



# MUSTANG MONTHLY™

VOLUME 22  
ISSUE 3  
January 2021

Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The start of a new year brings a fresh perspective. A new year also brings anticipation and wonder. I look to the stories from the past year and anticipate and contemplate the predictions for 2021. I am looking forward to a year filled with hope, success and growth.

All of us have experienced considerable change and unrest in the last nine months. The pandemic has provided the district the unexpected opportunity to deliver educational experiences in ways that have never been done before. Our

teachers and staff have risen to the occasion to provide a variety of instructional practices that meet the needs of all students. We will take these lessons as we move forward to connect with our students in the 21st century and build upon the technology we have in place to continue to make that happen. I find hope in the resiliency of our staff and student body in the midst of the challenges they have faced.

We continue to build collaborative relationships with community partners to bring real life and hands-on opportunities to DCG students. We are in the early stages in developing a partnership with HyVee that identifies opportunities to connect with students' interests and skills that may range from retail customer service, food science to business management. We continue to look for opportunities to partner with business and industry in creative ways to bring experiences and success to our students. With our 5-12 Vision we are working to create an environment that is flexible and provides more opportunities for students to find their passions so they can be successful inside our classrooms and after their time at DCG. While enrollment growth is welcomed, it provides us with challenges. Consistency in our instructional practices will continue to be a focus as we transition to our new grade configurations (K-4 elementaries, a building for 5-6 and one for 7-8 along with the 9-12 high school). As teachers move to new buildings they will need time to learn from one another and focus on new relationships. With the new expanded spaces, our students will have more opportunity for hands-on creative learning. They will be encouraged to collaborate with one another and create solutions to real-world problems. In this transition of growth we will continue to focus on students' social emotional needs in addition to their academic growth. We are committed to providing the DCG excellence that represents our district's long standing tradition.

We are becoming a new version of ourselves and in that, I see continued hope, success, and growth in 2021. We have a bright future in the new year to come!

### Scott Grimes

Superintendent



## CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Monday, January 4th Hybrid Classes Resume

Monday, January 18th No School, Staff Professional Development

Tuesday, January 19th Begin Second Semester, 5 Days a Week In Person Classes Resume, Online Option Continues

Every Wednesday, 1 PM Early Out

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Sullivan Brothers Award of Valor
- Food Pantry Donation
- Kindness Calendar
- Large Group Speech
- Wrestling Invitational

Home of the Mustangs!



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

## DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OFFICES

Elementary Offices

Patty Morris, Principal/South Prairie Elem.

E-mail: patty.morris@dcdschools.com

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.

E-mail: april.heitland@dcdschools.com

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/Heritage Elem.

E-mail: diann.williamson@dcdschools.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@dcdschools.com

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: jerry.hlas@dcdschools.com

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: lori.phillips@dcdschools.com

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: scott.blum@dcdschools.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.

Transportation Office/Jeff Wolfe, Transportation Director

Email: jeff.wolfe@dcdschools.com

Telephone Number: 515-986-5173

255 SW Jazzwood Dr.

Grimes, IA 50111

Office Hours: 7:00 am - 4:00 p.m.

Central Office/Business Office

Scott Grimes, Superintendent

E-mail: scott.grimes@dcdschools.com

Telephone Number: (515) 992-3866

Fax Number: (515) 992-3079

2405 W. 1st, P.O. Box 680

Grimes, Iowa 50111

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

DCG Alumna, Bailey Norland '14 is an ER nurse at Methodist West in West Des Moines. She serves as a RN on the night shift. Bailey attended DMACC in Ankeny to receive her degree. Working as a nurse during the pandemic has been challenging. "It was quite strange at the beginning. When the pandemic first started it seemed that everybody was too scared to come to the hospital and during that time I honestly had never worked less in my life. However, now that has changed. As people become less scared, per se we have gotten busier and busier! I'm working over time most weeks," she said. Bailey has worked with patients with mild to very severe cases of COVID-19 and everything in between. "The pandemic has been tiring for healthcare workers as well



as everybody else. But, we're all in this together and I can only hope things get better from here on out."

During this time Bailey has realized how much the community cares about what nurses and the health care professionals do. The outpouring of kindness

from gifts, to cards to treats from complete strangers really makes everyone feel appreciated.

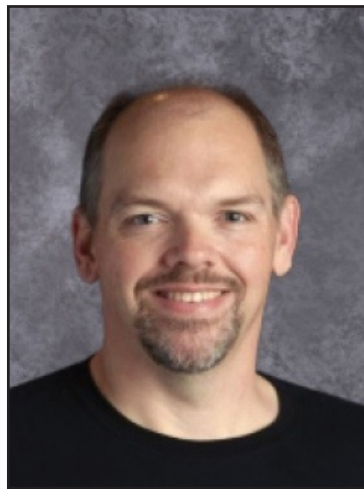
While attending DCG Bailey was active in Track and Field. Although she knows Coach Kloster will be surprised, she completed her second half marathon in under two hours, beating her first time. "I REFUSED to run anything over 400m in high school" she said. She still has a love for track and is an assistant track coach at Hoover.

