



# Delano Public Schools 2008-2009 Annual Report

## On Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement

We are pleased to present the Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement for Delano Public 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. Delano Public Schools has risen to the task of being one of the top public schools in the State of Minnesota. Delano Elementary School was recently awarded the Minnesota School of Excellence Award from the Minnesota Elementary Principals Association and Delano High School was awarded the National Blue Ribbon School Award from the United States Department of Education. In addition, Delano students continue to exceed state standards in MCA II testing and ACT college placement exam scores.

The Delano School District prides itself in exceeding expectations in all areas of education today and in the future. We hope you will review this report and share in our successes. These accomplishments not only reflect positively on the students, but on the parents and community as well.

### **Educational Excellence is our Foremost Goal**

Delano students continue to score high on all measures of academic achievement for 2008-09. The ACT composite score was 23.8 compared to the state average of 22.7. Delano students did extremely well on the first science tests offered by the state with 70% of our students' proficient compared to the state average of 49%.

### **Quality Compensation Program**

Delano Schools participate in Minnesota's Alternative Teacher Professional Pay System (Quality Compensation Program otherwise known as QComp). QComp provides for career advancement opportunities for teachers; teacher-led staff development; performance pay; comprehensive teacher evaluation; and an alternative pay schedule. This program has become an important focus for staff development, collaboration among teachers and motivation to focus on specific goals in math and reading.

### **Finances**

While Delano students perform at high levels, the school district uses tax dollars efficiently. In fiscal year 2008, the latest year comparative data is available, Delano spent \$7,692 per student compared to the state average of \$9,292.

### **Enrollment**

Enrollment decreased slightly from 2260 in 2007-08 to 2248 in 2008-09. This was anticipated due to the Highway 12 re-construction project and the slowing of the housing market. Enrollments will be on the increase in 2009-10.

### **Outlook**

We are always faced with challenges. The state of the economy makes for financial challenges that will be with us for awhile. School districts are faced with flat funding for the next two years. The school district's operating levy will expire for the 2012-13 school year requiring it to be renewed and increased as early as November 2010.

Our school buildings were over capacity in 08-09 and will be more crowded in 09-10 as enrollments increase.

I am often asked why it is that Delano students continue to excel in academic achievement. Research will show that the following factors contribute to high achievement: 1) Teacher and principal quality, 2) curriculum aligned with state and national standards, 3) great parent support and community demographics and 3) high expectations. The district's focus statement, "Educational Excellence is our Foremost Goal," keeps us focused on high expectations for everything we do.

Thank you for your interest and support of Delano Public Schools.

John M. Sweet, Ed.D.  
Superintendent



## **District Testing Program Review**

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.

In an effort to improve communication about the accountability of Delano Public Schools, a testing program review is in 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 and give feedback about student progress. Additionally, the results are to be used by classroom teachers to determine curricular needs in each of their classrooms.

The first major assessment used by our district is the MCA-II. These tests are the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments II. All students, grades three through eight, are given MCA-II tests in math and reading. The MCA-II science test is given to all students in grades three, five, eight and high school students after they have taken Biology. The data in each of these grades is given to the homeroom teacher and evaluated for needs in each class. There are additional tests in grade 9 for writing, grade 10 for reading, and grade 11 for math. The grade nine writing test and grade 10 reading test are tests in which students must pass in order to earn a high school diploma.

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 throughout the day. Therefore, the data for these teachers will be most helpful.

The MCA-II 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 teachers to identify areas in need of emphasis during the current year.

Northwest Education Association (NWEA) has developed nationally normed tests called the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) that are administered in the areas of Mathematics, Language Arts, and Science. The Math and Language Arts tests were administered to all students in grades K-10 last year. The data was then issued to classroom teachers to determine an academic improvement plan in that particular course.

## **2009 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 four school years ago and are now being used by educators to evaluate trend line data. Minnesota students in 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. Additionally, students in grade five, eight and in high school were tested in Science.

