



Dallas Center-Grimes Community School

# MUSTANG MONTHLY

VOLUME 20  
ISSUE 6  
January 2019

Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

DC-G Families,

The state has released new information on school performance as required by a federal education law called the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): A new online reporting tool called the Iowa School Performance Profiles reflects how public schools performed on a set of core accountability measures, such as results on the statewide assessment. The tool displays a school's score based on overall performance, as well as scores based on the performance of subgroups of students. These subgroups include students who are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch, students receiving special education services, English learners, and students from racial/ethnic minority groups. Based on these scores, some schools in Iowa have been identified for additional support and improvement (Comprehensive or Targeted).

Our school has not been identified for either Comprehensive Support and Improvement (which is based on overall performance) or Targeted Support and Improvement (which is based on the performance of student subgroups). However, our school still receives scores on these accountability measures, and these are updated annually; you can locate our scores and results on the Iowa School Performance Profiles site.

We have many things to celebrate in our school including Iowa Assessment achievement scores recently shared with SIAC which places DC-G in the top ranking of comparable schools in the metro and around the state. We have tremendous community support with passing the recent bond vote to improve facilities including building a new 7th - 8th grade building. We also continue to work toward improvement and supporting our students and families with the challenges they face in the areas of mental health and social emotional well-being. We also continue to focus on safety plans in all of our buildings by collaborating with our district safety committee and community groups such as Moms Demand Action, Dads on Doors, and local law enforcement. We view this new system for accountability and support as an opportunity to review our strengths and areas for improvement and to build on the great things we have going on.

Thank you for your continued support of our school, our staff, and our students. For more information about the Iowa School Performance Profiles and ESSA, visit the following website: [www.iaschoolperformance.gov](http://www.iaschoolperformance.gov).

Sincerely,  
Scott Grimes  
Superintendent

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Scott Grimes  
Superintendent



## CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Friday, January 11th- End of 1st semester/2nd quarter

Monday, January 14th- No School for Teacher Work Day

Monday, January 21st- No School for Professional Development

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- School News
- Secondary Class Registration
- Semester Testing Schedules
- Updates from PTO, FOFA, and

Education Foundation

Empowering Students to Take  
Charge of Their Future.



[www.dcschools.com](http://www.dcschools.com)

**DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OFFICES**

**Elementary Offices**

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**Middle School Office**

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**Meadows Office**

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**High School Office**

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**Grimes Chamber of Commerce Lunch and Learn.** On December 12th, Grimes Chamber members and Dallas Center-Grimes Education Foundation members visited DC-G High School for a lunch and learn program. The members were entertained by high school choirs and jazz band, and fed by Chef Joe and Donna Sevenich of the Nutrition Department. We appreciate the Chamber's support of our district and community, particularly in providing experiences for students through the School-to-Work program and other community partnerships.

# HIGH SCHOOL

**High School Registration.** Tenth and eleventh grade students will register for 2018-19 classes in their advisories on January 17th and 18th. Students will have materials to help them prepare for registration, and parents can help their children by discussing future plans and course options. The course description book and planning materials can be found on the high school website. The High School will hold a parent meeting at 6:00 p.m. on January 9th, in the High School Auditorium, sharing information on graduation requirements and class offerings.



**Students of the Month.** High School staff members are proud to recognize students for the work they are doing in academic areas. Students below were selected for qualities such as leadership, work ethic, and peer support during the month of November. These students represent DC-G Excellence!

Agriculture: Gabriel Jorgenson

Math: Isabel Kidd

Art: Madison Pebsworth

Physical Ed.: Meredith Fiori

Band: Mia Charlson

Science: Jonathan Wedle

Business: Mallory Schmitz

Social Studies: Tyler Walker

Industrial Technology: Gavin Ray

Vocal: Mackenzie Fortune

Language Arts: Sierra Sonberg

World Language: Lydia Steier

Family and Consumer Science: Reegan Maddy Shoemaker



**Art Spotlight.** Maddy Kruse created this unique self-portrait in Drawing I class. The students were asked to step out of their comfort zone and create a portrait of themselves smashed against a window. This allowed the students to not only use facial proportion, but also pushed them to make adjustments to "correct proportion" and to draw what is really there! Maddy did a fabulous job and used a phenomenal value range.

