



Dallas Center-Grimes Community School Mustang Monthly



“Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Futures”

Volume 19, Issue 8

March 2017

Online School Registration for 2017-18 Opens March 1 for All Students



Families with students currently enrolled at DCG will need to use their parent portal account to access online registration. Parents will be able to add a student to their account if they have a child that will be entering preschool and/or kindergarten for the first time.

Preschool Families - Please register incoming preschool students for next year between March 1 – March 18. If you are not registered by March 18, there is no guarantee that your child will have a spot.

* If you have a child that will be 4 on or before September 15, 2017, register for Prek 4. (4 year old preschool will be taken until all spots are filled)

* If you have a child that will be 3 on or before September 15, 2017, register for Prek 3. (3 year old preschool will be filled by a random drawing)

Kindergarten Families - Please register incoming kindergarten students for next year between March 1 – March 18 so we can have an accurate count for Kindergarten Roundup.

* If you have a child that will be 5 on or before September 15, 2017, register for Optional Kindergarten or Kindergarten.

New families to the DCG district please follow the steps online.

Visit www.dcgschools.com to begin the registration process.

NOTE: You will not pay fees until July 1. Look for a school messenger notice this summer as the date nears.

School Schedule at a Glance

Wednesday, March 1 - 1:00 p.m. Early Dismissal for Staff Professional Development

Tuesday, March 7 - 2:30 p.m. Early Dismissal for Parent Teacher Conferences

Thursday, March 9 - 2:30 p.m. Early Dismissal for Parent Teacher Conferences

Friday, March 10 - Friday March 17 - No School for Spring Break

Wednesday, March 29 - 1:00 p.m. Early Dismissal for Staff Professional Development

Parent Teacher Conferences

Tuesday, March 7 and Thursday, March 9 – 2:30 p.m. dismissal with conferences held from 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Business Fair Coming in April!

Dallas Center-Grimes will hold their fourth Business/Employee Benefit and Resource Fair on Monday, April 24. Our goal is to connect our employees with our business community. This gives you the opportunity to grow your business and interact with over 350 prospective clients!

We ask that you provide a benefit for our staff, such as discounts at your business, freebies, a drawing for goods or services, or providing a service during the fair for DCG employees. If your business is interested in participating, please contact Chris Thomas at cthomas@dc-grimes.k12.tx.us or 515-992-3866.

Mustang Monthly Highlights

Annual Progress Report	3
Professional Development	5
Mustang Golf Tourney	6
Preschool Registration	7-8
High School/Meadows/Middle School News	9-13
DECA Qualifies for State	10
Large Group Speech Receives All-State Honors	11
Elementary News	14
Kindergarten Sign Up	15
Breakfast/Lunch Menus.....	18
Activity Calendar	19

DCG Mission Statement: Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Futures!

The Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District is committed to developing positive, productive, and responsible citizens who are independent thinkers, value themselves and others, and have the knowledge, skills, and desire to be life-long learners. Excellence in education comes from setting high expectations for all and providing the resources needed for every student to excel.

SchoolMessenger Notification Service

The Dallas Center-Grimes School District is using SchoolMessenger as its Parent Notification system, a leading provider of notification services for parent outreach, emergency broadcasts, and other communications for education. The SchoolMessenger system is designed to automatically notify parents for reasons that impact the safety and academic performance of students. SchoolMessenger will allow us to enhance our communication with additional features, such as text messages and individual parent control of who receives messages and how they are received.

Iowa Sex Offender Registry

Many communities in Iowa, including Dallas Center and Grimes, have residents living in the community that are on the Iowa Sex Offender Registry. We are aware of residents living in Grimes and in Dallas Center that are on the sex offender register, although we no longer receive any official notification. We want to make you are aware of the situation so you can discuss it with your child(ren).

The sex offender register is available online at <http://www.iowasexoffender.com/>. Parents are encouraged to be aware of this information by accessing this website. If you do not have access to the Internet, or need assistance in accessing this information, please contact 992-3866. If you are unable to access this information, we will provide the information verbally or send copies of the information in the mail.

Please be aware that this notification is to serve only as a means for the public to protect themselves. Any action taken by anyone against these individuals, including vandalism of property, verbal or written threat of physical harm, or physical assault against these individuals or their family can result in arrest and prosecution.

Nondiscrimination Statement

Students, parents, employees and others doing business with or performing services for the Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District are hereby notified that this school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), or socio-economic status (for programs) in admission or access to, or treatment in, its programs and activities or hiring and employment practices. Any person having inquiries concerning the school district's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), §504 or Iowa Code §280.3 is directed to contact: Michelle Wearmouth, 1414 Walnut St. Suite 200, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063, telephone: 515-992-3866, who has been designated by the school district to coordinate the school district's efforts to comply with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the ADA, §504 and Iowa Code §280.3.

Student Assistance Program

Free, confidential program for DCG students! The Student Assistance Program has counselors available 24 hours/day and seven days a week for a phone consultation and extensive hours for in person sessions. A student and/or their parents can make the contact that allows for three visits per year per issue. Call 515-244-6090.

Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District Offices

Elementary Offices

Patty Morris, Principal/South Prairie Elementary Bldg.

E-mail: pmorris@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us

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. Building

E-mail: ahaitland@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us

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/Dallas Center Elem. Bldg.

E-mail: dwilliamson@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us

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

Jerry Hlas, Principal

E-mail: jhlas@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us

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.

Meadows Office

Lori Phillips, Principal

E-mail: lphillips@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us

Telephone Number: (515) 986-0105

Fax Number: (515) 986-3155

2555 W. 1st Street, Ste. 200, Grimes, Iowa 50111

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

High School Office

Scott Blum, Principal

E-mail: sblum@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us

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.

Central Office/Business Office

Scott Grimes, Superintendent

E-mail: sgrimes@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us

Telephone Number: (515) 992-3866

Fax Number: (515) 992-3079

1414 Walnut Street, Suite 200, P.O. Box 512

Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

2015-16 Annual Progress Report

The Annual Progress Report is a report of our school district's achievement for the previous school year. This can be viewed at www.dcgsschools.com. In addition, we will provide information throughout the school year in the Mustang Monthly. This month, we are reporting reading data.

Chapter 12 Improvement Goals Reading

Long-Range Goals: All reading programs and services will effectively and efficiently support and increase student learning, achievement, and performance.

2015-2016 School Year Annual Goal: Trend data shows that the percentage of students that are proficient and above decrease as students move from 7th grade to 8th grade in reading comprehension. In 2014-15 the data shows that the percent of students proficient and above in 7th grade reading comprehension is 84.1% or 148/176 as measured by the Iowa Assessments. For the 2015-16 school year, the total percentage of students who are proficient and above in reading comprehension as measured by the Iowa Assessments for 8th grade will increase.

Was the Annual Goal Met? No

Supporting Data to demonstrate that the district has or has not met its goal: In 2014-2015, 84.1% of our seventh grade students were proficient and above in reading comprehension according to the Iowa Assessments. In 2015-2016, the percentage of eighth grade students proficient and above in reading comprehension on the Iowa Assessments was 79.4%.

The plan to meet future goals includes the following: The action plan to meet future goals is to provide additional assistance for students who are not proficient in Reading in Iowa assessments or classroom assessments. This includes giving SRI to all students as a screener at the beginning of the school year. We will determine non-proficient students and see if they are receiving services. If so, we will continue interventions. If not, we will add to watch list or have them retake SRI in a month. If the students are not showing growth in a month, we will run QRI/BRI to check diagnostics and see if an intervention is needed.

2016-2017 School Year Annual Goal: Trend data shows that the percentage of students that are proficient and above decrease as students move from 7th grade to 8th grade in reading comprehension. In 2015-16 the data shows that the percent of students proficient and above in 7th grade reading comprehension is 88.6% or 178/201 as measured by the Iowa Assessments. For the 2016-17 school year, the total percentage of students who are proficient and above in reading comprehension as measured by the Iowa Assessments for 8th grade will increase.

Reading 2nd Assessment: Elementary Level Reading Assessment: Reading comprehension is also measured in the elementary in grades K-5 by the Leveled Reading Assessments. The district determines an expected level of reading for each grade. During the 2011-12 school year the accuracy expectations for these assessments were raised for all students from 90% to 95%. For Kindergarten students the end of the year reading level was also raised to from Level B to C. Individualized reading assessments are given to each student. These assessments help teachers determine the level of text that a student should be using when working directly with the teacher, the instructional level. It also determines the independent reading level for each student. When a student reaches the grade level expectation, the student is considered to be proficient. In the 2014-2015 school year we gave the aReading portion of the Formative Assessment System for Teachers. This is a comprehensive measure that we gave in grades 2-5. We also gave this in the 2015-2016 school year, however the criteria for proficiency was raised from Spring 2015 to Spring 2016 in grades 2-5.

