

Tiger Tracks

Delano Intermediate School Newsletter



April 2022



Math Masters students were dominant in recent competition. See Page 2.

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Dates to remember

April

15.....Good Friday, no school

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

20.....Two-hour late start

May

12....Gr. 5-6 choir concert, 7 p.m.

18.....Two-hour late start

19....Gr. 5-6 band concert, 7 p.m.

19-20.....Track and Field Days



LLCC experience

Delano Intermediate School students returned to the Long Lake Conservation Center this week after a two-year absence due to COVID. Students enjoyed a variety of fun activities and the chance to get close to nature. See Page 5 for more photos.

April brings MCA opportunity

By Katie Thompson
Principal

For students and staff at DIS, April means MCAs! We look forward to giving our students the opportunity to show us what they know. I am so proud of how hard they have worked this year and I know that our staff is also diligently working to prepare every student to do their best.

Opinions regarding the value of standardized testing vary, but in the end it is one measure that we have to see how we are doing as a building when it comes to our num-



Katie Thompson

ber one function – academic excellence. As always, family support and participation is

incredibly valuable. I'd like to share this month a few ways you can help DIS shine when we take our MCAs.

Test preparedness

Being prepared isn't part of the battle, it is the battle. Like any important event, the preparation that goes into it will directly impact the success that comes out of it. As a school it is our job to prepare students both in teaching content and teaching test-taking skills. As families, here are some ways

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Math Masters dominate competition

Delano teams took first through fourth place out of 20

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Delano Math Masters students dominated a competition in Hutchinson on Thursday, March 10, sweeping first, second, third and fourth place out of 20 competing teams from seven different schools.

The first-place team consisted of Sienna Clare, Max Schmit, Landon Lundquist, Landon Ellingson and Brady Blank-Martin.

Schmit also took first place out of 95 students in Fact Drill, and Harper Bukowski finished first out of 95 students in the Individual Round.

The top 12 individuals in Fact Drill took home awards, and seven of those individuals were Delano students. In addition to Schmit's top finish,

'When the results came in, Ms. O'Donnell and I were nothing short of shocked. ... I still can't believe how well we did.'

Natalie Palmer

other Delano award-winners included Bukowski, Clare, Ella Jepma, Dane Loecken, Grant Bruett, Rowan Johnson and Ellingson.

Aside from Bukowski's first-place finish in the Individual Round, Delano students won 11 of the 15 individual awards. Others winning awards included Paige Heimark, Garrett Anderson, Henry Becker, Ellingson, Jepma, Lincoln Hanson, Brevin Aamodt, Blank-Martin, Nathan Mullen, Zeke Schwehr and Schmit.

Additional Delano teams



Delano Math Masters students brought home a lot of hardware from a competition featuring seven schools on Thursday, March 10.

took ninth place, 12th place and 13th place. In all, Delano won seven of 13 total team events.

The event involved three hours of competition.

"We waited a short time for the results and everyone was so nervous," said sixth-grade math teacher and Math Masters coach Natalie Palmer. "When the results came in, Ms. O'Donnell and I were nothing short of shocked. ... I still can't believe how well we did."

It was an incredibly happy bus drive home and we sang the Circle Song part of the way to celebrate."

Preparation pays off

This year all sixth-grade students in Palmer's first-hour Advanced Math class participated in Math Masters, a program that challenges students to use critical thinking and math skills to solve novel problems.

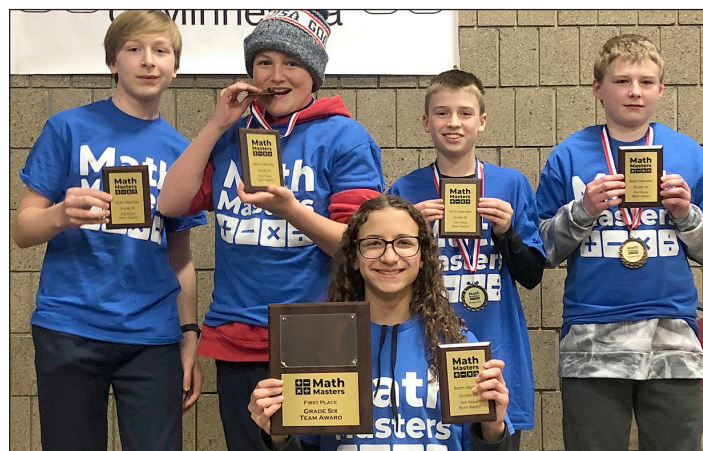
"I was apprehensive about this year's competition because

of the negative effects of the coronavirus vs. time spent in school; however, it was also evident that this group was hard-working and had strong support from their parents," said Palmer. "These students give their best every day in class, and also exhibit a consistently positive attitude. Our mornings are very intense, but we also laugh a lot together."

