



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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September 2025

DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES - BOND REFERENDUM

DCG Family,

As you've heard from me before, DCG is working with OPN Architects to complete a Facilities Master Plan. This plan is now complete and was presented to the DCG School Board at our July meeting.

The DCG Facilities Plan was important work to complete before taking our next step, a 2025 DCG Bond Referendum. Stakeholders will vote on an \$88 million bond referendum at DCG on November 4. This bond will provide facility upgrades at all of our district buildings, including an overhaul of DCG High School.

\$88 million may seem like a lot of money, but please hear this from me today: the 2025 DCG Bond Referendum will not increase the debt service levy at Dallas Center-Grimes. This debt service levy is used to pay principal and interest on bonds. DCG currently has a debt service levy of \$4.05, the levy maximum. Upon potential approval of the bond, the debt service levy will remain at \$4.05.



We don't take this \$88 million lightly. Every cent will be spent with the best interest of our students, staff and stakeholders in mind. This includes safety, security, school-affiliated programming, extracurricular activities and enrollment projections.

A facilities team of volunteers canvassed our community for signatures that will allow for the DCG School Board to place this bond referendum on the November ballot. (More on Page 2)



CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday, September 3, 10, 17, 24 - 1 pm Dismissal, 12:30 pm Oak View

Wednesday, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - 1 pm Dismissal, 12:30 pm Oak View

Monday, October 27 - No School - Teacher Workday



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Home of the Mustangs



www.dcgschools.com

DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OFFICES

Elementary Offices

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E-mail: patty.morris@dcgschools.com
Telephone Number: (515) 986-4057
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500 SW James Street, Grimes, Iowa 50111
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April Heitland, Principal/North Ridge Elem.
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Diann Williamson, Principal/Heritage Elem.
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Middle School Office/Jason Snow, Principal
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Fax Number: (515) 992-4076
1400 Vine Street, P.O. Box 608, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Oak View/Joan Cundiff, Principal
E-mail: joan.cundiff@dcgschools.com
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Fax Number: (515) 986-3155
1300 SW County Line Road, Grimes, Iowa 50111
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High School Office/Matthew Blackmore, Principal
E-mail: matthew.blackmore@dcgschools.com
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Fax Number: (515) 986-9734
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Transportation Office/Jeff Wolfe, Transportation Director
Email: jeff.wolfe@dcgschools.com
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255 SW Jazzwood Dr.
Grimes, IA 50111
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Central Office/Business Office
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2405 W. 1st Street, P.O. Box 680
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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

(Cont. from Page 1) A couple of notable highlights will include addressing our capacity issues at DCG High School, safety and security upgrades at multiple buildings, inclusive playgrounds at all of our elementary schools, educational programming additions at DCG High School and athletic facilities updates at DCG High School and Oak View.

Where can I get more information? We've created a page on our district website (QR code bottom left) with updated information, designs, FAQs and a building-by-building breakdown of the projects that we plan to complete. There's also a question/comment form on the page. Feel free to share any thoughts or concerns by using this form. It comes directly to my inbox. I'm here to answer any questions you may have!

Thanks for your support of Dallas Center-Grimes! More information to come from me in the near future, but please reach out at any point!

Dr. Scott Blum
DCG Superintendent



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

DCG Unveils Strategic Plan - The Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District is excited to showcase our new strategic plan! DCG partnered with TeamWorks and included feedback from all of our community stakeholders. The DCG Strategic Plan will serve as a true north for our entire team. Moving in an aligned direction will be at the core of what we do together.

New Mission Statement: Empowering every student to create their future.

New Vision Statement: Our district strives for excellence through innovation, and embraces growth in every dimension of education.

New Core Values: Passionate, Inclusive, Supportive, Innovative, Collaborative

School Board Meeting - The next DCG School Board Meeting is set for Monday, September 22 at 5:30 in the DCG Administration Board Room. The agenda and livestream links will be posted at DCGschools.com.

YEARS OF SERVICE



Years of Service at Dallas Center-Grimes CSD - Our district celebrated a combined 560 years of service at our all-staff kickoff event in August! These incredible professionals are making an impact in our district every single day! The 2025-26 Service Award Recipients are available at DCGschools.com. A special shout out to Ann Mensing and her 30 years of service to DCG!! We appreciate you!!

Fall Festival Parade - We had a great time walking in the DCG Fall Festival Parade on Saturday, August 23! Connecting with our community is such an important part of what we do at Dallas Center-Grimes! We are excited to keep building these relationships through the 2025-26 school year!



Education Foundation Update-

Upcoming 50/50 Raffles to Support DCG Seniors

The DCG Education Foundation will be hosting two 50/50 raffles at athletic events in September and we'd love your support.

