

# Eye of the Tiger

Recognized by Forbes Magazine and ZipRealty - #1 in the Nation for Top Performing Schools that Reside in a Community with Affordable Housing



## Building Projects Begin

Fall is upon us and so are the building construction projects! I would like to take this opportunity to update our school community regarding our current and future building plans. Our current projects that are in construction include the expansion of the elementary cafeteria and vestibule, and creating a secured entrance and adding an elevator to the community education building. In addition, we have completed some utility relocation of electrical transformers in preparation of building the performing arts center and expansion of the high school building. These projects are progressing nicely and are slated to be completed by the end of 2016.



**Elementary Cafeteria and Vestibule Expansion**

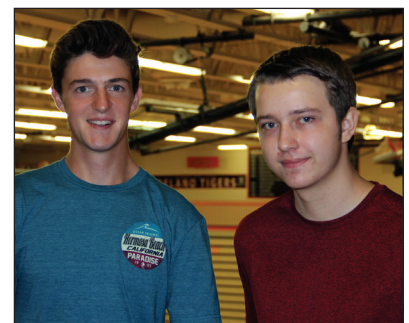
The district's goal is to bid out all of the other building projects yet this fall. The first project that was bid out in September was the synthetic turf fields, including the addition of two tennis courts. The district opened sealed bids on Thursday, September 22, awarding the contract to Peterson Companies. Shortly hereafter, the district will facilitate the bidding process for the new intermediate school that will include the construction of new locker rooms adjacent to the hockey arena. Once that has been completed, we will bid the remainder of the building projects, which include the addition and redesign of the high school/middle school building, construction of the performing arts center and additions to the Tiger Activity Center. The bidding process is extremely important as it will give guidance regarding the scope of each project. Once the bids have all been approved by the school board, construction may begin yet this fall depending on the contractor's schedule.



**- Matthew W. Schoen, Ed.S.  
Superintendent**

## 2017 National Merit SemiFinalists and Commended Students Announced

DHS seniors Jack Weber and Seth Thaelke, pictured top right, were chosen as Semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program (NMSC). These academically talented students have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$33 million that will be offered in the spring of 2017. From the approximately 16,000 Semifinalists, about 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level. To become a Finalist, a Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the high school principal, write an essay and earn SAT scores that confirm the students earlier performance on the qualifying Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.



Allysa Dunnigan, Tucker Sjomeling and Stephanie Almquist, pictured bottom right, received Letters of Commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise from the NMSC. Although Commended Students do not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, some of these students do become candidates for Special Scholarships sponsored by corporations or businesses.



We hope that this recognition will contribute to the Delano High School students' educational opportunities. At DHS we continually encourage all students to strive to realize their academic potential.

# Every Student Succeeds Act Replaces No Child Left Behind

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) which was signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2002, was the federal response to a national concern that the American education system was no longer internationally competitive. NCLB significantly increased the federal role in holding schools responsible for the academic progress of all students. Under the NCLB law, states were required to test students in reading and math in grades 3 through 8 and once in high school. These tests, known in Minnesota as the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) tests and under this law, schools are kept on track toward their goals through a mechanism known as Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Schools must then report their results, for both the student population as a whole and for particular “subgroups” of students, i.e. English-learners, special education, racial minorities, and low income families. This law also required states to ensure teachers are “highly qualified,” which means that they have a bachelor’s degree in the subject they are teaching and state certification.

On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which replaces No Child Left Behind legislation. This new law builds on key areas of progress made possible by the efforts of educators, communities, parents, and students across the country. In addition, ESSA rolls back much of the federal government’s big footprint in education policy, on everything from testing and teacher quality to low-performing schools. It gives states more flexibility in education planning and policy. For the first time, this law will require all students in America be taught to high academic standards that will prepare them to succeed in college and careers. Every Student Succeeds Act takes full effect in the 2017-2018 school year. Individual states will have to submit accountability plans to the U.S. Department of Education. States can pick their own goals, both a big long-term goal and smaller, interim goals. These goals must address: proficiency on tests, English-language proficiency, and graduation rates.

