



# MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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April 2021

Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

We recently completed the process for naming our newest learning facility that will be the home to our seventh and eighth graders beginning in the fall 2021. We started with a committee of teachers and administrators who brainstormed over fifty potential names. Name suggestions were required to follow guidelines from our board policy which include: naming consideration should not be names of individuals, it may include geography, location or landscape and the name consideration could potentially include a subdivision name. The committee

and district stakeholders wanted building names to be open to all educational experiences and align with the district's 5-12 vision. As a reminder, the district's 5-12 vision in simple form means, providing flexibility for students to find their passions and interests at a younger age and to be successful in whatever career path they choose. Once the list was narrowed down to three, an email survey was sent to students, staff and families. We had great participation with the survey, and the top name received considerably more votes than the others. I am pleased to announce that the newest DCG building name is Oak View. I am excited about this choice not only because of the breathtaking views this building offers from every direction, but also several oak trees will be planted on the grounds once construction is completed.

The building staff have solidified their vision for Oak View and held discussions on how it aligns into the district's 5-12 vision. The people who will be working at Oak View understand the need for seventh and eighth graders to feel good about themselves and to understand their place in the world. Therefore, the staff has chosen the theme of *Belonging* for the feel they want the students to experience when they enter the front doors. The staff who are coming to Oak View have studied middle school development, and understand that young adolescents need to examine who they are and know they have a safe place to learn and grow. Once the students feel they belong at Oak View, they will be willing to take risks and try new things, a concept that aligns tightly with the 5-12 vision encouraging students to discover their passions. The learning activities at Oak View will push students to stretch beyond their comfort zones by participating in innovative projects, creating thought-provoking arguments and debating solutions to some of the world's largest challenges. The Oak View staff will be there every step of the way to inspire our students, reassure them when their risks fail, and offer them necessary support to keep them moving forward and motivated toward high academic success. Oak View will be a busy place, fostering the academic, social, emotional and behavioral growth of your children. I hope you will visit and experience the magic that the sense of belonging brings to our newest facility at DCG this fall!

Sincerely,  
**Scott Grimes**  
Superintendent



## CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Monday, April 26th, No School, Staff Development Day

Every Wednesday, 1 PM Dismissal

Last day of School, Thursday, June 3

No early out Wednesday, June 2

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Alumni Spotlight
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- Ellis Island Experience
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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.

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April Heitland, Principal/North Ridge Elem.

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Diann Williamson, Principal/Heritage Elem.

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Deb Cale, Principal/Dallas Center Elem.

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1205 13th Street, P.O. Box 400, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

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Middle School Office/Jerry Hlas, Principal

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1400 Vine Street, P.O. Box 608, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

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Meadows Office/Lori Phillips, Principal

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2555 W. 1st Street, Ste. 200, Grimes, Iowa 50111

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High School Office/Scott Blum, Principal

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Transportation Office/Jeff Wolfe, Transportation Director

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Scott Grimes, Superintendent

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## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Marji Alaniz (Guyler), 1998 DCG Alumna is the President and Founder of FarmHer located in Grimes. She attended college at Grand View University, obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Graphic Design, Journalism and Photography, and received her MBA degree at Drake. Her senior year at DCG she took her first photography class and fell in love with it. Little did she know at the time, that her love would become an integral part of her future business.

After college she spent 11 years in the corporate world working in crop insurance, but felt it was time for a change. She took a leap and left her job without fully knowing what was ahead, but knew she wanted more time with her children who were one and three at the time.

The very weekend after she made the life-changing decision to leave her career, the Super Bowl was on. One of the commercials that year was for Ram trucks, filled with gorgeous images of farmers and ranchers, set to a speech by Paul Harvey called, "God Made a Farmer." She absolutely loved it, "the power of the images just captured me," said Marji. After reading an article a few weeks later she realized the serious lack of women shown in the commercial. A two minute and thirty second commercial about American agriculture only held three, somewhat hidden, images of women. However, by the 2012 Census of Agriculture, women make up about 30% of ag producers in the U.S. "This hit me hard," said Alaniz. "I had worked for over a decade in agriculture and not once did I stop to think about the very important daily roles that women play on farms and ranches."