	Spring 2011 New Baseline	Spring 2012	Spring 2013	Spring 2014	Spring 2015	Spring 2016
K	81%	95%	88%	95%	-	-
1	85%	86%	92%	85%	-	-
2	85%	91%	86%	93%	78%	76%
3	85%	93%	92%	96%	91%	78%
4	87%	96%	92%	93%	91%	80%
5	92%	85%	93%	91%	87%	81%

Scholastic Reading Inventory Data: Scholastic Reading Inventory is a research-based, computer-adaptive reading assessment for Grades K-12 that measures students' level of reading comprehension and reports it using the Lexile Framework for Reading. The data provided help educators identify struggling readers, plan for instruction, gauge the effectiveness of the curriculum, and demonstrate accountability.

Year / 6th Grade	Below Basic	Basic/Proficient	Advanced
2014-15	3%	42%	55%
2015-16	7%	38%	55%

Year / 7th Grade	Below Basic	Basic/Proficient	Advanced
2014-15	3%	48%	49%
2015-16	4.9%	41.3%	53.9%

Board Commendations

- I feel that Mr. Travis Donahue, Mrs. Cindy Bassett and Mr. Scott Blum are deserving of a board commendation. Early this semester, after the retirement of one of our deans in the high school building, these three have stepped up on so many levels! Not only have they stepped up to help kids with various needs, from an academic, personal, and emotional standpoint, but they have also been helping kids continue to excel with NHS, silver cord, and the day-to-day grind of their naturally challenging schedules. Ms. Baker had left a big set of shoes to fill, and all three of these educators have stepped up to make sure kids don't suffer on account of being a little shorthanded. Their work has not gone unrecognized by the high school staff, who see their exemplary work on a daily basis. I think it would only be appropriate for the board to also recognize these DCG educators for stepping up, rolling up their sleeves, and getting to work when the work needs to be done. - Respectfully submitted, Mike Burgher
- Thank you to Kathy Fistler, our Nurse at the High School and Meadows Buildings. Mrs. Fistler builds strong relationships with students, colleagues, and parents, working hard every day to take care of our kids. We are so fortunate to work with Kathy! - Cindy Bassett
- I would like to commend Ashley Sloan, 3rd grade teacher at North Ridge. Ashley does a lot of work for our grade level as our PLC representative, serves as our writing curriculum rep, represents us on the district ESL team, plus she has started the DCG High School Dance Team this year. I am thinking of her especially at this time of the year as she just spearheaded and organized our school-wide service project. Through her efforts we donated over 1700 items to Grimes families in need. All items benefited the food pantry at the Methodist Church. Ashley is a young teacher with a heart for others. She is such a fabulous role model to her students and to those of us who work with her. I think she deserves a shout-out! Thanks! - Jayna Gossling
- Travis Wilkins deserves thanks for helping to support our technology team at DCG. The hours he has dedicated to our staff help us to utilize the technology purchased by our district. Also, we appreciate him providing learning around Chrome abilities for the DCE teachers. - Diann Williamson
- Stacy Heidemann deserves thanks for always being a teacher leader! She provides support to our building in so many ways: BLT member, PLC Team Leader, IPI member, mentor and leader of technology. I can always count on her to volunteer to cover a duty, lead a professional development group, or try something new. I admire how she consistently serves others! - Diann Williamson
- I would like to congratulate high school special education teachers, Sara Sonius, Josh Saba, and Jeff Cain, on the One Classroom at a Time grant they received from Channel 5 and Bankers Trust for \$1,000 to support starting a school store for students with special needs to work at during the school day to gain valuable vocational skills for post-secondary life. Their hard work, dedication, and continued efforts to improve educational opportunities for students with special needs is extraordinary and a true reflection of #dcgexcellence! - Angela Dvorak

2016-2017 Drivers Education for Dallas-Center Grimes High School and Meadows

We will continue to offer four sessions of driver's education each year, if we have enough interest. The cost at the present time is \$320 for each session. Fees for out of district students are \$375. Students must be at least 14 years old and have a permit to sign up, as well as a signed parent permission slip. Students in grades 8-12 may sign up for each session. Usually the fall and spring session are the busiest. Please call the Meadows school office at 986-0105 to sign up your child for any of these programs. All payments and permission slips should be made or turned in before the first classroom. Payment plans may be arranged with the office. Below you will find information about each remaining session.

Spring Session 2017- The spring session will begin after spring break and end in May. There will be a meeting before spring break to hand out information and collect payment. Classroom days are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 6:45 to 8:00 a.m. Most students will drive during their study hall times. If this can't be worked out, before or after school driving may be arranged. All students who drive during study halls will drive at least once on Saturday for 2 hours in downtown Des Moines. Shuttle bus service from Dallas Center will also be available in the morning to bring students in early for classroom work. Class size is limited to 40 students. Home school students are welcome. Classrooms will be held in the Meadows Media Center.

Summer Session 2017- Our summer program is held during the months of June and July. Class time will begin Monday, June 5 and end on Friday, June 23. Classes will be every day for the first three weeks from 7:00-9:00 a.m. Driving times will be (6) two-hour periods with a driving partner (example: a student might drive from 9:00-11:00 a.m. on a Monday). Driving times will be scheduled until 3:30p.m. and may also be on a Saturday. If you live in Grimes, your child may be picked up at a central location such as Casey's, True Value, or Kum and Go, and then be dropped off there when the driving lesson is over. This needs to be prearranged with the instructor. Driving groups will be able to change times with other groups if necessary. Students will draw numbers for driving times the first day of class. They will choose their own driving partner and driving times. Class size is limited to 48 students. Home school students are welcome.

Custodian Corner

The DCG school buildings are used on a regular basis during the week and on weekends for school and public events. We have beautiful facilities, and we would like to keep them that way. Please be mindful when you are in the buildings by following the rules, keeping it clean, respecting the property and equipment, and behaving in appropriate manners. It takes all of us in this great community to keep our schools in outstanding condition.

Dallas Center-Grimes ESOL Program

As the Dallas Center-Grimes School District grows, it also continues to become more diverse. This diversity is reflected in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program. The ESOL program exists to serve students who speak, or come from households that speak, one or more languages other than English. Currently 46 students in our district are identified as English Learners (ELs). These 46 students represent 13 languages and 14 countries. In comparison, just four years ago there were only 17 students in the ESOL program. Harka Biswa is a full time ESOL teacher working with students at Northridge, South Prairie and DCG High School. Also working part time with EL students are LaRee Hawks at the high school and Diane Messerli at Dallas Center Elementary and the middle school. Most students see their ESOL teacher each day for 20-44 minutes. The focus of the instructional time varies between listening, speaking, reading and writing English, depending on the individual students' needs. New this year is the Newcomers program. This program is for students new to the U.S. or those who do not speak English. The Newcomers program allows for more time and intensive work to help students gain basic English skills quickly. Research shows that it takes an average of 5-7 years to become proficient in a language. DCG students' English proficiency is assessed annually. During the 2015-2016 school year, 7 students scored at the proficient level and no longer receive direct services. These achievements are a result of the hard work of the students as well as the efforts of ESOL teachers, classroom teachers and all other school personnel that assist English Learners.

Dallas Center-Grimes Preschool Night

Dallas-Center Grimes pre-k students and their families enjoyed dance night in January. The gym was filled with energy and happiness as our families danced and laughed while a professional DJ played invigorating music. Families also enjoyed cookies supplied by parents, and they were able to take selfies at a special location! Art was displayed so parents could see the creativity of their child.

