



Eye of the Tiger

District 879 Newsletter February-March 2018

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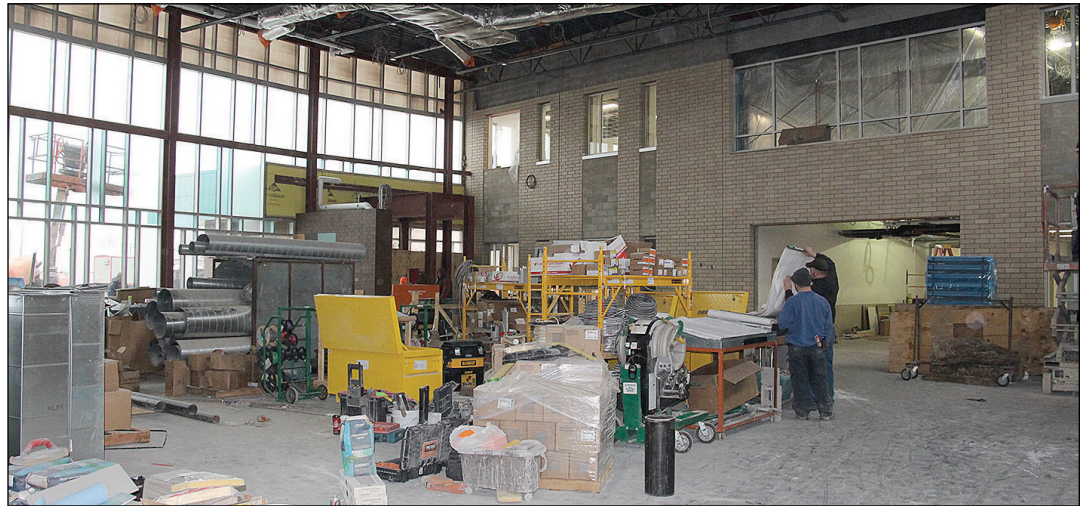
February

- 5.....HS Registration
Conferences, 4-8 p.m.
- 5.....Wee Tiger Preschool
open house, 3:30-6:30 p.m.
- 8.....MS Winter Activity Day
- 10....Winterfest Dance, 8-11 p.m.
- 12.....MS PIE, 6 p.m.
- 12....FRED Night, 5:30-7:15 p.m.
- 13.....HS PIE, 6 p.m.
- 13.....ES PIE, 7 p.m.
- 13.....District PIE, 7 p.m.
- 15.....HS choir concert, 7 p.m.
- 19.....President's Day, no school
- 22-23.....ES play, 7 p.m.
- 24.....ES play, 1 and 3 p.m.
- 24.....Tiger Fun Fair, 12-4 p.m.
- 27.....TKC open house, 4-6 p.m.
- 28.....End of 2nd Trimester

March

- 5.....HS Conferences
- 6, 8.....Kindergarten Round-Up,
5:30 to 8 p.m.
- 9.....HS band concert 7 p.m.
- 13.....HS PIE, 6 p.m.
- 13.....ES PIE, 7 p.m.
- 13.....District PIE, 7 p.m.
- 15-16.....Early Childhood Health
and Development Screening
- 16.....End of HS Quarter 3
- 22.....2nd grade music program,
6:30 and 7:30 p.m.
- 30.....Spring break, no school
through April 2

• For more complete
information about school events,
see www.delano.k12.mn.us.



The commons area in the new intermediate school remains a busy construction site at present, but work should be complete this spring, and the building will open to students in the fall for the 2018-19 school year. This view looks toward the main entrance.

Construction continues

By Matthew Schoen
Superintendent

Construction projects at the middle school-high school and the new intermediate school are continuing throughout the school year.

As I've stated before, the intermediate school is progressing nicely and remains on schedule. The entire building is now enclosed, and work continues on the interior. Classrooms are taking shape with the installation of cabinetry. Other developments include bathroom finishes and some flooring in the serving area. Next steps are to continue electrical work, specifically to support 21st century technology in all areas of the building.

The secondary building will also be under construction for the remainder of the school year, with several projects beginning in the first few months of 2018. The district office has moved to its new location on the southeast corner of the middle school with its own secured entrance.



Demolition has commenced in the current middle school media center area. This area will become the new media center for grades 7-12. Now that the district office has vacated its original area, demolition work has commenced in preparing that space to become a new art suite to facilitate art curriculum for students in grades 7-12. In addition, we have taken the opportunity to continue the reconstruction of existing original bathrooms in the high school. These mid-year projects will keep our contractors on schedule to complete a majority of the building by the end of August 2018.

