

Eye of the Tiger

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Next Year's School Calendar and Building Project Update

The 2016-2017 school year will look a little different due to multiple building projects that will be facilitated during the summer of 2017. First and foremost, the first day of school for our students will be Monday, August 29. We are starting before Labor Day because we need to end the school year as soon as possible in May to allow for construction. In addition to a pre-Labor Day start, we will have a shorter spring break that will include Thursday, March 23 and Friday, March 24. Also, a teacher workshop day is scheduled on Monday, March 27, with no students attending school. Our last scheduled school day will be Wednesday, May 24, pending school closures and make-up days. One final change to the 2016-2017 school calendar is that graduation will be held on Sunday, May 21. This is a change from the traditional graduation date of the first Sunday in June. If you have any questions, you can contact the district office at 763.972.3365, ext. 2111.



With construction set to begin in 2016, we have established four core committees to advise our architects during the design phases of our construction projects. The kick off meeting for these core committees was held Wednesday, January 6, in the middle school auditorium. As I have stated in previous articles, the four core committees will work on the four major building/design projects. The first committee will be working on the new intermediate school building that will house grades 4-6 and will be located across from the elementary school on our school campus. The second core committee will advise the re-design of the secondary building, currently the middle school/high school buildings, that will house grades 7-12. A third committee will work on the design of the new performing arts center and a fourth committee will advise in the re-design of our fields on campus, along with additions to the Tiger Activity Center and other campus upgrades. These committees will meet every other week for the next three months. For more information regarding the work of our core committees, please visit our district website at www.delano.k12.mn.us.

Per our preliminary building schedule we are planning on breaking ground for the new intermediate school in August of 2016. This may change due to a multitude of variables in preparation for the construction phase of this project. There will be other smaller projects facilitated during the summer of 2016, but a majority of the construction and re-design on existing buildings will be facilitated during the summer of 2017.

We are very excited to begin this process with an end goal of providing 21st century facilities for all our students, staff and community members to meet the needs of educational programs, co-curricular activities and community-based programs.

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

2016-2017 School Calendar Highlights

- First day of school will be **before** Labor Day - Monday, August 29
- **Spring Break** - Thursday, March 23 and Friday, March 24.
In addition, Monday, March 27 is a Teacher Workshop Day - No School
- **Graduation** will be Sunday, May 21
- **Last day of school** will be Wednesday, May 24 (pending school closures)

**See Complete
2016-2017
School Calendar
on Page 2**

Delano Public Schools #879







2016-2017 District Calendar

July 2016 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	August 2016 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	September 2016 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	October 2016 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
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Important Dates

August 23 – MS/HS Teacher Workshop Day
 ES ½ Day Teacher Workshop
 August 24-25 – Teacher Workshop Days
 August 29 – First Day of School
 September 5 – Labor Day – **NO SCHOOL**
 September 26 – HS Conferences (4-8 pm)
 October 13 – ES Conferences (4-8 pm)
 October 17 – MS/ES Conferences (4-8 pm)
 October 18 – ES Conferences (4-8 pm)
 October 20-21 – MEA – **NO SCHOOL**
 October 28 – End of HS 1st Quarter
 November 7 – Teacher Workshop Day – **NO SCHOOL**
 November 22 – End of ES/MS 1st Trimester
 November 23-25 – Thanksgiving – **NO SCHOOL**
 December 23-Jan 2 – Winter Break – **NO SCHOOL**
 January 13 – End of HS 2nd Quarter
 January 16 – ES Conferences (12-8 pm)
 MS Conferences (4:30-7:30 pm)
 Teacher Workshop Day-**NO SCHOOL**
 January 19 – ES Conferences (4-8 pm)
 February 6 – HS Registration Conferences (4:30-8 pm)
 February 20 – President's Day – **NO SCHOOL**

