

Oak View Board Report

September 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.

Oak View is off to a strong and exciting start this school year. One highlight has been our ability to offer nine different clubs during our first round of activities. This is possible because of the commitment and willingness of our staff to provide extra opportunities for students, and we are thrilled that students have so many ways to get involved beyond the classroom. This is directly linked to our building goal of getting 100% of students involved in an activity at Oak View.

We are also working to strengthen connections with families. This fall, we launched a parent book study, and while sixteen parents signed up, three were able to join us for our first session. We are hopeful that more will participate as the study continues. In addition, our counselors are hosting quarterly Parent Information Nights this year. Each session is designed to focus on topics that are especially relevant for 7th and 8th grade parents, giving parents another resource for navigating the middle school years.

Another area of focus this year is our Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). We are committed to deepening this work, both in our building and through district level professional development. Our staff is leaning into the

PLC process as a way to collaborate, reflect, and improve instruction for all students.

We are also working on ways to strengthen students' executive functioning skills. We had a guest speaker (Doug Stilwell) come in and work with us on PDSA (plan do study act), which is a continuous improvement process. We are focusing on executive functioning in the classroom and teachers are planning for ways to track student progress.

Our Tier 1 team is up and running. We are learning alongside Emily Donovan and are already seeing the benefits of the systems and practices we have in place. At the same time, we are excited about the ways we can continue to grow and strengthen our supports for students.

We are proud of the momentum at Oak View and are grateful for the continued support of the board as we work to provide meaningful opportunities for students, families, and staff.

Building: DCG Middle School	September Board Report
 <p>Strategic Plan</p> <p>Mission Statement: Empowering every student to create their future.</p> <p>Vision Statement: Our district strives for excellence through Innovation, and embraces growth in every dimension of education.</p> <p>DCG</p>	<p>Building Goals:</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: Professional Learning Communities are off to a strong start at the Middle School. Our PLCs have begun the year by establishing SMART goals related to our Building Goals. Each PLC is looking at action steps they can take to help us to reach our established goals by the end of the school year, and have already started implementing several strategies to support student learning.

Innovative: As we are setting SMART goals in our PLCs, several of our teams are challenging themselves to learn and implement new instructional strategies in their classrooms. Our teachers are embracing the challenge of digging deeper into curriculums and resources to find new ways to support students, and multiple PLCs have developed plans to share these ideas on a monthly basis in order to learn from each other.

Supportive: A big focus this month has been The Mustang Way, our new Tier 1 approach to support positive behavior in our building. Our building has set a goal of having at least 90% of our students recognized for showing positive behavior, and we’re excited to say that we’ve already exceeded that goal! We’re hoping that 100% of our students will be recognized by the end of the month, and we’re going to celebrate with an extra recess and a hat day at the end of September!

Inclusive: Our special education teachers and associates continue to work to support students in all settings. We’re seeing progress every single day with our students, and are increasing both their access to grade level

instruction and their time with their peers. Our students have been displaying kindness every day and working together to create a strong sense of community in our building.

Passionate: Our 5th grade students have had a blast on their field trips to Voas Nature Area in Minburn. Classes have taken turns going to explore the area, learning about nature and the history of the prairie during their time there. A few brave students even found some snakes during their visit!

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: September, /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.

	<p>Since July, DCE's Kindergarten and 1st grade team has been working diligently to design innovative ways for three teachers to provide high-quality instruction for our 29 Kindergarten and 29 1st grade students. After exploring several options, the team developed a K-1 Multiage classroom model to support student learning and enhance classroom experiences.</p>
Collaboration	<p>The team collaborated closely with Dr. Carenza and me and collaboratively, we held a parent meeting in early August to share information and answer questions. Participation in this multi-age class was offered as a voluntary opportunity for families.</p>
Innovation	<p>Our teachers did a fabulous job preparing for this unique learning environment, and the school year has started very positively. Students are highly engaged and learning at strong levels. The team's positive outlook and collaboration have been key contributors to the success of this model.</p> <p>This team has shown what positive collaboration can result in, and I am so proud that this team continuously puts student learning as their first priority, as well as developing a plan that would support keeping our Dallas Center families at Dallas Center Elementary.</p>
Supportive	
Inclusive	
Passionate	<p>Our school guidance counselor, Mallory DeLacy, has demonstrated exceptional dedication to supporting students and families. In addition to her regular responsibilities, she coordinated volunteers and partnered with a voluntary food donation program to implement a Friday Backpack Program. This initiative provides nutritious food for families who choose to participate, ensuring that students' basic needs are supported beyond the school day. Mallory's leadership and commitment reflect her strong passion for the well-being of our students and contribute significantly to the overall success of our school community.</p>

Building: Heritage Elementary	September Board Report
 <p>Strategic Plan</p> <p>Mission Statement Empowering every student to create their future.</p> <p>Vision Statement Our district strives for excellence through innovation, and embraces growth in every dimension of education.</p> <p>DCG™</p>	<p>Building Goals:</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>

COLLABORATIVE & PASSIONATE

Our Building Leadership Team meets monthly to create, discuss, and problem solve. This team includes grade level PLC leaders and representatives from other departments across the building. Last year, in an effort to allow more ideas and voices in the room, we decided to open these meetings to all interested staff members. This has been such a great success so we will be continuing this practice in 2025-26!

