



May 2025

Goals for 2024-25

1. Academic Learning Focus:

- Teachers will learn the new literacy curriculums, plan collaboratively, and implement with fidelity by students performing at 80% or better on grade level assessments.

2. Social-Emotional Focus:

- Students will demonstrate social emotional wellness by using the problem solving process and engaging during morning meetings and closing circles, measured by students using the problem solving process independently or with the support of a teacher.

Curriculum and Instruction

DCE recently hosted our *Kindergarten Countdown* evening to welcome incoming families and share important information about Kindergarten routines, expectations, and a tour of the building. We had a very nice turnout for this event!

Our Kindergarten students also enjoyed a field trip to the *Blank Park Zoo*, which was a fun and engaging experience for all. We had many parent volunteers!

Fourth grade student leaders met with Mrs. Cale to reflect on what's going well and suggested ideas for improvement, including fostering inclusivity and spending more time learning in and about nature.

Staff have begun analyzing both SEL and academic data to establish building goals for the upcoming school year. This will inform our professional learning for next year.

Additionally, FFA visited and provided students the opportunity to interact with farm animals, which was a big hit with students and supported hands-on learning.

We have received some of our ISASP testing results, and the data looks very strong. Congratulations to our students and staff for their hard work and dedication—great job, team!

It's been a wonderful season of learning and growth at DCE!





Environment and Relationships

We recently held our final PRIDE Assembly of the year, and Dr. Blum did a fantastic job as the MC, energizing the students and fostering a strong sense of school pride.

To keep spirits high through the end of the year, we've launched *Fitness Friday*—a fun weekly tradition where staff participate in a quick game organized by Mrs. Boaz, while students cheer them on. It's been a joyful and community-building way to wrap up each week!

Read all about Preschool in our Preschool Newsletter

Preschool students have been engaging in [ABC Countdown](#) for an end of the year activity. FFA brought out several farm animals out for the morning classes to enjoy and interact with!



Diann Williamson
Heritage Elementary
Board Report
May 2025

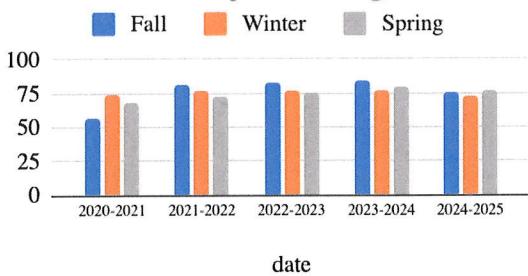
"Growing Together to be Our BEST!"

CURRICULUM

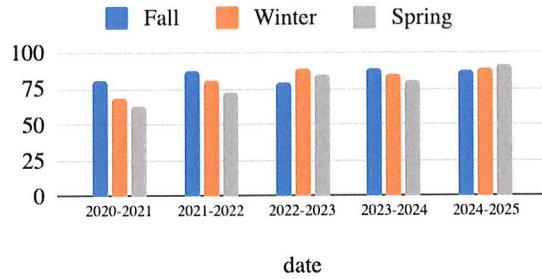
FAST Testing

FAST testing is currently underway at Heritage. At this time, kindergarten and 1st grade have completed testing. Kindergarten ended the year with 92% of students being proficient, while 1st grade ended with 77% of students being proficient. The two graphs below show our overall proficiency from 2020-2025.

1st Grade Early Reading



Kindergarten Early Reading



As students finish testing, we will analyze our student group data.

Literacy Building Annual Improvement Goals: By May 2025, 80% of each student group will meet the literacy FAST spring benchmark. (EL, Special Education, Gender, PatR/AR, Race/Ethnicity) Currently, kindergarten and 1st grade have finished FAST testing.

Grade	Females			Males			EL			Race/Ethnicity			Special Education			Free & Reduced		
	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring
K	87%	100%	100%	85%	81%	86%	50%	100%	100%	67%	90%	100%	50%	33%	44%	60%	67%	71%
1st	81%	80%	76%	70%	70%	77%	25%	14%	50%	50%	50%	54%	40%	40%	20%	47%	50%	63%