Bailey's best advice during this time is to, "Wear a mask! Right now it is the best thing we can do."



# HIGH SCHOOL

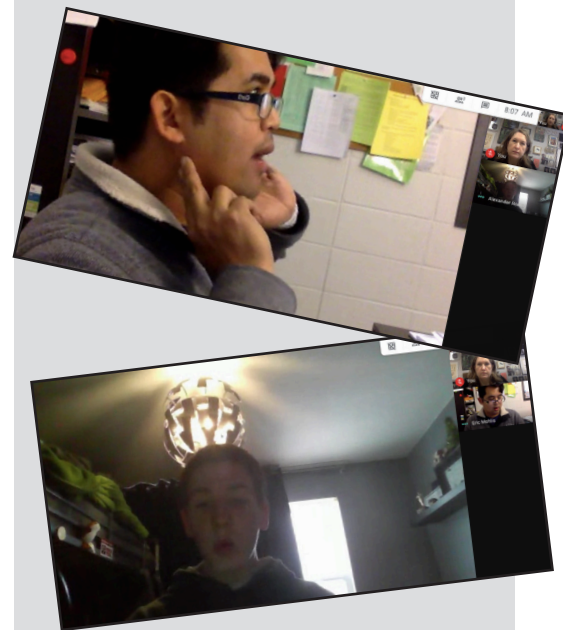
**Award** DCG high school custodian, Joel Eiteman, was one of five Perry firefighters to receive the Sullivan Brothers' Award of Valor. Joel, along with four other firefighters, are credited with saving a man who was trapped in a house fire in Perry back in April. Due to COVID-19, the annual ceremony has been postponed, but Gov. Kim Reynolds still plans to honor the five men for their heroism. The award is named for the five Sullivan brothers from Waterloo, who were all killed while serving on the USS Juneau when it was attacked by the Japanese during the Guadalcanal naval battle in World War II.



**Online Learning** High School Vocal Music teacher, Eric Mohlis and senior Alex Romig, are working on advanced music online. Mr. Mohlis is providing great feedback while also modeling how to approach music. In this particular lesson, Romig and Mohlis talked about dictation, an upcoming music literacy assignment and also a performance using Flipgrid. In Flipgrid, teachers post discussion prompts, and students respond with short videos, both in class or at home.



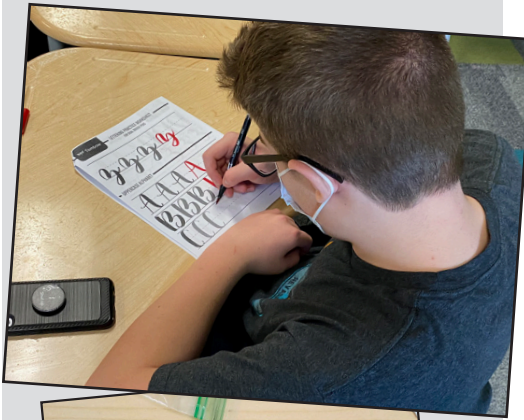
**Top Rated Program** Congratulations to senior, Sierra Sonberg, on her acceptance into Ringling College of Art & Design in Sarasota, Florida! Ringling is a top rated private school, allowing only 100 students into Sierra's chosen major of computer animation. Competing with over 800 applicants, Sierra's wonderful portfolio allowed the application board to see her many talents. Sierra has taken multiple visual art classes, including AP Studio Art, as well as excelling in all her fine arts and core classes. Thank you, Sierra for sharing your love of the arts with us! We all wish you the best!



# MEADOWS

## Meadows Mini-Courses

Mini-courses have been a long standing tradition for advisories at Meadows on the days before Thanksgiving and Winter Break. Students take the time and learn or create something new. There are a variety of mini-courses including motivational cards for the food bank, tie blankets going to charity, calligraphy, and commemorative ornaments to name a few. To ensure both Group A and B students had the opportunity to participate the mini courses were held throughout the month rotating three times with advisories. The advisories stay in their rooms and the teachers rotate so students get a flavor of different activities and learning.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Food Pantry