**ESSA will restore local education control by shifting the power to individual states. It gives states more flexibility in education planning and policy.**



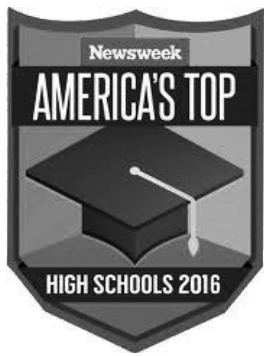
WE Day 2016 combined the energy of live concerts with the inspiration of incredible stories of leadership and change. DMS students and staff, sporting their “Defy Stereotypes” t-shirts, were part of 18,000 attendees who joined together at the Xcel Energy Center on Tuesday, September 20.



WE Day brings together world-renowned speakers and award-winning performers each year to celebrate their contributions and kick-start another year of change. Buzz Aldrin, now 86, spoke about the importance of educational programs to inspire the next generation of space exploration. Other speakers and performers included Paula Abdul, George Takei from Star Trek and Disney Channel star Sabrina Carpenter. This special event has evolved from a single event nearly eight years ago into a series of 14 stadium-sized events held across Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom. This past year, 200,000 students attended WE Day and left inspired to create change at local and global levels.

**What did the WE Day attendees learn?** WE is Everyone. Anyone can make a difference. WE believes in the democratization of impact. There are myriad ways to participate both through giving back and our daily choices. WE believes in the inclusive nature of doing good and that anyone can apply their individual passion to a collective world-changing impact. DMS 7th grader Sophie Stevens was enthusiastic and moved by WE Day 2016, she expressed, *“Whether it is cleaning up the community, or supporting a presidential candidate, everyone brings something different to the table, and gives an opportunity for change to happen. Though change can seem intimidating to some and even frightful to others, your actions can have a large impact on our world. Change starts here. Change starts with you.”*





## Delano High School Receives National Ranking

Newsweek, a premier weekly news magazine, recently announced the top schools in the 2016 High School Rankings. These rankings include a list of "America's Top High Schools" which identifies 500 public high schools nationwide that excel at preparing students for college as well as "Beating the Odds," a list of 500 public high schools doing an exceptional job of preparing students from disadvantaged backgrounds for college. Delano High School is ranked 369<sup>th</sup>, and one of only 17 schools in Minnesota listed in "America's Top High Schools."

Newsweek's "America's Top High Schools" identifies the top 500 schools by measuring factors including graduation rate, college enrollment rate, ACT and SAT scores and participation, AP/IB scores and participation, full time counselor to student ratio, dropout rate, enrollment in college courses during high school, and test scores. Delano High School's ratings include a 75.3% rate for college readiness, 99.5% graduation rate and a 88.2% rate for students that are college bound.

Jim Impoco, Editor-in-Chief of Newsweek stated, "Newsweek's High School Rankings provide valuable insight into what public schools across the country are doing to prepare their students for college, which is a critical next step for graduating teens. Our analysis looks at a broad range of criteria and sheds light on schools that are setting the bar high for their students and helping them to succeed."

To view the full list of schools go to <http://www.newsweek.com/high-schools/americas-top-high-schools-2016>

## 2016 Green Apple Day of Service



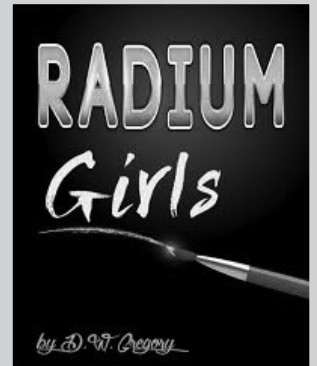
On Friday, September 23, students at Delano Elementary School were presented with an apple that symbolizes the global movement to put all children in schools where they have clean and healthy air to breathe, where energy and resources are conserved, and where they can be inspired to dream of a brighter future.