February 28 – End of ES/MS 2nd Trimester
 March 6 – HS Conferences (5-7:30 pm)
 March 17 – End of HS 3rd Quarter
 March 23-24 – Spring Break – **NO SCHOOL**
 March 27 – Teacher's Workshop – **NO SCHOOL**
 April 10 – MS Conferences (4-8 pm)
 April 14 – Holiday – **NO SCHOOL**
 May 21 – Graduation Day
 May 24 – Last Day of School
 May 25 – Teacher Workshop Day
 May 29 – Memorial Day

-  Teacher Workshop/No School
-  No School/Holiday
-  School Conferences
-  End of Quarter/Trimester
-  First/Last Day of School
-  Graduation

Teacher Days – 181
Student Days – 173

Make-up Days
If a snow day is declared on or before 1/31/17, Delano Public Schools will be in session on 2/20/17. If a snow day is declared after 1/31/17, school will be in session 3/27/17.

All other make-up days begin May 25, 2017.

Quarter Marking Period

1st Quarter- 42 days
 2nd Quarter- 44 days
 3rd Quarter- 43 days
 4th Quarter- 44 days
 Total – 173 days

Trimesters

1st - ES 58 /MS 58 days
 2nd - ES 58 /MS 58 days
 3rd - ES 57 /MS 57 days
 Total – 173 days

SciTech 2016



Mark your calendars for the **3rd Annual SciTech Showcase, a College and Career Fair** to be held on **Tuesday, April 12, 2016, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., in the Tiger Activity Center at Delano High School.** As in years past, there will be many higher education institutions and local and regional businesses that will showcase various degrees and careers available to students and community members. We encourage all of the attendees to talk with the business owners, college professors and hiring personnel to achieve a deep understanding of a profession or area of study that might be of interest.

Why should you attend?

Over the past three years, the high school has been developing relationships between the school, local and regional businesses and higher education institutions. A major area of interest has become internships. There have been a fair amount of students at Delano High School that have been able to connect with a business leader and have applied for and received an internship in their area of interest. At the same time, these students have connected with an institution of higher learning that has resulted in a degree or certificate in the same area of interest. The result - students have cultivated a direct pathway to their career. In addition to their internship, many are receiving scholarships for remaining with the company throughout their schooling. It is vital for parents and students to realize that SciTech can help provide a pathway that could lead to their future education and career.

Another reason to attend SciTech is to learn about how companies and colleges are changing career pathway options. Many businesses are working directly with higher education institutions to create a direct route to job placement while offering financial incentives. For example, Gold'n Plump (GNP) has a program with St. Cloud State University where students work for GNP during the summer (and part time during the school year if possible) and receive pay incentives, as well as college tuition reimbursement. After the student graduates with a business degree (or a degree GNP needs), GNP hires the student into a full time career in their management program. A successful completion of the management program results in a management position within the company. Bottom line - no college debt!

We know you will find information of interest at SciTech Showcase. We are always looking for additional businesses and educational institutions to attend!



SciTech is held in the Tiger Activity Center at Delano High School - visitors will find a flurry of interaction and learning about careers and job opportunities



Members of the DHS Robotics Team demonstrated the functionality of a robot they designed and built for the 2015 Local and National Robotic Competitions

For additional information or answers to questions regarding SciTech, please contact Dr. Steve Heil, HS Principal at 763.972.3365, ext. 2220 or steve.heil@delanoschools.org

Paraprofessionals: Angels in the Classroom

Delano Public Schools celebrated Paraprofessionals Week January 11-15, 2016. ***What is the role of a paraprofessional (para) and why are these individuals needed in the classroom?***

A paraprofessional is defined as a ***district employee who is primarily engaged in direct instruction with one or more pupils for instructional activities, physical or behavioral management, or other purposes under the direction of a regular education or special education teacher or related service provider.*** A paraprofessional's role is to supplement, rather than replace or stand in for a certified teacher.



