



Dallas Center-Grimes  
Community School District

## High School

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**November 2025**

**DCGCSD School Board Report**

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

### **November 🍁 Welcome | Principal Matthew Blackmore**

As the weather starts to turn, and another month on the school calendar goes by I'm writing this with immense gratitude and feeling truly humble to serve as the Principal at DCG High School. It's clear that the 2025-2026 school year is off to a phenomenal start—and that success belongs to every single member of this remarkable school community.

I've watched our hallways, go from the stillness of the summer, transform into vibrant spaces buzzing with positive energy. Our students have returned not just ready to learn, but truly excited to engage. The freshmen have navigated the sometimes-intimidating transition with grace, quickly finding their stride and connecting with their upperclassmen mentors. Our sophomores, juniors, and seniors, in turn, have set a beautiful example of leadership, responsibility, and spirit. The respect and camaraderie I've witnessed in our classrooms, on our athletic fields, and during our club meetings have been nothing short of inspiring.

To our incredible faculty and staff: Thank you doesn't seem strong enough. Your preparation this summer ensured a seamless and welcoming opening. From the building's organization of our custodians to the tireless work of our office staff, and the innovative, inspiring lessons being delivered daily by our teachers, your dedication is the foundation of our professional learning community's success. The collaborative spirit among the staff and during department meetings is a joy to behold, and it directly translates into a more supportive and effective learning environment for our students.

Finally, to our parents and guardians: We are so thankful for your partnership. Your trust, your involvement, and your commitment to ensuring your children arrive at school ready to learn make all the difference. The strong turnout at our Mustang events all Fall long shows the depth of your support for our mission.

This successful beginning is a collective achievement. It sets a powerful precedent for the rest of the year. Let's carry this momentum forward, fostering a culture where every student is empowered to create their future!

Thank you, again, for a truly exceptional start. We are going to have a great year together!

Go Mustangs!

Matthew J. Blackmore

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## School Improvement Plan

- **ACADEMIC GOAL**
    - By May 2026, ISASP growth in ELA and Math will increase across all student groups and grade levels as a result of intentional collaboration, regular assessment data review, and learning around differentiation.
  - **ACADEMIC SUPPORT**
    - DCG High School will improve by 20 points in the MTSS-B Tier 1 section of Tiered Fidelity Inventory (TFI) from September 2025 to May 2026.
  - **TEACHER EFFICACY**
    - 100% of DCG HS teachers will collaborate to take collective action toward student success, as evidenced by agendas that include student evidence, targeted actions, and alignment to PLC questions.
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### Mustang 🐾 University | 11.05.25

The School Improvement department would like to share information with you about our upcoming Early Dismissal Professional Development schedule for this coming week. It is our goal to ensure timely and proactive communication to assist you in planning for your learning. Please note that, with the addition of district-led Safety Trainings, sending one email with all of the PD information for the week becomes a bit more complicated. Please be sure to read this message carefully and, if you have questions about your PD session, please check first with your building administrator(s).

**Wednesday, November 5, 2025** is dedicated to **BUILDING LEVEL** professional development. Please watch for information to come forth from your building administrator(s) and/or Instructional Coach(es) with regards to content you will be engaged in learning. Teachers who travel between buildings will report to their home-base building.

**District-Led Safety Training:** ALL STAFF (Certified and Classified) that work at **DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES MIDDLE SCHOOL (5-6)** will remain at your building for safety training. This training is building specific and applies to DCG Middle School only!

Classified staff (except Middle School staff) **WILL** have professional development focused on Best Practices in Collaboration facilitated by Cary Justmann. Please watch for more information to be forthcoming from Mr. Justmann regarding this training.

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### Mustang 🐾 University | 11.16.25

Upcoming Safety Team Message from Dr. Blum: DCG High School Family,

I'd like to thank you in advance for participating in our safety training next week! All DCG High School staff members will work through this training on Wednesday, November 12. This will be our third consecutive year of safety training for DCG staff members, and we've covered a lot of ground together.

*2023-2024 Safety Training* - All staff members received active intruder training with simulated gunfire in a classroom environment.

*2024-2025 Safety Training* - All staff members received a reunification training at locations in Grimes and Dallas Center. This training focused on reuniting students with their parents after being transported to an off-site location.

*2025-2026 Safety Training* - This will be the "middle" portion of our intruder drills. We've worked through an active intruder. We've practiced the reunification procedure. Now it's the middle part.

- How do we receive the all-clear from the district/law enforcement?
- Where do I go if I've decided to evacuate the building?
- How will I know when it's time to come back or head to the rally point?

- What if this happens during lunch, recess, passing period?

Our training this year will answer these questions and more. We are developing these scenarios after reviewing your feedback from the previous two years. Our goal is for all DCG staff members to feel confident in their plans/options should an emergency occur at any point during the school day.

DCG High School Schedule - Wednesday, November 12

1:30 - Report to Mustang Room for Introductions and Instructions

1:50 - Begin Safety Training Scenarios (five scenarios will be included)

3:10 - Report to Mustang Room for Debrief and Feedback

3:45 - End of Safety Training

## Oak View Board Report

November 2025

### Building Goals

- Staff will strengthen Tier 1 instruction and provide targeted interventions to ensure that at least 80% of all students achieve proficiency on grade-level standards, applying the “at least 80%” to our students with IEPs.
- Staff will regularly engage with the four PLC questions and use a data protocol at least every two weeks to inform and guide instructional decisions in their classrooms.
- 100% of Oak View students are active participants in at least one Oak View activity (clubs, choir, track, etc).
- 100% of Oak View students have identified a trusted adult in the building.

Student-led conferences were well attended, and it was great to see students taking ownership of their learning and sharing the great things they’re accomplishing at Oak View.

Round two of clubs is off to a strong start, with nine different options currently available for students to explore their interests and build connections. We have asked students what types of clubs they would like to see here at Oak View and we will use that information to create our clubs in the spring.

As part of our belonging goal to ensure that 100% of students are active participants in at least one Oak View activity, we are seeing encouraging results. Currently, 89% of 7th grade students and 85% of 8th grade students are involved in at least one school activity. This is so exciting, especially for this time of the year.

