

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



From Bond Referendum to Building Projects

Now that the bond referendum is complete and both questions have passed, the district will be preparing to facilitate building and remodeling projects over the next three to four years. On Tuesday, November 10, the school board held a special meeting to officially canvass the results of the bond referendum. This process made the results official regarding the election. The next steps will be financial in nature regarding the sale of the bonds through a bid process. This process takes approximately two months and will include the authorization of all district levy authority.

Our building projects will include several phases that will be articulated in a master time-frame over the next several years. These phases are listed below:

- Establish a project decision-making structure
- Project communication plans that involves both internal and external stakeholders
- Timeline development that will include the following:
 - Critical milestone dates
 - Design activities that include user input
 - Summer meetings and campus impact timelines
- Project scope and bundling process for bids
- Building project preparations
- Review of interested service providers, vendors and suppliers



As always, our main goal is to make sure our district community is fully informed of the multitude of phases of these building projects. These major projects will involve a multitude of opportunities for community members to be involved in providing input. The district will establish four major core committees that will provide community input, much like our Facilities Committee. The four core committees are as follows:

- New Intermediate School Committee
- Campus Core Committee
- Performing Arts Center Committee
- Secondary Building Redesign Committee

This is an extremely exciting time for our school district. This past bond referendum will give the district the opportunity to address long-term facility needs in our district. I look forward to sharing updates and progress throughout this building project that will affect all buildings on our campus and additional outdoor facility needs.

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

DHS Seniors Named National Merit Commended Students



Congratulations to seniors Eric Palan and Nichole Hannan, who were recently named commended students in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program. These scholars are two of the more than 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation who placed among the top 5% of more than 1.5 million who entered the 2016 competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). This accomplishment and recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.

Delano Elementary School Embraces “The Tiger Way”

Respect, Responsible, and Safe. These concepts are taught to our elementary students in the new school-wide program called *Positive Behavior Supports*. This program was designed by staff members to establish and maintain a safe and effective school environment that maximizes academic achievement and behavioral expectations for all K-4 students. These behaviors are also expected in the hallway, the bathrooms, cafeteria, bus and recess. We are hopeful this behavior will also carry through to home as well.

On September 25, DES had the first of four “Tiger Way Celebrations” to be held this year. These celebrations bring the whole school together to celebrate the positive things students and staff are doing on a daily basis.

Superintendent Matt Schoen led the September celebration by highlighting our students' great work in being responsible, respectful and safe in the beginning of the year. The next celebration was held Friday, December 4. This is a wonderful example of Delano Schools helping to build a responsible and respectable community by encouraging youth.

DPS Purchases New Screening Equipment Thanks to Generous Donations

As we see in our everyday lives, technology is constantly changing. It also has changed in the tools we use to screen our students for hearing loss. The old technology, Audiometers, have been used for years to screen students for hearing loss at Delano Public Schools. An Audiometer detects hearing problems when students react to tones they hear with headphones placed on their ears, therefore engaging in the hearing test and following directions given by the nurse who is conducting the test. The new technology, Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) test, measures sound of cochlear origin which can be recorded by a microphone fitted in the ear canal. This new equipment is very reliable, especially when hearing loss is detected and a referral to an Audiologist is recommended for the student.

This new equipment will primarily be used for preschool and elementary children throughout the Delano School District as well as the parochial schools in our community. OAE's will also be used for specific cases at the middle and high school level for those who sense specific hearing problems or those who cannot respond to a responsive hearing test.

We want to thank B's on the River, Delano Lions, Knights of Columbus and the Loretto Lions for their generous donations which allowed Delano Public Schools to purchase this new screening equipment. Delano Public Schools recognizes and is grateful for the outreach of support from the community that supports the needs of the students throughout our school district.



OAE tests kindergartener
Thomas Depa



Brian Baumann, B's on the River; Dale Vander Linden and Tom Screeden, Delano Lions, watch as Jane Larter, District Nurse, and Crista Wadholm, Elementary Nurse, show how OAE is used for hearing screening.