The Middle School 6th and 7th grade students held a friendly competition among advisories to see who could bring the most

non-perishable food items to



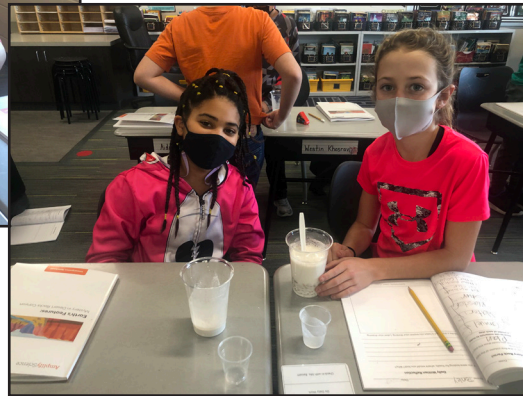
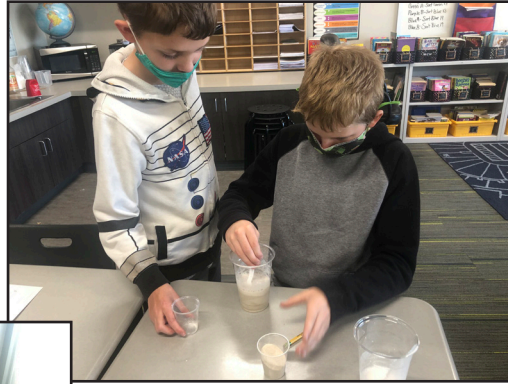
donate to the local food pantries. The Middle School kids were so generous with their donations by collecting over 1,000 items! Mrs. Behnkendorf's Advisory won the competition and, therefore, gained the opportunity to help sort, pack, and deliver the items to the Dallas Center Food Pantry. The students were totally into this serving opportunity, as they encouraged each other, cheered each other on, and couldn't wait to count up the items each day to see how our donation was growing. We are so thankful for opportunities like this to serve our amazing community!

#DCGexcellence



# ELEMENTARY

**Heritage Elementary** Ms. Osborn fourth graders at Heritage Elementary are learning about sedimentary rock formations in science. Students were invited to think about the past environments of Desert Rocks National Park in Southern California and discuss what they know about rock layers. They used evidence from rock layers to learn more about the order of past environments. To help students learn and gain an understanding of the order rock layers form in, they work together to complete a new model of sedimentary rock formations using, glue, sand and small pebbles.



**Dallas Center Elementary** Special Education teacher Ms. Drey put a creative idea she saw on social media into action. She started a gift of kindness calendar. A kindness action of the day was revealed, and students participated in activities ranging from writing a friend a note, telling them why they are special; to thanking the lunch staff and singing a song to the music teacher. These are a couple of examples of giving the gift of kindness. "I believe it's important to incorporate teaching good character in our education," said Ms. Drey. "The students were excited to complete their act of

kindness throughout the day and I am looking forward to continuing this in years to come!"

**DCG PTO** It's a new school year! While school may look different in a lot of homes, it's never been easier to get involved with your school's local PTO as you don't even have to leave your house! Be sure to 'Like' your school's PTO page on Facebook for the most current information on upcoming events, ways to get involved, DCG apparel sales, and student resources. For questions, you can also contact us directly at [dallas-centergrimespto@gmail.com](mailto:dallas-centergrimespto@gmail.com)

## The 2020-2021 PTO District Executive Team

Kacey Beyer, Dallas Center Elementary President

Heather Spooner, Heritage Elementary President

Betsy Bejarno & Nicole Tilstra, North Ridge Elementary Co-Presidents

Jen Ohannesian, South Prairie Elementary President

Danielle O'Neill, Bookkeeping Treasurer

Nancy Baker Curtis, Secretary

# ACTIVITIES



**Art** Senior and Independent Art student, Jillian Rants, used her incredible artistic skills to digitally transform herself and her friend into well-known characters. This process took patience and perseverance to achieve such high quality work!

**The DCG Large Group Speech Team** is off to a great start this year. In this unusual year, the coaches and students are grateful for the opportunity to be together and rehearse as a team. Rehearsals started online in November. Students have been working hard preparing performances for contest on January 23rd at DCG High School. Students have risen to the challenge of rehearsing and performing in masks. They are adapting to wearing masks and finding other ways to be expressive by adding non-verbal cues to show what their characters are feeling. Students are determined to improve their skills in this unprecedented year and their hard work is paying off.



**Dance** The DCG Varsity dance team competed in the State Championships on Thursday, November 19th at Wells Fargo Arena. The team competed in Jazz, Hip Hop and Pom and earned a Division I Superior Rating on all three routines. Two of the routines also finished with a top five placement. Hip Hop earned 4th place overall and Jazz also

received a 4th place finish. The team also had 7 soloists who all received Division I Superior Ratings, they are:  
Seniors, Hope Warren and Meghan Wills  
Sophomores, Katie Harryman, Emma Altman, Madison Stone, and Sydney Vaughan  
Freshman, Abbie Ries



