



Dallas Center-Grimes Community School

MUSTANG MONTHLY

VOLUME 20
ISSUE 4
November 2018

Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

DC-G Families,

Throughout the first quarter of the 2018-2019 school year we have seen tremendous support from our Dallas Center and Grimes communities. Whether it is the support of a bond referendum, attendance at school sponsored activities, or involvement in students' academic performance, our communities see the value of education and invest in our students and schools. We believe there is importance in these community partnerships. Therefore, students

throughout all grade levels are given opportunities to get involved in the community.

This fall, students at secondary levels attended the Pursuing Victory with Honor Summit at Drake University. High school students in the School-to-Work program got exposure working in a field they are interested in through partnerships with local businesses such as: Medicap, Habitat for Humanity, Des Moines Playhouse, Prairie View Animal Hospital, Grimes Chamber of Commerce, and Dallas County Attorney's Office.

Meadows students have worked with the Grimes Master Gardeners to learn about environmental issues and how to plant a productive garden. Dallas Center and Grimes city leaders also worked with Meadows students, giving them an understanding of how to manage city growth.

DC-G Middle School students had the opportunity to "Adopt a Grandparent" through a longtime connection with Spurgeon Manor.

Students at the elementary level were recently visited by local fire personnel during Fire Prevention Week. K-5 students had the opportunity to go to Kennybrook to read and write stories with residents.

Each of these experiences have and continue to be impactful for both students and community members with benefits of real-life application of lessons and cross-generational learning. We plan to continue fostering relationships with area organizations and businesses to provide high quality opportunities for students at all levels. Thank you to our communities for their tireless support of our schools.

Sincerely,
Scott Grimes

CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday, November 7- 1:00 p.m. Early Dismissal for Professional Development

Wednesday, November 21 through Friday, November 23- No School for Thanksgiving Break

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Upcoming Programs and Events
- Student Recognition
- District Assessment Team Update
- School News

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COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OFFICES**

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Meadows Office

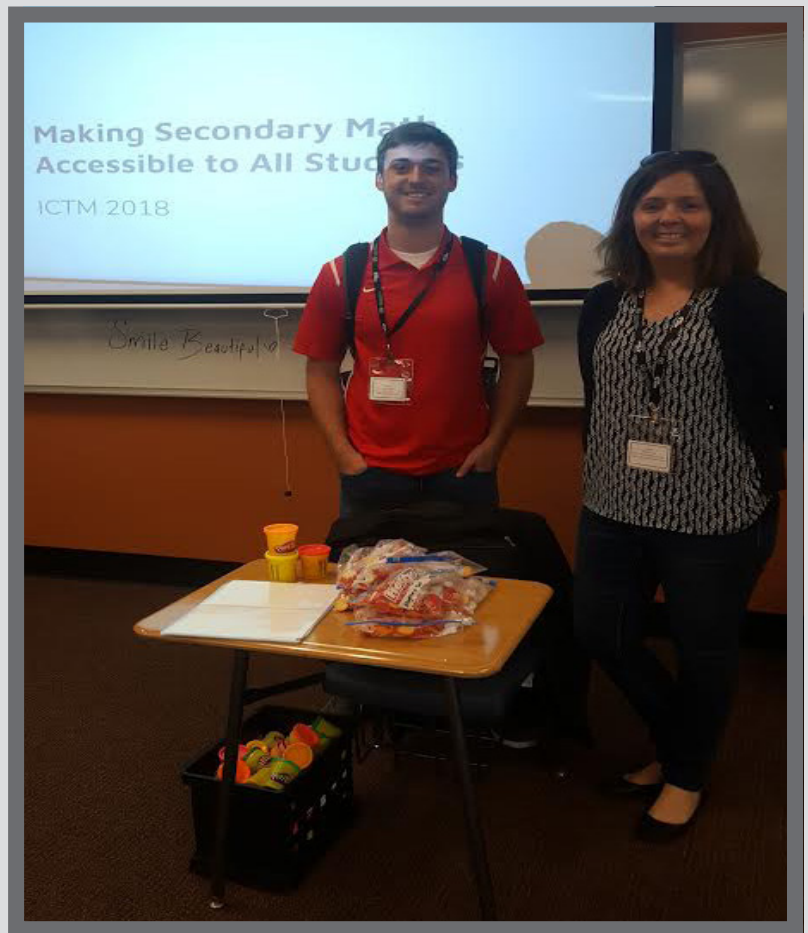
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**DC-G TEACHERS PRESENT AT CONFERENCE,
MODELING INNOVATIVE INSTRUCTION**

Jalen Raymond and Melinda Bryan presented at the Iowa Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference (ICTM) on October 8, 2018. Mr. Raymond is an 8-9 math teacher at Meadows and Mrs. Bryan is a special education teacher at the middle school and the Secondary Curriculum Facilitator for Student Services. They have previously taught Algebra I together, and this is their second year presenting at ICTM. Their session, "Making Secondary Math Accessible for All Learners", was focused on instructional strategies they use in math classes, math intervention, and Instructional methods for special education students. Using a three-step instructional approach called Concrete-Representational-Abstract, the teachers showed how students use items like pawns or play-dough to find answers to Algebraic problems, before representing those same problems through drawings and number lines, and finally solving using numbers and letters. Teachers, instructional coaches, and AEA consultants were able to use the same tools and experience an example of instruction students in DC-G classrooms may receive.

