



Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District

High School

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February 2026

DCGCSD School Board Report

Prepared by: Matthew J. Blackmore, High School, Principal

February Welcome | Principal Matthew Blackmore

Greetings, Mustang Families!

As we move into the heart of the third term, February brings a renewed focus on our district's core values and the incredible support systems that make DCG High School a premier place for learning. This month, we take a moment to celebrate the professionals who guide our students' journeys and open our doors to collaborative growth.

Celebrating National School Counseling Week

February 2 – 6, 2026

This week, we join schools across the country in celebrating National School Counseling Week. This year's theme, "School Counselors Amplify Student Success," perfectly captures the impact our team has on the academic, career, and social-emotional development of our Mustangs.

Whether they are helping a senior navigate college applications, assisting a sophomore with course selections, or providing a listening ear during a tough day, our counselors are vital to our mission. Please join me in thanking our dedicated team:

- Nathan Gross: School Counselor (Students A-G)
- Lisa Rinehart: School Counselor (Students H-N)
- Danie Clancy: School Counselor (Students O-Z)
- Janette Friesen: Administrative Assistant

Did you know? There are over 131,000 school counselors nationwide serving nearly 50 million K-12 students. They don't just schedule classes—they advocate for every student's potential.

Professional Growth & Collaboration

At DCG, we believe that the best teachers are also the best learners. We have two key initiatives this month focused on maintaining our high standards of excellence:

Teacher Quality Meeting | February 9

Our DCG HS representatives, Katheryne Almeida and Heather Every, will be meeting to discuss instructional strategies and professional development goals to ensure our staff has the resources they need to succeed.

Learning Walks | February 26 (Block 3)

On February 26, our staff will participate in "Learning Walks." This is a collaborative practice where teachers visit their peers' classrooms in pairs or triads for short, five-minute observations.

What is the goal?

We aren't looking to critique; we are looking for evidence of our District Core Values in action:

- Innovation
- Support
- Collaboration
- Inclusion
- Passion

Staff will observe the classroom environment and speak with students about their work to see how these values are being lived out in real-time.

Important Dates & Reminders

Safety Note: Our Tornado Drill on the 17th is part of our routine safety protocols to ensure all students and staff are prepared for spring weather patterns.

Thank you for your continued partnership in making Dallas Center-Grimes High School a place where every student can thrive.

School Counselors Amplify Student Success

A huge part of a successful school starts with our Student Services team! Meet our incredible School Counseling team who serve all Mustangs and support college & career readiness everyday at DCG:

- Janette Friesen, Administrative Assistant
- Nathan Gross, School Counselor (Student A-G)
- Lisa Rinehart, School Counselor (Students H-N)
- Danie Clancy, School Counselor (Students O-Z)

National School Counseling Week (NSCW) in 2026 will be celebrated from Monday, February 2nd, to Friday, February 6th, with the theme "School Counselors Amplify Student Success", highlighting their vital role in academic, career, and social-emotional development, supported by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA).

1. National School Counseling Week is Feb. 2-6. We are excited to recognize the work of the 131,000 #schoolcounselors across the nation! #NSCW26
2. How do school counselors amplify student success? Find out at schoolcounselor.org/role. #NSCW26
3. Every student deserves a #schoolcounselor. School counselors #AmplifyStudentSuccess. #NSCW26
4. #SchoolCounselors serve nearly 50 million K-12 students nationwide. This week we celebrate them! #NSCW26
5. Join @ASCAtweets in celebrating #NSCW26, which highlights the unique contributions of the nation's 131,000 #schoolcounselors. #NSCW26
6. Do you know what #schoolcounselors really do? Spoiler alert: It's a lot. This week, we're celebrating their dedication to all students.
#NSCW26 #AmplifyStudentSuccess
7. Every day, school counselors make a difference for students. Learn more at schoolcounselor.org/role.
#NSCW26 #AmplifyStudentSuccess