



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

VOLUME 22
ISSUE 3
DECEMBER 2020

Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

What a year it has been! I frequently hear the saying, "Oh, that's so 2020" or "Well, just chalk it up to 2020." While I could easily agree with these statements, I prefer to reflect on how far our staff has come since March in our ability to pivot, adapt and provide an education to our students despite what has been thrown at us.

Today, I want to focus on the silver linings of the year.

If it were not for 2020, we would not have accomplished our goal of becoming a 1:1 district. While we are still learning how to fully integrate this technology with

our elementary students, simply having the technology in the hands of every DCG student is impressive.

When I started at DCG 10 years ago, eighth graders were the first and only students to receive Chromebooks

24/7. That pilot initiative provided a year of planning time for staff to learn best practices in a 1:1 laptop environment, and for students and families to become accustomed to new teaching and learning practices.

This year, we have provided 1:1 technology for all students in our district without the luxury of additional preparation time, and we are on the road to success! This accomplishment makes me proud!

This year has not been business as usual. We are asking our students and staff to teach and learn in ways that they have never done in the past. Yet, the staff at DCG provide an education for your children every day that is simply remarkable. The state requirements for education have not changed. We are still charged with educating all students and making sure we elevate them from where they are to where they need to be. This task can be challenging and, at times, daunting. However, our staff has welcomed the challenge by relying on the pillars of our educational model - communication and collaboration. By working together, our teachers have adapted their teaching to accommodate the hybrid, on-site, quarantine and online approaches in order to accommodate our families' variety of needs. We continue to identify where students are in their academic progress and make adjustments to ensure our students continue their academic growth. The staff's hard work makes me proud!

Our staff members continue to implement the social emotional mental health framework in their buildings and celebrate student successes. This fall we provided training and resources for social emotional well being that will be implemented into our classrooms. The staff's ability to build relationships and to focus on a child's overall well being makes me proud!

When the dark clouds roll in and we are faced with unprecedented challenges it might be easy to focus on how difficult our new reality has become. Rather, I encourage all of us to search for that silver lining by reflecting on the creative ways we have tackled the challenges. By doing so, we will continue to improve, moving us closer toward our quest for excellence--and sunnier days!

Sincerely,

Scott Grimes

Superintendent



CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

No School Winter Break - December 23 - January 1

Every Wednesday Early Out

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Home of the Mustangs



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SENATE FILE 2360

The state of Iowa recently passed a law that is intended to provide a comprehensive approach to creating a safe learning space for students and teachers.

The law is published as Senate File 2360 and will be referred to as SF 2360. This law applies to local school districts, AEA's, and accredited nonpublic schools and the children these employees serve.

Restrictions on the Use of Classroom Clears

A key component of this law is about ensuring that educators have a range of classroom management tools that match the intensity of the concern and create a safe learning environment for students and teachers. This law makes clear that while a classroom clear may be necessary in the event of an imminent threat of bodily injury, it is not an appropriate response to less threatening behaviors.

A classroom clear may only be used to prevent or terminate an imminent threat of bodily injury.

Definitions

"Classroom clear" - clearing all other students out of the classroom in order to calm a child.

"Imminent threat of bodily injury" - reasonably likely and about to inflict physical pain, illness, or any other impairment of physical condition.

Four Important Points for Parents about Classroom Clears

1. A classroom clear may only be used to prevent or terminate an imminent threat of bodily injury.
2. A classroom clear cannot be included in a child's Individual Education Plan (IEP) and/or behavior intervention plan (BIP).
3. Requires notification of parents when there's a classroom clear. In the event of a classroom clear, the principal must contact all parents of the children in the class that was cleared. The notification must be within 24 hours of the incident, but preferably by the end of the day.
4. Requires schools that in the event that your child was involved in the incident giving rise to the classroom clear, the principal must request that you meet with the school.

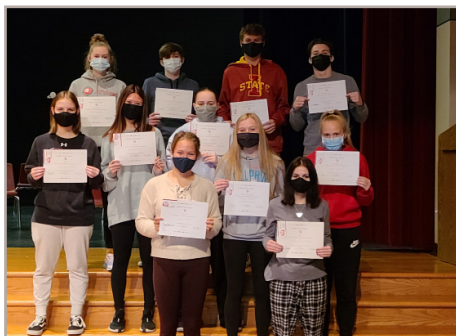
Confidentiality and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

In the event the principal must notify you regarding a classroom clear, due to FERPA, the principal must not share the name or identity of any student/s involved in the incident giving rise to the classroom clear.

