

# Eye of the Tiger

Recognized by Forbes Magazine - #1 in the Nation for Top Performing Schools  
that Reside in a Community with Affordable Housing



I would like to take this opportunity to update you on our 5 Year Strategic Plan that the district implemented at the beginning of the school year. Now that we are approximately six months into the implementation phase, I would like to share the progress we have made thus far.

As you may recall, the vision of our strategic plan is to facilitate *systemic academic growth to promote educational excellence and continuous improvement for every learner in a digital society*. The four major components of our strategic plan include: technology, curriculum, professional development and facilities. Under the major focus of technology, the district is striving to create a mobile, digital learning environment that enhances curriculum, learning instruction, assessment, and professional development. Our first technology goal is to provide an infrastructure to support this type of mobile, digital environment. I am happy to announce that we will have a wireless solution that meets the needs of our students, staff and community members within our facilities. This new wireless solution should be in place within the next month. In the area of curriculum, our teaching staff has been working hard to create a comprehensive pre-kindergarten through grade 12 curriculum map. Once this map has been completed, we will be able to align all aspects of the district curriculum to better prepare our students to be college and career ready. Professional development is a key component for the success of students and staff. Our professional development activities have focused on curriculum mapping for the first half of the school year. Our executive committee has been working on receiving feedback from both our internal and external stakeholders regarding facility needs for the present and future. The overarching goal of our facilities portion of the strategic plan is to develop a comprehensive facilities plan for our district campus that maximizes our pre-kindergarten through adult learning environment and supports co-curricular opportunities. We will continue with the development of this plan that will clarify the needs of our facilities as we grow as a school district.

As I reflect on the past six months, I realize that we have accomplished great progress with regards to our strategic plan. These first six months have been a great starting point for the future of our school district, and has created a clear road-map for the next five years. Our journey has begun!

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

## Upcoming Events at Delano Public Schools

### February

3	2014-15 HS Registration Conferences (Grades 8-11)	
	HS Band Concert	7 pm
6	MS Winter Activity Day	
10-14	HS Winterfest Week	
13	ECFE/SR Penny Carnival (for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society)	5:30-8 pm
17	President's Day - <b>SCHOOL IS IN SESSION</b> DPS Trap Team Meeting	7 pm
	6th-12th graders, DMS Auditorium	
20-21	ES Play	7 pm
22	ES Play	1 & 3 pm
	DMS Auditorium	
24	HS Conferences	5-7:30 pm
	School Board Meeting	7 pm
25	TKC Summer Registration Night	4-7 pm
27	ES Conferences & Book Fair	4-8 pm
28	ES Half-Day Kindergarten Conferences	8-3:40 pm
	<b>NO HALF-DAY KINDERGARTEN</b>	
	3rd Annual Toast to Art Event	7-10 pm

### March

3	HS Choir Concert	7 pm
4	ES Conferences & Book Fair	4-8 pm
	MS Conferences & Book Fair	4-8 pm
6	ES Conferences & Book Fair	4-8 pm
	MS Conferences & Book Fair	4-8 pm
11	TKC Fall Open House/Registration Night	4-7 pm
	Pre-K ONLY	4-5 pm
13	Kindergarten Roundup (A-L)	5:30-8 pm
17	School Board Meeting	7 pm
18	Kindergarten Roundup (M-Z)	5:30-8 pm
20	Wee Tiger Preschool	
	2014-15 Pre-Registration Open House	3:30-6:30 pm
24-28	Spring Break - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	

**Due to recent school cancellations on Monday, January 6 and Tuesday, January 7, school will be in session on Monday, February 17 and Friday, April 4. Additional cancellations will be made up at the end of the school year.**

# DMS Embraces Global Outreach Project

During the morning of December 13, 2013, Delano Middle School students and staff recognized the needs of others in the community and experienced an important lesson in life; give a helping hand where you can. Students shared goodwill towards others by participating in purposeful and structured activities. This is the 3rd Annual Global Outreach Project and this event will continue for years to come.



***Students make sandwiches for the homeless***

The purpose of this outreach project is three-fold; give back to the community, provide an opportunity to allow the students to get to know others outside of his/her social circle, and for teachers and students to get to know each other in a different context. As the saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child," all the influences in a child's life play a critical role in educating a child. In school a child learns to read, write and do arithmetic, but children must also learn to be productive citizens. Through this outreach project, Delano Middle School hopes to teach students how to improve the quality of life for their neighbor, community and the world around them.

December 13 was a success in many ways; 80 birthday bags for those that may otherwise go without a celebration, 50 shoebox Christmas boxes for those who need the essentials, 300 sandwiches for the homeless, and 30 fleece blankets to help keep people warm. These are just some of the projects that will touch the lives of others and help begin to establish a life of caring for, nourishing, developing, or enhancing the human potential. With every passing school day, Delano Middle School strives to touch the hearts of the students that enter their building by growing academic knowledge while teaching lessons of compassion for those less fortunate.

Delano Middle School would like to thank all the parent and community volunteers who donated their time, energy and resources to help this project succeed. Without this support, this project would have not been such a big success!



## Delano SciTech Showcase

*Thursday, April 10, 2014  
12 noon - 8 p.m.*

Delano High School, the Delano Economic Development Committee, and the Delano Chamber of Commerce have teamed up to present the first Delano SciTech Showcase that will be located on the Delano High School Campus in the Tiger Activity Center (TAC). At this event, our high school and middle school students will demonstrate classroom learning in an interactive way. In addition, our business community will showcase products and processes that connect to student learning. Attendees will network with universities, colleges and other higher education institutions which will relate their certificates, degrees, and programs to Delano students learning and our local businesses. For example:

- Students will see how their education connects with many college and career pathways.
- Parents of students will leave with the knowledge to help their students plan college and career pathways.
- Community members will experience what Delano students learn in school, what happens within local businesses, and will become better and more informed citizens of this great city.



Questions, please visit our website at [www.delanoscitech.org](http://www.delanoscitech.org). This is an event for everyone, of every age. Each participant will find very valuable information about Delano Public Schools and student learning, the numerous careers offered within local businesses and the city of Delano, and be able to link this information directly to actual college programs, degrees, and certificates. Come see how Delano High School is preparing students for their future to help create the "World's Best Workforce!"

## Congratulations Gwen Egly Delano's Teacher of the Year



Gwen Egly, Media Center Specialist at Delano Middle School, was chosen Delano's Teacher of the Year by her colleagues. Gwen manages the media center in the middle school, she teaches Research & Technology Skills to 5th and 6th grade students, Web 2.0 tools to 7th grade students and 8th graders investigate the world of Google Applications. These classes explore many 21st century skills that embrace creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication.

Gwen's teaching philosophy is encapsulated in the following quote by Benjamin Franklin, "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I remember, involve me and I learn." The environment that Gwen tries to create for the middle school media center is one where students are directly and actively involved in their education. She has fostered an environment where students feel safe to take risks therefore encouraging intellectual curiosity. At the foundation of this environment is the need for students to accept differing opinions and approaches to problem solving. Gwen encourages her students to think outside the box as they participate in project-based media courses. She wants them to know that they are not alone during their educational journey, working as an individual and in collaboration with a group will help them learn to be a productive member of a team and an asset to society. Gwen had the opportunity to visit Apple headquarters in California a few years ago. That experience helped Gwen realize that teachers should no longer be viewed as "Fountains of Knowledge" rather they should be referred to as "Educational Facilitators." Gwen expressed, "Educators need to serve as guides encouraging their students to develop the gifts and talents they each possess."

Gwen came to Delano in 1997 and has taught in both the elementary and middle school media centers. She has also served on many district committees. Gwen lives in Delano with her husband, Darrell, and their two children, Julia and Nicholas.

## Delano Schools Raises Over \$8000 for Delano-Loretto United Way

Each year around the holidays, Delano Public Schools hold a district-wide fundraising campaign for the United Way. The final numbers came in for the 2013 United Way Fund Drive and through the donations of nearly 100 district employees, the school district raised \$8,811 to support the Delano-Loretto Way.