## Semester Test Schedule – 1st Semester 2018-19

Thursday, January 10, 2019

8:10-8:25 Study Hall (in Media Center) for all students in building. Also, a time to receive extra help.

8:30-9:50 1st period

10:00-11:20 3rd period

11:20-12:20 Lunch/Study Hall

11:50-12:20 Teachers in rooms available to help students.

12:25-1:45 5th period

1:55-3:15 7th period

Friday, January 11, 2019

8:10-8:25 Study Hall (in Media Center) for all students in building. Also, a time to receive extra help.

8:30-9:50 2nd period

10:00-11:20 4th period

11:20-12:20 Lunch/Study Hall

11:50-12:20 Teachers available in rooms to help students.

12:25-1:45 6th period

1:55-3:15 8th period

**Class of 2015 Cumulative Records.** It is time to clean out the storage room and cumulative records! The school keeps and maintains permanent records on every student forever but only keeps cumulative records for three years. We will be disposing of cumulative records for the 2015 graduation year. 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. Any cumulative records remaining by summer of 2019 will

## MEADOWS

**Semester Tests.** Ninth grade students will run a normal schedule for semester tests. If ninth grade students take a high school class, they will follow the high school schedule and be excused from the Meadows schedule of courses. Students are encouraged to contact Mrs. Judd, Meadows Guidance Counselor, if they have scheduling conflicts.

**National Certification.** Congratulations to Katheryn Almeida for earning National Board Certification in the area of World Language. Katheryn teaches Spanish and World Language and Culture at the Meadows Building.

The founding mission of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is to advance the quality of teaching and learning by: (1) maintaining high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do; (2) providing a national voluntary system certifying teachers who meet these standards; and (3) advocating related education reforms to integrate National Board Certification in American education and to capitalize on the expertise of National Board Certified Teachers. Recognized as the "gold standard" in teacher certification, the National Board believes higher standards for teachers means better learning for students.

Katheryn has exhibited determination and perseverance as she has worked for this recognition. The DC-G staff is extremely proud of her accomplishment.

**Registration/ Course information.** On Tuesday, January 8, 2019, all current eighth grade students and parents are encouraged to meet in the High School Auditorium at 5:45 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to explain the registration process for ninth grade and gain information about both Core and Elective courses. The meeting should take about an hour. If you have any questions, please contact Marc Juergens or Lori Phillips at 515-986-0105.

**Positive Culture, Positive Mindsets.** Creating a positive culture and building positive self-esteem is a large focus of the work we do at Meadows. Through advisory activities, small groups, and individual conversations, the Meadows student services team works together to build a safe and positive culture for all. As we start second semester, your child may start to struggle or feel overwhelmed by homework, friendships or personal concerns. Please encourage your student to try the following:

- Get Involved! There are numerous activities 8th and 9th graders can participate in. Please contact the Meadows Main Office to get a list of all the activities.

- Get Organized! Some of the stress or anxiety that comes with the winter or start of the semester can be solved from organizing with folders, a planner, google calendars. Please reach out to your child's advisor or school counselor for help.

- Reach out to a positive adult or contact the Meadows Counselor or Dean if your child is struggling emotionally or academically. We also have a variety of resources and supports for students with Mental Health needs.

- Contact the student assistance program through EFR for family or student supports. [www.efr.org](http://www.efr.org) or 1-800-327-4692.

As always, please reach out to us if you have any celebrations, questions, or concerns. We look forward to working together to ensure your child is successful at school. Marc Juergens- Dean of Students ([marc.juergens@dcgschools.com](mailto:marc.juergens@dcgschools.com)) or Emily Judd- School Counselor ([Emily.judd@dcgschools.com](mailto:Emily.judd@dcgschools.com))

**It's Show Choir Season!** The MS Show Choir, Infinity, has been rehearsing two mornings a week since the second week of school. They have worked hard to prepare their four songs vocally and choreographically and cannot wait to perform and compete. They were honored to have two high school students, Carson Sump and Catalina Vaughn, choreograph their show. A record number of 109 students are participating in MS Show Choir with two seventh grade band members. They will begin their performance season with a home show choir showcase which will also feature the two high school show choirs.

