

2005-2006 Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement

"Educational Excellence is Our Foremost Goal"



Delano School District #879

We are pleased to present the Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement for Delano Schools. The purpose of this report is to inform the public regarding the achievement levels and accomplishments of our students and the continuous improvement processes that are in place to assure that students are achieving to their maximum potential. Please review the publication and the accomplishments of Delano students, which also reflect positively on parents, staff and community.

In addition to the information contained within the Report, I would like to share several other noteworthy items:

Academic Excellence

Delano School District has been recognized by Schoolmatters, a service of Standard and Poor's that provides research information about public schools, as one of 22 Minnesota school districts as "outperforming." To gain this recognition, school districts had to report significantly higher percentages of students that scored proficient or above on state reading and math tests than other school districts with similar demographic makeup. This recognition provides further evidence of the district's focus statement: "Educational excellence is our foremost goal."

ACT Scores

The American College Test (ACT) is taken by high school students entering post secondary institutions. The average ACT score for Minnesota students in 2006 was again the highest in the nation with an average composite score of 22.3. Delano High School students outperformed the state with an average composite score of 22.7 in 2005-06.

Graduates

The class of 2006 sent 61 students (50%) to four year colleges and universities. Forty-one (34%) are attending two-year programs. Five (4%) entered the military and 13 (11%) entered the workforce. Our students are aware of the importance of post-secondary education and many who choose not to attend a post-secondary school right after high school will decide to do so at a later time.

Enrollment

Enrollment increased from 1,962 in 2004-2005 to 2,069 in 2005-06, an increase of 107 students or 5.4%. Enrollment had been increasing at about 2.4% in previous years.

Finances

Delano students perform at high levels, while the school district uses tax dollars efficiently. Delano Schools compare very favorably to the rest of Minnesota in per student expenditures. In 2004-05 (the latest year comparison data available), Delano spent \$7,434 per student compared to the state average of \$8,681.

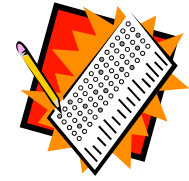
Engaging the Community

Schools today are very reliant on community support to meet (and exceed) mandated state and national standards, develop innovative programs that meet the needs of students and to secure financial resources. Research has shown that engaging the community is also important to raising student achievement. This report is one means by which we attempt to engage the community.

I also invite you to visit the Delano Schools Website www.Delano.k12.mn.us for further information regarding all aspects of Delano Public Schools.

John M. Sweet, Ed. D.
Superintendent

2006 MCA-II Test Results



Beginning in 2006, The State of Minnesota and the Department of Education began testing using the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments – II. This is the second version of the statewide testing program designed around the revised Minnesota Academic Standards. Part of the reason for the revision was to be in compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. This new round of testing contains relatively few adjustments from the old tests. The major differences are in the area of reporting of the results.

The reporting differences contain at least two properties. **Property 1:** the achievement levels are now reported in four categories instead of five. **Property 2:** the scale scoring has been drastically changed from the MCA system. The scale scoring of tests for the MCA-II will be labeled according to their grade. The first one (or two digits if in grade 10 or 11) digit will correspond to the grade while the last two digits will correspond to their achievement level within that grade. An achievement level of 39 or less indicates the MCA-II level of “Does not meet the Standards”; 40 to 49 scores indicate “Partially meets the Standards”; a score of 50 to 61 indicates that the student has “Met the Standards”; and 62 to 99 “Exceeds the Standards.”

MCA-II Mathematics

	Does not meet the Standards			Partially meets the Standards			Meets the Standards			Exceeds the Standards		
	Delano	State	Delano/State	Delano	State	Delano/State	Delano	State	Delano/State	Delano	State	Delano/State
Grade 3	0	5.5	0.00	2.7	16.6	0.16	37.8	46.5	0.81	59.5	31.3	1.90
Grade 4	1.2	11.7	0.10	9.3	19.3	0.48	49.1	42.3	1.16	40.4	26.7	1.51
Grade 5	3.2	18	0.18	7.7	23.1	0.33	46.5	36.8	1.26	42.6	22.2	1.92
Grade 6	8.6	18.6	0.46	16.5	22.2	0.74	36	40.5	0.89	38.8	18.7	2.07
Grade 7	9.4	20.2	0.47	14	22.3	0.63	46.2	40	1.16	30.4	17.5	1.74
Grade 8	3.6	20.3	0.18	12	23	0.52	35.9	37.3	0.96	48.4	19.4	2.49
Grade 11	30.9	49.2	0.63	24.2	21	1.15	24.8	19.7	1.26	20.1	10.1	1.99

