has been entrenched at the elementary school for more than a dozen years, Math Corps helps reach students who do not have proficient scores on the MCA test, but who do not score low enough to qualify for one-on-one help through special education.

"We are so lucky that AmeriCorps approved us for this program," said Kellie Makela, the internal coach for the program at DIS. "There is no cost to us, no schedule disruption for the students, and it is a lot of money the federal government is putting into this."

Makela oversees two tutors who have been brought on to work directly with students. Michael Karpen and Dan Christensen, recently retired from careers in finance and engineering, respectively, are the face of the program to about 45 participating students.

"Both my sons went through the Delano school system and I



**Math Corps tutors Michael Karpen, left, and Dan Christensen bring almost 80 years of combined experience in finance and engineering to their post-retirement work.**

was very happy and impressed with the quality of services and education they received," said Karpen. "As I retired, I wanted to give something back to the schools that were so good to our sons and our family, so I checked into programs. This was a great fit to give back to the school, and I've loved it so far."

Christensen, who was a Math Corps tutor at Cologne Academy last year, said he has

enjoyed the opportunity to help students excel in a core subject matter.

"Hopefully we can make a difference, because people with technical skills have a lot of options in life," he said. "There are so many professions people can go into that need good math skills. You don't have to be an accountant or an engineer to need math."

Karpen and Christensen received training before the

year began, and now meet with two or three students at a time to review a specific lesson set up by Math Corps that builds students' skills incrementally.

"Those lessons are fairly well scripted out and we know what to do. It gives us a game plan," said Karpen. "You study it beforehand so you know what to say, and then you tailor it for your own personality and the student's personality, and you go as fast or as slow as the students can manage."

After each unit the students take an assessment to make sure they are grasping the content, and the next lessons build from there. If a student does not pass the assessment, there is time to review and try again.

"That's one of the positives of math -- it's pretty objective. Can you do the problem or not?" said Christensen.

The ultimate goal is to get students to the point where they would score proficient on the MCA test. Christensen said that since standard tests often pose the same types of problems in different ways throughout, helping students grasp three or four key concepts they might be struggling with un-

**See Math**  
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## Chalk event scheduled for Oct. 1

In the past two years Delano students have started a new Kindness in Chalk tradition, and that tradition continues this year with a few changes. Students will write messages of kindness on sidewalks around campus, and older students will pair up with younger students in the effort. October is National Bullying Awareness Month, and this activity demonstrates how students can have a positive impact on others through words and actions.



# September Showcase



## ‘Aladdin Jr.’

About 40 students in grades five through eight performed ‘Disney’s Aladdin Jr.’ Sept. 5-7. Large crowds were reported for each of the three performances. Students, some of whom were participating in a school play for the first time, said they enjoyed the opportunity to bond with their classmates in a common effort. The production was directed by DIS sixth-grade teacher Natalie Palmer, who received help from a large number of high school drama students.





# 'Arctic Adventure' fair arrives in October

The Delano Elementary and Intermediate School Media Center Book Fair is rapidly approaching.

The fair will be located on the second floor multi-purpose room in the elementary school.

Intermediate students in grades 4-6 will be able to preview and make initial purchases on Tuesday, Oct. 8.

The book fair will be open to all students and other community members from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 10, Monday, Oct. 14, and Tuesday, Oct. 15.

This year's theme is "Scholastic Arctic Adventure Book Fair: Snow much to read!"



Parents that are interested in volunteering at the book fair can go to <https://apps.raptortech.com/Volunteer/Login/Nzg2OlZvbHVudGVlcjplbi1VUw==> to secure a spot on the volunteer roster. Please note that you must be a registered volunteer with the district in order to help out. To register as a volunteer, please visit the school website at [delano.k12.mn.us/school-services/volunteering](http://delano.k12.mn.us/school-services/volunteering).

Working at the event is a wonderful way to catch up with friends while enjoying the excitement of the book fair environment.