Teachers are currently administering the reading and math FAST assessments to students. We will meet with multiple stakeholders (grade level teachers, special education teachers, interventionists, EL teacher, instructional coach & principal) to analyze student data on September 24 & 25. This data will help us determine intervention groups for students, as well as IEPDP goals for teachers.

SUPPORTIVE & INCLUSIVE

 <p>Heritage High Five!</p> <p>B - Be Responsible E - Extend Kindness S - Show Respect T - Think with an Open Mind</p> <p>"Thank you for being your B.E.S.T. by..."</p>	<p>We are showing our BEST every day at Heritage by earning high-five tickets! The K-4 students are working on achieving three goals this quarter.</p> <p>Goal 1: 4,000 tickets Reward 1: extra recess with music & popsicles</p> <p>Goal 2: 7,000 tickets Reward 2: activity with buddy classroom</p> <p>Goal 3: 10,000 tickets Reward 3: fall door decor contest</p> <p>We will celebrate each time we achieve our goal. Look for pictures in our monthly newsletter "Heritage Highlights."</p>
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**DCG****North Ridge Elementary**

North Ridge Elementary	September Board Report
 <p>Strategic Plan</p> <p>Mission Statement: Empowering every student to create their future.</p> <p>Vision Statement: Our district strives for excellence through innovation, and embraces growth in every dimension of education.</p> <p>DCG</p>	<p>Features:</p> <p>Professional Development</p> <p>Focus PE, Library, and Music</p> <p>News</p>

ACADEMIC	ACADEMIC SUPPORT	CLIMATE / CULTURE	TEACHER EFFICACY
<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>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>By May, 2026 North Ridge teachers and staff will have communicated positively to each family on at least 4 occasions.</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>

Collaborative/Innovative/Inclusive/Supportive:

At North Ridge Elementary, the professional development focus centers on strengthening Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to positively impact student achievement. Staff members engage in collaborative learning to analyze data, share best practices, and design instruction that meets the needs of all students. Through ongoing PLC work, educators align goals, interventions, and enrichment opportunities to ensure growth for every learner. This collaborative approach fosters a unified school culture where all staff members work together to support academic success for every child.

August 27th -

Prioritizing Your PLC Work with Application piece of Big Picture Reflection

September 3rd

What do we want students to know when we are planning for our Literacy Instruction?

September 10th

Flex Day with some district focus groups

September 17th

K-1 UFLI/My View Data Review

2-4 FAST Data Review

Application piece: Creating a Team Vision

**DCG****North Ridge Elementary****PE News!**

The school year is off to a great start in P.E. class! Our upper elementary students are working on their fall fitness tests. These tests include: push-ups (upper body strength), sit-ups (core strength), sit and reach (flexibility), and an endurance run (cardiovascular fitness). These assessments will give us a starting point for each student's fitness level. We will repeat the tests later in the year so students can see their progress and growth.

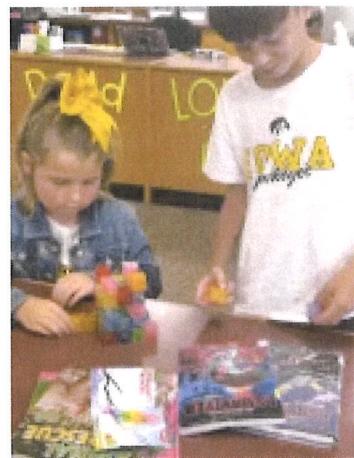
Our kindergarteners and first graders are working on movement, body awareness, and control through a variety of tag games. These activities help students develop spatial awareness, safe movement in a group, and basic locomotor skills—all while having fun and staying active!

As always, our goal in P.E. is to build healthy habits, teamwork, and a love for movement. Thank you for encouraging your child to do their best in PE!

News from the Library!

By the end of this week, all 389 students will have had the chance to check out books once, if not twice! K-4th graders visit the library twice in the six day cycle - once to check out books and the other time period is for a lesson/learning experience. The TK kiddos come once to check out books and listen to a story. Students can choose from a variety of activities after checking out books, as you can see in the pictures below.