Based on the results of each test, students' results were then placed into one of four categories "Does Not Meet Standards;" "Partially Meets;" "Meets;" and "Exceeds Standards." Also, for the purpose of being in compliance with No Child Left Behind (NCLB), the top two achievement levels are categorized as being "Proficient" and the other two achievement levels are categorized as being "Not Proficient." The following tables show the raw data from the Delano Public Schools MCA-II testing during the 2008-2009 school year:

### **Reading**

In 2009, Delano students continued to demonstrate excellent reading performance compared to the state level. The table below indicates the percentage of students in each of the achievement levels as well as the respective state percentage. Delano outperformed the state in the "exceeds" achievement level at every grade. The term "proficient" refers to the No Child Left Behind definition for a grade and/or school making satisfactory academic progress. All three schools in the district met the necessary criteria in proficiency, as well as the other three other criteria and hence, satisfying all national legislation to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). In addition this assessment measured the Graduation Required Assessment for Diploma (GRAD) within the 10<sup>th</sup> grade reading test. Students on this portion of the test must demonstrate a minimum competency in order to earn a diploma. Delano students performed extremely well on this portion of the test with 91% of all 10<sup>th</sup> grade students passing on the first attempt. Students not passing on the first attempt will be given several additional opportunities to earn a passing score.

<b>Reading Achievement Level</b>								
	<b>Not Proficient</b>				<b>Proficient</b>			
2009	Does not Meet		Partially Meets		Meets		Exceeds	
	Standards		Standards		Standards		Standards	
Grade	Delano	State %	Delano	State %	Delano	State %	Delano	State %
3	6.6	11.2	8.6	10.5	21.1	27.9	63.8	50.5
4	1.2	10.9	7.4	14.6	39.9	36.5	51.5	38
5	1.3	10.1	12.7	17.6	51.3	43.5	34.7	28.7
6	3.4	11.7	7.5	15.7	27.6	35.2	61.5	37.4
7	5.7	15.6	14.1	19.6	31.3	27.3	49	37.5
8	3.3	14.3	11	18.9	33.5	31	52.2	35.8
10	1	9.2	9.8	16.6	35.1	34.5	54.1	39.7

### **Math**

Students in grades 3 through 8 and 11 at Delano took the MCA-II test in mathematics. The MCA-II tests 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 at the high school level Delano's results are quite favorable in comparison to state percentages. The high school did improve their overall percentage by nearly 10% over last years testing group.

The middle school had a 16.5% higher proficiency rate than the state average. By accomplishing a 79% proficiency rate, they too improved by comparison to last years data. The elementary posted an incredible 91.4% proficiency rate. They continue to set the pace for proficiency across the state.

Math Achievement Level								
	Not Proficient				Proficient			
2009	Does not Meet		Partially Meets		Meets		Exceeds	
	Standards		Standards		Standards		Standards	
Grade	Delano	State %	Delano	State %	Delano	State %	Delano	State %
3	2.6	4.2	6.6	13.7	34.2	43.9	56.6	38.2
4	0.6	8	7.4	17.1	41.7	44.6	50.3	30.2
5	7.9	14.3	17.2	20.3	38.4	35.2	36.4	30.3
6	5.2	15.2	8.7	21	41.6	42.2	44.5	21.5
7	5.7	15.9	11.5	21.5	62	41.7	20.8	20.9
8	4.9	18.3	12.1	22	44.5	38.4	38.5	21.2
11	17.3	36.4	14.4	22	32.2	23.9	36.1	17.7

## Science

The 2008-2009 school year marked the second ever MCA Science test. Students took this test on-line all across the state of Minnesota. These tests were written following the Minnesota Academic Standards passed into law by the legislature. For the first time the data were compiled and averages were given back to schools. The data in the table above indicates that Delano performed very well by comparison to the state average. An interesting piece of data is that the percent of students at proficiency increased in the high school.

Science Achievement Level								
	Not Proficient				Proficient			
2009	Does not Meet		Partially Meets		Meets		Exceeds	
	Standards		Standards		Standards		Standards	
Grade	Delano	State %	Delano	State %	Delano	State %	Delano	State %
5	13.7	25	35.9	30	40.5	37.6	9.8	7.4
8	8.2	20.1	28.6	37.2	34.6	30.1	28.6	12.5
HS	4.8	20.3	25	30.2	52.4	40	17.8	9.5

## Writing Tests

The state writing test is called the MCA-II/GRAD Writing test. All Graduation Required Assessment for Diploma (GRAD) writing tests are read and initially scored on a 4.0 scale (1, 1.5, 2, 3, 3.5 or 4 with 4 being the highest). The papers earning a score of four on their first reading are given a second reading for the MCA-II piece with the highest score possible of 6.0. This year's average score decreased slightly from 4.2 to 4.03. This test is a high stakes test meaning that it is required for graduation. The following is data from last years test.