Some level of preparation began taking place from the first day of the school year.

"Every day in the morning we'd do three questions," said Jepma, who earned awards in both Fact Drill and the Individual Round. "We'd try to get them as fast as we can, and then we'd run up to Ms. Palmer who was standing on the side of the room to show her. She would only take so many students to get it right, and you wanted to get it right because that just makes you feel good about yourselves."

On Fridays students would troop down to the flex lab and meet with Gifted and Talented



First-place team members were, from left, Landon Lundquist, Brady Blank-Martin, Sienna Clare, Landon Ellingson and Max Schmit.

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Seven singers chosen for top choir

Group is Delano's largest ever selected for the ensemble

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Seven outstanding singers from Delano Intermediate School have been selected for the State Honor Choir.

"This is the largest group of singers ever selected from Delano," said choir teacher Sandy Meyerson.

Fifth-graders Katherine Burleson, Avery Coder, Koralynn Feldmann and Alexa Huotari were among those chosen, along with sixth-graders Nathan Heckman, Madeline Martin and Alyson Rinsem.

'Each DIS honor choir student is a leader in their singing section, which requires careful listening, excellent singing technique and attention to detail.'

Sandy Meyerson

"Each DIS honor choir student is a leader in their singing section, which requires careful listening, excellent singing technique, and attention to detail," said Meyerson. "They are very 'coachable' and are willing to take risks to try new ideas and ask questions. These musicians bring a lot of energy to their singing and approach each challenge with a sense of humor and community spirit."



Honor choir students include, from left, Katherine Burleson, Alexa Huotari, Nathan Heckman, Alyson Rinsem, Avery Coder and Koralynn Feldmann. Not pictured: Madeline Martin.

It is a joy to work with them and I'm excited for this extra enrichment opportunity for them."

To qualify for the choir, students compete in blind auditions in which they submit audio recordings. Entries are submitted from public and private schools, as well as youth choir members from around the state. The top 20%, totaling about 100 students, are chosen. The rehearsal and performance take place Saturday, April 23, at St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi. It will be the first honor choir opportunity for all of Delano's participants.

"COVID cancelled the event last year, so I'm looking forward to their concert," said Meyerson.

Enjoying choir

Honor choir students were asked what they most enjoy about choir. Their responses are below.

- Burleson: "I like choir because I like singing, and it's fun."
- Coder: "What I enjoy about singing is that it gives you a chance to be free."
- Feldmann: "The thing I like about choir is that I can show my stuff by just singing."
- Heckman: "What I really enjoy about choir is it's much easier than trying to learn an instrument, learning seven different scales vs. just one. It's so much easier to get prepared. Instead of having to put everything together, you're just ready to go."

• Huotari: "I like choir because I like listening to all the different songs."

• Martin: "What I really like about choir and the music is the outcome of all the songs. I love the melody and the different parts of the choir singing together to make unique sounds. It's rewarding to be involved with a group of people coming together to make a beautiful song and incredible music."

• Rinsem: "What I enjoy about choir is the unique songs and that you can really do whatever you want. You can sing your own melody, dance to your own beat – except that you have to listen to your choir teacher."

It's a good time to become a substitute

Have you ever thought about serving as a substitute teacher? Delano Public Schools is seeking substitutes to help cover gaps in staffing.

Teachers on Call is the agency that provides substitute

teachers in Delano. You can apply with Teachers on Call by visiting www.teachersoncall.com, or calling 952-346-1656.

Substitute teachers can:

- Choose their own schedule.

• Choose to work close to home or experience many different schools and districts.

• Find jobs through easy online job scheduling.

• Work short- or long-term positions.

• Explore a variety of classroom settings, from primary to secondary levels.

The hiring process is relatively simple, and free training is provided to new substitute teachers.

Familiar winners in Battle of the Books

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

There were a total of 60 teams in this year's Battle of the Books competition at Delano Intermediate School, but only five advanced to the finals on Tuesday, March 15.

After multiple overtime rounds to sort out placement, fifth-graders Maddie Knisley, Bergen Syverson and Meredith van Bergen claimed their second Battle of the Books title in the last three years.

"This year's competition was intense, as the top 15 teams were neck and neck in the semifinal round," said Gifted and Talented Coordinator Heidi O'Donnell. "The championship round proved to be a true battle of memory, and it was evident that all five teams knew their books inside and out. It definitely came down to the fine details in each book!"