We’re also tracking progress toward our goal that 100% of students have a trusted adult in the building. So far, 88% of 7th graders and 92% of 8th graders have identified a trusted adult. This is a reflection of the strong relationships

being built between students and staff. Oak View staff is very intentional with building relationships and will continue to work towards making sure every student has a trusted adult in the building. This isn't about meeting a goal for us, it really is about making sure that all students feel like they belong here.

Our partnership with Varsity Tutors continues to show promise. Students currently using the program have self-identified that it is helping them better understand their coursework and build confidence in their math skills.

We held a successful Veterans Day assembly, with around 70 outside people (veterans/families) in attendance. It was a meaningful opportunity for our students and staff to honor and show appreciation for those who have served.

Oak View's ESSA team gathered together on Monday to review our data and complete our SAMI (Self-Assessment of MTSS Implementation). The team has identified many areas for celebrations. We have been very intentional with our decisions this year, thinking systematically and implementing policies and procedures that will benefit students and staff and are sustainable.

We have a few staff members who play in a volleyball league outside of school, and they recently challenged the winning student team from our quarterly assembly to a friendly match. We invited all advisories to come watch the staff vs. students game, and it was such a fun event! Students were cheering loudly for their classmates (and, of course, a little *against* the staff 😊). We're excited to look for more opportunities like this that build camaraderie, connection, and school spirit among both students and staff.

Building: DCG Middle School	November Board Report
	<p><b>Building Goals:</b></p> <p>By May 2026, each grade (5-6) will show an increase in the percent proficient on the ELA and math subtests as measured by the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) test.</p> <p>By May 2026, DCG Middle School will score “effective” in each element of Capacity 6: Building-Wide Behavior Expectations as measured by the MTSS-B Capacity Matrix team reflection sheet.</p> <p>100% of middle school students will receive a positive communication home during both semesters of the school year.</p> <p>Over the course of the 2025-2026 school year, each PLC will keep agendas and minutes for their meetings showing integration of the Stronge Framework.</p>

**Collaboration:** Our middle school team has joined our district's career and academic planning (DCAP) team. This has given our administration and counselors an opportunity to collaborate with teams at Oak View and DCG High School, and to create a plan to bring this important work to our staff. We are excited to introduce the components of DCAP to our staff and to begin the implementation of this work with our students!

**Innovative:** For the second straight month, DCG Middle School students met their goal for our Positive Behavior Tracker. Our goal for October was to have 5,000 total positive commendations on the tracker. We ended October with 5,437 positive commendations and 100% of our students were recognized for the second month in a row! Staff members put a commendation in the tracker when they notice a student following the Mustang Way; having so many commendations this month means that our students are going above and beyond in being respectful, responsible, safe and kind! We celebrated with Anything But a Backpack Day, where our students' creativity really shined! We saw shopping carts, suitcases, baby strollers, laundry baskets, and even a costume made out of boxes as students celebrated their success!

**Supportive:** We are continuing our first Tier 2 intervention of the year, Check In Check Out (CICO). We started with four students participating in CICO, which allows them to reflect on their performance at school and to receive consistent feedback to support them in being successful. Three of our students have been extremely successful in CICO, averaging 90% on their daily pointsheets. We are adding five more students to our CICO roster this month, and look forward to continuing to support these students in finding success each and every day.

**Inclusive:** For the month of November, our Tier 1 focus is on respect. This includes lessons in our Mustang U time on what respect looks like, feels like, and sounds like at DCG Middle School. When we consistently show respect for each other, we create a community in our building where each student and staff member feels like they belong. Our goal is for each one of our students to be recognized twice for showing respect by December 12. If we meet this goal, we will celebrate with a movie day on Friday, December 19!

**Passionate:** Our team participated in a building-wide safety training this month. This training was led by our School Resource Officers and members of our district's safety team, and included multiple scenarios where staff practiced how to keep students safe in the event of an emergency. This training will contribute to us providing a safe learning environment where student well-being is a top priority.

# Dallas Center Elementary

**DCE Vision:** To be a student-centered, inclusive community where all are welcome to learn, grow, and make a positive impact together.

**DCE Mission:** DCE empowers students to create an inclusive community by being kind, safe, and showing PRIDE.

**Date:** 11/2025



## DCE Building Goals:

### K-2 Goal 1 - DCE Literacy Goals and Actions

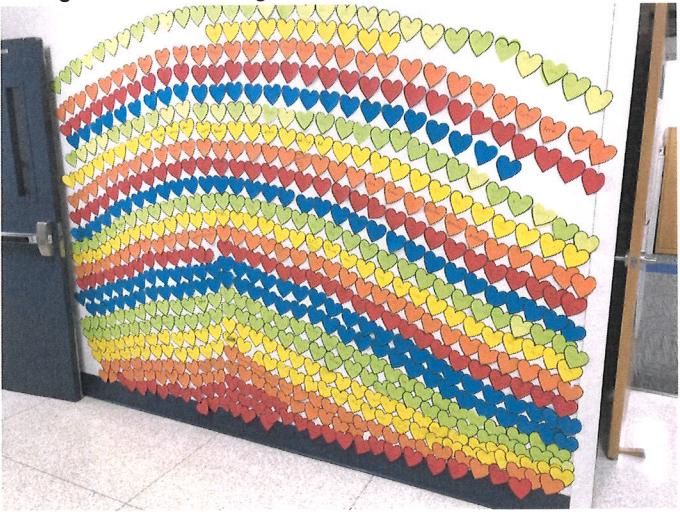
- 85% of K-2 students will be fluent readers as measured by the FAST earlyReading screener and CBMR Screener by May 2026.

### 3-4 Goal 1 - DCE Literacy Goals and Actions

- 80% of 3rd/4th graders will be proficient as measured by aReading by May 2026.

### Goal 2 - Social Emotional Wellness

- With explicit social/emotional behavior instruction, and MTSS supports, students at DCE will decrease undesired behaviors by 35% as measured by major referral documentation.

