



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

DCG Family,

It's a popular conversation this time of year. What are you thankful for? Thanks for asking! Here's my list.

Family - I have such a supportive family. We love spending the holidays together and I can't wait to share these moments with them in 2024.



Friends - By now you know my family doesn't stop in the Blum household. I will be forever grateful to the support system that surrounds my life.

Dallas Center-Grimes CSD - Our incredible district means so much to me. Personally and professionally, I'm so glad my family has landed here.

DCG Staff - The best of the best. They are inspiring and motivating. Team DCG is nearing 700 members and we are united in our pursuit of excellence.

DCG Students - The reason we are here. Keep dreaming big and changing the world!

DCG School Board - I'm so grateful to have the support of these seven leaders.

The Iowa State Cyclones - You all agree with this one, right??

A Chance to Give Thanks - This is one of my favorite activities to do as an icebreaker in meetings. Take a moment and think of a few people who make your life better and let them know. A quick phone call or text message can make such an impact. I'm sending my three notes as soon as I finish writing this letter to you.

Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to share my thanks with you! I'm so thankful for the DCG Community. This is such a special place.

Dr. Scott Blum - DCG Superintendent



CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

December 4, 11, 18 - Early Dismissal

December 23- January 3 - Winter Break

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DISTRICT UPDATES

Melchert Named DCG Activities

Director - Dallas Center-Grimes CSD is excited to announce that Madison Melchert has been named the next DCG Activities Director.



Melchert has an unmatched passion for DCG and we are excited to welcome her home. Melchert graduated from DCG High School in 2014. She also served our district as Assistant Activities Director from 2019-2022.

"I've dreamed about this moment for my entire professional life," Melchert says. "This isn't just a job for me. This is a career-defining moment in a school district that has given me so much. I'm proud to be a Mustang!"

She participated in multiple extracurricular activities during her time as a student with the Mustangs. Melchert (Waymire) was a state champion runner for the DCG Cross Country team, taking the crown in 2011.

Melchert currently serves as an assistant director at the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union. She coordinates three statewide competitions and leads the Student Athlete Advisory Committee for the IGHSAU.

Wellness Policy Review Updates - As part of our triennial review process, DCG CSD is currently evaluating its wellness policy to ensure a safe and health-promoting learning environment. A dedicated committee—including teachers, administrators, students and community members—will guide this review to help enhance our district's wellness practices. Our leadership team includes Dr. Greg Carenza, Cary Justmann, April Heitland, Donna Sevenich and Adam Tjeerdsma. The committee will meet three times this school year, with a public update planned following our April meeting.

Our current wellness policy includes a commitment to wellness, physical activity integration, nutrition and physical education, healthy food standards, parental and community engagement, school environment and ongoing policy review.

These initiatives reflect our commitment to fostering lifelong wellness for students, staff, and families across our district. If you're interested in joining the wellness review team, please contact Kristin Clayton at kristin.clayton@dcgschools.com.

HIGH SCHOOL



App Design - Computer science students at DCG High School were tasked with designing an app to "solve a problem" while also providing a new idea. Students in the photo to the left focused their presentation on an app to remind users to water plants. This would allow guest users to align watering schedules while also coordinating backup plans!

NHS Blood Drive - The Dallas Center-Grimes National Honor Society held their annual blood drive this fall and had an incredible turnout! Here are a few of the official results!
57 - first-time donors
152 - registered donors
120 - people able to donate
134 - units of blood collected
402 - lives saved or sustained!
Thanks for making an impact on our community DCG HS students!! This is the second largest drive in school history, only four donors away from the record. Look for details about the spring blood drive coming soon! DCG NHS also held their Random Acts of Kindness project this fall, spreading joy throughout the building. As their random act of kindness for the month of November, this committee is putting together Thankfulness Baskets to give to the cafeteria staff, as a way of thanking them for all their hard work at DCG!



High School Field Trip - Several DCG High School students attended the Bricklayers Annual Masonry Day in Marshalltown (right). These students were able to experiment with different types of bricklaying and tuck pointing. This hands-on experience provided an exceptional future-ready learning opportunity.



Class of 2025 students and guardians- Please submit your senior, toddler, and baby photos to Mrs. Soener (ivy.soener@dcgschools.com) by December 20. Be sure to email them in a digital format, and please, no screenshots of photos. Send the original!

RED Dinner Update - Members of the Dallas Center and Grimes communities attended the Dallas Center-Grimes Education Foundation's (DCGEF) 7th annual RED Dinner and Auction held on November 2nd at Three Sisters Barn in Dallas Center. The RED event, which is an abbreviation for "Raising Education Dollars", raised a total of \$79,000! Thank you to all who attended, donated, and bid on items. Money raised from this event will be awarded in scholarships in May of 2024! Consider a donation or gift as part of your year-end financial and tax planning.

* Sponsor a scholarship – contact us at dcgefscholarships@gmail.com

* Make a donation <https://dcgef.betterworld.org/donation-pages/default-permanent-donation-campaign>

* Consider including DCG Education Foundation in your estate plans.