The top trio took first place as third-graders in the elementary competition in 2020 and followed that up with a second-place finish at DIS in 2021. Does it get old to have so much success on a regular basis?

"It's exciting. It still feels really good to be on top of the school," said van Bergen.

"I did not expect to win this time," said Syverson.

What is their secret to success?

"We love to read," said Knisley.

The competition challenged students to read 10 books, then answer questions to test their



Members of the top five teams out of 60 who began the Battle of the Books competition took part in the finals on March 15. Team members and places are listed below.

comprehension and memory. A goal of the competition is to introduce various genres to students and encourage reading outside of normal school assignments.

"I liked almost all of them, but my favorites were definitely 'The Unwanteds,' 'Because of Mr. Terupt' and 'Coraline,'" said Syverson.

Knisley and van Bergen said they liked "Because of Mr. Terupt," "Diamond Willow" and "Stella by Starlight" as well. Their favorite genre in general is realistic fiction.

"We are very realistic people," said van Bergen with a laugh.

All three students did their best to read as many books as possible, and then re-read as they had time.

"We want to make sure to read them all because if only one

person reads the book there is a chance that they won't know the answer," said Knisley. "So try to have as many people read the same books as possible."

What would they tell younger Book Battle participants aspiring for the same level of success?

"Be organized about it, and don't stress out about it," said van Bergen. "We started out a little rocky, I'd say. I didn't know which books they were reading and they didn't know which books I was reading, so that was kind of a roadblock for us. Know who is reading what, and then just make a plan."

Finalists had the opportunity to compete in front of a live audience of students for the first

time since COVID began, and enjoyed the opportunity to test their knowledge.

"Overall, it was an energetic competition with a great variety of books, and students were excited throughout the entire competition!" said O'Donnell.

Other finalists

• **Second place:** Glenn Beinert, Benaiah Gaalswyk, Jacob Werth.

• **Third place:** Myla Martin, Cora Boyack, Sophie Kopperud.

• **Fourth place:** Adelyn Logelin, Jojo Brouwer, Will Horch.

• **Fifth place:** Natasha Shafer, Gavin Shafer, Colten Bredman.



Benaiah Gaalswyk, Jacob Werth and Glenn Beinert took second place in the event.



Maddie Knisley, Meredith van Bergen and Bergen Syverson took first place in the Battle of the Books.