Please mark your calendar with the day that works best for your family. We look forward to seeing you at the book fair.

# Sheridan Story helps cover food gaps

The Sheridan Story, a weekend food program, is once again available to DIS families this year. 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](mailto:nicole.gohman@delanoschools.org) or 763.972.7602 ext. 1515. A signup form is available at <http://bit.ly/SheridanDIS>.

<div>  LUNCH                 </div> <div> <b>OCTOBER 2019</b>                      Delano Intermediate School                 </div> <div>                     Delano Intermediate School                      \$2.95                 </div>				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Chicken Gravy 1 A) Polish Sausage Mashed Potatoes / Peas Lettuce Salad / Roll Baked Apples	Chicken Nuggets 2 Tritater Green Beans Veggies / Bread Fruit Cocktail	Cheese / Pepperoni Pizza Corn Lettuce Salad / Toppings Pears	Tacos – Beef 4 Cheese / Salsa Lettuce / Toppings Refried Beans Fresh Fruit
Crispy Chicken Wrap 7 Lettuce Toppings Pineapple	Corn Dog 8 Potato Smiles Baked Beans Veggies Rosy Applesauce	Italian Dunkers 9 A) Fish Sandwich Corn Lettuce Salad / Toppings Fresh Fruit	Chicken Patty – Bun 10 A) PBJ Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Lettuce Salad Crackers / Veggies Peaches	Hamburger 11 A) Sloppy Joes Waffle Fries / Onions Lettuce / Tomatoes / Onions Orange Wedges
Nachos – Beef / Cheese 4 Lettuce / Onions / Salsa Refried Beans Fresh Fruit	Cinnamon Roll 15 Cheese Omelet Steamed Broccoli Tritater Orange Wedges Apple Juice Cup	Spaghetti – Meatballs 16 Garlic Bread Green Beans Lettuce Salad / Toppings Pears	NO School 17 MEA	No School 18 MEA
Domino's Pizza 21 Cheese / Pepperoni Green Beans Lettuce Salad / Toppings Pears	Chicken Patty 22 Mashed Potatoes Country Gravy Steamed Carrots Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges	Chili 23 Cheesy Breadstick Tortilla Chips Carrots Lettuce Salad Fruit Cocktail	Teriyaki Chicken 24 Brown Rice Oriental Vegetables Lettuce Salad / Bread Pineapple / Fortune Cookie Ice Cream Cup	Walking Taco 25 Cheese / Salsa Lettuce / Toppings Refried Beans Fresh Fruit Teddy Grahams
Popcorn Chicken 28 Brown Rice Peas Lettuce Salad / Toppings Pineapple	French Toast Sticks 29 Sausage Broccoli OJ Cup	Hamburger 30 A) Chuckwagon Sun Chips Baked Beans Lettuce / Tomatoes / Pickles Baby Carrots / Fruit Cocktail	Chicken Alfredo 31 Penne Pasta California Blend Vegetables Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges	

This Institution is an equal opportunity employer



# Homecoming at DIS



## Pep fest fun

Delano Intermediate School celebrated Homecoming week with a variety of fun dress up days and a pep fest on Friday, Sept. 20. Here are some of the moments from the pep fest.







## Band beginnings

DIS students kickstarted their musical careers with a band camp Aug. 19-22, prior to the beginning of school.

They met in groups by instrument type to pick up the basics ahead of time, which allowed class to flow more smoothly once school began.

"For us it's a really good way to get a head start," said DIS band director Mike Dailey. "So

when we start as a full group in band we can hit the school year and just go. We can all work out of the books right away together as a whole. Without the band camp, you'd have to have sectionals. I appreciate that the parents are willing to bring the kids in. It does help an awful lot, just to get the kids all playing together ahead of time."



## Delano School Board Share feedback at listening sessions

Last year members of the Delano School Board began hosting periodic "listening sessions" to discuss matters of interest with district residents.