ISASP Data

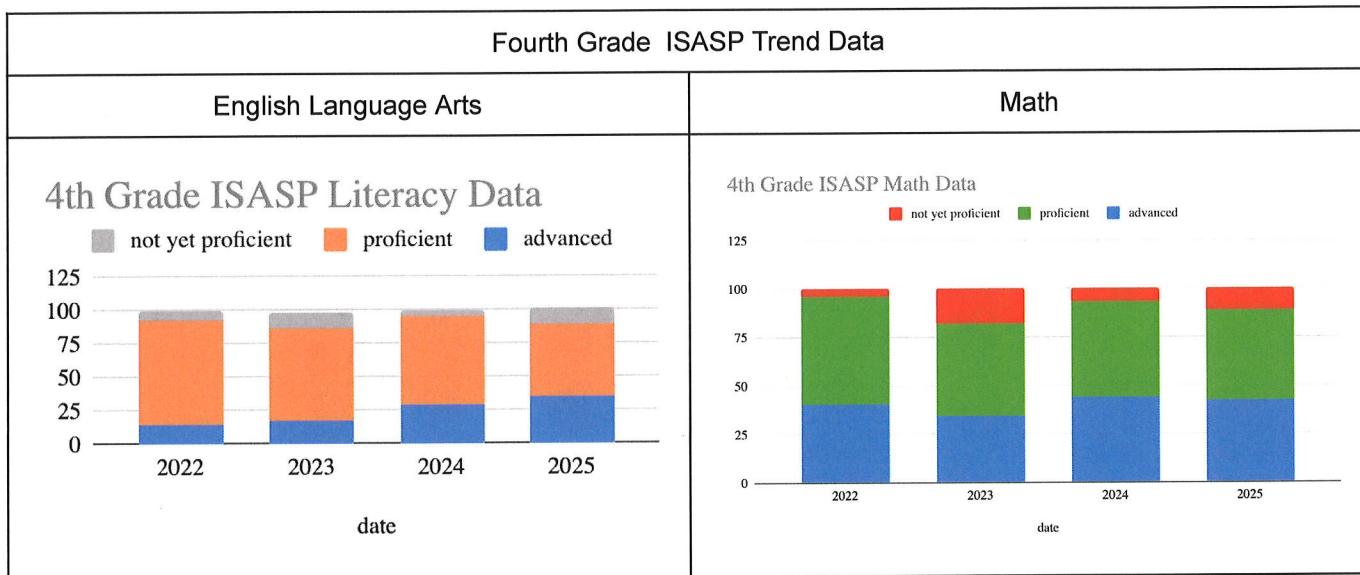
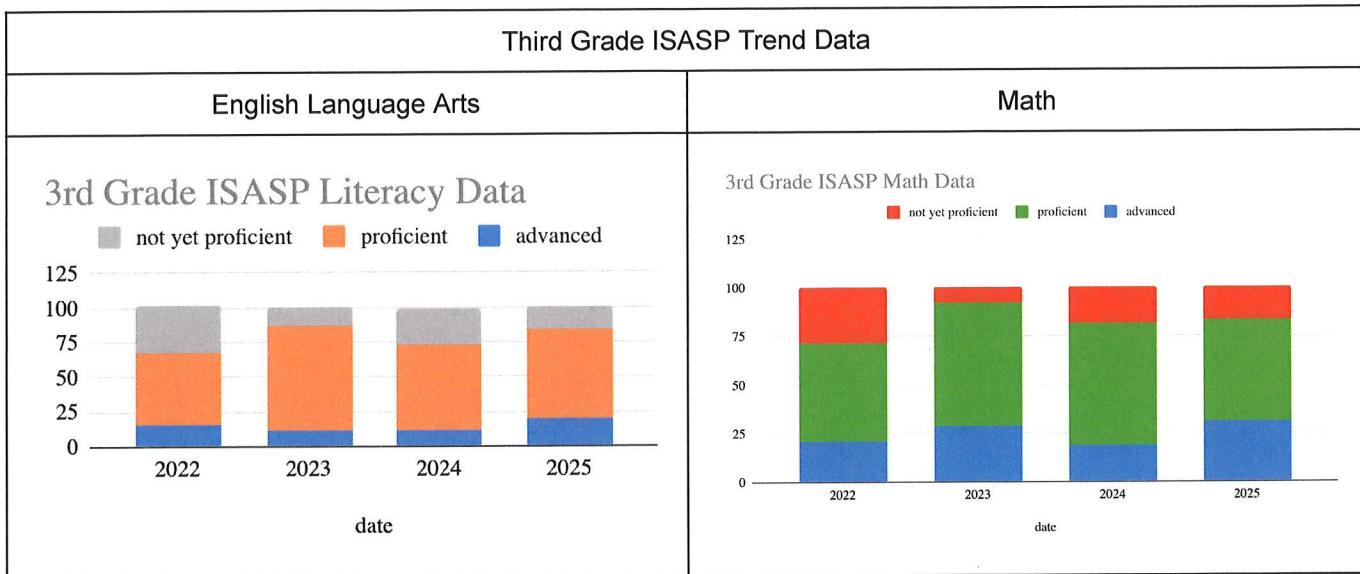
We are still waiting for ISASP data to be finalized, but here is a glimpse of this year's preliminary data. The graphs below show trend data from 2022-2025.