Writing Results 2008-2009							
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	Avg Score
<b>GRAD Grade 9</b>	0	1	34	39	20	5	4.0
State GRAD	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.5

Additional data can be found at the Minnesota Department of Education website (<http://education.state.mn.us>) The data found at this site will be similar to, but not exactly the same, due to variations in additional testing data. These additional tests are for students as English Language Learners or the alternate tests which are given to the 1% of the student population who do not qualify to take the MCA-II tests. The Department of Education website will also allow users to compare data with other schools.

## ACT scores at Delano Remain Very Strong

The state of Minnesota continued as the nation's leader in ACT test scores. Delano's ACT test scores remain higher than the state average making Delano one of the top schools academically in the nation. In addition to this, Delano had more students (approximately 82%) take the test in 2009 than in any other year. As a general trend, the larger numbers of students who take the ACT test the lower the average test score. Minnesota's scores on the 2009 ACT increased one tenth of a point to 22.7. This score was ranked first in the nation for the fourth straight year among states who test a critical mass of students. Delano High School students have traditionally performed better than the state average with no exception this year. Below is a table indicating the historical ACT scores at DHS.

### ACT Testing results Composite Scores 2008-2009

**Delano – 23.8**    State - 22.7    Nation - 21.1

#### Delano ACT Historical Results

2008	24.0
2007	23.5
2006	22.7
2005	22.8
2004	23.1
2003	22.4
2002	22.6
2001	22.6
2000	22.6
1999	22.4
1998	22.6
1997	21.7
1996	21

## Students Held Accountable for Performance Goals

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 Graduation Required Assessment for Diploma in reading and writing. Passage of the Math GRAD test is extremely desirable; students must earn either a passing math score or attempt to pass the math test three times. If students do not pass their math test, they must follow a district prescribed plan prior to being given another attempt.



## 2009 Teacher of the Year

Rebecca Rue was selected as Delano Public Schools Teacher of the Year by her colleagues. She is a 7th grade Life Science teacher at Delano Middle School. Rebecca prides herself on placing high expectations on her students. At the same time, she enjoys the challenge of meeting all students' individual needs. She feels that collaboration across the disciplines is important for student achievement.

Rebecca graduated from Ada-Borup High School located in northwestern Minnesota. She received her undergraduate degree from Mayville State University, where she earned Academic All-American and DAC 10 All-Conference honors while playing college volleyball. She currently is finishing up her Master of Arts Degree in Education from St. Mary's University.

Rebecca began her teaching career here in Delano in 2002, teaching both 7th grade Life Science and 8th grade Earth Science. She also has been a Q-Comp Peer Leader, Science Olympiad coach, and is currently the Delano Teachers' Association Treasurer. Rebecca is also the Delano Middle School's Meet and Confer Representative.

Along with her school duties, she has coached track and currently is the head volleyball coach for the Delano Tigers. She also organizes the Junior Olympic Volleyball Program, in addition to various volleyball camps and clinics. Rebecca resides in Delano, along with her husband Mitch who is a Physical Education and Health instructor at Delano High School. They have two children, a son Hayden and a daughter Braylee.

## 2008-2009 State Testing Dates

Nov 3	GRAD Writing Retest	Grades 10-12
April 12 - April 30	Elementary/Middle School MCA-II testing window	
Apr 13	GRAD Written Composition	Grade 9
	MCA-II Reading Segments 1 & 2	Grade 10
	MCA-II Math Segments 1 & 2	Grade 11
Apr 14	MCA-II Reading Segments 3 & 4	Grade 10
	MCA-II Math Segments 3 & 4	Grade 11
Apr 20	GRAD Writing Retest	Grades 12
April 27 – May 22	Middle School MCA-II Science testing window	
May 19-20	MCA-II Science	Grade 10 (Computer Test)

### District Staff Development Goals

Delano Public Schools has a district staff development team which is charged with setting the staff development goals. These goals transcend across buildings and are intended to guide the expenditures of staff development dollars for each building. The district goals are as follows:

**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/or curricular area.
- The implementation of the staff development academy will provide learning opportunities for staff.

**Goal 2: 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.

In addition to the staff development goals, the teachers group, along with the approval of the district, has established Q-Comp (Quality Compensation) goals which specifically address improvements in MCA-II test scores. The district attained its goal and the middle and high school buildings met their goal while the elementary made improvements toward its goal.

