



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The world has changed significantly as we approach the one year mark of the pandemic. COVID-19 rocked our world on March 12th, and education will never be the same. I remember that day clearly as I worked with the other metro superintendents to make plans on what education would become in the midst of uncertainty. Everything quickly came to a halt on those ideas as we learned more and events unfolded, closing our schools doors for the remainder of the academic year.

In the last year I have learned a great deal about grit and determination. I see it in our staff as they continue to make adjustments in how they teach, how they collaborate with their coworkers and work with students to provide a solid educational foundation for their future. I see that same grit and determination in our students and how resilient they are doing what is asked of them in this time of change. I also see it in you, our parents for altering your work schedules to become teachers and counselors for your children. So many people have stepped up to the plate to ensure the best for our students and staff and I am grateful for you.

As we move forward and toward our vision of excellence we anticipate several upcoming events. The Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) begins in April for third through eleventh graders, and teachers are wrapping up the math and reading FAST tests. These results will provide us with information we can use to improve our instruction and make sound educational decisions about each student's learning. This season is also a time of recruiting and hiring the most talented and qualified instructors. We are in the midst of hiring teachers to replace those who are retiring in addition to filling positions due to our population growth. Our administrators have found the teacher candidate pool to be large and highly competitive because of our stellar reputation for strong academics with a focus on social emotional learning.

As a District we are in full implementation mode to transition students to kindergarten through fourth grade elementaries, a fifth and sixth grade building, a seventh and eighth grade facility and a ninth through twelfth grade campus. While these changes are exciting, they bring challenges that will enable us to utilize the three C's from our Educational District Model: communication, collaboration and consistency. As teachers undergo several changes from moving classrooms and buildings, to exchanging resources and supplies we will depend on the three C's to guide us as we strive to maintain a positive, strong learning environment for our students in this time of transition and growth.

Sincerely,
Scott Grimes
Superintendent



CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Tuesday, March 9th, 2:30 PM Dismissal for P/T Conferences

Thursday, March 11th, 2:30 PM Dismissal for P/T Conferences

Friday, March 12th, No School, Staff Compensation Day for P/T Conferences

Monday, March 15th - Friday, March 19th, Spring Break

Every Wednesday, 1 PM Dismissal

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Home of the Mustangs



www.dcgschools.com

DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES

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Elementary Offices

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

John Anderson, DCG Alumni, '93 resides in Minburn with his wife and four children. During John's four years at DCG his favorite thing and memories were from wrestling. Currently John is a Labor Relations Specialist for the Iowa National Guard. His daily job is to help supervisors and employees work together and advise management of processes to facilitate employee management. Talking to people and paperwork are a few challenges during a regular work day. On Military training weekends, he is the lead Instructor for the Warrant Officer Candidate Course. This involves planning the course and teaching the candidates in a variety of subjects from history to military law and leadership.



In 2016, John set out to start an experience of a lifetime, and one that only a few can say they have accomplished, climbing Mount Everest. John said, "I couldn't have done Everest without the support of my family, friends

and community." The physical training, equipment, preparations, and scheduling logistics required a lot of time and thought. He started climbing in 2000 and progressed to all disciplines; rock, ice, snow, and big wall climbing. He climbed Denali, the highest mount in North America, in 2014 and 2015 in preparation for Everest. He climbed Everest with his cousin and they were the first Iowans to summit by the northern route in China on May 22, 2017 at 4:51 am after spending 42 days on the mountain acclimating.

On free weekends, John guides trips and instructs rock climbing. He currently holds a certification with the American Mountain Guide Association (AMGA). One item he wants to pass on now that he wishes he knew back in high school is that, "The world is a big place, question everything and explore."



HIGH SCHOOL

ACT The ACT is right around the corner. Below is information to help navigate through the process. If you have any additional questions please reach out to your school counselor!

Ben Twigg (Last names A-K): ben.twigg@dcdschools.com

Danie Clancy (Last names L-Z): danie.clancy@dcdschools.com

What is the ACT

The ACT is an entrance exam that is accepted by all US colleges and universities. It has four components (English, Math, Science, and Reading) and an optional Writing component. ACT scores are based on the number of correct answers, with no deductions for incorrect answers. The most common time for students to take the ACT for the first time is either April or June of their junior year. Students can take this test multiple times to achieve the best score and can take it into their senior year.

Why Take the ACT

All colleges and universities use some form of criteria to determine admissions. An entrance exam is often used as a piece of that determination. It is also commonly used as criteria for merit based scholarships.