MCA-II Reading

	Does not meet the Standards			Partially meets the Standards			Meets the Standards			Exceeds the Standards		
	Delano	State	Delano/State	Delano	State	Delano/State	Delano	State	Delano/State	Delano	State	Delano/State
Grade 3	2.8	9	0.31	4.9	9.4	0.52	22.9	26.5	0.86	69.4	55.1	1.26
Grade 4	7.5	9.5	0.79	8.7	13.8	0.63	42.2	34.4	1.23	41.6	42.3	0.98
Grade 5	2.6	8	0.33	11.7	15	0.78	40.9	41.5	0.99	44.8	35.4	1.27
Grade 6	6.5	9.5	0.68	13.7	18.9	0.72	28.1	36.2	0.78	51.8	35.4	1.46
Grade 7	9.8	13.4	0.73	15	20	0.75	28.3	30.8	0.92	46.8	35.8	1.31
Grade 8	4.7	14.5	0.32	17.4	20.9	0.83	28.4	32.1	0.88	49.5	32.5	1.52
Grade 10	7.6	15.5	0.49	8.2	19.3	0.42	38.6	33.5	1.15	45.6	31.8	1.43

High School MCA-II Tests Summary

In 2006 Delano students continued to demonstrate excellent reading performance at the state level. At tenth grade over 45% of the students earned scores in the highest category, exceeding standards. Another 38.6% of the students fell in the next highest quadrant, the level that meets the state reading standards. Therefore, over 84% of students in tenth grade are meeting or exceeding all the state standards in reading.

Delano High School teachers were trained in Content Area Reading Strategies by a well-know reading expert, Mary Barrett, in November of 2005. She worked individually with the various departments including English, Science, Health, Social Studies, and Special Education. The staff has been implementing new ideas in reading in the various classes throughout the high school. Offering new opportunities to students in Content Area Reading (a specialized reading program for each discipline in school) continues to be the focus of the school improvement plan for the high school.

Eleventh grade students at Delano took the MCA-II test in mathematics. The MCA-II tests at the high school level were written according to the Minnesota Academic Standards. These standards are rigorous and all of our students are required to take this test. Although the percentages are not necessarily appealing, Delano's results are quite favorable in comparison to the state percentages.

Delano had 45% of our students performing at or exceeding the required standards compared to the state's 31% performing at the same achievement levels. While 30% of Delano students' did not meet the standards, 47% of students across did not meet the state standards. The results of the high school math MCA-II tests are being examined statewide with recommendations for improvement forthcoming. Additionally, the Math standards are being looked at with possible revisions coming in the near future.

Middle School MCA-II Tests Summary

All students in Delano Middle School were required to take the MCA-II tests in math and reading. The star rating system requires that each grade level earn five stars in order for the entire school to earn the five star rating in each of the subject areas. Since all grades attained these performance objectives at Delano Middle School in the areas of both math and reading, Delano Middle School is a five star school in math and a four star school in reading. The first three stars are awarded based upon attendance, test participation, and test proficiency. Additional stars are awards by the state of Minnesota based upon performance being less than 10% in the lowest two achievement areas, and 30% or more in the highest performance area.

Elementary School MCA-II Tests Summary

Students in grades three and four participated in the MCA-II math and reading test. The results recorded by these students in 2006 were remarkable. The third grade math achievement scores were very impressive with no students in the lowest achievement level and nearly 60% of the students in the highest level. The fourth grade results were virtually as impressive with only 1.2% of students in the lowest achievement level and more than 40% of the students in the highest achievement level.

The results of the reading test are nearly as phenomenal. Grade three had over 70% of its students test in the highest achievement level while grade four had more than 42% of its students at the same level.

The criteria for earning stars in the elementary are identical to earning stars in the middle. Therefore, the elementary school is a five star school in math and a four star school in reading as well.

2006 Basic Skills Test Results

During the 2005-2006 school year eighth grade students were no longer required to take the high stakes math and reading test. Due to legislation passed in 2004 the tests required for graduation will be contained inside the math and reading tests already administered in the high school level. This same legislation required all students 3 through 8 to be tested via the MCA-II. Therefore, the eighth grade students do not miss an opportunity to be assessed by the Minnesota Department of Education.

The Reading test given to this eighth grade group of students during their tenth grade year will contain high stakes test items required for graduation. Similarly, the Math test given to this group as juniors will contain required test items for graduation. The writing test requirement will be administered to these students during their ninth grade year. This series of tests will then fulfill the requirements necessary for graduation.

Students who were tested in 05-06 were students either new to the district and had not taken the BST before or were students who had not previously passed. The results of the tests are in the table below:

	Math			Reading			Writing		
	Pas s	No Pass	% Pas- sage	Pas s	No Pass	% Pas- sage	Pas s	No Pass	% Pas- sage
Grade 9	12	6	66%	10	2	83%			NA
Grade 10	7	4	64%	4	6	40%			NA
Grade 11	5	1	83%	3	2	60%	2	0	100%
Grade 12	2	0	100%	0	0	NA	1	0	100%

District Testing Overview

The objectives of the Delano Public Schools testing program are to implement assessments which will give meaningful data and results back to our teaching staff. We will strive to use test results for the improvement of instruction and to help attain improved results in the future.

