



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Spring is here... I think! We've reached the home stretch of the 2024-25 school year and we've accomplished so many things! Thanks for making this community great!

One of the bigger items on my to-do list this spring is taking another step in our district's commitment to school safety.

All DCG staff members will participate in a "reunification drill" this spring. Establishing a reunification site/strategy is essential in our response to an emergency.

Deputy Alan Loutzenhiser and Deputy MaKenna Walters (DCG SRO's) have established a working document that will allow our team to utilize community buildings as our reunification centers. The plan outlines roles and responsibilities for everyone responding to the emergency.

In the event of an emergency at one of our buildings, a reunification site will allow parents and guardians to reunite with our staff and students in an efficient and timely manner. We will not be releasing any of the specifics of these reunification sites/plans to the general public. However, it's important that our stakeholders know we have these plans and we are prepared to use them.

As a reminder, all DCG staff members completed active intruder training during the 2023-24 school year. This work simulated an emergency within our school walls. Our staff members completed an exit survey after the training and nearly 90% of our team said they want to continue with yearly drills. This year's reunification drill is the second step in this process.

Student safety is my top priority and I will continue to do everything I can to make sure our staff has the training and knowledge they need.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott Blum - DCG Superintendent



CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Early Dismissal, 12:30 Oak View, 1:00 all other buildings



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Home of the Mustangs



www.dcgschools.com

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DISTRICT UPDATES

Career Day at DCG High School - Nearly 70 businesses/careers were in attendance at the 2025 DCG High School Career Day! Use the QR code below to view our list of local partners. This was an exciting opportunity for students to explore different career paths and gain valuable insight into the working world. Career Day was a memorable experience for our students that we hope will spark inspiration and motivation in each student!



Oak View Jazz Band - This group started the season with a strong 3rd place finish at Norwalk, followed by a Division II rating at Urbandale, and ended on a high note with a 1st place victory at Indianola, where we also earned Best Vocals! A special congratulations to Isaac Wedeking, who wowed the judges and was awarded Best Soloist at every competition—an amazing achievement!



New Additions to the DCG Ebackpack

DCG Ebackpack - There are several exciting updates to the DCG Ebackpack! DCG Cross Country Camp, DCG Softball Clinic, Summer Community Events, Foreign Exchange Student Opportunities! Use the QR code (left) to stay updated with these exciting events! This page is updated frequently!

HIGH SCHOOL



NHS Blood Drive - The DCG High School National Honor Society held the largest blood drive in school history!
31 first-time donors!
149 units of blood collected!
447 lives saved or sustained!
Way to go NHS!!

Culinary Competition - It was quite the battle in the DCG High School Cafeteria! Principal Donahue and Assistant Principal Roy squared off against Superintendent Blum and Assistant Principal Hudson in a wing sauce competition. After the votes were tallied, "Blum-ing Hot Honey Sauce" was crowned the winner! For the record, "Donahue Barbecue Sauce" was also really good! A special thank you to the team at Chartwells for providing this opportunity for our students!



Final Day of School - The final day of school for students at DCG will be Friday, May 30. If there are any additional weather cancellations, the last day of school will be pushed back accordingly. Additional details were sent to DCG parents and staff through ParentSquare.



Floor Sweepers at State Basketball - The pageantry of the IGHSAU State Basketball Tournament is unmatched. This tournament was one of the first sporting events to be televised. Starting in 1951 it was broadcast in nine different states. One of the main staples is the halftime entertainment that E. Wayne Cooley brought to the court. A 50 year staple in this programming is the Championship Floor Sweepers. Each year

a group of young men dress in tuxedos and sweep the floor under spotlight to Satin Doll by Duke Ellington, while the announcer states "Ladies and Gentlemen the Cleanest Show in Town!" This time honored tradition is cherished by all. This year our very own Dallas Center-Grimes Mustangs were the stars of the show!

Members of the sweeping crew included: Chase Perrin, Cooper Huston, Charlie Hoakison, Chase Heitland, Sampson Johannsen, Javon Russell, Charlie Bohnenkamp, Hudson Heidgerken and Isaac Hoakison.



Memory Project at DCG High School - Art students at Dallas Center-Grimes High School just finished up their 7th year of participating in the Memory Project - a youth arts organization that promotes inter cultural understanding and kindness between children around the world. The creations you see here are heading to students in Honduras!

DCG Class of 2022 - Cumulative folders for the DCG High School Class of 2022 are available in the front office. Please pick them up before the final day of the 2025 school year! Any remaining cumulative folders will be shredded.

Registration Reminder - Getting excited for the 2025-26 school year at DCG?? Don't forget to register your students on the DCG online portal. We encourage all families to register using a computer instead of a cell phone. By registering in the spring, our enrollment team gets a head start on completing student rosters for the upcoming year!