HIGH SCHOOL

Students of the Quarter In the past, students have been awarded students of the month. This year while in the Hybrid Learning Model, the high school is awarding students of the quarter. Teachers across 14 different categories name the top students in their subject for each grade level. First quarter award winners include:

Agriculture	Art	Band
Jessica Norris, 12	Megan Sterbenz, 12	Sierra Mason, 12
Kade Mauk, 11	Bella Segebart, 11	Kaylee Huinker, 11
Makenna Odegaard, 10	Macaela Kuonen, 10	Ajon Ervin, 10
Business	FCS	Industrial Tech
Maya Khosravi, 12	Serenity Guillings, 12	Brandon Outhier, 12
Ella Lampe, 11	Alex Abens, 11	Austin Meggers, 11
Meredith McDermott, 10	Mahalia Reha, 10	Carter Southwick, 10
Language Arts	Math	PE
Caden Grimes, 12	Sam Lickteig, 12	Hannah Rauschenberg, 12
Anasia Taylor, 11	Sarah Capps, 11	Max Reitano, 11
Olivia Huston, 10	Elena Nelson, 10	Ethan Riesselman, 10
Science	Social Studies	Vocal
Isabel Kidd, 12	Meghan Wills, 12	Elizabeth Huber, 12
Paige Hollatz, 11	Mason, Mead, 11	Owen Pries, 11
Megan Burket, 10	Madding Waddingham, 10	Tori Baker, 10
World Language	Student Services	
Grant Waymire, 12	Kathi Houston, 12	
Megan Davis, 11	Raelyn Mere, 11	
Konner May, 10	Daniel Onwuramaka, 10	



DCG High School Student Council is leading their yearly service project, once again, to bring in food and money for our Dallas Center and Grimes community food pantries. With one week to go in the drive, staff and students have brought in 863 lbs of food and \$505. Contributors are awarded points based on high-need items such as: mac & cheese, green beans, pasta, cereal, fruit, and soup. Advisories with the highest



points will earn bragging rights that go along with a revolving trophy and a reward. Thanks to all who supported this great cause!

DCG Education Foundation The annual Raising Education Dollars (RED) Dinner and Auction was held virtually this year. The on-line auction was from November 9 through November 16 and we had a goal to raise \$40,000. Our mission is to provide scholarships for graduating seniors and grant funds for teachers within the DCG School District. With the amazing support of nearly 100 businesses throughout the Dallas Center and Grimes communities, we were able to provide 96 auction items that were up for bid during the event. In addition to the outpouring of business support, community members also stepped up to provide two large donations that allowed for a 24 hour match period. With that opportunity, the foundation will be able to continue to award four year renewable RED Scholarships.

With the support from businesses and the community, we met our goal of \$40,000! Thank you to everyone who was involved in this annual event to continue to make it successful. I am also thankful for the education foundation board and committee members for all of their hard work to still make this event possible. We look forward to seeing you all at the RED Dinner and Auction next year!

Mike Wemhoff
President
DCG Education Foundation

Alumni Spotlight Nick Bell, '16 and Haley (Hudson) Bell, '17 are both in the 132nd Air National Guard and stationed at the Des Moines Airport. Haley works full time on base with a focus in logistics. Nick recently completed basic training and security forces training in San Antonio, TX at Lackland Airforce base.

Haley was awarded the Logistics Airman of the year and the General Horner Award. Both awards are chosen annually to an Airman for exhibiting outstanding service throughout the year. In addition, Nick and Haley, welcomed their first child, Della Jean Louise. She was just over eight pounds and welcomed into the world on Veteran's Day. Mom, dad and baby are doing well.

During high school, Haley was involved in cheerleading, track volleyball, choir, show choir, and All-State Choir. Nick was involved in football. Nick and Haley did not start dating until after high school, but went to homecoming together Haley's senior year. The couple resides in Grimes.



