



***Delano Public Schools  
Annual Report  
2006-2007***

***Curriculum, Instruction,  
and  
Student Achievement***

# Delano Public Schools 2006-2007 Annual Report Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement

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## 2006-2007 Highlights

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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

As a means to continue the focus on academic excellence, Delano Schools applied for and received approval to participate in Minnesota's Alternative Teacher Professional Pay System (Quality Compensation Program or QComp) beginning in 2006-07. This approval was accompanied by almost \$400,000 in state funds to implement the program which includes: career advancement opportunities for teachers; teacher-led staff development; performance pay; comprehensive teacher evaluation; and an alternative pay schedule.

QComp also requires achievement goals for students. The district's goal was to increase by at least 1% the number of students meeting or exceeding the state standards for reading. The district met this goal with 83.96% of our students meeting or exceeding the standard as compared to 82.74% the prior year. This is a significant gain when considering the high level of achievement that already exists.

### 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 2005-06, the latest year comparison data is available; Delano spent \$7,344 per student compared to the state average of \$9,070.

The school district received the Minnesota School Finance Award from the Minnesota Department of Education for sound fiscal health and financial management policies.

### Enrollment

Enrollment increased from 2,063 in 2005-06 to 2,170 in 2006-07, an increase of 107 students or 5.2%. The continued enrollment increase has put all buildings beyond their enrollment capacity as depicted in the following chart:

Building	Capacity	Enrollment	Projected for 2012-13
Elementary	750	762	847
Middle School	700	708	808
High School	700	778	903

During the 2006-2007 school year the school board formed a Facilities Advisory Committee to advise the board on how to handle the enrollment increases. The school board is bringing forward the recommendations of the Committee in a special election on November 6, 2007.

**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](http://www.Delano.k12.mn.us) for further information regarding all aspects of Delano Public Schools.

John M. Sweet, Ed. D.  
Superintendent



**2007 MCA-II Test Results**

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment – II (MCA-II) is given to all Minnesota students in order to be in compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation. The MCA-II's were first given to students two school years ago and are now being used by educators to evaluate trend line data. Minnesota students grades three through eight were tested in Math and Reading while grade 10 students were tested in Reading and grade 11 students were tested in Math.

The scale scoring of tests for the MCA-II will be labeled according to their grade. The first one digit (or two digits if in grade 10 or 11) will correspond to the grade while the last two digits will correspond to their achievement level within that grade. The MCA-II tests have four achievement levels. A scale score 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."

The following tables show the raw data from the Delano Public Schools MCA-II testing during the 2006-2007 school year. The numbers in the tables are percentages of students in each category.

**High School MCA-II Tests**

**Reading**

In 2007 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, exceeds standards. Another 41.2% of the students fell in the next highest quadrant, the level that meets the state reading standards. Therefore, over 87% of students in tenth grade are meeting or exceeding all the state standards in reading. This is a phenomenal feat. In fact, there were no area schools with a higher percentage of the population in the top two categories.

Year Tested	Grade	Does Not		Partially		Meets		Exceeds	
		Meet		Meets				Standards	
		Delano	State	Delano	State	Delano	State	Delano	State
2007	10	3.5	16.3	10.0	20.1	41.2	33.0	45.3	30.6

**Math**

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 with state percentages.

Delano had 56% of our students performing at or exceeding the required standards compared to the state's 32% performing at the same achievement levels. While 21.9% of Delano students' did not meet the standards, this lowest category saw a drop of 10% from Delano juniors one year ago. By comparison, Delano grade 11 students performed higher than all but two area schools including the metro schools.

Year Tested	Grade	Does Not		Partially		Meets		Exceeds	
		Meet		Meets				Standards	
		Delano	State	Delano	State	Delano	State	Delano	State
2007	11	21.9	46.8	21.9	20.7	31.4	20.5	24.9	12.0

## Middle School MCA-II Tests

### Reading

Delano Middle School MCA-II reading scores were exceptional compared with the state scores. All four grades had scale score averages higher than the required score for a "Meets" standards rating. Additionally, Delano Middle School students outperformed the state at each of the achievement levels at each grade level.