Delano Public Schools has implemented several tests during the 2005-06 school year. The district has implemented the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments-II in Math at grade levels 3-8, and 11. The Reading assessments will be implemented at grades 3-8, and 10. The Writing assessments will take place at grades 5 and 10.

These test results are used to identify areas of strength and areas where improvement may be needed. The data is sorted by grade and teacher, and then given to classroom teacher to identify areas in need of emphasis during the current year.

Delano Elementary School administers the Iowa Test of Basic Skills at grades 2 and 3. The primary use of the data is Title I placement of students.

Northwest Education Association (NWEA) tests were administered to 9th grade students in Math and Language Arts. The data is then issued to help the classroom teacher determine overall improvement in academic performance due to being in that particular course.

Student Demographics 2005-2006

Math and Reading

Enrollment (9-12)	634
Number Passing Math	624
Number Passing Reading	627
Passing at Individual Level**	0

Writing

Enrollment (11-12)	281
Number Passing Writing	278
Number Exempt*	3
Passing at Individual Level**	0



*Exempt: The student did not take the test as a result of the IEP team's decision.

**Pass Individual: The student's IEP team has determined a passing score different from the state requirement.

No 12th graders were denied a diploma because of "No Pass" on tests.

No Students used translated tests.

2006-2007 Testing Dates



January 23	BST	Written Composition—Grade 10
February 6	BST	Mathematics Retest
February 8	BST	Reading Retest
April 10	GRAD	Written Composition
April 17	MCA-II	Math—Grades 3, 4, and 8
April 18	MCA-II	Math—Grades 3 and 4
	MCA-II	Reading—Grades 6 and 11
	MCA-II	Reading—Grade 8
April 19	MCA-II	Math—Grades 6 and 11
April 20	MCA-II	Math—Grade 11
April 23	MCA-II	Reading—Grade 6
April 24	MCA-II	Writing—Grade 6
	MCA-II	Reading—Grades 3 and 4
April 25	MCA-II	Reading—Grades 3 and 4
	MCA-II	Math—Grade 7
April 26	MCA-II	Reading—Grade 7
April 30	MCA-II	Reading—Grade 5
May 1	MCA-II	Reading—Grade 5
May 2	MCA-II	Math—Grade 5
May 3	MCA-II	Math—Grade 5

*Mark Your
Calendars!*

A Historical Summary of the MCA Test Results

The following tables indicate the historical data results from the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments. In the tables the test year is followed by the five achievement levels in math, reading, or writing. These columns are then followed by the percent of Delano students at or above grade level, the Delano and state percent correct, and then the Delano and state scale score.

Grade 3 MCA Math Results

Test Yr.	M1 %	M2 %	M3 %	M4 %	M5 %	At/↑ Grade Level	Delano Percent Correct	State Percent Correct	Scale Score	State Scale Score
1998	4	49	34	13	na	47	70	na	1485	1401
1999	3	35	44	18	na	62	73	na	1593	1460
2000	1	29	55	15	na	70	73	na	1579	1478
2001	2	32	47	20	na	67	79	73	1563.7	1494.3
2002	1	14	26	43	15	84	78	72	1560.8	1486
2003	0	8	9	41	42	92	85	75	1717.4	1541.3
2004	1	7	9	53	31	93	86	76	1665.5	1522.6
2005	1	6	4	49	41	93	88	79	1688.8	1568.8

Grade 3 MCA Reading Results

Test Yr.	R1 %	R2 %	R3 %	R4 %	R5 %	At/↑ Grade Level	Delano Percent Correct	State Percent Correct	Delano Scale Score Average	State Scale Score Average
1998	13	46	35	6	na	41	68	na	1445	1410
1999	9	35	45	11	na	56	66	na	1495	1428
2000	2	38	45	15	na	60	68	na	1539	1461
2001	9	32	38	22	na	60	80	74	1543.6	1486.6
2002	8	15	23	36	18	77	78	74	1521.6	1486.2
2003	3	10	18	40	29	87	82	75	1586.5	1517.4
2004	3	13	9	40	35	84	83	76	1621.8	1535.2
2005	3	9	9	40	39	88	84	78	1610.7	1542.2

Grade 5 MCA Math Results

Test Yr.	M1 %	M2 %	M3 %	M4 %	M5 %	At/↑ Grade Level	Delano Percent Correct	State Percent Correct	Scale Score	State Scale Score
1998	15	45	34	6	na	40	64	NA	1428	1395
1999	6	44	45	5	na	50	66	NA	1468	1417
2000	2	27	43	28	na	71	76	NA	1601	1470
2001	5	21	49	25	na	74	78	71	1585.5	1492.4
2002	1	10	11	47	31	89	81	72	1618.7	1502.6
2003	1	11	17	41	30	88	81	75	1606.9	1532.8
2004	1	12	16	49	22	87	77	71	1588.5	1538.6
2005	1	6	9	39	45	92	87	79	1667.4	1569.8

