

# 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



## Our Facilities Journey

I would like to take this opportunity to update our district community on the future of our facilities and the needs that we will face over the next 10 years. As you may recall, this past fall/winter we had a group of district community members gather to assess our facilities and establish needs and solutions to meet the needs of our district's facilities. When considering needs, I equate this to owning a house for 30 years and not addressing the maintenance and the upkeep of that house during that time. For example, if you do not do anything to your house for 30 years, you are going to have a physical space that no longer meets the needs of your family due to lack of upkeep on your property. In addition, over the period of the last 30 years, your family has grown and the space that you had when you first purchased the house is no longer adequate for your family. This is what our school district has gone through with regards to our facilities, as some portions of our schools have not been updated to meet the needs of our students in the 21st century.



***"As of today, we are projected to increase our enrollment by approximately 300 students over the next ten years. The simple fact is our current school facilities will be unable to accommodate this increase in student enrollment."***

As of today, we are projected to increase our enrollment by approximately 300 students over the next 10 years. The simple fact is our current school facilities will be unable to accommodate this increase in student enrollment. We have exhausted the existing footprints of our current middle school and high school. Our high school was built in the mid to late 60's

and we have added on to the original structure two times; once in the 1990's and the other in the early 2000's when we added on the Tiger Activity Center. The option to make additions to both the high school and middle school no longer exists. This definitely creates a need for the school district to address this capacity issue. Likewise, we are at the crossroad where we so desperately need to renovate our existing schools if we want to continue to meet the needs and maintain existing educational and co-curricular programming.

This past week the school district was presented with the results of a feasibility study of our community from the Morris Leatherman Company. This feasibility study was a scientific research survey that included a telephone survey of randomly selected households in the Delano Public School district. The goal of this research study was to assess the attitudes and opinions of the residents of our school district on four separate, but interrelated issues:

- Gauge general perceptions and concerns in our school district
- Measure the level of community support regarding a future bond referendum
- Overall communications of the school district
- Demographics

The results of this scientific survey substantiated that the district is performing at a high level with regards to providing great educational services with a talented staff to maintain educational excellence. The survey also revealed that the top two issues facing the district are large class sizes due to our space issues and the lack of funding for our educational programs. Ninety-six percent of the people that we surveyed concluded that the quality of our public schools was either excellent or good. Consistently, the results regarding the performance of our school system ranks in the top 5-10 percent of the schools in the state of Minnesota. We also found that 87% of the respondents would support a tax increase for some or all facility needs of our school district. In connection with this information, 64% of the respondents stated that it would be a good idea to make improvements to our facilities. The top four priorities based on the survey results with regards to the specifics of the facilities committee recommendation are as follows:

*(cont'd on next page)*

- Building infrastructure
- Safety and security
- Classroom space for middle and high school
- New intermediate school

With this information, the school board will be studying all empirical data over the next two months culminating in a decision for the school district to facilitate a bond referendum for our facilities, most likely in November 2015. In order for us to meet the needs of all of our facilities, the district would need to invest approximately 65 million dollars to provide the appropriate educational space and renovate and update our existing spaces in order to maintain educational excellence for our students. As you know, our school district only facilitates a referendum to ask our community for financial support as a last resort. Delano Public Schools has established a tradition of utilizing its resources in the most effective and efficient manner possible. Thus, our school district ranks near the bottom of the list of public school districts regarding per pupil spending. The time has come for the district to seek out serious solutions to our facility needs for the next 10 years.

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

## **Delano Special Education Teacher Chosen 2014-15 Teacher of the Year**

Ginny Schuelke, Special Education Teacher at Delano Elementary School, was chosen Delano's 2014-15 Teacher of the Year by her colleagues.

Ginny migrated to the field of Special Education in the early 1990's after both of her children were diagnosed with a Specific Learning Disability (SLD). She had experienced first-hand the challenges facing children and parents of children with disabilities, and wanted to make a difference in the field of Special Education.