Listening sessions are not formal meetings, and open discussion about the evening's subjects is encouraged within pre-determined time limits. Members of the public are welcome to come and share comments, questions and suggestions.

Two or three board members, along with appropriate school staff, attend each session to share information and hear feedback. No official action is taken at the sessions, but feedback is shared

with the entire board to inform members as they make decisions going forward.

The next listening session is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 21, in the DHS media center. Topics for the evening will be chosen after a poll is sent out in the weeks leading up to the session, and will be announced prior to the event via school email, and the district's website and social media channels (Facebook and Twitter).

Topics at three listening sessions last year included safety and security, campus traffic, facility access and fees, the literacy initiative and student assessments.

## Clothing drive for vets begins Oct. 21

Delano Public Schools will conduct its annual clothing drive for veterans in need again this year.

The drive will begin on Monday, Oct. 21, and will end on Veterans Day, Monday, Nov. 11. All donated items must be newly purchased.

This year the Delano community will continue to support veterans who are hospitalized at the St. Cloud Veterans Affairs Hospital. In addition, proceeds will also support the Eagle's Healing Nest, located in Sauk Rapids and Anoka.

The St. Cloud VA Hospital supports hospitalized veterans, many of whom are homeless at admission.

The veterans typically are hospitalized for 60 to 80 days. When they are well enough for discharge, the hospital staff works to ensure that

their basic needs are met.

The mission of the Eagle's Healing Nest is to provide assistance with healing the invisible wounds of war. The Nest provides support for veterans struggling with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; staff members work to address their immediate needs and then assist veterans with their transition back into the civilian world and their families.

Please consider donating the following items.

**For men:** Socks, boxers, undershirts, pajama pants, T-shirts, sweatpants or sweatshirts, jeans (waist 30-36, length 30-34), winter boots (size 9-14), slippers and winter coats, hats and gloves.

**For women:** Socks, under-

**See Clothing  
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# When to keep kids home from school

By Tina Prior  
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.



Tina Prior

- 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.

## 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.

- Make sure to get a flu shot.



## New staff at DIS

New intermediate school staff members above are, from left, Lauren Sporleder (grade 6 long-term substitute), Danielle Scanlon (special education), Nickolas Moore (grade 5) and Josie Sayre (special education).

## Executive Functioning Skills Developing initiative is a challenge

Task initiation is the ability to begin tasks without unnecessary procrastination and to complete said tasks in a timely fashion.

Students who have this skill highly developed are able to plan a start time and follow it through to completion. This is, of course, the last of the executive functioning skills to mature fully. Naturally, students in the fourth through sixth grades need to be consistently prompted to start tasks and follow through.

### Development

How can we develop it in

the classroom and at home?

As students progress through adolescence, it is important that adults provide environmental modifications to support the student where he/she is at with regard to their individual development.

With respect to task initiation, it is essential that we provide cues and prompts for our students. We can also help by modeling the first step and/or breaking down large tasks into smaller, manageable chunks.

Students will often resist tasks they would rather not do, such as chores, homework, etc. It is helpful to alleviate

these burdens by setting aside specific times in the day to accomplish certain tasks. It may also be helpful for students to earn rewards for the successful completion of undesirable tasks.

Finally, students are often resistant to initiating because of the fears of task difficulty or length of time it will take. Timing the student to see exactly how long it takes inspires great conversation about expectations versus reality that can hopefully be referred to during future incidents of procrastination.

## Clothing

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wear, pajamas, shirts, sweatpants, jeans of any size, winter boots, hats and gloves, and slippers with rubber bottoms.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, collected funds will be used to purchase winter boots.

Make your check payable to Delano Public Schools, and note "veterans clothing drive" in the memo.



# Speakers to address anxiety

Delano Elementary School will host a free speaking event featuring Rob Winker and Amy Lou Anderson of Playmore and Prosper from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

The speakers are sponsored by a grant from the United Way, and will deliver their message in the school cafeteria.