Duties and responsibilities can vary depending on the paraprofessional's assignment and the needs of the student or students with whom they work. Some examples of duties include:

- assisting with addressing of specific individual student goals and objectives under the direction of the classroom teacher as specified by each student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- providing remediation, review or re-teaching of academic skills under direction of a licensed teacher.
- assisting students with activities of daily living like grooming, toileting, feeding, etc.
- following behavior plans specific to individual students.
- logging data regarding student progress towards IEP goals and objectives.
- encouraging social interaction among students who may lack social skills.
- facilitating the use of student equipment for mobility, physical, audio-visual or other needs.
- monitoring safety and well being of students with disabilities.
- making accommodations or adaptations to activities to meet the needs of the learner.

What is the typical day in the life of a paraprofessional? It may start with bus duty, if asked to monitor the safety of the students on specialized transportation. If a paraprofessional works directly with a student who needs constant support, they begin their day helping the student from the bus. The para then follows the schedule of the student which may include time in the mainstream classroom, special education classroom, lunch and possibly recess depending on the age of the student. The students that have more functional needs have time built into their schedule to assist with activities that teach daily living skills. This is a demanding job, but very rewarding as well.

One of the best things a paraprofessional can do for a student and for their own job satisfaction is to build a positive relationship with the student as soon as possible. Many of the paras that work with students with disabilities have a strong connection or bond with their student(s). They typically have a "heart" for students with disabilities and want to help. What is the ultimate goal of a paraprofessional? Their goal is to work themselves out of a job by increasing the independence of the student they work with while providing the supports necessary for the student to be successful.

Throughout the Delano School District, we have 53 paraprofessionals who care for our learners with special needs. We are fortunate to have so many caring individuals that have chosen their life profession to care for these students.

- Keely Swartzter, Special Education Coordinator

***Paraprofessionals Week for 2016 is past,
but any day throughout the year is the right day to THANK a para
for their dedication and hard work!***

Delano's 2016 Teacher of the Year



Joe Lawrence, Language Arts Teacher at Delano High School, was selected as Delano Public Schools 2016 Teacher of the Year by his colleagues.

Joe's philosophy is to embrace teaching as an art. He considers himself and many of his colleagues, artists. "Becoming an excellent teacher takes thousands of hours of practice and an artistic ability to balance the overwhelming workload in order to connect with as many young people as possible," expressed Joe. He believes that connecting with students, teachers, and parents in order to collaborate and learn from each other is the key to great teaching.

Joe feels that the current education system is working too hard to create future workers and instead must focus on creating well-rounded individuals. Joe stated, "As a high school teacher, my goal is not to create workers." My goal is to create explorers, creators and thinkers. I want kids to question. I want the actors of the future to understand science instead of acting as mouthpieces for those who recruit them to speak about an agenda. I want doctors and lawyers to have a deep understanding of literature, music and art so they know there are real people within the problems they work to solve. I want future politicians to understand science, climate-change, physics, biology and chemistry so that their decisions come from a foundation of knowledge rather than a foundation of bankers or special interest groups."

Joe's other passions include serving as the DHS Student Council Advisor and as a volunteer Guitar Club Advisor. He began the Guitar Club for students with a passion for music to hone their craft and learn to create music together. He has taught them how to raise funds, and has found many venues where they can perform. Joe believes strongly in collaboration in the classroom as well as in extracurricular activities. He treats all of his students as budding artists. Students sing, draw, argue, create and write positive things on the "white board of positivity," a message board that resides in his classroom. Joe believes that each teacher in the Delano school district comes together to make magic. Each teacher brings his or her own unique qualities, talents and energy to the students they teach. He feels he succeeds because of his peers.