9/9 - DCG Volleyball vs. Indianola
9/26 - DCG Football vs. Waukee (Homecoming)

Look out for DC Gef volunteers onsite at the games to buy your raffle tickets for a chance to take home half the pot (or donate it back if you'd like - we won't argue!)

Last year, with the support of the community, 50/50 raffles funded \$2,000 in scholarships for DCG students.

Angel Account - There's a need in our DCG cafeterias. The DCG Angel Account helps students receive the meals they need every single day. The account supports our students who don't qualify for free and reduced meals but could still use assistance. If you are interested in donating, please visit the DCG School Store via your Infinite Campus Parent Portal. There's also a link to help posted at DCGschools.com. The DCG Angel Account makes a difference in our district!

DCG's New Teachers (Photo Right)

Dallas Center Elementary

Shea Jorgensen - 1st Grade

Heritage Elementary

Chloe Lybeck - 4th Grade

Bailey Kenneally - Special Education

Emily Akers - Kindergarten

Jordan Paup - Counselor

Kensila Manley - Preschool

North Ridge Elementary

Rebecca Skow - Interventionist

South Prairie Elementary

Katie Gilbert - Interventionist

Lisa Tasler - Interventionist

DCG Middle School

Kylie Merical - 5th Grade

Ellen Flint - 6th Grade

Tanner Mueller - 6th Grade

Madison Wardlow - 6th Grade

Harley Rozenboom - Special Education Teacher

Lori Schoenauer-Hewlett - 6th Grade

Oak View

Mara Froelich - ELA Teacher

Shane Roenfanz - Math Teacher

DCG High School

Shelley Engel - ELA Teacher

Kara Stuart - ELA Teacher

Phillip Seiwert - Science Teacher

Thor Heimdal - Math Teacher

Anne Bennett - Spanish Teacher

Sydney Dwyer - PE Teacher

Antton Zuazu Hernandez - Spanish Teacher

Shared Staff/District

Christine Kane-Finn - MS/OV - EL Teacher

Alex Glade - Curriculum Facilitator

Collin Lane - CTE Facilitator

OAK VIEW UPDATE

Summer Connections - Oak

View students volunteered their time this summer to play BINGO with residents at Kennybrook Village in Grimes! The smiles and stories shared around the table were incredible! These community connections will continue during the school year as well!



NEW DCG TEACHERS



New District Website - We are excited to showcase a new look to our official DCG CSD website. Use the QR Code right to view the updated site! The DCG EBackpack is user friendly, with a special call out to submit community events. The site is also able to be translated to the 11 most-used languages by district families! We will continue to make updates moving forward!



Food Service Update - We are excited to continue our partnership with Chartwells! Their food service team is passionate about using fresh, nutritious minimally processed and local sourced ingredients! Breakfast and lunch will be served daily in our cafeterias. Use the QR code (left) to view updated menus for all seven of our buildings!

TRANSPORTATION

School buses across the country transport millions of kids every year and are, without question, the safest way to get kids to and from school. We transport more than 1,700 students per day at DCG and our number one priority is "SAFETY". Transporting kids to and from school takes a team effort to be successful. Parents, kids, and the school all need to work together to provide the safest transportation possible. We want all kids to feel physically and mentally safe while on a school bus. 42% of all DCG students ride a school bus every single day. In 2024, the DCG Transportation team drove approximately 500,000 miles! Our commitment is to meet the needs of every student, while doing so in a safe and timely manner!

Parents Responsibilities:

1. Ensure your child arrives at their bus stop safely and on time.
2. During extreme weather, ensure your child boards the bus safely.
3. Review the Bus Rules and Disciplinary Policy with your child (see rules below).

Bus Driver and School Responsibilities:

1. Ensure the school bus is safe to transport students.
2. Ensure buses run on time. Extreme weather may affect bus STOP times.
3. Ensure there is room on each bus to transport students safely.
4. Ensure all students are safely transported to and from school.

Student's Responsibilities:

1. Arrive at the bus STOP on time.
2. Follow ALL of the bus safety rules.
3. Report any problems you are having on the bus to your school bus driver or teacher.

The bottom line is, we want all students to feel safe while on a DCG school bus, both physically safe and mentally safe. Report safety issues to your school bus driver. If issues continue, contact Jeff Wolfe at jeff.wolfe@dcgschools.com or 515-986-5173 ext 1.

Bus Video Cameras

The DCG School Board has authorized the use of video cameras on school district buses. The video cameras will be used to monitor student behavior in order to promote and maintain a safe environment. Bus camera videotapes may be used in student disciplinary proceedings. Digital video will be retained, only if necessary, for use in student disciplinary proceedings or other matters as determined by the administration. Parents may request to view video of their child, if the video is used in a disciplinary proceeding involving their child.