Donation Drive - The Dallas Center-Grimes High School National Honor Society has been busy! Before Spring Break, the NHS Service Committee completed a donation drive at all seven of our district's buildings. They packaged all the supplies and dropped them off at the Central Iowa Homeless Shelter. This commitment to community service is inspiring!

OAK VIEW



Sign Language Club at Oak View - Students are learning a new language at Oak View this year! In their most recent club rotation, several students asked to start Oak View's first-ever Sign Language Club. The group was

led by Oak View's ASL Interpreter Anna Anderson. The group has worked together to learn letters, names, colors and most recently the Pledge of Allegiance. A video story highlighting Oak View's Sign Language Club is available at DCGschools.com.

Lemon-Davis Honored - Congratulations to 7th-grade student Berkeley Lemon-Davis for being nominated and selected for the Blank Scholars Institute, an intensive one-week residential summer program for Iowa's most talented 7th- and 8th-grade students. Berkeley was selected from many outstanding nominations. Berkeley is a 7th grade student at Oak View!



THANK YOU VOTERS!

PPEL/SAVE Election - Voters in Grimes and Dallas County overwhelmingly passed the PPEL/SAVE vote at Dallas Center-Grimes CSD. This is a significant milestone for our entire district!

Total Votes

Public Measure DR (SAVE) - 524 Total Votes

Yes - 469 Votes - 89.5%

No - 55 Votes - 10.5%

Public Measure DG (PPEL) - 525 Total Votes

Yes - 466 Votes - 88.8%

No - 59 Votes - 11.2%

What does this mean for DCG?

We are going to work! Your vote allows our team to continue with building upgrades. We can provide the necessary technology for ALL of our students. We can ensure our bus fleet meets the needs of our community. We can continue our regular maintenance schedule for DCG's HVAC systems. It's a lot of behind-the-scenes work, but it is so important! Your support is essential. (Cont. Page 4)

ELEMENTARY



Friendship Bracelets at South Prairie Elementary - Inside recess sometimes has a bad reputation (especially when it comes multiple days in a row!!). Due to rain, snow and wind, DCG students had several indoor recess sessions in March. South Prairie second graders put their extra inside time to good use,

making friendship bracelets to share with their classmates! What a creative way to share joy with friends!

Classroom Field Trip - First grade students in Ms. Lanza's classroom at Heritage Elementary participated in a virtual field trip with Metro Waste Authority! The team from MWA sent over their virtual reality kit that allows students to take a tour of their facilities across the region!



Booster Club Update - Get ready to hit the greens at the Annual DCG Booster Club Golf Outing scheduled for Monday, June 9, at 10:00 a.m. at Beaver Creek Golf Course.



Whether you're a seasoned golfer or just a fan of the cause, come out and enjoy a day of golf while supporting DCG athletics. Registration is now open for groups and sponsorships! (QR code left) Thanks for helping us DRIVE success for DCG teams! Go Mustangs!

DCG Education Foundation: Did you Know? DCGEF funds scholarships for DCG seniors through three sources:

Business & Organization Sponsorship - Local businesses and organizations fund scholarships tailored to specific career paths, industries, or achievements. Their generosity supports education and strengthens the local community.

Foundation-Managed Scholarships - Thanks to individual donors and family endowments, DCGEF administers scholarships that honor past educators, alumni, and community members. We manage these funds for long-term sustainability and ongoing student opportunities.

Community Fundraising & Events - Funds are raised directly from our community through events like the RED Dinner & Auction, 50/50 raffles, and other local fundraisers.

PPEL/SAVE Cont. - It also means that we are on track to ask our voters to support a bond referendum in November. With your approval, we will continue to make Dallas Center-Grimes a marquee district in central Iowa and across the state. More information is available by using this QR code.



Music Tour - Sixth grade band and choir students traveled to all four DCG elementary schools to share their talents with our youngest learners! From introducing instruments to awesome performances, this is a special time to celebrate music. 4th grade parents received a ParentSquare post with additional info!



School Board Meeting - The next scheduled DCG School Board meeting is Monday, April 28. The agenda and YouTube link will be posted at DCGSchools.com



State Wrestling Recap - The DCG Boys Wrestling team sent nine wrestlers to the 2025 Iowa High School State Tournament. Two grapplers reached the podium this year - Ayden Beck (5th place at 132 pounds) and Tyde Nelsen (6th at 165 pounds). Congratulations on a great season!!