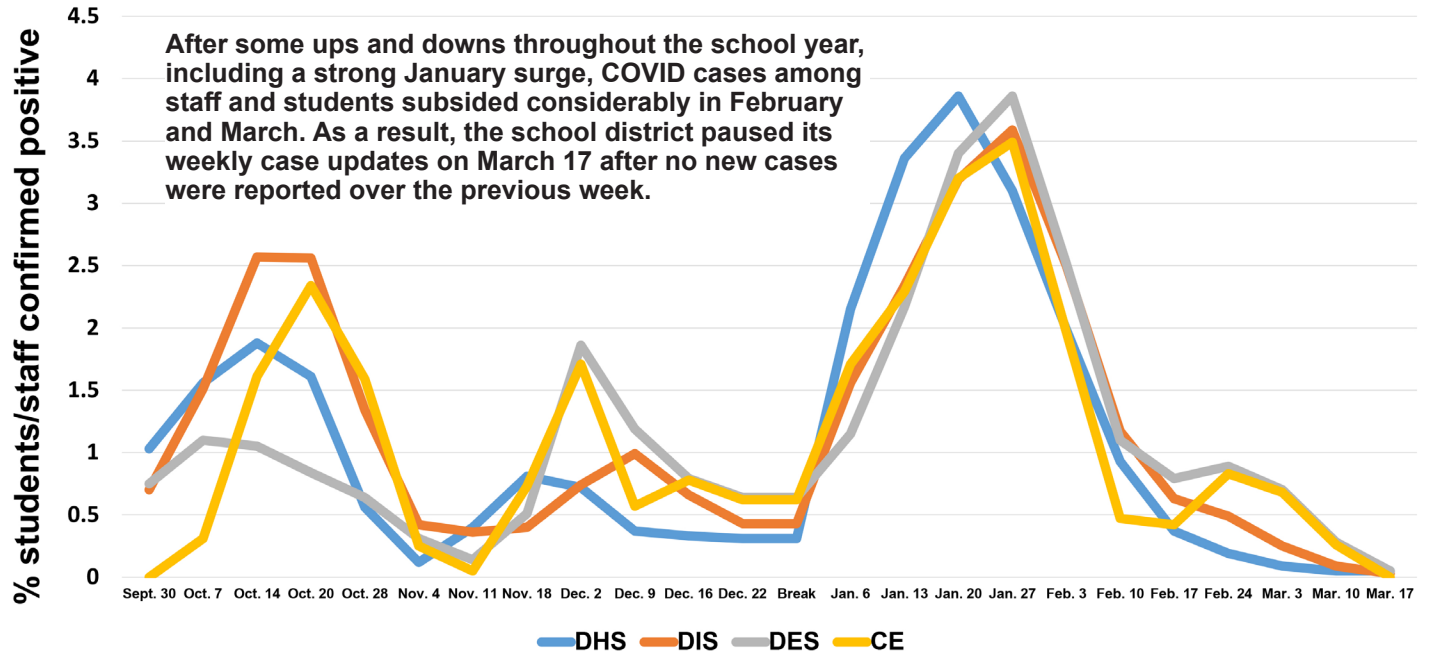


Return to LLCC

Delano Intermediate students returned to the Long Lake Conservation Center after a two-year absence due to COVID, and have been enjoying many unique experiences this week. See the DIS Facebook page for more photos and video.



COVID cases 2021-22 (14-day case rate)



LUNCH				
APRIL 2022				
Delano Intermediate School				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orange Chicken Brown Rice Peas / Roll Lettuce Salad Pineapple 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> French Toast Sticks Sausage Hashbrown Steamed Broccoli Baked Apple Slices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hamburger Sun Chips Baked Beans Lettuce / Tomatoes Pickles / Onions / Carrots Fruit Cocktail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Macaroni and Cheese California Blend Vegetables Roll Lettuce Salad Orange Wedges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheesy Breadsticks Marinara Sauce Corn Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit Cookie
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hot Dog A)BBQ Rib Sandwich Sun Chips Baked Beans Baby Carrots Rosy Applesauce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chicken Gravy A)Polish Sausage Mashed Potatoes / Roll Peas Orange Wedges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chicken Nuggets Hashbrown Green Beans Veggies / Roll Fruit Cocktail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pizza Corn Lettuce Salad Pears 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No School Spring Break
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chicken Tenders Mashed Potatoes / Gravy Roll Steamed Broccoli Lettuce Salad Pineapple / Mandarin Oranges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corn Dog Potato Smiles Baked Beans Veggies Rosy Applesauce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Italian Dunkers Marinara Sauce Corn Lettuce Salad Fresh Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chicken Patty – Bun A)PB&J Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Crackers / Veggies Lettuce Salad Peaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tacos – Beef Lettuce / Cheese / Salsa Fiesta Beans OJ Cup Fresh Fruit Graham Goldfish
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nachos – Beef / Cheese Tortilla Chips Lettuce / Onions / Salsa Refried Beans OJ Cup Fresh Fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cinnamon Roll Cheese Omelet Steamed Broccoli Hashbrown Orange Wedges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spaghetti – Meat Sauce Green Beans Lettuce Salad Garlic Bread Pears 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chicken Nuggets Hashbrown Corn Veggies Roll Fruit Cocktail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hamburger A)Sloppy Joes Sun Chips Lettuce / Tomatoes Pickles / Onions Orange Wedges

This Institution is an equal opportunity provider
Menu subject to change based on product availability



Adventures at school

Sixth-graders who did not travel to the Long Lake Conservation Center have stayed busy around campus this week with fun activities like compass navigation and owl pellet dissections, and much more.



Math

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instructor Heidi O'Donnell. The focus was to apply mathematics to real-life scenarios and fields like architecture. In January they began focusing their efforts more directly on the upcoming Math Masters competition.

"The kids LOVED solving the challenging problems under time limits, and often the action in our room was pretty similar to a state hockey event (insert ear plugs)," said Palmer.

Enthusiastic problem solvers

What do the participating students appreciate about the subject?

"I like it because math is more exact than reading, where

there can be different answers," said Schmit, the Fact Drill champion.

Individual Round award-winner Schwehr agreed.

"I like math because there are no opinions. It's right answer or wrong answer, and there's only one right answer," he said. "I'm excited that I actually get to compete using math, because I'm very competitive."

This year's competition was the first time students had an opportunity to compete in person, though some did participate in a virtual event last year.

Clare, a first-place team member and award-winner in the Face Drill, said she enjoyed more personal side of things this year.

"I like that you get to compete against other teams from other schools, and you also get to compete with your team," she said.

All students agreed that their teachers have made the experience a fun way to learn.

"Palmer makes it really fun, just the way she teaches," said Jepma. "She makes it exciting. When she helps you get something you haven't done before it just makes you feel really good about yourself and you get this feeling of satisfaction, which I really like."