HIGH SCHOOL

ASVAB Career Exploration Program Exam. DC-G juniors will have the opportunity to participate in the ASVAB/Career Exploration Program during a 3-hour time period in the month of November. The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military. The exam has many benefits for participants.

- Meets the career development needs of today's high school and post-secondary students, whether they plan to enter the workforce right away or pursue further education at a university, community college, or vocational institution.
- Provides a world class, comprehensive career exploration and planning experience based on current career development theories and practices.
- Encourages students to explore a wide variety of careers.
- Empowers students; encourages them to determine if and how they could improve their skills to become qualified for an occupation of interest.
- Emphasizes the importance of career planning and decision-making.
- Provides a full-spectrum of career opportunities to students, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, or ability level.

Please email Ben Twigg or Cindy Bassett in the High School Student Services Office if you have any questions, or would prefer your child not participate: ben.twigg@dcschools.com or cindy.bassett@dcschools.com.



Students of the Month. This school year high school staff will be recognizing 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 academic success during the month of September.

Agriculture: Derek Holmes

Art: Dakota Miles

Band: Ben Miller

Business: Emily Rutter

Industrial Technology: Taylor Evans

Language Arts: Samantha Vos

Family and Consumer Science: Olivia Macumber

Math: Sydney Anderson

Physical Education: Jonathon Mikota

Science: Jenna Hannemann

Social Studies: Divine Mukiza

Vocal: Benjamin Ver Ploeg

World Language: Alyce Gambrall

Senior Leaders Attend NCYL. The National Council on Youth Leadership was held at Drake University on September 10th, with 8 seniors representing Dallas Center-Grimes High School. Kaylin Berghoefer, Tyler Borneman, Carter Eischeid, Holly Ellis, Abigail Greiman, Elizabeth Mensing, Cooper Pierce, and Caleb Rhoads were selected to attend the leadership conference. These student leaders were chosen based on their academic and extracurricular success.



Art Spotlight. In the high school's Drawing I class, Madelyn Forsyth made this dynamic historical comic. After choosing an influential moment in history, students worked with ink to create washes along with hatching techniques to communicate the historical event.

DC-G Goes International. The World Language Department at Dallas Center-Grimes is going on their Paris to the Pyrenees trip during spring break of 2020. Students who will be enrolled in grades 9-12 during that year are eligible along with their parent(s) or guardian. The trip starts in Paris and goes down to the Loire Valley and the western coast of France, where the group will visit Bordeaux and Biarritz. The group will enter the Basque country of Spain and visit San Sebastián before heading to Pamplona and Zaragoza. The last stop is in Barcelona. Please contact one of the following teachers for more information: Katheryn Almeida, Emily Smith, Lara Roy, Julia Learned or LaRee Hawks.

MEADOWS



Meadows ELA Students Host an Author. Award winning author Jenny Moyer came to speak to eighth grade students about her story of becoming an author, her writing process, and answered some great questions.



Dance the Night Away. Meadows students celebrated homecoming week with dress-up days, fun activities, and a dance.



Building Strong Leaders. DC-G Middle School, Meadows, and High School took a group of students to Drake University for the Pursuing Victory with Honor Summit. It was a day to develop leadership, communication, and motivation through small group activities, breakout sessions, and a keynote address.



Homecoming Celebrations. Thank you to the students, staff and parents that made homecoming week a blast. Each dress up day was full of spirit and our door decorations, homecoming games and tug of war tournament ended the week on a high note. The Meadows dance was a great end to . Thank you to the parent and teacher volunteers that made the evening possible. We could not do what we do without your support. Congratulations to Mr. Klaessy and Mrs. Rubel's advisories for winning the homecoming door decorating competition.

College and Career Programs for Meadows Students. Throughout the school year, your Meadows student will be using the Career and College Program, Naviance.

- Eighth grade technology classes will begin the process of four year course planning and further investigating their career interests and personality strengths.
- Ninth grade students will participate in the Strengths Explorer survey. We will also be updating their four year plan and continue college and career discussions during advisory.
- Both eighth and ninth grade students will be going deeper into career and college exploration during the spring semester. Students will explore the Naviance resources during advisory as well as have the opportunity to hear guest speakers from colleges and careers.