<b>Collaboration</b>	
<b>Innovation</b>	
<b>Supportive</b>	<p>At Dallas Center Elementary, our K-4 classrooms are paired together in a <i>Buddy Classroom</i> partnership. This initiative provides our older students with opportunities to develop and demonstrate leadership skills while fostering meaningful connections with younger learners. Each month, buddy classes meet to read together, collaborate on projects, and engage in fun, community-building activities. These interactions strengthen our school culture, promote mentorship, and help all students feel a stronger sense of belonging. Both students and teachers look forward to this special time each month!</p>
<b>Inclusive</b>	
<b>Passionate</b>	<p>Our students have been participating in a school-wide <i>Kindness Drive</i> focused on recognizing and celebrating positive behavior. When students observe a peer demonstrating an act of kindness, they report it to their teacher, who then awards a "kindness heart" with the student's name on it. These hearts are displayed in the hallway near the office, creating a growing visual reminder of the kindness happening across our school. Each grade level is working toward a goal of 200 kindness hearts, and students are incredibly proud when they see their contributions added to the display. This initiative has generated a lot of excitement and has helped promote a culture of kindness throughout the building.</p> 

**DCG Preschool** classrooms conducted a Tree Study Unit with their students and went to the Brenton Arboretum. Here are some fun pictures.



Building: Heritage Elementary	November Board Report
 <p><b>Strategic Plan</b></p> <p><b>Mission Statement</b> Empowering every student to <b>create</b> their future.</p> <p><b>Vision Statement</b> Our district strives for <b>excellence</b> through <b>innovation</b>, and embraces <b>growth</b> in every dimension of education.</p> <p><b>DCG</b>™</p>	<p><b>Building Goals:</b></p> <p>By May 2026, 80% of each student group will meet the literacy FAST spring benchmark. (EL, Special Education, Gender, PatR/AR, Race/Ethnicity)</p> <p>By May 2026, disrespect/noncompliance minors in the classroom will decrease 20% from first semester to second semester.</p> <p>By May 2025, 80% of teachers will score each statement of the School Culture Survey with a 3 or 4.</p>

## PASSIONATE, INCLUSIVE & SUPPORTIVE

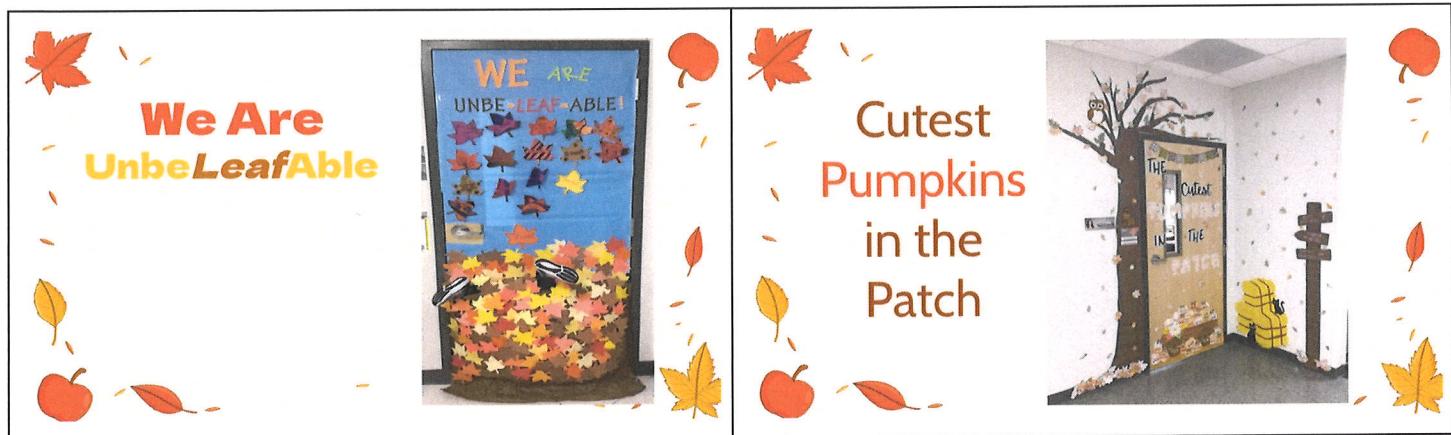
### Learning Walks

As part of our professional development plan, teachers participated in Learning Walks this past month. They visited classrooms looking for strategies to better engage student groups in learning. This practice helps us celebrate the great strategies evident within classrooms, as well as allow us an opportunity to borrow strategies from colleagues. Teachers will have two more opportunities to partake in learning walks throughout the year.

## COLLABORATIVE & INCLUSIVE

### Fall Door Decorating - PBIS Building Celebration

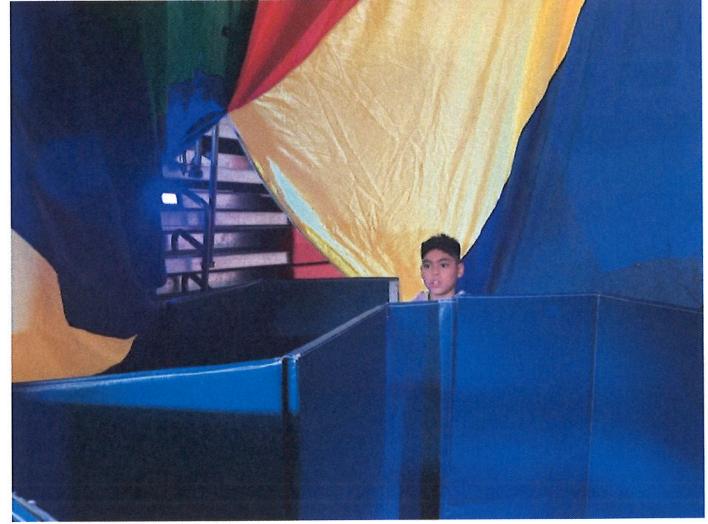
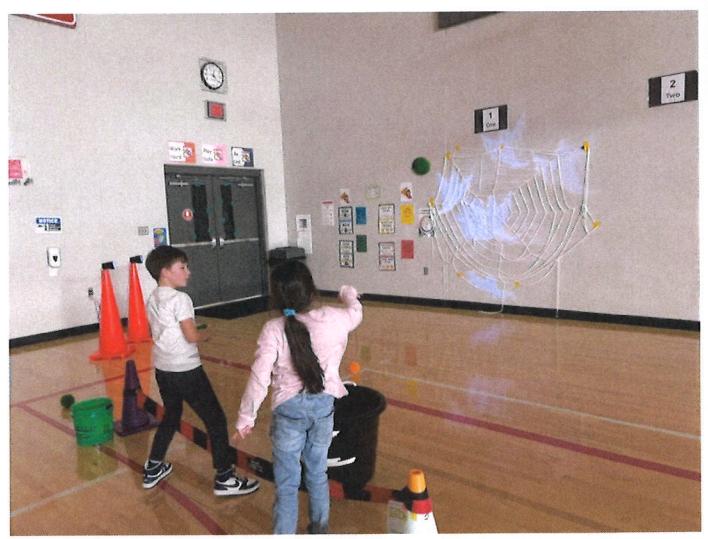
Heritage Students celebrated earning 10,000 High Fives for the 1st quarter of the school year by creating a fall door for their classroom. The doors are amazing! Students voted on their favorite door design, and these were the two winners.



