

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



World's Best Workforce

From time to time I am asked by our community members, "How do you measure the success of our school district?" It is a well known fact that Delano Public Schools is a high performing school district that continues to strive for educational excellence for all our students. Two years ago the Department of Education initiated a World's Best Workforce Plan process for all districts to report academic progress in five major categories. These categories are as follows:

- Kindergarten readiness
- Third grade literacy
- Achievement gap reduction between student groups
- College and career readiness
- Graduation rate



Each school year the district publishes our World's Best Workforce Plan electronically on the district website located under "World's Best Workforce." In addition, the school board of Delano Public Schools holds an annual public meeting to communicate plans for the upcoming school year based on a review of goals, outcomes and strategies from the previous school year. This meeting is facilitated during our monthly school board meeting, usually in November. Based on past annual and recent World's Best Workforce reports, the district has established specific plans that include all of the five major components of the World's Best Workforce Plan. Each school is responsible for establishing an annual improvement plan that is aligned with our district Strategic Plan and World's Best Workforce Plan. In addition to the multitude of strategic plans within the district, we have been tracking student progress via measurable data using both state and local assessments. Our proficiency rates in math and reading are consistently in the top percentage of our state. For example, in the statewide rankings in math, Delano ranks third. In reading, the district ranks sixth amongst all school districts. With these great results, it becomes a difficult task to establish processes and programs to maintain a high level of effort in a culture of continuous improvement. Delano Public Schools will continue to exhaust all efforts of maintaining educational excellence in preparing our students to be college and career ready by the time of graduation. This is exactly what our Strategic Plan and World's Best Workforce Plan are designed to do. We will continue to monitor all indicators that will give the district direction regarding our educational programs.

In the final analysis, it is very easy to understand that the success of our school district, which is measured in many ways, is the culmination of the entire district staff working in partnership with our parent community. This by far is the most fundamental reason why Delano Public Schools is such a high performing school district. I thank everyone for the continued efforts and support for our students at Delano. I wish all students, staff, parents and community members a successful conclusion to the 2015-16 school year.

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



To All Those Who Volunteer - We Thank You!

April 10-16, 2016 is National Volunteer Appreciation Week. Delano Public Schools would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers that unselfishly give their time to our school district for the benefit of our staff, teachers and students. Volunteers are truly a gift to our school community!

7th Graders Win National C-SPAN Award

Advanced Language Arts 7 students Naomi Thaelke, Gretchen Ness and Lilliana Schroedl received a wonderful surprise on Wednesday, March 9, when they were informed by C-SPAN that their documentary on water pollution took third place in the National C-SPAN StudentCam Competition.

The journey began back in October 2015 when Naomi, Gretchen and Lilliana began working on their documentary. The theme this year, chosen by C-SPAN was, *"The Road to the White House: What Issue Do You Most Want the Candidates to Address this Year?"* Water pollution topped their list of interests.

To begin, students were given several training sessions to learn how to operate a video camera, the microphones, and edit using professional software. In addition, they learned how to conduct effective interviews, how to compose a shot, and essentially received a crash course in Broadcast Journalism. The interviews they conducted helped add depth to their award winning documentary. They spoke with water experts from the University of Minnesota, the Crow River Organization of Water, Minnesota Department of Transportation, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. In addition the students spoke with MN State Representative Joe McDonald of Delano. All the energy spent researching their topic, the interviews and the sincere curiosity and enlightenment to how water pollution affects the environment helped make these students produce a documentary that stood out from the rest. Naomi, Gretchen and Lilliana were awarded \$750 for their third place finish, and the school will receive \$125 for equipment related to the project. Gwen Briesemeister, Gifted and Talented Coordinator at Delano Public Schools, along with Advanced Language Arts teacher Rachel Kunde have included this contest as part of their 7th grade curriculum for the past three years. This year 10 films were submitted to the C-SPAN StudentCam Contest. All the student films should be commended for the great work they accomplished during this learning experience.



Pictured from (l to r): WCCO Photographer Joe Mears, Gretchen Ness, Naomi Thaelke, Lilliana Schroedl, WCCO Reporter John Laruitsen and WCCO Intern Alex Thorson.

To view the documentary go to <http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2016/03/09/delano-students-documentary/>.

Delano Theatre Department Presents...

Once Upon a Mattress, a musical spoof on the old fairytale *The Princess and the Pea* will be presented onstage at the Delano Middle School Auditorium in April. In a kingdom ruled by Queen Aggravain and a mute King, no one may get married until Prince Dauntless does, and the Queen is doing all she can to prevent that! Leading a strong cast are seniors Brenna Shaffner as Princess Winnifred the Woebegone, Liz Schleisman as the Queen, Keenan Sutherland as the Jester, and Lars Osmon as the King.

Showtimes are: Thursday, April 14 and Friday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 16 at 1:00 p.m.

