

Tiger Tracks

Delano Intermediate School Newsletter



October 2020



DIS has welcomed a few new staff members. See Page 8.

At a glance

Page 2

Musicians make do

Page 3

Tiger Pride Week

Book fair

Sheridan Story

Page 4

Vets clothing drive

October Menu

Page 5

First day photos

Page 6

Fall ball photos

Page 7

Band and choir info

Page 8

Kindness in Chalk

New staff

Conferences

Listening session

Dates to remember

October

6.....Kindness in Chalk

12.....Picture retake day

12..Conferences, 3:30-7:30 p.m.

13..Conferences, 3:30-6:30 p.m.

15-16.....MEA, no school

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

21.....Two-hour late start

21.....Unity Day



They play on

COVID-19 mitigation measures have created some challenges for all classrooms, but particularly for band and choir students and directors. See the story about how music courses are continuing at Delano Intermediate School on Page 2.

Vieau takes the helm at DIS

By Paul Downer

Communications Coordinator

In addition to all the uncertainty that has accompanied the 2020-21 school year, a remarkable reality is that all three of Delano's K-12 school buildings are operating with new lead principals.

The fact that none of those principals are new to the district has allowed summer planning and the opening weeks of school to proceed as smoothly as could be expected, but the administrative shuffle was needed to replace two well-established lead principals who



Joe Vieau

left the district this summer to become superintendents elsewhere.

Dr. Steve Heil notified the district in April that he would be leaving his position at Delano High School to take over the St. James school district at the end of June, and longtime Delano Elementary Principal Darren Schuler departed to lead the Watertown-Mayer district at the end of July.

Due to the difficulties of conducting a normal hiring process in the COVID-19 era, and the timing of Schuler's departure, both roles were filled internally. Barry Voight has

See Vieau
Page 5

Musicians make do

Band, choir adjusting to COVID restrictions

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Young musicians just picking up their instruments or learning to sing as a vocal ensemble are dealing with some unique circumstances this school year.

At Delano Intermediate School, band members set up at widely spaced tables in the cafeteria commons to receive directions from their director via microphone, and choir members warm up and sing from memory outdoors before returning to the music room, donning their masks and distancing themselves as far apart as space allows to continue rehearsal with individual sheet music and piano accompaniment.

Band

Some band members wear special masks with slits to accommodate the mouthpieces of their wind instruments, and bell covers on order in the opening weeks of the school year were expected to help reduce the transmission of breath and saliva particles.

"We have made the full rehearsals as normal as possi-



Band rehearsals now take place in the commons/cafeateria area at Delano Intermediate. The larger space allows proper spacing among musicians.

ble," said fifth- and sixth-grade band director Mike Dailey, noting the location change and explaining that putting instruments away in the locker area is typically done one student at a time. Lesson groups have also been reduced from five or six students at a time to two or

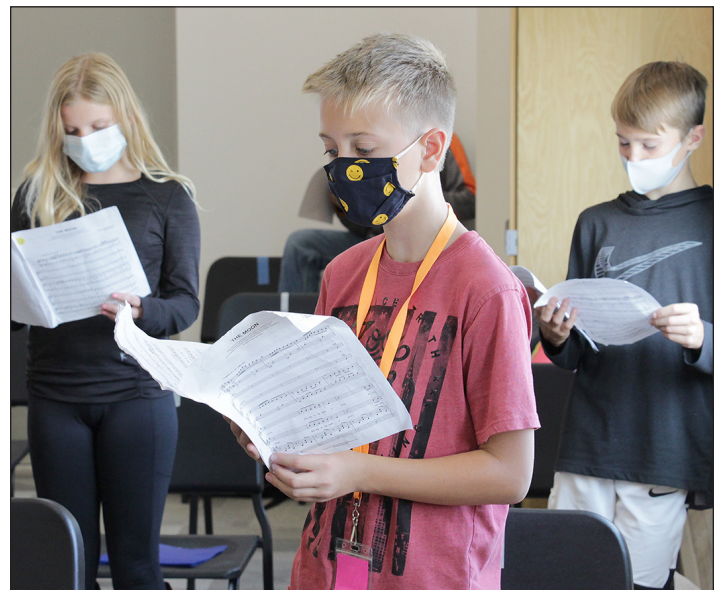
three.

Lessons done via Google Meet for distance learners aren't much different than in-person lessons, but full group rehearsals are more of a challenge. Band students at home are given assignments that coincide with the in-per-

son music, and Dailey said he hoped to add a streaming option for distance learning students soon.