## INNOVATIVE & COLLABORATIVE

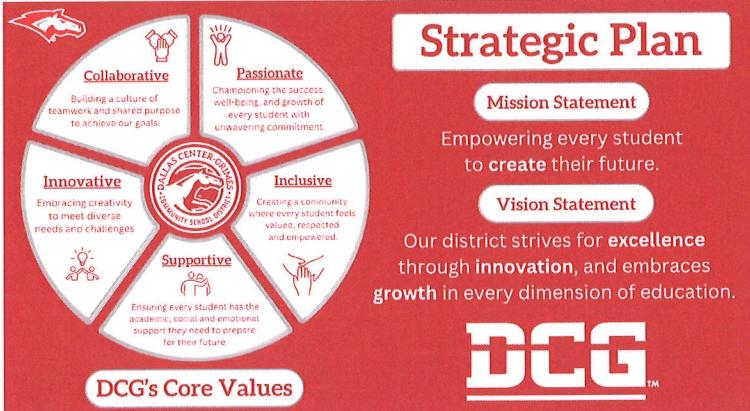
### October Fun!

Students were treated to a spooky obstacle course created by physical education teacher, Mrs. Boaz. What a fun way to practice movement and physical activity!



**DCG**

# North Ridge Elementary

North Ridge Elementary	Board Report
	<p><b>Features:</b></p> <p><b>Collaborative, Passionate &amp; Supportive-</b> Academic Support, Climate and Culture, and Teacher Efficacy Update</p>
<p><b>ACADEMIC</b></p> <p>By May, 2026 the percentage of students scoring "not yet proficient" in math will decrease by 5% from the previous year as measured by the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) test.</p> <p><b>ACADEMIC SUPPORT</b></p> <p>By May, 2026 the percentage of students (Grades K-4) receiving office referrals for physical incidents on the playground will reduce by 5% as compared to the previous school year.</p> <p><b>CLIMATE / CULTURE</b></p> <p>By May, 2026 North Ridge teachers and staff will have communicated positively to each family on at least 4 occasions.</p> <p><b>TEACHER EFFICACY</b></p> <p>By May, 2026, the percentage of certified staff participating in a coaching cycle related to a building goal will increase by 10% as compared to the previous school year.</p>	

The staff at North Ridge Elementary are committed to advancing the Dallas Center-Grimes Strategic Plan by prioritizing positive school culture and continuous staff growth. To support the district's focus on safe learning environments, positive relationships, and professional excellence.

## Academic Support

North Ridge will work to reduce physical incidents on the playground by 5%. This effort directly supports the district's commitment to cultivating safe, supportive environments where all students can learn and play confidently.

FALL of 24-25	FALL of 25-26
<b>8/8 office referrals were physical</b>	<b>9 events involving 6 students</b> <b>7 of the events were on the playground</b>



# North Ridge Elementary

## Climate and Culture

In alignment with the district's emphasis on belonging and connection, staff will ensure that every student receives a minimum of four positive, documented communications. This goal reinforces a culture where students feel valued, seen, and supported.

	For all TK-4				Total
	Positive Phone Call/Note Home by Classroom Teacher	Shout Out	Positive Office Referral	Postcard	
FALL 24	230		136	51	417
FALL 25	327	51	82	179	639

## Teacher Efficacy

To continue elevating instructional practice across the building, North Ridge aims to increase staff participation in instructional coaching cycles by 10%. This aligns with the district's strategic priority of fostering high-quality teaching and ongoing professional learning.

% of Certified staff participated in a CC FALL 2024	% of Certified staff participated in a CC FALL 2025
27%	38%

By focusing on safety, positive connections, and growing as professionals, the team is creating a place where both students and staff can keep getting better. It reflects what North Ridge is all about—helping every learner feel supported and giving them what they need to succeed.

## Building: South Prairie Elementary

## November Board Report

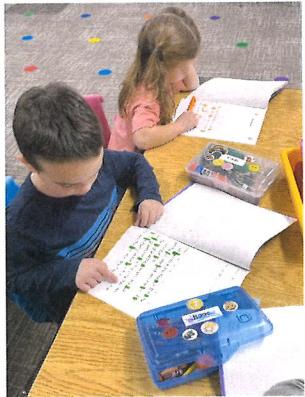
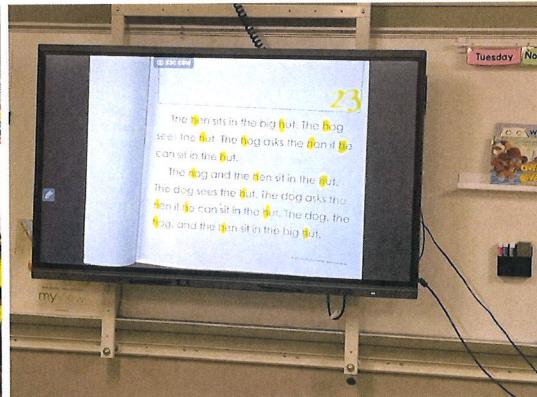


### Building Goals:

- By May 2026, 80% of South Prairie students will meet the expected benchmark OR make the expected grade level growth designated by the FAST assessment.
- By May 2026, 80% of all South Prairie students receiving Tier 2 behavior support will show positive growth from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.
- By May 2026, South Prairie teachers and staff will communicate positively to each student's family on 3 occasions.
- By May 2026, 100% of South Prairie teachers will complete 1 coaching cycle.

