



# MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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November 2024

Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

DCG Family,

Let's start with a little transparency. I'm writing this message to you on Tuesday, October 22. We are two weeks from Election Day. Some of you will read this before the votes are tallied and some of you will see it after we've received the final results. Either way, I want you to hear a message of unity from me.



As a former American Government teacher, Election Day also has a special place in my heart. I will continue to exercise my right to vote, an essential part of my duty as an American citizen.

As superintendent of this great district, I am committed to providing a learning environment free of political beliefs. I want Tuesday, November 5 and Wednesday, November 6 to feel like normal school days. There will be significant outside noise, but my focus will be on reading, recess, writing, geometry, school lunch, French, industrial technology, computer science and everything in between. That's what makes us special at DCG.

There's no way for us to predict what will happen in the days and weeks to come, but I have one request for our entire community - kindness. Be kind to your neighbor, to your classmate, to your colleague.

Kindness doesn't need an election. Kindness always wins. Kindness will carry us through. Thanks for your continued support of DCG.

*Dr. Scott Blum* - DCG CSD Superintendent



## CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Tuesday, November 5 - Election Day

November 4, 6, 7 - Parent/Teacher Conferences (PK-8)

Friday, November 8 - No School, Teacher Comp Day

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Home of the Mustangs



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## DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OFFICES

### Elementary Offices

Patty Morris, Principal/South Prairie Elem.

E-mail: patty.morris@dcgschools.com

Telephone Number: (515) 986-4057

Fax Number: (515) 986-4532

500 SW James Street, Grimes, Iowa 50111

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

April Heitland, Principal/North Ridge Elem.

E-mail: april.heitland@dcgschools.com

Telephone Number: 515-986-5674

Fax Number: 515-986-5376

400 N.W. 27th Street, Grimes, Iowa 50111

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Diann Williamson, Principal/Heritage Elem.

E-mail: diann.williamson@dcgschools.com

Telephone Number: (515) 300-9627

Fax Number: (515) 300-9627

500 NE Beaverbrook Blvd., Grimes, IA 50111

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Deb Cale, Principal/Dallas Center Elem.

E-mail: debra.cale@dcgschools.com

Telephone Number: (515) 992-3838

Fax Number: (515) 992-3467

1205 13th Street, P.O. Box 400, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Middle School Office/Dr. Pam Dodge, Interim Principal

E-mail: pam.dodge@dcgschools.com

Telephone Number: (515) 992-4343

Fax Number: (515) 992-4076

1400 Vine Street, P.O. Box 608, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Oak View/Joan Cundiff, Principal

E-mail: joan.cundiff@dcgschools.com

Telephone Number: (515) 986-0105

Fax Number: (515) 986-3155

1300 SW County Line Road, Grimes, Iowa 50111

Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

High School Office/Travis Donahue, Principal

E-mail: travis.donahue@dcgschools.com

Telephone Number: (515) 986-9747

Fax Number: (515) 986-9734

2555 W. 1st Street, Grimes, Iowa 50111

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Transportation Office/Jeff Wolfe, Transportation Director

Email: jeff.wolfe@dcgschools.com

Telephone Number: 515-986-5173

255 SW Jazzwood Dr.

Grimes, IA 50111

Office Hours: 7:00 am - 4:00 p.m.

Central Office/Business Office

Dr. Scott Blum, Superintendent

E-mail: scott.blum@dcgschools.com

Telephone Number: (515) 992-3866

Fax Number: (515) 992-3079

2405 W. 1st Street, P.O. Box 680

Grimes, Iowa 50111

## DISTRICT UPDATES

**Donation Drive** - Thank you DCG community! Your support made the 2024 DCG Clothing and Apparel Drive a huge success! Our students donated 166 pounds of DCG apparel to the Grimes Storehouse and Food Pantry in early October!



They also dropped off 226 pounds of food and \$325! DCG apparel flies off the shelves in the store, so we are so excited to help spread our school spirit with others in our community! A special thank you to the DCG High School and Oak View Student Council for helping lead this project!



### Strategic Plan Update

The DCG Strategic Plan process continues in our district! The work in October was highlighted by a meeting with our DCG Strategic Planning Team. This team read through the feedback from our focus group meetings in September and began to

align our district vision. This feedback was provided by staff, students and parents as we find a new “true north” for DCG. There will be additional avenues for stakeholder feedback in the near future!

### New Fence at North Ridge Elementary -

There's a new addition to the North Ridge Elementary complex. Crews installed a fence that runs the perimeter of the school's recess area. Don't worry, there's still plenty of room for soccer and kickball!

Thanks to the DCG Buildings and Grounds team for their support of this project!



