



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

VOLUME 25
ISSUE 2
OCTOBER 2025

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

DCG Family,

November 4, 2025, is almost here. Voters in Dallas Center and Grimes will be voting on an \$88 million bond referendum. This project addresses four key areas for improvement at DCG CSD: safety and security, overall district capacity, classroom space and the DCG High School campus.

If passed, the bond referendum will impact all seven of our school buildings, as well as our transportation and operations facilities.



One of my goals throughout this process has been transparency. If you have questions, I will answer them. I've been able to meet with community groups in Grimes and Dallas Center and welcome the opportunity to do more of the same ahead of the vote on November 4. We would also like to

invite our community to the DCG Bond Referendum Town Hall on Tuesday, October 28. Keep an eye out for a link to submit questions for the town hall in the next couple of weeks! Speaking of questions, here are a few that I've been receiving.

How were these projects selected? A proposed 10-year master plan was developed by OPN Architects. Through a feedback process that included community groups, staff groups and DCG administrators, we believe this plan addresses the most pressing facility needs by creating safe and equitable learning environments for all students in our district. (Cont. on Page 2)



CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday, October 8, 15, 22, 29 - 1 pm Dismissal, 12:30 pm Oak View

Friday, October 24 - End of 1st Quarter

Monday, October 27 - No School - Teacher Workday



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Home of the Mustangs



www.dcgschools.com

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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

How can I share my input on what these projects can/will look like? If passed, OPN will move immediately into the official designing phase. This process will include meetings with staff members, administrators and community stakeholders. You can feel confident that your voice will be included!

There looks to be significant construction at DCG High School. Will these interrupt student learning? While our timeline is not 100% complete, we believe there will be limited disruption to our students. The expansion plan will include one new wing at a time, allowing our students to complete their work inside of the building in a typical classroom setting. Our goal is to complete as much of the interior work as possible, during summer and breaks in the school calendar. There are no plans to bring in learning huts (outdoor classrooms) during this project.



We need a new auditorium at DCG High School. Why was this not included in the project? A new auditorium was brought into the conversation very early in this process.

We looked at two potential spaces for a new auditorium, one on the high school campus and one at Oak View. The cost for a project like this ranges between \$30-\$34 million. That price point wasn't going to fit in an \$88 million bond budget. That being said, we are going to provide immediate upgrades to our current auditorium space, including new seats, new lights, and audio/video upgrades. A significant amount of money will be utilized to improve our existing auditorium.



As you learn more about the project, more questions will jump out.

Please use this QR code to visit our bond referendum website to learn more about this project. There's also a form for you to ask any additional questions. This comes right to my inbox!

I appreciate your continued support of our district! Have a great October!

Blum

HIGH SCHOOL



Heart Unit for High School Students - Students in Health I at DCG High School are wrapping up their disease prevention unit with a lesson on heart disease and blood flow. Part of their learning includes diagramming the human heart with sidewalk chalk.

Learning Walks at DCG High School - Teachers at DCG High School are spending a little extra time in the classroom this year, just not their regular room. Educators are participating in Learning Walks, an opportunity for our team to learn from their colleagues. These Learning Walks focus on showcasing teachers who are living out DCG's core values in the classroom. A new group of teachers will participate in this process each month during their planning period! What a cool way to showcase the incredible learning on display at DCG High School.



IOWA SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROFILES RELEASED

Big News at DCG - The Iowa Department of Education has released its 2024-25 Iowa School Performance Profile scores - these profiles are a measure of schools across the state based on several data sources.

- * Dallas Center-Grimes CSD is one of only 23 districts in Iowa to have a school receive an "exceptional" designation.
- * Dallas Center-Grimes CSD placed four schools in the top two categories - "exceptional" and "high performing" - representing the top 20% of scores in the state.
- * As a district, our rating improved by a combined 90.2 points.

Understanding Key Performance Areas

Graduation Rate - DCG's score is 9% above the state average.

Proficiency in Math - DCG's score is 11% above the state average.

Proficiency in English Language Arts - DCG's score is 12% above the state average.

Proficiency in Science - DCG's score is 14% above the state average.

Post-secondary Readiness (college credit) - DCG's score is 21% above the state average.

Chronic Absenteeism - DCG's score is below the state average by 2.8%. These are major milestones for our district! Additional information can be found at DCGschools.com

Yearbook Notes - 1. 2026 grads and parents - Senior, toddler, and baby photos are due to Mrs. Soener (ivy.soener@dcgschools.com) by Friday, December 19. These need to be in JPEG format and should not be screenshots or pictures of pictures. Scan in baby photos if you only have physical copies.