Parents, educators and community members who work with children and teens are encouraged to attend. Free childcare and CEUs will be available.

## Defeating anxiety

It is very important to bring the body and mind together to heal anxiety.

Anxiety is prevalent among kids and teens, yet it is under identified, and under treated. It is vital to empower youth with strategies for coping with anxiety.

Play therapy and pediatric occupational therapy combine



**Rob Winker, along with Amy Lou Anderson, will offer coping strategies for dealing with anxiety on Nov. 5.**

wonderfully to offer practical mind and body strategies for dealing with anxiety.

The presentation will offer several strategies parents, teachers and kids can immediately implement in their lives. The strategies will range from general regulation and calm-

ing practices to specific mind-body strategies for overcoming and defeating anxiety.

Winker has his master's degree in counseling psychology and is credentialed as a registered play therapist.

Anderson, OTR/L, is a pediatric occupational therapist.

# Make the most of conferences

Delano Intermediate School conferences will be held from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 14-15.

- Fourth- and fifth-grade teachers will meet with parents of homeroom students at designated times. Watch for the sign up to be sent by teachers.

- Sixth-grade teachers and all specialists will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. We ask for cooperation as we limit our conversations to the designated times in the sign up, or five minutes per class for sixth grade/specials.

Please note that teachers will NOT be discussing the philosophy of Standards Based Grading/Reporting, as parents have had opportunities to attend several informational meetings over the past several years. Rather, they will be discussing your student's performance relative to standards.

Mr. Voight will be available in the Flex Lab on Monday,

Oct. 14 and until 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15 to answer questions. He is also available via phone or email at any time.

## Sample questions

Listed below are some sample questions to guide your discussion with teachers. Pick two or three to discuss with each teacher.

- How well is my student doing relative the learning targets in your class?
- How is my student interacting with his/her peers?
- Is my student staying on task during class?
- Does my student appear to be enjoying school?
- What can we do at home that will help to improve their school performance?
- What do you feel are my student's strengths and weaknesses relative to your content area/class?
- Does my child advocate for himself/herself in your

class? Do they ask for help?

- What does my child need to do differently in order to better perform in your class?
- How well does my student complete their assignments, and do they get turned in on time?
- Does my student apply what is learned in class to their assignments?
- Does my student show respect to you and their classmates?
- Does my student use his/her class time wisely?
- What are my student's recent standardized test scores and are they consistent with what you see in class?
- How active is my student in their learning?
- Does my child appear to be organized with his assignments and materials?

# Math

from Page 2

locks a broader understanding that applies to many situations and leads to better scores.

There are two ways students can exit the Math Corps program. They can either pass through all of the lessons, which would take most of the school year, or they can test out earlier. Karpen and Christensen have already seen strong progress in many of their students.

"It's fantastic to see the energy the kids give off at this age," said Karpen. "The students want to learn. They're eager to learn, and they're engaged."

**'It's built into their schedules so the student really isn't missing anything.'**

**Michael Karpen**

The way the DIS schedule accommodates extra time for students to focus on areas of need has also been a benefit.

"What's great about this program is the way the school has organized it," said Karpen. "It's during the students' WIN (What I Need) time or through their specials. It's built into their schedules so the student really isn't missing anything. Everyone else is going to something else at that time, whether it's extra help in reading or math, or enrichment activities."

Makela said the students are fortunate to have Karpen and Christensen working with them, and said that over the first month of the school year the results have been promising.

"We're extremely happy with how it's going so far," she said.

- For more information about Minnesota Math Corps, see <https://minnesotamath-corps.org/>.



# Voight

from Page 1

our school's implementation of Standards-Based Grading and Reporting (SBG/R). While we have been phasing in SBG/R for a couple of years as educators, this year is the first year for "full implementation" of this system.

I don't like to think of it as anything new or radical because, from my perspective, it is the only way to accurately assess student learning in a manner that is informative for student learning and parent understanding.