Since becoming a special education teacher, Ginny's focus has been to improve the outcomes, both educational and social-emotional, for students with disabilities. She truly believes that her job is to work with students and their families to prevent the student's disability from becoming a handicapping condition. Developing students to their full potential is something Ginny strives to do on a daily basis. She works hard to accomplish this by developing positive relationships with students and parents, setting high expectations, providing support for the general education teacher, and implementing research-based instructional practices.



Ginny believes the most important aspect of her job is making positive connections with her students. She expressed, "It is important to move beyond their deficits and needs and focus on the "whole child", what their strengths and weaknesses are, and how to make learning relevant." One of Ginny's strengths is to acknowledge students successes and help them move forward positively when they experience failure. "We must remember to reach out to parents and celebrate their child's successes, not just contact them when the child is unsuccessful," Ginny stated.

Ginny has made significant contributions to education during her tenure in Delano. She spearheaded the expansion of on-site mental health services for students and has helped improve special education programming. In addition, beginning in 1999, Ginny has served as the Facilitator of Delano Cares Program. This program provides early intervention services as well as on-going mental health services for students throughout the district. Ginny is also a Master Level Trainer for Non-Violent Crisis Intervention and she trains Delano staff, as well as staff members of the Meeker and Wright Special Education Cooperative (MAWSECO) in Positive Behavior Intervention, Restraints and Seclusion.

Ginny received her Bachelor of Education degree from Auburn University. She went on to earn her Master of Science in Education degree from Minnesota State University - Mankato with her focus in emotional and behavioral disorders. Ginny has taught in Delano since 1995 at the elementary and middle school levels. From 2006-2008, she served as the Special Education Coordinator at MAWSECO, returning to Delano in 2008 as a SLD/EBD teacher. She also serves on several professional associations. As a parent of a former Marine, Ginny is active in supporting military family and friends who are currently serving. Ginny lives in Howard Lake with her husband, Rich. She has two sons, John and Andrew.

## Refinancing of School Bonds Will Save District Taxpayers \$2 Million

In March 2015, the Delano Public School District 879 refinanced bonds that were for the Tiger Activity Center addition, and additional classrooms in the high school, middle school and elementary school. This refinancing will save district taxpayers nearly \$2 million over the next 10 years. This is \$500,000 more in savings than expected when the district began planning the refinancing.

At the March 16 Delano School Board meeting, Business Manager Mary Reeder stated, "Interest rates have decreased since Ehlers and Associates, Inc. presented the Pre-Sale Report to the school board on February 23, therefore, the interest cost is lower and the savings to district taxpayers will be greater." The lowest bid was submitted by Citigroup Global Markets of 1.8625 percent for cost savings of more than \$145,000 over the high bid of 1.9982. The school board had previously approved the sale of up to \$14.8 million, but that number was reduced to \$13.14 million due to more favorable bids. This bond refinancing will decrease school property tax levies payable in 2016 through 2024, by approximately \$200,000 per year.

During the board meeting, Mary Reeder noted that the district's bond rating remains at Aa3. This rating was reached after Moody's Investor's Service evaluated the district's property valuations, taxpayers, employers, new residential and business developments, financial history, current status, enrollment projections, operating levies, and the fund balance of the past, present, and future.

## Welcome Mr. Barry Voight, DMS Principal



Delano Public Schools welcomes Mr. Barry Voight as the new middle school principal beginning July 1, 2015. Barry comes to Delano Middle School from Rocori Middle School where he currently holds the position of assistant principal. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Saint John's University and began his teaching career as a Physical Science Teacher at Maple Grove Junior High in 2003. He then earned his Masters of Education from Saint Mary's University and most recently his K-12 Administrative License from Saint Mary's University as well.