Students had the opportunity to vote for the team they thought would win the Cy Hawk Showdown! Hawks got 143 votes and Cyclones got 91. It was fun to hear them discuss their prediction and view some of the Hawkeye and Cyclone books that we have in the library.



North Ridge Elementary

News from the Music Room!

Music at North Ridge has been off to an amazing start this school year! With Homecoming at the end of this month, all the classes will be learning or reviewing the DCG Fight Song! We are going to have some amazing singers cheering on our Mustangs!

In the next couple of months, our 3rd and 4th graders will be preparing for their upcoming concerts on November 20! More information will be coming home in the next month about the concert and we cannot wait to share what we'll be learning with our families and friends!

In September our 2nd grade students will be doing some review of rhythms that we learned last year, and will continue to learn about the different types of music notes and rests. We will practice writing them, and will be playing some fun games to review what we've learned.

Kindergarten and 1st graders are learning about our different classroom instruments and are going to be playing quite a few of those this month. We will also be looking a lot at opposites in Music and learning about how a steady beat is different from a rhythm.

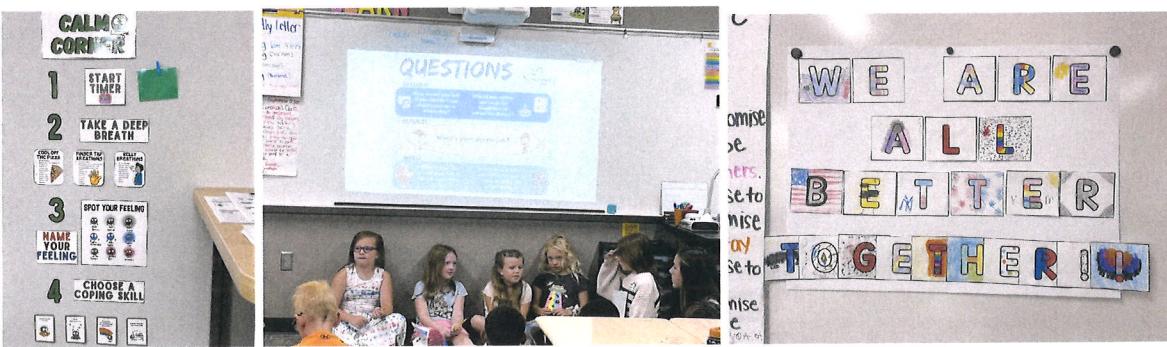
Upcoming Month Information:

We will be able to provide you with our Fall testing data in October along with updates towards reaching out building goals for the 25-26 school year.

Building: South Prairie Elementary	August Board Report
 <p>Strategic Plan</p> <p>Mission Statement: Empowering every student to create their future.</p> <p>Vision Statement: Our district strives for excellence through innovation, and embraces growth in every dimension of education.</p> <p>DCG™</p>	<p>Building Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

- Ms. Wilson and Mr. Fitch both utilize the Little Spot of Emotion Curriculum in their guidance lesson, and this year they have helped teachers use that same language in their classroom calming corners. Ms. Wilson spent a great deal of time this summer creating and getting materials ready so each classroom would be able to have this consistent resource. This helps students to have that consistency in knowing where they can go to have a little break within the classroom if needed for a few minutes.
- Many classrooms also do their best to start each morning with a morning meeting time to help develop community within their classroom and positive communication skills with each other. Not only are the teachers **supportive** of the students, but also helping students to understand each other to help create that **inclusive** classroom.



Collaborative

- The intervention team has collaborated with teachers to start the year with boost groups based on last spring's data. By getting started as quickly as possible with some small groups, we are hoping to do just that, give these students a boost before testing. Many do very little if no reading over the summer, so getting right to work could potentially help a few students get back on track before they take their fall FAST test.
- Our PLC teams function at such high levels. It is truly my honor to be able to observe them in action. Most recently I had the opportunity to listen in as the 2nd grade team was discussing their new resource, My View, and were discussing one of their assessments. I loved hearing how they collaborated on the acceptable answers to questions that required students to find evidence in their text and write their response. In this way, we are ensuring that all students are being assessed the same way on responses that are more of a subjective nature. They document the look for's and will have this for future reference as well.

- Our Kindergarten teachers were very positive about their experience with Kindergarten Kickstart. We plan to come share the experience in person with you next month.
- We have fun with the Iowa / Iowa State football game and do lots of predicting, but most importantly we talked about sportsmanship. It's important that we are able to teach the students that no matter which team we cheer for, we are still kind to each other. All grade levels have the opportunity to do a little graphing in their own way as they find out which team is the favorite in their classroom.



- Fourth graders are digging into simple electrical systems in Science and enjoyed some hands on experience outside during our nice weather.



Passionate

- I've enjoyed numerous classroom visits where already in the first couple weeks of school students are engaged in established routines. It's amazing how quickly the students have learned the expectations. Teachers have done an excellent job of setting the stage of a great year of learning. They quickly go about learning the needs of their students and how they can help them be successful. For example, in one classroom, a teacher had a time for a student to help that student know how much time they had to complete their work. The teacher quickly knew that the student needed this to keep them focused on the task at hand. Our teachers are very **passionate** about their students and finding ways to help them be successful as they learn their personalities from Day 1.





Human Resources Board Report September 2025

Teacher Evaluation

Our Teacher Quality Team has officially updated requirements for teacher evaluations based on where each staff member is in the evaluation cycle. Many things have stayed the same, however there have been a few minor changes - most notable to the Iowa Educator Professional Development Plan (IEPDP), which all teachers will now complete. We have also put more of an emphasis on the Peer Review portion of the IEPDP, in which teachers work together around student data and reflect on their current practices.

Professional Development plans

We had a great kickoff with district special education teachers and both special education and general education associates. We discussed the use of Medicaid and how to properly enter data, and did some learning around the roles and responsibilities of the teachers and associates. Our staff was able to learn together, reflect and reinforce best practices.

Orientations/Onboarding

We are beginning the conversations around the topic of onboarding and Stay Interviews. These are two areas in which HR departments from many school districts have begun to focus on ensuring that we can acquire quality candidates and then take care of them when they arrive.

Onboarding will take on different shapes depending on the specific role. We have investigated how associates can be onboarded with our veteran associates, how custodians can learn the intricacies of their job both in their building and by observing another building's team, and we will continue to support our transportation protocol of ride-alongs as our new staff join our team.

Also, Jami and I will begin going to the various buildings in the district conducting Stay Interviews -- ensuring that our staff have the things they need to do their job and we begin to learn more about the reasons people like continuing to work at DCG.

Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District

Board Report from Madison Melchert, Activities Director

Date: September 2025

Fall Activities Update

We are just a few weeks into the season, and already there has been so much to celebrate.

- **Volleyball** – Faced tough competition and has fallen short in some big matches, but continues to grow. They will be ready for the postseason and have shown they can compete with great teams.
- **Football** – Adjusting well to 5A. Matchups with Dowling and Waukee will test our kids, coaches, facilities, event management, and community. These games give us a chance to showcase DCG at the highest level.
- **Cross Country** – Strong performance at the large Marshalltown meet, an important early benchmark for the season.
- **Girls Tennis** – Already in postseason play, with key conference wins. Hosting the first round of regional team tennis on Sept. 20.
- **Boys Golf** – Off to a solid start with key wins this fall. There is a lot of pride in this program.
- **Marching Band** – Preparing for competitions and Homecoming performances.

Culture & Identity

A big focus this year is continuing to build our culture and identity. It has been exciting to see our student sections grow and our kids supporting one another across programs. We are working to include more students in meaningful ways:

- Student Section Leadership Group creating new traditions.
- Mustang Leadership Group planning monthly visits to the 5/6 building.
- Cheerleaders hosting “Spirit Fridays” at the elementary schools.

These small but intentional connections are building a sense of pride that will carry forward for years.

Operations & Finances

We have started tracking our transition to cashless ticketing. Currently, about 65% of transactions are cash and 35% card, with large events closer to 50/50. We will continue to monitor this process and encourage growth in card use to streamline event management.

Homecoming Week (Sept. 22–27)

We are excited for all the traditions that come with Homecoming Week:

- **Sunday** – Movie Night
- **Tuesday** – Ironman Volleyball
- **Wednesday** – Powder Puff
- **Thursday** – Parade & Coronation
- **Friday** – Football Game
- **Saturday** – Dance

This is always a special week to celebrate all of our students and showcase Mustang spirit across the community.

Fall Musical

Preparations are well underway for *The Wizard of Oz*, which will be performed November 7–9. The team is in the set-building phase, and excitement is growing throughout the program.

Association Updates

- IHSAA has rolled out a new streaming plan for state events.
- IGHSAU has moved State Swimming & Diving to Iowa City.
- State Softball will now be played under a double-elimination format.
- IGHSAU also extended its contract with Harlan Rogers Park through 2045, keeping Fort Dodge as the home of State Softball.

Personal Highlight

After our football win, I had the opportunity to break down the huddle. The energy and joy from our kids, cheering for one another and celebrating together, was a perfect reminder of why activities are so important.

Looking Ahead

Although it's hard to believe, we are already preparing for the winter season: basketball, wrestling, show choir, and our shared programs with Johnston in bowling and boys swimming. There has never been a better time to be a Mustang, and I am proud of the direction our activities are heading.