### 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.

### **2008-2009 Curriculum Advisory Council**

<u>Name</u>		<u>Exp. Date</u>			
Vacant	Social Studies K-4		Vacant	Communications 5-8	
Vacant	Social Studies 5-8		Mary Ann Bernat	Communications 9-12	2009
Paul Nord	Social Studies 9-12	2009	Vacant	Science K-6	
Barb Janas	Health	2009	Jim Halonen	Science 7-12	2011
Vacant	Physical Education		Mike Schaefer	Music	2009
Rachelle Barfnecht	Mathematics K-4	2011	Harlan D. Lewis	Vocational 7-12	2011
Nina Nieman	Mathematics 5-8	2011	Carolyn Milano	School Board at Large	2009
Vacant	Mathematics 9-12		Vacant	Visual Arts	
Vacant	Communications K-4		Vacant	Parent Ambassador	
			Vacant	Parent Ambassador	

## **Fund Allocations**

Delano Public Schools is 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 2007-2008, \$66,650 was allocated to the elementary school; \$66,650 was allocated to the middle school; \$66,650 was allocated to the high school; \$66,650 was allocated to the district staff, and \$15,000 was allocated to our District Staff Development Academy for in-house training of staff.

## **Student Achievement Goals Realized from Previously Adopted Improvement Plans**

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 2008-2009 school year contained the MCA-II standards. Delano students in grades K-8 will find that teachers are embedding the new standards into the curriculum. This will ensure that students have the necessary material in time for the state-wide testing. The district 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.

In addition to embedding standards into curriculum, Delano Public Schools annually set district and building goals based on MCA-II results. The Elementary school set a goal of having 92.4% of students meeting or exceeding standards in Math. The actual rate of achievement in the Elementary was 91.4%. This was a .2% increase over the previous year. While this is a small gain, relatively, the gain is significant since the proficiency rate is so high to begin with.

Delano Middle School set a Reading goal for proficiency (Meeting or Exceeding Standards) at 82.7%. Their actual results were 85.1% representing nearly a 5% gain from the previous year. The High School chose to set their goal in the area of Math. Their goal was to have 51.1% of the students attaining proficiency. The results for high school math were 53.6% again representing nearly a 5% gain over the previous year. Keep in mind that students testing at the high school level are a completely different group of students. So the gain, although quite significant, does not indicate a 5% gain in student achievement for the same group of students. Additionally, the district set forth a goal to increase the overall proficiency rate by 2% in Mathematics from the 2007-2008 school year. The district results yielded 82.2% of all students in the proficient category and attaining the goal for a 2% increase.

Delano students will graduate under the Minnesota Academic Standards requirements. In addition there are a few further requirements required by the local Board of Education.

## **Improvements made in the Arts and World Language**

Ray Cordes (K-12 Art), Jason Koets (K-12 Music) and Amy Poppler (World Language) are the facilitators for their respective departments. They are charged with facilitating the curriculum writing process which implements the Minnesota Academic Standards. Improvements were sought in closely aligning their curricula to the Minnesota standards as well as updating textbooks and equipment. Additionally, this is the first opportunity for the Chinese Language curriculum to go through the process. It has been seven years since these departments have had the opportunity to upgrade their curriculum and equipment. Much time was spent by each member of their respective committee researching, aligning, and developing curriculum for the purpose of improved academic achievement.

The Curriculum Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended to the board that the curriculum written by the Arts and World Language departments be approved. This action was taken and accepted by the Board of Education in June 2009. A copy of the curriculum can be found at the district website ([www.delano.k12.mn.us](http://www.delano.k12.mn.us))

## **National Merit Scholars Semifinalist**

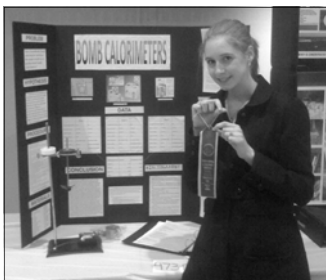
Each year more than one million students take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) in October. Upon completion of this test, students are entered into the National Merit Program, a nationwide competition for recognition and awards conducted by the National Merit 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, Delano Schools have developed a rich history of positive student performance on this test. Recipients include:



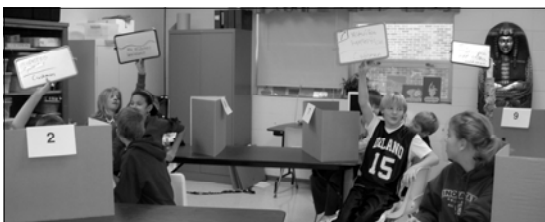
National Merit Scholarship Corporation			
School	Scholars	Semi-Finalists	Commended
2008-09	T.J. Carlson Tim Kuka Robert McMullen Mark Newcomb Mike Roth		Jacob Bohler Kathryn Kirk Chris Roering
2007-08		Adam Mankowski	
2006-07	Elizabeth Dake Margaret Englehardt Ben Zeug		Katie Gregg Catherine Newcomb
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		