### Supportive / Inclusive

- Kindergarten teachers have enjoyed using their new Clever Touches in their classrooms. It didn't take them long to get used to them. They have found them much easier to use than their projectors they used to have. We appreciate the plan that Steven Hopper and his department have to help us convert all in the next couple of years. If you look close in the first photo, you can also see Mrs. Brown's new standing desk. This was purchased by our PTO as part of a teacher grant. All four of the kindergarten teachers received one of these since they got the Clever touches as it gives them a place to teach from differently now they have that interactive screen in front of them.



- Substitute Educator day is November 21. We are so fortunate to have several substitute teachers who keep coming back to us at South Prairie. Here are a few who happened to be there on Monday! We are thankful for all the amazing subs we have at SP and the entire DCG district!



- Parent Teacher conferences:
  - We had 93% attendance
  - On Monday evening, our Title teachers and reading interventionists held a parent night to give parents information about how to support their students at home. We also gave away books to students throughout conferences. Interventionists brought students in during the week to pick out a book, and held it for them to have them come back during conferences as a way to get parents back to get more books and come to the parent night. PTO also provided cookies for these students and their families. We always appreciate the support of our PTO.



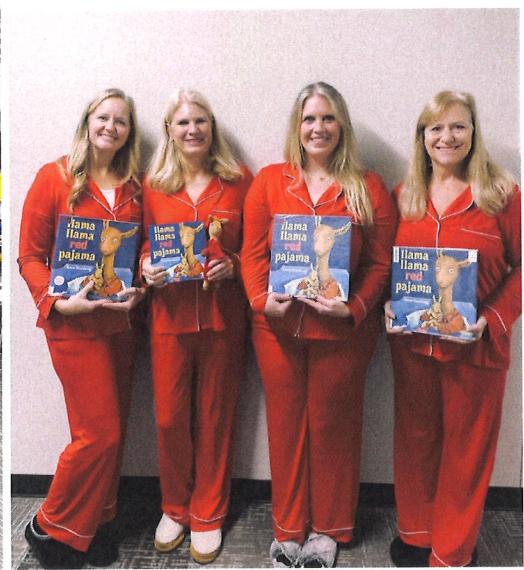
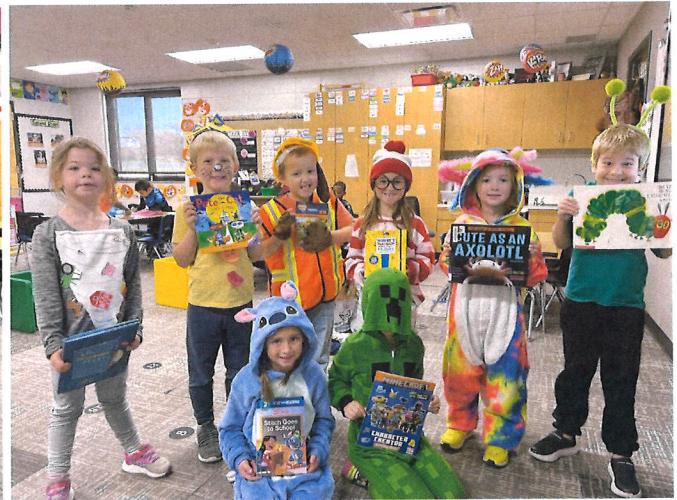
## **Collaborative**

- We recently held our 6 week data review for literacy. We are watching our literacy data closely, and have a process for what that analysis looks like in the mid point between testing windows. Right now we have the support of Angela Dvorak from the AEA to advise us in the process as we adjust and make changes in our intervention and support we give to students. This can be very little tweaks in the classroom, or a major adjustment if their progress monitoring graph is showing they are not making growth.

## **Passionate**

- One of the things we are passionate about at South Prairie is reading. Besides the emphasis as mentioned above during our data days and literacy team focus, we also enjoyed our Book Fair during conferences. Another fun time is our book character day around Halloween. The students (and staff) dress up as their favorite book characters. They have become very creative. This year we had a staff contest for the best team. Third grade took home the win with their Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Theme. Enjoy some photos of other creative students and staff below.







## Human Resources Board Report

November 2025

### **Stay Interviews**

Beginning in January, we will begin conducting Stay Interviews — conversations designed to help us better understand what keeps our employees engaged, what challenges they face, and how we can make our schools an even better place to work.

Unlike an exit interview, which happens after someone decides to leave, a Stay Interview focuses on what motivates staff to stay and what support they need to thrive.

These interviews are a chance for open, two-way dialogue. They give staff members an opportunity to share their experiences and ideas, and they provide leaders with valuable insight into what's working well and where improvements can be made. Our goal is to strengthen relationships, increase satisfaction, and ensure every employee feels valued and heard.

#### Sample Stay Interview Questions:

- What do you look forward to when you come to work each day?
- What do you enjoy most about your current role or team?
- What might make your work experience even better?
- How can your supervisor or the district better support you in your professional growth?
- What factors might cause you to consider leaving, and what could we do to address them?

### **Career Fairs**

Jami Boege and I spent an afternoon at Simpson College recently, interviewing students in their teacher prep program. We each got to spend 10-minutes with four students each. It was fun to speak with those eager to enter the field of education at this point, and attempt to introduce them to DCG as a possible landing spot. It was great to learn that many of them are already aware about how great it is to work at DCG!

## November Communications Board Report

**Bond Referendum Approval** - I would like to thank so many people for their support of the DCG CSD Bond Referendum (I'd list them all here, but I know I would forget someone). Receiving 74.9% approval is a tremendous accomplishment! Dr. Blum's leadership paved the way for my work as a small part of this project. We were proactive in communication plans. We provided numerous opportunities for stakeholders to ask questions or share input. 74.9% of a yes vote is a really big deal! Our commitment to transparency will continue throughout the project!

**DCG Creators** - Just a quick note on our new staff recognition plan. For the third straight month, we've had 20+ nominations sent in. These videos have also served as a great community shout out on social media. What a great way to honor the incredible members of Team DCG!