Year Tested	Grade	Does Not		Partially		Meets		Exceeds	
		Meet		Meets				Standards	
		Delano	State	Delano	State	Delano	State	Delano	State
2007	8	7.2	15.3	15.6	20.2	27.8	27.3	49.4	37.2
2007	7	6.9	15.5	13.8	20.3	35.8	31.6	43.4	32.6
2007	6	5.7	13.6	11.5	19.0	38.9	35.4	43.9	32.0
2007	5	2.9	10.7	11.0	15.3	45.1	40.3	41.0	33.6

### Math

The MCA-II math scores for Delano Middle School students are equally impressive. Each grade obtained an average score in the "Meets" or "Exceeds" category. The tests are designed to be more difficult as students progress through the grades. This is indicative by the percent of students in the "Exceeds" category as students move up in grade level.

Year Tested	Grade	Does Not		Partially		Meets		Exceeds	
		Meet		Meets				Standards	
		Delano	State	Delano	State	Delano	State	Delano	State
2007	8	9.9	20.4	24.7	21.3	45.1	39.2	20.3	19.1
2007	7	8.1	18.7	17.5	20.8	45.0	38.1	29.4	22.5
2007	6	5.7	16.6	7.0	21.5	44.9	40.5	42.4	21.4
2007	5	6.3	16.7	15.5	21.4	40.8	33.7	37.4	28.2

## Elementary School MCA-II Tests

### Reading

Students in grades three and four participated in the MCA-II reading test. The results recorded by these students in 2007 were very good. The percent of students meeting or exceeding standards was over 85% for grade three and over 85% for grade four. Students who meet or exceed the standards are in complete compliance with the federal NCLB mandate.

Year Tested	Grade	Does Not		Partially		Meets		Exceeds	
		Meet		Meets				Standards	
		Delano	State	Delano	State	Delano	State	Delano	State
2007	4	5.0	11.6	11.3	16.2	30.2	33.3	53.5	38.9
2007	3	2.9	10.7	11.0	9.0	45.1	30.6	41.0	49.7

## Math

The results of the math test exceeded that of the reading scores. Grade three had over 87% of its students test in the highest two achievement levels while grade four had more than 54% of its students at the top achievement level.

Year Tested	Grade	Does Not		Partially		Meets		Exceeds	
		Meet		Meets				Standards	
		Delano	State	Delano	State	Delano	State	Delano	State
2007	4	0.0	10.8	11.9	20.1	41.3	38.6	46.9	30.4
2007	3	0.0	6.3	5.6	16.4	39.9	44.1	54.5	33.2

## 2006-2007 Basic Skills Test Data

Due to legislation passed in 2004 the high stakes tests required for graduation are now contained inside the math and reading tests already administered at the high school level. Students in eighth grade prior to the 2005-2006 school year are still required to take and pass the BST for graduation. Students entering eighth grade in 2005-2006 and after are still required to pass a Reading and Math component for graduation, however these tests are administered at grade 10 and 11 respectively. This group of test questions will be called the Graduation Required Assessment for Diploma (GRAD).

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 from 2006-2007 are in the table below.

	Math			Reading			Writing		
	Pass	No Pass	% Passage	Pass	No Pass	% Passage	Pass	No Pass	% Passage
<b>Grade 10</b>	3	5	38%	0	3	0%			NA
<b>Grade 11</b>	0	3	0%	2	2	50%	3	2	100%
<b>Grade 12</b>	1	0	100%	0	0	NA	0	0	NA%

## Writing Tests

The state writing test was in a transition year in 2006-2007. The test required for graduation is changing from the Basic Skills Test (BST) to the Graduation Required Assessment for Diploma (GRAD). This past school year, students in grade 10 took the BST writing test and students in grade 9 took the GRAD writing test. The difference in requirements is minimal other than the grade at which the test is first administered. Both are high stakes tests in which a passing score is required for graduation. The scoring of each is the same in which papers are read and rated on a 1, 1.5, 2, 3, 3.5 or 4 scale (4 being the highest). The papers earning a score of four on their first reading are given a second reading with the highest score possible of 6.0. Students this year averaged the best Delano score ever at 4.1.