**DCG School Board** - The next DCG School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, November 25 at 5:30 inside the Administration Office Board Room. The agenda and livestream link will be posted at DCGschools.com.

# HIGH SCHOOL



**Local Artist Visits DCG High School** - What an awesome experience for our art students! Local artist Reiko Uchytil stopped by a couple of art classes at Dallas Center-Grimes High School to share her experiences with our students. She worked on a sgraffito project while also answering questions from our artists!



**Random Acts of Kindness** - The Dallas Center-Grimes High School National Honor Society spent an October morning spreading joy! DCG NHS crafted messages of positivity (and a little candy) and shared them throughout the building! There's no better way to start the day!

**Turkey Food Drive** - The DCG High School Student Council's Turkey Drive is underway! Our goal for 2024 is to reach 10,000 points - all food and toiletry items are one point, each dollar is two points. All donations will stay in our community and serve the Grimes Storehouse and the Dallas Center Food Pantry! Between both food pantries, they are serving more than 100 people each month! Donations are accepted through November 26!



## Key Dates at DCG

*Thanksgiving Break - November 27 - December 1*

*Winter Break - December 23 - January 3*

*School Resumes - Monday, January 6*

**DCG Celebrations** - The month of October is certainly a special one when it comes to school celebrations! Here are some of the groups we celebrated with this month:  
10/2 - National Custodian Day  
10/5 - World Teacher Day  
10/6 - National Instructional Coach Day  
10/16 - National Boss's Day  
October - National Principals Month

Thanks to this entire crew for always making a difference at DCG!



**Vanderflught Honored** - DCG High School Teacher Jack Vanderflught received the National Association of Secretary of State Medallion Award at the 2024 Iowa Council for Social Studies Conference. The award showcases Vanderflught's exceptional service and dedication to election education for Iowa's students! Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate presented the award to Vanderflught at the conference this fall. Thanks for your commitment to our students Jack!

## DCG Education Foundation Update

- Watch for your next 50/50 raffle opportunity!

The DCG Education Foundation will be offering another opportunity for you to participate in a 50-50 raffle during one of the upcoming DCG Basketball games and an upcoming DCG Wrestling match.

Money raised from this raffle will be used to fund additional scholarships for our graduating seniors. Thank you to all who've participated in previous raffles this fall.



**Field Trip Learning** - Fourth grade students at North Ridge Elementary traveled to Living History Farms for a fall field trip. Students traveled through three different eras that showcased how farming and life has changed. They also traveled through a model 1900's town to learn more about the jobs of a blacksmith, printer and banker.

**Fall Play** - Act now! Buy your tickets for DCG's Fall Play - Peter and the Starcatcher using the QR code blow!



## FROM OUR BUILDINGS



connection to life outside of DCG proved to be a powerful experience for all of our students!

### DCG SIAC Begins

- DCG SIAC (School Improvement Advisory Committee) held its first meeting of the 2024-25 school year in October. This group is made up of district administrators, building leaders, staff and students. The group provides essential feedback as we align our goals. October's discussion featured professional development updates, DCG assessment data review and key district updates. This is the first of three meetings during the school year.



## OAK VIEW BAND

### Oak View Honor Band

- Oak View Honor Band students put on an incredible performance at a Middle School Honor Band event in Pella. Congratulations to the following students (L to R in the photo) Burke Price, Owen Kleckner, Hannah Cook, Olivia Bennett, Ava Moran, Addison O'Neil and Brynn Senne!



**Oak View Visitors** - Seventh grade social studies classes hosted guest speakers, Samuel and Mariama Menyongar, from Liberia and Sierra Leone. The Menyongars spoke about their experiences surviving civil wars, living as refugees, and supporting others by establishing multiple children's homes and schools. This

# ELEMENTARY



**Taste Testing at DCG** - DCG elementary students are getting a hands-on learning experience in the cafeteria this fall! All four elementary schools are spending time with DCG's Culinary Educator as they work through all five food groups. Each lesson features a new food group and culminates with pizza!! The pizza serving will include all five groups! Thanks to our culinary educator and the team at Chartwells for providing this experience for our students! It's always a fun experience to watch students try a new food for the first time!



**Great Apple Crunch (above) -** DCG celebrated the Great Apple Crunch in our lunchrooms on October 9! Chartwells brought in locally grown apples as part of the lunch menu. Apples, apple sauce, apple salad - lots of options for our children! An apple a day keeps the doctor away!

## Fire Prevention Week (right) -

Thanks to the Johnston-Grimes Fire Department for stopping by DCG during Fire Prevention Week. Our cameras stopped over for the lesson with DCG preschoolers and we got to watch as the crew had to respond to an emergency call! Thanks for your commitment to our community!