**Safety Training** - We've had four safety training sessions at DCG this fall. It's been a great test of ParentSquare's capabilities in an emergency situation. I feel confident that our communication response will be timely, efficient and received if we were to need it a real scenario. I'm thankful for the opportunity to participate on the DCG Safety Team. The leadership of Dr. Blum, Deputy Loutzenhiser and Deputy Spracklin is a driving force in this work!

**School-to-Work Intern** - Rylee Renz joined the DCG Communications Department this year. She's started working on graphics for the video board during our winter athletic events. She also hosted her very first podcast! Thanks for supporting her work and all of our school-to-work students!

**Veterans Day** - DCG CSD does such a great job of honoring our Veterans. There are so many special ways that we connect with the heroes in our community. A special shout out to the 18 Veterans working at DCG. Click [here](#) to view the coverage.

**DCG Education Foundation RED Dinner** - Personally and professionally, I'd like to celebrate the DCG Education Foundation. I have the honor of serving as the emcee of the event and it's such a powerful reminder of the support our community shows our students! Thousands of dollars raised. Hundreds of students impacted. Thank you DCG Education Foundation!

Thanks for your support of the DCG Communications Department!

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## **Technology Board Report - November 2025**

Director of Technology – Steven Hopper

November marks the start of “e-Rate season” for DCG as we begin to submit forms for the federal program that provides substantial discounts on internet access and network equipment. This year also marks the beginning of a new budget cycle for e-Rate with the potential of up to \$453,000 in savings over the next five years. Our applications this year will focus on maintaining our current discounts for internet access, renewing the licensing on our network equipment (access points, switches, etc), purchasing some additional network equipment to support some of the bond projects, and re-bidding the fiber project between DCG High School and DCG Middle School. Unfortunately, the bids submitted last month on the fiber project exceeded our expectations, so we’re hoping to try again via the e-Rate program.

I’d also like to take the opportunity this month to recognize my colleagues on the Operations Team, Travis Donahue and Sean Shatava, for their support on several recent projects. With the help of their team, we were able to use the no-school day on November 14th to mount a record number of CleverTouch displays at the High School. Their work was instrumental in helping us accelerate the transition from our existing projector-based systems to interactive flat panels. Additional CleverTouch screens will be installed at South Prairie and Heritage this winter.

As always, thank you for your continued support of technology in our district!

**Operations Department**

**Shatava/Donahue**

**November 2025**

**Baseball/Softball Complex Work-**

The work has started on this improvement project. Over the last couple of weeks, we have had the old fencing and shed removed from the baseball batting cage. We have had the base poured for our new bunker system to store field material on site. We have contractors who have laid out the location for the new concrete pad for the batting cages. The Baseball Batting cages have been ordered, and the vendor is coming the week of Nov. 17th to lay out the footings for the batting cage posts. We are still working to get all footings located and poured, and to have the concrete pad for the cages poured before the weather stops us. We are also working to have the concrete blocks for the bunker system laid by the end of the week on Nov. 21st. Good progress is being made, so we can have this area ready for use by Spring Ball.

**Staffing-**

We are again fully staffed in our custodial department, and we now have our weekend/activity custodian on board. These additional hires have helped to keep our building clean and in working order. Having a dedicated staff member on site on the weekends is also a big help with our activities and community groups using our facilities. We are excited and thankful for all the positions we have in our department. We will now shift our focus to building an environment that retains our good employees by improving training and support systems in our operations department. Along with being fully staffed in our custodial group, we have now had our General Maintenance position on board for a few weeks. This has given our department another staff member to support needs across the district and has helped us prepare a clear plan of action for the winter ahead.

**REMI Insurance-**

We wanted to give you a look at what we have submitted for claims. We took some time to review the numbers for the claims we have submitted. This would be for our Wall-to-Wall, technology, and HVAC repair coverage. The following is the breakdown:

Total Amount submitted to REMI: \$315,991.75

Total Amount Paid in full: \$174,534.54

Total Amount that is currently approved for payment: \$ 88,469.16

Total that has been partially paid: \$1,393.90

Total that is presently under Review: \$17,079.99

Total Amount that has been denied to date: \$2,865.28

Regarding the denied claims, we have contacted REMI for clarification, and these repairs do not fall under our coverage. The partial payments were items that needed repair, but the consumables were not covered under REMI. We continue to improve our process, and in talking with REMI, we can do a better job of submitting our in-house hours for investigating repair work. We want to improve our reporting and data collection processes to increase these claims moving forward.

\*The above numbers do not include any of our HVAC preventative maintenance that we have done across the district.

### **Tersano Water Cleaning System-**

We continue to learn about this new cleaning system. We have now had this product in use at North Ridge for three weeks. We did our initial testing before we switched over and have now completed our mid-experiment test. The numbers were inconclusive across the board, but we did learn some valuable information. Working with our custodial staff, we talked about how the areas were being cleaned and how we might improve our techniques. We also did some isolated testing in our kitchen area on different surfaces to see how the cleaning process could be improved. The consensus is that we should continue using the product and test it again after 4 weeks to see results. The other experiment for this is the tracking of product use. With this new system, we can use a program to track water use. We are looking at the daily use to see if any trend data can help us. Also, we are looking at how much water one canister can convert to disinfectant and how long that takes. For example, we are averaging 50.80 liters of water per day, converted to disinfectant at North Ridge. Since we started with this system, we have converted 1,661 liters of water into a disinfectant for cleaning in that building. At this rate, we will use one canister in about 5 weeks. This helps us compare our current cleaning chemical costs with the Tersano product's costs.