In addition to interior building projects at the high school and middle school, the new Performing Arts Center is progressing per schedule. Cement floors have been laid in hallways that lead to the lower level of the PAC. In addition, storage, costume design and other areas behind the stage are being constructed throughout the school year. Adjacent to the PAC, to the south of the existing Tiger Activity Center, work continues on the new location of both the circuit room and weight room that have been added to the south of the TAC.

Needless to say, construction is in full swing as planned. I would like to take this opportunity to again thank all of our staff, students, parents and community members that use our facilities for their patience and flexibility during this construction period.

Delano stands out in AP exams

District one of just seven in Minnesota named to AP Honor Roll

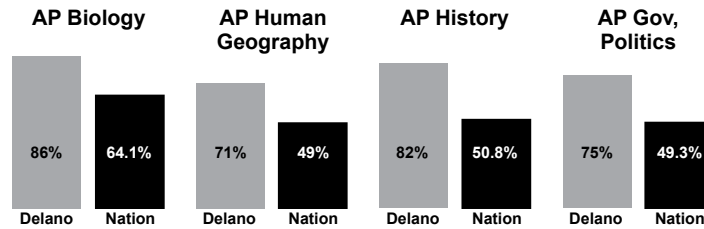
By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Local students have once again significantly exceeded the test scores of their peers around the nation, and their performance has earned Delano Public Schools a place among just seven Minnesota school districts on the latest AP Honor Roll.

This is the third consecutive year that Delano has been so honored, and the eighth year that the AP Honor Roll has been released by The College Board. In all, the most recent honor roll includes 447 school districts in the U.S. and Canada.

The other Minnesota districts on the honor roll include Alexandria, Becker, Princeton, St. Michael-Albertville, Waconia and Wayzata.

"We try to get every kid possible in AP courses, and the kids flourish," said Delano High School Principal Steve Heil. "Part of that is our kids have good study habits. Part of it is the amount of work the AP teachers put into it. And another part of it that people



These are the percentages of students who scored well enough to be eligible for college credit on the AP exams.

tend to forget is every year prior to that kid taking the AP test, their parents and the other teachers are helping them learn

'Delano kids always rise to the occasion.'

Steve Heil

good study habits, teaching the material and reinforcing the material. So all around it just shows how good of a community and a school system we can be."

Strong Delano scores

In the spring of 2017 Delano students took tests in four classes: AP Biology, AP Human Geography, AP U.S. Govern-

ment and Politics, and AP History. Students received scores between 1 and 5, with those earning scores of 3 or higher becoming eligible to receive college credit.

In Jessica Bahe's AP Biology class, 36 Delano students took the test and 31 of them scored a 3 or above for an 86 percent passing rate. The national average was 64.1 percent.

In Dan Paulson's AP Human Geography class, 34 students took the test and 24 were eligible for college credit, a 71 percent passing rate compared to 49 percent nationally. Delano students also had five top scores of 5.

In Lindsay Wallace's AP History class, 33 Delano students took the test and 27 were eligible for college credit for an 81.8

percent passing rate, compared to 50.8 percent nationally. Four Delano students received a top score of 5.

Ninth-graders step up

Results from Nathan Peterson's AP U.S. Government and Politics class were notable because most schools have advanced juniors or seniors take that AP test, while Delano has ninth-graders take the test in order to match with the school's civics curriculum.

Out of 32 Delano freshmen who took the test, 24 were eligible for college credit and nine earned top scores. They had a 75 percent passing rate, compared to 49.3 percent nationally.

"Delano kids always rise to the occasion," Heil told the school board during its November meeting. "Whether we look at the ACT or the AP, they work hard. And our staff works extremely hard, too, to help the kids prepare."

• See more complete information online at www.delano.k12.mn.us.

Strong staff support for United Way

By Paul Downer
Communications Coordinator

Delano Public Schools staff members did not hold back during this year's collection drive for the Delano-Loretto Area United Way.

Elementary Principal Darren Schuler has headed up the district's efforts since 2005, and said this year's total of \$12,540 is the highest he has ever seen.

"It's pretty amazing, the amount of support we get from our staff in each of the buildings," said Schuler, who also sits on the local United Way chapter's board. "It's neat that the Delano-Loretto United



From left are Principal Darren Schuler, Karen Hohenstein and John Binge.

Way has been able to stay local. Many of the United Ways cover a pretty large area, but ours is really just Delano-Loretto, so the money stays local. I think

a lot of staff who contribute really appreciate that."