Grade 5 MCA Reading Results

Test Yr.	R1 %	R2 %	R3 %	R4 %	R5 %	At/↑ Grade Level	Delano Percent Correct	State Percent Correct	Delano Scale Score Average	State Scale Score Average
1998	22	42	29	7	na	36	67	NA	1421	1419
1999	9	37	43	11	na	54	67	NA	1498	1451
2000	3	23	40	34	na	74	72	NA	1627	1493
2001	7	14	49	30	na	79	82	76	1623.5	1545.2
2002	3	7	8	41	41	90	84	76	1666.5	1552.4
2003	2	8	11	44	35	90	82	76	1636.7	1566.7
2004	5	6	9	43	38	90	84	78	1643.2	1579.1
2005	1	7	2	41	50	92	84	77	1701.1	1608.6

Grade 5 MCA Writing

Test Yr.	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	At/↑ Grade Level
1998	48	43	8	1	na	9
1999	0	64	35	1	na	36
2000	2	35	53	10	na	63
2001	1	21	74	5	na	79
2002	0	4	4	63	29	96
2003	3	12	9	50	26	85
2004	1	11	7	54	26	87
2005	2	6	10	60	22	92

Grade 7 MCA Math Results

Test Yr.	M1 %	M2 %	M3 %	M4 %	M5 %	At/↑ Grade Level	Delano Percent Correct	State Percent Correct	Scale Score	State Scale Score
2004	1	19	43	28	10	81	61	55	1476.7	1452.3
2005	0	9	37	33	21	91	64	57	1502.9	1475.7

Grade 7 MCA Reading Results

Test Yr.	R1 %	R2 %	R3 %	R4 %	R5 %	At/↑ Grade Level	Delano Percent Correct	State Percent Correct	Delano Scale Score Average	State Scale Score Average
2004	0	14	28	48	10	86	81	72	1508	1460.6
2005	1	9	27	45	18	90	81	72	1528.2	1471.1

Grade 10 MCA Reading Results

Test Yr.	R1 %	R2 %	R3 %	R4 %	R5 %	At/↑ Grade Level	Delano Percent Correct	State Percent Correct	Delano Scale Score Average	State Scale Score Average
2002	3.2	7	13.4	33.1	43.3	89.8	72.6	62.6	NA	NA
2003	1.4	6.3	29.6	33.8	28.9	92.3	81.9	72.4	1731.5	1615.9
2004	0.8	9.2	36.2	37.7	16.2	90.1	74.8	68	1661.5	1586.3
2005	1.4	7.4	31.8	48	11.5	91.2	78.5	72.4	1669.93	1601.1

Grade 10 MCA Reading Results

Test Yr.	R1 %	R2 %	R3 %	R4 %	R5 %	At/↑ Grade Level	Delano Percent Correct	State Percent Correct	Delano Scale Score Average	State Scale Score Average
2002	3.2	7	13.4	33.1	43.3	89.8	72.6	62.6	NA	NA
2003	1.4	6.3	29.6	33.8	28.9	92.3	81.9	72.4	1731.5	1615.9
2004	0.8	9.2	36.2	37.7	16.2	90.1	74.8	68	1661.5	1586.3
2005	1.4	7.4	31.8	48	11.5	91.2	78.5	72.4	1669.93	1601.1

Grade 11 MCA Math Results

Test Yr.	M1 %	M2 %	M3 %	M4 %	M5 %	At/↑ Grade Level	Delano Percent Correct	State Percent Correct	Scale Score	State Scale Score
2003	0.7	7.4	37.8	25.7	28.4	91.9	NA	NA	1470.4	1389.1
2004	0.7	16.7	37	33.3	12.3	82.6	NA	NA	1632.6	1536.3
2005	1.6	13.6	43.2	28	13.6	84.8	58.3	49	1627.01	1540.1

District Testing Program Review

Much has been written about school accountability. In an effort to improve communication about the accountability of Delano Public Schools, a testing program review has been put into place. The objective of our testing program is to meet the requirements set forth by the Minnesota Department of Education, which also will satisfy the federal requirements of No Child Left Behind. Additionally, the results are to be used by classroom teachers to determine curricular needs in each of their classrooms.

All data results come from the MCA-II. These tests are the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments II. The data in each of those grades is given to the homeroom teacher and evaluated for needs in each class. All grades 3 through 8 are given MCA-II tests in math and reading. There are additional tests in grade 10 for reading and grade 11 for math. Written tests were administered in grade 5 and grade 10. The grade ten writing test is also a test which students must pass in order to graduate.