Sean Shatava  
Director of Maintenance and Grounds

Travis Donahue  
Director of Custodial Services and Buildings



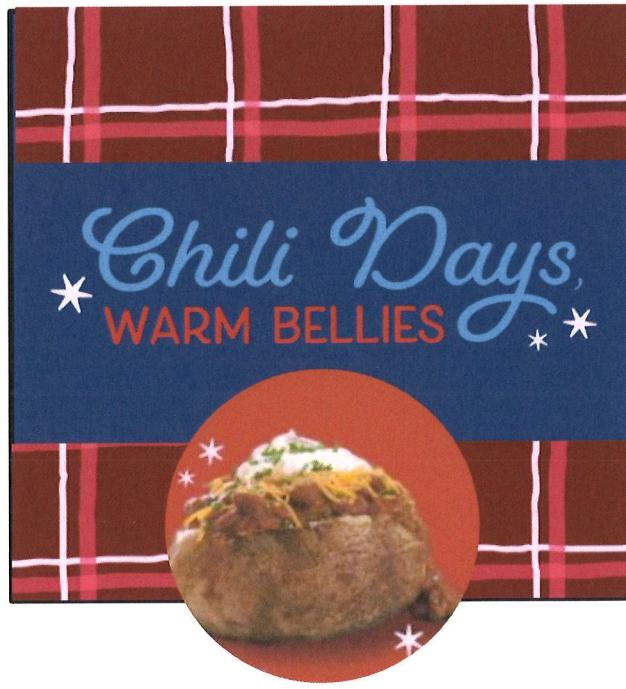
# Dallas Center Grimes Food Services Newsletter

November 2025



## New on the Menu: DCG Brings Bold Flavors to Your Plate

This month brought exciting new menu items across the district, and students are loving the variety! As part of our Chili Days, Warm Bellies promotion, we introduced flavorful options like Cheesy Chicken Casserole, Beef Sloppy Joe TOTchos, and Green Chili Cheeseburgers. Early feedback shows students are enjoying these hearty dishes, and we're excited to keep the momentum going. Next month, look forward to even more creative additions that make lunch not just a meal, but an experience!



## Chili Days, Warm Bellies

It's all about the comfort of chili, casseroles, stews & spicy favorites.



Matt Pasma  
DIRECTOR OF DINING SERVICES  
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[Matthew.Pasma@COMPASS-USA.COM](mailto:Matthew.Pasma@COMPASS-USA.COM)

## DISCOVERY KITCHEN FUN

### Let's Get Cooking

We're celebrating scratch cooking and preparing meals together for Let's Get Cooking month. In the cafeteria, we'll highlight the flavors of homemade foods and empower students to make some of our own recipes at home with family and friends. Since the holidays are right around the corner, we thought this was the perfect time to get everyone excited about cooking together!

Students across the district enjoyed either Apple Crisp or Pumpkin Bars for Let's Get Cooking

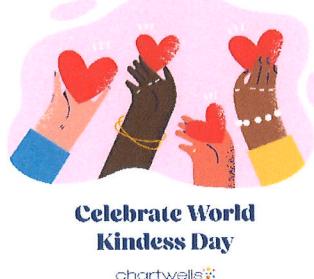


### FUN DAYS THIS MONTH:

Students enjoyed warm, delicious French toast throughout the month.



From kind words to helpful hands, DCG celebrated kindness in every corner.



Watch for our Discovery Kitchen at Home, full of creative ways to turn Thanksgiving leftovers into tasty new meals!



chartwells  
**Discovery**  
KITCHEN

LET'S GET  
**COOKING**

### Sweet Success: Pumpkin Bar Demo Brings Fall Flavor to Let's Get Cooking!

DC Middle School students had a blast during the recent Let's Get Cooking pumpkin bar demo! They learned how to read and follow recipes step by step, taught how to use baking tools correctly and safely, and discovered the role of different spices in creating flavor. Students were especially intrigued by how ingredients like baking soda help the bars rise during baking. The hands-on experience not only taught valuable kitchen skills but also sparked excitement for cooking and creativity in the kitchen!



# Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District

## Teaching and Learning Board Report

Shana Olson

Director of Teaching & Learning

**November 2025**

### **Collaborative Opportunities**

We have had great opportunities to collaborate among our teachers and with other districts this month! Several of our teachers have graciously hosted teachers from an area district using our same literacy resource and their visitors have been blown away by the strong instruction happening in our K-5 classrooms. We look forward to ongoing collaboration and opportunities to observe in their buildings as well.

We hosted our first grade level meeting, bringing third and fourth grade teachers together from across the district. This time was structured to provide them opportunities to discuss successes and challenges in their implementation of MyView, our literacy resources, adopted in 2024-25 for grades 3-5. This collaboration brought about some great questions and conversations that will help us in aligning our practices across the district. We look forward to hosting first and second grade in December and Kindergarten in January.

### **Math Counts Implementation**

New legislation requires our K-6 students to receive interventions in mathematics if data shows that they are not performing at grade level. Following our fall screening window, teachers began learning about progress monitoring tools and considering potential interventions. We were able to purchase intervention materials that support our current core curriculum, Bridges and Number Corner, as a resource for teachers who are supporting students with areas for growth in math. After our winter screening window, interventions and progress monitoring will be required for all students who are identified. We've worked to provide clear communication to teachers and to support them in their communication with families, which is an important component of the legislation.

### **Student Learning Opportunity**

This month our fourth graders were able to attend our high school production of the Wizard of Oz musical! It was a great chance for students to experience a live musical performance which ties directly into their general music standards, making the experience very timely and meaningful. Students were able to learn about and demonstrate performance decorum and audience etiquette. Our high school students put on an amazing performance for us and we are so grateful for their partnership and collaboration!



## **Student Teaching and Practicum Students**

Hosting student teachers and practicum students plays a pivotal role in the educational system, serving as a mutually beneficial exchange between experienced educators and aspiring teachers. This practice provides pre-service teachers with invaluable hands-on experience and our teachers at DCG have been excellent hosts to numerous teaching candidates including 5 practicum students and 12 student teachers from 10 colleges and universities this fall semester. We value the partnerships DCG has established with these institutions and are thankful for the collaborative and continuous learning these hosting opportunities provide for our staff.

# Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District

Board Report from Madison Melchert, Activities Director

Date: November 2025

## Fall Activities Wrap-Up

As we close out the fall season, our students, coaches, directors, and staff continue to make us proud. Nearly every program finished its season at a high level, and the momentum within our activities department is incredibly strong.