The Delano High School staff was recognized with a pizza luncheon for contributions totaling over \$5,000 and on another postive note, the Delano Middle School staff raised \$1,000 more this year than in 2012.

A special thank you to teachers, Karen Hohenstein, John Bingea and Kalsey Zachman, 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 committment to help build better lives and strengthen the community in which they live and work.



## DELANO Community Education

**Adult & Youth Enrichment, Fitness, Aquatics, Recreation, and more are all opportunities offered for everyone in Delano and surrounding communities.** Delano

Community Education offers a myriad of classes throughout the year. For up-to-date information on CE opportunities log on to [www.delanocommunityed.com](http://www.delanocommunityed.com), visit the Delano Community Education office Monday-Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., or call at 763.972.6210, press 1.

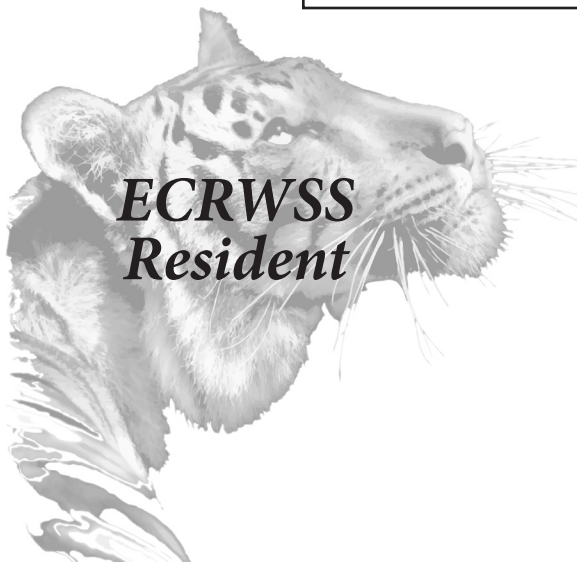
**Are you interested in teaching a Community Education class?** No teaching certificate is needed, simply a desire to share your knowledge and skills with others. We are always looking for individuals to share their passion or interests with others! If you are, please contact Diane Johnson at 763.972.6210, press 6 or [djohnson@delano.k12.mn.us](mailto:djohnson@delano.k12.mn.us) to discuss this opportunity.

Delano Community Education is prided on "Building Community Spirit through Lifelong Learning" and we want you to come along with us!



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**Delano, MN 55328**

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**ECRWSS**  
**Resident**

**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

### Kindergarten Roundup

March 13 & 18, 2014

Delano Elementary School

Delano Elementary School will be hosting Kindergarten Roundup on Thursday, March 13 and Tuesday, March 18, for children entering Kindergarten in Fall 2014. Children and parents will have an opportunity to meet the caring staff, tour an outstanding facility, experience a kindergartener's school day, share in fun activities and get to know other future kindergarteners. Here are the details:

**Thursday, March 13:**

Children with last names beginning with A through L

**Tuesday, March 18:**

Children with last names beginning with M through Z

**5:30-6:00 p.m.:** Registration

**6:00-7:15 p.m.:** Experience a kindergartener's school day

**7:15-8:00 p.m.:** Informational meeting for parents while children participate in classroom activities

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, ext. 2119 or 2121.



## Buy a Pizza, Take a Bow!

Help transform the Delano Middle School Auditorium into the Delano Performing Arts Center!

Pizza Hut of Delano will give 20% of their profit to the Auditorium Restoration Project.



**When:** Thursday, February 6  
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Where:** Pizza Hut of Delano  
405 Babcock Blvd. (Hwy 12)

**Phone:** 763.972.2925

**This event is for takeout and delivery. Customers must present a coupon at the time of purchase. Coupon's are available in the elementary, middle and high school offices.** For more information on the Auditorium Restoration Project, go to their website at [www.http://www.secondactdelano.org/](http://www.secondactdelano.org/)

**Tasty giving is just a phone call away!**  
**Thank you for supporting the**  
**Auditorium Restoration Project!**