Nevertheless, SBG/R is a

departure from what is normal or comfortable. As such, it will present a learning curve for all of us.

I can assure all of you that we will experience kinks as we proceed through the year, specifically when it comes to our use of Skyward Family Access. Despite these hiccups we are likely going to encounter, we are going to stay true to this effort because it is the learning that matters most, not the grade.

A sharp focus on the power standards of the course allow our students to explore content more critically, going deeper rather than broader. This is a move away from the factory

model of compliance learning. This "system" puts the emphasis back on the learning, a focus I'm afraid that has been lost in most traditional grading systems.

Hopefully you were able to attend one of the informational presentations I hosted in September; if not, I ask you this one favor throughout the year: When talking with your students about school, help us to keep the focus on learning and improvement. Rather than asking about a grade, help us to reinforce the learning and opportunity for continued growth.

"What did you learn today?"  
"What was particularly inter-

esting in school this morning?"  
"How did you think \_\_\_\_\_ went? What could you have done differently?" These are all good ways to inspire students to take charge of their learning.

As always, thank you for entrusting your students to us and allowing us the opportunity to work and learn with them this school year!

## DIS PIE meeting dates for 2019-20

Mondays, 6 p.m.

Nov. 18

Feb. 10

April 20

\*All meetings  
take place in the  
DIS flex lab.

# 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 base 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). If you have any questions, contact Volunteer Coordinators Shelley Hutchins or Peg Max at 763.972.3365 ext. 1912, or [volcoord@delanoschools.org](mailto:volcoord@delanoschools.org).

## Elementary School

Battle of the Books \_\_\_\_\_  
Classroom Helper \_\_\_\_\_  
Coborn's Labels for Learning \_\_\_\_\_  
DI Team Manager \_\_\_\_\_  
Drama Assistant \_\_\_\_\_  
Elementary Art Show \_\_\_\_\_  
Elementary Office Helper \_\_\_\_\_  
ES Site Base Team \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Trips \_\_\_\_\_  
Hearing & Vision Screening \_\_\_\_\_  
Imagination Fair \_\_\_\_\_  
Media Center Helper \_\_\_\_\_  
Project Judges \_\_\_\_\_  
Publishing Center \_\_\_\_\_  
Talent Development Assistants \_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteer On Call \_\_\_\_\_  
PIE Volunteer Opportunities \_\_\_\_\_  
APEX Fun Run \_\_\_\_\_

Back to School Movie Night \_\_\_\_\_  
Dairy Queen Night \_\_\_\_\_  
Fall Concession stand \_\_\_\_\_  
Memory Book \_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher/Staff Appreciation \_\_\_\_\_  
Tiger Dash and 5K Run \_\_\_\_\_  
Tiger Fun Fair \_\_\_\_\_

## Intermediate School

Battle of the Books \_\_\_\_\_  
Cafeteria/Recess Friendly Presence \_\_\_\_\_  
Chaperoning Activities \_\_\_\_\_  
DIS PIE \_\_\_\_\_  
DI Team Manager \_\_\_\_\_  
Drama Assistant \_\_\_\_\_  
Hearing & Vision Screening \_\_\_\_\_  
Lunch Server \_\_\_\_\_  
IS Site Base Team \_\_\_\_\_  
Project Judges \_\_\_\_\_

Talent Development Assistant \_\_\_\_\_  
Winter Activity Day Sign Up Help \_\_\_\_\_  
Winter Activity Day Chaperone \_\_\_\_\_  
Zero Hour Wednesday \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Motivational Speaker \_\_\_\_\_  
Prom Events Help \_\_\_\_\_  
Red Cross Blood Drive \_\_\_\_\_  
Talent Development Assistant \_\_\_\_\_



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 Intermediate School  
683 Tiger Drive, Delano, MN 55328  
Phone: 763.972.7602  
Website: [www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us)