2. 2025 grads and parents - If you don't have a sibling in the building, you will need to pick up your 2024-2025 yearbook at the high school front office.

3. Buy your yearbook now! Scan this QR code to make a purchase for the 2025-2026 high school yearbook today. (Save yourself some money and forgo the signature package - it's not necessary.)

4. Interested in sponsoring the yearbook? Businesses and individuals can reach out to Mrs. Soener to learn about sponsorship opportunities.



OAK VIEW UPDATE

School Board Update - The next DCG School Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 27 in the DCG Administration Office at 5:30. The agenda will be posted at dcgschools.com.

Community Events - Mark your calendars for Tuesday, October 28! Dallas Center-Grimes CSD will be hosting a School Board Candidate Forum and a Bond Referendum Town Hall. These events will be held in the DCG High School Auditorium and will be uploaded to the DCG CSD YouTube page within 24 hours. Additional information will be available in the coming weeks.

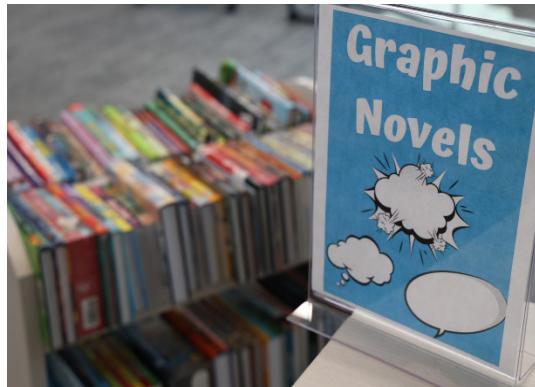
Education Foundation Update - Tickets are Now Available for the 2025 RED Dinner & Auction

Join the DCG Education Foundation for the 8th Annual Raising Education Dollars (RED) Dinner and Auction on November 8th.

Enjoy a delicious meal and a night out with friends or family — all while helping fund scholarships for DCG students pursuing college, trade school, or community college.

The night will include dinner, entertainment, and unique auction items sure to make it a memorable and impactful evening.

Tickets are limited, so reserve yours today at dcgeducation-foundation.org.



Casey's Grant Fuels Reading at Oak View - Dallas Center-Grimes CSD is excited to announce that Oak View is a 2025 Casey's Cash for Classrooms grant recipient. The school received \$4,000 to purchase new graphic novels for the Oak View Library and gain access to a one-year subscription to a graphic novel e-library. This project will help our 7th and 8th grade students by adding hundreds of books to our library and online database. Graphic novels represented 30% of the check-outs in the 2024-25 school year at Oak View.

Graphic novels are now 10% of the overall collection in our library.

National Principals Month - October is National Principals Month and we are so excited to celebrate with our seven incredible leaders! School principals play a vital role in shaping the educational experience of every student, supporting teachers and staff, and strengthening the partnership between school and community. They are instructional leaders, problem-solvers, and advocates for students. They create safe and welcoming environments where learning thrives, where teachers feel supported, and where families know they are valued partners. Please help us celebrate Matthew Blackmore, Joan Cundiff, Jason Snow, Deb Cale, Diann Williamson, April Heitland and Patty Morris!!

THE MUSTANG WAY



The Mustang Way at DCG Middle School - Staff and students at DCG Middle School are uniting under "The Mustang Way" for the 2025-26 school year. "The Mustang Way" has four key pillars - respectful, responsible, safe and kind. By working to display these four attributes every

day, our fifth and sixth grade students are working together to achieve a common goal. These four words will help our students create their futures. Sure, they are words on the middle school wall, but these qualities are woven throughout the building - whether we're in the classroom, hallways, lunchroom, or at recess. We treat others the way we want to be treated, take care of our space and belongings, make choices that keep everyone safe, and look out for one another. Way to go DCG MS!

ELEMENTARY



Class of 2038 - A special thank you to the DCG PTO for donating Class of 2038 t-shirts to our kindergarten students! We are so excited to walk alongside their educational journey in our district! The DCG Class of 2038 will do big things, thanks to our supportive community!



DCG Creators - We are excited to announce our district's new staff recognition project - DCG Creators! A DCG Creator is nominated by a colleague for showcasing one of our core values - Passionate, Inclusive, Supportive, Innovative, Collaborative. Here are the 2025 DCG Creators - September: Deb Cale, Brittany Walker, Kam Bain, Desiree Lozada, Heidi Kuberski, Darla VanKooten, Renae Conway, Sara Cockrum, Shana Olson, Madison Melchert, South Prairie Kindergarten Team, South Prairie Interventionist Team, Elyse Webb, Kristin Clayton, Steve Dean, Bailey Kenneally, Becky Keeling, Diann Williamson, Katelyn Cain, Beth Grose, Chris Adams, Mallory DeLacy and Fog! Visit DCGschools.com to check out our award presentations!