January 7th, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.: DC-G Show Choir Showcase at 7:00 p.m. in the HS Auditorium

January 11th, 2019: Waukee StarStruck Show Choir Competition

January 18th-19th, 2019: DC-G's "Take Two" Show Choir Invitational (Infinity will perform Friday evening)

February 8th, 2019: Urbandale Show Choir Invitational

February 15th, 2019: Pella Dutch Masters Show Choir Competition

# MIDDLE SCHOOL



**Extended Learning Program Field Trip.** On November 13th, 2018, the seventh grade ELP students of Dallas Center-Grimes Middle School went on a field trip to Reiman Gardens and then to a variety of places on the Iowa State University campus. First, they went to Reiman Gardens, the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering building, then had a delicious lunch with college students, and finally went to The Museum of Art and Textiles.

At Reiman Gardens, the students went on a tour with an expert, and one group even saw a butterfly emerge from its chrysalis! After this exciting experience, both groups were allowed to walk through the butterfly gardens and

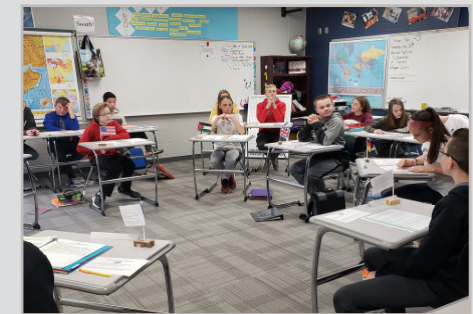
admire the beautiful insects. Lastly, each student dissected a flower and learned about its parts, as well as the process of pollination.

The bus delivered everyone to the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering building, or the ABE building. Steve Mickelson, the tour guide and head of the department, informed the students of the founder and his vision of the future. The students were introduced to the beautiful artwork that hangs in the entrance, and that is embedded in the floor. After that, they went to a variety of different engineering and agricultural stations. For example, there was a 3D metal printing station that was fascinating in the fact that it layered metal to make creations. Students also saw a water jet, which cuts metal into any shape, observed a study on water flow that helps for making canals and studying rivers, and finally, saw an enticing robot display that specializes in moving plant pots. Everyone got to take home a nice souvenir cut by the water jet - a metal carving of the letters ABE.

After the captivating tour, the students had lunch on the ISU campus with a very delicious array of foods to choose from and eat. The students went to the Museum of Arts and Textiles. At the museum there were many old clothing styles, as well as furniture that may look modern but is actually from another time. Though you cannot touch anything, it was a joyous experience that any student could love, with all of the explanations of the art to guide visitors.

Students arrived back to their families after a long day of learning. From dissecting a flower to wandering in a museum - the entire day was filled with new experiences. Students learned very much at ISU and hope to attend again next year!

Article by: Ellie Cole, 7th Grade ELP student



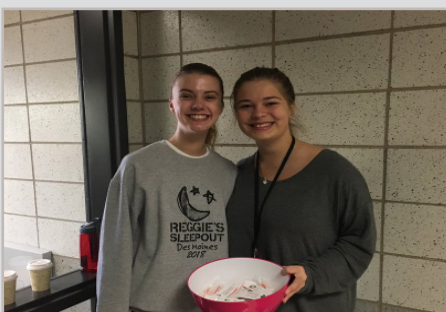
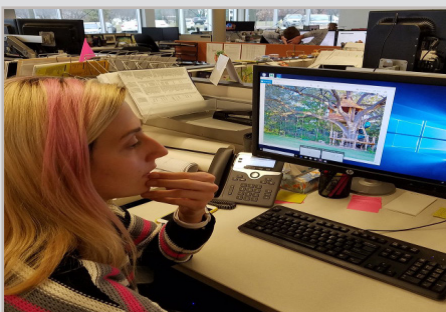
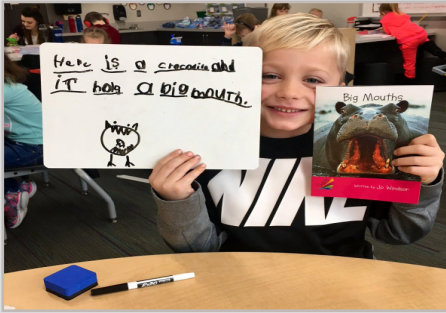
## ELEMENTARY

**A message from the 2018-2019 PTO District Executive Team:** Reading Rocks! planning meetings will begin in January. There are still committee chair and committee volunteer opportunities available. Please email [southprairiecdgpto@gmail.com](mailto:southprairiecdgpto@gmail.com) if you are able to volunteer!

