



Howard Lake – Waverly – Winsted Schools
Office of the Activities Director

Activities Director – Joe Puncochar
AD Assistant – Danielle Kuznia



Monday, October 21, 2024

Dear School Board,

I am writing to request the addition of DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) to our school's extracurricular offerings. DECA is an international organization that prepares high school and college students for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. Founded in 1946, DECA has grown to include over 200,000 members worldwide, offering students valuable opportunities to develop leadership skills, business knowledge, and a competitive edge in future careers.

Introducing DECA at our school would provide students with hands-on learning experiences, competitions, and networking that align with current career and technical education goals.

At HLWW, we have 5-10 students that are currently interested in participating in DECA. Neil Schlagel, Winsted City Administrator and former Dassel-Cokato DECA Advisor, has volunteered to advise these students at no cost. Mr. Schlagel is a former teacher at Dassel-Cokato Public Schools and grew their DECA program into a successful group that helped educate students in regards to business careers and leadership skills.

At this time, the only costs that we would incur would be for transportation and registration fees for regional and state competitions in Minnesota. These fees would be mostly offset by the activity fees these students would pay to participate in DECA. In addition to the regional and state conferences and competitions, there are DECA conferences held around the country. However, much like other national events our students participate in, the students would pay for these costs entirely on their own if they wish to attend. Being that Mr. Schlagel is not a teacher at HLWW, we would also not be charged with paying a substitute for his absence. In the future, I foresee the request for a stipend to pay the advisor, but this would only be after we have grown the roster to a size that we feel is sustainable and requires more time than what we currently have planned.

Please consider approving this request to form a DECA club at HLWW. Offering a variety of activities is always our goal and this opportunity comes at little to no cost to the district.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,
Joe Puncochar
HLWW Activities Director