Constitution Day - Constitution Day, September 17, 2025 was a day for students to develop a deeper understanding of the Constitution and how our government works. Sixth grade students in Mrs. Davison's Social Studies class not only read the Constitution, but compared the articles to another countries. Students read the preamble and the articles of the U. S. Constitution, and then they worked in pairs to chose a country to determine governmental differences and similarities. Students learned how different countries focus on different aspects of citizen life. Students found the assignment challenging and eye opening.



September Celebrations - There are two special groups to celebrate this month! September 16 was National IT Professionals Day and we were honored to celebrate four incredibly professionals at DCG. Pictured



(right): Barb Chieves, Eric Meyer, Chris Stammerman and Steven Hopper! September 25 served as National Food Service Workers Day! A special thank you to the team at Chartwells for providing delicious and nutritious meals in the cafeteria!

DCG EBackpack - Looking for a DCG Camp or Clinic? Please visit the DCG EBackpack. This site is updated frequently with development opportunities for our entire community! The DCG EBackpack is available to all students/families. Follow the QR code for additional information!



Rho Kappa Update - The DCG Chapter of the Rho Kappa, the International Social Studies Honor Society, is pleased to announce the election of new officers. From left to right, they include:
Lily Briggeman, Secretary/Treasurer; Elle Wedeking, President; Kayli Reggio, Vice President; and Ethan McConnell, Historian and Media Consultant.

FOFA QR Code



ACTIVITIES



DCG Spirit on Display - School spirit is a real thing at Dallas Center-Grimes. Throughout the month of September, several athletic teams and DCG cheerleaders greeted our elementary students as they arrived at school! Building connections is such an important part of what we do at DCG!

Booster Club Update - The DCG Booster Club proudly awards scholarships each spring to graduating DCG seniors who participate in DCG athletics.

Eligibility requirements:

- * Good conduct and academic standing with DCG Schools
- * Family membership in the DCG Booster Club for at least one full year, including the student's senior year (Deadline to join is October 31, 2025)
- * At least one full season of athletic participation during senior year
- * A minimum GPA of 3.0 ("B" average)

Over \$10,000 in scholarships were awarded last year — will your senior be next? Applications will open in March. Secure your membership at www.dcgboosterclub.com.

DCG Dance Update - Speaking of school spirit, a special shout out to the DCG Dance team for their continued standard of excellence. From competitions to halftime shows, this team has so much talent! We are excited to watch them for the rest of the 2025-26 school year!



FOFA Membership Now Open - Join or renew your FOFA membership for 2025-26! Friends of Fine Arts is DCG's music, drama, art and speech "booster" club. Your dollars provide K-12 kids those extras that the school budget can't always cover, like guest clinicians, inspiring art supplies, and championship contest travel. Speaking of success, our talented students signed up in droves, requiring more new uniforms than expected! Your investment goes directly to the shirts on kids' backs! And if your company matches, please ask about our nonprofit info. Scan the QR code (left) to see the new thank-you gifts for the four membership levels at DCGFOFA.com. Thank you for boosting our fine arts students!



ACTIVITIES

Homecoming at Dallas Center-Grimes - DCG CSD Celebrated Homecoming Week in late September. This is a special week in our district, featuring dress-up days, pep rallies and incredible school spirit! Here are some photos of 2025 Homecoming at Dallas Center-Grimes!!



2025 Homecoming Court - We are excited to showcase the DCG High School 2025 Homecoming Court! Kenna Knief, Emerson McDermott, Brynn Weydert, Rylee Renz, Riley Fox, Hope Fiala, Hunter Quandt, Lars Dodd, Hudson Heidgerken, Charlie Bohnenkamp, Logan Anderson and Javon Russell! A special congratulations to Brynn Weydert and Hunter Quandt who were named DCG's 2025 Homecoming Royalty at our annual coronation in Dallas Center!



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POSTAL CUSTOMER



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Art Showcase - Painting 1 students at DCG High School reviewed art history movements focusing on Fauvism for their first painting. Taylor Gray (right), Karin Danickova (middle), and Frankie Bailey (left) did a great job creating original landscapes with unique color palettes. This will be another incredible year of creativity in all of DCG's art classes.