In the coming weeks, watch your email for ways you can log into the website to see the progress your Meadows student is making.

If you have question about this program or are having issues logging into the website, please contact Emily Judd, Meadows School Counselor, at emily.judd@dcschools.com.

Veteran's Day Assembly. Meadows Veteran's Day Assembly will be held on Friday November 9th at 9:30 a.m. Family members who currently serve or have served are invited to attend and be recognized. There will be a small reception for our guests after the assembly. Please contact the Meadows Office if you plan to attend (515) 986-0105 or email Emily Judd, Meadows School Counselor, emily.judd@dcschools.com.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DC-G MS Choir Members Selected for Honors Choir. The Iowa Choral Directors Association sponsors the yearly Opus Honor Choir on Thursday, November 15, 2018 at Iowa State University. Four choirs of approximately 180 selected voices from across Iowa are featured during an afternoon concert. Over the summer and in the first month of school, 38 students practiced and auditioned for the 2018 Opus Honor Choirs. We are honored to have eight students selected to participate in the 2018 Opus Honor Choirs! Their experience will be one for the memory books, as they will join together with the other selected students from across the state to make incredible music! Congratulations to all of the students that auditioned and the following students that were accepted:

5/6 Opus Honor Choir Selected Students:

Emma Behnkendorf
Ella Christiansen
Karley Frisen
Mara Redenius

7/8 Bass Clef Opus Honor Choir Selected Student:

Alex Pries

7/8 Treble Clef Opus Honor Choir Selected Students:

Grace Cline
Olivia Cyr
Kylie Perdue



Band Members Selected for Honors Performance. Congratulations to the four DC-G MS seventh grade band members who were selected for the South Central Iowa Bandmasters Middle School Honor Band to be held on November 6th at Ankeny Centennial HS. Ellie Illian- Flute; Laynne Weber- Horn; Jack Crilly- Trumpet; Cole Blessman- Euphonium.



Kids in the Kitchen. Students learned how to make apple pie with Chef Joe and the middle school kitchen staff.



Recess Fun. Dallas Center Elementary students enjoy a game together at recess.



Classroom Connections. North Ridge first grader students read to their fifth grade buddies.

ELEMENTARY

A message from the 2018-2019 PTO District Executive Team: A BIG THANK YOU to all students and parents on a successful fall fundraiser through Dynamic Drinkware. It's always exciting to see how friends and neighbors rally around our teachers and schools! We are still tallying the funds raised and will be providing totals and more information on the great things being done with this money in future issues of the Mustang Monthly.

Mark your calendars:

- November 12, 2018– School PTO meetings will be held in the library/media center of your elementary school from 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- November 16, 2018- Hockey season is here! Enjoy a fun night with school friends and family on Friday, November 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the Iowa Wild game. Discounted tickets are \$13 and must be purchased online by noon on November 14th. Visit your school's PTO page on Facebook for details and a link to buy tickets. The first 1,500 fans in attendance will receive an exclusive red cowbell at the door! Invite your friends, family, and class to come out and enjoy the fun! For questions contact Allen Harris at (515) 564-8732.
- May 3, 2019 – Reading Rocks! Planning has kicked off for THE event of the Spring! Reading Rocks! is our biggest PTO event of the year and always a fun night for all. The PTO is looking for volunteers to help out on the following committees: Community Center/Entertainment Relations, Publications/Flyers, Book Room, Tickets/Games/Volunteers/Prizes, Business Sponsorships, Silent Auction, Class Baskets and, Food. To volunteer, please contact dallascentergrimespto@gmail.com with your area of interest.

ELEMENTARY



South Prairie 'Star Students'. Students are awarded weekly for their hard work. This group was recognized for the week of October 8-12.



Building Literacy Skills. A Heritage Kindergarten student practices reading aloud while sharing her favorite book with classmates.



Positive Role Models. Heritage students are visited by their DC-G High School buddy each Friday.



Inspiring Creativity. North Ridge first grade students take a closer look at the 'stained glass' they created during art class.

