

Delano Public Schools Ranked #1 by



Yes, Forbes. When the editors at Forbes looked at two criteria: high performing schools in a district with affordable housing, Delano Public Schools came out on top. After compiling data from school districts all over the country, the public schools in Delano, Minnesota, are ranked #1 in the nation.

After crunching data from school districts nationwide, the overwhelming conclusion from their latest survey of the Best Schools For Your Housing Buck, went to the midwest, particularly Ohio, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The school districts were rated by using a comprehensive database at SchoolDigger.com. This database compiles performance on standardized tests that are required under the No Child Left Behind law and calculates percentile rankings for every school within each state. In addition, they adjusted the state level rankings to reflect the fact that every state uses its own standardized tests and there are significant differences in performance among states as measured by national standardized tests like ACT and SAT. Then Forbes utilized Zillow and Trulia, both home value websites, screening for towns and cities where the median home price was less than double the national median. Thus, landing Delano Schools at the top of this list. "This doesn't mean that there aren't great schools elsewhere, but in most cases you'll have to pay to put your kids in them." stated Daniel Fisher, Forbes Editor.

"If you walked through downtown Delano and met young parents and asked them why they moved here, they'd say the school district," expressed Matt Schoen, Superintendent of Delano Public Schools. "Over the years, we've established a tradition of academic excellence." In this small community, with a population of 5541, this achievement is monumental. It can be attributed to the support of community, passionate educators, and a focus on continually improving to ready our students for life after Delano Public Schools.

For more information, go to <http://www.forbes.com/sites/danielfisher/2013/09/26/midwest-dominates-2013-best-schools-for-your-housing-buck/>.

Delano High School Announces National Merit Semifinalists

Delano High School seniors Anne Janas and Maureen Lax have been chosen as 2013 National Merit Semifinalists 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. 2013 National Merit Scholarship winners will be announced in nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July of 2014.



**DHS Seniors
Anne Janas and Maureen Lax**

In addition, senior Jiahui Jiao received a Letter of Commendation from NMSC. Although commended students do not continue in the 2013 competition for National Merit Scholarships, these students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2013 competition. National Merit Scholars and Commended students represent some of the most academically talented students in the country.

Boys Tennis Sanctioned by the Minnesota High School League



Club Tennis at Delano Schools began four years ago and the boys who participated played a junior high schedule for the first two years. At the beginning of the third year, a junior varsity team was added and in the fourth year the program grew to three teams: junior high, junior varsity and a varsity team. This club program began with about 10 players and has tripled in the last four years to over 30 players in grades 7-12.

As a club team, boys tennis was able to play against other school teams, but because it was not sanctioned, the players did not have school transportation or the ability to compete in any conference or post-season events. In August, the Delano School Board approved the proposed contract that will make Boys Tennis a sanctioned sport in Delano, allowing them to be a member of the Minnesota High School League, which in turn allows them to run as a school sponsored sport. They will continue to be funded by the Boys Tennis Association which contributes \$9,000 to run the program. Delano Public Schools does not provide any financial support to this program.

It has been a long road from where the tennis club began to where it is today. Many tennis players, coaches and parents attended the Board meeting where the Boys Tennis program was approved. They were very pleased with the outcome and are excited that the players will be able to play in the Wright Country Conference and post-season play. Next spring, when you see the boys on the tennis courts at Delano Public Schools, you will notice their smiling faces and you will understand why. A big "Thank You" to those individuals who helped bring Boys Tennis to the courts in Delano.

Changes Made to Delano Public Schools 2013-14 Calendar

I would like to inform the entire Delano School District community of changes in our school calendar for the 2013-14 school year. The changes are as follows:

- Friday, April 4, will be a Teacher Workshop Day with NO SCHOOL for students.
- HS Final Exams for grades 9-11 will move to Tuesday, June 3 and Wednesday, June 4.
- The last day of school has moved from Tuesday, June 3 to Wednesday, June 4.
- Built-in make-up days: If a snow day is declared on or before January 31, school will be in session on the Teacher Workshop Day, Friday, April 4. If school is closed for any reason after April 4, school days will be added at the end of the school year in June.

We have made these changes to the school calendar for two purposes. First, our district needs to provide our educators additional time and opportunities to be trained to provide the very best education for our students. The second purpose is to build in snow days to the calendar so that we decrease the likelihood that we will add additional school days in June.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our students, staff and parents for a smooth and successful start to our new year. Our district community has made a successful transition to the beginning of the academic school year. In addition, I would like to thank our bus company, Stahlke Bus Service, for their diligence in making sure that our students are transported safely and in a timely manner to and from our schools. Currently we have 2324 students that are attending Delano Public Schools this year. Based on historical data, this is the largest student enrollment in the history of the school district. We welcome each and every one of our students and parents to our district community and take pride in facilitating the very best education possible for all our students.

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

Delano Elementary School 2013 National Blue Ribbon School



On Tuesday, September 24, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recognized 286 schools as the 2013 National Blue Ribbon Schools in the United States. ***Delano Elementary School is one of seven Minnesota schools awarded with this honor, which is based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in improving student academic achievement.***

Delano Elementary School was awarded as an Exemplary High Performing school in which schools are recognized among their state's highest performing schools, as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests. "Excellence in education matters and we should honor the schools that are leading the way to prepare students in college and careers," said Secretary Duncan. "National Blue Ribbon schools represent examples of educational excellence, and their work reflects the belief that every child in America deserves a world-class education."