Barry is very excited to be starting his new journey in the community of Delano. His teaching and leadership philosophy is to engage learners, support diversity, and empower students for growth by developing them in knowledge, understanding, and skills necessary to positively contribute to an uncertain future. Barry expressed, "It is my goal as an educator to work collaboratively with dedicated professionals and stakeholders to engage students toward improving their educational experience and results." His goal is to build positive and productive relationships with students,

parents, staff members and the Delano Community at large to continue the pursuit of educational excellence. As a 9th grade physical science teacher for nine years, and three years as the assistant principal at Rocori Middle School, he continually pursues learning activities through ASCD, AMLE, NASSP, and MASSP, among other resources.

Barry lives in Monticello with his wife, Lora, and his three children; Gavin, Annabelle, and Rowan. He and his family enjoy do-it-yourself projects such as woodworking, landscaping, and home improvements, along with camping, geocaching, and playing in the yard. He also enjoys spending time at the family cabin in northwest Wisconsin.

***Delano Public Schools is very excited to have Barry join the leadership team beginning in July 2015.***



# Mock Car Crash Promotes Distracted Driving Awareness

On Thursday, April 23, Delano High School staged a mock car crash on Tiger Drive across from Delano Middle School for 11th and 12th grade students. Emergency vehicle sights and sounds were heard as student and staff actors portrayed individuals injured in a crash which involved underage drinking and driving while intoxicated. Ambulances, Delano's Fire and Rescue, and Wright County Sheriff's Deputies, along with other community participants helped make this an educational event. Critically injured patients were transported away from Delano High School via ambulance, students were cut out of the staged cars, and student bystanders exhibited emotions that are expected when witnessing the realities of the immediate and critical care an individual requires when involved in an accident of this magnitude.

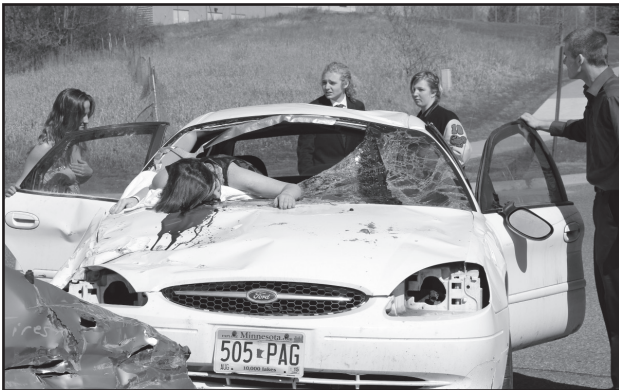
***There are 11 deaths EVERY DAY and texting is nearly 25% of ALL car accidents.***

*-Insurance Institute for Highway Safety  
Fatality Facts.*

Delano High School has orchestrated mock car crashes for the past several years to illustrate the serious consequences of drug and alcohol use while operating a motor vehicle and overall distracted driving. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, car crashes are the leading cause of death for teens, and about a quarter of those crashes involve an underage drinking driver. Along with drinking while driving, there is another DWI that is killing teenagers. That is "Driving while Intoxicated." According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety Fatality Facts, there are 11 teen deaths EVERY DAY and texting is nearly 25% of ALL car accidents. In addition, the number one driving distraction reported by teen drivers is texting.

Following the mock car crash, students returned to Delano's Performing Arts Center to view a brief video continuing the accident that was portrayed outside. This video showed what happens to a driver that has been arrested for driving under the influence. This portrayal included the booking process at the Wright County Courthouse.

Through education, we want students at Delano Public Schools to thrive on positive life lessons and help them navigate around negative consequences of poor choices through educational experiences such as these.



## Taylor Hedtke Named National Merit Finalist

DHS senior, Taylor Hedtke, advanced to the Finalist standing in the National Merit Scholarship Program (NMSC). There are 7600 Finalists that have been chosen from the original 15,000 Semi-Finalists. Taylor is now part of the competition for National Merit Scholarships which include: National Merit \$2500 scholarships, Corporate-sponsored scholarships or college-sponsored scholarships. All winners of Merit Scholarship Awards are chosen from the Finalist group based on their abilities, skills and accomplishments - without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin or religious preference.

Since 2007, Delano Public Schools has recognized 33 National Merit Scholars, Finalists and Commended Students. We hope that recognitions such as these will contribute to our students' educational opportunities. At Delano Public Schools we encourage all students to strive to realize their academic potential.