About 93 staff members participated, and each year employees in each of the district

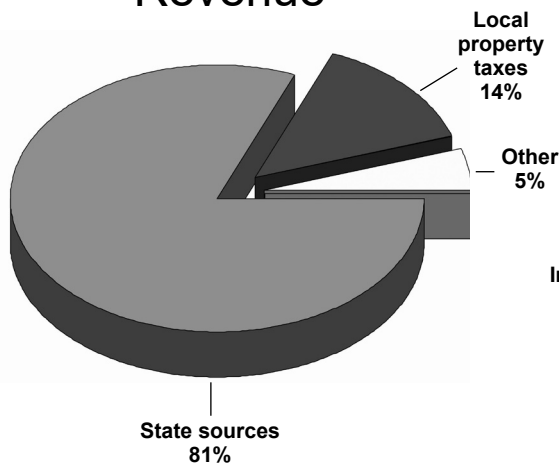
buildings compete to see who can raise the most money. The high school has been the traditional winner, and was again this year as staff raised an all-time building high of \$6,300.

Organizers in each of the buildings included Karen Hohenstein at the high school, John Binge at the middle school, Schuler at the elementary and Diane Johnson at Community Ed.

The local United Way typically puts \$30,000 to \$40,000 back into the community each year, so the school district's contributions to the organization are vital to help it fulfill its mission.

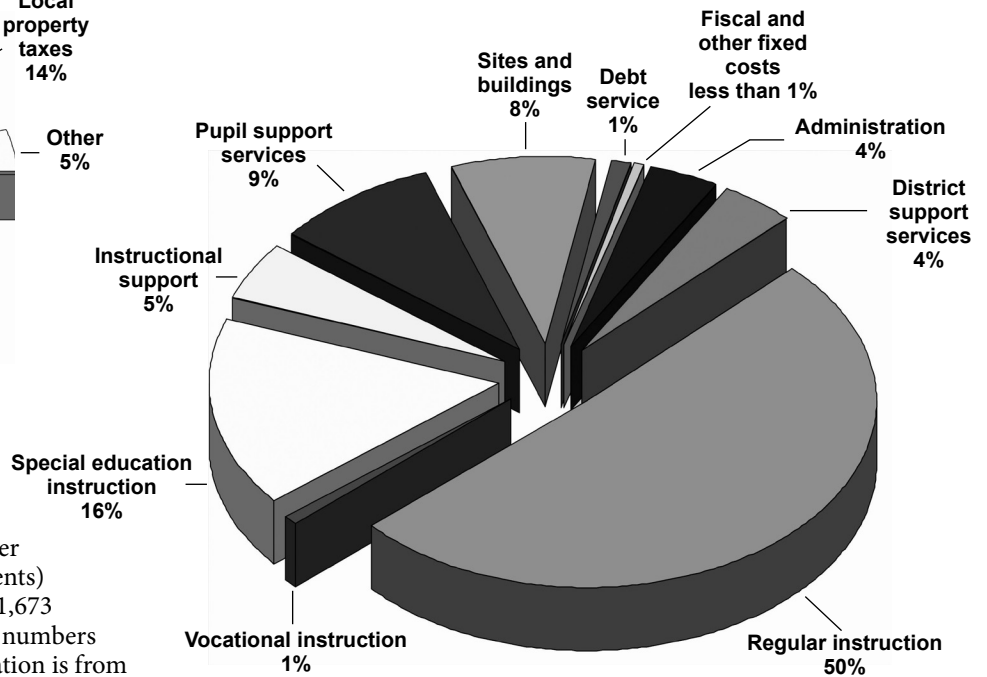
Sources of funding and uses

2017 General Fund
Revenue



In 2017 Delano Public Schools collected \$26.7 million in revenue and expended \$25 million. Revenue from property taxes per average daily membership (number of students) was \$1,011 compared to a state average of \$1,673 in 2016, the most recent year that statewide numbers were available for comparison. This information is from the district's annual audit presented in November of 2017.

2017 General Fund
Expenditures



Announcements

Kindergarten Round-Up

Delano Elementary School invites you to attend Kindergarten Round-Up on March 6 or 8 for children entering kindergarten in the fall of 2018. Families with last names beginning with A through K should attend on Tuesday, March 6, and families with last names beginning with L through Z should attend on Thursday, March 8. If you have a conflict on your assigned evening, please come on the alternate evening.

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and special activities will begin at 6:05 p.m. The evening will include an informational meeting for parents while children participate in classroom activities, concluding around 8 p.m. Children and parents will have the opportunity to meet the exceptional and caring DES staff, tour the school, participate in fun activities, and learn about the all-day every-day kindergarten program.

