



# MUSTANG MONTHLY™

VOLUME 23

ISSUE 3

November 2025

Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.

## 2025 BOND REFERENDUM

**The Vote** - The Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District calls for an election on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 presenting voters with a question to authorize general obligation bonds in an amount to not exceed \$88 million for facility and learning environment upgrades.



**The Projects** - The bond will pay for the majority of multiple phases of a 7-year, four-phase master plan, impact all DCG buildings.

*DCG High School* - Improvements to the exterior of the building. Classroom renovation including CTE, library, labs, auditorium, parking lots, athletic team rooms, concession stands.

*Inclusive Playgrounds* - Upgraded playgrounds at Dallas Center Elementary, DCG Middle School, Heritage, South Prairie and North Ridge.

*Safety Upgrades* - Secure vestibules at Dallas Center Elementary, DCG Middle School and North Ridge Elementary



**The Why** - The district hired OPN Architects to conduct a thorough assessment of our facilities. The findings of these assessments were presented to a facility advisory committee made up of community members, parents, staff, and students. The committee then considered all the needs and prioritized safety and security, the high school campus, overall district capacity and classroom space. The final proposed 10-year master plan will address these most pressing facility needs by creating safe and equitable learning environments for all students in our district.



## CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Tuesday, November 4 - Election Day

November 10, 12, 13 - Parent/Teacher Conferences (PK-8)

Friday, November 14 - No School, Teacher Comp Day

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Home of the Mustangs



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# FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

DCG Family,



There's a reason why the Blum family calls DCG home. The moment we moved here, we felt connected to a community much larger than my wife and three boys. This community helped raise our kids, and it certainly helped me achieve my personal and professional dreams.

Throughout the past six months, I've once again been reminded of how special this community really is.

When we launched the 2025 Bond Referendum Project this summer, I made it a personal goal to meet with anyone, any group, any city that would like to talk about this project and about our district. And thankfully, you all took me up on that offer. I've met with elected officials, community organizations, parents, students, neighbors, friends and so many others.

Your questions furthered my learning. Our conversations explored new ideas. Even before next Tuesday's vote, I can call this entire process a huge success. Together, we connected on something we all agree is the most important thing.... our kids.

The 2025 DCG Bond Referendum will impact every single student in our district. Some of them immediately. Others in a few years. The projects have been carefully selected. Every cent will be used effectively. Together, we will cement DCG CSD as a leader in public education, not only in Iowa but across the Midwest.

There are still a few days before we head to the polls. I'm here to answer any questions you may have. Use this QR Code to visit the DCG Bond Referendum website, where you will find a form that goes directly to my inbox. You can also email me directly - scott.blum@dcgschools.com.

I'm so thankful to be your partner in this work.

*Dr. Scott Blum*  
**DCG Superintendent**



**DCG School Board** - The next DCG School Board Meeting will be held on Monday, November 24 at 5:30 inside the Administration Office Board Room. The agenda and livestream link will be posted at DCGschools.com.

# SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

**School Board Election** - Three seats on the Dallas Center-Grimes School Board are up for election on November 4 .  
Director District 1 - Nick Fiala, only candidate running  
Director District 2 - Monica Malmberg, only candidate running  
Director At-Large - Julie Quandt and Will Rubel, running for one director seat.

Dallas Center-Grimes CSD  
School Board Candidate - District 1



Nick Fiala

Dallas Center-Grimes CSD  
School Board Candidate - District 2



Monica Malmberg

Dallas Center-Grimes CSD  
School Board Candidate - At-Large



Julie Quandt

Will Rubel

## Election Information (below)



## Key Dates at DCG

*Thanksgiving Break* - November 26 - November 30

*Winter Break* - December 22 - January 4

*School Resumes* - Monday, January 5

## Essential Learning at Oak View

**View** - Seventh grade students at Oak View participated in their annual bullying and harassment lesson. This unit is provided on an annual basis to students in 3-8 grade. Dr. Greg Carenza (DCG Associate Superintendent) and Dr. Gail Callahan (DCG's External Investigator) lead the students through a conversation focused on creating a connected community through kindness and respect.



**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!

**Yearbook Update** - Did you forget to order a 2024-2025 high school yearbook? There are extras available! Please email Mrs. Soenner to buy yours today (ivy.soenner@dcgschools.com).

**From the PTO** - A big thank you to CCS Homes for being the Presenting Sponsor of this year's Glow Run Fundraiser! Their generous support helps ensure this event is a success for our students and schools. Stay tuned—details about this year's fundraiser will be shared with families soon!



**Lost and Found** - Now is a great time to check for your missing gear in DCG lost and founds at all seven buildings! The changing temperatures mean more clothes are coming to school each day! Encourage your student/s to grab their items soon!