Madison Melchert
Activities Director
Dallas Center-Grimes High School

Technology Board Report - September 2025

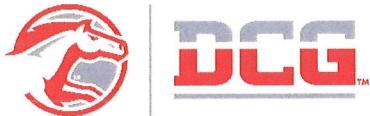
Director of Technology – Steven Hopper

I'm writing this month's report a couple weeks in advance, as I will be out of the office for two weeks in September. Our team in the technology department – Eric Meyer, Barb Chieves, and Chris Stammerman – are phenomenal. They are equipped to handle anything that comes their way in my absence, and we're in a great position with low ticket numbers and efficient support processes. I am extremely grateful for their leadership as I step away for a bit.

Last month I mentioned the possibility of creating our own fiber connection between DCG High School and DCG Middle School. Bids for that project are now open and are tentatively scheduled to be presented to the board in October. As a reminder, our own fiber connection would provide the ability to provide a backup internet connection across the district as well as significant savings on any new building projects between the two communities. Thanks again for keeping this on your radar.

The district is also currently accepting bids for the sale of over 1500 Chromebooks, Macbooks, and iPads. We do these sales at least once a year to liquidate retired 1-to-1 devices, staff laptops, and other equipment. A list of our sale items was emailed to over 45 interested vendors, and posted to our website. I'm hoping for the type of strong interest we've seen in previous buybacks. Money generated from the sale is returned to the appropriate district fund.

As always, we appreciate the board's continued support for the DCG Technology Department.



Student Services Board Report

September 22, 2025

Alyson Finley

Special Education	<p>On September 10, 2025, Special Education teachers participated in their first FLEX Day professional development opportunity of the school year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Grades 7–12: Teachers engaged in Year 2 of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act–Differentiated Accountability (IDEA-DA) Transition Training. As part of this work, teachers will begin using a new interview form with families, students, and staff during IEP meetings. The form is designed to guide the development of appropriate IEP goals and accommodations to support students in their post-secondary planning. This process begins the year a student turns 14 and continues through graduation or age 21. This work supports the DCG Strategic Plan priority of <i>Supportive: Ensuring every student has the academic, social, and emotional support they need to prepare for their future.</i>● Grades K–6: Teachers focused their professional development on examining reading data for students on their rosters and identifying appropriate reading interventions to close performance gaps. This effort also aligns to the <i>Supportive</i> goal of the DCG Strategic Plan.● Iowa Alternate Assessment: Special Education teachers supporting students who participate in the Iowa Alternate Assessment have been preparing First Contact Surveys and gathering data for the Early Literacy Alternate Assessment (ELAA). ELAA fulfills the State of Iowa's requirements for early literacy screening and progress monitoring for students with significant cognitive disabilities.● Special Education Associates: All Special Education Associates received training on September 3 over Medicaid Billing Requirements, confidentiality when working with students, and common district expectations for the roles. Special Education Teachers also attended this session alongside the associates to ensure shared understanding and consistency in practices across the district. This work supports <p>This work supports all five Core Values of the DC-G Strategic Plan.</p>
ELL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The DC-G Lau Plan has been updated for the 2025–2026 school year. Updates were limited to names and formatting; the content of the plan remained unchanged. A cross-departmental team will be

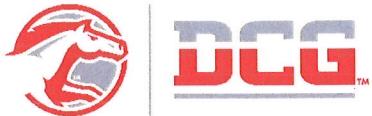


Student Services Board Report

September 22, 2025

Alyson Finley

	<p>convened later this year to review and develop a new Lau Plan for the 2026–2027 school year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All ELL Teachers have completed the required ELPA21 annual training and are currently screening new students who indicated a language other than English on the Home Language Survey.• During the September 10 FLEX Day, ELL teachers met with Cindra Porter from Heartland AEA to collaborate as a professional learning community. Together, they identified and secured resources to support students.• Teachers are also extending their professional learning through a study of <i>Literacy Foundations for English Learners</i> by Elsa Cardenas-Hagan. <p>This work supports all five Core Values of the DC-G Strategic Plan.</p>
Competent Private Instruction (Homeschool/Dual Enrollment)	All homeschool and dual enrolled students in grades 3-11 have received information regarding ISASP assessment options. Families may access the ISASP assessment through Heartland AEA on April 1 & 2, 2026 or may take the ISASP at their DCG building of attendance.
Homeless	No new families have been identified this month.