## Senior High Science Fair State Participant



Freshman, Stephanie Smith recently competed in the senior level regional Science Fair at Mankato State University. Stephanie's project, *"Can a Homemade Bomb Calorimeter Produce the Same Results as a Professional Bomb Calorimeter?"* received a blue ribbon and advanced to the state competition. Her project stood out among many seasoned participants which is quite an accomplishment for a first time participant at the senior high level. Besides a first place finish, Stephanie also received special recognition from the U.S. Air Force which included a certificate and several other prizes. Stephanie was mentored by high school science teacher, Mike Stoudt and was sponsored by the Talent Development Department.

## Battle of the Books



185 students participated in this year's Battle of the Books competition. This sets an all time high for participation in this competition. The Battle of the Books program promotes reading, comprehension and team work in a game show format. The competition is open to students in grades 3-8.

## Geography Bee



Eighth graders Sonia Schaeftbauer took 1st place and Sarah Trocke took 2nd place in this year's Delano Middle School Geography Bee.



## 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Masters

At this year's Math Masters competition Delano fifth and sixth grade students proved they could come out on top against some of the best math students in the region. This competition is held every spring and tests students in the areas of geometry, logical reasoning, probability, measurement and many other math disciplines. The Delano sixth grade teams did a dynamic job, placing first out of 23 schools in their division. The fifth grade teams received third and fourth place honors out of 30 teams in their division. Besides team honors, the mathletes also received several individual awards. In the Fact Drill competition, Brett Norling, Taylor Hedtke, Kailyn Warne, Daniel Clark, Michael Tulkki and Michael Dahl received ribbons or medals for their exemplary work. Daniel Clark, Michael Tulkki and Ryan Paczkowski also received ribbons. Michael Dahl received a medal for his individual problem solving skills.



## Sixth Grade Science Fair



Nine 6th grade students competed at the Regional Elementary Science Fair held at Mankato State University. Red ribbons went to: Jeremy Maschino and Meghan Barfknecht. Blue ribbons were awarded to: Amy Lowery, Ben DeSutter, Regan Lyrek, Luke Lohse and Nicole Praska. Shane Impola received a purple ribbon and Kalley Johnson received a Grand medal award. Many of the students also received special book awards for their exemplary work.

## Writers Workshop

More than fifty third and fourth grade students participated in the annual Writers' Workshop sponsored through the Talent Development Program. During the six week program the young writers honed their writing skills, learned about writing genre and discovered the traits of successful writers. The students were required to complete one piece of writing each week and then be prepared to share their completed work with other writers in a small group setting. At the end of the program each young writer submitted a piece of work to be published in the group anthology. A Writers' Workshop celebration culminated the program. The students were each presented with their own copy of the anthology and had time to share stories and collect autographs. The Writers' Workshop is sponsored by the Talent Development Program under the direction of Gwen Briesemeister.



## Delano Earns Top Honors on National Math Test

Delano High School earned a commendation for the high score they received on the American Mathematics Contest (AMC). The AMC is an international test that has been administered to schools across the nation for the past sixty years. A school's team score is the total of their top three students. Robert McMullen, Kent Bartels, and Chris Roering were the top three scorers for Delano, totaling three hundred points. One hundred and twenty five students from Delano took the test. Robert McMullen's top score of 108 qualified him for the next level of testing. Joe Janas earned the top score on the sophomore version of the test. Zach Muckenhirn and James Redinger received commendation for scoring among the top in the nation as eighth graders.

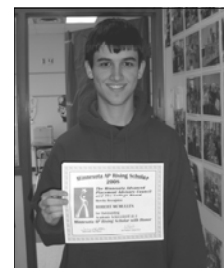
## Destination ImagiNation



The Delano Destination ImagiNation program had a record 2008 - 2009 season. The WOW team consisting of Anna Elsen, Katie Polys, Mikinzi Harris, Emily Crook, and Claire Dufur took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the world at the Global Destination ImagiNation competition in Knoxville, TN. They also received the Renaissance Award for their exceptionally well-rounded team for both the engineering of their machines and the design of their scenery prop. The Final Moment team consisting of Shayla Dallmann, Charlie Gallagher, Erin Nolan, Izzy Crowley, and Adam Tritz took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the world at the Globals. There were 43 teams in their challenge, and their central challenge scored the highest out of every team in their competition. Their successes with creativity, problem solving, and teamwork has led these students to superior recognition from around the world!

