

Eye of the Tiger

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Delano Public Schools Seeks Facilities Committee Members

Delano Public Schools is seeking community members, parents, and staff members to participate on a district wide facilities committee. The purpose of the committee will be to review the current and future needs of our facilities, establish criteria to meet those current and future needs, and propose one to two solutions to meet our facility needs for the next 10 years. Over the past five months the district has compiled data that includes, but is not limited to, demographic studies, capacity analysis for each building, and both internal and external feedback sessions. We are now at a point in this process that we need to establish a facilities committee that will meet six times beginning Thursday, October 23 and ending December 11, 2014. The role of our committee members will be to:



- Represent the entire community
- Engage in conversation with neighbors and peers
- Bring back a broad understanding of opinions
- Review the data being presented to familiarize themselves with the facility needs of the district
- Engage in the process to help determine and prioritize district needs, and consider options to address those needs
- Reach consensus on a recommended approach for consideration of the school board

Either in December or early January, the school board will review recommendations from our facilities committee and make appropriate decisions regarding the future needs in our district. It takes a community to sustain educational excellence as our foremost goal, and therefore we invite you to consider serving on this all-important committee.

- Matthew W. Schoen, Ed.S.
Superintendent

Upcoming Events at Delano Public Schools

October

2	ES Conferences & Book Fair	4-8 pm	24	School Board Meeting	5:45 pm
6	MS Conferences	4-8 pm	26-28	Thanksgiving Holiday - NO SCHOOL	
7	MS PIE Meeting	6 pm			
13	MS Conferences	4-8 pm			
13	HS PIE Meeting	6 pm			
13	DPIE Meeting	7 pm			
14	ES PIE Meeting	7 pm			
16-17	MEA - NO SCHOOL				
23	HS Band/Choir Concert	7 pm			
27	School Board Meeting	5:45 pm			

November

3	Teacher Workshop Day - NO SCHOOL	
3	MS Conferences	12-4 pm
6-7	HS Fall Play	7 pm
8	HS Fall Play	1 pm
10	HS PIE Meeting	6 pm
10	DPIE Meeting	7 pm
11	Veteran's Day Program	9:30 am

Help Us Celebrate Veteran's Day!

Everyone is welcome to attend the annual Delano Public Schools Veteran's Day Program that will honor those who have served, those who are serving, and their families. This program will take place on Tuesday, November 11, at 9:30 a.m., in the Tiger Activity Center at Delano High School.

If you would like transportation to Delano High School, a bus courtesy of Stahlke Bus Services will be leaving American Legion Post 377 at 8:45 a.m.

This program is free to the public.

Delano Public Schools

2014 Test Scores Shatter State Proficiency Rates

Standardized tests continue to be a hot debate in school districts across the nation. We want our children to “think outside the box”, be creative, and learn more than the information that they are going to be tested on. Delano School educators understand this and try to balance this conflict in their curriculum and teaching strategies. Yet, among this balance, the core subjects of Math, English, and Science are vitally important in our ever-changing global society. And, test scores, specifically the ACT and SAT, are still one of the methods post secondary institutions use to admit students.

Delano Public Schools are proud to announce that students achieved high marks in all areas of testing during the 2013-14 school year. The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) tests are the primary assessment tool used by the State Department of Education. This test has four achievement levels to which students are labeled after looking at 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.

The Minnesota Department of Education recently released results from the 2014 Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) tests. Delano Public Schools continues to score well above the state average in all areas of testing. In **Math**, Delano students performed in the top 1% of public school districts in the state, with only three schools scoring higher on MCA Math tests. 82% of Delano students were proficient on the Math test in comparison with 62% statewide. In **Reading**, Delano students performed in the top 3% of public school districts in the state, with only seven schools scoring higher on the MCA Reading tests. 76% of Delano students were proficient on the Reading test in comparison with 60% statewide. In **Science**, students in 5th, 8th and 11th grade also performed above state averages on this test.

Delano students continue to accomplish high scores on **ACT** college entrance exams as well. Delano's average ACT test score was 24.2 during the 2013-14 school year, making Delano one of the top schools in the nation academically. Minnesota's average ACT score for the 2013-14 school year was 22.9. As a whole Minnesota continues to be one of the nation's leaders in ACT scores.

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 on the state and national levels. It is the development of the “whole” student that helps pave a path for their future.

Delano Public Schools Welcomes 21 New Teachers!



New staff members pictured front to back, left to right include: Megan St. Amand, Allison Conely, Sarah Rothstein, Lydia Wissink, Paige Armstrong, Jaqueline Currier, Tanya Musselman, Peter Hayes, Stacy Hegland, Amanda Anderson, Jennifer Wiese, Laura Holland, Michelle Krueger, Nate Uselding, Tim Lyngen, Logan Schultz, Kali Pelham, Kayla Hofstedt, Heather Nagengast, Nora Suttner, and Steven Schaubberger.

Along with the new teachers, we would like to welcome all additional staff members not pictured. All members of the Delano Public Schools staff play an important role in student success, as well as the success of the entire school district.

