



# MUSTANG MONTHLY™

VOLUME 23  
ISSUE 10  
May 2025

Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

It's hard to believe that we are turning the calendar to May! Today, I want to spend some time highlighting the progress of two major projects at Dallas Center-Grimes - our strategic plan and our facilities master plan.

The DCG Strategic Plan is nearing the final stages. I think back to our first initial meeting with TeamWorks (our partner in this project), and they asked about our top priority. I shaped the answer around a true north, a vision, a plan, and a commitment for everyone on Team DCG. Through staff, student and family feedback, we defined our theory of action. Through board work sessions, we defined our mission, vision and values. This summer, we will be putting on the finishing touches on DCG's Strategic Plan. When our staff and students return in August, it's go-time. We will be united in our work and ready to take the next step together.



Our facilities master plan is also gaining steam. We've had several focus group meetings with OPN Architects as we truly put together a 10-year DCG facilities plan. This plan will align our immediate needs to solve building capacity issues, while also addressing future growth and renovations. These meetings will continue throughout the summer as we work toward a bond vote in November. Community support is essential to this process and I anticipate several feedback sessions/town hall meetings in the near future. Look for continued updates from me in the Mustang Monthly and our district website throughout the summer.

There are several key projects going on at DCG in 2025, but we will never waver in the commitment of the day-to-day needs of our students and staff. There are incredible things happening every single day! I'm fired up to finish this school year together and celebrate EVERYTHING we've accomplished together.

**Dr. Scott Blum** - DCG Superintendent



## CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

May 7, 14, 21, 28 - Early Dismissal - 12:30 Oak View - 1:00 All Other Buildings

May 26 - No School - Memorial Day

May 30 - Last Day of School

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Home of the Mustangs



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

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## DISTRICT UPDATES

**Register for the 2025-26 School Year at Dallas Center-Grimes!** - The time is now! Make plans to register your student/s for the 2025-26 school year at DCG! The QR code (right) directs you to our registration page. Current students and new students need to complete this process each year! By enrolling now, our registration team gets a jump start on their planning for next school year! There are so many exciting things on the horizon at DCG, we'd love for you to join us! The 2025-26 school calendar is available at DCGschools.com



**Education Foundation Update** - The Dallas Center-Grimes Education Foundation Senior Awards Night is set for Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 6:00 PM inside the DCG High School Auditorium.

Scholarship applicants and their parents are encouraged to attend, however, applicants are not guaranteed an award. If you're unable to attend awards night, don't worry—you will not lose your scholarship. You will receive your scholarship packet at graduation rehearsal.

With nearly \$200,000 across more than 140 scholarships to be awarded, we look forward to recognizing the DCG Class of 2025! The district would like to thank the DCG Education Foundation for their support of our students!



**March Mammal Madness** - Help us celebrate DCG's Best Bracketologists! Max Bejarno (Right - Oak View) and Tessa Lebo (Left - DCG High School) were crowned March Mammal Bracket Champions! The March Mammal Madness project allows students to use their learning of 64 different animals in a bracket simulation. The polar bear was the 2025 Madness Champion.

# HIGH SCHOOL



**DCG High School National Honor Society 2025 Inductees** - The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony is such a special night on the calendar! It's a celebration of student leaders and their commitment to making a difference in our district. 71 students from Dallas Center-Grimes High School were inducted into our chapter of NHS at a ceremony on Wednesday, April 9. Use the QR code (top right) to view a list of the NHS 2025 Inductees! Congratulations to this incredible group of students.

**It's (almost) TIME TO PLANT!** - The annual DCG High School Botany Class Plant Sale will be held on Wednesday, May 7 and Thursday, May 8 from 3:45 to 6:00 pm at the DCG High School Greenhouse. We will be selling lots of tomatoes and peppers, as well as cucumbers, squash, pumpkins, some flowers, herbs, houseplants, and even some mini succulent dish gardens. Students have been planting and growing these plants since February, and are excited to show off their work! Contact Dave Harwood with any questions.



**NHS Pancake Breakfast** - The National Honor Society Pancake Breakfast was a huge success in April! Our students made \$1,100 during their event, with all proceeds going to the food pantries in Grimes and Dallas Center. We are so proud of these students and so thankful for the community support they received!

**Senior Spotlight: Ella Christensen** - The latest feature on the DCG High School Class of 2025 is showcasing Ella Christensen. Ella played Miss Honey in DCG's 2025 Spring Musical - *Matilda, The Musical*. Ella has also participated in swimming, DCG Mock Trial, National Honor Society and Key Club. There's a feature story on Ella's journey to the stage at DCGschools.com, including her awards and next steps! The DCG Senior Spotlight Series is produced by Neela Williamson, a school-to-work intern in the DCG Communications department.



**LAST CHANCE!** - Order the 2024-2025 high school yearbook now before it's gone! May 23rd (graduation day) is the FINAL day you can place an order. And senior parents - don't forget to purchase a grad ad for your child. Reach out to Ivy Soener ([ivy.soener@dcgschools.com](mailto:ivy.soener@dcgschools.com)) with any questions.

**School Board Meeting** - The next DCG School Board Meeting is set for Monday, May 19 at 5:30. The meeting will be held in the DCG Admin Office Board Room. The agenda and livestream information will be posted at [DCGschools.com](http://DCGschools.com). Community members - if you'd like to receive board meeting agendas via email, please use the QR code below to register (all parents/staff members already receive the agenda, so this is only available for community members who are not parents/staff!).





**DCG Middle School Gives Back** - A special shout out to this group of TAG students from DCG Middle School. They are working on a service learning project that aligns with a book they read for a lesson. The theme of the book is "kindness is contagious" and this is living out the theme to make an impact!

**DCG Middle School Spring Concerts** - We are excited to announce the dates/times for the DCG Middle School Spring Concerts!

*Choir Concerts* - May 6, 2025 at DCG Middle School Gymnasium  
5th Grade Choir Concert at 6:30 pm  
6th Grade Choir Concert at 7:30 pm

*Band Concerts* - May 8, 2025 at DCG High School Auditorium  
5th Grade Band Concert at 6:30 pm  
6th Grade Band Concert at 7:30 pm

# BUILDING NEWS



**Talent Show at Oak View** - The Oak View Talent Show isn't just about singing, dancing, or magic - it's about showing up, stepping outside your comfort zone and being BRAVE! We are so proud of these students because it takes guts to step on the stage and show your talent to the world!

**Countdown to Kindergarten** - We are preparing for the 2025-26 school year already! In April, all four of DCG's elementary schools held a Countdown to Kindergarten event, giving our youngest learners a chance to tour their new buildings! Parents and principals also connected on important information and key planning dates. This is a big step and we are so excited to meet our new students next year!



## MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Honor Band/Choir Recap** - We are incredibly proud to recognize the outstanding students who represented DCG at the Little Hawkeye Honor Band and the South Central Iowa Choral Directors Association Honor Choir. These talented musicians from 6th grade Honor Band and 5th & 6th grade Honor Choir demonstrated exceptional dedication, musicianship, and school pride. Their hard work and commitment to excellence were on full display!



Thank you for representing DCG so well—we are proud of your achievements and grateful for the musical contributions you bring to our school community!



# ELEMENTARY

**Kindergarten Airplane Trip** - Some of the youngest learners at North Ridge Elementary took an airplane ride together in April. The four-stop trip capped off kindergarten's wants/needs unit. There are times when vacations are both a want and a need, but these students were focused on the learning experience! From what items are essential at each destination, to designing a passport, there were several great opportunities for learning. The most popular vacation pick was definitely the beach!



**DCE Science and Art Fair** - Student learning was on display at Dallas Center Elementary in April! DCE held their 3rd annual Science and Art Fair - an event showcasing student research and creativity! 58 exhibits were on display for classmates and the community to enjoy! These projects are driven by student interests and the event is open to any student in the building! Thanks to the DCE PTO for supporting this event!

**Connecting to California** - 5th grade students at DCG Middle School completed the Brine Shrimp Enrichment project in April. This work connected to their science units focusing on Ecosystem Restoration and Earth Systems! Through trial and error, students were tasked with the answering the questions: does the amount of salt affect the hatching of brine shrimp? They also researched the ecosystem in Mono Lake (California), to determine how the salty environment impacts growth.



## Just Like Caitlin Donations

- DCG 3rd graders received a special treat in April! Great Southern Bank donated the book Just Like Caitlin to all DCG 3rd graders! This is a popular book in our elementary schools and we are so thankful for the partnership!

## Fifth Grade Field Trip

- Field trip season is underway at DCG! Our fifth graders had an incredible time visiting the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines. From a tour, to conversations with elected officials, this was an awesome day of learning!

## DCG Celebrations

There were so many incredible people to celebrate in the month of April! We are so excited to showcase Team DCG!

**April 2** - Paraprofessional Appreciation Day

**April 4** - National School Librarian Day

**April 7** - National Assistant Principals Week Begins

**April 21** - School Volunteer Week Begins

**April 22** - National School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

**April 23** - National Administrative Professionals Day

## ACTIVITIES



**Buttjer Honored** - DCG Activities Director Brent Buttjer received the Award of Merit from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. Buttjer has been an athletic administrator for 18 years, the last five at Dallas Center-Grimes. Buttjer will be retiring from his position at the end of the school year. Thanks for being a trusted leader!



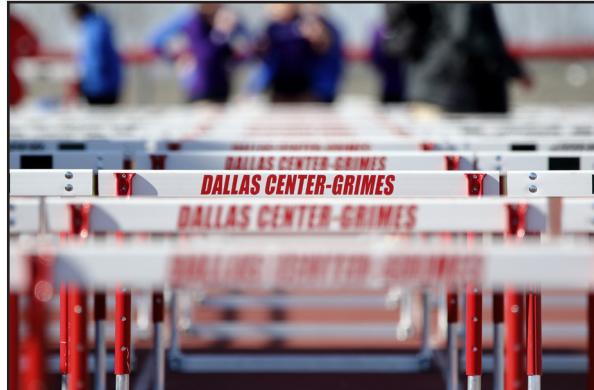
**DCG Ebackpack** - Use the QR code above to access the DCG Ebackpack! Summer camps are right around the corner and this is the time to register! New additions include DCG Girls Basketball Camp, Art Clinics and Voice Lessons. The DCG Ebackpack is updated frequently!



### Individual Speech Success

- The DCG Speech program continues to excel! This year, eight students from DCG High School were honored at All-State Individual Speech, the highest level of achievement a student can reach in individual speech. This honor places them in the top 8% of all speech students in Iowa,

a remarkable recognition! Pictured left to right: Zofiana Woollums, Alexa Farrell, Josephine Bond, June White, Sharla Benning, Cale Daniels.



**Drake Relays Qualifiers** - The DCG Boys and Girls Track and Field programs are busy this spring! 15 athletes, in 12 events qualified for the 2025 Drake Relays! They were joined by several middle school and elementary runners as well! Congrats on reaching this level of competition!

#### *DCG High School - Drake Relays Qualifiers*

*3200m Boys –Elias Arbuckle | 3000m Girls – Piper Messerly and Maddy Stevens | 110mH Boys –Darien Walker | 1600m Medley Boys, – Chris Opoku-Sekyere, Chase Heitland, Sam Mora, Jack Meggison | 800m Girls – Piper Messerly and Maddy Stevens | 800m Boys –Jack Meggison | Shuttle Hurdle Boys –Chase Heitland, Kolby Carpenter, Jordan Kalk, Darien Walker | 4x100m Boys – Chris Opoku-Sekyere, Gabriel Wright, Ethan Carlson, Chase Heitland 4x800m Girls –Adison Dooley, Piper Messerly, Maddie Schmitz, Maddy Stevens | 4x800m Boys –Graham Ibeling, Elias Arbuckle, Sam Mora, Jack Meggison | 1500m Girls –Piper Messerly | 1600m Boys –Elias Arbuckle and Sam Mora*

# ACTIVITIES



**Little Hawkeye Conference Art Show Results** - Students from Dallas Center-Grimes High School had a tremendous showing at the 2025 Little Hawkeye Conference Art Show! 11 students received recognition, including a sweep of the 2D Mixed Media category. Congratulations to the following students: Charlotte Klocke (two awards), Sydney Miller, Kaia Sesker, Marley Eickelberg, Claire Boerre, Hayden Wagner, Danika Danilson, Jaycee Jamison, Zofiana Woollums and Sierra Callahan!

**Battle of the Books** - DCG hosted a Battle of the Books reading competition this spring. Students in teams of up to four students were given a list of 20 books to read. The book list consists of Iowa Children Choice Awards, Iowa Teen Choice Awards, Newbery Award winners, and other various award winners from a variety of genres. This year 276 students, divided into 72 teams, and in grades 5-8 took part in the competition from 11 different school districts. Throughout the year, students write questions about the books as they read. Closer to the competition, teams choose a team name, and several even create t-shirts to represent their team pride. As always, teams came very well prepared and did an awesome job showcasing their reading abilities.



**DCG TSA Success** - The DCG TSA (Technology Student Association) participated in the Spring State Conference and received incredible recognition! This was a contest featuring teams from all over Iowa in more than 20 different STEM events. 300 students were involved in the competition! Here's a list of our award-winners: Katelyn Daugherty and Gwen Schlak - 1st Forensic Science  
Alex Chittenden and Pluto Evans - 3rd Forensic Science (4th straight win in this event)  
Lizzy Behrens, Alex Chittenden, Pluto Evans, Dylan Stoll - 2nd Fashion Design, Gwen Schlak - 2025-2026 State Officer.

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## POSTAL CUSTOMER



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**Art Spotlight** - Painting 1 students at Dallas Center-Grimes High School just finished a unit where they practiced color matching as they re-created a famous Fauvism painting of their choice. The whole class did a great job on this, especially Alayna Boel (right) and Chloe Wanat (left). We hope our community has enjoyed the incredible talent of DCG artists this year!!

