MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

So much is happening in education these days. Our children are preparing themselves for a future that none of us can predict. How can educators best equip students for that future? Here at Delsea we are focusing on 21st century skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, collaboration, communication and reasoning, independent inquiry, and application of skills learned. Thank you for the privilege of entrusting your children to us. It is a responsibility we do not take lightly!  PG

DELSEA ALUMNUS DAMISO JOSEY OFFERS STUDENTS WORDS OF ADVICE

On March 17, 2017, Damiso Josey, Delsea Regional and Aura School graduate, came to share some motivational words of advice for both our high school and middle school students about succeeding and excelling though the teen years. He covered topics such as persevering through difficult circumstances, choosing friends and alliances carefully, staying focused on what’s important, and setting goals. He utilized personal stories, interactive activities, and opened the floor to questions to engage students in the presentation.

It’s always nice to see an alum give back! Thank you Mr. Josey!
DELSEA HIGH SCHOOL OFFERS STUDENT CLUBS
Encourage your high school child to get involved in an extra-curricular activity! Delsea High School offers the following activities for our students:

- Anime Club
- Anglers Club
- Black Cultural League
- Bible Club
- Interact
- Crafts Club
- Delsonian
- Delta Eta Sigma
- Future Educators of America
- Future Farmers of America
- Gay Straight Alliance
- Glamour Gals
- Letters From the Heart
- Media Center Aides
- MEN Scholars
- Mock Trial
- National Art Honor Society
- National Honor Society
- Peer Mediation
- Theater Production
- Rowan Mentoring
- Step Team
- Student Government
- Yearbook

WHAT’S UP IN GUIDANCE?

Middle School:

The MS guidance department just wrapped up the 6th into 7th grade transition preparation phase. This included meeting with the elementary school principals and 6th grade teachers, visiting all 6th grade students in their classrooms to answer any questions, and mailing parent information letters which included a timeline of events and the teacher recommendations for their child. Finally the 6th into 7th grade parent/student course selection evenings were held on February 28 and March 1, 2017. Parents were provided details about curriculum, resources available, typical day, sequence of courses, a tour of the building, by student ambassadors, honors’ classes information and opportunity to answer any questions they have about DMS.

The counselors are in the process of 7th into 8th and 8th into 9th course request selections and preparation for state testing.

The following group counseling offerings are currently available to middle school students: boys group, peer mentoring, organizational management, individual counseling, parent conferences, 504 reviews and student mediations.

High School:

Brian D’Ottavio was recently named Gloucester County School Counselor of the year.

Sarah Duca created a group called “A Place and Some Space.” This group runs weekly during Delsea One and focuses on school/personal/family anxiety and concerns.

Counselors are wrapping up the course selection process for the 2017-2018 school year. Some new course offerings include: Tomorrow’s Teachers, Fix It, Computer Aided Interior Design, Practical Applications of Computer Tech (IEP only), and Athletic Training and Exercise Science. More information is available in the course selection booklet on the Delsea Guidance Page.

We are teaming up with RCGC in a few exciting ways:
Nursing allied health pathway. This new elective offering is available to rising sophomores and it will be a three year program. The first year will include the students taking two online courses with RCGC (here at Delsea). These are tentatively scheduled as medical terminology and nutrition. During their junior year students in this pathway will complete Anatomy & Physiology and then senior year they will take 2 classes on campus at RCGC, Patient Care and Medical Ethics. Again, all the RCGC courses are tentative at this time.

RCGC is working to bring back the Dual Credit program. Students will be able to apply for dual credit from RCGC for AP coursework they complete at Delsea Regional High School. Dual credit offerings outside of the AP course levels is currently being explored.

Our seniors are working with RCGC and Mr. D’Ottavio to complete priority admissions applications. All applicants completed online applications and were then invited to attend a “Get on the bus” session where admitted students went on campus for placement testing and a tour.

Exploration! Students and counselors are doing a lot of exploring in the guidance office. Counselors have been researching post-secondary options. Mr. D’Ottavio and Dr. Santo recently did a tour of the post-secondary technical programs offered at GCIT and are excited to share these affordable options with Delsea seniors. Mr. Pepitone and Mr. Keck recently visited Cumberland County College and brought back great information about programs our students can pursue at CCC.
As our children progress through school, one of the lessons we want them to understand is that they need to be responsible for their own learning. As elementary students they are nurtured and often led through their learning. However, as they mature and prepare to leave us to enter the “real world” we want to ensure that they have the tools to stand on their own. Academic Enrichment is the beginning of that journey to independence.