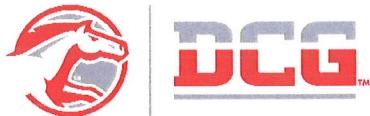


Student Services Board Report

September 22, 2025

Alyson Finley

Counseling	<p>On September 10, 2025, the K–12 Counselors met with Sue Schirmer to begin their work for the school year. The focus of this group is the development and improvement of the school counseling program, aligning with Iowa Code and the ASCA National Model, 5th Edition (published July 2025). Curriculum review will be addressed separately.</p> <p>Key activities and outcomes from the meeting included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Completion of the School Counseling Program Overview to serve as a guiding framework.● Sharing of strengths, passion areas, and future hopes for the program.● Identification of emerging themes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Need for K–12 articulation○ Importance of a systemic view○ Use of a common language○ Keeping students at the center of the work● Discussion of concerns, particularly the need for consistent administrative advocacy when an administrator cannot attend.● Review of updates in the ASCA Model, 5th Edition compared to previous editions.● Completion of the School Counseling Self-Assessment, with results scheduled for discussion at the October meeting.● Assignment of the Use of Time Assessment, to be completed prior to the December meeting. <p>This work supports all five Core Values of the DC-G Strategic Plan.</p>
Networking Systems 25-26 school year	<p>I continue to network with the Metro Special Education Directors and the Statewide Special Education Team. At the September meeting the following items were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Updates to the Reevaluation Process● Program Enhancements (Pay for Services) provided by Heartland



Student Services Board Report
September 22, 2025
Alyson Finley

	<p>AEA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Upcoming learning opportunities for special education teachers and school administrators● Updates from Matt Cretsinger at the IDOE<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ ACHIEVE Updates○ Math Counts Act○ Special Education Count Date● Updates on Iowa Alternate Assessment <p>I also had the opportunity to collaborate with Matt Cretsinger on September 15, 2025 to talk about DC-G specific topics related to special education.</p>
Other	I continue to work (with the Senior Leadership Team) on the high priority actions related to the DC-G Strategic Plan.



Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District

Teaching and Learning Board Report
Shana Olson
Director of Teaching of Learning

September 2025

New Teachers and Mentors

September kicks off our sessions for new to the profession teachers and their mentors. Year 1 teachers met on September 3 and focused our time getting to know one another as well as diving into the Iowa Teaching Standards. They explored personal core values and how those values translate into developing a learning environment for students. In our next session, mentors will have a learning opportunity around developing strong mentor skills with support from Michelle Vaughan, AEA Instructional Coach.

Year 2 teachers and their mentors met on September 17 for their first session. The focus for this group is finalizing their portfolio and sharpening their skills by discussing the use of data and differentiation as they prepare to transition to their Standard License.

Curriculum Review

Our curriculum review work is in full swing this year with Science and Health/PE in year 1, Social Studies and Guidance in year 2, and Math and Music in year 3. Much of this curriculum review work will take place on our Wednesday Flex Days that occur six times throughout the school year. This allows teachers to remain in their classroom during the school day and lessen the need for subs while still engaging in the important work of learning, curriculum review, and development. We look forward to sharing updates along the way regarding our processes and proposed decisions.

Teacher Leadership

Our teacher leaders have been instrumental in launching this school year, continuing the great work of delivering district level professional development. This year, our coaches, working alongside their building leaders have taken the desired outcomes for district learning and made them applicable for their building's needs.



Dallas Center Grimes Food Services Newsletter

September 2025



Thank You!

Mrs. Sprays' class deeply appreciates Chef Jozsef's exceptional creations and outstanding service!



Celebrating Chef Jozsef for Chef Appreciation week

We are delighted that the school year has started well and are pleased to see the kids back in the cafeteria. It's a perfect time to express our gratitude to Chef Jozsef for his dedication to keeping the kids happy and healthy. Several classes from South Prairie have shown their appreciation by writing thank-you cards. We are enthusiastic about the exciting events he organizes for the kids and look forward to what he has planned to keep dining enjoyable



Mr. Matthew Pasma
DIRECTOR OF DINING SERVICES
Matthew.pasma@dcgschools.com



Dip'n to Flavor

This fall, students can dive into bold new tastes with *Dip'n to Flavor!*—a limited-time cafeteria promotion inspired by trending TikTok flavors. Featuring craveable, student-approved dips like Honey Buffalo, Korean BBQ, Chimichurri Ranch, and Sriracha Honey Mustard, it's all about dip'n, snack'n, and lov'n!