# DI Teams to Compete at Global Finals • Knoxville, Tennessee



*Sugar Packets*



*The Nerds + Her*



*Wacky Wild Whimsies*



*Deflated Bagpipes*

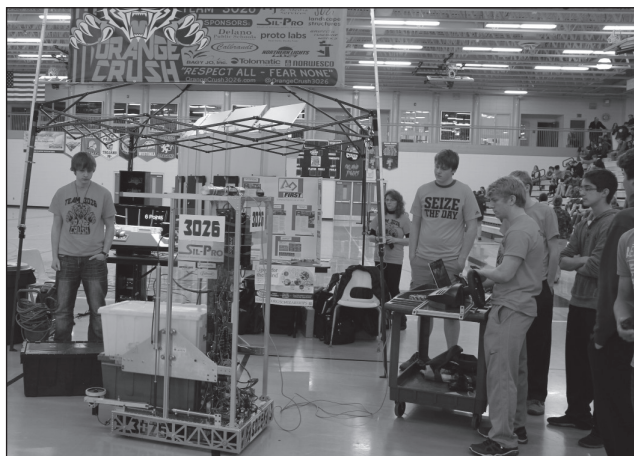
Four Delano Destination ImagiNation (DI) teams will travel to Knoxville, Tennessee, during the week of May 18, to compete against teams from all over the world. At the state tournament in April, the 7th grade team, *The Nerds + Her*, placed 3rd in the Middle Level Project Outreach Challenge; the 8th grade team, *Sugar Packets*, placed 1st in the Middle Level Technical Challenge; the 8th grade team, *The Deflated Bagpipes*, placed 1st in the Middle Level Scientific Challenge; and the 10th grade team, *Wacky Wild Whimsies*, placed 1st in the Senior Level Project Outreach Challenge, all qualifying for the opportunity to compete at Global Finals.

Destination Imagination is a creative problem-solving program for students in grades 2-12. DI teams are tested to think on their feet, work together and devise original solutions that satisfy requirements of open-ended Challenges. Participants learn to unleash their imaginations, think outside the box, work as a team and take unique approaches to problem-solving.

DI is organized through Delano Community Education. We would like to thank all the parent/staff volunteers that make this opportunity possible for the students. We would also like to thank all those individuals and businesses who have donated funds or items to the teams.



## DHS Robotics Team Competes in FIRST Championships



The FIRST, *For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology*, Robotics Team travelled to St. Louis, MO, to compete against 600 teams from the USA, China, Israel, Argentina, Japan, and Australia at the FIRST Championship Competition. The DHS team *Orange Crush* competed in Minneapolis and Duluth, where they were invited as a wild card team to compete in St. Louis. *Orange Crush* began their year by brainstorming and working on different ways to accomplish the task. After that, they developed a robot prototype, to see if their ideas worked. From there, competition began, they put their robots into action, and their successes took them to St. Louis. We would like to thank sponsors Griffith Machine Works, Norwesco, GT Engineering, Landscape Structures, Bagy Jo, Calbrandt, Proto Labs, Tolomatic, and the Herald Journal, mentors Todd and Shelly Bolzer and Chris Tellers of Sil-Pro.



## Job Opportunity at Delano Elementary School



Minnesota Reading Corps is looking for reading tutors for the 2015-16 school year. You will be fully trained to deliver reading support services to Delano students - with an emphasis on our youngest students, Kindergarteners! **This opportunity is a year-long commitment and full-time.**

For more information, please log on to [www.minnesotareadingcorps.org](http://www.minnesotareadingcorps.org) and go to [Become a Tutor](#). For more information, you can also contact Lisa Downer, Basic Skills Teacher, at [lisa.downer@delanoschools.org](mailto:lisa.downer@delanoschools.org).

## Seeking **Art Adventure Program Coordinator** for Delano Public Schools

***Do you have a passion for volunteering, love the arts, education and have time to donate to this program?*** Delano Schools is looking for an Art Adventure Coordinator for grades K-6.