"She makes it simple and easy to understand how to do it," agreed Clare.

Benefits

Math may focus on quantifying issues, but Palmer said the experience of preparing and competing has plenty of intangible advantages as well.

"The benefits of Math Masters are immeasurable," she said. "Students learn that mathematics is pretty cool, that many students are math-mind-

ed like themselves, and I heard many of them excitedly talking about joining math clubs or Math League as they enter Delano High School. They also learn to work as a group on a project and push each other to give their best effort."

This year's competitive performance will certainly be memorable, but Palmer said she will also recall the camaraderie among this group as another highlight.

"Our class has become a very tightly knit group; I appreciate how they applaud each other for a correct answer and how they eagerly reach out to help one another when needed," she said. "I'm going to miss them so much when they go to the high school, (but I say that every year about all my kids)."

Thompson

from Page 1

you can help prepare your students.

- Help your student get a good night's sleep. If your student is used to staying up late, backing up bed time a few days ahead of the test is a good idea.

- Be sure your student has a breakfast that will "stick." Protein is best for long-lasting energy.

- Ensure your student arrives at school on time. All testing will happen primarily in the morning, so feeling rushed prior to starting testing or joining the test late can make for a difficult transition to giving

MCA Test Schedule 2022		
Reading (Tuesday-Thursday)	Math (Tuesday-Friday)	Science (Tuesday)
April 12 Grade 4-5	April 19 Grade 5	April 26 Grade 5
April 13 Grade 4	April 21 Grade 4	
April 14 Grade 6	April 22 Grade 6	

focused-attention.

- Dress your student in clothes that are comfortable, and consider sending them in layers. Being too hot or too cold during testing can also be a distraction for students.

Test anxiety

For some students, knowing the MCAs are an important test can cause increased anxiety. Please reassure your students that we all know they are so much more than a test score!

The MCAs are just a chance to show us what they know, and that's a lot!

- Talk about the test in positive terms and encourage them to give their best effort.

- Assure them that they are ready; their teacher has prepared them with lots of great test-taking strategies.

- Remind them that there is no pressure to finish first. They can look away from the test and take nice deep breaths and stretch in their seats whenever they feel like they need to.

Thank you for your partnership in helping our students be successful on the MCAs as well as in all areas of the school life.

History Day projects advance to state

Delano students stand out in virtual region event

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Seven research projects by sixth-graders from Delano Intermediate School have advanced to the State History Day competition after high performance in the virtual regional competition in late March.

The students in the accelerated language arts program conducted historical research and presented their findings via documentary videos, websites or exhibits during the local competition on Feb. 9. Of the 27 total projects presented by sixth-graders and eighth-graders in the local competition, 17 advanced to regional competition.

Overall, Delano students did quite well at regions, with 13 of the 17 projects qualifying for state, and an additional project earning an honorable mention award.

The theme for this year's projects is "Debate and Diplomacy: Success, Failures, Consequences." The virtual state competition will be held from mid-to-late April, with the award ceremony set for Sunday evening, May 1.

State qualifiers

Among sixth-graders, two projects advanced in the exhibit category. They are:

- *"The White Rose Resistance: Debating The Third Reich,"* by Emma Ristau, Maria Droogsma and Nathan Heckman.

- *"Lavender Scare: Fear of the Queer,"* by Harper Bukowski and Lydia Holman.

Another four projects advanced in the documentary category. They are:

- *"The Tragic Legacy of Love Canal: From a Model City to*



Emma Ristau, Nathan Heckman and Maria Droogsma discuss their research project about the White Rose Resistance with judges during the local competition. They have qualified for state long with six other projects done by DIS students.



Ella Jepma and Stella Kaldenberg present their website about Thalidomide during the local competition.

One of America's Worst Environmental Disasters," by Gracie Halme, Jackson Gaalswyk and Landon Lundquist.

- *"Tylenol Crisis: The Ballad of Tamper Evident Packaging,"* by Max Schmit, Nathan Mullen and Whitaker Pieper.

- *"The Kent State Massacre,"* by Austin Kazin and Dane Loecken.

- *"The Little Rock Nine: The Road to Integration,"* by Estella Tordeur, Mia Dongoske and Sienna Clare.

There was also one website project that advanced:

- *"Thalidomide - A Debated Drug,"* by Ella Jepma and Stella Kaldenberg.

Honorable mention

- *"Chernobyl: The Debate On Nuclear Energy,"* by Alex Bahe, EJ McCaustland and Henry Becker.



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