To be selected a National Blue Ribbon School, the Department of Education requests nominations from the top education official in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education. The Council for American Private Education nominates private schools. A total of 420 schools nationwide may be nominated, with allocations determined by the numbers of K-12 students and schools in each jurisdiction. The Secretary of Education then invites all nominated schools to submit an application for possible recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School.

The Department of Education will honor 236 public and 50 private schools at a recognition ceremony on November 18-19, 2013, in Washington, D.C. In its 31-year history, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed this coveted award on nearly 7,500 of America's schools.

Delano High School Drama Department Presents...



Come see "Elephant's Graveyard," DHS's fall play which is the story of a small town in Tennessee which hung an elephant in 1916. This play is based on a true story and addresses the American need for spectacle, justice and material gain. **The performance times are Thursday, November 7 and Friday, November 8 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, November 9 at 1:00 p.m., in the Delano Middle School auditorium. Tickets will be on sale at the door, \$4.00 for students and \$6.00 for adults.**

Veteran's Day Program

Everyone is welcome to attend the annual Veteran's Day Program that will honor those who have served, those who are serving, and their families.

When: Monday, November 11
9:30 a.m.

Where: Tiger Activity Center
Delano High School

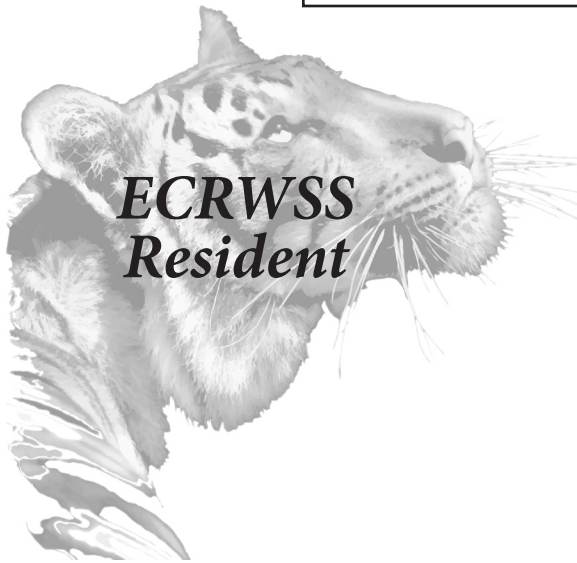
Transportation: If you would like transportation to Delano High School, a bus courtesy of Stahlke Bus Services, will be leaving American Legion Post 377 at 8:45 a.m.

The program will include a flag folding ceremony, and winners of the Legion Post 877 Scholarship Essay Contest entitled, "What Does the United States Constitution Mean to Me?" will receive awards, along with Patriot Pen Essay winners who will address, "What Patriotism Means to Me."

This program is free to the public.

Delano School District
700 Elm Avenue East
Delano, MN 55328

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Find Us On



Educational Excellence is Our Foremost Goal

Delano Public Schools Welcomes New Staff!



Delano Public Schools welcomed many new staff members this fall. Pictured in the front from left to right are: Sarah Beck, 1st grade; Josh Hiltner, 4th grade; Margaret Neutzling, 1st grade; Tammy Wermager, MS Special Education; Laura MacLean, MS Physical Education; and Mackenzie Narins, MS Special Education. Pictured in the back are: Andrew Fredericksen, MS Special Education; Bill Breeden, HS Mathematics; Megan Halbleib, HS Social Studies; Emilee Kalvig, HS Mathematics; John Anderson, MS Special Education; Julie Nielsen, 6th grade; Elle Buth, HS Special Education. Not pictured is Kristi Nyquist, Early Childhood Special Education.

October Events

3	Community Education Advisory Council Mtg	6:15 pm
8	ES PIE Meeting	7 pm
14	HS PIE Meeting	6 pm
	DPIE Meeting	7 pm
15	MS PIE Meeting	6 pm
17-18	MEA - NO SCHOOL	
24	HS Band & Choir Concert	7 pm
28	School Board Meeting	7 pm

November Events

4	Teacher Workshops - NO SCHOOL	
	ES Conferences & Book Fair	12-8 pm
	MS Conferences	12-8 pm
	Wee Tiger Preschool Conferences	12-8 pm
7	ES Conferences & Book Fair	4-8 pm
	Wee Tiger Preschool Conferences	8 am-3:30 pm
	HS Fall Play	7 pm
8	ES Half-Day Kindergarten Conferences	
	NO HALF-DAY KINDERGARTEN	8 am-3:40 pm
	HS Fall Play	7 pm
9	HS Fall Play	7 pm
11	Veteran's Day Program	
	<i>Tiger Activity Center</i>	9:30 am
	HS PIE Meeting	6 pm
	DPIE Meeting	7 pm
12	ES PIE Meeting	7 pm
19	MS PIE Meeting	6 pm
25	School Board Meeting	7 pm
27-29	Thanksgiving Holiday - NO SCHOOL	