



# MUSTANG MONTHLY™

VOLUME 24  
ISSUE 2  
OCTOBER 2024

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is here! There are so many exciting things happening at DCG this month. Our sports teams are in full swing. The DCG Fall Play is getting close. The sounds from the DCG Music department are coming alive! Parent-teacher conferences are on the horizon! Thanks for always making an impact on our district.

We've also launched our very own DCG Strategic Plan project. Our strategic plan is a collaborative and forward-thinking road map that will guide the future of Dallas Center-Grimes CSD. Our district is partnering with TeamWorks, and together we will align all stakeholders under a common vision for the future of DCG CSD.

We held several important focus group meetings throughout September, allowing TeamWorks to connect with our team. These focus groups featured conversations with staff members, administrators, students, parents and community leaders. This dialogue will play a vital role in our path forward.

These meetings will continue throughout the school year and we will be sharing information with community stakeholders as we progress. Your feedback will be a key piece of our final plan.

A strategic plan is more than a document on a piece of paper; it's a call to action for ALL of us. When we are aligned, with a shared vision of excellence, EVERYONE at DCG will be stronger.

DCG's strategic plan is a bold vision for what we can achieve when we unite around a common purpose: the success of every student. This is critically important work and I'm so thankful to have your support.

- Dr. Scott Blum - **DCG Superintendent**



## CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday, October 9, 16, 23, 30 - 1 pm Dismissal, 12:30 pm Oak View

Thursday, October 24 - End of 1st Quarter

Friday, October 25 - No School - Teacher Workday



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Home of the Mustangs



[www.dcgschools.com](http://www.dcgschools.com)

## DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OFFICES

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## DISTRICT UPDATES

**Staff Tailgate** - Close to 300 members of Team DCG attended the 2024 DCG Staff Tailgate on Friday, September 20! A special thank you to our tailgate sponsors - DCG Booster Club, Hy-Vee and Fareway!



**DCG TAG Program Update** - As part of our commitment to providing exceptional educational experiences for students, we are excited to announce that the 2024-2025 school year will feature a comprehensive Program Review of our Talented and Gifted (TAG) program for grades K-12.

This review will be an in-depth examination of key components of our current TAG program and will involve a collaborative effort from a variety of stakeholders. School administrators, TAG teachers, general and special education teachers, ESOL teachers, and Heartland AEA staff will work together to evaluate all aspects of our TAG programming. This process will help us identify program strengths, areas for improvement, and opportunities to enhance our services for gifted students. It is important to note that, during this period of review, we will work to pilot some new processes aimed at better identifying and serving our students.

We recognize that the insights of our community are invaluable. As part of the review, we will actively seek input from students, parents, and community members. Your feedback will play a crucial role in shaping our recommendations and ensuring that our TAG program meets the diverse needs of our gifted learners. More information to come! Together, we can ensure that our TAG program continues to inspire and challenge our gifted learners, helping them reach their full potential!

Dr. Greg Carenza, Associate Superintendent of School Improvement  
Mrs. Roxanne Cumings, Director of Student Services

## MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELD TRIP



**Fall Field Trip** - Fifth grade students at DCG Middle School traveled to Voas Prairie in Minburn to spend an afternoon learning in nature. Students learned how to use a compass and they had an opportunity to tag monarch butterflies. The day ended with an orientation adventure as students went on a nature scavenger hunt through the prairie. Thanks to our partners in Minburn for providing this experience to our students!

# HIGH SCHOOL



**Voter Registration Day** - AP US Government and Politics students held a voting drive on National Voter Registration Day (September 17). This drive encouraged all students 17+ to register to vote. A special thanks to Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate for spending the afternoon with our students!



**DCG High School Homecoming Court** - Homecoming at DCG is such a special time in our district! We celebrated with our community September 23-28 with several special events! DCG is excited to showcase the 2024 Homecoming Court. These 12 individuals have dedicated their time and talent to making our district a better place!

DCG CSD Homecoming Court (L to R Above): Eli Arbuckle and Neela Williamson - Kolby Carpenter and Abby Esser - Jacob Hope and Anna Bahnsen - Emma Behnkendorf and Tate Perrin - Landry Glasgow and Jack Iverson - Alexa Gill and Karsten Freund



**Homecoming Royalty** - Congratulations to Elias Arbuckle and Neela Williamson - 2024 DCG Homecoming Royalty! Elias and Neela were crowned at our Homecoming Parade and Coronation Ceremony on Thursday, September 26! What an awesome Homecoming Week at DCG!



## **Education Foundation RED**

**Dinner Information** - Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 2! The DCG Education Foundation RED Dinner will take place from 5-9 pm at the Three Sisters Barn in Dallas Center. Proceeds from the RED (Raising Education Dollars) Dinner will be used to continue the foundation's commitment to supporting excellence within the DCG CSD through educational scholarships to students as well as teacher grants for classroom supports! Join us for the 7th Annual RED Dinner on Saturday, November 2! Tickets are now available at [dcgeducationfoundation.org](http://dcgeducationfoundation.org). QR below.