Math

3rd Grade: 83% proficient or advanced
4th Grade: 89% proficient or advanced

Literacy

3rd Grade: 89% proficient or advanced
4th Grade: 89% proficient or advanced



ENVIRONMENT/RELATIONSHIPS

PBIS Rewards

Students met our second PBIS High Five goal of 7,500 tickets for this quarter. We celebrated with popsicles on the playground and some extra recess. We were able to escape the rain and capture some great time in the sun! Our next goal is 10,500 tickets, and we plan to celebrate with a magic show.





Dallas Center-Grimes
Community School District
North Ridge Elementary

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Phone: 515-986-5674

NR Long Range Goals			
Academic	Climate/Culture	Communication	Employee Engagement
By May, 2030 the percentage of students proficient in math will be 100% as measured by aMath (grades 2-4) and earlyMath (grades K-1).	By May of 2030 the percentage of students receiving official referrals for physical incidents will reduce to 0%.	By May of 2030, North Ridge teachers and staff will have communicated positively to each family on at least 4 occasions.	By May of 2030 every certified staff member will participate in at least two coaching cycles per academic year.
NR Short Term Goal			
Academic	Climate/Culture	Communication	Employee Engagement
By May of 2025 the percentage of students <i>not proficient</i> in math, as measured by aMath (grades 2-4) and earlyMath (grades K-1), will decrease by 5%.	By May of 2025 the percentage of students receiving office referrals for physical incidents will reduce by 5%.	By May of 2025, North Ridge teachers and staff will have communicated positively to each family on at least 3 occasions.	By May of 2025, the percentage of certified staff participating in a coaching cycle will increase by 10% (73%).

Focus: Academic

Goal: The percentage of students *not proficient* in math, as measured by aMath (grades 2-4) and earlyMath (grades K-1), will decrease by 5%.

Goal #1: The percentage of students not proficient in math, as measured by earlyMath (grades K-1), will decrease by 5%. **Goal not met– plan to continue for the 25-26 school year**

earlyMath % SPRING of 23-24	earlyMath % FALL of 24-25	earlyMath % WINTER of 24-25	earlyMath % Spring
n/a *students K-1 completed the Number Corner assessment in 23-24; this was changed to earlyMath at the start of 24-25	Not Proficient 8.5%	Not proficient 12% OK/K 85% proficient 1st 91% proficient	12% not proficient OK/K 76% proficient 1st 92% proficient

Focus: Climate and Culture

Goal: *By May of 2025 the percentage of students receiving office referrals for physical incidents will reduce by 5%.* Will revisit data at the end of the year. Looking to revise goal and be more specific

Office Referrals from 23-24	Office Referrals FALL 24-25	Office Referrals March 24-25
63 63/78 were physical	8 8/8 were physical	August 26 - May 12 38/68 were physical

Focus: Communication

Goal: *By May of 2025, North Ridge certified staff will have communicated positively to each family on at least 3 occasions.*

Goal Meet and will continue for the 25-26 school year increasing the number of positive communication

Grade Level	% of students that received three positive communications (phone call, postcard, positive office referral, note, email)
Optional Kindergarten/Kindergarten	100%
1st	100%
2nd	100%
3rd	100%
4th	97.8%

Focus: Employee Engagement

Goal: *By May of 2025, the percentage of certified staff participating in a coaching cycle will increase by 10%. – Goal Met and will continue and become more specific for the 25-26 school year*

% of Certified staff participated in CC Spring 2024	% of Certified staff participated in a CC FALL 2024	% of Certified staff participated in a CC Winter 2025	% of Certified staff participated in a CC Spring 2025
63%	27%	48%	73%