Strategic Plan Update - The DCG Strategic Planning team is meeting in early December to continue our next steps in aligning our path forward. This meeting focused on the results of a survey that was sent to all DCG parents, DCG students in grades 7-12 and DCG staff members. These surveys focused on a daily desired experience for each stakeholder group.

Veterans at DCG

Daryl Haynes – Maintenance
Patricia Schipper – Preschool Teacher
Eric White – Teacher DCG Middle School
Jeff Wolfe – Transportation
Aaron Stoltz – Transportation
Randy Martin – Transportation
Brandon Kraklio – Transportation
Emilie Bowlin – Teacher – Heritage Elementary
Britney Macha – Associate – Dallas Center Elementary
Craig Gooder – Transportation
Kevin Lull – Transportation
Ronda McCarthy – Teacher – DCG Middle School
James Roberts – Teacher – DCG High School
Shawn Cain – Transportation
Rebecca Keeling – Custodian – Oak View
Caelyn Briley - Associate - High School
Nick Best - Associate - High School
Doug Kardell - Transportation
Jaycie Gurnsey - Teacher

Middle School Concert Information

6th Grade Concert Night

December 10, 2024

6:30 - 6th Red Band and 6th White Choir
7:30 - 6th White Band and 6th Red Choir

5th Grade Concert Night

December 12, 2024

6:30 - 5th Red Band and 5th White Choir
7:30 - 5th White Band and 5th Red Choir

Join us for two nights of music at DCG Middle School!

FROM OUR BUILDINGS



Election Day at South Prairie -

It was a record turnout at the polls in the South Prairie Kindergarten Election of 2024! Some of our youngest learners went to the polls to select the school's new president. There were five candidates on the ballots (SPE's Encore Teachers). PE Teacher Chris Nash received

the most votes! What a fun way to learn about the election process and provide a hands-on learning project for our students! There's a video highlight of this story available at DCGschools.com.



Veterans Day at DCG - Our district takes tremendous pride in honoring our Veterans each year. Several DCG buildings held assemblies and meals to honor our local Veterans on November 11. To our Veterans - your service has paved the way for the freedoms we cherish, and we are forever grateful. Students at South Prairie Elementary also connected with Veterans via letters. There's a video story posted at DCGschools.com after we presented these letters at Hy-Vee's annual breakfast.

We are also proud to honor a dedicated group of Veterans working on Team DCG. We've listed their names on the left.

School Board Update - The next DCG School Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 16 at 5:30. The agenda and livestream link will be available at DCGschools.com.

Thanks DCG PTO! - Did you notice an extra "glow" coming from our elementary gymnasiums in November? A recent DCG PTO fundraiser sponsored a glow run for our youngest students! The PTO continues to make a positive impact and supports our students and staff every single day. We'd also like to thank our entire community for supporting this event! The smiles and laughs from our gymnasiums proved that the 2024 Glow Run was a huge success!



DISTRICT UPDATES

The Mustang Message - A new episode of the Mustang Message is now available! Dr. Greg Carenza (DCG Associate Superintendent of School Improvement and Dr. Gail Callahan (DCG's Bullying and Harassment External Investigator) are the featured guests. This episode is designed to spark conversations, offer guidance, and create positive change throughout our school community in regards to bullying and harassment. Whether you're a student, parent, educator, or community member, we invite you to listen, learn, and be part of the solution.



Carenza and Callahan also are having important conversations with our students. The photo (left) features an incredible dialogue with 7th grade students at Oak View.



Angel Account - There's a need in our DCG cafeterias. The DCG Angel Account helps students receive the meals they need every single day. The account helps support our students who don't qualify for free and reduced meals but could still use our help. If you are interested in donating, please visit the school store on Infinite Campus or online at DCG-Schools.com



Measuring Up - Who is taller - Harry Potter or DCG 5th and 6th graders? DCG Middle School students are comparing heights with popular book characters. What a fun way to engage with some of our favorite characters!



Heritage Reward - Students at Heritage Elementary cashed in good behavior points for a day with Texas Roadhouse. Our students learned how to make dinner rolls and line dance like the servers at the restaurant. This was such a fun experience for our students and a great way to showcase the power of kindness!

Just Like Caitlin - All second grade students in the state of Iowa received a free copy of the book "Just Like Caitlin" from the Jensen family. This book outlines the career of Iowa native Caitlin Clark. The Jensens hope the book inspires kids to believe their future can be greater than they imagine. Our students loved this surprise!



Korner Kone Reward - Students in Amy Benjamin's 6th grade homeroom cashed in their reward for good behavior and enjoyed a trip to Korner Kone!

ACTIVITIES



DCG High School Presents Peter and the Starcatcher - Congratulations to the cast and crew (60+) of DCG's Fall Play - Peter and the Starcatcher (left). These students put on an incredible performance during the first weekend of November. Thanks to our community for filling the auditorium to support the time and talent of our students! A special thank you to Anne Frett and the play's leadership team.