District Speech Results - DCG High School sent 39 events to the 2025 Iowa High School Individual State Speech Contest. The 39 events are a school record, surpassing the old record of 37. State Speech Qualifiers - Kayla Atanga, Aubrey Borcherding, Cale Daniels, Grace Heston, Gwen Schlak, Macey Clark, Daphne Swayne, Madi Uhl, Gabi Vandenburg, Elle Wedeking, June White, Zofiana Wollums, AJ Altman, Lizzie Behrens, Sofia Berdeha, Josephine Bond, Johanna Bonefas, Elle Christensen, Marley Eickelberg, Pluto Evans, Alexa Farrell
Tyler Fitch, Nina Pavlicic, Avery Short, Sharla Benning, Emilie Bryant, McKinley Craig, Blaire Ehlert, Liam Fredericks and Mollie Saterdalen.

ACTIVITIES



Mustangs Reach State Semifinals - Head Coach Adam Jones and the DCG Girls Basketball team had a great run at the 2025 IGHSAU State Tournament! The Mustangs advanced to Class 4A's Final Four, before being knocked from the bracket by North Polk. DCG's path to Wells Fargo Arena was memorable, highlighted, by a thriller in the Region 6 Substate Final against the Carlisle Wildcats. After knocking off the Wildcats, DCG earned the sixth seed in the Class 4A bracket and played the third-seed Maquoketa Cardinals in the state quarterfinal. Ava Smid, led the team with 13 points in the opening round and helped the Mustangs move on to the next round. North Polk's hot shooting was the difference in the semifinals, the Comets won 52-30, ending the Mustangs year with a 20-6 overall record. This was DCG's fifth straight trip to the state basketball tournament.



Boys Basketball Recap - The DCG Boys Basketball team battled all the way through the Region 8 Substate bracket to find a spot in the substate final game but just fell short of the Valley Tigers. After a convincing victory in the first round against Fort Dodge, Head Coach Joel Rankin and the Mustangs played a tight substate semifinal game against the Ankeny Hawks but ended up victorious, winning 76-69. Kyle Cason led the Mustangs with 19 points and 7 rebounds against the Tigers, while both Tate Perrin and Hudson Heidgerken each added 9 points. Although coming up short, the Mustangs gave the Tigers everything they had but ultimately their season came to an end that night and they finished the year with a 19-6 record. The 2024-25 Mustangs were the first team in school history to finish with an undefeated conference record. Congratulations on a great season boys!

ACTIVITIES



State Champs! DCG eSports Claims Championship - The DCG Esports team claimed the Class 2 2025 Overwatch State Championship! The Mustangs knocked off Muscatine (quarterfinals), Dubuque Senior (semifinals) and Cedar Rapids Kennedy (championship) to claim the trophy! The Overwatch team also finished the regular season with a perfect 7-0 record. Congratulations to the Mustangs on this incredible achievement! State Championship Team (L to R) Loki Quintana, Austin Willey, Dave Harwood, Ben Maggard, Clayton Borland-Moon, and Liam Wallace. Not pictured - Issac Hosic.



DCG Hosts Take Two Event - DCG's Take Two Show Choir Invitational is always a marquee event on the calendar! Our incredible show choir program held the 2025 Take Two event on Saturday, March 8. In addition to performances from DCG's very own Bozo Boys, Infinity and Acceleration, we hosted WDM Valley, Johnston, Atlantic, Indianola, Woodbine, Missouri Valley, Carroll, North Polk, Ottumwa and Des Moines Lincoln. Thanks to our directors and FOFA for their support of this event! These were some incredible performances, showcasing the dedication and talent of our very own students!



Jazz Band Update - The Dallas Center-Grimes High School Jazz Bands (photos left) competed and placed at the Paul McKee Jazz Festival. Jazz 1 and Jazz 2 had exceptional weekends and should be very proud of their performance! Jazz 1 earned second place in Class 4A. Jazz 2 also placed second but in the Second Bands Class. Along with the group rewards, individuals were acknowledged for being outstanding soloists. Ahren Ervin, Archer Ervin, Nathan Fitch, Quinton Oberender, Holden Quandt, and Patrick Schmitz were all recognized. Congrats to all who performed and keep up the hard work and determination!



The **Oak View Jazz Band** had a successful competition season. We finished 2nd place at our first competition at Indianola High School. Mason Dickhaut, Bass Guitar, won outstanding performer for Middle School Class 4A. We won 1st place at the competition at Woodward-Granger. Two Oak View Students won outstanding soloists, Amelia Dahm, Drum Set; and Cael Bushnell, tenor saxophone. Our final competition was at Waukee Northwest. We finished 2nd place out of 11 bands!

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Art Spotlight - Painting II students at DCG High School recently completed car paintings where they focused on the skills of detail and reflection. Maggie Leifker (right) and Lilah Veach (left) both did an excellent job of demonstrating these skills! The talent of our students is simply amazing!