## AP Rising Star

Robert McMullen received the Minnesota AP Rising Scholar Award from the Minnesota Advanced Placement Advisory Council and The College Board for his stellar performance on the Advanced Placement exam. Only those students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams are eligible for this award.



## Delano Heroes Receive Film Recognition



The film "Delano Heroes" created through the Delano Schools and a community collaboration received an Honorable Mention at the 3rd annual History Center's Greatest Generation Moving Pictures Film Competition. The film screened at the Mall of America movie theater and competed against many films created by professional Minneapolis filmmakers. The film is a poignant memoir of WWII veterans from Delano, MN. The men share the experiences that have left an indelible mark on their life and the lessons that can be learned. The interviews were conducted entirely by 5th grade students and edited by Delano teacher, Gwen Briesemeister. Several community members also volunteered their time to complete the project and Reader's Digest provided archival footage. The film was also selected for screening at the Shamrock Film Festival in July and again received an honorable mention award.

## History Day Regional Winners



Seven Delano Middle School projects took home first-place honors and two projects received honorable mentions at the regional History Day competition and moved on to compete at the state competition. All the projects were created around this year's central theme, "The Individual in History: Legacy and Actions." Three projects advanced through several rounds of judging at the state competition to advance to the finals and received honorable mention awards for their superior work. Kailyn Warne, Brett Norling, Adam Eskola for their documentary film: "*Norman Borlaug: Actions Many, Legacies More*"; Allison Warne, Laura Parson for their documentary film: "*Jane Addams: Outstanding Actions, Everlasting Legacies*"; Sarah Trocke, Colette Bersie for their live performance: "*Nuclear Fission and Atomic Discovery: The Legacy of Lise Meitner.*"

## AP Scholar Awards



Seven students at Delano High School earned Advanced Placement Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement in Advanced Placement (AP) exams.

2009 graduate Jake Bohler, qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. Two students, Sandra Arnold and Melissa Hedtke, qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. Additionally, Ann Berglund, Dirk Meyer, Josh Stevens, and Taylor Williams qualified for the AP Scholar award by completing three or more AP exams with grades of 3 or higher.

AP Exams are graded on a scale from 1-5.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program provides motivated and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams.

## 2008 Girls Tennis

2008 was another very successful year for the girl's tennis team! We won our 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive Wright County Conference Championship, had 7 players receive All-Conference honors, and advanced our 1<sup>st</sup> doubles team, Abby Farniok and Kelly Rensink to the Individual State Tournament at the Baseline Tennis Center at the U of M. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row for Abby, but 3<sup>rd</sup> year for Kelly to be participating in the state tourney.

## Girls Golf

Delano Girls Golf finished fourth in the Wright County Conference for the 2009 season. Graduating 3 of the top 4 golfers from the 2008 team, the task was a bit daunting to duplicate the successes of the 2008 team. With Miranda Maxwell and Molly Hutchins leading the way, the girls competed for the upper division in the conference all season. Miranda and Molly were Wright County Conference, All Conference, and lead a team consisting of Cari Chock, Olivia DeSutter, Jordan Meyer and Taylor Hauge. With three seniors again to replace, the 2010 season will again be a challenge for our program. We had over 30 girls out for the program again however, and it is always fun and exciting, to see which girls accept the challenge, and rise to becoming the new varsity for the upcoming season.

## Boys Varsity Baseball

Overall Record	15-11	-
Conference Record	9-7 (4 <sup>th</sup> Place)	

Tiger Varsity Baseball Awards for 2009

MVP – Josh Stevens

Offensive Player of the Year – Josh Muckenhirn

ERA Leader – Tyler Wolfe

Gold Glove/Infield – Jay Stevens

Gold Glove/Outfield – Jake Raskob

All Conference – Josh Muckenhirn, Jay Stevens

All Conference Honorable Mention – Jake Raskob, Nick Kelzer, Trevor Jaunich

Lion's All-star: Josh Muckenhirn

Academic All-State: Josh Muckenhirn

## Boys Swimming & Diving

For the first time in history, Delano sent a swimmer to participate individually in the MN State Swimming & Diving Championships at the University of Minnesota. Jakob Lawman qualified in the 100 Breaststroke with a time of 1:01:68. The 400 Individual Medley Relay also qualified to compete at the state meet and the members of that relay team were Adam Arveson, Blake Asbury, Jakob Lawman and Will Chandler. Jakob Lawman was also the conference champion in the 100 Breaststroke.