School Picture Dates at DCG

DCG High School

Picture Day - 8/28 - Retake - 10/14

Oak View

Picture Day - 10/9 - Retake - 11/18

DCG Middle School

Picture Day - 9/18 - Retake - 10/30

Dallas Center Elementary

Picture Day - 9/24 - Retake - 11/4

Heritage Elementary

Picture Day - 10/2 - Retake - 11/11

North Ridge Elementary

Picture Day - 9/2 - Retake - 10/9

South Prairie Elementary

Picture Day - 9/4 - Retake 11/11



Deputy Ben Spracklin Named New DCG SRO - Dallas Center-Grimes CSD is excited to announce that Deputy Ben Spracklin from the Polk County Sheriff's Office will be joining our team as a School Resource Officer. Spracklin will join Deputy Alan Loutzenhiser at DCG and will work primarily out of Oak View with other responsibilities across our district. He will also join the DCG Safety Team and lead our school safety trainings.

"I'm thrilled to join the team at Dallas Center-Grimes," shares Deputy Spracklin. "I will work diligently to be a trusted member of the community and look forward to building relationships with everyone I meet."

Deputy Spracklin joined the team on August 20 and he will replace Deputy MaKenna Walters who took a position outside of law enforcement.

FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES



8/29 - DCG at Urbandale
9/5 - Ottumwa at DCG
9/12 - Dowling at DCG
9/19 - DCG at DM Roosevelt
9/26 - Waukee at DCG
10/3 - DCG at Waterloo West
10/10 - DCG at Marshalltown
10/17 - Ames at DCG
10/24 - DCG at CR Kennedy



8/26 - Mustang Invite
8/30 - at Unity Christian Tourney
9/9 - Indianola at DCG
9/11 - DCG at ADM
9/13 - at SE Polk Tourney
9/16 - Pella Christian at DCG
9/20 - at Benton Tourney
9/23 - DCG at Norwalk
9/27 - at Nevada Tourney
9/30 - Pella at DCG
10/4 - at Urbandale Tourney
10/17 - DCG at Oskaloosa
10/9 - DCG at Ames
10/14 - DCG at Newton



Girls Cross Country

DCG at Home - 9/3
DCG at Marshalltown - 9/12
DCG at Ballard - 9/16
DCG at Central College - 9/21
DCG at Lakeside Golf - 10/10
DCG at Newton - 10/9
State Qualifier - 10/23
State Meet - 11/1

ACTIVITIES



DCG Softball Returns to State Tournament - It was another incredible season for our Mustangs! DCG qualified for the Class 4A State Tournament and ended their season in Fort Dodge with a 33-9 overall record! The trip to state in 2025 marked the 25th anniversary of DCG's first-ever appearance at the Iowa High School State Softball Tournament! They also claimed a share of their fourth consecutive Little Hawkeye Conference Crown! Sophomore Jenah Gray led the Mustangs at the dish, compiling 56 hits and 52 RBIs. Fellow sophomore Tessa Jones was the ace in the circle, winning 22 games with a minuscule 1.44 ERA. Great season Mustangs!

Gray Selected in MLB Draft - From DCG to Tampa Bay, Taitn Gray was selected with the 86th overall pick in the 2025 Major League Baseball by the Tampa Bay Rays! Gray is a member of the DCG Class of 2025! Taitn finished his senior season with a .479 batting average and 12 home runs. He signed his professional contract with Tampa Bay in July! Way to go Taitn! We will be cheering you on!



Summer Camp Success - There was a lot going on at DCG this summer! We are thrilled to see so many current, future and former students around our campus taking part in our camps and clinics. From athletic competition, to marching band rehearsal, we had it all! This is also a great reminder

to utilize the new look DCG Ebackpack, available at DCGschools.com. The new eBackpack includes URL's for all submission and there's a form to send in your camp/clinic information! The Ebackpack is updated frequently, so check back for updates!

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Here are a few photos from the first day of school at DCG! We started our year together on Monday, August 25! This is going to be a great year!



ANNUAL NOTICES



Annual Notices - Please use the QR code (left) to view our district's published annual notices. We had previously published annual notices in the September edition of the Mustang Monthly. Due to frequent updating and the need to translate the annual notices, we've transitioned to a digital platform. These annual notices will be updated on an as-needed basis.

