



Eye of the Tiger

From the District 879 Newsletter April-May 2018

Construction journey and high academic achievement continue

By Matthew Schoen
Superintendent

The district is definitely in the second half of our construction journey. The new intermediate building will be completed by May of this year. This timeframe will give district personnel the opportunity to move in and work out all the logistics of operating a new school.

The newly renovated high school building is on schedule, with academic areas to be completed by the end of the summer of 2018. The performing arts center will be the final portion of the project, with an estimated timeframe of completion by the end of October.

Schedule change for last school day

It is obvious to note that this year's school calendar was extremely condensed and had very few breaks. As all of you know, the rationale for such a confined calendar was to provide the maximum amount of time for our construction projects to be completed in the summers of 2017 and 2018.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform our parent community that the entire district will facilitate a half day schedule for all students in grades kindergarten through 12 on the final day of school, currently scheduled for May 23. The elementary bus will load students at 11:30 a.m., and the high school and middle school will follow at 11:45 a.m. The purpose of this half day is



Contractors are putting the finishing touches on the intermediate school, and staff plan to start moving in the day after school ends in May.



to give our staff some additional time to prepare and move due to the completion of the new school, and the transitional logistics within the elementary and the newly redesigned high school.

High academic achievement continues

Even with this very unique school calendar, our talented students and staff remain positive and optimistic in making

sure that academic achievement remains the focus of our educational system.

Evidence of this high level of academic achievement exists in a number of school rankings and scores that have been announced both before and during the current school year.

- In August of 2017 Delano was ranked No. 9 among school districts in Minnesota by SchoolDigger.com.

- MCA and college readiness scores released in August significantly exceeded the state average, and marked Delano's highest proficiency rates in science and reading since the current tests were introduced in 2012 and 2013, respectively.

- In September the district's average composite ACT score of 23.5 exceeded the state average of 21.5. This was significant because Minnesota had

the highest score in the nation among states that gave the ACT to all students, and the national average was 21.

- In December the district was one of just seven districts in Minnesota honored by The College Board with placement on the 8th Annual AP District Honor Roll.

- In January of 2018 Delano ranked among the top 3 percent nationally on the National Council for Home Safety and Security's list of Best School Districts in America. That ranking placed Delano 13th in Minnesota (see related article on Page 2).

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents, community members, staff and students for their patience and flexibility throughout this very unique and sometimes challenging school year.