

## John Fitzer-HS Spanish



- Married to Dawn for 33 years. We have three children, John II, Sam, and Anna.
- 28 years teaching in the greatest district in the Minnesota. I work with a group of teachers, students, families, and community members that are second to none.
- 27 years working with ISE, a local non-profit student travel organization that brings high school students from Spain each summer. I have also made 9 trips abroad with Delano students.
- 28 years working for AME community services in Cokato, a group home that provides services to mentally challenged adults. They have taught me a lot about life!
- I believe one of my strengths is the ability to differentiate curriculum to help struggling students find success in my classroom.
- I believe my job as a teacher in Delano is to teach students Spanish. Equally as important, I feel my job as a teacher is to prepare students for life after high school.

## Matt Nohner- HS Mathematics



Matt Nohner currently teaches Geometry 1, Geometry 2, Exploring Geometry, and Digital Electronics at Delano High School. He holds a B.S. in Mathematics Education from Bemidji State University, from which he graduated in 2003. In 2010, he obtained a Masters of Science in Mathematics, also from Bemidji State. After teaching for 5 years in Montevideo, MN, Matt began teaching at Delano in 2008, and this is his 11th year in the district. One of Matt's proudest accomplishments in the classroom is the implementation of a flipped classroom, which has provided an avenue for every student to find success. Besides teaching, Matt coached 8th grade football from 2008-2012. Since 2011, he has been an assistant track coach. Matt worked with the middle school math team for one year, led Delano's Rubik's Cubes club for 3 years, and recently, with Marie Techam, started Delano's Unified Program.

## Heidi O'Donnell-Gr. 8 Language Arts

Heidi O'Donnell has been a language arts teacher at Delano Public Schools for 13 years.



During this time she has been a 5-8 Language Arts department head and currently serves as the DTA Membership Chair and a Meet and Confer Rep. Heidi was the head coach of the Delano Cheer Team and Delano Tiger Dance Team for 5 years. In 2014 she was the Delano Middle School recipient of the LEEA award.

Heidi's philosophy of teaching is to maintain a balance between teaching the whole child and teaching skills for future success. She loves the dynamics her 8th graders bring to the classroom and that they are starting to formulate their own thoughts, opinions, and future plans. Heidi is honored to be a part of this fantastic district and staff.

## Nicky Pfeifer-Gr. 6 DIS

I earned my education degree at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and my Masters at Viterbo University. I strive to stay current and attend workshops each year to better myself as an educator. I taught middle school in Brown Deer, Wisconsin for 5 years, and I moved to Minnesota in 2007 and began teaching 6th grade in Delano. I have been proudly contributing to the same grade level ever since and have taught all subject areas within the past 12 years. Throughout my time at Delano I've become involved in several organizations and committees:



- Q-Comp Lead Peer Coach (10 years)
- Delano Teachers Association Secretary (5+ years)
- History Day Advisor (5+ years)
- Site Base Representative (3 years)
- Math and Language Arts Committee member (12 years)
- Social Committee member (5+ years)
- Wellness Facilitator at the Middle School and Intermediate School (10 years)
- Helped kids win many individual and group Math Masters awards (5+ years)
- Arrange Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army each holiday season (5+ years)
- Help to plan and coordinate grade level field trips (yearly)

I'm honored to be recognized by my peers for this very meaningful award. I have loved the positive relationships that have developed with so many people on staff here in

Delano. They have watched me grow and guided me as an educator, help me become a mother, and inspire me to come to work each day ready make a difference.

## **Mike Stoudt-HS Science**



Mike Stoudt began his twenty-seven year teaching career in Pennsylvania and then continued on to teach sixth grade Earth Science in Maryland at John Hanson Middle School. While there, he served as assistant wrestling coach at McDonough High School where he was subsequently hired to teach chemistry and serve as head wrestling coach. In the spring of 1996, Mike and his wife Adriana returned to Pennsylvania where he taught seventh grade life science and eighth grade physical science. He also served as head wrestling coach until 2002 when he and Adriana relocated to Minnesota where he happily accepted a position at Delano High School in the fall of 2003 to teach ninth grade physical science and tenth grade biology. Over the course of the past fifteen years he taught earth science, physics of flight, and field biology in addition to assisting with the wrestling program at the beginning, middle and high school level. He currently teaches general chemistry and physical science, and had volunteered with cross country and Science Olympiad. While at Delano, he served as the assistant to the principal and leads the site based leadership team. Recently, he has volunteered to design and build sets for six Theatre Arts class plays and is currently assisting with the construction of the set for this year's fall play. Mike has twins, Gabby and Jake who are freshman at DHS. Mike is also married to the most awsomest woman ever, Adriana. She deserves this title for dealing with Mike and his twins all at the same time.

## **Nate Uselding-Grade 2 DES**



My name is Nate Uselding and I'm entering my fifth year as a second grade teacher at Delano. My calling for teaching came from coaching student athletes and raising my own two children. I embody a holistic approach to teaching where I believe in developing young citizens by building confidence, improving self-esteem, and taking time for self-reflection. My greatest strength is connecting with students and teachers and you'll always catch me with a smile on my face. Each day my goal is to make learning fun where students want to come back for more. In my classroom, I utilize flexible seating to

promote student choice and increase collaboration. With the help of my peers, we created the Imaginarium which is a makerspace area for students to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills.