

Staff Commendations

June 2025

I want to thank the sped associates & teachers for coming together the last month & covering each other! I appreciate our team at DCE! You rock!

-Kerri Hoover

Thank you to Blum and Greg who put in countless hours to make DCG great. I see everyday the professional and personal commitment you give to students, staff, and families and I am always amazed. DCG is lucky to have you both leading us.

-Deanna Sandegren

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Steven Hopper, Sean Shatava, and Paige Elsbernd for their dedication and hard work in planning, executing, and navigating the complex submission process for the SLFRF Safety Grant Funds. Through their efforts, our District secured \$335,171.25 in federal funding, which was used to enhance safety and security through the installation of security cameras and servers, fencing, and bollard barriers. Each of these individuals devoted countless hours to preparing the required documentation, significantly contributing to the safety and well-being of our entire District community.

-Michelle Wearmouth

A huge shoutout and a big thank you to Melissa Chew, Griffin Kopecky, Nathan Carmen, and Jorge Maldonado for all your help taking down and moving my classroom while I was on leave for double knee replacement surgery. Thank you for all your hard work and heavy lifting, it is appreciated more than you will know.

-Amanda Christiansen

Sara Jones: I would like to commend Sara Jones for leading our PLC team this past school year. She leads with compassion, is a great listener, and provides direction for our team. She is also very willing to answer questions and help out when needed. I greatly appreciate Sara and look forward to our work together in the fall.

-Holly Foarde

Ashley Kolum: I would like to commend Ashley Kolum for her work in teaching Peer Art to the students in the Level 3 classroom this past school year. She contacted me for ideas on activities for the students and really went above and beyond to provide activities appropriate for the students. She also selected wonderful peers to work with our students. I greatly appreciate her work this past school year.

-Holly Foarde

Kyler Olsen: I would like to commend Kyler Olsen for his work in teaching Peer PE to the students in the Level 3 classroom this past school year. He went above and beyond to select appropriate activities for our students, and partnered them with wonderful peers for our students to interact with. I greatly appreciate his work this past school year.

-Holly Foarde

Pam Dodge: I would like to commend Dr. Pam Dodge for her work as the DCG Middle School Principal this past school year. Her leadership, compassion, direction, and sense of humor really guided our work this year. I am confident this work will continue. I wish her all the best in the future.

-Holly Foarde

I would like to extend gratitude to the following substitute teachers that helped at North Ridge for extended periods of time this year. Jenn Dunker, Brooke Holste, Jeanne Peters, Mary Schaeffer, Rebecca Skow, Lisa Tekippe and Jessica Peterson. These are not the only subs that help us on a daily basis, but were ones that helped us throughout the year in long term capacity. We would not have been able to have such a successful year without them.

-April Heitland

Thank you to Heidi Kuberski for all she did for the staff at North Ridge this school year. She worked closely with staff and students and stepped in when needed.

-April Heitland

Thank you to Adam Jones and Brandon Fitch for their leadership in our MTSS-B work. They have been instrumental in making sure we are working to make North Ridge a place for all students!

-April Heitland

Thank you to Shana Olson for always stepping in and helping at North Ridge. She has made it possible for me to step away and watch my own children in their activities. She is a servant leader and always helps out!

-April Heitland

Thank you to Greg Carenza for all of the work he has done this year to put systems in place for ISASP, Wellness, MTSS-B, Bullying and Harassment to name just a few. His systems level thinking is greatly appreciated.

-April Heitland

Thank you to the PLC leaders at NR- Sarah Irlmeier, Emma Hartman, Molly Reed, Michael Krause, and Sarah Hinrichs for their leadership this past year. You facilitated your teams and kept us focused on our students!

-April Heitland

Thank you to Renae Conway for all of the work she did this year at NR and HE to ensure all of our students are getting exactly what they need!

-April Heitland

A shout out to Deb Cale, Patty Morris, and Diann Williamson for being such a supportive team!

-April Heitland

Thank you to Dr. Pam Dodge for all she did this year for the staff and students at DCGMS. Her experience and expertise will be missed!

-April Heitland

Thank you Rox for putting great systems and supports together for our student services team! You are the best!

-April Heitland

Congratulations to Avery Nabholtz for her May DCE 3rd and 4th grade concerts! Great job! The students sounded amazing! What a way to end your first year in DCG!!

-Deb Cale

A big shout out to Jenn Haack for the calm, supportive way she has been stepping in to help with challenging student behaviors across the preschool classrooms. Her presence has made such a difference—for both the students and the teachers. The way she helps students regulate and return to learning is truly appreciated. Thanks, Jenn, for being such a steady and compassionate support!

-Deb Cale

A big thank you to Shana Olson for all the curriculum support she has provided to our teachers throughout the year. Thanks to her dedication and guidance, we've had an incredible first year of implementation. We truly appreciate her expertise and partnership!

-Deb Cale

A big thank you to Jeff Wolfe for his collaboration and consistent support in helping make bus experiences positive for our students. Your efforts help make a difference in creating a safe and welcoming environment from the moment students begin and end their day. We appreciate all you do!

-Deb Cale

A big thank you to Stephanie Birmingham for all the behind-the-scenes support she provides to help set our preschool team up for success. Her organization, collaboration, and attention to detail make such a difference as we get ready for another great year. Stephanie - We're so grateful for all you do!

-Deb Cale

A big shout-out to Steph Madsen at DCE for the incredible support she has shown to staff, students, and families throughout the year. Her kindness, consistency, and smiles have truly made a difference. Steph - Thank you for helping make this a great year at DCE—we appreciate you!

-Deb Cale