- **Volleyball-** Volleyball put together a remarkable postseason run. After earning the right to host through regionals, the Mustangs won the regional final on October 28, securing their place in the IGHSAU State Volleyball Tournament. At Xtream Arena in Coralville, they battled hard against North Scott, ultimately falling 3–1 in the opening round. This team's growth, resilience, and competitiveness were the driving force behind a memorable season.
- **Football-** Football completed an outstanding regular season, finishing 7–2 (regular season) in their first year competing in Class 5A. The Mustangs earned a postseason berth and traveled to Sioux City East for the first-round playoff game on October 31. Their season came to a close there, but the progress, toughness, and belief this group displayed week after week established a strong foundation moving forward.
- **Girls Tennis-** Girls Tennis continued to take meaningful steps forward this fall. The team advanced to the second round of regional team play and secured several strong regular season wins. With nearly the entire varsity roster returning, the program is positioned for even greater success in the coming year.
- **Boys Golf-** Boys Golf put together a historic fall, qualifying for the State Tournament for the first time since 2006, and their first-ever appearance in Class 4A. The team finished 6th overall at state, solidifying themselves among Iowa's top programs. This group has set a new standard and returns next season with the potential to compete for a top-three finish.
- **Marching Band-** The Marching Mustangs wrapped up their competitive season with outstanding growth and excellence under the direction of Alec Garranger and his staff. At the IHSMA State Marching Band Festival, the group earned their 14th consecutive Division I rating, a remarkable achievement that reflects the consistency, commitment, and high standards of this program. Their improvement each week was evident and made this another memorable season for our band.
- **Fall Musical-** "The Wizard of Oz" hit the stage November 7–9 and showcased the incredible talent of our students. From acting and vocals to technical crew and instrumental work, this production was a true highlight of the season. We are awaiting final ratings, but community feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

- **Cross Country-** Both Cross Country teams continued the program's tradition of excellence with impressive postseason finishes. These teams once again represented DCG at the highest level.
  - The girls team placed 4th at the State Meet and had two top-three individual finishers, highlighting their elite talent.
  - The boys team earned a 6th-place finish at State, closing another strong season for a consistently high-performing group.

## **Culture & Identity**

This fall has been one of those seasons where you can truly feel the strength of our DCG community. Everywhere I looked, our programs faced some form of adversity. But pressure makes diamonds, and that's what DCG is shaping out to be. Whether it was a state event, a regional final, or the fall musical, DCG showed up. Our kids, coaches, families, and staff were there for one another, proud to support every success and every step forward. That kind of genuine connection is what makes this place special.

Another highlight of the fall has been watching our coaches' visions come to life. Back in August, many of them shared where they hoped their teams would be, how they wanted their culture to grow, how they wanted their kids to develop, and the experiences they wanted their programs to create. Over these past few weeks, you could see those plans taking shape. The dots started to connect. Confidence grew, relationships strengthened, and programs stepped into the identity they've been working toward since day one.

It has been a privilege to watch our students, staff, and community celebrate these moments together. That shared pride, everyone rooting for everyone, is becoming a defining part of who we are at DCG. As we transition into winter activities, I'm excited to continue nurturing that spirit and helping our kids keep building something meaningful together.

## **Operations & Finances**

We continue to monitor our transition to cashless ticketing. Currently, approximately 52% of our transactions are cash and 48% are card, though larger events tend to trend closer to 52% card usage. Oak View events continue to skew the overall numbers toward cash due to higher junior high attendance.

We're also seeing more districts across the state move toward fully cashless systems. Our Booster Club is currently discussing whether to continue accepting cash at concessions, and it would make sense to consider making this transition together to ensure consistency and clarity for our families.

## **Personal Highlight**

My personal highlight this month has simply been taking a moment to reflect on all that our students have accomplished this fall. We qualified for all but one state tournament, a

tremendous achievement in itself, and capped off the season with an outstanding musical production that we're still awaiting ratings for. I'm truly in awe of our kids and their dedication, and I can't wait to see what's next for our Mustangs!

## **Looking Ahead**

As we transition into winter, we're gearing up for a full season of home basketball and wrestling events, along with a strong slate of fine arts performances. It's shaping up to be a busy and energizing stretch for our students and community.

We're also beginning to evaluate future staffing needs across activities. With growing participation and expanding opportunities, ensuring our coaches and directors have the support they need will be an important focus moving forward.

Madison Melchert  
Activities Director  
Dallas Center-Grimes High School



## Student Services Board Report

### November 24, 2025

#### Alyson Finley

<b>Special Education</b>	<p>The final Weighted Count for Special Education was submitted to the Iowa Department of Education and notarized on November 14. Deanna Sandegren played an integral role in ensuring the accuracy of this submission, particularly regarding students who are open enrolled into and out of the Dallas Center–Grimes School District.</p> <p>Teachers who serve students assessed through Iowa's Alternate Assessment have been actively completing testlets in Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) to ensure all students are assessed within the designated testing window. On December 4, Justin Larson and I will conduct classroom observations as part of the State of Iowa's test security requirements. During these visits, we will complete the DLM Monitoring Checklist for Test Security and Ethics.</p> <p>Members of the High School Special Education team visited several metro-area 4+ programs serving students with disabilities ages 18–21 to help inform and enhance our own practices for transition-aged students. Throughout the remainder of the year, the team will apply what they learned to further strengthen the transition program at Dallas Center–Grimes High School.</p>
<b>ELL</b>	<p>The high school ELL Team met with Cindra Porter on November 20, 2025 to discuss grading practices for students who are multi-lingual learners.</p>
<b>Counseling</b>	<p>Counselors continue to monitor their use of time to align with the ASCA Model. At the December counseling meeting, they will begin unpacking the student counseling standards and mindsets to develop a common scope and sequence across the district.</p>
<b>Networking Systems 25-26 school year</b>	<p>I attended the Tri-State Special Education Law Conference on November 13–14. Sessions included topics such as 4+ programming for students with disabilities, supporting students with disabilities experiencing chronic absenteeism, discipline considerations under IDEA, determining Least Restrictive Environments, and current hot topics in special education.</p>
<b>Other</b>	<p><b>EFR Employee &amp; Family Resources Quarterly Report:</b> This quarter, 104 students at Dallas Center–Grimes High School completed the Student Assistance Program (SAP) orientation through their Health class,</p>



## Student Services Board Report

November 24, 2025

Alyson Finley

with new students scheduled to be onboarded in Quarter 2. Additionally, 33 students across the district have accessed the SAP services. We will continue to utilize EFR resources to support the well-being of our students, staff, and families throughout the school year.