How to Register

The next ACT test date available is April 17, 2021 with a registration deadline of March 12th. You will need to create an account if you do not already have one. You are able to choose the date you'd like to test and choose a testing location. DCG is not a testing location but there are many available options in the area. <https://my.act.org/account/>

Cost

ACT- \$55 or \$70 with writing SAT- \$52 or \$68 with essay

*Fee waivers are available for those who qualify for either exam

What is the SAT

The SAT is another option as an entrance exam. SAT includes a Reading Test, Writing and Language Test, and a Math Test. The SAT has an optional essay component, which some colleges require. On the SAT, you earn points for the questions you answer correctly. The next SAT test date available is May 8, 2021 with a registration deadline of April 8th. Log into your College Board account to register. <https://account.collegeboard.org>

SAT vs. ACT

It is more common for students in Iowa to take the ACT but both tests are accepted at all colleges and universities in the United States.

COVID Information

Many colleges and universities are test optional for the 2021-2022 school year admissions. Many scholarships have also done the same. There have been no announcements so far for the 2022-2023 school year which would impact our current juniors.

Additional resources

There will be a workshop at DCG High School on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 from 10:30am to 4:00pm for \$95. Register at <https://doorwaytocollege.org/zapsorganization/dallas-center-grimes-high-school?id=9938>

Sending Scores

Students are expected to submit their official ACT or SAT scores to the schools they are applying to. DCG High School does not submit scores on behalf of students.

Merit Finalist

Senior Grant Harbaugh has earned the distinction of being a National Merit Scholarship Corporation finalist.



Starting from 1.2 million applicants, Grant has moved to the top 15,000 students in consideration for a National Merit Scholarship.

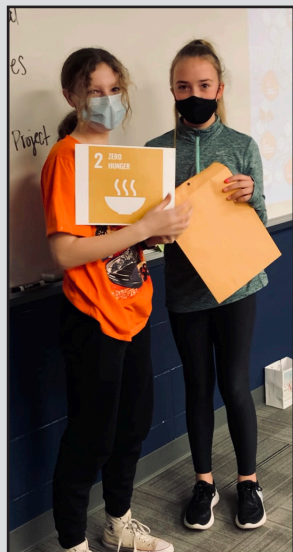
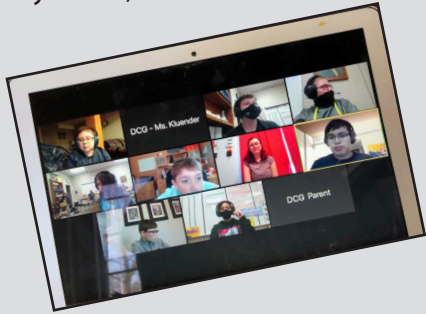


The Seal of Biliteracy is an award recognizing students who attain proficiency in two or more languages by their High School graduation date. The Seal of Biliteracy values language as an asset, prepares students with 21st century skills that will benefit them in our global society and recognizes the value of language diversity and cultural identity.

To be eligible, each student must demonstrate proficiency in English and a world language through various assessments. Students who earn the seal of biliteracy will be recognized during their graduation ceremony and the seal will be shown on their diploma and official transcript.

Look for additional information in late April about the assessment and process.

TAG/ELP Twenty-one schools across Iowa and Nebraska participated in the IQBL Winter Open. This was the first year DCG Middle School competed. Members of the team were: Alex New, Bodee Krob, Hayden Wagner, Ryan Wolf, and Cael Johnson. Students qualified for the consolation bracket in their division. Students attended remotely through Zoom and accessed their buzzer through Quiz Bowl Systems, an online format.



Global Goals DCG seventh graders launched their Global Goals Project. Students will be joining classrooms from 118 countries to learn

and teach about the UN Sustainable Development Goals. They were excited to find out which goals they will be teaching to our partner classrooms around the world.

MEADOWS

Monster cookie protein bites

A RECIPE BY YOURCUPOFCAKE.COM

ingredients

- 2 1/2 cups old-fashioned oats
- 1 cup creamy or crunchy peanut butter
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips or any candy

Equipment needed

- Kitchenaid mixer
- Mixing tool
- Freezer
- Blender

directions

- Place 1 cup of old fashioned oats in a blender and blend until it makes oat flour
- Combine oat flour with the remaining 1 1/2 cups of oats, peanut butter, honey, and vanilla extract. This will be a little bit of a workout if you do it by hand. Fold in the chocolate chips or candy.
- Make tablespoon sized dough balls and roll into balls. If the dough is too sticky you can refrigerate dough before rolling.

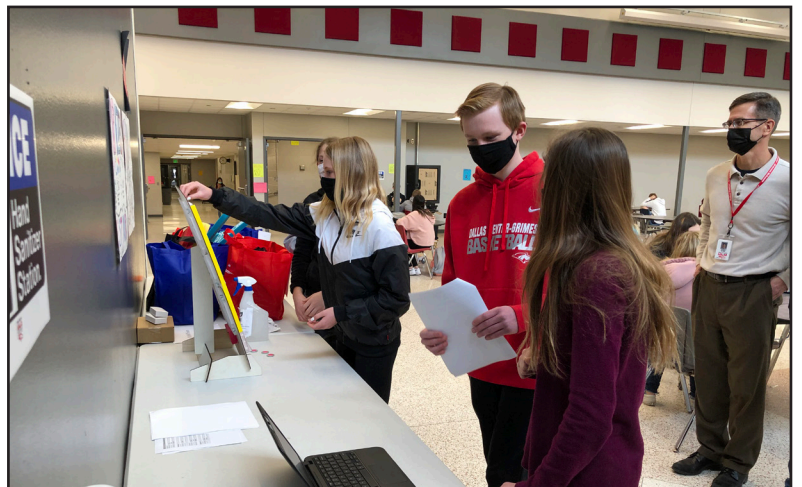
RECIPE FOUND ON YOURCUPOFCAKE.COM

FCS Meadows Family and Consumer Science (FCS) students have been learning many life skills in class including; basic sewing, the six essential nutrients needed in the diet and a variety of culinary skills. In a recent assignment, students had an opportunity to choose a recipe that had at least four ingredients and were challenged to use a small kitchen appliance to make something. They could not just reheat something that had already been made. Students then recorded themselves making their recipe, similar to a Tasty video seen online. Videos and recipes included anything from Monster Cookie Protein Bites (pictured left) to Empanadas. This assignment

was used as FCS students' final project. Not only did they have to show knife skills, but other culinary skills learned and executed throughout class.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

iSTEP The DCG Middle School Student Council's iStep (Iowa Students for Tobacco Education and Prevention) chapter, provided vaping education to



DCG students and staff in February. The student members organized an online quiz for the fellow peers and staff which gave them the opportunity to earn a chance at the Plinko board to win prizes provided by the American Lung Association of Iowa.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONTINUED

Service Project

National School Counseling Week, celebrated February first through the fifth, DCG Middle School students and staff were challenged to create Valentine's Day cards for residents and staff at Spurgeon Manor as a service project. The residents were thrilled to receive such great letters during a time when they have been unable to see others. The cards offered a sense of connection and community for the residents during this unprecedented time. Pictured are some of the creations and students that helped coordinate this project.



Online Learning Students in Mrs. Grant's 5th grade online class spent time learning about some of the important figures in history who played a role in helping African Americans obtain the same civil rights as white citizens. Civil rights are basic rights that all citizens of the United States are entitled to under the laws of our government. Students studied Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Ruby Bridges, and Rosa Parks. They learned the role each of them played in helping advance the rights for African Americans. The class also learned about Alexander Clark, an African American Iowan who fought in the Civil War. He helped to persuade Iowa legislators to change the Iowa Constitution. In 1868, the word 'white' was removed from our Iowa Constitution now allowing any male citizen over the age of 21, who is a citizen of Iowa and the United States, the right to vote in Iowa elections.

ELEMENTARY

100th Day of School Elementary students across the district celebrated the 100th day of school. Students took part in activities that included; writing and illustrating what they will look like when they are 100 years old, incorporating 100 items onto their clothing attire, bringing 100 small items in to count or dressing like the elderly. Students also participated in exercising and movement by counting by tens to 100. Teachers even joined on the fun by dressing up. Students, teachers and staff look forward to this celebration every year.



PTO News DCG Elementary Schools PTO are disappointed at the prospect of missing another fundraiser. With student and community safety at the heart of our decisions we have decided to host a virtual scavenger hunt using the super fun Goose Chase App. Save the Dates: virtual kickoff event on May 1st, scavenger hunt, missions and silent auction April 30-May 23rd



Memory Project For the last three years, high school students interested in the visual arts, have used their skills to help others. Through the non-profit program, The Memory Project, students are matched with youth from other countries who are experiencing difficulty in their lives. Our DCG students then create portraits of these youth to show that even though their lives are difficult, there are people around the world who are thinking of them and care about them. It is a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience the larger world and create something that is larger than themselves. Each year our number of participants has grown, which is a testament to the caring nature of our students. Even some of our staff members are becoming involved. These are just a few of the beautiful portraits created this year. Thank you to FOFA for helping fund our involvement with this wonderful program.