Professional Development

By: Greg Carenza

Spring is near, and with recent warm spells with temperatures in the mid-to-high 50s; it can be hard to think that we haven't even yet reached spring break! As I write this article, I am finalizing details for our upcoming February full day in-service for all DCG teachers and staff. I think this in-service will be made even more challenging as weather forecasts are calling for temperatures to be near 64 degrees. Those are the times when you would (and should) rather be outside washing the car, taking a walk, or resting and relaxing! But, for now, I would like to keep focused on sharing more about our district professional development. Last month, I started by sharing two of the "10 Things Teachers Want for Professional Development." This month I would like to continue that by sharing two more thoughts with you. The third thing that teachers want for professional development (PD) is to be a part of learning that they can use right away in the classroom. After all, that really is (and should be) the point of our work...to learn new skills that can be applied in the classroom right away. Effective professional development is clear with respect to WHAT content/skill teachers will be learning and HOW the content/skill can be applied in their classroom. Much of our professional development today has classroom application as a critical part of the learning. Given the design of our PD schedule, opportunities for teachers to implement the content or skill(s) they have learned is met with follow up at subsequent professional development meetings. The fourth thing that teachers want for professional development is for the trainings to be led by professionals with classroom experience. This is especially important as we help teachers to make important connections between their learning and what is happening in their classroom. This is a strength of the Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) Grant. Our Teacher Leaders (Curriculum Facilitators/Instructional Coaches) play a large part in the planning and delivery of our district PD. By working closely with teachers on a daily basis, they have developed a strong understanding of their needs and work to infuse what they know into our PD planning. In addition, in most cases, our teacher leaders, or district staff, ultimately deliver the content of our professional development. Our February professional development focused, in large part, on the role of technology in the delivery of our instruction. As a district, we have made a significant commitment to the infusion of technology throughout our K-12 system and in all content areas. Teachers will have the time to learn about improving instruction and student learning through the integration of technology. In addition, teachers in the elementary will learn more about key updates in reading, math, and science. They will also have the opportunity to work in grade level team meetings to discuss their learning in these key content areas. At the secondary level, staff will be learning about literacy instruction in disciplinary areas. This learning is critical for the growth and success of our students and our district.

Mustang Monthly



EATING DISORDERS EFFECT MORE PEOPLE THAN YOU MAY KNOW.

40% of teens have an eating disorder. Don't be afraid to ask for help if you feel insecure about your body.

You're not alone.

Contact EFR to get the **FREE, confidential help** you need today!



EFR EMPLOYEE & FAMILY RESOURCES

515-244-6090
www.efr.org/student-assistance-program

DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES

MUSTANG GOLF TOURNEY

SPONSORED BY THE DC-G BOOSTER CLUB

DATE: Monday, June 12, 2017
TIME: 9:30 announcements/10:00 shotgun start
PLACE: Beaver Creek Golf Course - Grimes, Iowa
FEE: **\$55.00** per person - includes 18 holes, cart, door prizes and meal.
FORMAT: 4-person best ball

***PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE FROM WEDNESDAY TO MONDAY
 IF YOU CAN'T PLAY-CONSIDER SPONSORING A HOLE***

*Print registration and send to:
 Booster Club Golf Tourney
 ATTN: Scott Heitland
 2555 West 1st St
 Grimes, IA 50111
 Please make checks payable to:
 Dallas Center-Grimes Booster Club

2017 DC-G MUSTANG GOLF TOURNEY REGISTRATION

CAPTAIN: _____

EMAIL: _____

TEAM: **1 - \$55.00** _____
 2 - \$55.00 _____
 3 - \$55.00 _____
 4 - \$55.00 _____

I want to be a hole sponsor!

For \$75.00 you or your business can sponsor a hole. A sign will be placed at the hole with your name or your business name. Check the box above and write the name you want on the sign below. You can email artwork for your sign to MARCO BEJARNO-bejarno3@yahoo.com

Business name on sign: _____



PTO Update

Upcoming Events

March 6: PTO Meeting at Meadows Library at 7:00 pm - Officer Nominations
 March 31: Movie Night at South Prairie 6:00-8:00 pm
 April 10: PTO Meeting at Meadows Library at 7:00 pm - Officer Elections
 May 5: Reading Rocks Carnival

PTO Leadership

We have several PTO positions available for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year! Each school will need a leadership team; contact the PTO at dallascentergrimespto@gmail.com if you're interested!

Spring Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking for a way to help out the PTO? Some upcoming needs we will have are:
 Teacher appreciation meal during conferences, March 7
 Staff book fairs at all schools on conference days, March 7 and March 9
 Help with food, carnival games, and other carnival needs on May 5 at our Reading Rocks carnival

Order Your DC-G Elementary Yearbook!

Yearbook orders are being taken online. Go to ybpay.lifetouch.com and enter code 3584517.

Host an AFS Exchange Student

Your family will experience the year of a lifetime by welcoming an AFS international high school exchange student into your home for a year or a semester. With the dedicated support of local AFS volunteers, your family will create a lifelong global bond.

Get in touch with us!
 Sara Roberts
sara.roberts@afsusa.org
 515-979-7132

**afsusa.org/host
 1.800.AFS.INFO**



Supported through funding from the U. S. Department of State.
 AFS-USA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

2017-18 Preschool Registration

Please read below to learn about the new procedures regarding preschool registration for the 2017-18 school year. Please note, registration will not take place until March 1, 2017.

WHAT DOES THE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM CONSIST OF?

Our curriculum offers a balance of individual, small group, and large group activities with an emphasis on learning centers and child self-selection. The classrooms are planned to stimulate aspects of development by acknowledging each child's individual development, age-related development, and cultural background. Your child will learn by doing, imitating, observing, exploring, examining, experimenting, and questioning in activities and experiences planned according to his or her interests and home experiences. Language and literacy experiences, storytelling and story sharing, creative dramatics, and music are integrated throughout the program as well as numbers, science, and outdoor activities. We also focus on social emotional learning with an emphasis placed upon sharing, belonging to a group, and forming friendships with other children and adults.

HOW OLD DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BE TO ATTEND PRESCHOOL?

For the 3 year old preschool, your child must be three by September 15th, 2017.

For the 4 year old preschool, your child must be four by September 15th, 2017.

WHEN SHOULD I REGISTER MY CHILD FOR PRESCHOOL?

The preschool registration window is open between **March 1st and March 18th, 2017**. Registration will still be available after March 18th, but we cannot guarantee a slot for your child. Please note: for the 3 year old program only, limited spots are available and a random drawing will be used for placement.

WHICH SCHOOL BUILDINGS OFFER PRESCHOOL CLASSES?

Heritage Elementary in Grimes, The Grimes Child Development Center (Brighter Beginnings), and Kids Korner in Dallas Center will be the preschool locations for 4 year olds.

Heritage Elementary will be the only location for the 3 year old program.

WHICH BUILDING WILL MY CHILD WILL BE IN?

Grimes students will mostly be placed at Heritage Elementary. A few will be placed at the Grimes Child Development Center (Brighter Beginnings) along with the students who attend daycare there. Dallas Center students will be placed at Kids Korner in Dallas Center. Once the building and section decisions are finalized, families will be contacted by email, letter or phone regarding their assigned location and time.

IF I LIVE OUTSIDE OF THE DC-G SCHOOL DISTRICT, CAN I STILL REGISTER MY CHILD FOR PRESCHOOL?

Resident students of the Dallas Center-Grimes School District and siblings of current open-enrolled students will be considered first for enrollment into the preschool program. If there is room available when school starts, then we may fill the slots with out of district students. Please call the North Ridge office in the meantime to be put on a waiting list, but please do not register online.

WHEN ARE PRESCHOOL CLASSES HELD?

4 days per week – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Morning Class (AM) – 8:10-11:10 AM	(3 year olds and a couple of 4 year old sections)
Afternoon Class (PM) – 12:15-3:15 PM	(4 year olds)

The preschool calendar runs on the same schedule as the Dallas Center-Grimes Community School district calendar regarding vacation days, early outs, and snow days. However, preschoolers will start school one week later than K-12 students. Home visits by the preschool teachers will be conducted during the week prior to their first day. Teachers will contact you to set up a time and/or there will be a sign up sheet at the open house prior to school starting.

CAN I CHOOSE WHICH SECTION MY CHILD WILL BE IN (AM/PM)?

Since we always have more interest for the morning sections, and we need to balance the classes, you are not able to choose a preference at this time. Students attending the major daycare centers such as First Steps, Imagine Learning Center, Tender Years, Traditions, Learning Tree, Tender Hearts, etc. will automatically be placed in the afternoon session.

HOW DO I REGISTER MY CHILD FOR PRESCHOOL?

Please refer to the [Registration Webpage](#) and follow the process for either an existing family or a new family to the district.

HOW DO I REGISTER MY CHILD IF I DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER OR HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS?

There will be registration kiosks available at South Prairie, North Ridge, Dallas Center Elementary, Middle School, Meadows, and DC-G High School. Please come between 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM starting on March 1, 2017.

I HAVE OLDER CHILDREN ALREADY ENROLLED AT DC-G SCHOOLS. CAN I REGISTER THEM ALL AT ONCE WITH MY PRESCHOOLER?

Yes! Please refer to the [Registration Webpage](#) and follow the process for an existing family. Just be sure to add your preschool-aged child to the list of students you're registering for the upcoming school year.

WHAT PAPERWORK SHOULD I HAVE READY BEFORE REGISTERING MY CHILD FOR PRESCHOOL?

Existing families with Parent Portal accounts will need a digital copy of your child's **birth certificate** and your child's **immunization record**. (We are hoping this step will be available and ready March 1)

New families will need the paperwork listed above and additionally will need a digital copy showing **proof of residence** (ex: a scanned copy of a utility bill with your name and address.)

WHAT IS THE COST FOR MY CHILD TO ATTEND PRESCHOOL?

The current cost for the 3 year old program is \$175/month plus a \$25 one-time registration fee. However, these amounts could be subject to change.

At this time, the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program funds our district's 4 year old program, and the only cost to parents is the \$25 one-time registration fee. We are unable to fully guarantee this funding for next year.

WHEN WILL I KNOW THE LOCATION AND CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENT FOR MY PRESCHOOLER?

Due to increasing enrollment within our district, you will not find out until mid July at the earliest. You will receive an email, letter, or a phone call once the decisions have been made.

IS MY CHILD GUARANTEED A PRESCHOOL SLOT IF I REGISTER BEFORE MARCH 18TH?

As long as you [register online](#) before the deadline, you should be fine for the 4 year old classes. If we have more registrations than anticipated, however, we will create a wait list that will allow us to fill the spots when available. The 3 year old classes are filled by a random drawing system only, so your child is not guaranteed a slot.

I JUST REGISTERED MY PRESCHOOLER. WHY DON'T I SEE THEM IN MY PARENT PORTAL?

Your preschooler will not be visible in your Parent Portal until the 2017-18 school year, which starts July 1, 2017. This is the same reason you cannot pay registration fees for them until July 1, 2017.

WHO SHOULD I CALL IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Please contact April Heitland or Deanna Sandegren at the North Ridge office (515-986-5674) if you have any further questions regarding our preschool program.

HIGH SCHOOL, MEADOWS, MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Senior Information

Dear Senior Parent,

Your child's high school career is coming to an end! We know how exciting and busy this time of year can be for you. To assist you in planning the next several months, we have compiled a list of school-related activities of which you should be aware. Thank you for sharing your child's life with us at school. Please continue to support your child and the school through attendance at the senior activities.

Sincerely,

Scott Blum,

High School Principal

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Immediately | Turn in baby, childhood, and senior pictures for the senior montage if this has not yet been done. |
| March 3 | Local scholarship applications are available. |
| March 27 | Jostens will deliver caps, gowns, and announcements during the lunch period. |
| March 31 | All local scholarship applications are due. |
| May 5 | Awards information and final transcript request form due in Deans' office. |
| May 12 | "Milk and Cookies with Mr. Blum" during advisory in the High School Commons |
| May 22 | Senior semester assessments. All fines must be paid prior to checkout. Checkout sheet must be turned into the office, with all required signatures, before student leaves. |
| May 24 | Senior Awards Night held at DCG High School Auditorium at 6:30 pm. All scholarships, honors, and awards will be presented. |
| May 24 | Baccalaureate held at DCG High School Auditorium at 7:45 p.m. |
| May 26 | Senior Breakfast held at 8:30 am in the DCG High School Commons. |
| May 26 | Commencement practice will begin at 9:30 am in the DCG High School Gym. All seniors that are participating in commencement ceremonies are required to attend. |
| May 26 | Commencement at Meadows Gymnasium at 7:00pm |

ACT Test-Prep

The ZAPS Test-Prep Seminar will be held in the Media Center at DCG High School on Wednesday, March 29 from 10:30–4:00. This ACT prep seminar explains common questions, effective strategies, and test-taking skills. Students who take this course will utilize practice tests and receive take-home study materials. To register, go to www.doorwaytocollege.com or call 877-927-8378; the seminar fee is \$79.99.

High School Parent-Teacher Conferences

High School Parent-Teacher Conference will be held from 3:30 - 8:00 pm on Tuesday, March 7 and Thursday, March 9. Parents may attend conferences at any time during the scheduled hours to visit with teachers. Parents may conference with individual teachers in the gym and commons. We strongly encourage your child to attend these conferences with you.

Parent-Teacher Conferences at the Middle School and Meadows

By: Jerry Hlas, Middle School Principal, and Lori Phillips, Meadows Principal

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held March 7 and 9 at Meadows and the Middle School. We will follow the same format as the fall conferences. Parents and students will meet with the student's advisor. Students are expected to attend and participate in the conference. We believe that student involvement at the conference is a necessary component to reinforce the importance of goal setting and taking ownership in learning. We also recognize the value of parental involvement because students benefit academically when parents are involved. Thank you in advance for your support in making our conferences a celebration of student growth and learning.

Dallas Center-Grimes DECA Qualifies for State

By: Buck Nelson

On January 18, twenty-five Dallas Center-Grimes DECA members competed in the District 3 DECA competition against 250 other Central Iowa DECA students at Merle Hay Mall. DECA is a co-curricular club that provides students with leadership opportunities in the areas of marketing, management and entrepreneurship. The program is offered at both the 8-9 Meadows building and in the 10-12 High School. The competition on January 18 consisted of the students taking a 50 question test focused on general business, marketing and financial concepts, then completing a role play based on a case study of real-world issues facing today's businesses. These scenarios challenged the emerging leaders to use advanced problem solving skills to find creative solutions in the areas of finance, marketing, management, tourism and hospitality. The newly formed DCG DECA club qualified 20 students for the State competition. DCG DECA had eight top 5 finishers including Lucas Reitzler, Nick Claman, Ian Alt, Maddie Calase, Luke Knudsen, Brooke Metcalf and the freshman team of Zach Needham and Dawson Lego. Here are the details of the results:



Name	Grade	Event	Place	Quote About the Experience
Lucas Reitzler	12	Accounting Applications	3rd	
Nick Claman	12	Accounting Applications	5th	"Something great about the experience was learning quick problem solving skills."
Ian Alt	12	Restaurant and Food Service Marketing	3rd	"The competition was fun and was a great experience."
Maddie Calase	12	Food Marketing	3rd	"I can't wait for State!"
Luke Knudsen	12	Food Marketing	4th	"This was just a small taste of what Iowa DECA will see from me at State."
Brooke Metcalf	12	Apparel and Accessories Marketing	3rd	"We did an amazing job for our first time."
Dawson Lego Zach Needham	9	Sports and Entertainment Marketing	5th	



Meadows Art Spotlight

By: April Busch

This month's Meadows art spotlight is featured to the right. This is a watercolor landscape created by Jared Hyde. Great work Jared!

Car Seat Donations to Child Development

By: Dana Means

Thank you for the overwhelming response to the request for infant car seat donations! It is so nice to be able to update the equipment that students use. They are always excited to take home babies for the simulation and can now do so safely. Students learn how to properly buckle babies into the 5-point harness systems then safely install the car seats in their vehicles. It is evident that the Dallas Center and Grimes communities are committed to making the learning of students in our communities a top priority.



Large Group Speech Receives All-State Honors

By: Anne Frett

The Large Group Speech team had three groups receive All-State honors this year. These groups were honored at the All-State Festival in Ames on February 18. Over 20,000 students start the speech season and less than seven percent of these students receive this honor. Congratulations to these groups:

High School Improv – Connor McAninch, Adam Koch, Cooper Pierce, Gracie Stephens

High School Improv – Anne Becker, Jayson Peitzman, Izzy Murray, Jackson Bridie

Ensemble Acting – Elaina Bayse, Anne Becker, Dakota Belling, Will Rothfus, Emily Frett



English Learners at Meadows and the High School

By: LaRee Hawks

As Dallas Center-Grimes continues to grow, so does our English Learner population. At Meadows and the High School we have 12 students. They come from Liberia, Iraq, Columbia and many other countries. These students work really hard to improve their English skills. The four domains that they work on are listening, reading, speaking and writing. Every spring they take an exam to test their growth in the language. The test scores the students on the four domains. We also had two student volunteers first semester that helped our English Learners. We would like to thank Susan Vue and Kara Moran who gave up their study halls to help our English Learners.

Eighth Grade Technology Classes

By: Sheri Fuller

The eighth grade technology class has been very busy this year working through various topics such as digital citizenship, digital literacy, knowing what a high quality internet site is, how to prevent cyber bullying, and completing activities in the Microsoft Office suite with Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. We are presently working with Scratch Programming. All of these topics will lead to students knowing what classes to register for in grades 9-12 based on the interest they had when working through the coursework.

Eighth Grade Computers teaches students a variety of computer concepts that allows them to be comfortable in the computer era that we live and thrive in.

Secondary ELA

By: Sally Brown

The secondary language arts department is in the midst of the curriculum review process. Teachers are studying the Iowa Core and reviewing which resources best meet the needs of our students. We were fortunate to recently have two guest speakers to help guide our work in what is best practice and what is new and innovative in literacy and writing education. Our teachers are dedicated to developing college-and-career-ready students, who can effectively read, write, communicate, and understand the world around them. We truly have the best language arts teachers, and we are so proud of our strong department!

8th Grade Language Arts

By: Brittany Owen

Students have started a new unit centered around the idea of resilience. In both reading and writing, students are reading the nonfiction text "Touch the Top of the World." The autobiography tells the story of Erik Weihenmayer, a man who lost his sight at the age of 13. Instead of letting his disability stop him, Erik took his dreams to new heights, literally. Students will use this text to explore their resilience and make connections to their own lives. Finally, students will take these themes and apply them to all their classes in a cross curricular unit that will culminate in a survivor themed school wide competition.

Local Scholarships Available

Local Scholarships through Dallas Center-Grimes Community Schools, as well as the Dallas Center-Grimes Education Foundation, will be made available for seniors on March 3, with a deadline of March 31. The DCG Foundation was formed to provide continued educational opportunities for our students. Information about the foundation can be found at <http://www.dcgeducationfoundation.org/>.

Middle School World Language

At the January board meeting, Middle School students from Mrs. Jiménez's World Language and Cultures classroom presented a new method of collaborative learning called Breakout EDU. Breakout EDU games teach critical thinking, teamwork and complex problem solving. The school board and administration team, with the help of the students, were able to experience Digital Breakout



EDU; an immersive activity that embraces the use of technology and class-

room content to make learning engaging for 21st Century learners.



Pictured are the board members and administration team that were successful in “breaking out” with over 10 minutes to spare. The students responsible for bringing this experience to them were (left to right): York Meggison, Caleb Studer, Macie Hulse, Alexia Henrichs and Bailey Pierce.

December/January Students of the Month

High school teachers recognize students who deserve to be celebrated for the work they are doing in class. Students below were selected for qualities such as leadership, work ethic, and peer support during the months of December and January. Each content area chooses only one student for each month, making the Student of the Month a high honor!

Agriculture: Nick Jorgensen

Art: Jeff Spaur

Band: Emily Frett

Business: Rachel Neumann

Industrial Technology: Tim Friesen

Language Arts: Jonah Crilly

FCS: Breanna Maier (not pictured)

Math: Rachel Neumann

PE: Cooper Pierce

Science: Elizabeth Mensing

Social Studies: Emily Gay

Vocal: Cole Bowen

World Language: Zoey Chumbley



Middle School Computer Applications

By: Cheryl Voelker

The students in sixth grade are focusing on the five areas of digital citizenship listed below. Parents can learn more about digital citizenship at commonsensemedia.org

1. **DIGITAL LIFE 101** - What is the place of digital media in our lives?
2. **STRATEGIC SEARCHING** - What steps can help you find what you're looking for when you search online?
3. **SCAMS AND SCHEMES** - What is identity theft, and how can protect yourself from it?
4. **CYBERBULLYING: BE UPSTANDING** - How do you judge the intentions and impact of people's words and actions online?
5. **A CREATOR'S RIGHTS** - What rights do you have as a creator?

Students in seventh grade are keyboarding. Goals for seventh grade typing are 30 wpm with 90% accuracy. Students have created web pages and studied digital citizenship this year. Next we will explore their interest areas and look at future career options.

Students Explore Orwell

Novella

By: Bob Geurink and Karene Rosenbury

The English I students are reading George Orwell's novella *Animal Farm*. The novella is an allegory in which animals and events are compared with the Russian Revolution and Stalin-led government of the Soviet Union. Students are completing many projects and activities as they explore this Orwell book. The students are taking a look at propaganda techniques as well as analyzing events and characters from *Animal Farm* and their relationship to events in Russia from 1917-1943. In addition, students will be participating in a cross-curricular unit based on the theme of “resilience” and how the animals survived under the rule of a totalitarian government.

Seventh Grade Choir and Band Perform at Solo/Small Ensemble Contest

By: Chris Crandell

Congratulations to the seventh grade choir and band students on an excellent Solo/Small Ensemble Contest evening, held at DCGMS on Tuesday, January 30.

The choir students who performed received the following ratings: (2) - I+, (12) - I, and (10) - II. The Outstanding Choir Performance(s) in centers were: Na-Tasha Bruck/Ashlynn Kluss-Teta (Duet), Bailey Pierce (Solo), Owen Pries (Solo), and Josh Ward (Solo).

The band students performing received the following ratings: (3) - I+, (13) - I, (13) - I-, (8) - II+ and (1) - II. The Outstanding Band Performance(s) in Centers were: Paige Kepplinger (Oboe), America Petatan (Bb Clarinet) and Anthony Munoz (Euphonium).



A wonderful night of musical talent at DCGMS was on full display! Congratulations to all who performed! The Sixth Grade Solo/Small Ensemble Contest will be held on March 30, 2017, from 4:00-7:45 pm, also at the middle school.

DCG Business Education Offers New Opportunities to Students

By: Buck Nelson

The DCG business education department is offering new opportunities to prepare students to be leaders in our globalized economy. The business department has added a career and technical education student organization named DECA and is adding additional courses for the 17-18 school year. Starting this year, students have the opportunity to join the newly formed DCG DECA club. This co-curricular club prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. Already this year, DCG students have attended leadership conferences, committed to community service activities and participated in school service projects. This club is open to any DCG student that enrolls in a business course. DCG business students currently have the opportunity to take 8 different courses including accounting, entrepreneurship, sports and entertainment marketing and business computer courses. Beginning in 2017-18 school year, two more courses, Marketing and Professional Sales, will be added to the curriculum to provide a more comprehensive business education. With the addition of the new courses, students can now earn DMACC dual enrollment credits in each of the following three courses, entrepreneurship, accounting and professional sales.

High School Students Attend LGBT Day at the Capitol 2017

By: Lauren Asman, submitted by Sandy Barker

On February 7, I was able to attend Iowa Safe Schools' first ever Student Day at the Capitol. I went with eight other members of the DCG GSA, plus Mr. Saba, who served as our advisor since Mrs. Barker is on leave. There were over 100 students, from various schools around central Iowa, at the event. For the first half of the day, we stayed in the Henry Wallace Building, learning how to approach our state representatives/senators, and what bills we should approach them with. Representatives Bobby Kaufmann, Liz Bennett, and Senator Rob Hogg came to speak with us. They stressed that most (not all) legislators are willing to talk to you, so it is important to reach out to them. If you tell them

your story, they will listen, and you might be able to form a connection. It is important to try to find common ground when talking to representatives and senators. They also answered questions we had about recent topics that have been brought up in Iowa's government. We discussed LGBTQ+ issues, the possible defunding of Planned Parenthood, and more. They were very kind to all of the students, and I was very glad to have them with us today. After being trained on how to act and what to say, we made our way to the capitol building to talk with the representatives and senators. Our main focus was passing a ban on conversion therapy, a gruesome and unethical practice that attempts to alter a person's sexuality or gender. The capitol happened to be very busy today, and it was harder than we expected to actually meet with anyone. My friend Rachel Overla and I applied to see three different people, but, unfortunately, they were all unavailable. However, the event was not unsuccessful; other students were able to get in and have a conversation with some officials. Hopefully, conversion therapy will soon be unheard of in Iowa! I want to give a huge thank-you to Iowa Safe Schools for making this a great, educational experience for my peers and me. I learned a lot about how our government works, and I now feel more comfortable about talking to people in the House and Senate. If you really believe in something, go advocate for it! Democracy allows you to have a voice, but *you* must make the decision to use it.



ELEMENTARY NEWS

Geography Bee 2017

By: Patricia Degnan

The DCG fourth and fifth grade geography bee was held on Wednesday, January 11 in the Dallas Center Elementary gym.

Eighteen classroom finalists participated in the contest. The fourth-graders were Sage Staker, Ky Wilkens, Johanna Bonefas, Vaughn Nadermann, Drew Sonberg, Abby Esser, Marley Eickelberg, Trent Wickman and Caroline Edsen. The fifth grade finalists were Tess Meggison, Anna Briggeman, Damon Gahan, Evin Jerry, Jonathan Howard, Molly Schock, Alex Holbrook, Jack Kidd, and Shawn Leonard.



We also had several alternates who would step in if a finalist needed to be replaced. These students were fourth-graders Landyn Buster, Cam Allen, Jensen Petrak, Jake Gray, Journey Dunlap-Hartney, Josiah Jorgenson, Ashlyn Menough, Grace Edsen, and Halley Beaudet, and fifth-graders Anna Koster, Sam Watkins, Will Kline, Nathan Bullock, Ty Mikkelsen, Will Leifker, Ellie Cole, Kaylyn Mills, and Nate Scholl.