# ACTIVITIES



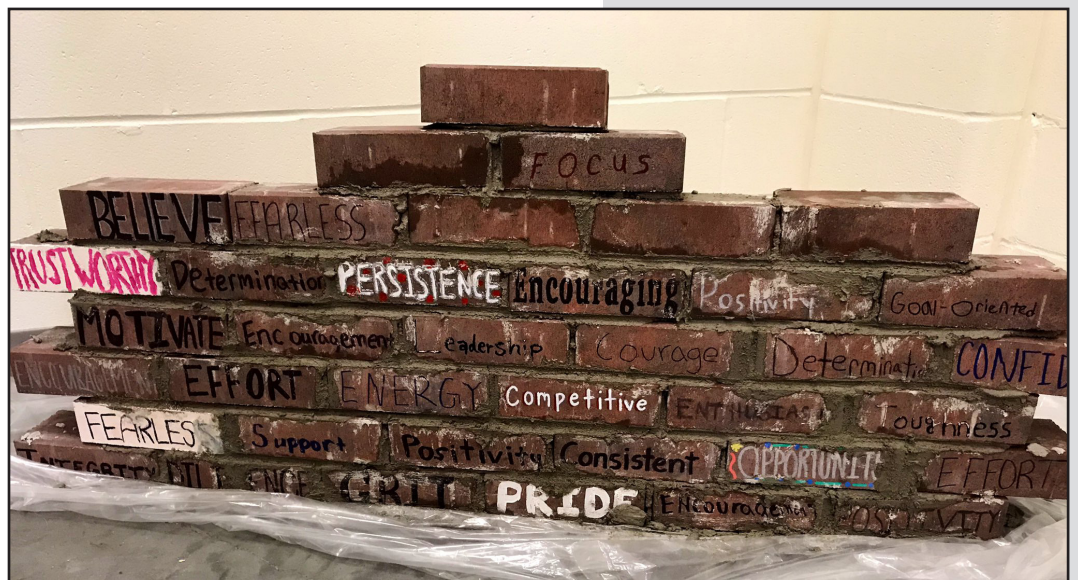
## Wrestling

The Mustang Wrestling team hosted their annual invitation in early December. There were a few changes to the

tournament this year. Instead of hosting a 16 team individual tournament, they hosted an eight team dual. This was a different feel but offered great benefits. All of the wrestlers were able to wrestle one more match than they would have in a traditional 16 team individual tournament. The meet offered great experience for our wrestlers.



**Basketball** The Girls Basketball Team participated in a team building activity lead by Sonny Hall that focused on individuals coming together to build a team. "It's All About the Mortar" was the theme while the girls worked together to build a brick wall. The focus and lesson is that a brick wall is a collection of individual bricks that is stronger and stays together when you add mortar. Just like a team is not built with separate individuals a wall is not built with separate bricks. Together a team is much stronger with their bonds of trust, fearlessness, courage, pride, focus, grit, effort, and synergy. Pictured are the words the players individually came up with to build a strong foundation of coming together to be a strong, united team. These words represent the team's mortar.



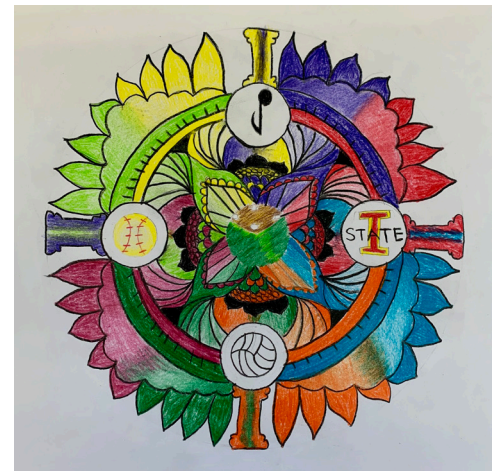
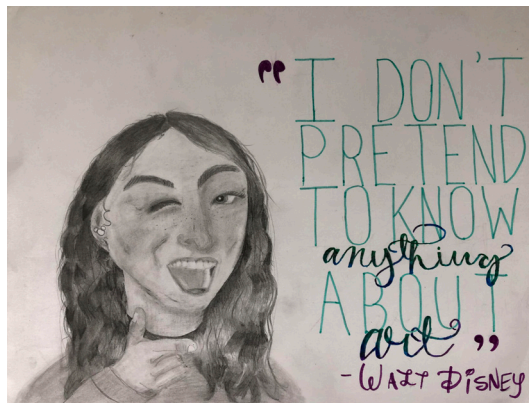
Dallas Center-Grimes Community School  
2405 W. 1st St. P.O. Box 680  
Grimes, IA 50111

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

POSTAL CUSTOMER



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



Mara Redenius and Alexis Evans both did an excellent job incorporating personal symbols into their mandalas, blending colored pencils, and creating unity in their unique designs.

Marley Eickelberg created a very expressive self-portrait and demonstrated great use of value and shading to create a realistic portrait.