MEADOWS

Weather Projects

Eighth grade science students wrapped up their Weather Patterns unit with a Weather Report project. For the project, each student



chose a significant weather event that has happened in history. They were asked to analyze the impacts of water, temperature, and wind on their storm. They shared their information and analysis in the form of a weather report video. Students had to play the role of a news anchor in the studio and a meteorologist out in the storm. They used green screen technology to create their studio and storm background. The final projects turned out amazing! Students did a fantastic job explaining the science and showcasing their creativity.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

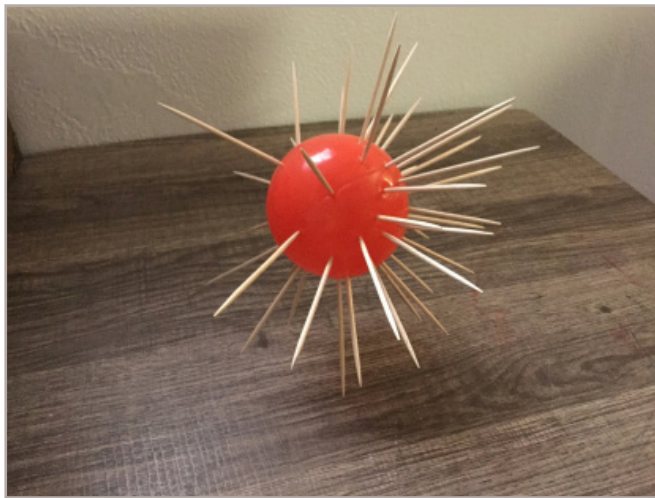
Mock Trial has been creative in finding ways to ensure they could participate this year. From shifting practice spaces to churches, outdoors and libraries, three teams presented their case in early November. Twenty-five students in sixth through eighth grade worked hard to be ready for the competition.

The case includes an 80 page study involving a wrongful death and negligence in fictional Goldfinch County. Students simulate a real trial. The trial concerns an official AMTA case that remains the same through the entire academic year. Teams consist of six to ten members, but only six compete at any given time, three attorneys and three witnesses. Students worked together to decide on the theory or theme that was presented. Students also work to revise the order of witnesses on the stand, the questions asked to witnesses, and the questions asked to the other side's witnesses. In addition, they brainstormed the opposing side's strategy and how to weaken it.

The things students are learning through mock trial have a direct correlation to the skill sets needed to be lawyers, doctors, programmers, pastors, scientists, acting, and other professions.

ONLINE LEARNERS

Science First grade online learners are talking about how plants and animals defend themselves. To help students understand how animals and plants survive not only predators, but weather elements and other threats, they were



challenged with using every day objects from around the house to demonstrate their learning. Students created models of shells and spikes showing how objects and animals can find shelter and survive and thrive in their environment.


ELEMENTARY

Dallas Center Elementary kindergarten learned about voting and the election through reading a book called, "I Can Be President Too." They created "Vote for Me" posters and discussed the good qualities and character that a president needs to have. Those qualities were included on their personal election posters that they shared with their class.




Did you know that school Breakfast & Lunch are FREE for DCG students through June 2021?

For DCG Remote Learners:
GO to DCG website ~ Mustang Packs
ORDER by Thursdays at 11am
PICK UP your meals for the week on
Mondays 9am-1pm
South Prairie & Dallas Center Elementary
(See website for menus & more information.)



IN SCHOOL
BREAKFAST
Choice of Entrée; Fruit; & Milk.
LUNCH
Choice of hot or cold Entrée.
(Served w/ Vegetable, Fruit, & Milk.)



SUMMER FOOD SERVICE
TAHER
THE INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER.
Follow us on Twitter & Instagram @DCGnutrition

Get your 5th - 8th grade boys basketball team signed up for the DCG Stampede Shootout. Boys on Tourney Machine <https://sxa56.app.goo.gl/6Gve-NyS5pCtm8YPL6>

Get your girls 5th - 8th girls basketball team signed up for the DCG Stampede Shootout. Girls on Tourney Machine <https://sxa56.app.goo.gl/rKD-JTwwfuArUydFH9>

ACTIVITIES

Girls Cross Country 2020 Class 3A Runner Up! The Girl's Cross Country team ended another successful season with their third straight state runner up finish with a team score of 88 points. Also, for the third straight year, the team won the Little Hawkeye Conference Championship and the State Qualifying Meet. The JV team also won the LHC Championship for the 4th straight year with a nearly perfect score of 16. At the conference meet all seven varsity runners finished in the top 15 earning All Conference honors; 3rd Megan Sterbenz, 6th Miranda Muhlstein, 7th Kami Smith, 8th Emma Angus, 10th Meredith McDermott, 11th Vanessa Bickford, 13th Hannah Little. Skyler Blessman won the JV race in a JV school record time of 20:42. In the State Qualifying meet the Mustangs had three individual state qualifiers; 2nd Kami Smith, 3rd Megan Sterbenz, 5th Miranda Muhlstein. At the state meet Kami Smith 11th, and Megan Sterbenz 12th both earned All State Honors. Here are all of the post season and team awards.