Tickets: Available at the door.
\$6 for Adults and \$4 for Students

Once Upon a Mattress is a musical comedy that will provide entertainment and fun for the entire family!



Delano Public Schools Receives 2016 MDE Finance Award

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) recently awarded 73% of Minnesota's school districts the 2016 Education Finance Award, and Delano Public Schools was one of the recipients. Out of 563 eligible reporting entities, 409 met the qualifying criteria. The School Finance Award is awarded annually by the Minnesota Department of Education, Division of School Finance, to recognize school districts that exhibit fiscal health and sound fiscal management and accountability.

Delano Public Schools Superintendent Matt Schoen expressed, "This award further exemplifies the tradition of excellence in all our endeavors at Delano Public Schools. Business Manager Mary Reeder should be commended for her continued diligence in managing the district finances at such a high level." The Minnesota Department of Education recognizes solid financial performance along with accurate reports that are submitted on time, but this is not the only way to judge the work of a school district. By presenting these awards, and providing this information to the public, it shows our school board's commitment to careful stewardship of public resources.



Delano Students & Staff Take the

POLAR PLUNGE

As a resident of Minnesota, you may be well aware of this celebrated fundraising event that runs from January-March. Each year, the Polar Plunge challenges thousands of jumpers at numerous locations around the state to plunge into frigid water in support of Special Olympics Minnesota.

Winterfest Week brings a flurry of activity at Delano High School each February, and this year the DHS Student Council wanted to make a difference by supporting the statewide efforts of the Polar Plunge. The Student Council set up a booth during lunch, advertised their quest and worked tirelessly to reach out to staff and fellow students in support of Special Olympics. The concept is simple - participants raise a minimum of \$75 and take a dip into one of Minnesota's frozen lakes. For DHS, it was Lake Calhoun. Delano High School had 47 students and 6 staff members eager to plunge. 9th grader Andy Betzler expressed, "I was freezing, cheering, and was the second one to jump. It was so exciting and felt so good to do something that will help someone else." The efforts of all these individuals raised over \$4000 for Special Olympics Minnesota. The funds raised will go towards programming and events for more than 8,000 athletes statewide.

Student Council Member Sydney Strobl shared, "The Polar Plunge was very fun! It gave us a great opportunity to support an amazing organization. We cannot wait to recruit more students to plunge next year!"



DHS Staff Members (pictured left to right) Lydia Wissink, Jessica Bahe, Jason Monke, Steve Heil and Jim VanCura plunge into the frigid waters of Lake Calhoun.

Delano Public Schools prides itself on educational excellence as well as making a difference in the community and beyond.

Delano School District
700 Elm Avenue East
Delano, MN 55328

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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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Educational Excellence is Our Foremost Goal

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

Upcoming Events

April

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| 7 | Community Education Advisory Council Meeting | 6:15 pm |
| 7-8 | Early Childhood Health & Development Screening
<i>Call 763.972.6210, press 4, to schedule your child's screening</i> | |
| 12 | SciTech Festival
<i>DHS Tiger Activity Center</i> | 12-3 pm and 4-7 pm |
| 14 | ECFE Spring Fling & Vehicle Fair
<i>Community Education Building - 140 Elm Ave.</i> | 6-7:30 pm |
| 14-15 | HS Spring Musical - "Once Upon a Mattress" | 7 pm |
| 16 | HS Spring Musical - "Once Upon a Mattress"
<i>DMS Auditorium</i> | 1 pm |
| 23 | HS Prom Grand March/Dinner/Dance
<i>DHS Tiger Activity Center</i> | 5 pm |
| 25 | School Board Meeting | 5:45 pm |

May

- | | | |
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| 3 | 7th & 8th Grade Band Concert | 7 pm |
| 5 | 5th & 6th Grade Band Concert | 7 pm |
| 9 | HS Band Concert | 7:30 pm |
| 17 | 7th & 8th Grade Choir Concert | 7 pm |
| 19 | 2nd Grade Choir Concert | 6:30 and 7:30 pm |
| 23 | School Board Meeting | 5:45 pm |
| | HS Choir Concert | 7:30 pm |
| 24 | 5th & 6th Grade Choir Concert | 7 pm |
| 26 | 1st Grade Concert | 6:30 and 7:15 pm |
| 30 | Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL | |

June

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| 5 | DHS Graduation
<i>DHS Tiger Activity Center</i> | 1:30 pm |
| 7 | Last Day of School | |

DHS Seniors Earn Triple A Honors



Nichole Hannan and Thomas Grover were selected to represent Delano High School and Region 2AA in the Triple "A" Award program, which is sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League. This award goes to one senior male and female who has excelled in academics, arts, and athletics, thus called Triple "A." Triple "A" recipients are selected through a multi-level process.

Thomas and Nichole were recognized for this honor during a ceremony at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN.