



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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February 2021

Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Of the many things I am most proud of in our district, the one that stands out this month is the focus on relationships. Our teachers understand the importance of building those relationships with all students. Your children are more than a number at DCG; they are known by name in classes and in our hallways. Fostering these relationships helps us maintain our small district feel as we grow, and I accredit our teachers and staff to making personalization a top priority. As we move forward throughout the year and continue to develop these relationships, I reflect on how we might broaden the benefits beyond the building. I continually search for meaningful ways that our school community could utilize the examples of human passion within their classrooms to influence the manner that we address inequities found in the entire educational system.

I am committed to continuing our efforts in celebrating diversity, building mutual understandings and promoting equity among our staff and student body. We continue to put these words into action. We have reviewed our committee structure, and are in the process of bringing students and staff across the district together to continue our work addressing racial equality, diversity and inclusion. This committee roster will be brought to the school board in February for approval as a district level committee. The committee members will be tasked to review our current practices in regards to equity, identify areas of improvement and most importantly create an action plan or change.

We are committed to doing more to respond to cases of injustice and provide expanded learning opportunities for all students. As a district it is our responsibility to listen, learn and fix inequities related to curriculum, instruction and student interactions. As we strive to make progress, we will all be asked to examine our beliefs and biases, be open minded to new ideas, and be courageous to create meaningful change. We are committed to continuous improvement.

Thank you for continued support of DCG.

Sincerely,
Scott Grimes
Superintendent

CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Friday, February 19th, No School, Staff Development Day
Every Wednesday, 1 PM Dismissal

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Home of the Mustangs



www.dcgschools.com

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Brevin Townsell, DCG Alumni class of 2015 currently lives in Los Angeles, California and works as a photo and digital team photographer for the Los Angeles Rams. Brevin attended Iowa State University and majored in Business Management with a minor in Sports Recreation. While at Iowa State he worked with the Athletics Marketing department for three years. He wanted to continue to work in sports after gaining experience in social media and photography. After graduation from Iowa State, he went on to work with the Seattle Seahawks for a season which in turn landed him in LA with the Rams.



Brevin found his passion for sports marketing after taking a sports business class taught at DCG. When he realized that his athletic playing days were numbered, he wanted to do the next best thing and for him that was working in sports. After his first

year working at Iowa State he was

randomly given a camera and was asked for extra help shooting photos. "The moment I got a camera put in my hands it was a deep love and connection for work I had never felt before and it sent me on this journey," said Townsell.

Work life has been normal other than not having fans in the stands this season due to the pandemic. Brevin said, "Sundays roll around and it's another fun game day!" One thing Brevin knows now that he wishes he would have known when he was in high school or college is, "At the end of the day the only person that needs to believe in you is you because if others don't believe, show them. I say this because often times dreams can simply seem like just thoughts in your head that you wish for, but when the belief in your abilities and your dreams matches your work ethic, the possibilities of what is achievable is simply limitless."

When thinking about his time at DCG the biggest thing that sticks out to him is that DCG is family. Even when he was in college and would run into fellow alumni, seeing them felt like home. He remains friends with a lot of people who went to DCG of different ages and they will stay close friends because of bonds we built through the years at DCG and beyond.

In Brevin's short time in the workforce he has seen much success and recently had one of his photos featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated.



HIGH SCHOOL

Industrial Tech Students in fifth hour welding turned scrap metal into art. These students have been practicing welding skills on various metal pieces. The skills students are practicing are experience they can put to use if they choose to go into the trade area after the class. In addition this practice is something they may use when they are adults and on their own. Students have been working over the course of several weeks to refine their skills. Pictured from left to right: Daniel Onwuramaka, Marcus Watznauer, Aydin Sesker (back), Brandon Outhier, Brayden Meints.



DCG After Prom

The DCG After Prom committee has decided to offer an alternative to the daddy/daughter and mother/son dances for this year. We will instead be offering various options for "Date Night" packages for families to purchase. These packages are not just for traditional dance goers, but can be purchased and enjoyed by anyone!! Be looking for more information soon via, Facebook, and Twitter. We are also preparing for the annual silent auction to raise funds to support a safe and fun event for our students. This year's event will take place online and run from Sunday, January 31 at Noon - Sunday, February 14. Please watch social media and emails for more information. Interested in just a donation? Venmo your donation to @ DCG-after-prom. Use the QR Code below to find the auction online or visit: <https://www.32auctions.com/DCGAf-terProm2021>. Not going anywhere for spring break and wondering what you will do?? The committee is working on craft packages for people of all ages!! Look for more information coming soon on Facebook and Twitter.

MEADOWS



Return-to-Learn

Many of our students returned to in person learning all together for the first time on January 20th. A 9th grade girl stated, "This is the first time I have seen many of my classmates in almost a year! It is a little emotional." The day can only be described as happy—

lots of mask-covered smiles, excitement, and friendliness. The students were truly pleased to be together again. Our guidance counselors hung personalized signs in the hallway welcoming back each student by name. "The focus on social and emotional growth is extremely important to our students and staff," said Dr. Lori Phillips, principal at Meadows. These signs are one way we can focus on that. It feels so good to have so many of our students together in our hallways again.



SCAN ME



PTO News The DCG elementary PTO needs your help. We are working hard to provide a safe, fun, socially distanced end of the year fundraiser, DCG Rocks: The Scavenger Hunt. We are disappointed to change the format of our yearly fundraiser, but student and community safety are at the heart of these changes. In order to make this work, we need help from our talented community base. We need volunteers to join committees so that we can get this NEW fundraiser off the ground and implemented by the end of April. Committees are:

- The Silent Auction
- The Business Sponsorships
- The Kick-Off
- The Scavenger Hunt
- The Home Activity Kits
- The Marketing/Communications/Promotions
- The Class Baskets

For questions or interested volunteers, you can also contact the DCG elementary PTO Executive Board directly at dallascentergrimespto@gmail.com

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Debate Students in seventh grade English have been working on a practice debate on whether cell phones should be used in school. They have researched credible sources to see both sides. Using the Claim, Evidence, and Reasoning (CER) format, students have written their claim, arguments, and rebuttals. During class, students are analyzing these and working to make them stronger. Students will then apply this knowledge by choosing a current events topic to research and create an argument and rebuttal that supports their stance

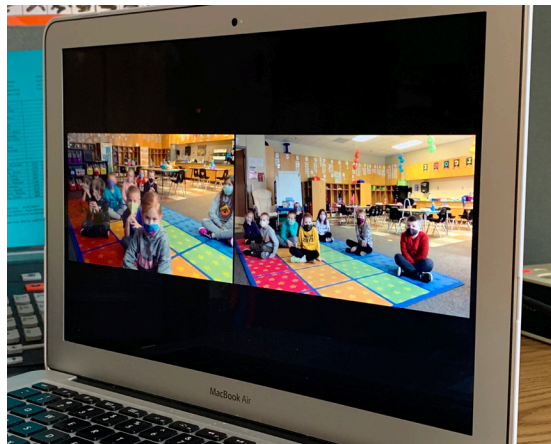


ELEMENTARY

North Ridge Mrs. Isaacson's and Mrs. Soukup's first graders at North Ridge are creative when it comes to meeting the social emotional needs of their students. To ensure they are interacting with one another they use Zoom to have dance parties. The students work to



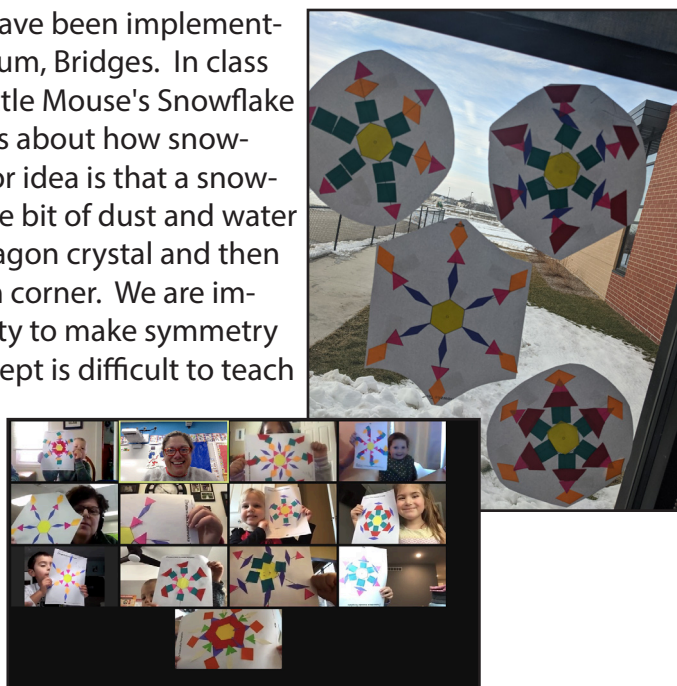
earn the Zoom dance party as a reward for showing kind behavior. "With the different challenges on us, we still wanted a fun way to be able to be



together." said Isaacson. Finding ways to interact as they would normally due to mitigation strategies continues to be a priority.

ONLINE LEARNING

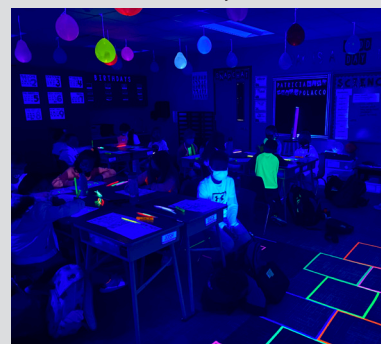
Math Preschoolers have been implementing our math curriculum, Bridges. In class we read the story, "Little Mouse's Snowflake Question." This story is about how snowflakes form. The major idea is that a snowflake starts with a little bit of dust and water that forms into a hexagon crystal and then branches out on each corner. We are implementing an activity to make symmetry snowflakes. This concept is difficult to teach 3, 4, and 5 year-olds but they never cease to amaze us and produce some of the most beautiful symmetrical snowflakes we have seen!



ELP UPDATE

ELP The Dallas Center - Grimes Extended Learning Program (ELP) serves all grades with a K-12 identification plan. As DCG continues to grow and become more diverse, services provided by the ELP teachers will focus on students who need a personalized education plan (PEP). Through our identification process, our ELP program serves about seven percent of the student population, which is in the state's guidelines of 5-8 percent. The State of Iowa requires categorical ELP (TAG) funds to be used solely for students who are identified as needing a Personalized Education Plan through formal ELP identification procedures. In addition to delivering direct services to students with a PEP, ELP teachers also provide consultative services to classroom teachers to implement differentiation in the classroom settings. Research-based assessments have been utilized across the district to help identify under served populations, including the Kingore Observation Inventory (KOI) in the Kindergarten classrooms. The district administers the SAGES-3 assessment (Screening Assessment for Gifted Elementary Students-3rd Edition) in 1st Grade. Students are considered for ELP by scoring advanced levels on all four subtests of the SAGES-3. DCG also uses data for identification from fall reading benchmark assessments, and teacher, parent, and student inventories. When students reach 3rd grade, additional assessment data are collected with the Cognitive Abilities Test - CogAt, Iowa State-wide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP), and in other grades with the Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) in grades 6-9 and FAST Math in grades 5 - 8. Whole grade screening will occur for grades 3, 5 and 8. Last year, due to the pandemic, the ISASP assessment was not given. This year, the elementary buildings are beginning to give the Sages Assessment. The Kingore Observations will not be given for the school year 2020-2021. The last results from the ISASP were from the school year 2018-19. Students K-11 who are receiving ELP services ...continued right

South Prairie Third grade teachers at South Prairie planned a day of fun for their first day with many of our students back in the building. The teachers enlisted parents in on their surprise for the third graders and had them wear neon or white. With their attire students had a special day under black lights. The students wrote in highlighters and did learning around why things glow like fireflies, lava, and glow sticks. The students were able to reconnect with friends from previous years and even make new friends through the fun activities planned for the day.



...continued will continue to receive services during the 2020-21 school year. Meaning: we will only be adding students to the ELP program. The ELP Committee tentatively plans to continue with our identification process in Spring 2021. The ELP teachers along with the classroom teachers will be ready to meet the needs of students who are identified as needing extended learning programming (ELP).
Mary Jane Stites - Director of Student Services
Paddy Degnan - Grimes Elementary ELP Coordinator
Pamela Kluender - DCE & Middle School ELP Coordinator
Karene Rosenbury - Meadows ELP Coordinator
Jane Altman - High School ELP Coordinator

ACTIVITIES



Virtual 2021 RED BUSINESS BREAKFAST



Friday, February 19, 2021
7:30AM-9AM

Speaker: Erik Dominguez
Topic: The Required Art -
Public Speaking in
Communications and Business

All proceeds support scholarships for
post-secondary education for DCG
graduating seniors.

REGISTER AT
[DCGEDUCATIONFOUNDATION.ORG/
BREAKFAST2021](http://DCGEDUCATIONFOUNDATION.ORG/BREAKFAST2021)
Breakfast delivered for registrations of 2 or more.

DCG Film Team The film competition is part of the larger Speech competition that is currently practicing. Each film team creates a short five minute film based on a story of their choosing. They use the storyboard method and write a script. This year there are two film teams. Each team has spent between 10-15 hours on their video shoot. Both teams are currently working on editing their film story together.

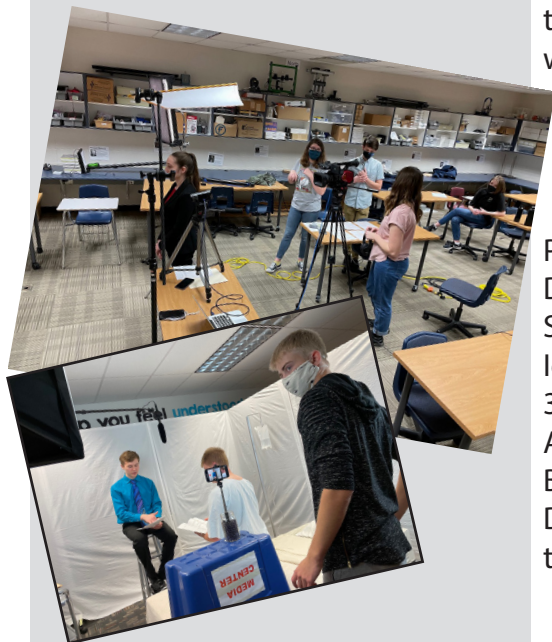
DCG Speech This year 70 students participated on the high school speech team. We had an additional 20 students make up our freshman team. Auditions started in early November and students began putting in the hard work with continual practice shortly after auditions. At the recent district competition that



DCG had the privilege to host, out of 26 events our talented teams brought home 17 Division I ratings and 8 Division II ratings. A Division I rating qualifies the participants for the State competition held on February 6th. DCG is one of the only schools in the State to have an Improve team be selected for All-State for four consecutive years. DCG also had an Ensemble Acting group selected for All-State the last four years and a Musical Theater group selected the last three years in a row. In the last ten years the speech team has grown from 40 students to upwards of 120!

DCG to Host Competitive Track Meet With the 2020 high school track season canceled, our spring athletes have been left hungry for opportunities to showcase their talents. Even with missed opportunities that did not stop the training and preparation for 2021. The Mustang track and field team welcomes a new event this spring. A highly competitive track meet will take place on Saturday April 3rd, starting at 11:15 AM with field events and running events beginning at noon.

The girls side of the meet will welcome a deep field of competitive teams. Pella (State finishes: 2019 5th place, 2018 1st place) (3A)
Pleasant Valley (State finishes: 2019 7th place, 2018 7th place) (4A)
Davenport Assumption (State finishes: 2019 3rd place, 2018 7th place) (3A)
Southeast Polk (State finishes: 2019 3rd place, 2018 3rd place) (4A)
Iowa City Liberty (State finishes: 2019 4th place, 2018 14th place) (4A 2019, 3A 2018)
Ames (State finishes: 2019 10th place, 2018 5th place) (4A)
Ballard (State Cross-Country finishes 2019 1st place, 2018 1st place) (3A)
DCG (State Cross-Country finishes 2019 2nd place, 2018 2nd place 2019 track and field 9th place) (3A)...continued on right page



REGISTRATION

2021-2022 School Year Registration

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year opens online (dcgschools.com) on March 1. If you do not have a computer to complete the registration, a kiosk is available at the DCG Administration Building located at 2405 W. 1st Street, Grimes.

Families With Students Currently Enrolled at DCG

Please use your Campus Portal Account to access Online Registration. You will be able to add a student to your account if you have a child that will be entering the district for the first time (preschool, kindergarten, or another grade level.)

Families With Students New to the DCG District:

Follow the steps listed on the district website: www.dcgschools.com, registration tab or quick link.

Preschool Information

Please register incoming preschool students between March 1 – March 18. If you are not registered by March 18th, there is no guarantee that your child will have a spot in the 4 year old preschool program or that your child will be entered into the drawing for the 3 year old preschool program.

*If you have a child that will be 4 on or before September 15, 2021, register for PreK 4 (4 year old preschool will be taken until all spots are filled)

* If you have a child that will be 3 on or before September 15, 2021, register for PreK 3, (3 year old preschool will be filled by a random drawing)

Kindergarten Information

To project enrollment numbers, please register incoming kindergarten students as soon as possible (starting March 1). If you have a child that will be 5 on or before September 15, 2021, register for Kindergarten (full days) or Optional Kindergarten (half days.)

Items to Note

Starting July 1, 2021:

Registration fees will be available for payment.

Registration will be open for your 7th-12th grade student athlete(s) in rSchool.

The district will send you a reminder email as this date approaches.

ACTIVITIES

... continued from left page

The Boys are bringing in an abundance of talent.

Pella (State finishes: 2019 6th place, 2018 12th place) (3A)

Iowa City West (State finishes: 2019 14th place, 2018 2nd place) (4A)

Davenport Assumption (3A)

Dowling (State finishes: 2019 8th place, 2018 10th place) (4A)

Johnston (State finishes: 2019 13th place, 2018 8th place) (4A)

Ames (State finishes: 2019 2nd place, 2018 3rd place) (4A)

Waukee (State finishes 2019 3rd place, 2018 4th place) (4A)

DCG (State Cross-Country Finishes 2019 1st place, 2018 1st place, 2018 track and field 6th place) (3A)

Plan to cheer our Mustangs on at this highly competitive event!



Dallas Center-Grimes Community School
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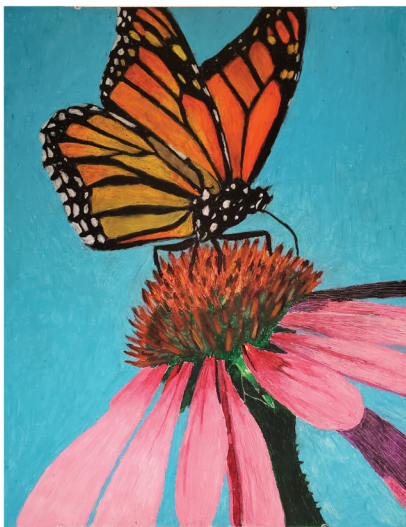
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Jackson Kaune



Gryzelle Opog



Macy Evans

Drawing I students created animal portraits while learning about texture and oil pastel application. Sophomores Jackson Kaune, Macy Evans, and Gryzelle Opog demonstrated phenomenal craftsmanship with this project.