South Prairie Elementary

Board Report

Patty Morris, Principal

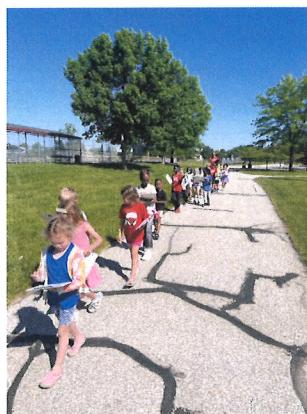
May, 2025

Providing a learning environment where students strive to **LEAD:**

Learn every day, Encourage others, Appreciate differences, Do the right thing

Curriculum

- 1st grade students have been working hard on animal research projects which they will present to families next week. They also enjoyed a nature walk with a checklist of things to look for on their adventures around South Prairie



- Kindergarten started their last science unit on weather and sunlight. They have enjoyed being able to go outside with the beautiful weather during this unit as well.
- 4th graders have been working on more challenging multiplication and division problems as they move to multiplying 2 digit by 2 digit numbers, and dividing 3 and 4 digit numbers. They have work on informational text structures in reading as well as prefixes and suffixes. In writing, they have enjoyed writing some different types of poems that they had studied and learned about before writing their own.
- Science studies in 3rd grade have been around organisms and traits they have for survival. In this particular experiment they were learning about hummingbirds and how they are able to get nectar from plants. They were simulating this with droppers and long beakers of water. Some of the droppers had "issues" that didn't allow them to get the nectar (water) out.



Environment/Relationships

- The FFA is great to partner with us each year to showcase some of their animals that our students have the opportunity to pet and learn a little more about. This year we made the decision that we would only do this with Kindergarten and 2nd grade moving forward which gave each grade level more time to really talk to the high school students and ask questions and learn from them. In the past when we tried to get all students out to see their animals, it was just too rushed. The extra time was well appreciated and more enjoyable for all.



- We had so many families attend our art show and our 3rd/4th grade music concerts. What a great time celebrating and showcasing our students talent in the fine arts. The support from parents is so appreciated as they come and share in these moments with their children. Our favorite new addition to the art show had to be the glow room with student artwork inside.



- Finally, we want to celebrate our PTO and all the support they give us throughout the year, but also the fun things they provide for us during teacher appreciate week. Between our PTO and some of our parents, we had special treats every day. It was nice to be spoiled and seeing the teachers be recognized by so many for all their hard work during the year.

Board Report - May 2025
Pam Dodge - Principal
Middle School (5th-6th)

Transition Planning

Transition planning is underway with our 6th graders and they will be touring Oakview this month. New activities have been added for our incoming 5th graders. Our special education teachers have visited the four elementary schools to observe IEP students and talk with other special education teachers so we can fully understand the needs of these students. Secondly, we invited all 4th graders to our building so they can experience, and learn about, what 5th grade will look like next year. Thank you to the special education teachers and school counselors that have taken the lead on these activities.

Scheduling and Class Lists

A scheduling committee reworked our schedule and we are able to increase the overall minutes for math and literacy instruction for the 25-26 school year. Additionally our team prioritized adding a thirty minute intervention time for all students. Class lists are being formulated so that students can be clustered according to academic and social emotional needs. We are building class lists with our resources in mind to give teachers the best opportunity to meet students' needs.

BLT Planning with Principal Jason Snow

Our Building Leadership Team met for 2 hours with Principal Snow last week to discuss the work underway. We discussed our MTSS systems, including the team learning this year with Tier 1 and Tier 2 Teams. We shared; data, celebrations, and discussed priorities for next year. Later that same day, Principal Snow met with the staff for a meet and greet and he was able to begin to lay out his vision for the middle school.

Building Data

Four years of historical data is included on the following two pages. There are many celebrations in our data, as well as, some clear next steps related to goal setting and overall school improvement.

6th Grade	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Math				
Below	20.56%	16.18%	14.06%	11.11%
Proficient	56.45%	51.10%	50.78%	53.33%
Advanced	23.00%	32.72%	35.16%	35.56%
Total Proficient	79.44%	83.82%	85.94%	88.89%
	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
ELA Combined				
Below	16.72%	13.19%	8.59%	12.31%
Proficient	75.61%	73.26%	69.92%	66.42%
Advanced	7.67%	13.55%	21.48%	21.27%
Total Proficient	83.28%	86.81%	91.41%	87.69%
	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Reading				
Below	17.07%	15.38%	10.16%	13.81%
Proficient	70.03%	66.30%	69.14%	63.81%
Advanced	12.89%	18.32%	20.70%	22.39%
Total Proficient	82.93%	84.62%	89.84%	86.19%
	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Language/Writing				
Below	20.56%	16.48%	8.98%	16.79%
Proficient	69.34%	68.86%	67.58%	62.31%
Advanced	10.10%	14.65%	23.44%	20.90%
Total Proficient	79.44%	83.52%	91.02%	83.21%