Student achievement results of this test cannot be compared to previous years since it is an entirely different type of test. The results of previous MCA tests will be given in this document, however new results from the MCA-II test will be presented in different tables. The data are new and cannot be compared to the original MCA tests.

The results of the MCA-II tests are given to classroom teachers for their use. Teachers are given the results of the students from their classroom last year as well as the students currently in their class. The data are particularly useful in grades 4 through 6. In these classes, teachers primarily have the same students through out the day. Therefore, the data for these teachers will be most helpful.

Student Achievement Goals

The Minnesota Profile of Learning, along with the Graduation Standards, was repealed during the 2003 legislative session. This raised many questions about what our students' new graduation requirements will look like. The profile of learning and its performance packages have been replaced by a credit based system called the Minnesota Academic Standards. These "new" Minnesota Academic Standards meet all of the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind legislation whereby giving our school district eligibility for Federal Funds.

The state-wide tests contained the new standards material during the 2005-2006 school year. Delano students in grades K-8 will find that teachers are embedding the new standards in their curriculum. This will ensure that students have the necessary material in time for the state-wide testing.

Delano High School students will graduate via these new academic standards in the school year 2007-2008 (the current 11th grade class). This left a four year transition period (one years remaining) to prepare and align the district with these new standards. Students currently enrolled in grade 12 are expected to graduate under the same rigorous standards as were introduced to them upon high school entrance.

Performance Goals-Students Held Accountable

It is the goal of Delano Public Schools to ensure that all graduates will be able to function effectively as purposeful thinkers, effective communicators, self-directed learners, productive group participants and responsible citizens.

According to state-mandated K-12 Minnesota Academic Standards, students will be required to demonstrate the following standards:

Language Arts
Reading
Arts
Mathematics
Science

Social Studies
Health and Physical Education
Career and Technical Education
World Languages

In addition, graduates must pass the Minnesota Basic Standards Tests in reading, mathematics, and writing.

District Staff Development Goals

Goal 1

Staff development opportunities that will promote high academic standards for all students.

Action Steps

- All buildings will encourage professional development related to improved academic standards.
- All buildings will encourage teachers to access professional development that will improve student learning in their specific grade level and curricular area.
- The implementation of the staff development academy will provide learning opportunities for staff.

Goal 2

Improve school climate district wide employees.

Action Steps

- Plan and schedule opportunities for social interaction among staff.
- Schedule academy sessions, which will promote professional interaction among staff.

Goal 3

Support the integration of the continuous improvement process throughout the District.

Action Steps

- Data driven decision-making process.
- Use Professional Learning Communities to regularly bring staff together to learn and evaluate current teaching practices.

Curriculum Advisory Procedures

Membership on the Curriculum Advisory Committee (CAC) is open to all persons residing in the district. The number of CAC members matches the number of curriculum committees, plus two parent ambassadors for the Minnesota Academic Standards. Currently, 16 curriculum committees exist.

Members may self-select or be nominated by any staff or community member. Community residents must apply to serve on the committee by October of each year, unless a vacancy occurs during the year.

Vacancies will be filled as soon as possible. Membership terms are three years. Reappointment is an option, but not guaranteed. We have several vacancies at this time. People who are interested in serving on the committee can contact Joe Vieau at 763-972-3365 ext. 3019

Curriculum Advisory Council 2005-2006

Vacant	Social Studies K-4	
Nancy Cordes	Social Studies 5-8	2007
Paul Nord	Social Studies 9-12	2007
Barb Janas	Health	2006
Kim Finn	Physical Education	2005
Vacant	Mathematics	
Kathy Ziegelman	Mathematics 5-8	2007
Vacant	Mathematics 9-12	
Vacant	Communications K-4	2005
Peg Max	Communications 5-8	
Mary Ann Bernat	Communications 9-12	2007
Julie Grist	Science K-6	2007
Jeanne Berglund	Science 7-12	2007
Mike Schaefer	Music	2007
Vacant	Vocational 7-12	
Lorrie Mulholland	School Board at Large	2007
Stacy Wacholz	Visual Arts	2005
Stacy Wacholz	Parent Ambassador	2005
Karen Zeug	Parent Ambassador	2005

Department Facilitators Curriculum Committees 2005-2006

Neva Stoebner	Communications K-4
Melody Soderberg	Communications 5-8
Ross Alford	Communications 9-12
Toni Clifton	Mathematics K-4
Gary Brophy	Mathematics 5-8
Jerry Shouts	Mathematics 7-12
Jason Scherber	Social Studies K-4
Mark Schramel	Social Studies 5-8
Charlie Gross	Social Studies 9-12
Rick Haley	Science K-6
Carol Fiedler/	
Karen Hohenstein	Science 7-12
Larry Babiracki	Music
Char Sorenson/	
Greg Johnson	Health
Ray Cordes	Visual Arts
Jerry Litfin	Physical Education
Jeff Sylvester	Vocational Education
Carol Johnson	FACS
Joe Finn	Industrial Tech