Twice a week middle school students are offered free time called “Academic Enrichment Period.” On those days, each class is shortened by two minutes so that homeroom and SSR time can be combined with it to allow students a block of time during which they can seek help from a particular teacher, make up work from absences, work with fellow students, take quizzes, etc. The process is simple: teachers can formally request to see a particular student by sending them a pass to their room or students can take their own initiative to seek the help they need. “Having this small group or one-on-one assistance has a significant impact on the academic success of our students.” said Mike Nicholson, Assistant Principal, “No longer is there a stigma on individual students who may need extra help because the entire school participates in the activity.”

DMS language arts teacher, Christine Onorato, says, “Academic enrichment is a stepping stone to the future; it provides an opportunity to build on the foundation.”

If your middle school child is experiencing difficulties with their studies, encourage them to take advantage of AE!

HAVE A COMPLAINT?
HERE’S WHAT TO DO WITH IT

While we do our best to meet the expectations of all Delsea stakeholders, sometimes there are instances in which we may fall short. When parents or students have complaints we want to address them as quickly as possible; the best way to do that is to follow the chain-of-command.

When a parent has a question or concern about their child’s teacher or grade, it is always best to speak directly to the teacher for clearer insight into the situation. Perhaps there is more to the story than the student is relaying or maybe a misunderstanding about something. Either way, the teacher is on the front line and can easily clarify. If a parent is uncomfortable contacting the teacher directly, our guidance staff is always available to facilitate these conversations.

If you are not satisfied with your conversation at that level, there are instructional supervisors who can further address your concerns.

Still not happy? Contact the building principal and if all else fails, the superintendent.

While social media may be a great place to keep in touch with family and friends, it won’t get you the action you are looking for. Call us!
Each year Delsea presents a theatrical performance. Most of us just see the final product. But what goes into that production? Much more than any one could have imagined. Planning for the play starts a full year before the actors and actresses take to the stage and deliver their first line! Mrs. Christine Dougherty, Delsea’s play director, along with Mrs. Abbie Bilinski, her assistant, and a legion of other supporters work tirelessly so that our students can have a positive learning experience.

So, how does it begin? We asked Mrs. Dougherty to tell us. “Each year at the end of each production our play staff gets together to read scripts, view local and professional productions, and listen to cast recordings of all musicals available for high schools to produce. We also evaluate our performing arts students here at the high school and those coming up from the middle school and see where our strengths are. Budget, special effects, costumes, style of show all come into play. After long deliberation by the end of summer we have our show chosen. We then announce it to the district by sending each student a pencil with the name of the show on it for the first day of school. Then start the workshops, auditions, and of course, rehearsals. There are months of work before we even begin working with the students.”

And now it’s time to begin thinking about next year! Good luck with that Mrs. Dougherty!!
WHAT DO OUR THEATER STUDENTS SAY ABOUT BEING IN THE ANNUAL PLAY?

Kristina Zemanik - "When I walk on the Delsea stage, I feel like I am on Broadway!"

Julian Ramos - “We are like a family, very accepting. It is an escape from reality; you can be someone else who you normally aren't in your real life."

Alyssa Repp - "It is very stressful, but the end result is very rewarding."

Michaela Smith - "I love the energy I get from the audience when I dance on stage."

JJ Lopes - "No matter what happens in my day, I have play rehearsal to look forward to."

WHAT DO OUR PARENTS AND AUDIENCE MEMBERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE LITTLE MERMAID?

“This year was my first time attending a Delsea theater production. Being a huge fan of Broadway's production of The Little Mermaid, I was beyond thrilled and amazed that Delsea's production was equally fantastic! Mrs. Dougherty so well cast and utilized the individual talents and strengths of the students. Those talents were highlighted by amazing costumes and makeup, fantastic lighting, complex choreography, and a superb pit band creating a professional caliber experience that was thoroughly enjoyed by all that attended! I cannot wait to see what amazing production will be next! Thank you Mrs. Dougherty and all those that helped in making The Little Mermaid a high school production no one will forget!”

“My daughter and I loved the show! The quality of the talent of the students was so impressive; almost hard to believe it was a high school play! My five year old daughter was completely immersed in the magic of the play the entire time. We enjoyed every moment!”