Oak View Board Report

May 2025

We have finished Fast testing for all students. 8th grade data will be shared with the high school and we will receive 6th grade data from the Middle School, so we can work on building supports for all students next school year. 7th grade social studies has World Peace Night Thursday, May 15 from 5:30-6:30. This will showcase the students' learning over the course of the last unit. 8th grade students are finishing The Outsiders and will have Outsiders Day, where 8th graders will experience a culmination of their learning of the book.

We will have 6th grade students come into the building for a transition day on May 22nd and 23rd. They will play a game with some of our 7th grade students, take a tour, and meet with some of our core content teachers. We hosted all 37 special education 6th grade students at Oak View a few weeks ago where they toured the building and met their roster teachers for next year. We thought it would be helpful for them to come to the building before all 6th grade students come up for the tour. This will help them to be a little more acclimated to our building, and it helps them to have a little more confidence while they are here. Our 8th grade students will experience a transition day on May 21st, where they will go up to the high school to hear all about what awaits them next year.

We wrapped up service learning at the end of April and then we had a few groups continue the service portion of their service learning in May. It has been so great to see the impact our students can have outside of the school walls. We have great kids at Oak View!

Last week was Teacher Appreciation Week. We had one parent organize a fantastic week of goodies and snacks for the week. Many of our students

wrote thank you notes to their teachers as a way to show their appreciation. While we can never do enough to show how much we appreciate our teachers, it was nice to show them some love throughout the week.

High School Board Report
May 2025

Graduating Class of 2025

On May 23, 2025, we get to celebrate the Senior class of 2054. This will be a great night and will be the final event in the wonderful careers of our High School Seniors. This group is impressive in so many ways, but I think the best part about this group for me is the care and respect they have for DCG and each other. This group will go on to do amazing things, and every DCG employee that these students came in contact with has played a small part in getting these young adults to this day. I am so very PROUD of this group of young people and am excited to celebrate them on the 23rd.

Alternative Education Update

The first year of DCG's Alternative Education program is ending, and it has been a great year. First and foremost, I need to highlight and thank Mrs. Stapp, Mr. Knoll, Mr. Grothoff, Mrs. Soner, and Ms. Hopper for their dedication and work to get this program running and run it the way they did. The success of this program is amazing. By the end of the year, we will have multiple seniors who were not going to graduate but will now graduate with a DCG diploma. We have a few juniors who will be graduating early this year because of this program. These are amazing results, but I think the best stat I can give you all is the impact this has had on the school. I do not have hard data, but we have been able to add opportunities in our building to reach and support all the learners. We have taken students out of a learning environment that does not support them and put them in an environment that does support them. We have supported the General Education teachers by removing some challenges from their classroom, and we have also ensured a guaranteed and viable curriculum across our students, no matter their learning environment. The results of having graduates who might not have made it in another way are great, but this program's impact on the building and the staff is amazing. And to think this all started in April of 2024, I think as a district we can celebrate that in one year we went from idea, to plan, to reality, then produced results that are something we should all be PROUD of.

ISASP Data:

We have not dived into all the data that we got from ISASP, but we have looked at some specific data, and we are looking like we have made some improvements to our Growth and Proficiency in certain student groups. We focused on ISASP this year in a new way and gave students access to practice problems, we tried to connect ISASP to the content teachers are covering, and we focused on the importance of doing well on this test. We were a targeted school for our SPED population according to ISASP, and at first reading, we did see some improvement in this group, along with some improvement in other areas. We will be looking into this data a little more in the last weeks of school, and we will be using this data to help us plan and create our building goals for next year.

Travis Donahue
High School Principal
DCG PROUD

Communications Board Report - May 2025

Website Update - This is the last in-progress website update that I will be providing to the DCG School Board! We are set to launch the brand new website the week after school is out. It's been a lot of hard work to get to this point, and we are so excited for our community to see it! A redesign of the DCG EBackpack, updated Staff Directory, and translations into the nine most-used languages at DCG will be gamechangers! The June Board Report will include our final design and final update on this project! It's been two years in the making, and we've reached the finish line!