Since its inception in 2012, Green Apple Day of Service has had more than 750,000 volunteers in 73 countries contribute to the learning environments of 7 million students and teachers around the world. This year's event on Saturday, September 24, gave parents, teachers, students, companies and local organizations the opportunity to transform all schools into healthy, safe and productive learning environments through local service events. The Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council, the organization behind Green Apple Day of Service, was founded to ensure green schools for every child in this generation. The Center believes that all students deserve the opportunity to attend schools that sustain the world they live in, enhance their health and well-being, and prepare them for 21st century careers.

Delano Elementary School would like to thank Landscape Structures for donating green apples to all of our students as a symbol of the 2016 Green Apple Day of Service.

## Delano Theatre Department Presents...

In 1926, radium was a miracle cure, Madame Curie an international celebrity, and luminous watches the latest rage until the girls who painted them began to fall ill with a mysterious disease. Inspired by a true story, *Radium Girls* traces the efforts of Grace Fryer, a dial painter, as she fights for her day in court. The *Radium Girls* saga holds an important place in history. The right of individual workers to sue for damages from corporations due to labor abuse was established as a result of this case and industrial safety standards were demonstrably enhanced for many decades.



The Delano High School theatrical department will capture your heart and educate you while portraying the story of the woman who challenged their employer after falling ill in a case that had a historical impact on society. You won't want to miss this compelling story!

**Where:** Delano Middle School Auditorium

**When:** Thursday, November 3 at 7 p.m.  
Friday, November 4 at 7 p.m.  
Saturday, November 5 at 1 p.m.

**Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for students and are available at the door.**

**Delano School District**  
**700 Elm Avenue East**  
**Delano, MN 55328**

**Nonprofit Organization**  
**U.S. Postage**  
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**Delano, MN 55328**  
**Permit #13**



**Delano Public Schools Vision**

*Systemic academic growth to promote educational excellence & continuous improvement for every learner in a digital society.*

**2016 Board of Education**

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Carolyn Milano, Clerk  
Lisa Seguin, Treasurer  
Sarah Baker, Director  
Corey Black, Director  
Mark Larson, Director

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[www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us)

## Educational Excellence is Our Foremost Goal

Strategic Plan 2013-2018    Moving Forward...Learning for the Future

### Upcoming Events

**October**

- |       |   |         |
|-------|---|---------|
| 13    | Early Childhood Health & Development Screening                          |         |
|       | <i>(all screening by appointment only - call 763.972.6210, press 4)</i> |         |
| 14    | Early Childhood Health & Development Screening                          |         |
| 20-21 | MEA - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>  |         |
| 24    | School Board Meeting  | 5:45 pm |
| 27    | DHS Band & Choir Concert  | 7 pm    |

**November**

- |       |   |         |
|-------|---|---------|
| 3-4   | DHS Fall Play                                     | 7 pm    |
| 5     | DHS Fall Play                                     | 1 pm    |
| 7     | Teacher Workshop - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>               |         |
| 8     | Election Day                                      |         |
| 11    | Veteran's Day Program                             | 9:30 am |
|       | <i>Tiger Activity Center - Open to the Public</i> |         |
| 23-25 | Thanksgiving Holiday - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>           |         |
| 28    | School Board Meeting                              | 5:45 pm |
| 29    | 7th/8th Grade Choir Concert                       | 7 pm    |



For detailed information on school events, go to [www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us) and reference the district calendar on the front page of our website.

For up-to-the-minute activity schedules, go to [www.wccconference.org](http://www.wccconference.org) or call the Activities Information Line at 763.972.6505.

### DPS Hires New District Nurse



Delano Public Schools welcomes Samantha Tribble, RN, LSN, to the position of District Nurse. Samantha received her RN and BSN from the Minnesota School of Business and has a myriad of experience in health-care which includes North Memorial Hospital, Good Samaritan Society, My Brother's Keeper and the Frauenshuh Cancer Center. She lives in Delano with her husband Andy, their two daughters Ashlynn and Laila, and dog Zoey.