### Save the Date:

- January 7th, 2019– North Ridge, Heritage, and Dallas Center Elementary PTO meetings from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in each school's library/media center. \*Please note this is a date change for DCE.
- January 14th, 2019– Reading Rocks! Kick-off meeting from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the South Prairie library. Please join us to learn more about the event and volunteering opportunities!
- January 24th, 2019– South Prairie and Heritage Skate Night at Skate North from 5:00-8:00 p.m.
- January 31st, 2019– North Ridge and DCE Skate Night at Skate North from 5:00-8:00 p.m.
- February 11th, 2019– South Prairie, North Ridge, Heritage, and Dallas Center Elementary PTO meetings from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in each school's library/media center. \*Please note this is a change from a full-district meeting to school specific meetings.
- May 3rd, 2019– Reading Rocks! is a night of games, free books, prizes, food, music, and family fun for all. Mark your calendar for a year-end celebration you won't want to miss supporting DC-G PTO!

**Congratulations!** Kelsey Stover, a second grade student at North Ridge Elementary, took second place in Special Olympics State Bowling this past November. Great job Kelsey!



## ACTIVITIES

**Speech.** The High School Large Group Speech team is busy preparing for District Speech Contest which will be at Perry High School on Saturday, January 19th, where over one-hundred students in 25 groups will perform in a wide variety of acting categories. Groups that receive a I Rating will progress to State Competition at Valley High School on Saturday, February 2nd.

The speech team will hold a Parent Night on Saturday, January 5th at 6:00 p.m. in the HS auditorium. Family and friends are welcome to come view the pieces the students have been preparing and take pictures during the performances. Pictures and video will not be allowed at contest.

# ACTIVITIES

**FOFA Strives to Meet Needs of 4A Competition.** The Marching Mustangs were the first fine arts group from DC-G to compete under the 4A classification this fall. On December 8th, DC-G High School jazz bands premiered as a 4A group at the SCIBA Jazz Festival in Waukee. This winter, DC-G High School show choirs will also begin competing throughout the state as 4A groups.

With the growth of DC-G fine arts programs to 4A classification, FOFA is working hard to meet the increasing needs of these programs. DC-G's Take Two Show Choir Invitational is also expanding to reflect this change. This year, Take Two will be a two-day event (January 18th-19th) and will include 24+ middle school and high school show choirs from the Des Moines area. District families and community members are invited to support this event as spectators and as volunteers. For more information on how to become involved, find us at [www.dcgschools.com](http://www.dcgschools.com) (Parent Resources, Friends of Fine Arts – FOFA) or follow us on Facebook (Friends of Fine Arts – FOFA) and Remind (text @dcgfofa to 81010). Volunteers and memberships help make this a success each year!

**DC-G Education Foundation Red Auction.** The First Annual Red Dinner and live Auction was held this past November 3rd at the Grimes Community Center. The event was emceed by former Des Moines Register columnist Chuck Offenburger with 120 community members participating in the events. The evening started with a silent auction followed by a dinner catered by The Radish and a live auction conducted by professional auctioneer Jared Chambers.

Some of the top grossing items were seven day timeshare stays at Maui, Jamaica and Cozumel, use of a Lake of the Ozarks Home, a limo tour of Des Moines Microbreweries, Kansas City Chiefs tickets and a Goal Setter Basketball system. The evening picked up with a Go Fund a Need event in which dollars raised will provide for two \$3,000 per year scholarships, with recipients eligible for up to four years of renewal. The last event was a Heads or Tails game in which finalists joined the auctioneer onstage. The event netted over \$47,000. Mark your calendar for next year's event on Saturday, November 2nd, 2019 as seating will be limited.

**Education Foundation February Fundraiser Breakfast.** The Education Foundation's Third Annual Fundraiser Breakfast is set for February 15th, 2019 beginning at 7:00 a.m. at the Grimes Community Center. This year's event will feature Sarah Noll Wilson as keynote speaker of the event. See a Foundation Board member or register online to get your tickets before it fills up.



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**Congratulations, Steve Watson!**

Mr. Watson, Dallas Center-Grimes CSD Activities Director, was recently awarded Central District AD of the Year & IHSADA Athletic Director of the Year! This is a huge honor and we are very lucky to have Mr. Watson as a part of our DC-G Family.