

## Delano Public Schools

Established in Delano, Minnesota in the 1800's, and with a current enrollment of 2251 students, the district covers a 66 square mile geographic area that extends to the communities of Corcoran, Independence, Loretto, Maple Plain, Medina, Minnetrista, Montrose, Watertown, and parts of Franklin township, Rockford, Woodland townships, and the city of Delano.

All three Delano Public Schools; Delano Elementary School, Delano Middle School, and Delano High School are located on one campus, with additional property adjacent to the current campus having been purchased for future school development. The campus also includes a 437 seat auditorium, an indoor swimming pool, a football stadium, 5 baseball fields, 6 softball fields, 8 tennis courts, an all-weather track, 3 soccer fields, as well as an indoor and outdoor ice arena. In addition, the district added the Tiger Activity Center, a 75,000 square foot center adjacent to the high school. This includes a weight room, circuit training room, 6 full length basketball courts, an elevated walking track, volleyball courts, a batting cage, and is open to the public for a small membership fee. Early Childhood Education is housed in Delano's Community Education Building and Delano's Community Education Program provides a wide range of educational opportunities to encourage life-long learning.

Delano Public Schools are recognized for the quality of their academic programs. The staff has developed a broad-based program that reflects the continuity of traditional standards of achievement and the change representative of the technological age. The blending of past and present forges a school environment that not only challenges and affirms, but also one that nurtures and motivates. The excitement of learning at Delano Public Schools is delivered by teachers whose personal commitment and professional training provide means for high achievement. A teacher mentorship program and peer coaching program supports new staff at each school and currently 56% of Delano's teaching staff has completed a master's degree.

Beginning with Early Childhood Education (ECFE), our program serves children birth to age five and their parents. Recognizing that the home is the first learning environment, these quality programs teach parents how to educate and interact with their children. ECFE gives children a head start, identifies current or potential learning problems, and helps build strong families that are vital to children's learning during their school years.

Delano Elementary School was a recipient of a Minnesota School of Excellence Award in 2008 and also was ranked a Minnesota Five Star School in 2006. It currently houses 773 students, averaging 21-23 students per classroom. Their Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment scores consistently rank among the highest in the state. Delano Elementary offers a coordinated curricular program, a Gifted and Talented Program for high potential students, Title I programming, as well as Special Education Programs. Technology is in the forefront of our school as we have 42 interactive whiteboards and LCD projectors which enhance all of our K-4 classrooms. Our two music classrooms, four special education classrooms, and our media center are also equipped with this technology. We have strong parental involvement through our P.I.E. (Partners in Education) group. This is a volunteer organization of parents and staff committed to enhancing our students' education and overall school environment through fund raising efforts that help finance special events throughout the year to benefit students, school, and staff. These partnerships are essential for learning that results in better attendance, improved behavior, a high quality of education, and a safe learning environment. Delano Elementary's mission is to educate individuals to be lifelong learners, possessing the skills, knowledge, creativity, sense of self-worth, and citizenship necessary to function and flourish in a rapidly changing society.

Delano Middle School is a nationally recognized school of excellence. In 2003, the U.S. Department of Education named Delano Middle School a Blue Ribbon School. It was one of 115 schools nationwide to receive this prestigious award and the only middle school in Minnesota to be recognized. It currently houses 715 students. The middle school years are a time of great physical, intellectual, emotional, and social changes. As a result, Delano Middle School programs are designed to meet these special needs.

The Middle School staff is committed to fostering a climate that allows students to develop skills in fact finding, critical thinking, and decision making. These programs include Project Wisdom, Project DARE, student directed conferencing, interdisciplinary teaching units and teams, and peer tutoring for students experiencing academic difficulties, just to name a few. In an effort to enrich our teaching environment, the middle school staff utilizes Tablet PC's to integrate technology into the curriculum and enhance instruction in the classroom. We are grateful to P.I.E. (Parents In Education) and DAEF (Delano Area Education Foundation) for financial support for technology purchases. The ultimate purpose of the middle school is to provide a smooth educational transition for students between elementary and high school while ensuring that all students have the opportunity to succeed.

In 2007, Delano High School was the first Minnesota High School to be chosen a Model School by the International Center for Leadership in Education. Recently, Delano High School was recognized as one of America's Best High Schools from U.S. World News and Report Magazine and received a bronze medal for distinction in standardized test performance and proficiency rates of all students. It currently houses 763 students. Delano High School is a caring community committed to achieving academic excellence, responsible leadership, and consistent integrity along with supporting the Delano Way which expects all students to Show Up, Show Up on Time, Work Hard, and Failure is not an Option. Delano High School test scores consistently rank among the highest in the state, and the average ACT composite score of 24 at DHS is among the highest in the state. Delano High School offers Link Crew, which is an innovative program that utilizes upper-class student leadership to help freshmen make a successful transition to the high school. Part of a student's academic life at DHS includes an advisory program which assists in planning a student's high school career as well as transition planning from high school to post secondary education. Delano High School offers College in the Schools (CIS) classes, Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) Courses for high potential students, post high school credit opportunities for the middle learners through Rasmussen College, as well as a School Within a School (SWAS) program for at-risk students. DHS is also involved in FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science Technology). FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) is a unique varsity sport of the mind designed to help high school-aged young people discover how interesting and rewarding the life of engineers and researchers can be. This program is supported by Sil-Pro, a local manufacturer of silicone molding products for the medical industry. Additionally, in an effort to enrich our teaching environment, the high school staff utilizes Tablet PC's to integrate technology into the curriculum and enhance instruction in the classroom. At Delano High School, our goal is to establish creative learning environments while bridging the technology gap with our students to foster high achievement and preparation for future endeavors.

Our Community Education program is committed to the spirit of lifelong learning. District 879 offers Adult Basic Education, College and Vocational Classes, Enrichment Classes for All Ages, Year Round Indoor and Outdoor Recreation, Senior Citizen Programs, Youth Development and Service, Open School Facilities for Community Use, Active Advisory Council, Pre-school, and School Age Child Care at Tiger's Kid Club.

"Educational Excellence is our Foremost Goal" is the focus statement for the school district. This statement is used to frame decision making in the district.