



Dallas Center-Grimes Community School

MUSTANG MONTHLY

VOLUME 20
ISSUE 3
October 2018

Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear DC-G Families,

On Tuesday, September 11, 2018, 923 voters turned out for the special election to issue general obligation bonds in the amount of \$46 million. The bond passed with 84.51% voter approval.

Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District will move forward with plans to build a new 7/8 facility as well as renovate current middle school and the high school/Meadows campus. It will also allow us to upgrade security and technology throughout the district.

We are excited to advance this project and to experience the positive impact it will have on students, staff and our communities. This project will help us to manage our increasing enrollment and continue to provide high quality educational opportunities for students.

These opportunities include expanding STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and CTE (Career and Technical Education) initiatives, increasing educational opportunities for students outside of the classroom by partnering with local businesses and organizations, and infusing technology throughout lower grades. Our Future Ready Vision sets students up for success regardless of the path they choose to pursue post-secondary.

DC-G would like to thank Dallas Center and Grimes Communities for their continued support for our education system. #DCGExcellence

Watch the district website, www.dcgschools.com/bond for project updates.

Sincerely,
Scott Grimes
Superintendent



CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday, October 10- 1:00 p.m. Early Dismissal

Friday, October 19- End of First Quarter

Monday, October 22- No School for teacher work day

Tuesday, October 23 and Thursday, October 25- Parent Teacher Conferences, 2:30 p.m.
Early Dismissal for students

Friday, October 26- No School for teacher comp. day

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Fall Conference Information
- School Highlights
- Education Foundation, FOFA,
and PTO News
- Iowa Youth Survey Notification
- CogAT Notification

Empowering Students to Take
Charge of Their Future.



www.dcgschools.com

**DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OFFICES**

Elementary Offices

Patty Morris, Principal/South Prairie Elem.
E-mail: patty.morris@dcschools.com
Telephone Number: (515) 986-4057
Fax Number: (515) 986-4532
500 SW James Street, Grimes, IA 50111
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

April Heitland, Principal/North Ridge Elem.
E-mail: april.heitland@dcschools.com
Telephone Number: 515-986-5674
Fax Number: 515-986-5376
400 N.W. 27th Street, Grimes, IA 50111
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Diann Williamson, Principal/Heritage Elem.
E-mail: diann.williamson@dcschools.com
Telephone Number: (515) 300-9627
Fax Number: (515) 300-9627
500 NE Beaverbrook Blvd., Grimes, IA 50111
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Deb Cale, Principal/Dallas Center Elem.
E-mail: debra.cale@dcschools.com
Telephone Number: (515) 992-3838
Fax Number: (515) 992-3467
1205 13th Street, P.O. Box 400, Dallas Center,
IA 50063
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Middle School Office

Jerry Hlas, Principal
E-mail: jerry.hlas@dcschools.com
Telephone Number: (515) 992-4343
Fax Number: (515) 992-4076
1400 Vine Street, P.O. Box 608, Dallas Center, IA
50063
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Meadows Office

Lori Phillips, Principal
E-mail: lori.phillips@dcschools.com
Telephone Number: (515) 986-0105
Fax Number: (515) 986-3155
2555 W. 1st Street, Ste. 200, Grimes, IA 50111
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