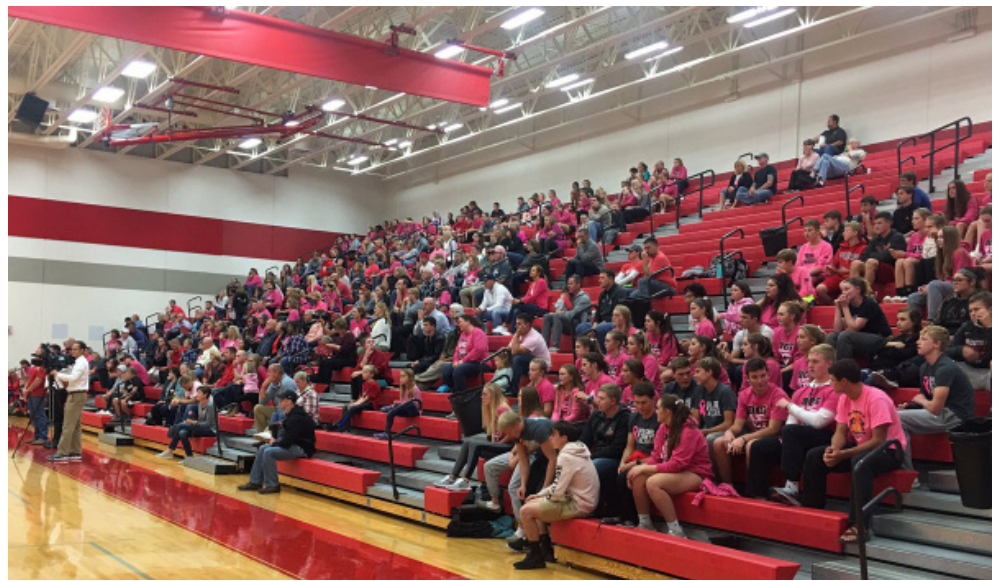


Fire Prevention Week. During the week of October 8-12, DC-G elementary students participated in Fire Prevention Week. Students learned about fire safety and what to do in the case of an emergency. Local firefighters visited students to teach them about important fire safety tips.

The firefighters assigned students with the task of making sure batteries in their home smoke detectors are changed on a regular basis and being aware of routes out of buildings they are frequently in.

Third Grade Concert: American Pride. Dallas Center Elementary third grade students will be performing a concert, "American Pride," on Thursday, November 8th @ 6:30 p.m. in the DCE Gymnasium. We hope to see you there!

ACTIVITIES



Dig Pink. DC-G Volleyball team hosted their Dig Pink event in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The Dallas Center-Grimes and Adel, DeSoto, Minburn (ADM) communities worked closely to raise awareness and money for breast cancer research. The event raised over \$7,500! Thank you to our students and staff who organized the event and all those who attended and contributed to its success!

DISTRICT NEWS

District Assessment Team. The DC-G District Assessment Team was developed during the 2017-18 school year to review all of the district level assessments given at each grade level. The team's immediate objectives include:

- Identify specific assessments administered PreK-12
- Understand the different types and purposes of assessments
- Identify areas of strength and opportunities for improvement within our current assessment system
- Identify potential assessments that support high levels of understanding about student performance across all academic areas
- Identify how data is used at each level of the system to better understand student learning.

The team created an Assessment Matrix for all of the building/district level assessments to help analyze the type of assessments given at each grade level and their alignment to state standards. In addition, the matrix provides information about the purpose of the assessments, users of the assessments, and overall cost. In the spring of 2018, the Assessment Team administered surveys to teachers and parents in the district to gain feedback about their knowledge and uses of the assessments given. After analysis of the survey data, and review of the Assessment Matrix, the Assessment Team made the following recommendations regarding assessments at DC-G.

Summary of Recommendations:

- Pilot the FAST aMath (adaptive Math) in place of SMI (Scholastic Math Inventory) in grades 5-8 to determine alignment to state standards and to inform instructional practices.
- Words Their Way and Number Corner will be given at the building level, used to support PLC data conversations, and are no longer required to be reported out at the district level.
- Number Corner will now be given three times a year, fall, winter, spring, for grades K-5 (reduction from 5 times per year) to reduce the amount of testing time for students and increase instructional time.
- Reading Benchmarking will be administered for all K-5 students in fall and spring and will be administered only in the winter for students who are non-proficient to reduce amount of testing time and increase instructional time.
- Pilot the AAIMS math assessment to determine algebra readiness and collect normative data in grades 6-9.

The DC-G Assessment Team will continue to meet during the 2018-19 school year to support the assessment practices in our district to use data in effective and meaningful ways. The team will support the transition from the Iowa Assessment to the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP). For additional information or questions please contact your building principal.

Sincerely,

Assessment Team Members:

Scott Grimes, Superintendent

Lori Phillips, Meadows Principal

Debra Cale, DCE Principal

Angela Dvorak, Director of Student Services

April Heitland, North Ridge Principal

Kyra Wilcox-Conley, AEA Assessment Consultant

Darwin Yossi, Director of Technology

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Congratulations to our very own Candace Berkley for being recognized by the Iowa Council of Teachers of English as the Iowa High School Teacher of Excellence - Teacher of the Year!