For the students learning in person, Dailey said the wide

See Music
Page 7



Book fair continues online this month

All Delano Elementary School and Delano Intermediate School families are invited to shop this year's Scholastic Book Fair online from Monday, Oct. 5, through Sunday, Oct. 18. All purchases benefit the Delano schools and connect kids with new books, favorite characters, complete series, and more.

Visit the Delano Book Fair Homepage at bit.ly/DelanoBookFair20 and click "Shop Now" to get started.

You'll love the new option to shop for Book Fair exclusives directly from the interactive booklist and enjoy these special online shopping features:

- Over 6,000 items, including new releases, best sellers, and value packs
- All orders ship direct to home
- Free shipping on book-only orders over \$25
- All purchases support our school and earn 25% in rewards

Happy reading!

- Jennah Verhey and Gwen Egly, media center specialists

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 or 763.972.7602 ext. 1515. A signup form is available at <http://bit.ly/SheridanDIS20>.

DIS Tiger Pride Week

October 5-10

Monday - Crazy Hair Day

Tuesday - Workout Clothes Day

Wednesday - Career Day (What do you want to be when you grow up?)

Thursday - Class Color Day (4th YELLOW/5th RED/6th BLUE)

Friday - Orange and Black Day

Saturday - home football game vs Willmar at 2:00 pm

Reminder that NO HATS can be worn during Tiger Pride Week due to wearing masks in school.

Veterans clothing drive begins Oct. 19

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

The drive will begin on Monday, Oct. 19, and will end on Veterans Day, Wednesday, 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 veterans who access emergency services or are hospitalized at the Minneapolis VA hospital, or who are in transition from the hospitals to independent living at the Hastings Veterans Home.

Both the St. Cloud and Minneapolis VA hospitals support veterans who seek emergency care or who are hospitalized. Many of these veterans may be



Students organize hygiene items collected during last year's drive for veterans. This year only clothing items and winter gear are needed.

experiencing homelessness.

Those who are admitted are typically hospitalized for 60 to 80 days. When they are well enough for discharge, either from the hospitals or emergency care, the hospital staff works to ensure that their basic needs are met.

The Hastings Veterans

Home serves approximately 120 veterans. Some of these veterans are transitioning from hospitalization/treatment to independent living, and the home serves as a half-way house to ensure that their needs continue to be met during the transition.

Please consider donating the

following items.

For men: Socks, boxers (M-XL), undershirts (M-XL), pajama pants (large to 2X), T-shirts (M to 2X), sweatpants or sweatshirts (M-XL), jeans (waist 30-42, length 30-34), winter boots (size 9-14), slippers, winter coats, hats and gloves.

For women: Socks, underwear, pajamas, shirts, sweatpants, jeans of any size, slippers with rubber bottoms, and winter boots, hats and gloves.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, collected funds will be used to purchase the items of greatest need based on the request of each facility.

Make your check payable to Delano Public Schools, and note "veterans clothing drive" in the memo. Thank you in advance for your continued support of this project.

<div> LUNCH </div> <div> OCTOBER 2020 Delano Intermediate School </div>				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			Italian Dunkers 1 Marinara Sauce Corn / Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit	Chicken Patty – Bun 2 Lettuce Salad Veggies Peaches
Chicken Drumstick 5 Mashed Potatoes / Gravy Carrots / Lettuce Salad Roll Orange Wedges	Cinnamon Roll 6 Cheese Omelet Broccoli / Tritater Apple Juice Cup	Cheesy Ravioli 7 Green Beans Lettuce Salad Garlic Bread Pears	Teriyaki Chicken 8 Brown Rice Stir Fry Veg / Roll Lettuce Pineapple	Hamburger 9 Baked Beans Sun Chips Baby Carrots Lettuce / Tomatoes / Pickles Orange Wedges
Pizza – Cheese / Pepperoni 12 Corn Lettuce Salad Pears	Quesadilla 13 Lettuce / Salsa Corn Refried Beans Fresh Fruit	Hot Dog 14 A)BBQ Rib Sandwich Sun Chips Baked Beans Baby Carrots Rosy Applesauce	MEA 15 No School	MEA 16 No School
Italian Dunkers 19 Marinara Sauce Corn Lettuce Fresh Fruit	Chicken Patty – Bun 20 Lettuce Salad Veggies Peaches	French Toast Sticks 21 Sausage Steamed Broccoli Tritater Apple Juice Cup	Popcorn Chicken 22 Brown Rice Peas Lettuce Salad Pineapple	Corn Dog 23 Potato Smiles Baked Beans Baby Carrots Rosy Applesauce
Teriyaki Chicken 26 Brown Rice Stir Fry Veg / Lettuce Roll Pineapple	Hamburger 27 Sun Chips Baked Beans / Baby Carrots Lettuce / Tomatoes / Pickles Orange Wedges	Chicken Nuggets 28 Tritater Green Beans Veggies Fruit Cocktail	Chicken Patty 29 Mashed Potatoes / Gravy Carrots / Roll Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges	Cinnamon Roll 30 Cheese Omelet Broccoli / Tritater Apple Juice Cup