After many rounds of competition, the field was narrowed down to two students.

Trent Wickman, a fourth-grader from Mrs. Klein's class at DCE was named

the runner-up. Johanna Bonefas, a fourth-grader from Mrs. Spray's class at North Ridge was named the champion of the 2017 Geography Bee.

Johanna received a medal from the National Geographical Society, a Champion Geo Bee t-shirt donated by Tee's Custom Apparel & Printing, and a World Globe traveling trophy to be on display in Mrs. Spray's classroom. Trent received a Mustang stocking cap donated by Tee's Custom Apparel & Printing as a runner-up prize.

Johanna will be taking the qualifying test to see if she will compete at the State Level in March. Great job to all students who participated this year!

Elementary/Preschool Parent Teacher Conferences

Preschool/Optional Kindergarten Students

Preschool and Optional Kindergarten conferences will be held Tuesday, March 7, Wednesday, March 8, and Thursday, March 9. Babysitting will be provided at all elementary buildings on Tuesday and Thursday evenings only. The Scholastic Book Fair will also be held in the library at each school on Tuesday and Thursday evening. School will dismiss at 2:30 pm on these days. You should have already received an email through School Messenger, providing you with a link to sign up for spring conferences. If you did not receive an email, please go to the district website, www.dcgschools.com and click on the link to sign up.

Kindergarten-Fifth Grade Students

Elementary conferences will be held Tuesday, March 7 and Thursday, March 9. Babysitting will be provided at all elementary buildings. The Scholastic Book Fair will also be held in the library at each school. School will dismiss at 2:30 pm on these days. You should have already received an email through School Messenger, providing you with a link to sign up for spring conferences. If you did not receive an email, please go to the district website, www.dcgschools.com and click on the link to sign up.



Dallas Center Elementary Concerts

First and Second Grade - "Animals"

The DCE first and second grade students are preparing for their music concert "Animals" at 6:00 pm on April 6 in the High School Auditorium. Students will perform a variety of songs about animals from near and far. Students are encouraged to dress up for this performance.

Third and Fourth Grade - "Road Trip USA"

The DCE third and fourth grade students are preparing for their concert, "Road Trip USA" on April 6 at 7:00 pm in the High School Auditorium. Fourth grade students have been studying regions of the United States and songs will be from different regions of the US and describe our country's history. In addition to connections with history and geography, students are developing skills singing in harmony, reading music, and playing instruments for this performance. Students are encouraged to wear red, white, and blue.

Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District

2017-2018 KINDERGARTEN SIGN-UP

If you have a child that will be five on or before September 15, 2017...

- 1) Please complete the kindergarten registration. The window for registration is March 1 through March 18, and the kindergarten registration will be found on the district's webpage during that time: www.dcgschools.com
- 2) Kindergarten Round Up (where the students come to school for a morning or afternoon) will be held on Thursday and Friday, April 20-21.
- 3) Once we receive all the information, you will receive a mailing at the beginning of April indicating your assigned time, materials to bring, and additional information.
- 4) Kindergarten parents are invited to attend an information meeting while their child is spending time in the kindergarten classrooms.

Kindergarten is an exciting new adventure in a child's life. A child's first year of school provides so many new opportunities: working with letters, sounds, beginning to read, working with numbers, art, music, guidance, physical education, computer lab, and library. They also learn how to get along with others and problem solve. **If you have a child who will be five on or before September 15, 2017, your child should be enrolled in Kindergarten.**

We also have a half-day optional kindergarten program for students who are kindergarten eligible but could benefit from an additional year to prepare for full day kindergarten. This program will be at the Heritage building for the 2017-2018 school year. Recommendations will be made to parents regarding their child's placement after round up has been completed.

Please note our existing preschool students will still have school on April 20-21, however Optional Kindergarten and Kindergarten will NOT be in session on those two dates.

A 2017-2018 Kindergarten/Optional Kindergarten Registration Information sheet is located on our website www.dcgschools.com. If you still have questions, please contact Dallas Center Elementary at 515-992-3838 or South Prairie at 515-986-4057. The DCG staff is looking forward to meeting and working with you to make your child's early experience in school a most positive one.

Kindergarten Reading

By Kelly James, Kelly Johnson and Kacey Beyer

The kindergarten year is so awesome because we get to see the growth in our children as they begin to read! Students have some literacy base but most are not reading when school starts. We start out the year by learning our letters in September, and we are now putting the sounds together to make words. One way that we start to learn words like "fan" and "tan" is we learn word families and the sounds of digraphs and blends. We use simple guided reading books to aide us with our learning. We split up into 5 different reading type centers that reinforce the concepts we cover in class. Kids enjoy this time as we structure exciting activities into our groups that make reading fun. Our goal for March is to know sixty sight words. We have a fun process to memorize the sight words. You will hear the kindergarteners singing songs and doing dances. This method of learning helps them quickly memorize the words and have fun at the same time. It is a great way to use our kinesthetic, visual, and auditory learning. We are also working on comprehension and learning all types of strategies to make sure we understand what we read. We are working on retelling stories, sequencing stories, naming the characters and the setting of the story. It is so fun to see the excitement of a kindergartener when they become a reader!

First Grade Reading

By: Kathy Morrow

A large part of the day in first grade is spent learning and practicing reading. Whole group mini-lessons, based on The Café Menu, are taught daily in the areas of comprehension, accuracy, fluency, and expanding vocabulary. Students also receive reading instruction in a guided reading group or through 1 on 1 conferring. Students are placed in these small groups based on their instructional level of reading. In the guided reading group, they may be working on any of the Café strategies. During 1 on 1 conferring a student will read while the teacher is pinpointing a target skill for that child. The child is then instructed and asked to practice until their next meeting. While small groups are meeting with the classroom teacher, other students are learning to be independent readers in all areas of The Daily 5: read to self, read to someone, work on writing, listen to reading, and word work. Fluency is the focus of many 1 on 1 conferences and has also been taught whole group in our first grade classrooms since before Christmas. Reading smoothly at an appropriate rate and with expression is our goal. Currently, we are working on reading phrases and looking ahead to the punctuation marks. The Comprehension Toolkit is the primary resource for first grade teachers. The toolkit promotes the gradual release model. This month we are learning how to determine the main idea and give supporting details. We know this helps us better understand what is being read. Teachers model how to determine the main idea. We then practice together as a class, pair up and practice with a partner, and finally we work independently on determining the main idea and giving supporting details. Accuracy lessons are being taught whole group utilizing West Virginia Phonics. Being accurate readers will aid in our comprehension also. Accuracy is our phonics lessons. West Virginia Phonics is a spiral approach to teaching phonics. Lastly, we are developing vocabulary skills. First graders are taught to "tune into interesting words" while they read or are read to. These words are then discussed as to their meaning, listened for through the week in other situations and then hopefully apply them in our conversations. Our goal is to develop not only strong readers, but readers that have a love for reading. We do this by getting a variety of texts into the student's hands as much as possible throughout the day. DCG has provided classroom libraries with quality books that are at the appropriate level for the students in the room. Students are taught how to find a "good fit" book and have bins that they keep handy so that throughout the day they can read to themselves. By putting a book of interest in the child's hands, and providing the time and means for them to delve into that book, we hope to develop and nurture a love for reading which in turn gives us strong readers.

Second Grade Reading

By: Audrey Stine

Second-graders are building their **comprehension** skills in order to understand what they read. When students read with a partner or in small groups, they stop to **ask questions** about who, what, where, when, why and how. Sometimes when we read new information we think, "Wow! That's amazing!" Questions might pop into our minds, and we record them on paper. These questions can guide our reading to look for the answers. Students are able to make mental pictures in their heads. They draw **visual representations** of what the characters look like or what is happening in the book. Students can identify whether text is fiction or nonfiction. When reading nonfiction texts such as biographies, fact books, or magazine articles, we look for **nonfiction features**. The features we focus on are title, photograph, caption, label, illustration, map, diagram, and chart. Each feature has a special purpose that helps the reader better understand the subject matter. Using our background knowledge is important as we make **connections** to what we read. Students share personal experiences that relate to a story event or how a character is feeling. That is called a text-to-self connection. When two or more similar stories or characters are compared, we are making text-to-text connections. Second-graders also recognize **literary elements**. They can identify the story's genre, plot, main characters, setting, problem, and solution. We continue to build on this skill by focusing on the **main idea and details** of stories. After reading two versions of the same story, students can **compare and contrast** the books. We will practice this skill with different versions of familiar fairy tales. We'll use venn diagrams to write how the stories are alike and different. Our opportunity to **expand vocabulary** comes from our **Text Talk** stories. These are stories that are read aloud to the whole class and include many interesting words. We discuss these higher-level words throughout the week by learning the definition, giving examples and nonexamples, and using them in context. Students are able to practice these skills during our read to self and read to someone rounds at school. We also focus on students independently reading a "good-fit book." This is a book that the student knows most, if not all, of the words so that accuracy, fluency, and comprehension can happen. It would be beneficial to continue practicing their reading skills at home too! It is important for children to read by themselves, read to others, and be read to! Thank you for your continued support of reading at home! So many good books...so little time!

Third Grade Reading

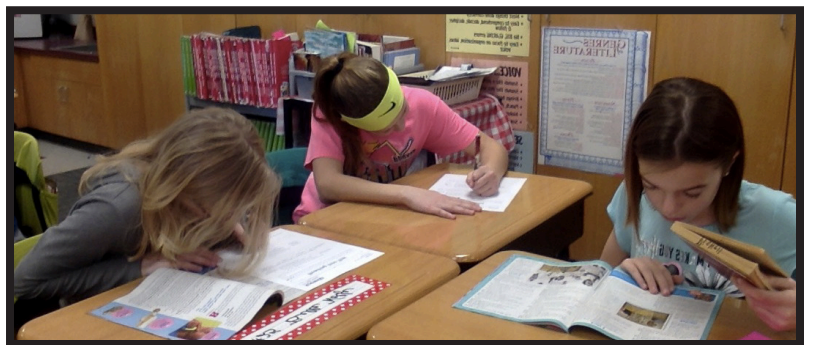
By: Jayna Gossling

Peek in any third grade classroom at DCG and you will find many happy students with their noses in "good-fit" books. Good-fit books are texts that students can read independently with 98% accuracy or better. It is in these books that students do much of their daily reading practice in our classrooms and make much of their growth as readers. Teachers confer individually with readers and/or meet with small groups to solidify skills and strategies taught in whole group reading lessons. Our whole-group comprehension lessons come from two main resources - The Comprehension Toolkit and the Interactive Read-Aloud. Third-graders learn to be thoughtful readers and collaborative learners through these lessons. Teachers model how to use the reading strategy, then provide guided practice and group or partner practice before expecting the students to use the strategy on their own. Third graders began the year by learning how to leave "tracks of their thinking" when they read. Through the use of sticky notes, journals, or other "think-sheets," they record their connections, big ideas, inferences, and questions to show how they are progressing as readers. Word study is another component of reading in third grade. This year, teachers have implemented a new word study program called West Virginia Phonics. WVP and Words Their Way, our previous program, are both used at different times during the year to help students learn spelling patterns that they can apply to their reading and writing. Through a combined approach of comprehension instruction, phonics, and word study, third-graders at DCG are gaining powerful tools to become life-long readers. It's our goal to build a love of reading, and keep their noses in books for years to come!

Fifth Grade Reading

By: Jill Pickell and Megan Fangman

The fifth-graders have been developing their reading stamina and finishing books! Our students are currently learning a variety of inferring skills from context clues for vocabulary to themes for entire books, and applying these skills to their independent reading books. This week, the skill we have been studying is to wrap your mind around the big ideas in a text. When applying this skill, our goal is for the students to pull out the text evidence to infer and justify themes for their book. This will better help the kids understand the book that they are reading and to be able to identify what the moral of the story is. The teachers began the week by modeling how to identify the theme in the text. In most cases, the theme is not simply stated in the text. You have to use evidence from the text to infer what the moral of the story is. After the teachers have modeled how to do this, we practice this skill as a class, in small groups, and in pairs. We collaborate with one another to explain how we found the theme(s) using evidence from the text and help one another use this skill when we are having difficulties. Next, the kids practice this skill on their own and show what they know! This particular skill is very challenging but second semester fifth-graders are up to the task! We spend a week focusing on this skill but will continue practicing it the remainder of the year.



Fourth Grade Reading

By: Kari Kinnick and Megan Klein

In fourth grade reading our focus is on comprehension. We work on skills such as monitoring comprehension, activating and connecting, questioning, inferring, determining importance, and summarizing and synthesizing. Currently we are learning to make inferences. Skills are taught through lessons and then students practice in novels at their appropriate reading level, called "right fit books." Teachers confer with students about their books to ensure that they are using and practicing the strategies they learned. Teachers use a variety of methods, such as book clubs and literature circles, to get students to read, think, and talk about text. Students are encouraged to read at home daily to further improve their skills.

South Prairie Art Spotlight

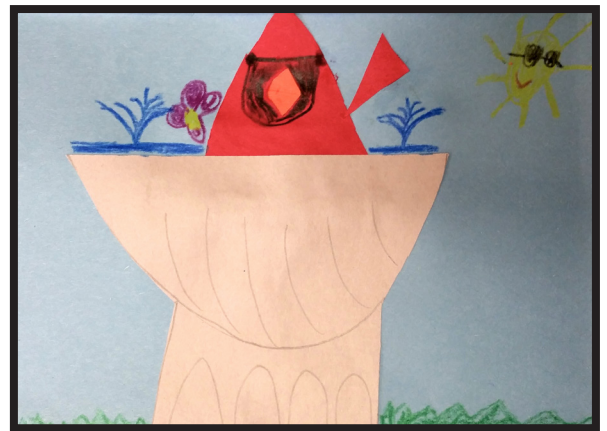
By: Danell Duncan

Congratulations to the "Artists of the Month" at South Prairie Elementary!

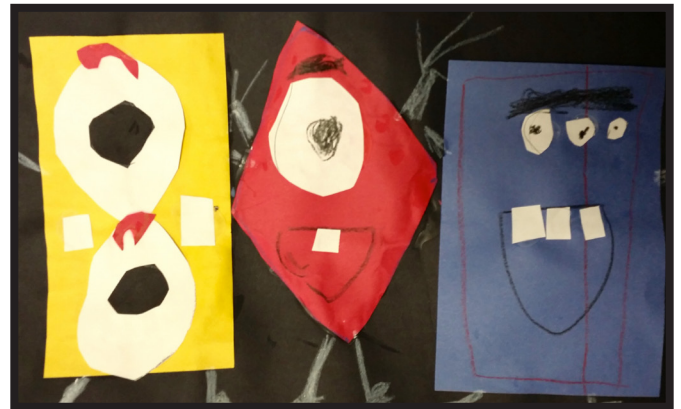
Second-grader, Wyatt Valenta made this great portrait of his pet after looking at van Gogh's style of art. The students worked with mixing primary colors, showing brushstrokes, and showing emotion. All the second-graders did a fabulous job with their pet portraits.



First grade student Kaylie Willenborg created this cardinal after looking at examples of artist, Charlie Harper's work. We discussed and applied how Harper uses basic shapes to create his birds.



Braeden Manges created his primary color monsters after all the kindergarteners read the book, Monsters Love Colors. We are learning the importance of the primary colors and how we can mix them to make all the other colors.



Dallas Center Elementary Art

By: Amy Cory

Fifth grade is finishing up a unit on quilling. This is an extension of our optical illusion unit. This time we have taken the next step toward 3D art. Next up is clay! We will be using all of the clay techniques to create a wind chime. I know the fifth-graders are excited about this project, as am I. Fourth grade is busy finishing up glazing our clay looms and they look amazing; the next step will be stinging up our looms. Then we weave the interior. We are transforming clay into multimedia art, and I can't wait to see the finished product.



Mrs. Baker's third grade class has been very busy building their coil pots and then glazing them. I love watching the look on each student's face as they see their work after it is glazed fired. Glaze goes on muted and chalky and comes out bright and brilliant. Mrs. Heidemann's third grade class learned about light source, shade and value in our lesson "Snowmen at Night." We

worked together step by step on dark paper with light and dark chalk. Everyone's work turned out fantastic!

Mrs. Stine's second-graders learned how to make Love Bugs by cutting out symmetrical hearts and used the hearts in place of insect parts: Thorax, antennae and abdomen, Oh MY! They were very creative.

Mrs. Davison's first grade class is studying the art of Charlie Harper and John James Audubon, as we compare and contrast the artistic styles. We are doing this by using our feathered friend the cardinal as our inspiration.





Don't forget to eat your vegetables.