Oak View Presents Madagascar - The incredible performances on stage continued in November with Oak View's presentation of Madagascar. The performance was held inside the DCG High School Auditorium and helped the crew sell more than 600 tickets for the weekend performances! Great job to the cast and crew!



The **DCG Music Department** reached unprecedented levels at the 2024 Iowa High School Music Association's All-State Music Festival this fall. 22 students were accepted or selected as alternates as all-staters! What a showcase day for our entire program! **Instrumental Music All-State Accepted Performances** - Emma Adair – Bassoon (Band Part 1) - Caroline Edsen – Clarinet (Band Part 3) - Isabel Schall – Alto Sax (Band Part 1) - Marley Eickelberg – Trumpet (Band Part 3) - Quinton Oberender – Tenor Sax (1st Alternate) - Ahren Ervin – Euphonium (1st Alternate). **Orchestra Music All-State Accepted Performances** - Charlotte York – Oboe - Ella Christensen – French Horn - Max Ringgenberg – Percussion. **Vocal Music Accepted Performances** Charlie Peterson – Soprano 1 - Addilyn Stine – Soprano 2 - Elle Wedeking - Alto 2 - Abi Nelson – Alto 2 - Greer Kleis – Alto 1 - Noah Dutchuk – Tenor 2 - Gavin Eickelberg – Tenor 1 - Campbell Bowen – Tenor 1 - Leo Rzewnicki – Tenor 1 - Ky Wilkins – Bass 2 - Griffin Kleis – Bass 2 - Hunter Quandt – Bass 1 - Anna McKernon -Soprano 1 (2nd Alternate) *The 12 students accepted or selected as alternates to the All-State Chorus is a program record!

ACTIVITIES



The Champ is Here!!! - DCG has a state champion! Sophomore Piper Messerly claimed the Class 4A State Championship! Piper's winning time was 17:58.7 and she led the Mustangs to a 5th place team finish! Messerly is DCG's first state champion since Madison Waymire (Melchert) won the crown in 2011. Maddy Stevens was named 2nd team all-state, finishing 23rd. She also received Academic All-State honors.



DCG Girls XC State Roster

Piper Messerly
Maddy Stevens
Jordan Meyers
Addison Dooley
Emily Meyers
Maddy Adams
Lilly Pudenz

DCG Boys XC State Roster

Elias Arbuckle
Graham Ibeling
Sam Mora
Jack Meggison
Noah Kerndt
Carson Ibeling
Cael Ramsey



The **DCG Boys** finished 4th place in the Class 4A team competition. This was the 11th trip to state in the last 12 seasons for DCG! The Mustangs finished second in the Little Hawkeye Conference, with four All-Conference members (Sam Mora, Elias Arbuckle, Noah Kerndt, Jack Meggison) second at the District Meet with four All-District members (Arbuckle, Meggison, Mora, Graham Ibeling). Arbuckle was also named second team all-state. The DCG JV Boys also won the Little Hawkeye Conference crown for the ninth time in the last 11 years.



Football Awards

18 seniors on the DCG Football team received Academic All-District Honors (GPA of 3.25 and higher). Clark Johnson was named the Alex Bowersox Mustang Spirit Award Winner.

All-District Recognition

First Team: Wyatt Valenta, Connor Stolpe

Second Team: Sam Harbaugh, Hudson Heidgerken, Chase Heitland, Ryan Pertsch, Sampson Johannsen, Cayden Mayfield

Honorable Mention: Kolby Carpenter, Allen Huinker

Winter Activity Calendar - Keeping tabs on DCG Winter Activities? We have an updated activity calendar on our district's website. Use the QR code below for the latest information!



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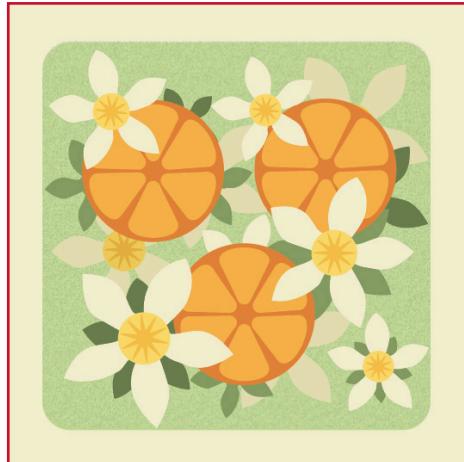
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POSTAL CUSTOMER



DCG High School Art Showcase

- This beautiful image was created by senior Marley Eickelberg in Graphic Design class using Adobe Illustrator (below). Senior Devon Cochran turned an organic shaped sculpture into this fun cartoon character in Sculpture class (left).



Pumpkin Decorating at Oak View -

Check out these awesome creations! Oak View students are given the opportunity to decorate a pumpkin in a book or book character theme. Staff and students vote on their favorites. 1st place in 2024 - Paisley Wyatt for Pete and the Cat and his Four Groovy Buttons.