Returning to the classroom

For the first time since mid-March, Delano students returned to their classrooms in person on Tuesday, Sept. 8. Masks and social distancing have created a different dynamic than normal, but many families and teachers have said they are just glad to have the in-person option after distance learning last spring.



Vieau

from Page 1

moved from the intermediate principal position to become the interim lead principal at the high school. District Director of Teaching and Learning Joe Vieau has become the interim principal at the intermediate school, and Greg Hinker has moved from the assistant principal to lead principal position at the elementary.

In addition, DES technology coordinator Paul Ludwig has moved into the elementary office to serve as dean of students.

Vieau to intermediate

In the intermediate school, Vieau has had to shift his mindset from a broad district view down to day-to-day operations once again, but he is no stranger to the principal role. In fact, the 1983 Delano High

School graduate was named the Minnesota Assistant Principal of the Year in 2012 for his administrative work at DHS.

After beginning his career as a math teacher in Dawson-Boyd Public Schools and Watertown-Mayer, Vieau began working for Delano Public Schools in 1999 and served as student services coordinator, assistant principal and curriculum director in the high school for about 17 years before moving to the Director of Teaching and Learning position in the district office four years ago.

"It's a little bit of a shift, for sure," Vieau said of his return to principal duties, although he will maintain some curriculum work as well. "There are definitely different decisions that have to be made from a district level than a building level, and there are a lot of details that have to be ironed out this year. But overall, it's been great. The

staff here have been incredibly supportive and offered a lot of ideas and suggestions to make things better for school as a whole and better for our students. That has been an extremely positive part of the transition for me."

Another benefit, from Vieau's perspective, has been the opportunity to work more closely with students.

"I'm getting my 'kid fix' again," he said with a laugh. "I've been out at lunch time bumping elbows with kids, getting to know names. The point is to have some sort of relationship with the kids so if you have to take some sort of corrective action later on they know you and are going to trust that you're doing things for the right reason."

Among the biggest challenges have been making sure that students who are learning offsite remain fully engaged,

and those with technology challenges are being provided for. Vieau thanked parents and staff members for their patience as logistics like traffic patterns were established in the early going, and said he feels the school year is off to a good start.

"It's not a normal year so I don't know that we can expect normal types of growth, but I'm optimistic that we're going to get a school year in and our kids are going to reap some good benefits," Vieau said. "Overwhelmingly, our staff is happy that most of our kids are here on site so far."

"A big thanks to the parents, to our staff and our students, for all that everybody has done, because this is such a different circumstance in time. Everybody has had to make adjustments, so we appreciate their patience and support."



Fall ball

On one sun-drenched afternoon in mid-September, DIS physical education students were able to pull off their face coverings, warm up the bats and enjoy some intense whiffle ball games while surrounded by fall colors. Lunch, PE class and mask breaks have allowed periods in the day where students can take masks off and enjoy a greater sense of normalcy.



Music

from Page 2

spacing has both benefits and challenges.

"With the spacing in rehearsal the students lose the confidence that comes with playing close together, sort of a strength-in-numbers idea," he said. "But at the same time, even by week three, the students are adapting to the spacing; they are more independent and this makes them more accountable for how they are doing individually. I think in the long term this experience will make them better musicians."

Choir

Because the choir groups meet close to the lunch hour, using the commons space is not an option. Instead, students sing outside when possible and make the most of their space in the music room.

'I think in the long term this experience will make them better musicians.'