Joe Lawrence received his Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Baldwin-Wallace University, Ohio. He went on to earn his teaching license in English Education from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities in 2007, along with his Masters of Education in 2013. Joe has taught in Delano since 2011. Along with Language Arts 9, Joe teaches Exploring Language Arts 9/10, Theatre Arts, Sports Literature, Mythology and Public Speaking. He is on the Student Contact Committee which assists students who are struggling academically, behaviorally, socially or personally. Joe is also a member of the Site-Based Leadership Committee, a group designed to review professional development opportunities. In addition, he is a member of the School Improvement Plan Committee and participated on the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) curriculum. In recognition of his contributions to education, Joe received the Leadership in Educational Excellence Award (LEEAA) in 2014 from Resource Training and Solutions in St. Cloud, MN. In pursuit of his theatrical aspirations, Joe is an artistic director, board member and an actor for 4 Community Theatre. He is also a member of the Second Act Committee to restore Delano Middle School's auditorium.

Joe lives in Delano with his wife, Solveig, and their two children Clara (8) and Everett (5).

Tiger Fun Fair

Mark Your Calendars for Saturday, February 27!



Get ready for the Annual Tiger Fun Fair that will take place on February 27, 2016, from 4-8 p.m. at the Delano High School Tiger Activity Center. There will be FUN, FOOD, CARNIVAL GAMES, MORE INFLATABLES and a SILENT AUCTION at Delano's largest school carnival hosted by Delano Elementary Partners in Education (DES PIE). DES PIE will be pre-selling wristbands a few weeks prior to this event. They will be available at Delano Elementary and at the door. The Tiger Fun Fair is for the entire family!

We are in need of many volunteers to make this event a success. To volunteer, go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0949a5ab29a0f58-2016>
Questions? Please contact Meredith Huikko, at meredith.huikko@delanoschools.org.



District Receives Exceptional Audit Report

An audit report of the district's financial operation during the 2014-15 school year received an "unqualified" rating, which is the highest possible opinion that can be given by the certified public accounting firm of Bergan KDV. The Delano School Board received the positive news at its regular monthly meeting on November 23, 2015.

The unassigned balance in the district's main operating fund grew by 8.64% to 20 percent of the General Fund. That is comparable to the statewide average. An adequate fund balance is considered an important indicator of how well a district's finances are managed. An adequate fund balance provides a district with protection against unanticipated expenditures. In recent years, it has also provided the district adequate cash flow when the Legislature shifted aid payments.

The district's Food Service and Community Education funds were also in good standing. Positive balances in these enterprise funds are important because otherwise money from the General Fund would need to be reallocated to cover any shortfalls.

Delano Public Schools continually strive to be fiscally responsible in every aspect of the financial operations of the school district.

Battle of the Books

Reading Incentive Program

Battle of the Books at Delano Schools is a reading incentive program for students in grades 3-8. Students are given a list of approximately 10 book titles. From that list, they choose 3-4 books to read. To prepare for the *Battle of the Books* competition, students are divided into groups of three and they read the books and write a summary of the book so they can review their notes before the "battle." On the day of the "battle," the groups come together and are asked questions from the moderator to demonstrate their abilities and test their knowledge of the books they have read. For example, "In which book is there a character who likes to plan ahead?" Teams must state the name of the book and also the author's name. Winners are determined by how many correct answers are given by each team.

Battle of the Books is a reading incentive program utilized across the country. Books are selected over a range of reading levels and topics so that all students can participate. The Battle of the Books organization strives to support students in their love and discovery of reading by introducing them to quality literature, offer books that build upon historical values and the dignity of life, and to help develop friendships between students based upon socialization, competition, and mutual respect. *Battle of the Books* is run by the Gifted and Talented Coordinator, Gwen Briesemeister.



Elementary School Winners

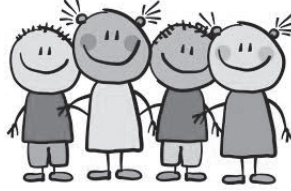


Middle School students work quickly to answer questions during the competition

Kindergarten Round-Up

March 8 and 10, 2016

Delano Elementary School invites you to attend Kindergarten Roundup on March 8 or 10 for children entering Kindergarten in Fall 2016. Families with last names beginning with A through K should attend on Tuesday, March 8, and families with last names beginning with L through Z should attend on Thursday, March 10. If you have a conflict on your assigned evening, please come on the alternate evening.