Tiger Fun Fair

The Tiger Fun Fair runs from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Tiger Activity Center. The fair includes games, inflatable jump houses, prizes, concessions, a silent auction, gift card raffle and more. In addition, girls age K-4 from the Tigers Dance Camp will perform with the dance team.

Many volunteers are needed for the event. Anyone who would like to help can sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0949a5ab29a0f58-2017>. Volunteers will receive a voucher for the concessions. Wristbands for entry are \$10 for school-age children and \$5 for children under 5. Parents get in free.

Tiger Kids Club registration

A summer and school year open house for Tiger Kids Club will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27, at the Community Education building, 140 Elm Ave.

Registration opens for current families and new preschool families on that date. Registration for new school-age families opens on Tuesday, March 13. Forms will be available onsite, and will also be available online at www.delanocommunityed.com.

Free clothing, books available

Free clothing and books are available to all residents around the area from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 8, at Zion Lutheran Church in Buffalo, located at 1200 Hwy. 25 S.

The Blessing Closet will offer many clothing items for kids (age 0-18) and their parents with no restrictions, qualifications or requirements. In addition, Read To Feed The Mind has partnered with The Blessing Closet, donating close to 1,000 children's books that will be given away. Everyone is welcome.

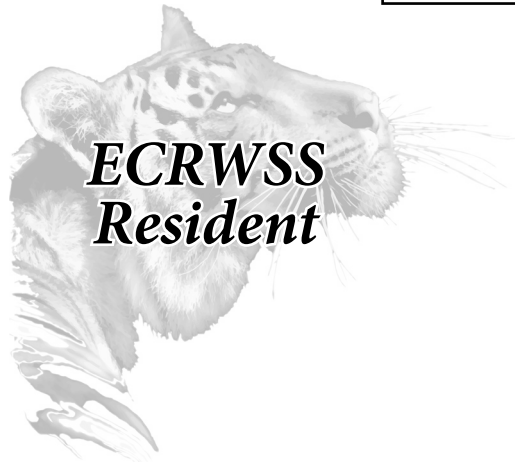
Early childhood screening dates

Community Education offers opportunities for families to do their early childhood health and developmental screenings without going to a clinic. Remaining dates for the school year include Thursdays and Fridays, Feb. 15-16 and March 15-16.

Screenings are free and are conducted at the Community Education building. Call 763.972.6210 ext. 4 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. with questions or to schedule an appointment.

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Delano Public Schools Vision

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

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Educational Excellence is Our Foremost Goal

Kantrovich, Otto are Triple 'A' winners

By Paul Downer

Communications Coordinator

In recognition of their hard work and success in academics, arts and athletics, Jenna Kantrovich and Charles Otto have been named Delano High School's Triple "A" Award winners for the 2017-18 year.

The pair represented Delano at the Region 2AA banquet on Sunday, Jan. 28, at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter.

The Minnesota State High School League started the Triple "A" program in 1988 to recognize seniors who have excelled in the classroom, in athletics and in fine arts. Two students are chosen to represent each school at the regional level, and from that pool two finalists from each of the eight regions in both Class A and Class AA are selected. Four winners are chosen to receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

Jenna Kantrovich

Kantrovich, the daughter of Lyle and Kari Kantrovich of Delano, has compiled a grade point average of 3.93 while participating in Advanced Placement and College in the Schools courses at DHS.

In terms of the arts, Kantrovich has



Charles Otto, left, and Jenna Kantrovich are this year's Triple 'A' Award representatives from DHS.

participated in choir all four years of high school, and has been a member of the one act play and musicals through the theater department. In the athletic realm, Kantrovich was a member of the swimming team all four years of high school, serving as a captain during her senior season.

Kantrovich has also participated in student council, the prom committee and the LINK program.

"I hadn't even made the connections that I was involved in academics, athletics and arts. You don't really think of it that way. It's just part of who you are," Kantrovich said.

Charles Otto

Otto is the son of Kevin and Liz Otto of Delano. He has managed to post a GPA of 4.12 while taking a handful of College in the Schools courses.

"I've found the most challenging classes offered at Delano are my favorite classes," Otto wrote in his Triple "A" application.

Artistically, Otto has been a percussionist all four years of high school, and also plays piano. He has also performed in a number of summer plays, participated in 4-H Share the Fun, and has created artwork for the county fair.

While academics and athletics have provided enjoyable challenges, Otto said he has identified most closely with athletics. As a captain of the cross country and track teams, he said the necessary hard work and discipline have been foundational.

• More information is available at www.delano.k12.mn.us.