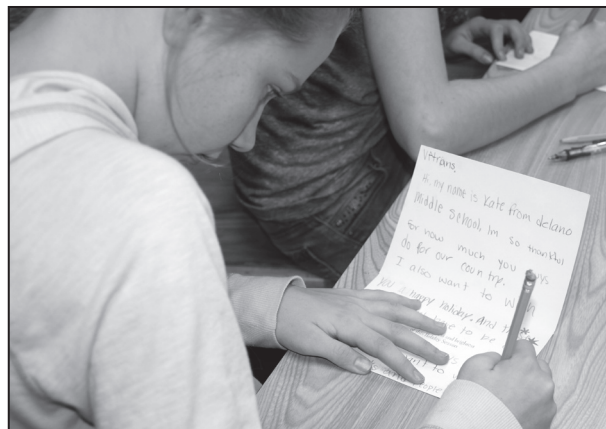
#WeCare Day

Celebrating the Spirit of Community through Giving

On the morning of December 4, Delano Middle School students and staff joined together to make the world a brighter place for our community by celebrating #WeCare Day. This is DMS's 5th Annual Outreach Project. Some of the activities included writing letters of thanks to local veterans, making sandwiches for the homeless, making blankets for the needy, sharing holiday music at Coborn's and sharing songs of the season with patients at Golden Living Center. As students completed the tasks at hand, they shared goodwill towards others by participating in purposeful and structured activities.

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.

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 others. Thank you to all who donated items for this special day, a day where students learned about the the joy and merit of helping others.



Kate Bunn thanks a local veteran for their service.



P.K. Moore, Chase Downs and Jack Eliason make sandwiches for the homeless in Minneapolis.

Delano Test Scores Dominate Among State's Public Schools

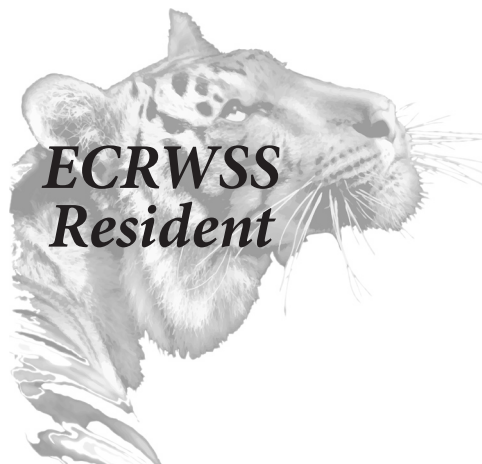
Delano Public Schools are proud to announce that students achieved high marks in all areas of testing during the 2014-15 school year. The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) tests are the primary assessment tool used by the Minnesota Department of Education. Each test has four achievement levels to which students are assessed per the results of each test. Students who fall into the Meets or Exceeds categories are considered to be proficient and making satisfactory progress in meeting the state expectations according to the standards in each discipline.

In Math, our students performed in the top 1% of the public school districts in the state. In Reading, our students performed in the top 3% in the state. In Science, students in 5th, 8th and 11th grade also performed above the state average and improved significantly from past years. In addition, Delano students continue to accomplish high scores on the ACT College Entrance Exam with an average score of 23.9 during the 2014-15 school year compared to Minnesota's average ACT score of 22.7.

Although school test scores always seem to make the headlines, Delano Public Schools continue to stress individuality and creativity, while teaching the embedded standards set at the state and national levels. It is the development of the "whole" student that helps pave their way to a successful future.

Delano School District
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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

December 2015

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| 11 | Tiger Kids Club HOLIDAZE | 5-8 pm |
| 14 | School Board Meeting | 5:45 pm |
| | 7th/8th Grade Band Concert & MS Book Fair | 7 pm |
| 17 | 5th/6th Grade Band Concert & MS Book Fair | 7 pm |
| 23-31 | Winter Break - NO SCHOOL | |

January 2016

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| 1 | Winter Break - NO SCHOOL | |
| 4 | School Resumes | |
| 11 | ECFE Classes Resume | |
| 25 | Teacher Workshop Day - NO SCHOOL | |
| | ES Conferences & Book Fair | 12-8 pm |
| | School Board Meeting | 5:45 pm |
| 28 | ES Conferences & Book Fair | 4-8 pm |



*Delano Public Schools
wishes you a
Happy Holiday Season!*

Delano Teachers Honored at LEEA Award Banquet



Nathan Peterson, Ginny Schuelke, Katie Beshears, and Charlene Warne were honored at the Leadership in Educational Excellence (LEEA) banquet on November 4 in St. Cloud, MN. These teachers were nominated by the district for their outstanding contributions to education, in and out of the classroom. The educational focus of the evening was, "First Bring Positive Energy to Your Classroom, Then Deal With the Content." Delano Public Schools are proud to have these individuals teaching in our district, and we would like to congratulate them for what they share with their students every day.