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.

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

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

Congratulations Wright County Conference Band and Choir Members

Twelve Delano High School students were selected to perform in the fifth annual Wright County Conference Honor Band and Choir concert on Saturday, January 9, at Dassel-Cokato High School. Members were nominated by their music directors and began practicing in November in preparation for this event. Approximately 150 students came together from surrounding Wright County Conference schools to share their musical talents, practice together and perform for a large audience.

The Honor Band was conducted by Dr. Douglas C. Orzolek. He is an Associate Director of Bands at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. Dr. Orzolek is an accomplished educator and many of his thoughts and ideas have been published in music books and journals. He teaches music education methods and techniques, conducts the Symphonic Band, and teaches musical acoustics, music literature and conducting at all levels. He received his Doctor of Philosophy in Music from the University of Minnesota.

The Honor Choir was conducted by Dr. Axel Theimer. He is a native of Austria where he was a member of the Vienna Boys' Choir and director of the Chorus Biennensis. He received much of his training in Vienna and completed his studies at the University of Minnesota with a M.F.A. in Choral Conducting and a D.M.A. in Vocal Performance. At St. John's and St. Ben's, Dr. Thieme directs the CSB/SJU Chamber Choir and the SJU Men's Chorus. He also teaches choral conducting, applied voice, vocal pedagogy, and other related courses.

Congratulations to all these talented students for this wonderful accomplishment.



WCC Honor Band Members

Front Row (l to r): Katie Hemingway, Stephanie Almquist and Nichole Hannan

Back Row: Elizabeth Schleisman and Eric Palan



WCC Honor Choir Members

Front Row (l to r): Lilly Maeder, Alyssa Ingle and Lauren Vlach
Back Row: Drew Weinzierl, Damon Vanasse, Dylan Johnson, and Joseph Mann

Delano School District
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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.

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Educational Excellence is Our Foremost Goal

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

Upcoming Events

February

4	Community Ed Advisory Council Meeting	6:15 pm
8	Delano Partners in Education Meeting	7 pm
9	DES 4th Grade Concert	6:30 and 7:30 pm
11	HS Band Concert	7 pm
15	President's Day - NO SCHOOL	
18-19	Early Childhood Health & Development Screening	
	Call 763.972.6210, press 4, to schedule your child's screening	
22	School Board Meeting	5:45 pm
25-26	ES Play "SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK"	7 pm
27	ES Play "SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK"	1 and 3 pm

March

3	DHS Choir Concert	7 pm
8	Kindergarten Round-up (last names A-K)	5:30-8 pm
	TKC Fall Open House/Registration Night	5-7 pm
9	Teacher Workshop Day - NO SCHOOL	
10	Kindergarten Round-up (last names L-Z)	5:30-8 pm
10-11	Early Childhood Health & Development Screening	
	Call 763.972.6210, press 4, to schedule your child's screening	
14	Delano Partners in Education Meeting	7 pm
21-25	Spring Break - NO SCHOOL	
28	School Board Meeting	5:45 pm
29	WEE Tiger Preschool 2016-17 Pre-Registration Open House	3:30-6:30 pm

Delano Public Schools Raise Funds to Support Local United Way

Each year, Delano Public Schools holds a district wide fundraising campaign for the United Way. The final numbers came in for the 2015 United Way Fund Drive and through the donations of over 114 district employees, the school district raised \$11,395 to support the Delano-Loretto United Way.

A special thank you to teachers, Karen Hohenstein, John Binge and Kalsey Rheingans, along with Community Education Director, Diane Johnson, and Youth Development Coordinator, Carley Olsem, for leading their building campaigns this year. 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.

