

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



Bidding is Complete, Projects are Underway

On November 22 we received bids for the Middle/High School Redesign Project. This was the final project bid for the referendum approved in the fall of November 2015. With all of the projects now under contract, we are happy to communicate that we are on budget and schedule and continuing with new and existing construction projects. This has been a long process, but with construction consultants and our architects to guide our team, the steps to ensure success are in place.

First, we took a look at all the individual projects and developed bid packages. What does this mean? Well, instead of bidding every project individually, we looked at relevant work at each building and grouped projects together. For example, the elementary school expansion, community education building elevator and secured entrance, and the relocation of the electrical transformers at the middle/high school were combined as a single project for one contractor. In addition, the performing arts center and pool additions were included with the middle/high school redesign, and the football stadium improvements, athletic fields and parking were combined. The new intermediate school was packaged alone. These combined projects will ensure efficiency and best contractor pricing.



Secondly, we reviewed middle/high school maintenance issues that need to be addressed during the secondary building redesign. For example, a partial roof replacement on the middle school due to leakage will be addressed during the renovation. This not only ensures better pricing and cost efficiency, but also minimizes disruption to the building and campus in the future.

Next we reviewed work schedules, market conditions and contractor work loads to make these projects more appealing. We also developed construction plans during the school year, as well as disruption avoidance plans to ensure contractor availability. Many school districts force all referendum project work into a tight summer schedule. We planned year-round construction while maintaining student academic standards.

Finally, we prioritized district needs and ran multiple cost estimates during the design phases to ensure that bids received would be within budget. Many school districts have to redesign projects after bids are received. We were proactive and made sure contractors understood our intentions. As a result, projects are on budget and we hold a healthy contingency for inevitable costs that may be incurred during construction. For example, if you have ever remodeled a home it never goes as smoothly as planned. Complications arise, problems need to be fixed, and budgets need adjusting. As our projects proceed, we will work with our contractors and design consultants to make sure quality levels are maintained and budgets are within scope until projects are complete.

Delano Public Schools have four great contractors working on our building projects. We will continue to provide updates to our construction projects and budget as they progress. The current building designs and project information is located on our district website at www.delano.k12.mn.us under Bond Referendum/Building Projects.

Thank you to the Delano School Community for making these projects possible. It has always been our goal to be fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars. The updates and additions being made to Delano Public Schools will reflect the goals sought when the referendum came to fruition: Improved Safety & Security, Increased Space Capacity for Learning, Extended Facility Lifespan and Enhanced Opportunities for Students and Community Members. Along with these goals, we are excited to provide our students the tools needed to achieve enhanced 21st century learning to enable them to compete in a global society. We are excited for you to see the finished projects firsthand as they are completed!

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

Delano Placed on 7th Annual AP District Honor Roll

7th Annual
AP[®] District
Honor Roll
Recipient

CollegeBoard

AP[®]

Delano Public Schools is one of 433 school districts in the United States and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the 7th Annual AP[®] Honor Roll. To be included on the 7th Annual Honor Roll, Delano Public Schools had to, since 2014, increase the number of students participating in AP (Advanced Placement Courses) while also increasing or maintaining the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher. Reaching these goals shows that this district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for AP.

"Delano High School has intentionally expanded AP offerings to all students at all levels," stated Dr. Steve Heil, DHS Principal. "We feel that giving all students the chance to participate and be successful in Advanced Placement or college level curriculum will benefit them as they prepare for their post-secondary education."

National data from 2016 shows that among black/African American, Hispanic, and Native American students with a high degree of readiness for AP, only about half of students are participating. The first step to getting more students to participate is to give them access. Courses must be made available, gatekeeping must stop, and doors must be equitably opened. Delano Public Schools is committed to expanding the availability of AP courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds.

Trevor Packer, the College Board's head of AP and Instruction expressed, "These teachers and administrators are delivering real opportunity in their schools and classrooms, and students are rising to the challenge." Helping more students learn at a higher level and earn higher AP scores is an objective of all members of the AP community, from AP teachers to district and school administrators to college professors. Many districts are experimenting with initiatives and strategies to see how they can expand access and improve student performance at the same time.

In 2016, more than 4,000 colleges and universities around the world received AP scores for college credit, advanced placement, or both, and/or consideration in the admission process.

Inclusion on the 7th Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on the examination of three years of AP data, from 2014 to 2016, looking across 37 AP Exams, including world language and culture. The following criteria were used.

Districts must:

- Increase participation/access to AP by at least 4% in large districts, at least 6% in medium districts, and at least 11% in small districts;
- Increase or maintain the percentage of exams taken by black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native students; and
- Improve or maintain performance levels when comparing the 2016 percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher to the 2014 percentage, unless the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70% of its AP students are scoring a 3 or higher.