## National School Lunch Week

In addition to the Great Apple Crunch, we also celebrated National School Lunch Week (left) in our cafeterias this month. From special lunch options, to prizes, and drawings, we had a lot of fun! Thanks to the team from Chartwells for their

**Field Trips!** - Fall is such a great time for field trips at DCG! We have some special adventures to share with you this month! Preschool students traveled to the Brenton Arboretum and continued their learning about leaves and trees! Second grade students explored the outdoors at Jester Park!



## ACTIVITIES



**Heitland Honored - DCG**  
Football Coach Scott Heitland received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Iowa High School Athletic Association in October. Heitland has been coaching football since 1994, both at the junior high and high school level! The certificate of appreciation recognizes for dedication to students and a passion for coaching! Congratulations Coach Heitland! Thanks for your dedication to DCG!



**Sharing the DCG Spirit** - Several members of the DCG Girls Cross Country team volunteered at the IMT Des Moines Marathon! Our athletes handed out drinks to the runners and shared uplifting messages to ALL of the runners!

**DCG Boys Golf Claims Conference Championship** - The DCG Boys Golf team captured the Little Hawkeye Conference Fall Classic Championship on Monday, October 2. The Mustangs fired a team score of 291, edging second place Norwalk by five strokes. Avery Van Zelderen claimed the individual title with a 69, followed by Gavin Drake in second place with a 71. DCG had four golfers in the top 10. The Mustangs ended their season at the district tournament on October 7.



**Rho Kappa Service Day** - On October 4, the DCG Rho Kappa Chapter of the National Social Studies Honor Society traveled to Osceola to participate in a service day activity. The students worked to help a local non-profit organization who provides free and greatly reduced priced items for those in need throughout Iowa and those as far away as Africa. The work included sorting, testing, cleaning and other various duties. Thanks for giving back to our community Rho Kappa!

**8th Grade Volleyball Recap** - Congrats to the DCG 8th Grade Volleyball team! There were a total of 51 athletes out for the team this year. The girls were divided into six different teams and they finished with a combined record of 43-3! Three of the teams completed an undefeated season!



**DCG DECA** - On November 13, DCG DECA has been invited by Graceland University to participate in a business simulation competition, designed to further prepare students for the upcoming District 3 competition.

# ACTIVITIES



**Back to State** - The DCG Boys and Girls Cross Country teams are heading back to the Iowa High School State Cross Country Meet!

The DCG Girls took home second place in the state qualifying meet and will head back to Fort Dodge. Piper Messerly won the event with a time of 17:51.5. Maddy Stevens (6th), Addison Dooley (10th) and Emily Meyers (15th) all finished in the top 15.



The DCG Boys also finished second place in the state qualifying meet and will run at state for the 11th time in the last 12 years! Elias Arbuckle (5th), Jack Meggison (8th) and Sam Mora (9th) all finished in the top 15 individually. Both teams will run in the Iowa High School State Cross Country Meet on Friday, November 1.



**Division I for DCG Marching Mustangs** - 13 straight! The DCG High School Marching Band earned its 13th consecutive Division I rating at the IHSMA Festival on Saturday, October 19. This was another showcase day for a growing DCG Band program. There are 142 students in the marching band this year, the most in DCG history! Great job Marching Mustangs!!



**Opus Honor Choir** - Twelve Oak View and DCG High School students were recently selected to participate in the 38th annual Opus Honor Choir Festival. We are excited to announce 7th graders Ben New and Lincoln Wager; 8th graders William Schall and Alex Webb (top left); and 9th graders Blaire Ehlert, Archer Ervin, Nathan Fitch, Max Johansen, Zach Kluss, Izzy Powell, Grady Springer, and Baylie Van Der Molen (top right) were selected for this prestigious honor. More than 2,400 students were nominated by their directors across the state of Iowa for 720 positions in the four Opus Honor Choirs. Selections were made after a recorded audition.

The 2024 Opus Honor Choirs will perform at 4:00 p.m. on November 21st in C.Y. Stephens Auditorium in

DallasCenter-GrimesCommunitySchool  
2405 West. 1st St.  
P.O. Box 680  
Grimes, IA 50111

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## POSTAL CUSTOMER



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**Art Spotlight** - Senior Cole Davis (left) made this drawing in Independent Art class with a variety of media. What an amazing illustration of movement and depth! Sophomore Jack Bryant created this chalk pastel (right) in Drawing I. His attention to detail is phenomenal! There is some incredible talent in DCG art rooms!