2020 Award Winners

Most Valuable: Megan Sterbenz
Most Improved: Skyler Blessman
Most Improved: Natalia Segura
Coaches Award: Miranda Muhlstein
Coaches Award: Hannah Little
Sportsmanship: Emma Angus
Sportsmanship: Bailey Pierce
Flower Pot Award: Maddie Haptops
Flower Pot Award: Kami Smith
Oil Can Award: Jillian Rants
Oil Can Award: Nicole Merial



Little Hawkeye All-Conference - Top 15 in Conference race
Megan Sterbenz – 3rd
Miranda Muhlstein – 6th
Kami Smith – 7th
Emma Angus – 8th
Meredith McDermott – 10th
Vanessa Bickford – 11th
Hannah Little – 13th

Academic All State – Senior State Meet participants with a 3.8 Cum GPA or higher
Megan Sterbenz
Emma Angus

ACTIVITIES

Boys Cross Country State Champions In a year when so much looked different, and so many things had to change, DCG Boys cross country was committed to Leaving No Doubt about being good people on and off the course. Their efforts to grow as better people who live happier lives carried them this season. The Mustangs celebrated their season at a banquet on November 10. With the return of a veteran cast and many talented newcomers, the Mustangs finished second in the Little Hawkeye Conference, won their fourth District Title, and earned their second straight State Championship! They are the only team in Class 3A to finish in the top seven at State each of the last seven years. They also won their seventh straight JV Little Hawkeye Conference title. Additionally, there were 20 additions to the record board, including a new school record set for total team time and a new school record in the 5K set by junior Aidan Ramsey.

The following awards were conferred on team members at the banquet:

All-Conference: Aidan Ramsey, Jacob Ewers, Tate McDermott

All-District: Aidan Ramsey, Jacob Ewers, Tate McDermott, Jack Every, Jacob Storey

All-State: Aidan Ramsey, Jacob Ewers

Academic All-Conference: (10th-12th grade letterwinners earning a 3.5 GPA or above)

10th – Caleb Morris, Braeden Roberts

11th – Luke Herbsleb, Aidan Ramsey, Isaac Short

12th – Kell Bowen, Eli Followwill, Zach Ross

Iowa Track and Field Cross Country Senior All-Star Meet Selection (run faster than 17:50 during senior year):

Dawson Assink, Blake Croushore

Group Dynamic Youth Servant Leadership Award: Caleb Morris



Most Valuable Team Member: Eli Followwill
Most Improved: Ryan Fitch, Karsten Newell
Coaches Award: 9th – Sam Watkins
JV – Zach Ross
Varsity – Blake Croushore

DCG Sportsmanship Award: Dawson Assink, Kell Bowen, Harrison Stallman

2020 Captains: Caleb Morris, Luke Herbsleb, Owen Pries, Aidan Ramsey, Dawson Assink, Eli Followwill

Thank you to all the parents/guardians for their tremendous support and encouragement this season, with a shout out to parent reps Elaine Followwill, Pam Short, and Matt Morris for their work throughout the year! This year proved quite challenging and people stepped up over and over to make things work for meals, snacks, and fun traditions.

The team is looking forward to building on the success they've had! Next year promises to be exciting, and we invite you to be a part of it – keep an eye on opportunities for young runners with the boys 5th-12th grade Mustang Cross Country Camp as well as the Run for Fun in the Sun Camp through Grimes Parks and Recreation. We all appreciate the awesome support of the Dallas Center-Grimes community!

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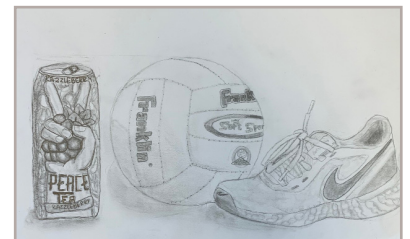
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Sophomore, Madison Wenell, created this ink drawing in her Drawing I class. Students were asked to use a range of values and techniques to tell about a historical event they find meaningful. Madison showed great skill in accomplishing this!



5th graders at North Ridge Elementary learned about empathy in art class earlier this year. They created an empathy poster they will give to someone in their own life.



This month's art spotlight at Meadows is Claire Boerre for her self-portrait and Addison Shawhan for her still life. They did a great job using a range of values and shading to create realistic images that have meaning.