Curriculum Improvements: Mathematics and Elementary Social Studies

Jerry Shouts (High School), Gary Brophy (Middle School) and Toni Clifton (Elementary School) are facilitators for the Mathematics Department. They were charged with writing curriculum which implemented the Minnesota Academic Standards passed in 2003. Improvements were sought in textbooks and to work more closely aligning the curriculum with the standards. Particular attention was paid to the high school area of probability and statistics, since this was an identified area of improvement. It has been seven years since the Math department has had the opportunity to upgrade their curriculum.

The Elementary Social Studies Department, facilitated by Meredith Huikko, has suspended their writing from 2004-2005 to 2005-2006 due to the possibility of change in the standards based upon information from the department of education. The changes which came about were really nothing to speak of but the committee felt this necessary and that the result of waiting one year did not really cost anything but it could have been costly had the k-3 social studies department moved ahead with the threat of large changes looming at that time. Once again, the focus for improvement was the alignment with the state standards as well as updating of equipment. Maps were the primary equipment in need of updating.

ACT Test Results

Minnesota's scores on the 2006 ACT remained at 22.3 for the second straight year. This score was ranked first in the nation. Delano High School students have traditionally performed better than the state average. Although the DHS average is down from 2005, there is no significant statistical difference in the score.

ACT Test Results Composite Scores 2005-2006

Delano	22.7
State	22.3
Nation	21.1

Delano ACT Results

2006	22.7
2005	22.8
2004	24.6
2003	22.4
2002	22.6
2001	22.6
2000	22.6
1999	22.4
1998	22.6
1997	21.7
1996	21.4

National Merit Scholars Program

Each year more than one million students take the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) in October. Upon completion of this test, students are entered into the National Merit Program, a nationwide competition for recognition and awards conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). In April of each year, 16,000 of the more than one million students who take the test are identified as semi-finalists nationwide, while approximately 34,000 are recognized as commended students.

Following the identification of the 16,000 semi-finalists, these students then become eligible as finalists. In the finalist stage, between 10,000 and 11,000 of these students become recognized as National Merit Scholar Finalists. At this point, they become eligible for myriad scholarships and opportunities nationwide. Over the past several years, we have developed a rich history of positive student performance on this test. Recipients include:

2006-2007 National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalists

Elizabeth Dake, Margaret Englehardt, and Ben Zeug

2006-2007 National Merit Scholars Commended

Katie Gregg and Catherine Newcomb

2005-2006 National Merit Scholar Finalist

Laura Janas

2004-2005 National Merit Scholars Commended

Amy Bohler and Anna Meehan

2003-2004 National Merit Scholars

Chris Shouts, Heidi Hayes, Kari Haley, Lindsay Gorton

2003-2004 National Merit Scholars Commended

Paul Janas and Nathan Bohler

2002-2003 National Merit Scholars

Jake Workman, Molly Jordan, Carolyn Hurst

2002-2003 National Merit Scholars Commended

Michelle Jordan

Teacher of the Year



Melody Soderberg was selected as Delano's 2006 Teacher of the Year by her colleagues. She is an 8th grade Language Arts teacher at Delano Middle School.

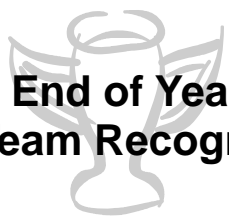
Melody is a strong advocate of students helping others and in her role as advisor to the Middle School Student Council strives to accomplish that goal. Under her leadership, the student council has helped people within the community by volunteering to rake leaves for seniors, assisting at Kids Stop, and visiting the Humane Society to clean kennels and walking dogs, to name a few of her favorites.

Melody Soderberg received her undergraduate degree from Augsburg College and her Masters in Curriculum and Design from St. Mary's University. Melody joined the Delano staff in January of 1995.

During her time in Delano, Melody has worked actively on many committees, including the Middle School Language Arts committee, advisor to the student council, and coaching junior high track. The junior high track team has grown tremendously under her leadership.

Ms. Soderberg has three children. Sarah is an 8th grade science teacher; Sam is a sergeant in the National Guard, currently stationed in Iraq; and Maggie is an 8th grader at Watertown-Mayer Middle School who competes successfully on the swim team.

Delano is proud to announce Melody Soderberg as our 2006 Teacher of the Year.