**DCG Art Travelers Trip** - Mark your calendars for Spring Break 2027! The DCG Art Travelers are planning a trip to London, Paris and Rome that is open to all DCG students in the class of 2027, 2028, 2029 and 2030! We are planning to hold an informational meeting in April of 2025! Questions? Reach out via email to [danell.duncan@dcgschools.com](mailto:danell.duncan@dcgschools.com).

## **OAK VIEW UPDATE**



### **Oak View Marching Band - 67**

Oak View students are working hard this fall! The Oak View Marching Band and Color Guard put on quite the show at home football games and the DCG Homecoming Parade! Under the direction of Steve Britt, this group always looks for new ways to improve and showcase the incredible musical talent at Oak

View. We look forward to this crew joining the DCG High School Marching Band next year!

**Tying Ties at Oak View** - It's a unit all about life skills at Oak View! FCS students spent a lesson learning how to tie a tie! It was a successful lesson because all students walked out of class with a successfully tied tie! Learning sometimes looks a little different, but these lessons are so engaging!



## **BUTTERFLY UNIT**

**Fly Butterfly Fly** - Fifth grade students at Dallas Center-Grimes Middle School had the opportunity to tag and release monarch butterflies that had emerged from their chrysalis. Students used tags provided by the Dallas County Conservation and the Monarch Watch Organization that help scientists study the Monarch Migration to Mexico. Classes are hoping to receive a certificate from Chip Taylor, Director of the Monarch Watch Organization, saying their monarch was sighted in El Rosario, Mexico. The total migration journey for these amazing creatures is 1,976 miles!



# ELEMENTARY



**Thank You Hy-Vee** - A special thank you to our community partners at the Grimes Hy-Vee. Hy-Vee held a school supply drive in August and after an incredible week of donations, the supplies are now at DCG! Hy-Vee dropped off nearly \$600 worth of supplies at South Prairie Elementary. Superintendent Dr. Scott Blum, South Prairie Principal Patty Morris, members of the Hy-Vee team and several of our students accepted the donation in September. These supplies were divided into four groups and then delivered to all DCG elementary schools! Thanks to Hy-Vee for supporting our students and thanks to everyone who donated!

**Class of 2037** - This is such a fun tradition at DCG! Thanks to our incredible DCG PTO, all kindergarten students received a Class of 2037 t-shirt this fall. These students are starting their journey through our district and we are so excited to watch them learn and achieve. There are photos from all four elementary schools posted on school Facebook pages. Kindergartners at South Prairie are pictured to the right.



**SRO Visit at South Prairie (above)** - This was such a fun way to begin a guidance lesson for kindergarten students at South Prairie. Deputy Alan Loutzenhiser and Deputy MaKenna Walters, our district's two SROs, stopped by to have a special conversation.



**Learning the DCG Fight Song (right)** - School spirit is alive and well at DCG! Second grade students at North Ridge Elementary spent part of a music lesson learning to sing along. This was the perfect unit, at a perfect time, because this group was able to sing with the DCG Drum Line at our homecoming pep rally!



**Popsicle Party** - Students in Megan Kimrey's 1st grade class at Heritage Elementary were rewarded with popsicles after working through a counting unit in math! Popsicles are a perfect way to count by 2's and look for patterns! Check out the smiles in the photo above!

**School Board Update** - The next DCG School Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 28 in the DCG Administration Office at 5:30. The agenda will be posted at [dcschools.com](http://dcschools.com).

**DCG EBackpack** - Looking for a DCG Camp or Clinic? Please visit the DCG EBackpack. This site is updated frequently with development opportunities for our entire community! The DCG EBackpack is available to all students/families. Follow the QR code for additional information!



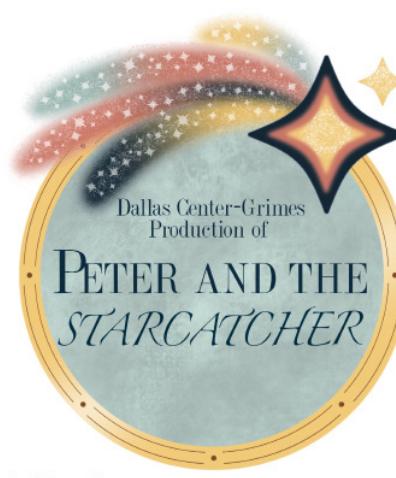
**Rubel Honored** - DCG honored longtime cheer coach Angie Rubel at a football game this fall. Rubel dedicated 20 years of her life to coaching the sport, the last 15 years coming as DCG's Head Cheer Coach. Rubel retired from coaching last spring. Rubel led DCG Cheer to 19 state appearances, earning 5 state titles! During her tenure in our district, 40 cheerleaders represented DCG on the All-Home Honor Squad. Congratulations on a great career Coach Rubel!!