“It is amazing how four sold out shows over the course of three days could bring a community together the way it did. Delsea's production of "The Little Mermaid" was an amazing display of the talent and dedication of the theatre program that Delsea has to offer. Boys and girls from two to ninety two were excited and inspired by the story that Mrs. Dougherty brought to life through her young thespians this year. It cannot be compared to any other high school production for the simple fact this it was not of the high school level. This play was Broadway quality! The talent, the sets and the costumes transported the audience to an under the sea world that was worthy of any professional stage. Having my daughter take the stage as part of this amazing theatrical experience was a priceless experience for both her and I. The bond that the "play kids" form over the course of six months is unbreakable and will stay with them forever! Bravo!!"
The winter season culminated with a state championship, but it got started in early December with Swimming and Diving. Brandon Lyons and Kori Jelinek started us off by breaking a couple of school records. Brandon broke his own record in the 200 freestyle and Kori broke the 50m record. That was the start of a great season and a few more records fell along the way. Both the 200 free and 200 medley school records went down a few weeks into the season. At the TCC showcase, Kori Jelinek, Kayla Jelinek, Jenna Marchese, and Jane Seabert took 2nd in the 200m relay. Brandon Lyons took 2nd in the 200 Free, breaking his own record yet again, and Kori Jelinek took home the 100m butterfly title. In that showcase, out of 21 teams, the boys took 6th place overall, while the girls took 4th! The girls finished the season strong, earning the 4th playoff seed and a first round bye. The girls hosted a playoff meet for the first time in school history and beat Woodstown. They made it to the semifinals for the first time in school history and ended up falling short to a very tough Haddonfield team, a team that finished 2nd in the state. Both the boys and girls teams continue to improve each year and have been on a very impressive streak the past two seasons.

The LONG bus rides to Toms River and the NYC Armory paid for the boys and girls Indoor Track and Field teams. Multiple medals were won during the course of the season, too many to name individually; I will touch on SOME of the highlights. Both the boys and girls performed very well at the Tri County Conference Showcase, earning numerous medals. Gold medals were earned by Ashley Preston in the pole vault, CeCe Gerstenbacher in the 400m, Mercedes Morales in the high jump, Dylan Senatore in the 3200m, George Tenenberg in the 1600m, and Bill Goldsborough in the shot put. Silver medals were earned by Toni Galtz, Haley Hoffman, Kaire Brackett, and CeCe Gerstenbacher in the 4x400m relay, and Keon Grady in the high jump. Bronze medals were earned by Madison Mamounis in the pole vault, Kaire Brackett in the 55m, and Taj Summiel, Connor Fourbath, George Tenenberg, and Bill Mayhew in the 4x400m relay. At the state meet, we had many representatives from Delsea move on to the Meet of Champions.
During the state meet, CeCe became the group 2 state champion in the 55m and she also took 4th in the 400m. The girls took 3rd overall as a team at states. The athletes that made it to the Meet of Champions were Colin Kane, Bill Goldsborough, George Tenenberg, Nick Petriello, CeCe Gerstenbacher, Toni Glatz, Kaire Brackett, and Katie Rauscher. If you performed well enough at the Meet of Champions, you moved on to the Eastern States. Delsea was represented by CeCe, who finished 2nd in the 200m at the MOC, Kaire, Toni, Katie, Brinae, George, Tymir Kizee, Keon Grady, and Bill, who threw a personal best, 52-4 in the shot put, good enough for 9th in the state! We had a great showing at Eastern States with Keon Grady taking 3rd in the long jump, Toni Glatz taking 4th in the 200m and CeCe Gerstenbacher taking 2nd in the 200m. The girls also earned the Group 2 South Sectional Title!!

Both the boys and girls basketball teams finished first in their conference, earning the Diamond division title. This was the girls 3rd title in a row and the 2nd for the boys. Both teams finished the season strong, beating some very tough teams along the way, earning home playoff spots. The boys would win their first game and head to Mainland, where they fell in a very close game. During the course of the season the boys had great showings at the tournaments they attended, having two tournament MVPs in Brice Parks and Javon Gordon at the Butch McLean tournament. The girls were the bracket champions at the Boardwalk Classic in Wildwood and were the first girls basketball team in Delsea history to win their division 3 straight years! (Continued on page 9)
The new Delsea JROTC leadership team pictured from left to right: Cadet Battalion Commander Jessica Jacobs, Battalion Executive Officer Reed Ridgeway, and Crusader Battalion Cadet Command Sergeant Major Alliyah Merritt.

“If you aspire to do or be something, take the risk to get there. If it doesn’t work out, don’t quit. Don’t settle for average.”

Matt Eggink 2016-2017 Command Sergeant Major

On Wednesday, March 29, the Delsea Regional JROTC, led by Colonel Flood and Sergeant Merritt, held the official Change of Command ceremony which recognizes outgoing leaders as they pass their responsibilities to the newly selected officers.

Each year the selection process for the leadership positions is a rigorous one including an interview with the selection committee. The winners were announced earlier this month at the JROTC Ball held at Masso’s in Glassboro. The three young women will head all JROTC activities for the upcoming school year and lead their fellow cadets to another successful year in the program.