**Middle School Field Trip -** Field trip season is in full swing at DCG! 5th graders from DCG Middle School spent time at Voas Prairie in late September. Learning about the outdoors and getting up close and personal with butterflies (above) were the favorites! We love creating these memories with our students!



**Fourth Grade to Living History Farms -** Speaking of field trips, fourth grade students at North Ridge Elementary traveled to Living History Farms to experience how agriculture has changed over time. They also toured a historic drug store, doctor's office and a mansion! These experiences connect directly to our learning in the classroom!

## FROM OUR BUILDINGS



**Homecoming Food Drive -** Thanks to your incredible support, the 2025 Homecoming Food Drive was a huge success!! 1,354 pounds of food and 27 pounds of clothing were donated to the Grimes Storehouse Food Pantry and the Dallas Center Food Pantry!



**Fire Prevention Week -** DCG CSD would like to thank our friends at the Johnston-Grimes Fire Department for their commitment to community safety! As part of Fire Prevention Week, local firefighters visited several of our buildings to promote fire safety at school and at home!

## OAK VIEW UPDATE

**Delicious Learning at Oak View -** Sometimes learning experiences involve a delicious treat! 7th grade social studies students at Oak View are learning about the role food plays in different cultures around the world! DCG's Culinary Educator made Cuban sandwiches to enhance student learning!



**Non-Discrimination Statement** - It is the policy of the Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. In addition, the Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District is required by Title IX and its implementing regulations not to discriminate on the basis of sex and this requirement extends to admission and employment. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy contact Dr. Greg Carenza, Associate Superintendent of School Improvement, 2405 W. 1st Street, Grimes, IA 50111, Telephone: (515) 992-3866, Email: greg.carenza@dcgschools.com

Director of the Office for Civil Rights, Denver Office, U.S. Department of Education, Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Building, 1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 310, Denver, CO 80204-3582. Telephone: (303) 844-5695, Facsimile: (303) 844-4303, TDD:(800) 877-8339. Email: OCR.Denver@ed.gov

## DCG UPDATES



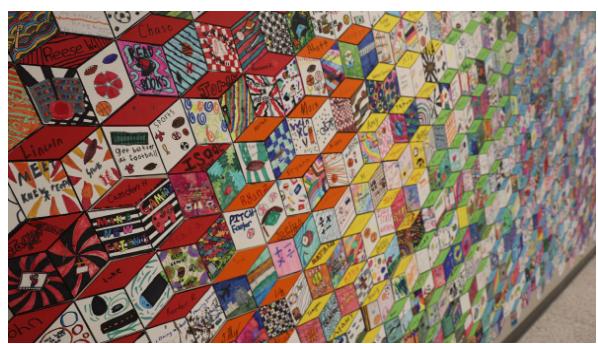
**Wellness Events at DCG** - Several DCG school buildings participated in the Healthiest State Walk on October 1. We walked alongside kindergarten and 1st grade students at North Ridge Elementary. This event is part of Iowa's Healthiest State Initiative. It also works in partnership with DCG CSD's Wellness Committee. This group is made up of DCG



staff members, parents and students! We are always looking for new members to provide ideas and feedback regarding wellness at DCG! Reach out to [kristin.clayton@dcgschools.com](mailto:kristin.clayton@dcgschools.com) if you'd like to join the team! Speaking of healthy kids and communities, DCG also participated in the Great Apple Crunch of Wednesday, October 8. Apples were on the menus in DCG cafeterias. This event celebrates Iowa farmers, healthy kids and strong communities! Thanks for your support of wellness initiatives at Dallas Center-Grimes CSD!



**Kluender Receives Grant** - A special shout out to Pamela Kluender (DCG High School GT Teacher) for receiving a 2025 Voya Unsung Heroes award! Kluender is one of 50 finalists from across the United States. She was awarded \$2,000 to help facilitate her project "Meeting the Unique Needs of Gifted Students" - and will empower her students through the use of enhanced computer resources and career exploration opportunities!



**Middle School Art** - Make time to check out this incredible mural at DCG Middle School! Students designed squares that featured their hopes and dreams for the year ahead!



**Rules and Laws in Our Community -**  
Second grade students at North Ridge Elementary wrapped up a unit focusing on rules and laws in our community. Our learners presented their work to classmates and building staff in October! Their projects included research, ideas and consequences for not following the law!



**Launch Day** - Launch day is always an impactful event for 8th grade students at Oak View. Students are measuring height, weight, speed, size, angle and so much more! These measurements play a key role in their learning experiment.



**Club Season at Oak View** - Students at Oak View are building a lasting connection to their school! The Oak View Mural Club launched in the fall of 2025 and they were tasked with creating a mural on one of the main hallways in the building. The project will be completed this fall!