Dallas Center Grimes Lunch Menu

Fresh Vegetable Choices and Seasonal Fruit are Offered Daily on the Fruit & Vegetable Bar

March
2017

MONDAY



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday 1
Toasted Cheese Sandwich

OR Breaded Chicken

OR Chef Salad
OR Yogurt Pack
Tomato Soup

THURSDAY

Dr. Suess Birthday 2
Soft Shell Tacos with Lettuce, Cheese & Salsa
OR Roasted Hot Dog

OR Taco Salad
OR Deli Sub
Spiced Pinto Beans
Harvest Bar

FRIDAY

Cheese Pizza Slice

OR Cowboy Burger

OR Crispy Chicken Salad
OR Deli Sub
Roasted Broccoli

6
Crispy Chicken Nuggets and Fresh Bread Slice
OR Salisbury Steak

OR Chicken Caesar Salad
OR Deli Sandwich
Mashed Potatoes

7
HOM ~ Grapefruit
Sloppy Joes
OR Roasted Vegetable Foccacia
OR Turkey BLT Salad
OR Deli Sub
Ranch Potato Wedges
Sweet Green Peas

8
HOM Feature - Cilantro
Walking Taco & Lettuce, Tomato
OR Hawaiian Ham Sliders

OR Chef Salad
OR Yogurt Pack
Black Beans
Fresh Pico & Tortilla Chips

9
Golden Corn Dog
Or Chicken Bacon Ranch Melt
OR Taco Salad
OR Deli Sub

Sweet Potato Fries

10
No School Roasted Vegetable Foccacia

13
Spring Break

14
Spring Break

15
Spring Break

16
Spring Break

17
Spring Break

20
HOM Feature - Kale
Chicken Tenders w/Roll
OR Cheeseburger

OR Chicken Caesar Salad
OR Deli Sandwich
Kale Salad
Rice and Gravy

21
Roasted Pork with Gravy and Soft Pan Roll
OR Salisbury Steak and Soft Pan Roll
OR Turkey BLT Salad
OR Deli Sub

Cinnamon Sweet Apples

22
Breaded Chicken Patty
OR Tater Tot Casserole With Bread Stick

OR Chef Salad
OR Yogurt Pack
Calico Beans

23
Pancakes & Fruit Topping with Sausage Patty or Egg
OR Biscuit and Gravy with Egg Patty
OR Taco Salad
OR Deli Sub
Breakfast Potato Wedges

24
French Bread Pizza

OR Tuna Melt

OR Crispy Chicken Salad
OR Deli Sub
Roasted Cauliflower

27
Something on a Stick
Corn Dog on a Stick

OR Bean and Cheese Quesadilla
OR Chicken Caesar Salad
OR Deli Sandwich
Baked Beans
Popsicle

28
Beef Tacos

OR BBQ Chicken Sandwich
OR Turkey BLT Salad
OR Deli Sub
Corn Firenze Salad

29
Italian Meatballs in a Bread Bowl
OR Hot Ham Bagel Sandwich
OR Chef Salad
OR Yogurt Pack
Garden Green Beans

30
Chicken Nuggets and Soft Pan Roll
OR Philly Flatbread

OR Taco Salad
OR Deli Sub
Cheesy Mashed Potatoes

31
Pizza Parlor Cheese Pizza

OR All American Burger

OR Crispy Chicken Salad
OR Deli Sub
Garlic & Herb Broccoli

PRICES

Regular	\$2.60
Reduced	\$0.40
Adult	\$3.50
Milk	\$0.50
Extra Entrée	\$2.25

HARVEST OF THE MONTH



EXTRA INFO

Milk choice of 1% White, Skim or Chocolate Skim is included with lunch.
Entree Salads are served with Dinner Roll
For questions or comments, contact Food Service Office at 515-986-1947 x162 or email dsevenich@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us



Menus are subject to change without notice. This institute is an equal opportunity provider.

www.taher.com

Follow us on Twitter @dcdnutrition for daily menu postings.

Note: Weekly breakfast menus are posted on the website.

March Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Dismiss at 1:00-Staff Development Mock Trial Competition	2 3:20pm-4:20pm MS Dodge Ball Tournament @ DCG Middle School Gym 6:30pm 8-12 Vocal Concert @ DCG HS Auditorium	3 SWCC Jazz Choir Festival	4 After Prom Father/Daughter Dance @ Multiple locations Hoover Jazz Band Festival
5	6 6:30pm 8-12 Band Concert @ DCG HS Auditorium	7 P/T Conferences/Dismiss at 2:30 pm TBD Basketball-B/Varsity TBA @ Wells Fargo Arena - Des Moines 7:00pm FOFA Meeting @ High School Band Room	8	9 P/T Conferences/Dismiss at 2:30 pm 4:00pm Track & Field-B/JV/Varsity Grinnell @ Grinnell College	10 No School Teacher Comp Day	11 State Individual Events Speech Contest
12	13 No School-Spring Break	14 No School-Spring Break	15 No School-Spring Break	16 No School-Spring Break	17 No School-Spring Break	18
19	20 9-12 Band Solo/Ensemble	21 6:00pm Speech Awards @ High School Commons	22	23 1:00pm-6:00pm NHS Blood Drive @ DCG High School	24	25 IHSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest 10:30am-8:00pm IBCA All Star Games @ Multiple locations
26	27 All State Individual Events Speech Contest at UNI Senior Graduation Order Delivery 7:00pm School Board Meeting @ DCG High School	28 End of 3rd Quarter 7:00pm NHS Induction @ DCG HS Auditorium	29 LHC Art Festival Dismiss at 1:00-Staff Development	30 Iowa Vocal Jazz Championships 4:00pm 6th Grade Band/Vocal Solo Contest 4:30pm Track & Field-G/JV/Varsity Dallas Center-Grimes HS vs. Multiple Schools @ DCG Stadium 4:30pm Track & Field-B/JV/Varsity Waukee @ Waukee High School 5:30pm Soccer-B/High School Ames @ Ames High School	31 9:00am Golf-B/JV/Varsity Norwalk @ Willow Creek Golf Course 5:30pm Soccer-B/High School Nevada @ DCG Stadium 7:00pm FOFA Night @ Multiple locations	

Go to www.dcgschools.com and select 16-17 Activities Calendar under the Calendars Tab for the weekly DCG Activity schedule.



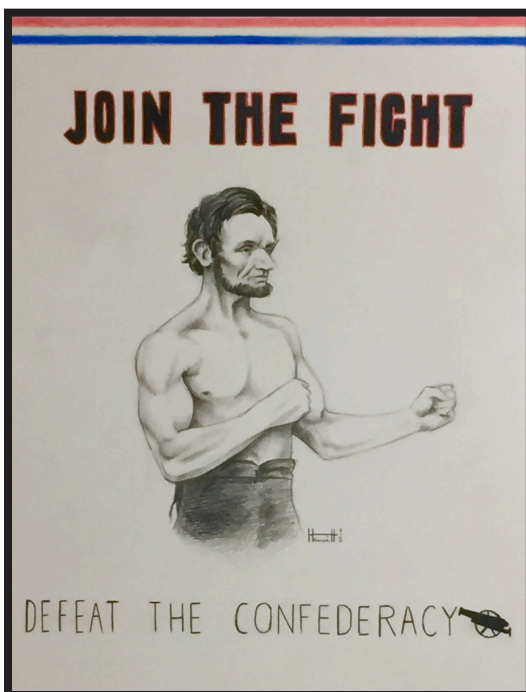
POSTAL CUSTOMER



North Ridge Art Spotlight

Second grade has been keeping busy creating pinch pot sea turtles. They started off by creating a pinch pot and then learning how to slip and score details onto the turtle, such as the head and legs. Students then got to paint their turtles however they wanted in order to create a fun spin on sea turtles. Kate Wilson was chosen as the second grade artist of the month! She did a very good job at slipping and scoring her legs and head onto her turtle. She also did a great job at putting a nice, thick layer of glaze on it! Nice work Kate!

Third grade students have been learning about the artist Keith Haring and creating work based off of his. Keith uses a lot of figures in his artwork and likes to have them doing all sorts of crazy moves! Students got to practice and draw their favorite figures in a style similar to Keith's. Then they used their knowledge of complementary colors to incorporate pastel and watercolor into their work. Drew Every was chosen as the third grade artist of the month because of his great use of craftsmanship. He did a very good job at taking his time while painting and making his complementary colors stand out great next to each other! Awesome job Drew!



Fourth grade has exploring ancient aboriginal artwork. This is art that has been done in Australia for thousands of years. Students incorporated the use of symbolism into their artwork to create a story about an animal of their choice. The kids did a great job at thinking outside of the box and being very creative with their stories and then displaying them visually. Starting with a flat layer of paint, students then went over their artwork carefully with small dots. This is how aboriginal people created their artwork, using their fingers and sticks. Emma Behnkendorf was chosen as fourth grade artist of the month because of her creativity and use of color, line, and symbolism. Her story is about how rhinos got their horns and it is very clever! Great job Emma!



High School Art Spotlight

The work featured on the left is created by junior, Keaton Hewitt as part of his drawing portfolio. Keep up the great work!