“Educational Excellence is Our Foremost Goal”

Delano Public Schools Strives to Provide Effective, Efficient Communication to Parents and Community

Communicating to our parents and community-at-large is a top priority for the Delano Public School District. We have several different tools we use to share important information about the students and activities that take place on our school campus. And some of them have been modified over the summer months to enhance the means of communication you receive from Delano Public Schools. Here are just a few updates:

Mobile Friendly Website - Delano Schools launched a NEW mobile-friendly website this summer. Much of our school community want to find their student's information while they are on the go. This new site is responsive, which means that it is viewable on any device, from mobile phones and tablets to desktop computers. New features include a search function, a district newsfeed, and a live district calendar. Now, in any format, you can find your student's information anywhere you want.

Skylert Parent Communication System - This NEW parent communication system is integrated with Delano Schools Skyward Family Access Parent Portal so a family's information is always current. Skylert can send thousands of messages within minutes, which helps us alert parents of early school closings, emergency situations, or general school information.

Skyward Family Access Parent Portal - Delano Public Schools Family Access student information management system is designed to provide timely information to parents. This system allows parents to access their student's personal and academic information online. In addition, parents can update personal information, such as email addresses and phone numbers. Features are continually being added to suit parents' needs.

School Meals Federal Food Guidelines Update

The health of today's school environment continues to improve and with this comes new, required federal food guidelines for the 2014-15 school year. Students across the country are now offered healthier school breakfasts and lunches with more fruits, vegetables and whole grains. These standards, required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, want to help curtail hunger, while providing healthy food choices for students. The following requirements have been added for this school year:

- All kindergarten students can eat breakfast at no cost.
- Students eligible for "reduced-price" meals, will now get them for free. Minnesota is one of the few states that will offer this - meals are either paid or free, there is no longer "free and reduced."
- All snacks sold during the school day to students via a la carte, school stores, vending and fundraisers must meet the new *Smart Snack* nutrition regulations. For more information on these regulations, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>.
- All grain items on breakfast, lunch and snack menus must be "whole-grain rich."

Just a few years ago, food service staff did not have to provide planned portions, count calories or analyze the nutrients of each meal to follow daily and weekly nutritional requirements. For school districts, finding acceptable food choices and keeping costs low is a balancing act and labor intensive. To meet these guidelines, Delano Public Schools have had to raise meal prices over the past few years. In the end, our goal is to provide students healthy meal choices, while keeping costs low and limiting the amount of food that is thrown away.

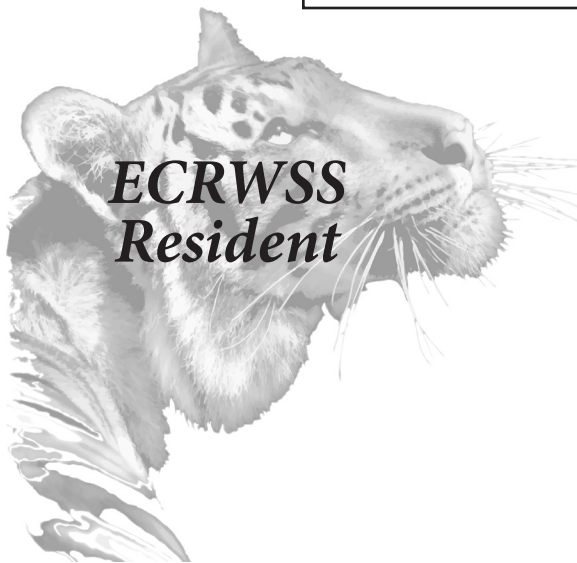
National Merit Semifinalist Announced



Delano High School senior Tayler Hedtke has been named a 2014 National Merit Semifinalist by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). Approximately 16,000 Semifinalists will advance to the Finalist levels and from this group, the National Merit Scholarship winners will be chosen. All Merit Scholarship awards are chosen from the Finalist group based on their abilities, skills and accomplishments. NMSC is a not-for-profit organization. All scholarships awarded are from NMSC's own funds, business organizations and higher education institutions that share goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence. 2014 National Merit Scholarship winners will be announced in nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July 2015.

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Delano Public Schools Vision

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

2014 Board of Education

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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

Delano Partners in Education Presents...



eTigershop.com

Your online Delano Tiger Store!

Delano Schools will receive a portion of every item sold on this website and will contribute to our goal of \$10,000,000 over 10 years! This site is administered by the Delano District Partners in Education (DPIE).

DPIE would like to thank their partner BAGY JO, Inc. for helping them get this site up and running. Please check the site for Bagy Jo items. DPIE would like to thank you in advance for your support! eTigershop.com will be adding additional items to the site throughout the year, so please check back often and take advantage of purchasing your Delano Tiger items online!

Purchase Delano merchandise online, raise money for the schools!

Four File for School Board

Four Delano School Board seats will be on the ballot for the November 4 election.

Corey Black, Mark Larson, Carolyn Milano and Lisa Seguin all have re-filed for their current seats on the school board. These are 4-year terms and filing closed on August 12.

Voting for the board seats will be held in conjunction with the general election on November 4, 2014. For more information on the voting, absentee ballots and elections go to the Delano Public Schools website at www.delano.k12.mn.us, and click on "District," "Miscellaneous" and "Elections." This page will provide you with information that may be useful before and during the election period.