High School Office

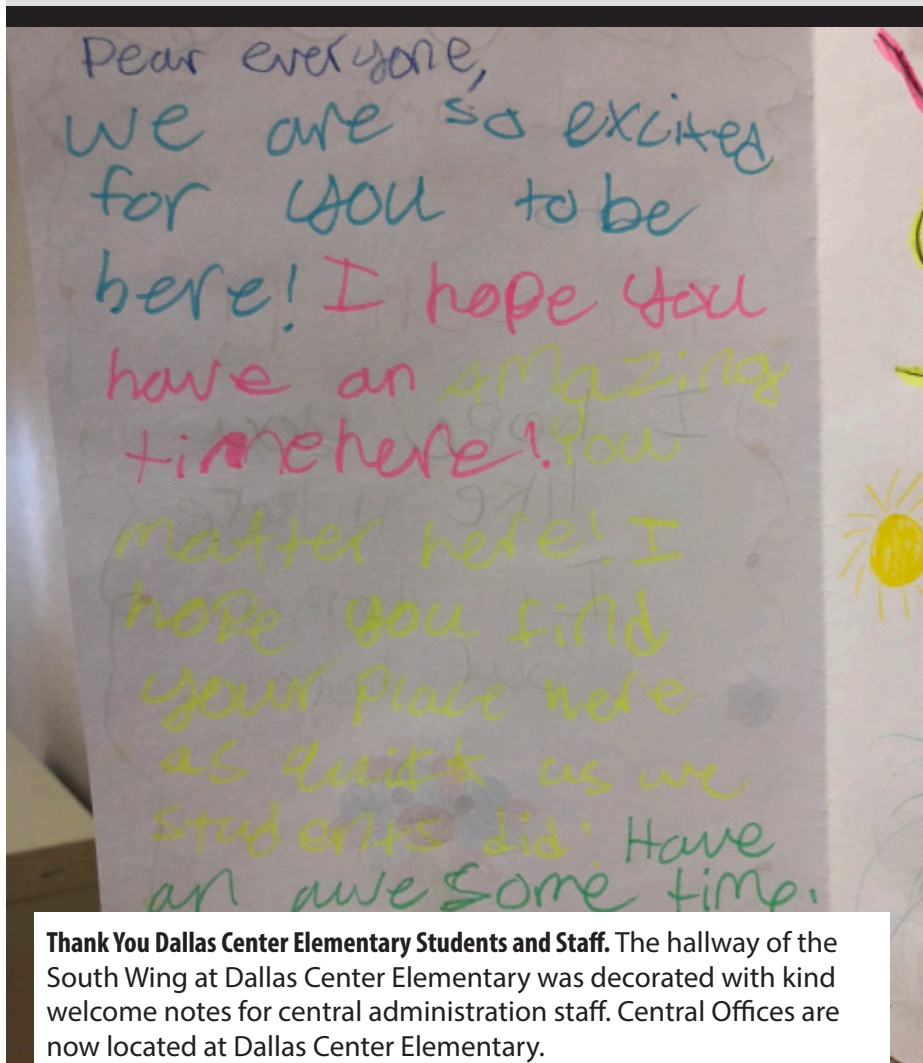
Scott Blum, Principal
E-mail: scott.blum@dcschools.com
Telephone Number: (515) 986-9747
Fax Number: (515) 986-9734
2555 W. 1st Street, Grimes, Iowa 50111
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Central Office/Business Office

Scott Grimes, Superintendent
E-mail: scott.grimes@dcschools.com
Telephone Number: (515) 992-3866
Fax Number: (515) 992-3079
1205 13th Street, P.O. Box 512
Dallas Center, IA 50063

IOWA YOUTH SURVEY

Between October 1 and November 9, 2018, your child/children will be invited to join their 6th, 8th, and 11th grade classmates in completing the 2018 Iowa Youth Survey. This questionnaire will provide the district with information about their values, beliefs, attitudes, and activities. If you do not want your child to participate, please complete the consent form and return it to the office. If you have questions, please feel free to contact your building principal.



Thank You Dallas Center Elementary Students and Staff. The hallway of the South Wing at Dallas Center Elementary was decorated with kind welcome notes for central administration staff. Central Offices are now located at Dallas Center Elementary.

INFINITE CAMPUS LAUNCHES NEW MOBILE APP

We are excited to inform you that Infinite Campus has two new and improved mobile apps: Campus Student (for students) and Campus Parent (for parents). You may download the free app for real-time access to grades, assignments, attendance, schedules, announcements and more. The apps are now available using the Apple App Store or Google Play for Android.

If you are using the old Infinite Campus Mobile app, please delete it and download the new app. The old app will no longer be supported.

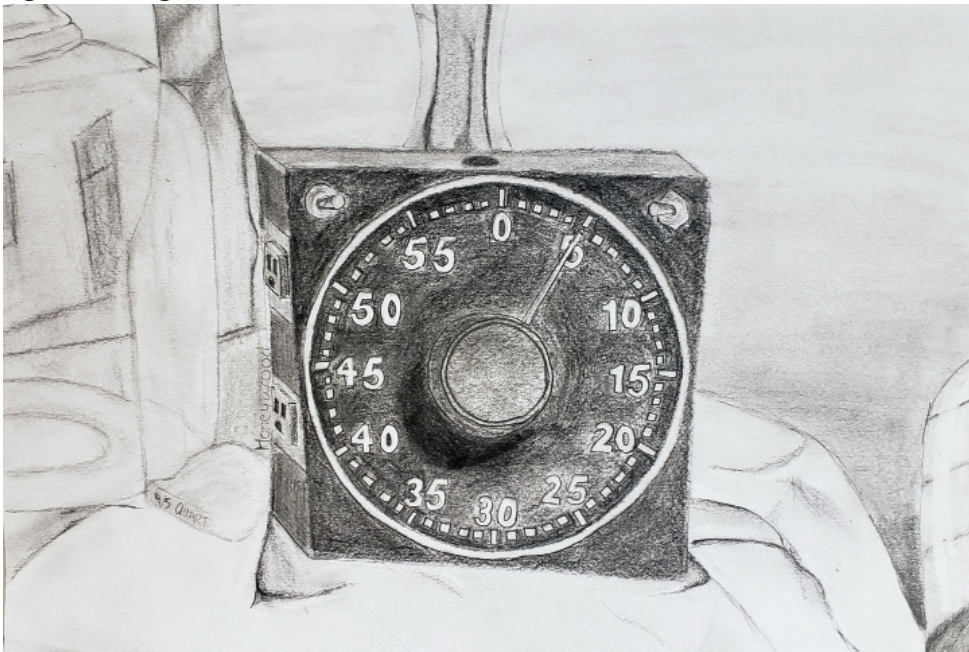
HIGH SCHOOL

Future and Financial Planning Presentations. Students and parents are invited to join Mr. Twigg, Mrs. Bassett, and Mr. Blum in the High School Auditorium during Parent/Teacher Conferences for sessions on future and financial planning! On Thursday, October 25 at 6:00 p.m. there will be a future planning session held for sophomores and juniors about career and college readiness. It will include information on the 4-year plan: DC-G course information, DMACC partnership, and college admission process. At 7:00 p.m. a financial planning session will be held for seniors to discuss the financial aid process and options, FAFSA information and scholarship processes.

PSAT/NMSQT: Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. On October 10, 2018 in the High School Media Center the PSAT/NMSQT will be administered. Register/pay for the PSAT exam beginning Monday, September 17th, in the High School Main Office. The cost is \$16. Juniors are the preferred group and will have priority in registration. Sophomores and freshmen are welcome to register if spots are available.

Benefits: gain SAT prep, enter scholarship and recognition programs, plan for college and careers, explore AP course readiness, receive information from colleges, identify skills for improvement

For more information, call 515-986-9747, email Mrs. Bassett at cindy.bassett@dcschools.com or Mr. Twigg at ben.twigg@dcschools.com, or visit www.collegeboard.org.



MEADOWS

Meadows Fall Conferences. Student led conferences will be held with each student's advisor to celebrate their successes so far this year. A link will be emailed to parents to schedule the conferences. If parents would like to speak with a specific teacher or hold a traditional conference, they may email the teacher directly at any time to set this up.

HS Fall Conferences. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be Tuesday, October 23 and Thursday, October 25 from 3:30-8:00 p.m. Parents may attend conferences at any time during the scheduled hours to visit with teachers. You may stop at the office to pick up your child's schedule. Parents may conference with individual teachers in the gym and commons. We strongly encourage your student to attend these conferences with you.

Class of 2015 Cumulative Records. It is time to clean out the storage room! DC-G keeps cumulative records for three years, and then they are disposed. If you, or your student, graduated in 2015 and would like your cumulative record, you may pick it up at the high school office. Please call the high school office at 515-986-9747 with any questions. Cumulative records remaining by summer of 2019 will be destroyed.

Art Spotlight (Left). Isabel Kidd, a tenth grade DC-G student, created this still-life drawing during her Art I class. As a class, students learned about drawing from observation using gesture, contour, and shading techniques. Wonderful work, Isabel!



NHS Blood Drive. The NHS Fall Blood Drive will be held on October 31 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the high school band room. For information on Volunteer Blood Donor Eligibility, visit our website at www.dcschools.com.

MS Fall Conferences. Parent/Teacher Conferences at the middle school will be held on Tuesday, October 23 and Thursday, October 25. Conferences are held with your child's advisor.

The middle school staff is looking forward to having parents visit the school and facilitate a conference format where the student is a part of the conversation. We work hard as a staff to give the students ownership of their learning by having them set goals, track progress and work to achieve these goals.

If you have questions that require conversation with a specific teacher, please contact that staff member directly, via phone or email.

Parents will be sent a link to PTCFast to sign up for a conference time.

Please note that report cards are no longer being printed and mailed. Instead, parents are encouraged to sign up for a Parent Portal account with Infinite Campus. Grades can be viewed and printed from the Portal if you chose to do so.

If you have scheduling questions or would like help signing in to your Parent Portal account, please contact Kim Matteson, Middle School Administrative Assistant, at 515-992-4343.



Each week at South Prairie Elementary teachers select one deserving student from their class for the Star Student award. Congratulations to our Star Students of the 2018-19 school year who have been recognized so far.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle School Music Program. The music department is excited for an excellent school year full of music! 70% of the student population at the MS is enrolled in band and/or choir (330 students). The students in 6th and 7th grade will have multiple opportunities to perform for you this year. Please consider attending a DC-G MS Music Concert or Event listed below!

Concert Dates

Thursday, November 1st, 2018 at 7pm: 7th Grade Band & Choir Concert

Thursday, December 13th, 2018 at 7pm: 6th Grade Band & Choir Concert

Thursday, January 24th, 2019 at 7pm: 7th Grade Band & Choir Concert

Saturday, April 13th, 2019: SCIBA Large Group Contest

Thursday, May 9th, 2019 at 6:30pm (6th) & 7:30pm (7th): 6th & 7th Grade Choir Concert

Monday, May 13th, 2019 at 6:15pm & 7:30pm: DC-G Festival of Bands

Solo/Small Ensemble Contests

Thursday, February 28th, 2019 from 4-8pm: 6th Grade Solo/Small Ensemble Contest

Tuesday, April 2nd, 2019 from 4-8pm: 7th Grade Solo/Small Ensemble Contest

Honor Festivals for Band & Choir

Tuesday, October 30th, 2018: SCIBA Middle School Honor Band

Thursday, November 15th, 2018: Opus Honor Choir/IMEA Conference

Tuesday, January 15th, 2019: 7th Grade Simpson Honor Band

ELEMENTARY

Elementary Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Tuesday, October 23 and Thursday, October 25. Parents will receive an emailed link to sign up for a conference time through PTCFast.

Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT). Third grade students in the Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District will take the CogAT. CogAT measures learned reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. These skills develop gradually throughout a person's lifetime and at different rates for different individuals. They are good predictors of success in school and are important outcomes of good schooling. CogAT does not measure such factors as effort, attention, motivation, and work habits, which are also important contributors to school achievement.

Teachers will use CogAT scores to help students learn more effectively. For example, if a student's results show an uneven pattern of relative strengths and weaknesses, the teacher can provide challenging opportunities for the student to do the kind of thinking he/she does best (building on the students' strengths). The teacher can also provide support for the development of a student's relative weaknesses. The school district will also use the CogAT to help identify academically gifted students.

CogAT is nationally normed; a student's test performance will be compared with the test performances of other students throughout the nation who are the same age. Each student will be given results by national age percentile rank, for verbal reasoning ability, quantitative reasoning ability, and nonverbal reasoning ability. A CogAT Composite score will be derived from the results on the Verbal, Quantitative, and Nonverbal tests. The Composite national age percentile rank is a general statement of a student's reasoning ability. A parent report will be sent home to each family. If you have questions about this assessment, please contact Angela Dvorak, Director of Student Services at angela.dvorak@dcschools.com or your building principal.

ELEMENTARY



DC-G third graders were invited to a special assembly at Heritage Elementary. Dallas Chief Eagle from the Lakota Tribe, comes to Dallas County each year to share his Native American beliefs and customs. He is known for his hoop dancing, so he shared a variety of dances with students. Students from each class were able to experience it themselves, by learning how to dance with hula hoops.



Meet Jasper the Therapy Dog. There is a new, furry addition to the Dallas Center Elementary staff this year. Jasper is a 5-year-old, Bernese Mountain Dog and Newfoundland cross. Jasper is a certified therapy dog, trained by CARES, Inc. which is based out of Concordia, KS. CARES, Inc. trains service dogs for multiple purposes, including medic alert, PTSD alert, mobility assistance, professional therapy (what Jasper is trained to do) and many other assistance dogs. Jasper works side-by-side with Ms. Schultz,

the new School Counselor at DCE. When CARES, Inc. had a dog ready for Ms. Schultz, she attended a week of training in Concordia, KS to learn all of Jasper's commands. At the end of the week, they had to pass a public service access test, which Jasper passed with flying colors!

This year marks Jasper's 4th year working in a school as a Professional Therapy Dog, and he loves his job! One of the commands Jasper was taught is to 'get dressed'. When Ms. Schultz holds his vest up for him, he will practically dress himself before she can get the command out, showing how excited he gets to do his job!

Jasper has many jobs at school, from being a listener to a student that finds it easier to talk to him or practice their reading skills by being a nonjudgemental listener. He also helps students calm down when they are having a tough time. All of those jobs are important, but Ms. Schultz shares with students that Jasper's main job is to make them smile, which he does easily! We are so excited to welcome Ms. Schultz and Jasper to our DC-G family. If you want to see occasional updates on Jasper, you can follow along through his Facebook page, Jasper the Professional Therapy Dog.



For professional learning, Dallas Center Elementary staff chose two of the three pathways for their learning: Zones of Regulation, PRIDE/Behavior, and/or Literacy Stations and Small Groups. There was a lot of collaboration, sharing of ideas, and problem-solving between staff.



Students at North Ridge Elementary are enjoying their new swings on the playground during recess! Thank you, PTO!

ACTIVITIES



The Dallas Center-Grimes Education Foundation is excited to announce the inaugural R.E.D. Dinner and Auction on November 3rd. R.E.D. stands for (R)aising (E)ducation (D)ollars. Proceeds from the event will be used to continue the support the DC-G Education Foundation's commitment to supporting and promoting excellence within the Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District through educational scholarships to students, as well as teacher grants for classroom support.

Since 2016, the Foundation has provided and facilitated over 260 scholarships to graduating seniors that total nearly \$260,000. The Foundation has also invested in classrooms by providing grants that give students access to curriculum and supplies that would otherwise be unavailable to them. This amazing investment in our youth and thriving school district can only occur because of generous businesses and individuals in our community.

We encourage you to visit Dallas Center-Grimes Education Foundation www.dcgeducationfoundation.org/ for more details and to reserve your seat for the 2018 R.E.D. Dinner and Auction!

FOFA Update. The DC-G Friends of Fine Arts (FOFA) organization supports the fine arts programs of the Dallas Center-Grimes School District through financial and volunteer support. Instrumental and vocal music, theater, dance, art programs, and individual and group speech activities are all supported by this group of volunteers. If you have a child in the fine arts program, you are an important part of FOFA, and we need everyone's help to be successful.

In late July, FOFA launched a direct-mail membership drive in an attempt to reach a larger portion of the Grimes and Dallas Center community members. Contributions received through memberships and fundraising events allow FOFA to financially support fine arts programs. Each K-12 fine arts teacher and director receives a \$500 stipend yearly, and program leaders are encouraged to reach out to FOFA for larger funding requests. In the past year, FOFA has helped fund new dresses for the middle school and high school show choirs, a presentation by Opera Iowa at DCE, storage shelving in the Meadows art room, banquets for various fine arts groups, and scholarships for graduating seniors.

FOFA depends on volunteers year-round. Find out how your time and talents can benefit DC-G fine arts programs. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in the HS choir room during the school year. Information about volunteer opportunities, updates, events, and meetings can be found on Facebook (Friends of Fine Arts – FOFA). Members are also encouraged to follow FOFA on Remind by texting @dcgfofa to 81010 (or adding @dcgfofa class in the Remind app).

ACTIVITIES

Message from the 2018-19 PTO District Executive Team. October kicks off our annual fundraiser. The funds we raise from our supportive community are put right back into our schools to benefit our amazing elementary students and staff. Last year, because of your generous support, the PTO was able to provide iPads, alternative seating, books for the library, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) materials, classroom manipulatives, and DVD players for our elementary schools.

This year the PTO is partnering with Dynamic Drinkware to offer you TWO different ways to support our schools. The first option is a \$25 fundraiser card. With the card, you will go online and choose from a variety of drinkware packages and designs that will be mailed directly to your home. Available design options include all NFL, MLB®, NHL®, College, U.S. Military, Realtree® and fun, lifestyle designs.

The second option is to purchase custom designed Dallas Center-Grimes tumblers. These 22 oz. tumblers are unique, bold, and fun! The durable custom tumblers can be ordered in a 2-pack for \$15 or a 4-pack for \$20. Talk to your favorite DC-G elementary student between October 5th and October 19th to place your order!

Here's a quick look ahead:

- Apparel Sales – a new flyer with DC-G apparel will be available at the school and online during fall conferences. This is a great opportunity to sport our school spirit. The timing is perfect to stock up on Holiday gifts!
- Mark your calendars: The first district-wide PTO meeting of the school year will be held on Monday, October 8th at 7:00pm at South Prairie Library. We look forward to meeting you!

Be sure to 'like' your school's PTO page on Facebook for the most current information on upcoming events, ways to get involved, DC-G apparel sales, and student resources. For questions, please contact dallascentergrimespto@gmail.com.

The 2018-2019 PTO District Executive Team

Stephanie Quanbeck, Dallas Center Elementary President
Erin Leifker, North Ridge Elementary President
Heather Roberts, Accounts Payable Treasurer
Bridget Heuton, Secretary

Amy Maxfield, Heritage Elementary President
Erin Leiran, South Prairie Elementary President
Danielle O'Neill, Bookkeeping Treasurer

Driver's Education. DC-G will continue to offer four sessions of driver's education each year, if there is enough interest. The cost is currently \$325 for each session for DC-G students. The fee for out-of-district students is \$375. Students must be at least 14 years old and have a permit to sign up, as well as a signed parent permission slip. Eighth through twelfth graders may sign up for each session. Fall and spring sessions fill quickly and registrations are taken on a first come first serve basis. Please call the Meadows office at (515) 986-0105 to sign up your child for any of these programs. Below you will find information about each session.

Fall Session 2018

The fall program will begin in the middle of October and end before winter break in December. There will be a meeting in early October to hand out information and collect payment if necessary. Please pay ahead if possible. Classroom days are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 6:45 to 8:00 a.m. Most students will drive during 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 downtown Des Moines. Shuttle bus service from Dallas Center will also be available in the morning to bring students in early for classroom. Class size is limited to 40 students. Home school students are welcome. Classrooms will be held in Meadows Media Center.

Winter Session 2019

The winter program will begin in early January and end before spring break in March. There will be a meeting in December to hand out information and collect payment. Classroom days are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 6:45 a.m. 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 times 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 to the classroom. Class size is limited to 40 students. Home school students are welcome. Class is held in the Meadows Media Center. If there are not at least 12 students registered, the session will be cancelled until spring session.

Dallas Center-Grimes Community
School
1414 Walnut St., Ste. 200
P.O. Box 512
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Nonprofit Org.
ECRWSS
U.S. Postage Paid
Dallas Center, IA 50063
Permit No. 5

POSTAL CUSTOMER



www.dcgschools.com



DC-G staff and their families enjoyed a tailgate on September 14 before cheering on the Mustangs against Glenwood. Thanks to all who attended the celebration to kick-off another amazing school year!