Graduation Content - As you are reading this report, we are getting ready to watch the DCG Class of 2025 walk across the stage. We have several fun activities planned to showcase the event, so check out our website and social media channels for all the coverage. Congrats to the DCG Class of 2025!!

Teacher Appreciation Week Celebration - This was one of our favorite projects for the month. We asked our community to send in videos that celebrate our teachers! We heard from several families and [posted this video](#) online and on social media. One more shout out to DCG Teachers, the best of the best!

Reunification Training Videos - We've worked closely with DCG SRO's Deputy Loutzenhiser and Deputy Walters to provide reunification training videos at our two locations. We will keep these videos and the locations private, but they've received great feedback from our staff members. We sent the videos to all staff members in the week leading up to their training dates.

Strategy Spotlight Series - This is a new project at DCG for the 2024-25 school year! We partnered with the DCG Teaching and Learning department to create a Strategy Spotlight Series, shining a light on the incredible strategies that our teachers are using every single day. [Here's an example of one of the videos](#). We will continue this series in the 2025-26 school year!

Kindergarten Kickstart - We joined the South Prairie Elementary Kindergarten team to promote their Kindergarten Kickstart program this fall. This coverage included a podcast featuring South Prairie Principal Patty Morris and SPE Kindergarten Teacher Katherine Southmayd. Click [here](#) to listen.

Thanks for your support of the DCG Communications Department!! Let me know if you have any questions! - AJ



Human Resources Board Report

May 2025

Hiring

We are excited that we have secured a top-notch candidate to take over as the high school principal. Matthew Blackmore brings great experiences with him and he will hit the ground running with the high school team. The building has a strong foundation and a building leadership team hungry to tackle tough conversations around student data and continue to make huge differences in the lives of our students and their families.

Professional Development plans

Our associate steering committee met again and came up with some great changes to the format we used this year. We will hold required professional development during the first Wednesday of each month. We will then sprinkle in several other learning opportunities that are optional to our classified staff. They can pick and choose the topics that are meaningful to them.

Also, this team brainstormed various topics that could help them do their jobs at a higher level. We are attempting to find as much time with them collaborating with one another as we can, because that is when some of the best learning happens.

TQ and Evaluations

Our Teacher Quality team will now tackle the evaluation instrument for classified staff - mainly our special education and general education associates. We trimmed the document to a rating system on several job performance areas, as well as some reflection from both the building administrator and the employee. This will allow a path for growth for each staff member, as we prepare for a transition into the Stronge standards and performance indicators beginning in the 2026-27 school year.

Mandatory Training

We will roll out Vector Solutions as our vehicle for mandatory trainings later this week. Our classified staff will begin their training during early-outs on May 21 and 28. Certified staff will begin their work on June 2 and 3. This will make the training more efficient and we should feel the benefits almost immediately.



Student Services Board Report
May 2025



Roxanne Cumings

Special Education:

*Along with continued transition planning for students moving to their next building in the fall, our special education teachers are also taking steps to make sure any students accessing summer special education services are set up for success. Roster teachers are collaborating with teachers who will be providing summer services to ensure they have the necessary materials and resources to meet the needs of each student.

ELL:

*On the afternoon of May 21, our EL teachers, Cindra Porter, Alyson Finley and I will engage in conversation around ELPA21 results to determine the growth our English learners have made from last spring to this spring. Conversation will also focus on examining the EL instructional resources we have across the district as we make sure each building has the resources they need based on student numbers and based on language acquisition levels.

Special Education Networking & Transition Planning:

*On May 9th DCG's incoming Director of Student Services, Alyson Finley, and I attended the Metro Area Special Education Directors Meeting in Johnston. Alyson and I received updates regarding Heartland's "Program Enhancement Services" that will be provided to districts for a fee during the upcoming school year. We were also provided with updates from the Department of Education as related to special education services. Finally, we joined a group of fellow directors to engage in conversation around the roles and responsibilities of LEA (school district) staff as compared to the roles and responsibilities of AEA staff.



Dallas Center - Grimes High School

HOME OF THE MUSTANGS

Member of the Little Hawkeye Conference

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May Board Brief – Activities

What a beautiful month this has been for the weather. This is by far the busiest month of the year for us. With the end of the school year in sight and celebrations taking place, we have celebrations of our own that we would like to share.