Art Adventure, designed by the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA), is a visual art appreciation and education program for grades K-6 that introduces students to thematic works of art from a variety of cultures.

Art Adventure brings these works of art that can't leave the museum into our school classrooms. The main objective is to encourage students first and foremost to LOOK at the art reproductions, and then TALK about what they SEE.

***Why is Art Adventure important?*** To inspire communication, learning and wonder through the power of art.

In addition, we are always looking for "picture people" volunteers that will be trained by the MIA, and then present the themed reproductions to Delano Elementary students.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact DES Principal, Darren Schuler, at [dschuler@delano.k12.mn.us](mailto:dschuler@delano.k12.mn.us).



## 5th Graders Celebrate DARE Graduation



On Friday, April 17, 5th graders from Delano Middle School and St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic School graduated from the 2014-15 DARE program. DARE stands for "Drug Abuse Resistance Education." This program teaches students good decision-making skills to help them lead safe and healthy lives that are free from substance abuse, violence and other dangerous behaviors. The DARE curriculum is taught by police officers that undergo 80 hours of special training in areas such as child development, classroom management, teaching techniques, and communication skills. Students are taught lessons about acting in their own best interest when facing high-risk, low-gain choices and to resist peer pressure and other influences when making personal choices regarding: smoking, drug abuse, inhalants, alcohol consumption, health, and peer pressure in a social network. The DARE program also enables students to interact with police officers in a controlled, safe classroom environment.

During the graduation at Delano Middle School, several students shared their essays which communicated their commitment to remaining drug-free. Each student was awarded a certificate for their completion of the program, a random drawing for prizes was held, along with a demonstration of how a dog is trained to apprehend a criminal. 5th grader Anders Peterson was awarded the top prize, a bike donated by Walmart.

We would like to thank the Wright County Sheriff's Office and Walmart for sponsoring this program. In addition, thank you to Deputy Craig Canton for teaching our students the importance of drug resistance.

# Delano Public Schools #879

## 2015-2016 District Calendar







March 16, 2015

<b>July 2015</b> S M T W T F S 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	<b>August 2015</b> S M T W T F S 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	<b>September 2015</b> S M T W T F S 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	<b>October 2015</b> S M T W T F S 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
<b>November 2015</b> 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	<b>December 2015</b> S M T W T F S 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	<b>January 2016</b> S M T W T F S 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	<b>February 2016</b> S M T W T F S 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29
<b>March 2016</b> S M T W T F S 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	<b>April 2016</b> S M T W T F S 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	<b>May 2016</b> 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	<b>June 2016</b> S M T W T F S 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

### Important Dates

September 1– MS/HS Teacher Workshop Day  
ES ½ Day Teacher Workshop  
September 2-3– Teacher Workshop Days  
September 7– Labor Day – **NO SCHOOL**  
September 8– First Day of School  
October 5 – HS Conferences (4-8 pm)  
October 8 -ES Conferences (4-8 pm)  
October 12 – MS/ES Conferences (4-8 pm)  
October 13– ES Conferences (4-8 pm)  
October 15-16 – MEA – **NO SCHOOL**  
October 26– MS Conferences (4-8 pm)  
November 6– End of HS 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter  
November 9– Teacher Workshop Day – **NO SCHOOL**  
November 25-27 – Thanksgiving – **NO SCHOOL**  
December 1 – End of MS 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester  
December 4 – End of ES 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester  
December 23- January 1– Winter Break – **NO SCHOOL**  
January 11 – MS Conferences – (4-8 pm)  
January 22– End of HS 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter  
January 25– ES Conferences (12-8 pm)  
Teacher Workshop – **NO SCHOOL**  
January 28– ES Conferences (4-8 pm)