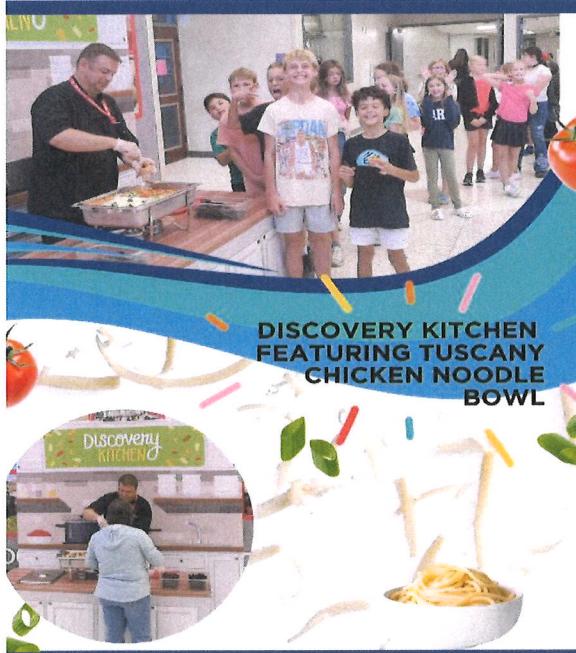
chartwells
serving up happy & healthy

DISCOVERY KITCHEN FUN FIT

Whether it's competing on an athletic team, staying active with friends, or studying for a math test, FIT teaches kids how to fuel their bodies and minds in the cafeteria and beyond. This innovative program brings together culinary demonstrations, nutrition education, and interactive classroom activities along with healthy recipes to help everyone perform at their best and stay ahead of the game.

FIT

fuel.ignite.thrive.



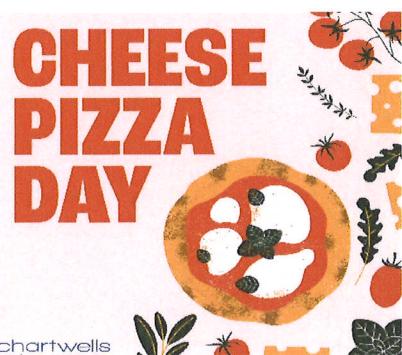
Tuscany Chicken Noodle Bowls

This month schools are being offered potential new meals through Discovery Kitchen. This month is featuring a savory Tuscany Chicken Noodle Bowl which was a big hit!



FUN DAYS THIS MONTH:

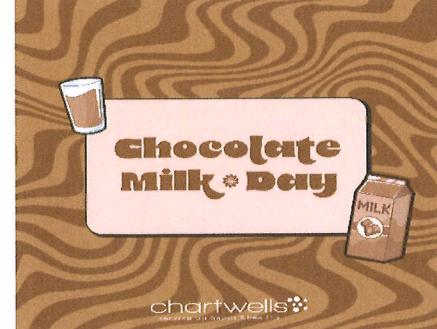
All schools enjoyed a slice of pizza for Cheese Pizza Day



We are excited to celebrate homecoming by participating in the parade on the 25th



Chocolate Milk Day will be enjoyed on the 26th, and we're thrilled to raise our glasses and cheer-olate!



Operations Department

Shatava/Donahue

September 2025

One area we want to bring some transparency to is the breakdown of roles and responsibilities for the directors of operations. With this new system and new breakdown, we wanted to share a one-page breakdown to help inform people of who to contact and connect with if there are issues in the district. Our goal is to give this to all building administrators and operations staff so they have a quick one-page guide to help them direct questions or concerns to the right person. With our goal of improving the Learning Environment, having clear communication and a proactive approach to communication will help. The following is a one-page document that we will be sharing with our administration staff and operations staff across the district.

Director of Operations: Visual Breakdown of Responsibilities

Category Breakdown	Description	Director of Maintenance and Grounds	Director of Custodial Services and Buildings
Report to	Directors Direct Supervisor	Superintendent	Superintendent
Supervises	Directors' Direct Reports for	-General Grounds Tech -General Maintenance Tech -Seasonal Help -Administrative Assistant	-Custodians -Warehouse Coordinator -Admin Assistant
Responsible for	The overarching items each director is responsible for. These are the outside vendors that each director would connect with and be accountable for supporting buildings. Directors would build relationships with vendors, schedule vendors, and take any vendor issues back to them.	HVAC Plumbing Electrical Grounds -Snow Removal -Playgrounds -Mowing Kitchen Equipment	Building Envelope -Roof -Walls -Doors -Windows Fire Panel Monitoring Intercom Furniture
District platforms we are responsible for	These would be the district-level platforms that each director would be the primary person to contact if you had questions about any of the following	-Asset Essentials -Building Automation Settings -Life Safety Devices and Inspections	-Operations Budget -S2-Card Access -REMI-District Equipment breakdown insurance

Note: Each director can support all aspects of our department. This visual is to help give a starting point for people to look at. Each director has a dedicated primary role and a secondary role. The only way our department succeeds is with both directors supporting each other and knowing the workings of all components of operations.

Combined Responsibilities Across the District:

Summer Projects	Construction Projects	Support of Activities	Support all Operations staff
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Equipment Breakdown Insurance (REMI)-

We continue to work on our REMI processes and our relationship with REMI. Over the last month, we have continued to see the benefits of REMI on the Preventive Maintenance side of this insurance, leading to needed repairs and improvements across the district in our HVAC systems. We are also getting a better handle on our wall-to-wall coverage and utilizing REMI more for minor fixes for door hardware, locks, mowers, and other small projects that we used to pay for from our general fund.