## Oak View Band Update

8th Grade Band - The 8th-grade students began the school year with an "Intro to Marching Band" unit. In this unit we learned to march in formation, how to hold our instruments for marching band, and how to play and march at the same time. We wrapped up our marching band unit by marching in the Homecoming Parade.

7th Grade Band - Students have been learning how to play as an ensemble with good timing and listening skills. We are planning to perform at the Veterans Day Program and our Winter Concert, Monday, January 12, 2025.



SCIBA Middle School Honor Band - The South Central District Middle School Honor Band on Tuesday, November 4 at Ankeny Centennial High School student participants include: Owen Ouveron, Alison Stone, Emma Fasse, Lily Weeden, Jameson Klaus, Brogan Spooner, Tenley Peterson (photos above + below).



## ACTIVITIES



**State Golf Update** - The DCG Boys Golf team made history in the 2025 season! The Mustangs made the first trip to the Class 4A State Tournament in school history! Not only did they make the tournament field, they finished 6th place, with a team score of 617. The Mustangs were paced by Drake Jordan (T8) and Jackson Zeller (T10). The Class 4A State Tournament was played at Hyperion Field Club in Johnston on October 13 and 14. This year sets the stage for a big year in 2026, the top six golfers are all back next season! Great year, Mustangs! There's a State Golf Photo Gallery available at [Mustangs.DCGschools.com](http://Mustangs.DCGschools.com).



**Rho Kappa Trip** - The DCG Chapter of Rho Kappa traveled to Osceola to participate in a day of service. Students filled a variety of roles, including preparing bags for the homeless and helping sort and organize items for others in need. The students' work helped people throughout Iowa and, in some cases, as far away as Africa.

**From the DCG Booster Club** - Fall seasons have come to an end and with that, we'd like to thank all of the volunteers who have supported the DCG Booster Club concession stands by working this season! Volunteers helped us fill more than 325 slots at Football and Volleyball events, grades 7-12. We had more than 250 unique volunteers! We welcomed many new faces to the stand, and hope to see many more in the coming season. Follow along on our social media to see volunteer needs each week, or visit [www.dcgboosterclub.com/volunteer](http://www.dcgboosterclub.com/volunteer).



**From the Editor** - The November Mustang Monthly was delivered in late October, due to the November elections. This impacted our coverage of the DCG Fall Activities calendar. We will provide additional updates online and in the December Mustang Monthly. Thanks for supporting our students!

# ACTIVITIES



**Jackson Wins 400th Game** - A special congratulations to DCG Volleyball Coach Meg Jackson for winning her 400th game as head coach! Jackson reached the milestone on October 14, after her team picked up a victory in Newton! This has been a special season for Coach Jackson and the Mustangs. They earned the top seed in the Class 4A Region 4 bracket. They started their postseason run on Thursday, October 23, with the regional final scheduled for Tuesday, October 28. The 2025 State Volleyball Tournament begins on November 3. We will provide an update in our December Mustang Monthly.

**DCG Theater Presents..... The Wizard of Oz** - The 2025 DCG High School Fall Musical will be a must see event! Make plans to catch The Wizard of Oz at DCG High School from November 7-9! The QR code below will take you to the ticket link! Grab your spots before they are gone! There are 103 students involved in the cast and crew this year (plus 28 DCG 4th graders acting as munchkins)! These students have been working on this production for several months and you will walk away from



their performance thoroughly impressed! Showtimes are set for Friday, November 7 at 7:00, Saturday, November 8 at 7:00 and Sunday, November 9 at 2:00. \*If DCG is playing in a playoff football game on 11/7, that show will be postponed to Saturday 11/8 at 2:00. Follow the Yellow Brick Road with our talented students in early November!



**Heitland/James Receive Recognition** - Congratulations to Scott Heitland (DCG Football Coach) and Dan James (DCG Girls Soccer Coach) for receiving the state of Iowa's nomination for their respective National Federation of State High School Association's Coach of the Year! This is a tremendous honor for Scott and Dan. Not only does it showcase their dedication to DCG, but their commitment to the growth of all DCG student athletes! Both coaches are now in the running to be their sport's NFSHSA National Coach of the Year! We are lucky to have both at DCG! Thanks for serving our students!



**Oak View Volleyball** - Congratulations to the 8th Grade Volleyball team on a successful season! 48 players were on the team this year. They were divided into six different teams, and together they compiled a 15-1 record! The future of volleyball at DCG is looking bright!

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## POSTAL CUSTOMER



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**Art Spotlight** - Sculpture students created a tunnel book using a variety of media to tell a story. Senior Lilly Derry's art (right) takes us back to the 90's, while sophomore Hailey Swanson's art (left) depicts a current game storyline. Not only are these projects enjoyable to view, they show our students' abilities to use critical thinking skills such as analysis, problem solving, and creativity.

