

Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District

Board Report from Madison Melchert, Activities Director

Date: February 2026

Winter Activities

As we move into February, our winter season continues to reflect the strength of DCG's core values in action. Across athletics and fine arts, our students are competing, performing, and leading with passion, commitment, and pride. Our gyms, mats, performance spaces, and rehearsal rooms remain full of energy, teamwork, and shared purpose as students and staff work together toward postseason opportunities.

- **Boys Basketball** has continued to compete with resilience and focus, currently sitting at 5–4 in Little Hawkeye Conference play and 10–7 overall. This group has shown steady growth throughout the season, highlighted by a quality win over No. 7 Council Bluffs Abraham Lincoln. As they close out conference play, they look ahead to postseason competition with confidence and momentum.
- **Girls Basketball** continues an outstanding season, posting a 9–1 conference record and a 17–2 overall mark. Ranked No. 3 in Class 4A by the IGHS AU, this team exemplifies passion and consistency, competing at a high level night after night while preparing for the postseason.
- **Boys Wrestling** has delivered a historic season built on collaboration and work ethic. After winning their Dual Team State Qualifier, they competed at the IHSAA State Dual Team Tournament for the first time since 2010, finishing sixth and earning the program's first-ever state dual team win. On the individual side, continued success has positioned several athletes well heading into the State Qualifying Meet at Ankeny on February 14.
- **Girls Wrestling** continues to move the program forward, advancing four individual qualifiers to the IGHS AU State Wrestling Tournament. While no podium finishes came this year, the group wrestled hard, represented DCG with pride, and continues to set a strong foundation for the future.
- **Fine Arts Programs**, creativity and innovation continue to shine:
 - **Show Choir** delivered strong performances at Anamosa, advancing to nighttime finals in their third competition of the season.
 - **Large Group Speech** had an exceptional State Contest, advancing 23 groups, with 20 earning Division I ratings and 15 receiving unanimous top scores.
 - **Jazz Choir** hosted the IHSMA State Jazz Choir event, showcasing both outstanding performances and exceptional leadership in hosting, once again putting DCG's best foot forward.
- Our **Johnston Cooperative Programs** remain an important and inclusive opportunity for DCG students:

- **Girls Bowling** wrapped up their season at the State Qualifying Meet, showing steady growth throughout the year.
- **Boys Bowling** continues postseason play with the CIML Conference Meet on February 12 and State Qualifying on February 16.
- **Boys Swimming** recently competed at their State Qualifying Meet and continue to push toward state competition in Iowa City.

Culture & Identity

Our Booster Club continues to play a vital, collaborative role in supporting activities. Over the past month, volunteers came together to host the Cake Auction, Youth Volleyball Tournament, Youth Wrestling Tournament, and Youth Basketball Tournament. These events not only provide essential financial support but also strengthen the connection between our youngest Mustangs and our high school programs. The willingness of families and community members to step in and serve reinforces a culture where students feel supported and valued at every level.

Additionally our Friends of the Fine Arts group has been busy hosting a multitude of events. Their creativity shines through and makes DCG an excellent place to be and compete.

Without the help and support of our DCG families we truly would not be the incredible school we are.

Operations & Finances

This month has included increased collaboration between the Activities Department, Facilities and Maintenance, and the Business Office, particularly as we continue to refine and streamline the facility rental process. This cross-departmental work has helped improve communication, consistency, and efficiency while ensuring our facilities remain safe, well-managed, and welcoming for both school and community use.

We are excited to move forward with planned improvements to the baseball facility this year, including the addition of three new batting cages. These upgrades represent the first phase of a three-stage improvement plan aimed at elevating the baseball program and extending the life of the facility. Future stages will focus on additional enhancements such as new fencing, dugouts, and an updated backstop, aligning the field more closely with the quality of our other varsity athletic spaces.

In addition, we continue ongoing conversations with OPN and district leadership regarding the bond and long-term facility planning. These discussions remain focused on thoughtful, sustainable improvements that support our programs while balancing operational needs and future growth. Michelle and Travis's teams continue to be key partners in this work as we plan strategically for both immediate needs and long-range goals.

Personal Highlight

One of my personal highlights this month has been watching our wrestling community rally together. Both our boys and girls wrestling programs created an exciting and supportive atmosphere throughout the season, especially during postseason events. The energy from teammates, families, and fans was fun to see and truly reflected the pride this community takes in its programs.

Looking Ahead

February brings meaningful postseason opportunities and continued community engagement. We are excited to hopefully host regional events in girls and boys basketball providing our students and community the chance to showcase DCG on a larger stage.

In the fine arts, students will continue a busy stretch of performances and competitions as they bring months of preparation to life. From a department perspective, we will remain focused on refining operations, supporting staff and volunteers, and planning thoughtfully for future facility needs tied to the bond.

Across all areas, our work remains centered on collaboration, passion, innovation, inclusion, and support. Ensuring every student has the opportunity to grow, compete, perform, and feel valued as part of the DCG community.

Madison Melchert

Activities Director

Dallas Center-Grimes High School