Dallas Center Elementary Roof Project-

The final pieces of Metal flashing will be installed by the end of the day on September 19th. On Wednesday, September 24th, we have scheduled the final inspection and walk-through of this project. The operations department would like to thank the staff at Dallas Center Elementary for their flexibility and support throughout this project. They have been amazing to work with and have put up with contractors being on the roof during school hours, which has made this project go very smoothly. We cannot thank them enough for their partnership with us, which enables us to complete this project.

Custodial Department-

The custodial staff at DCG is doing a great job. We are still fully staffed and are implementing some new processes across the district. We have started to test some new cleaning products to help bring more consistency to the chemicals we are using in the district. Our head custodians are continuing to implement and utilize Assett Essentials, our work order platform, to resolve issues in their buildings or report any problems that arise. Our night custodians are doing a fantastic job of getting our building ready for each new school day. We are making changes to our processes to improve efficiencies, and this group is supporting one another and these changes. We are thankful for their willingness to try new approaches to the way we do things.

Asset Essentials-

We have increased our efficiency in using Asset Essentials over the past month. As directors, we are figuring out better ways to use this platform to help improve the communication of work orders. Building staff, administrators, and custodians are doing a great job of entering items into Asset Essentials, and we are now seeing more items getting handled. We hope to continue to improve our work order process, but this first month of school has shown some significant growth in using this work order platform.

Sean Shatava
Director of Maintenance and Grounds

Travis Donahue
Director of Custodial Services and Buildings

Transportation Report



September 2025

Personnel

We were able to cut one specialized route that supported the MS/DCE. We added a dedicated HS route supporting high school students living in the city limits of Dallas Center.

The safe environment on the school bus is the #1 focus again this year. I am happy to report that 98% of kids ride the bus every day without issue. We will continue to have high expectations for kids that ride the school bus. It does take a total team approach to create a safe environment that includes students, school bus drivers, parents, counselors, and school administration. I like our chances with our team!

School Bus Routes

We are in good shape with space on the school buses right now. I think a good balance between efficiency and student comfort is around 85-90% of capacity. Once a bus hits around 95% I start looking at ways to balance out the bus with another bus route. Special and country routes are normally not a capacity issue but rather the amount of time it takes to run the route.

Here is where we are sitting related to capacity on our **41 school bus routes** at this time:

# routes	Type of Route	Capacity
4	In-town	less than 90%
19	In-town	above 90%
8	In-town	above desired capacity
8	Country & SPED	less than 90%
2	Country & SPED	above 90%
41	Total Routes	1,731 students

Fleet Management

We are recommending the sale of one school bus this month. It has been out of service for around six months. It was used on a country route for over 10 years. Though we do try to get more years out of our school buses, the gravel roads cause more corrosion than is feasible to repair given the age and usefulness of the school bus.

I did request bids on a new activity bus and a new (or used) route bus to be delivered in 2026. We will have a recommendation in October to purchase one or both buses.

v/r

Jeff Wolfe, Transportation Director

The DCG Communications department is having a great start to this year. We are so thankful to have the support of our staff, students, and school board. This will be a great year!

DCG Creators - We've had a great summer ramping up our promotion of DCG's Strategic Plan. We introduced the "Creating DCG" series, and we are thrilled with the outcome! Our social media analytics were off the charts, without a single penny being spent. More to come on this front! We are also gearing up for our first "DCG Creator" presentation to district staff members. We will be traveling through the district on Monday, September 22, honoring our staff members who live out our mission statement every single day! This story will be posted online and on social media.

First Day of School Coverage - There is just so much excitement on this day. Here's a [link](#) to our coverage of the first day of school. Here's a [link](#) to the coverage from the first day of preschool. We will bring this excitement to life all year!

Sponsorship Update - We officially sold our "Mustang Package" sponsorship plan. Willis of Granger has installed several different displays, both indoors and outdoors, at DCG High School. This sponsorship package includes \$20,000 over five years to our general fund. I'd like to thank Willis for their partnership and a special shout out to DCG Activities Director Madison Melchert for teamwork! Look for these items at the football complex and gymnasium!

Bond Referendum Update - This coverage will really start to ramp up in the near future. We've developed a [special page](#) on our website to provide timely information. It also includes an option for stakeholders to submit their questions in real time to Dr. Blum. We've already received several questions, and Blum's done an excellent job of responding within 24 hours to the questions. This page will be frequently updated.

New Website - Speaking of our [new website](#), we made several key changes after we launched the new platform. I encourage you to take a look around at all of the new ways we can highlight our district, while also providing our community with the information they need.

Thanks for your support of this incredible district! Check out our social media pages next week as we celebrate Homecoming Week at DCG!

AJ