## ACTIVITIES



**Honk Project** - This is such a special tradition at DCG! The DCG Boys Cross Country team spends one night each year spreading positivity throughout our community! The Mustangs head to a busy intersection in Grimes and share notes of positivity for everyone driving by! This is year #11 for the Honk Project and the tradition only gets bigger each year! Thanks for sharing your joy with us! We can't wait to see your signs next fall! The Mustangs will run in a state qualifying meet on Wednesday, October 23! Good luck DCG!

**New DCG Activities Website** - Have you seen the new DCG Activities website?? It's your new home for ALL DCG Activities! Postseason assignments? Yes! Ticket information? Yes! Staff Directory? Yes! Important links? Yes! Visit [Mustangs.DCGschools.com](http://Mustangs.DCGschools.com) today!



A Play by  
Rick Elice  
Music By  
Wayne Barker

Based on the Novel by Dave Barry  
and Ridley Pearson

Originally Produced on Broadway  
by Nancy Nagel Gibbs, Greg  
Schiffert, Eva Price, Tom Smedes,  
and Disney Theatrical Productions.

PETER AND THE STARCATCHER  
Is presented through special arrangement with Musical Theater International (MTI).  
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.  
[www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

**DCG's Fall Play** - The countdown is on for DCG's 2024 Fall Play! Mark your calendars for November 1-3! More than 70 DCG High School students are involved in the cast and crew of this year's play - Peter and the Star Catcher! The play tells the story of how Peter Pan got to Neverland and started his long-suffering relationship with the infamous Captain Hook! Tickets will be available in mid-October and a link will be posted to our new DCG Activities website. You will be captivated by the skill of our students!!

# ACTIVITIES



**Hall of Famer Returns to DCG** - Todd Merical has been named DCG's Head Softball Coach!

This will be Merical's second stint with DCG. He spent four seasons with the Mustangs in the early 2000s. Merical was the Johnston Head Softball Coach for the last 22 seasons and was also in the dugout in Shenandoah for eight years.

"I'm thrilled at the opportunity to rejoin the team at DCG," Merical shares. "DCG Softball has a special place in my heart and I can't wait to build on the Mustang tradition."

Merical led DCG to its first-ever trip to the Iowa High School State Softball Tournament in 2000. At Johnston, Merical's team captured three state championships and five conference titles.

He was named the Class 5A State Coach of the Year three times. Merical was inducted into the Iowa Girls Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2017 and the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2021.

Merical interviewed for this position with members of the DCG Softball program, parents, administrators and head coaches of other DCG programs.

"Coach Merical will continue the tradition of excellence for DCG Softball and our entire activities program," shares Brent Buttjer, DCG Activities Director. "His passion for student-athlete development is extraordinary and our players and coaches will benefit greatly from having him on staff."

"I can't wait to get started," adds Merical.



**Honoring the Champs** - Saturday, June 1 will be a day that lives in the DCG record books forever! In a matter of seven hours, the DCG Girls and DCG Boys Soccer teams captured state championships! We invited both programs back to DCG on Friday, September 27 to celebrate their accomplishments at DCG's Homecoming Football Game! Congratulations DCG Soccer! What an incredible day!! Speaking of the DCG Homecoming Football Game, what a powerful day of celebrating our district! The Marching Mustangs put on an awesome halftime show! The football team beat Council Bluff Thomas Jefferson 55-0! Thanks to our entire community for helping us celebrate DCG Homecoming 2024!



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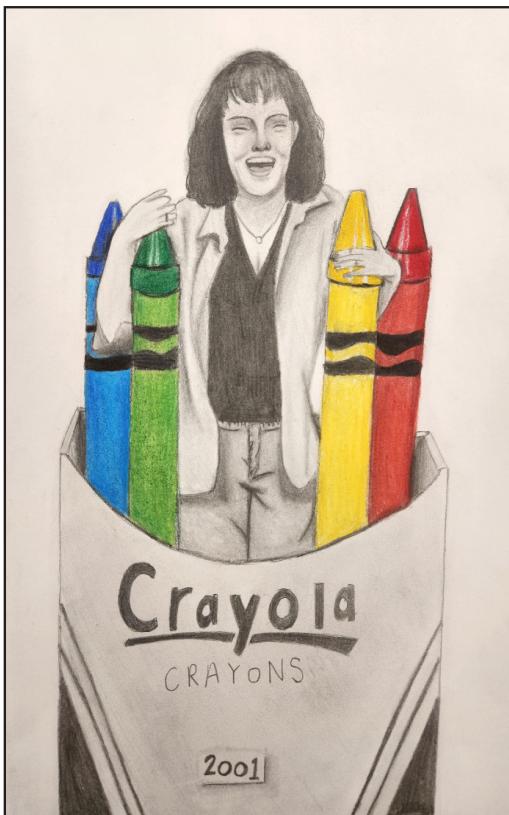
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## POSTAL CUSTOMER



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**Art Showcase - In Drawing**  
I at DCG High school, students reviewed graphite and colored pencil techniques to create art that has both a range of gray scale values and the use of color to create emphasis. Callie Weible did a fantastic job creating this three-dimensional can (right), while Lilly Derry had fun with a photo of her mom (left). We look forward to showcasing our talented student artists throughout the year!