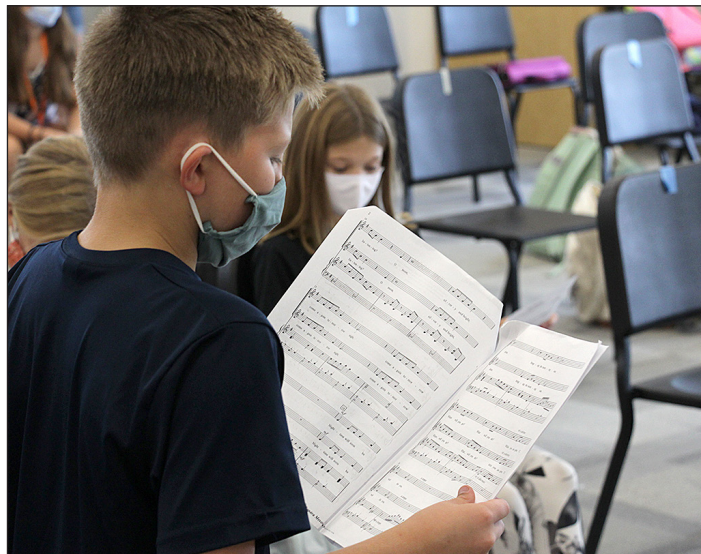
Mike Dailey

In addition to the mitigation measures mentioned above, all widely spaced chairs face the same direction, and the students are seated near their homeroom peers to limit exposure among groups. Normal times would include a mixed seating chart.

"Masks are uncomfortable to sing in, but students are adjusting well," said choir director Sandy Meyerson. "Listening to fellow singers, an important choral skill, is more difficult. I think for the students who are fairly confident singers it's not an issue. For those students who maybe don't have as well developed an ear, their fellow students really do help them. So overall it is a little more difficult."



When not singing outdoors, choir students use all available space in the music room to rehearse. Students also keep masks on for choir rehearsals.



Choir students now have individual sheet music rather than sharing their printed pages.

Meyerson added that while she wears a clear face shield mask, it is more difficult for students to see the way she models embouchure.

Benefits to the new circumstances are that students are able to learn and use some of the music technology resources that are available online. Chromebooks are available to provide access to Flipgrid and the Quavermusic curriculum.

Technology has also helped keep distance learners engaged. They are able to cover the same curriculum but depend more on recorded tracks to learn their parts. They record and submit their own work on programs like Flipgrid, and then receive feedback about their

performance.

"This process is slower than the instant feedback we can do face to face, but students are doing a great job adjusting to this year's changes," said Meyerson.

As in the band program, Meyerson said plans were in place to allow distance learners to eventually be able to join choir rehearsals through a streaming service, although their own microphones would have to be turned off when singing with the group.

"That will be a positive thing, but it's not the true experience," said Meyerson. "They can sing along, but as far as me being able to listen to them individually and assess them, we

have to use recording programs to do that."

Performances on hold

It remains unclear what form band and choir performances will take this year, as audiences are not allowed in indoor spaces.

'Students are doing a great job adjusting to this year's challenges.'

Sandy Meyerson

"I am an optimist," said Dailey. "I am very hopeful we will have a regular spring concert where these students can show what they can do. If the December concert cannot take place I am planning to have each of my groups to record the pieces we would have performed at the concert and I will send those out to the families."

Meyerson agreed that the choirs will record and share music virtually if in-person options do not materialize. While not ideal, she said the music program is carrying on and students are still making progress.

"The kids are learning their songs and they sound great, so I'm encouraged by that," she said.



Chalk event scheduled for Oct. 6

In the past three years Delano students have started a new Kindness in Chalk tradition, and that tradition continues this year. 'We think that, regardless of the situation we are in with teaching and learning, we need to continue to spread the messages of kindness to all,' said School Within a School instructor Shallyn Tordeur. October is National Bullying Awareness Month, and this activity demonstrates how students can have a positive impact on others through words and actions.

Delano School Board Share feedback at listening sessions

Members of the Delano School Board host periodic "listening sessions" to discuss matters of interest with district residents.

The next listening session will occur virtually on Monday, Oct. 19, and will provide an opportunity to discuss matters related to the school year and COVID-19. Information on how to access the event will be provided as the date approaches.

Listening sessions are not formal meetings, and open

discussion about the designated topics is encouraged. Members of the public are welcome to 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.



Staff updates

New intermediate school staff members this fall include Diana Jobin-Vig (special education) and Jake Muhonen (sixth grade long-term substitute), above, and new school nurse Linda Holmgard, at right. In addition, Michelle Engesser is serving as a long-term substitute and Stephanie Schreyer is now serving as the ADSIS skills interventionist.



Virtual conferences planned

Delano Intermediate School will hold virtual fall conferences from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 12, and from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 13.

Signup information and time slots will be sent by your student's teachers.



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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