End of Year Student and Team Recognition Updates

Math Team

State Tournament Team
State Tournament Individual
1 National Participant, Margaret Engelhardt

MSHSL Art Festival

9 entries—7 received “Superior” and 2 received “Excellent”

Susan Farbo

Served on the Executive Committee for the National College Fair

Gymnastics

Kobi Belgarde State participant, 11th on floor and 18th on bars
Leah Wishmann, Katie Zimmermann, and Averi Shrode All Conference Honors

Softball

Academic All-state, 1st in GPA for entire state of MN

Boy's Hockey

Wright County Conference Co-Champions

Baseball

Wright County Conference Champions
Sub-section Champions

Wrestling

Mike Roth, Individual State Qualifier

School within a School

Sharing and Caring Hands volunteer on a monthly basis

Cross Country

Kip Anderson, State Participant

Boy's Track

Rob Field, State Participant

Girl's Track

16 Participants at Sections at St. John's College

Science Olympiad

10th place finish at State

National Honor Society (NHS)

6 students and staff visited China in 2006
6 students and staff will be visiting China in 2007

Choir

All three choirs received myriad Superior ratings at Large Group contests
Sophomore Girl's Ensemble earned “Best of Site” Honors at State Solo Ensemble Competition

Boys Swimming

4 Swimmers advanced to Sectional Finals: Adam Arveson, Jakob Lawman, Bryan Mulholland, Stefan Snyder

Destination Imagination (DI)

4 Teams advanced to Global Finals in Knoxville, TN The Teams were “Memories”, “Thismule”, “Hip Hop Shockers”, “AHH-CHOO”.

Word Power Challenge

Students in grades 4-8 participated in the third annual Reader's Digest Word Power Challenge. The event, sponsored by the Talent Development Department, strives to find those students who excel in word recognition and comprehension. The annual competition begins with a written test given to all students in grades 4-8. The top five students in each classroom are eventually narrowed down in a spelling bee type format, to become the grade level champion. Each grade level champion is then required to complete an additional written exam to determine their eligibility for the state competition. Grade level winners Ben Farniok, Grade 6, Robyn Perry, Grade 7 and Kim Dufur, Grade 8 all qualified for this year's state competition. This is the second year in a row the Robyn Perry has qualified for the state competition. Other grade winners were: Grade 4, Amanda Keranen and Grade 5, Adam Schleper

History Comes Alive at State History Day

Four Delano Middle School students competed at the State History Day competition held at the University of Minnesota. The students advanced to the state event after receiving first place ribbons at the regional competition held in early April. The student projects were created around this year's History Day theme of "Taking a Stand in History." Students were given the option to present their information in the form of an exhibit, performance or documentary film.

Matthew Steven' documentary film focusing on the political life of Lech Walesa and Karyn Bomstad, Krista Braegelmann and Kara Oja's reenactment of the fight for child labor laws received honorable mention at this year's state finals, narrowly missing an opportunity to move on to the national competition. The History Day program is under the direction of sixth grade teacher Rita Belka and Gwen Briesemeister, Talent Development Coordinator.



5th Grade Math Masters Shine

Fifth grade students from Delano Middle School competed at the regional Math Masters competition held in Hutchinson, MN. Top math students from throughout the area competed in the areas of geometry, logical reasoning, probability, measurement and many other math disciplines. The Delano 5th grade teams place 4th and 9th out of 32 schools at the competition. Fifth grader, Zach Muckenhirn came away with a medal in all events and placed second individually against 160 other competitors. James Redinger also received special honors for his excellent work in the fact drill competition. This event is sponsored by the Talent Development Department under the direction of coordinator, Gwen Briesemeister.



Elementary Regional Science Fair

Five Delano Middle School students competed at the Elementary Regional Science Fair held at Mankato State University. The young scientists were selected to compete from more than 150 projects presented at the local 6th grade science fair. The students did a great job representing Delano Middle School receiving all blue ribbons at the event. The 6th grade science fair is under the direction of sixth grade science teachers, Rita Belka, Rick Haley and Jessica Benker.

Winning projects were as follows:

Brady Nieman: What Color Are Your Teeth?

Nicholas Peterson: Which Type of Ice Will Keep My Lunch the Coldest?

Zach Smith: What Does Fire Need in Order to Burn?

Cole Patterson: Growing Beans

Willie Bury: Does the Age and Use of the Line Affect How Much Weight it Can Cold?

Girls in the Director Chair

Laura Finn and Colette Bersie's public service announcement was selected to be shown as part of the Girls in the Director Chair film festival held at the Walker Art Center. The competition, which encourage young female filmmakers, highlighted the work of local filmmakers under the age of 18. The girl's show announcement focused on the importance of saving energy.

Young Filmmaker Nab Prize at International Film Competition

First time filmmakers, Aaron Bingea, Joe Crook, Colton Smith and Ben Zeug receives "Most Inspirational Story" honors in the International Documentary Challenge, edging out many seasoned filmmakers from throughout the world. The film, "Blind Ambitions, highlights Annessa, Kemna, a swimmer who at the age of 13 lost vision in both her eyes. The competition requires the filmmakers to film, shoot and edit the ten minute film in five days, quite a task for even the most experienced filmmaker. This film team hopes to collaborate on a few other film projects next spring or summer.