ACTIVITIES



Wrestling DCG ended its wrestling season with a 19-8 record which included the second most dual wins in school history. Three DCG wrestlers advanced to the state tournament that took place at Wells Fargo Arena on February, 18th - 20th. Sophomore, Jacob Fistler,

senior, Drew Clausen and junior, Luke Stover all competed for their shot on the podium. Fistler placed 5th overall receiving a spot on the podium at the 126 weight class. Clausen ended his senior year with a 28-20 record but fell shy of the podium in the 195 weight class and Stover wrestled back in the 106 weight class but lost by fall to end his trip at state, but had an outstanding season. DCG Wrestling was well represented.

NHS The DCG National Honor Society junior service project is underway. Students get to choose one organization or one problem in the community they want to help with each



year. This year the juniors chose to make fleece tie blankets and donate them to Mercy Hospital. The Juniors have been fundraising since January, and have a goal of \$200-\$300 in order to purchase the fleece for the blankets. This group has already fundraised about \$100! They hope to make 15 blankets for the children at Mercy Hospital. If you would like to help and donate, there are donation boxes in the High School and Meadows office. Checks can be made out to DCG NHS. Look for more information on the DCG NHS Instagram page @dcgnhs!



ACTIVITIES



Basketball Pat O'Brien and Brad Bailiff make a great team and have outstanding chemistry as announcers for the DCG girls and boys basketball live stream on DCGTV. It takes a team to make all of this work and if it were not for them along with Ben Vance running the technology live streaming would not be nearly as successful. "Streaming looks different this year" says O'Brien who has been doing this since 2016. Bailiff is new to the scene and started announcing football in the 2020 season and led him to basketball this season. O'Brien and Bailiff met during the first girls and boys practice of the season and have been working well together ever since. O'Brien has the background from the girls side having a daughter that played basketball and graduated from DCG and Brad has experience with the boys side

having a son that is junior. They truly enjoy sharing their passion for the game with kids and fans and our communities. In addition to calling the games, Pat and Brad have been interviewing student athletes after games to make connections with the community in the world of streaming during COVID.

Scholastic Awards On Thursday, January 28, winners were announced for the Scholastic Art and Writing awards. Only the very best artists and writers earn awards through Scholastic. It is a very competitive contest as awards are given to the top 15% of all entries grades 7-12. Here are the three award categories:

Gold Keys are awarded to the top 5-7% of all entries; Silver Keys are awarded to the top 7-10% of all entries; Honorable Mention is awarded to the top 10-15% of all entries.

Meadows and the High School had three award winners this year in the following categories:

8th grader Alexa Farrell: Gold Key and American Voices Nominee (Writing: short story Dry Feet)

9th grader Malaina Elliot: Honorable Mention (Writing: short story Invisible to the Visible)

10th grader Ian Grimes: Gold Key and American Visions Nominee (Art: drawing and illustration The Condemning), Gold Key (Art: drawing and illustration The Boy in the Dress), and Honorable Mention (Art: drawing and illustration The Cowboy)

The gold key pieces will move on to national judging. In our region, only 5 pieces are awarded the American Visions & Voices award. It is comparable to a best in show award. Of those 5 nominees, one will earn an American Visions & Voices medal at the national level! Results from national judging will be available on March 17, 2021. All three award winners will be invited to a virtual celebration ceremony on Sunday, March 7, 2021.



Dallas Center-Grimes Community School
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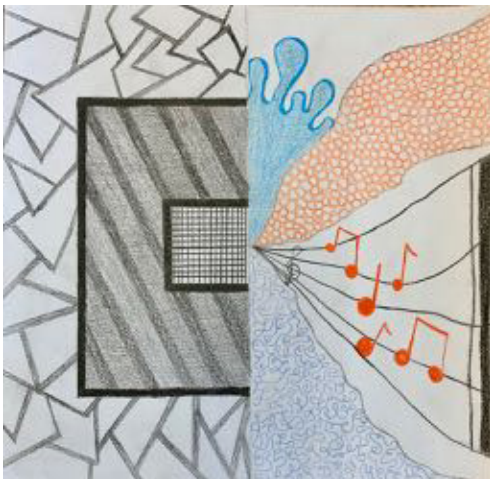
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Isabel Schall created a drawing of the right and left brain in her mandala to represent her interest in psychology and using both creativity and logical thinking.



Jordyn Jamison demonstrated an excellent use of value and shading to create a realistic still life drawing.



Dylan Stoll created a lot of depth in his mandala by using two-point perspective as well as shading.