Writing Results 2006-2007								Year	Written Composition Average
All scores are given in percentages									
	1.0 or 1.5	2.0	3.0 or 3.5	4.0 or 4.5	5.0 or 5.5	6.0	Average Score		
<b>GRAD Grade 9</b>	0	0	28.9	52.5	15.7	2.9	4.1	1999	3.1
State GRAD	2.2	6.6	42.3	38.4	8.6	1.5	3.6	2000	3.4
<b>BST Grade 10</b>	0	0.6	26.9	59.1	12.9	0.6	4	2001	3.4
State BST	1	6.5	45.8	39.1	6.1	0.8	3.6	2002	3.4
								2003	3.5
								2004	3.8
								2005	3.7
								2006	3.9
								2007	4.1

## Delano Boosts ACT Score to the Highest Ever

Minnesota's scores on the 2007 ACT increased two tenths of one point to 22.5. This score was ranked first in the nation for the second straight year. Delano High School students have traditionally performed better than the state average with no exception this year. Our ACT average of 23.5 is the highest ACT composite average in recent history as depicted in the table below.

<b>ACT Testing Results Composite Scores</b>			
<b>2006-2007 ACT Averages</b>		<b>Delano ACT Historical Results</b>	
Delano	23.5	2006	22.7
State	22.5	2005	22.8
Nation	21.2	2004	23.1
		2003	22.4
		2002	22.6
		2001	22.6
		2000	22.6
		1999	22.4
		1998	22.6
		1997	21.7

## 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 9 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 administrates 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 9<sup>th</sup> grade students in Math and Language Arts. The data is then issued to classroom teachers to determine an academic improvement plan in that particular course.

## Teacher of the Year



Paul Ludwig was selected as Delano's 2007 Teacher of the Year by his colleagues. He is a Fourth Grade Teacher at Delano Elementary School.

Paul Ludwig is a strong advocate of students learning to their highest potential. He provides children with a variety of learning opportunities and makes education fun as well as challenging. All learning is important in Mr. Ludwig's eyes, but he has a strong interest in technology. His classroom reflects this through his use of the Smart Board and hand held responders.

The Delano staff is proud to claim Paul as one of their own high school graduates. Paul received his undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota-Morris. He received a Masters of Science Degree in Curriculum and Instruction and an Instructional Technology Certificate from St. Cloud University.

Prior to working in Delano, Paul taught 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in Kasson-Manorville for two years. He joined the Delano Elementary School in 1999.

During his time in Delano, Paul has worked on many committees, including the Elementary Site Base Team, elementary science and technology committees, district technology curriculum committee, and is currently the elementary school web master. He also enjoys coaching boys' basketball and junior high track.

Paul Ludwig lives in Delano. He is the proud uncle of three beautiful nieces. His parents are Doug & Jeannie Ludwig. Delano Public Schools are proud to announce Paul Ludwig as our 2007 Teacher of the Year.

## Students Held Accountable for Performance


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.

### 2007-2008 State Testing Dates

Nov 27	Written Composition Retest	Grades 10-12
Nov 28	BST Math Retest	Grades 10-12
Nov 29	BST Reading Retest	Grades 10-12
Feb 5	BST Math Retest	Grades 10-12
Feb 6	BST Reading Retest	Grades 10-12
Apr 8	Written Composition Retest	Grades 10-12
Apr 9	BST Math Retest	Grades 10-12
Apr 10	BST Reading Retest	Grades 10-12
April 14 - May 2	Middle School MCA-II testing window	
April 28 - May 23	Middle School MCA-II Science testing window	
April 15	MCA-II Math	Grade 3 and 4
April 16	MCA-II Math	Grade 3 and 4
Apr 15	GRAD Written Composition	Grade 9
	MCA-II Reading Sections 1 & 2	Grade 10
	MCA-II Math Sections 1 & 2	Grade 11
Apr 16	MCA-II Reading Sections 3 & 4	Grade 10
	MCA-II Math Sections 3 & 4	Grade 11
April 22	MCA-II Reading	Grade 3 and 4
April 23	MCA-II Reading	Grade 3 and 4
May 6, 7, 8	MCA-II Science	Grade 11 (Computer Test)



### 2006-2007 Student Demographics

#### BST Reading and Math

<b>Enrollment (9-12)</b>	<b>703</b>
Number Passing Math	624
Number Exempt in Math	10*
Number Passing Reading	627
Number Exempt in Reading	7*
Passing at Individual Level	0**

#### BST Writing

<b>Enrollment (11-12)</b>	<b>325</b>
Number Passing Writing	278
Number Exempt in Writing	3*
Passing at Individual Level	0*

\*Exempt - The student did not take the test as a result of the IEP teams 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 a "No Pass" on tests.