February 8 – HS Registrations Conferences (4:30-8 pm)  
February 15 – President's Day – **NO SCHOOL**  
March 4 – End of ES/MS 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester  
March 7 – HS Conferences (5-7:30 pm)  
March 9 – Teacher Workshop Day – **NO SCHOOL**  
March 21-25 – Spring Break – **NO SCHOOL**  
April 1 – End of HS 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter  
April 11 – MS Conferences (4-8 pm)  
May 30 – Memorial Day – **NO SCHOOL**  
June 5 – Graduation Day  
June 7 – Last Day of School  
June 8 – Teacher Workshop Day

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

**Teacher Days – 182**  
**Student Days – 173**

#### Make-up Days

If a snow day is declared on or before 1/31/16, Delano Public Schools will be in session on 2/15/16. If a snow day is declared after 1/31/16, school will be in session 3/9/16.

All other make-up days begin June 8, 2016.

#### Quarter Marking Period

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter- 42 days  
2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter-43 days  
3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter-42 days  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter- 46 days  
Total – 173 days  
**Trimesters**  
1<sup>st</sup> - ES 58/MS 55 days  
2<sup>nd</sup> - ES 55/MS 58 days  
3<sup>rd</sup> - ES 60/MS 60 days  
Total – 173 days

**Delano School District**  
**700 Elm Avenue East**  
**Delano, MN 55328**

**Nonprofit Organization**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Delano, MN 55328**  
**Permit #13**



**ECRWSS**  
**Resident**

### **Delano Public Schools Vision**

*Systemic academic growth to promote educational excellence & continuous improvement for every learner in a digital society.*

### **2015 Board of Education**

Amy Johnson, Chair  
 Randy Durick, Vice Chair  
 Carolyn Milano, Clerk  
 Lisa Seguin, Treasurer  
 Sarah Baker, Director  
 Corey Black, Director  
 Mark Larson, Director

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## **Educational Excellence is Our Foremost Goal**

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

### **Upcoming Events at Delano Public Schools**

#### **May 2015**

3	National Honor Society Induction	1 pm
	ECFE Spring Prom	3-5 pm
5	7th & 8th Grade Band Concert	7 pm
6	DHS Senior Awards Ceremony	7:30 pm
7	5th & 6th Grade Band Concert	7 pm
11	DHS Band Concert	7:30 pm
12	ECFE/SR End of Year Picnic	5:30-7:30 pm
14	7th & 8th Grade Choir Concert	7 pm
	TKC Bingo Night	5:30-7:30 pm
18	School Board Meeting	5:45 pm
	<i>DHS Media Center</i>	
19	TKC Preschool Program	1 pm
	2nd Grade Concert	7 pm
21	1st Grade Concert	6:30 pm
	<i>(Conely, Jensen, Kern and Weise)</i>	
	1st Grade Concert	7:15 pm
	<i>(Beck, Emmerich, Kurth, and Schleper)</i>	
22	1st Grade Grandparents Day	12:15-2:30 pm
25	Memorial Day - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	
26	2nd Grade Track & Field Day	9:30 am
27	1st Grade Track & Field Day	9:30 am
28	3rd Grade Track & Field Day	9:30 am
	5th & 6th Grade Choir Concert	7 pm
29	4th Grade Track & Field Day	9:30 am
	DHS Spring Fling	12:30-2:50 pm

#### **June 2015**

4	DHS 2nd Semester Final Exams	8:02-12:17 pm
5	DHS 2nd Semester Final Exams	8:02-12:17 pm
	<b>Last Day of School</b>	
7	DHS Graduation	1:30 pm
22	School Board Meeting	5:45 pm

**All concerts will be held in the Delano Performing Arts Center in the middle school. All track & field days will be held on the high school football field.**

### **2015-16 School Open Houses**

**Wednesday, September 2**

<i>Elementary School</i>	4-6 p.m.
<i>Middle School</i>	4:30-6:30 p.m.
<i>High School</i>	4:30-6:30 p.m.
<i>Tiger Kids Club</i>	5-7 p.m.

*Watch for more information in the Welcome Back Newsletter mailed to district residents in August 2015.*