\$11,283 Raised to Support Local United Way

Each year around the holidays, Delano Public Schools holds a district wide fundraising campaign for the United Way. The final numbers came in for the 2016 United Way Fund Drive and through the donations of over 100 district employees, the school district raised \$11,283 to support the Delano-Loretto United Way.

As a reward for the most amount raised, Delano High School staff was recognized with a pizza luncheon for contributions totaling \$5,842.

A special thank you to teachers Karen Hohenstein, John Bingea and Kalsey Rheingans, along with Community Education Director Diane Johnson, for leading their building campaigns this year. In addition, the Delano-Loretto United Way wants to thank all the employees who contributed. It is campaigns like this that show how Delano Public Schools support an ongoing commitment to help build better lives and strengthen the community in which they live and work.



Delano Elementary Celebrates Cafeteria Expansion

On the morning of Tuesday, January 3, DES staff, students and community members celebrated the completion and grand opening of the newly remodeled elementary school cafeteria. This expansion is part of the \$65 million bond referendum projects. This project consisted of renovations and upgrades that will benefit students for years to come. The renovations included the expansion of the existing cafeteria space, the addition of a new lobby and vestibule that leads out to the playground and updates to the existing restrooms to become ADA compliant.

This project began on July 11, 2016 and was officially completed on Tuesday, January 3, 2017. We would like to thank the entire Delano community, Delano Public School staff members, along with our construction consultants, architects and the DES custodial staff for bringing this portion of the referendum projects to fruition. We eagerly await the completion of future projects to continue moving forward at Delano Schools, where "Educational Excellence is Our Foremost Goal."

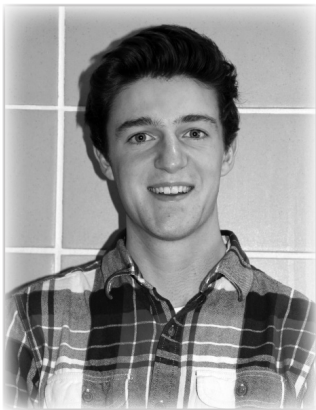


Mandy Henderson, DES Head Cook, cuts the celebratory ribbon while students look on.



View from the existing cafeteria space to the new added space and playground area.

MSHSL Triple 'A' Award Recipients Announced



Jack Weber

DHS seniors Jack Weber and Stephanie Almquist were selected to represent Delano High School and Region 2AA in the Triple 'A' Award program. The Triple 'A' Award program, sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League, was established in 1988. This award goes to one senior male and one senior female student who has excelled in academics, arts, and athletics, thus called Triple 'A'. Triple 'A' recipients are selected through a multi-level process involving member schools of the MSHSL, the league's administrative regions, and a social committee of educators, business leaders, and members from the fine arts and athletic communities.

Jack and Stephanie were recently honored at the Section 2AA MSHSL Triple 'A' Award Banquet that was held on January 29, 2017.



Stephanie Almquist

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.

2017 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

February

- | | | |
|------|--|---------|
| 9 | HS Choir Concert | 7 pm |
| 9-10 | Early Childhood Health & Development Screening
(all screening by appointment only - call 763.972.6210, press 4) | |
| 20 | President's Day - NO SCHOOL | |
| 25 | Tiger Fun Fair
Tiger Activity Center | 12-4 pm |
| 27 | School Board Meeting | 5:45 pm |
| 28 | Tiger Kids Club Summer/Fall Registration Begins
(Current Students Only) | 5-7 pm |

March

- | | | |
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| 2 | HS Band Concert | 7 pm |
| 5 | ECFE Twinkle, Twinkle Dance | 3-5 pm |
| 7 & 9 | Kindergarten Round-Up | 5:30 pm |
| 9-10 | Early Childhood Health & Development Screening
(all screening by appointment only - call 763.972.6210, press 4) | |
| 14 | Tiger Kids Club Summer/Fall Registration Begins
(New Families) | |
| 23-27 | Spring Break - NO SCHOOL | |



For detailed information on school events, go to 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.wcconference.org or call the Activities Information Line at 763.972.6505.

Kindergarten Round-Up March 7 and 9, 2017

Delano Elementary School invites you to attend Kindergarten Round-Up on March 7 or 9 for children entering kindergarten in Fall 2017.

Families with last names beginning with A through K should attend on Tuesday, March 7, and families with last names beginning with L through Z should attend on Thursday, March 9. If you have a conflict on your assigned evening, please come on the alternate evening.

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and special activities will begin at 6:05 p.m. The evening will include an informational meeting for parents while children participate in classroom activities, concluding around 8 p.m.

Children and parents will have the opportunity to meet our exceptional and caring staff, tour our amazing school, participate in fun activities, and learn about the all day every day kindergarten program.



you have not received a kindergarten registration packet, or if you are new to the area, contact Delano Elementary School at 763.972.6200.