



# Eye of the Tiger

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## Long construction journey nearing completion this year

By **Matthew Schoen**  
Superintendent

We are approaching the fourth quarter of our construction projects. As I've stated before, our intent is to have all academic areas completed by the end of this summer. That includes the new intermediate school and multiple areas in the newly redesigned high school.

The intermediate school is basically complete, with just a few items remaining inside the building and on the grounds around the school. Needless to say, the intermediate school will be ready for our students and staff come this fall.

The high school will still be under construction through the end of December of 2018. The family locker rooms adjacent to the pool and diving well will be completed in September, with additional locker rooms located in the Tiger Activity Center scheduled for completion in December.

The Performing Arts Center will be completed by the end of October, with a grand opening scheduled for the weekend of Nov. 9-11. More details regarding the grand opening of the entire high school will be forthcoming.

This has been a long journey in pursuit of the district's mission to provide facilities that maximize the pre-kindergarten through adult learning environment and support co-curricular opportunities. Building projects began in the fall of 2016, and it is the district's plan to maintain its facilities to promote educational excellence in the 21st century. In addition, we will maintain a campus that supports co-curricular activities for our students, and provides community access in a multitude of activities.

### **Strategic plan resumes**

We will facilitate Year 5 of our strategic plan in 2018-19. This will be a critical year due to the reorganization of the grades within our buildings. Our elementary



**The new 650-seat Performing Arts Center will be complete by the end of October, and a grand opening weekend is scheduled for Nov. 9-11.**

school will house grades K-3, our intermediate school will serve students in grades 4-6, and our high school will create a successful learning environment for our secondary students in grades 7-12.



Our staff will be busy establishing new learning cultures in each of the three schools in order to provide a safe and welcoming learning environment for all of our students. In order to achieve this initiative, our strategic plan will again focus on its four major components: curriculum, professional development, technology and facilities. Our work plans for each of these components have been updated and prepared for the coming school year.

### **Safe and welcoming**

While pursuing our strategic plan, the school district will focus on establishing a

safe and welcoming learning environment for all students within a culturally responsive framework. This will be a continuing initiative throughout the school year.

The district has and will continue to upgrade safety measures in all of our schools. One effort in particular will create a safe vestibule at the entrances of each of our school buildings. Currently, these entrances are under a design review process that will allow staff to maintain a secure entrance into each building.

As I've stated before, the district will continue to facilitate a very active partnership with the Wright County Sheriff's Office and surrounding local law enforcement and emergency agencies to maximize safety on the school campus.

With all of the exciting initiatives that are going on in our district, I would like to welcome you back to another excellent school year. As always, our purpose in all areas is to provide a world-class learning experience for every student at Delano Public Schools.