During the ceremony, outgoing commanders gave words of advice to the cadets of the battalion and offered thanks to the many who supported them in their journey. “This program is truly one that you get out of it what you put into it. And so I implore all of you to take advantage of all the things which one can glean from getting involved” said outgoing Kierstan Piper who then added, “The current cadet core is extremely fortunate to be able to carry on the legacy which hundreds of cadets have helped to forge.”

Congratulations to the Delsea Battalion!
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Delsea has been fortunate over the years to have had talented, giving, committed teachers. As they have retired it is easy to lose touch but let’s check in with...

Anthony Cartella

When did you start teaching at Delsea? 1968


Your Favorite Delsea Memory? I have so many wonderful memories of my time at Delsea: coaching cross country with Harry Ashenfelter, long bus rides with John Schott, sharing classrooms with awesome teachers like Don Lampkin, Doris Terilla, and Paul Chang; and interacting with some of the greatest students this country has produced. But, I have to say, however, that none of the above times got my heart beating like the day in 1975 when I met a gorgeous new teacher by the name of Janice McKnett. We were married two years later!

One word to describe Delsea? Opportunity!

What are you doing now? I am now enjoying summers in Ocean City, watching the Cartella family grow (seven grandchildren and one on the way in July), and trying to grow old gracefully.

Any words of wisdom for our current students? Realize that most of our problems are self-inflicted. How well we handle them will determine our successes and failures. And, just in case you are wondering, there is a God.

WINTER SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Wrestling had another great year, wrestling one of the toughest schedules in New Jersey. The team took on all comers and wrestled strong throughout the season. Things really picked up at the end of the season, as they typically do for wrestling. The team won the Diamond Division championship and the Group 3 south sectional championship. This was the team’s 7th group 3 title in a row! The team went on to the state championship, where they took down undefeated Cranford and earned a spot in the finals. The team lost a very close match to South Plainfield, whom we’ve met in the finals the past 3 seasons. The district 31 tournament was very good to us, we had 10 wrestlers advance to the Region 8 tournament; Bill Janzer (1st), Tommy Maxwell (1st), Edison Echevarria (1st), Seth Summers (1st), Nick Bennett (1st), John Patterson (2nd), Mason Maxwell (2nd), Justin Moore (2nd), and Vince DeGeorge (2nd). Bill Janzer was name the Most Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament and Coach Sawyer earned the district 31 Coach of the Year award for at least the third straight year. We moved on to the Region 8 tournament where we had 6 wrestlers qualify for the state tournament in Atlantic City; Bill (1st), Edison (1st), Vince (2nd), Seth (3rd), Tommy (4th) and Mason (4th). At the state tournament we had three medal winners; Tommy Maxwell earned the 8th place medal, Edison Echevarria earned the 4th place medal and Billy Janzer earned the right to call himself the best 170lb wrestler in the state of New Jersey by taking first!

It was another great season, it was a “Delsea Season”. We had a district championship, 2 sectional championships, and 3 Diamond division championships. We also had TWENTY FIVE first team all-conference individual champions.
HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR:
STAFF SERGEANT JAMES MERRITT

On Wednesday, December 14, Delsea Regional High School named its 2017 Teacher of the Year, Staff Sergeant James Merritt (Ret.)

SSG Merritt has been a JROTC teacher at Delsea for twelve years, and can be seen at the school all hours of the day and night, since he volunteers his time and energy to many Delsea programs and activities beyond those that are directly connected to the JROTC program. Jim has started several new initiatives at Delsea over the years, including the creation of the SWA-G classes (“Students Working A-G”) and the Delsea MENS Scholars program (“Mentor, Empower, Necessitate a change”).

On many days, SSG Merritt can be seen leading the JROTC Drill Team and the Raiders squad in order to get them ready for competitions and future military careers.

SSG Merritt is currently working on his Master’s degree in Family and Marriage Counseling; he is also a minister who has performed multiple wedding ceremonies for Delsea graduates.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR:
TINA BASILE

As a Special Education Math teacher, Ms. Basile has been meeting the needs of special education students requiring support by adapting and modifying curriculum and creating lesson plans to help students be successful. She is also a member of the School Climate and Safety Team, helping to create a safe environment for all students by creating character lessons and organizing the beginning of the year Kick-Off event. For the last 14 years, Tina has worked as the Student Assistant Coordinator in order to help students struggling with academics, and also helps students with social and/or emotional issues. She organizes school-wide events to promote awareness of the dangers of cyber bullying, responsible technology use, and the dangers of drug/alcohol use, and facilitates groups such as teen and girls’ group.

Ms. Basile can also be found on the soccer field as the head coach for the middle school girls’ team. Tina spent 11 years as the Assistant Coach, and has been the Head Coach for the last two years.