Our theater department under the direction of Kar Gustafson, Maranda Turner, and Jim Shutt gave an opportunity to nearly 100 students to perform Matilda. We had three shows of nearly sold-out productions. Bravo to the entire cast and crew!!

Our boys' and girls' soccer teams finish the regular season on top of the conference and in position to make a deep run into the postseason. Both teams are ranked with the girls at #2 and the boys at #1. We will host several post season games the next week and a half.

State qualifying track took place last week at Waukee NW. We qualified several events for the boys and girls for the state track meet this week.

We hosted the IHSMA Large Group Festival last weekend. Nearly 2,000 young musicians from seven large high schools graced the performance centers with incredible music. Thank you to our High School Fine Arts Staff for the organization and time spent to give this opportunity to the students.

Girls Golf had regional meets last week and finished the season strong. There was a lot of growth this year.

Boys tennis has had a nice season and have stacked several wins up in only their 3rd year. The IGHSAU gave us a team regional last Friday due to our beautiful courts.

Baseball and Softball have started. Baseball is starting the season ranked #2 in 4A, might be the Taitin Gray effect. It will be a fun summer in Dallas Center!

Commitment to Excellence

As you know, I will be retiring this year with my last day being June 5th. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of our activities program over the past six years. The educational activities program is vital to the overall educational experience of our students. I take great pride in the work that we have accomplished over the past six years and am excited to see where Madison and her team take the Mustangs. My thirty-three years in education have been incredibly rewarding. There have been many high's and lows and many opportunities to grow personally and professionally. Thank you to the districts of North Scott, Fort Madison, Ankeny, and DCG. I am forever grateful.

Once a Mustang, Always a Mustang!

Buttjer

Commitment to Excellence

Technology Board Report - May 2025
Director of Technology – Steven Hopper

May's update will be brief, as we're gearing up for the frenzy of Senior Chromebook turn-ins this Friday (May 16). It's always amazing to me to see just how well our graduating students took care of their devices, in some cases, up to 5 years because of the pandemic. While it's a bustle of activity for one day, the energy and excitement is contagious. Thanks to the High School instructional coaches, Jolie Morgan and Lindsay Kasperbauer, for their assistance.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the board for their approval of our Chromebook refresh at the last meeting. That order has been submitted, and we are anticipating a delivery date of early June. That gives us the entire summer to unbox, onboard, and distribute devices across the district. The extra time is very much appreciated.

Thanks for all of your service to the district, and enjoy the many celebrations taking place for our DCG graduates.

Transportation Report

Be SAFE

Be EFFICIENT

Be CUSTOMER FOCUSED



May 2025

Planning for Next Year

1. We have two drivers retiring at the end of this school year. They will be missed for sure. We hired two excellent candidates to try to fill the shoes of these retirees. Both have the potential of being excellent school bus drivers for us. Recruiting and hiring has moved from an annual event to a year around process. We have hired four school bus drivers since August to replace school bus drivers that resigned/retired.
2. We do not anticipate adding any school bus routes next year overall however, we do plan on cutting a specialized route and adding an intown Dallas Center route. This change will improve the timing of pickup and dropoff times at the Middle School and Dallas Center Elementary while being close to cost neutral.

Summer Project List

1. Yes, we do work all summer (minus a vacation or two)
2. Coordinate with the new Activities Director, Middle School Principal, and Student Services Director. I work closely with all three of these positions so I want to invest time with them so we are ready to roll efficiently on the first day of school. (Efficiency & Customer Service)
3. Six buses need some type of repair to be done at an outside shop. Body work (rust/corrosion), new tires, or other specialized types of repairs that we are not equipped to do in-house. (Safety & Efficiency)
4. Four buses will be upgraded with more up-to-date DVR camera systems. (Safety)
5. Training new school bus drivers. (Safety & Customer Service)
6. Coordination of summer school and many charter field trips that we support for the Grimes Parks & Rec; various daycares in Grimes & Dallas Center; Dallas Center Library; Corteva; and other local organizations that support our kids. (Customer Focused)
7. Plan school bus routes to make sure we are ready for the first day of school. Routing for the new school year should be much less time consuming as past years due to the investment we made in a top-notch Transportation Software. (Safety, Customer Focused, and Efficiency)

We still have two weeks to go but it has been a pretty good year for DCG Transportation. We had our challenges and see some areas we can improve but we have a great group of people in our department. It truly takes ALL OF US doing our job well for us to have a good year.

Thanks for your support!

Jeff Wolfe, Transportation Director