No students used translated tests.

# 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 for 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.

## High School Constituent Survey

In January 2007 a survey of students at Delano High School was performed. Students were asked 19 questions ranging from expectations to school climate. Students were given 5 response choices, strongly agree being a 5 and strongly disagree being a 1. Below is a compilation of the results.

1. Everyone at school is working to help me succeed.

**Average rating: 3.68**

5	4	3	2	1
103	257	163	38	16

2. I understand that my teachers expect quality work from me.

**Average rating: 4.29**

5	4	3	2	1
275	220	70	13	3

3. I have someone at home who can help with homework if I need it.

**Average rating: 3.52**

5	4	3	2	1
164	135	155	79	43

4. What I am learning in school will help me succeed in life.

**Average rating: 3.83**

5	4	3	2	1
150	215	152	26	13

5. My teachers clearly state what I am expected to learn each day.

**Average rating: 3.68**

5	4	3	2	1
111	233	178	47	7

6. My teachers provide a motivating learning environment.

**Average rating: 3.58**



5	4	3	2	1
90	226	188	55	11

**Average rating: 3.93**

7. My individuality and culture are respected at school.

5	4	3	2	1
207	200	115	44	14

**Average rating: 4.08**

8. I feel welcome at this school.

5	4	3	2	1
234	191	98	25	14

9. My homework assignments are clear and I am able to successfully complete them. **Average rating: 3.65**

5	4	3	2	1
98	234	187	43	8

**Average rating 3.02**

10. I believe it is important for students to have textbooks in class.

5	4	3	2	1
82	97	207	140	54

**Average rating: 3.24**

11. Classroom distractions are kept to a minimum.

5	4	3	2	1
44	186	230	84	26

**Average rating: 3.85**

12. I am comfortable in asking my teachers for help.

5	4	3	2	1
170	204	137	40	12

**Average rating: 3.48**

13. My teachers help me learn to read.

5	4	3	2	1
130	145	164	68	38

**Average rating: 3.92**

14. My teachers help me learn to do math.

5	4	3	2	1
185	193	117	36	14

**Average rating 3.83**

15. My teachers help me learn to write.

5	4	3	2	1
167	208	155	33	14

16. We do not have problems with graffiti and vandalism to buildings, grounds, or equipment at school.

5	4	3	2	1
143	230	136	50	15

**Average rating 3.76**

17. Problems at school are handled promptly and quickly.

**Average rating: 3.56**

5	4	3	2	1
108	203	161	63	23

18. The school is clean.

**Average rating: 3.44**

5	4	3	2	1
79	204	183	69	24

19. I like to come to school.

**Average rating 3.07**

5	4	3	2	1
64	141	201	91	69

## 2006-2007 Curriculum Advisory Council

<u>Name</u>	<u>Curricular Area</u>	<u>Term Expiration Date</u>
<b>Vacant</b>	Social Studies K-4	
Nancy Cordes	Social Studies 5-8	2007
Paul Nord	Social Studies 9-12	2008
Barb Janas	Health	2009
Kim Finn	Physical Education	2008
<b>Vacant</b>	Mathematics K-4	
Kathy Ziegelman	Mathematics 5-8	2007
<b>Vacant</b>	Mathematics 9-12	
<b>Vacant</b>	Communications K-4	
Peg Max	Communications 5-8	2008
Mary Ann Bernat	Communications 9-12	2007
Julie Grist	Science K-6	2007
Jeanne Berglund	Science 7-12	2007
Mike Schaefer	Music	2007
<b>Vacant</b>	Vocational 7-12	
Lorrie Mulholland	School Board at Large	2007
<b>Vacant</b>	Visual Arts	
<b>Vacant</b>	Parent Ambassador	
<b>Vacant</b>	Parent Ambassador	

## 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.

## Fund Allocations

Delano Public Schools are a 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 2006-2007, \$58,831 was allocated to the elementary school; \$54,984 was allocated to the middle school; \$64,360 was allocated to the high school (the high school carried over a large amount of dollars from 05-06); \$58,250 was allocated to the district staff (the district also carried over a large amount from 05-06); and \$14,559 was allocated to our District Staff Development Academy for in-house training of staff.