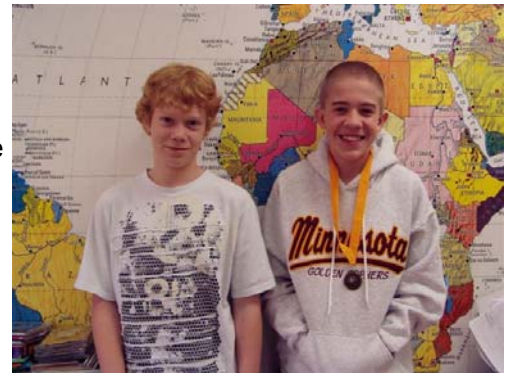
6th Grade Math Masters

Congratulations to the 6th grade Math Masters team. The 6th in the individual category out of a field of 105 students. Mike Dietz, Evan Lemmerman, Karyn Bomstad and Matthew Stevens received individual awards and ribbons in the fact drill category. Great job mathematicians!

Congratulations to the 6th grade Math Masters team. The 6th grade mathletes had a great showing at the regional competition held in Hutchinson, Minnesota, taking 5th and 7th place against the best mathematicians from each school. Eric Berglund placed 2nd and Mike Dietz placed 6th in the individual category out of a field of 105 students. Mike Dietz, Evan Lemmerman, Karyn Bomstad and Matthew Stevens received individual awards and ribbons in the fact drill category. Great job mathematicians!

National Geographic Geography Bee

Jeff Wetter, an eighth grade student at Delano Middle School, was selected to participate in the state Geography Bee. Jeff's quest for geography excellence began at the school-level Bee in which students answered questions in a game show format. Jeff pulled out his win against many formidable middle school opponents. Fellow eighth grader Sheldon Way placed 2nd in this year's local competition with third place going to fifth grader Emma Kopp. Other finalists were: Derek Dreger, Jordan Arnold, Conner Dykstra, Caleb Checkal, Andrew Wickert, Megan Sporre and Ashley Lewis.



Promising Young Writers Award

Ann Berglund and Josh Damberg were the recipients of this year's "Promising Young Writers" award. The award, established by the National Council of Teachers of English, strives to stimulate and recognize students' writing talents and emphasize the importance of writing skills among 8th grade students. Each participant was required to submit two pieces of writing, which were judged by a team of teachers at the state level. Papers were judged on content, purpose, audience, tone, word choice, organization, development and style.



Improvement Opportunities at Delano

Delano Public Schools offers students many opportunities to improve their skills in reading, writing, and math. This past year, our High School English Department offered opportunities to students who had not passed their Basic Skills test. The Math Department also offered after school assistance for students. Teachers in the Special Education Department spent many class hours preparing students in need of passing the BST as well.

Summer school was offered for students entering grades one through eight. Summer school offered remediation courses in reading, math writing, and problem solving. Nearly 150 students attended summer school.

Early Learning Opportunities Available

Delano Public Schools' sponsor early learning opportunities for students. We have an Early Childhood and Family Education (ECFE) program that sends a packet of material to every baby born in area hospitals who will eventually attend Delano Public Schools. This packet includes parent information and the child's first reading book.

Jane Shaffer, ECFE coordinator, visits parents and families and educates them about the importance of reading at an early age. She also presents new parents, or those new to the district, with lists of the many classes available.

Please take advantage of these

School Board and Administration

Howard Glas	Chair
Becky Schaust	Vice Chair
Len Roering	Treasurer
Sarah Gallagher	Clerk
Peter Brasket	Director
Tim Douglas	Director
Lorrie Mulholland	Director
John Sweet	Superintendent
Sarah Miller	Director of Business Affairs
Bruce Locklear	High School Principal
Dick Rominski	Middle School Principal
Darren Schuler	Elementary School Principal
Joe Vieau	Curriculum/Staff Coordinator
Gwen Briesemeister	Talent Development Coordinator
Diane Johnson	Community Education

Staff Development Fund Allocations

Delano Public Schools area site-based district, which means funding dollars for staff development and mentorship programs flow directly to the building. Each site determines how to allocate their funding.

For the year 2005-2006, \$58,853 was allocated to the elementary school; \$54,231 was allocated to the middle school; \$52,113 was allocated to the high school; \$45,170 was allocated to the district staff; and \$37,628 was allocated to our District Staff Development Academy for in-house training of staff.



The Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Performance is published annually in October by the Curriculum Director's Office. If you have any questions about this report, or questions relating to Delano's educational services, call Joe Vieau at 763.972.3365, ext. 3019.