Non-Discrimination Statement - It is the policy of the Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. In addition, the Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District is required by Title IX and its implementing regulations not to discriminate on the basis of sex and this requirement extends to admission and employment. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy contact Dr. Greg Carenza, Associate Superintendent of School Improvement, 2405 W. 1st Street, Grimes, IA 50111, Telephone: (515) 992-3866, Email: greg.carenza@dcgschools.com

Director of the Office for Civil Rights, Denver Office, U.S. Department of Education, Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Building, 1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 310, Denver, CO 80204-3582. Telephone: (303) 844-5695, Facsimile: (303) 844-4303, TDD: (800) 877-8339. Email: OCR.Denver@ed.gov

FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES



Cross Country

Boys Cross Country

- 8/26 - DCG at DMACC Campus
- 9/2 - DCG Home Meet (DC)
- 9/11 - DCG at Marshalltown
- 9/16 - DCG at Valley SW
- 9/20 - DCG at Central College
- 10/2 - DCG at SE Polk
- 10/9 - DCG at Lakeside (FD)
- 10/14 - Conference Meet
- 10/22 - State Qualifier
- 11/1 - State Meet

Boys Golf Schedule - The DCG Boys Golf team started their season on August 18. The Mustangs will play in the 2025 district meet on October 6 and then the state meet on October 13.



DCG High School Yearbook

Info - The 2025-2026 high school yearbook orders are open! Place your order by September 13th to receive the book at its lowest price of the year AND four free personalized icons. (The 2024-2025 yearbooks will be in soon and ready for pick-up.) Please contact Mrs. Soener (ivy.soener@dcgschools.com) with any questions.

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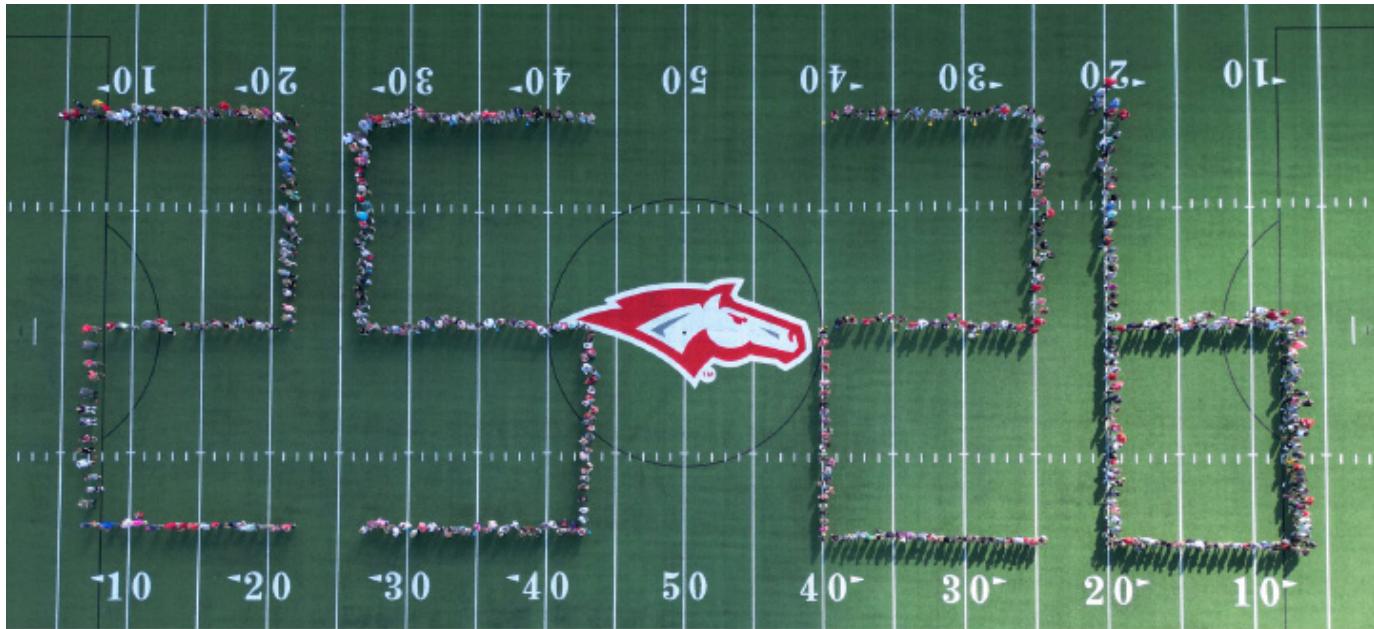
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POSTAL CUSTOMER



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Team DCG - Here's a look at the official Team DCG for the 2025-26 school year! Together, we will work to create incredible learning environments for our students! This is a group of talented and dedicated professionals, eager to make the 2025-26 school year the absolute best! We appreciate your support!



Team DCG | 2025-26 School Year