## Student Achievement Goals

The 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 during the 2006-2007 school year contained the new MCA-II standards. Delano students in grades K-8 will find that teachers are embedding the new standards in their curricular areas. This will ensure that students have the necessary material in time for the state-wide testing. The district statewide testing goal is to have all students meeting or exceeding the state standards at every grade level. This goal is very ambitious and aggressive. We have performed very well on the statewide exams and are striving to improve the scores even further.

Delano students will graduate under the Minnesota Academic Standards requirements in addition to some additional requirements required by the local Board of Education.

# 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 three through eight 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 9 and 10 writing tests are also a test which students must pass in order to graduate.

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 is particularly useful in grades 4 through 6. In these classes, teachers primarily have the same students throughout the day. Therefore, the data for these teachers will be most helpful.

# National Merit 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:



National Merit Scholarship Corporation			
School Year	Scholars	Semi-Finalists	Commended
2006-07	Elizabeth Dake Margaret Englehardt Ben Zeug		Katie Gregg Catherine Newcomb
2005-06	Laura Janas		
2004-05			Amy Bohler Anna Meehan
2003-04	Lindsay Gorton Kari Haley Heidi Hayes Chris Shouts		Nathan Bohler Paul Janas
2002-03	Carolyn Hurst Molly Jordan Jake Workman		Michelle Jordan
2001-02	Jayne Lady		



# Improvements made in K-12 Language Arts

Neva Stobner (Elementary School), Melody Soderberg (Middle School), and Ross Alford (High School) are the facilitators for the Language Arts Department. They are responsible for facilitating the curriculum writing process which implements the Minnesota Academic Standards. Improvements were sought in closely aligning their curricular to the standards as well as updating textbooks and novels. It has been seven years since the Language Arts Department has had the opportunity to upgrade their curriculum.

The Curriculum Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended to the board that the curriculum written by the Language Arts Department be approved. This action was taken and accepted by the Board of Education in June 2006. A copy of the curriculum can be found at the district website ([www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us))

## National Geographic Bee

Sixth grade student, Amanda Goedeke, was the 2007 winner of the Delano Middle School Geography Bee. The Bee is sponsored by the National Geographic Society and open to all students in the fourth through eighth grades. Amanda pulled out her win against many formidable Delano Middle School opponents. Fellow sixth grader Colette Bersie placed 2nd in this year's local competition with third place going to Kristin Hedtke. Other finalists were: Sam Mills, Randy Rutherford, Allison Warne, Laura Finn, Laura Parsons, Stephanie Smith and Ashley Simonson. The Geography Bee is sponsored by the Delano Talent Development Department.



## Word Power Challenge

Delano Elementary fourth grade student, Joseph Lax, received first place honors in the Reader's Digest Word Power State Challenge. Sponsored by the Reader's Digest, the Word Power Challenge strives to promote vocabulary and word usage for children in grades 4-8. Joseph Lax was awarded first place in this year's state competition taking on the best fourth graders that the state had to offer. Joseph is an avid reader and vocabulary development is second nature to him. The event is offered to all students in grades 4-8 and is sponsored by the Talent Development Department.



## 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 160 projects presented at the local 6th grade Science Fair. The students did a great job representing Delano Middle School receiving top honors and special book prizes. Receiving a purple ribbon for his project about golf balls and distance was Jordan Peters. Peters also was selected to receive the award which recognizes exemplary elementary projects. Blue ribbon winners were: Michael Pool, Jennifer Lyrek and Nate Bressler. The 6th grade Science Fair is under the direction of sixth grade science teachers, Rita Belka, Rick Haley and Jessica Benker.



## History Comes Alive at State History Day

Eight Delano Middle School students competed at the State History Day competition held at the University of Minnesota. The students advanced to the state competition after receiving first place medals at the regional competition held at Mankato State University. The student projects created a central theme, "Triumph and Tragedy in History."

Colette Bersie and Kristin Hedtke gave a near flawless performance to advance to the finals of the competition where they received an honorable mention award. The performance, depicting Rosie the Riveter and the contributions of women during World War II was one of four projects representing Delano in this year's state event. Other participant and projects were: Allison Sandlass, Sonja Shaefbauer, Laura Parsons, Laura Finn, Gavin Hellmich and Alex Williams. The History Day program is under the direction of sixth grade teacher Rita Belka and Talent Development Coordinator, Gwen Briesemeister



## 6th Grade Math Masters Shine

Sixth 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 sixth grade teams did a dynamic job placing second and fifth out of 25 schools at the competition. Sixth grader, Josh Maki, received fifth place in the individual category out of 124 participants. Zach Muckenhirn received a second place medal in the fact drill scoring a near perfect 74 points. Also receiving recognition for his efforts in the individual problem solving category was Aaron Grangroth. This event is sponsored by the Talent Development Department under the direction of coordinator, Gwen Briesemeister.



## Math Olympiad

6th grader Zach Muckenhirn and James Redinger received gold pins for scoring in the top 2% out of 85,000 students that participated this year in Math Olympiad. The 6th grade team scored in the top 10% out of more than 3,700 teams and received a recognition plaque for their outstanding math accomplishment.

## It's Global Film Competition

Kelsey Linden and Chris Nelson were recently honored for their entries in the "It's Global" film-making competition. Kelsey received second place for her public service announcement about suicide and Chris Nelson received third place for his entry on the difficulties of Aids. This is the first time that Kelsey and Chris have entered a filmmaking competition. The two competed against professional and amateur filmmakers for top honors. Their work was evaluated by Ali Selim, director of "Sweet Land," Ellen Benavides, director of "Minnesota Confidential", and Professor Joseph Kim of the University of Minnesota. By entering the contest, filmmakers had an opportunity to showcase their work and make a statement on global public health topics. All entries were screened at the National Public Health Week Film Festival. Kelsey and Chris were recognized at an evening event held at the University of Minnesota on April 5. Other participants in the competition were Margaret Kittok, Ryan Rensink and Aaron Bingea.



## Look Out Teens Public Service Announcement Competition

Aaron Bingea received honorable mention in the "Look Out Teens" public service announcement competition sponsored by the Department of Public Safety. Aaron's 30 second film depicted the dangers of driving with distractions.

## StockStock Film Competition

John Woodward was a finalist in the StockStock film competition for his short film entitled "Madisen Elementary." John competed against professional and semi-professional filmmakers from around the United States.

## Delano Math Team

The Delano Math Team competes in five conference meets per year. The winner of the conference receives an automatic bid to the state tournament. This past year Delano won its 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive meet and participated in its fourth consecutive state tournament. Additionally, they received a higher score at the state meet than any other state tournament team from Delano.

## Science Olympiad

Middle School Science Olympiad continued their dominance with another state championship. The Middle School has been state champions five times in the last six years. Delano High School Science Olympiad placed 6<sup>th</sup> in state, their highest finish in school history.

## Varsity Football

The varsity football program experienced a modest regular season last year. However, they finished strong by winning the section before losing to Glencoe-Silver Lake in the state quarterfinals.

## Drama

Drama continued its strong showings last year with a trip to the One Act state tournament. Their version of "This is a Test" won rave reviews last year. Their performance was so intriguing that the writer of the play has begun a working relationship with Delano staff and students.

## Varsity Track

Delano Track gained wide recognition for their successful strides. They sent 11 boys to the State Meet last spring! The 4 x 100m relay team was 2nd in State, just nipped at the end by the fastest boy in Minnesota. The 4 x 100m team was comprised of Tory Wolf, Robert Field, Justin Collins, Dominique Clare, and Joe Max. In the High Jump, Darius Clare, a freshman, jumped 6'3" and finished 6th. The 4 x 800m relay team was 10<sup>th</sup> and consisted of participants Kip Anderson, Mason Hart, Paul Greenwood, Robert Mathiesen, and Ben Verchota.

## Varsity Wrestling

The wrestling program also sent participants to the state tournament. Dalton Sowers and Cody Socher were state entrants in 2007 with Cody placing 5<sup>th</sup> in his weight class.

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