Marji's grandparents were farmers and she had grown up being active in 4-H and around kids whose families farmed. "I knew better, but had never thought about the image of a farmer or the lack of women in that image," said Alaniz. She woke up at two o'clock the next morning and it hit her like a ton of bricks. She knew she needed to start photographing the women of agriculture with a mission to include them in that image of a farmer. Her goal, to update the image of agriculture altogether.

The basis of her business was born in the spring of 2013. She started a photography project called FarmHer and began photographing women across central Iowa. She started a website to share those images, along with a social media campaign. The instant reception - mostly from women in agriculture was overwhelming. Her photography validated the very real work that women in agriculture do, from farming, ranching, operating a business, defining the culture that is agriculture, raising families, growing food and feeding their communities.

Today, FarmHer has grown into a place where women in agriculture can watch, connect, talk, network, share, learn and be a part of a community built just for them. It is the coffee shop, corner store and kitchen gathering for all women and especially for those with an affinity for rural America. The business side of FarmHer includes a line of branded merchandise, social and traditional media presence, speaking engagements, a weekly national cable television show on RFD-TV and a podcast. Through this work Marji gets the pleasure of traveling the country to photograph and showcase women from all types of agriculture and all types of farms.

One of the most important parts of FarmHer has been to use the platform to connect others to agriculture. They do that by connecting young women to future roles in agriculture by showing them what they can be through the images of strong and successful women, or connecting the broader audience of consumers to the women behind the farms that produce the food we all eat.

While at DCG Marji was also very active and played volleyball, basketball, track and softball. She resides in Grimes, with her husband, Tony and two children Ava and AJ that attend DCG.



# HIGH SCHOOL

The Seal of Biliteracy is an award recognizing students who attain proficiency in two or more languages, one of which is English, by high school graduation.

The Seal of Biliteracy:

- Values language as an asset
- Recognizes the value of language diversity and cultural identity
- Prepares students with 21st century skills that will benefit them in our global society, especially during college and job searches
- Provides recognition and evidence for students' proficiency in two or more languages

To be eligible for the Iowa Seal of Biliteracy, 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 the graduation ceremony, and the seal will be shown on their diploma and official transcript.

Dallas Center-Grimes Testing Information:

Dallas Center-Grimes will be offering the following time to take the assessments with a proctor present. The school district will cover the cost for administering the initial test, but the students will be responsible for the fees associated with retakes.

Date: April 28, 2021

Time: 1:00 pm

Room: Mrs. Hawks Room

Please contact Mrs. Hawks by April 19th if you would like to sign up to participate in the upcoming testing session. [laree.hawks@dcgschools.com](mailto:laree.hawks@dcgschools.com)



DCG National Honor Society (NHS) is currently hosting a Craft Product Drive for the children at Blank Children's Hospital. With young patients limited in the amount of visitors they can have, they have been keeping busy by doing arts and crafts, and are in need of craft products. Blank Children's Hospital is specifically looking for new markers, paint brush pens, and washable paint

sets, as well as other various art products.

Donation boxes have been placed in all of the elementary schools, Meadows, and in the high school. The Supply Drive will run from April 5th through April 16th.

In addition to the Craft Product Drive, DCG NHS is also hosting a shoe drive for those in need. We are looking for people to donate gently used shoes to support Soles4Souls. Shoes can be any size, shape or color. Are you missing a shoe to your pair? Soles4Souls also accepts just one shoe! If you would like to donate shoes, please bring them to the high school the last two weeks of April. Thank you for donating and supporting DCG NHS and these two great causes.

## Online School Registration

2021-2022 online school registration is open for all students. Families with students currently enrolled at DCG will need to use their parent 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 preschool, kindergarten, or another grade for the first time. New Families to the DCG District - Visit: [www.dcgschools.com](http://www.dcgschools.com), registration tab, new families.

Preschool Families – The enrollment deadline for the preschool program has passed. However, you may still complete registration for the four year old preschool program, knowing you will only be accepted if openings are available. If you are looking for a spot in the three-year-old program please call Stephanie at 515-992-3838 to be placed on a waitlist.

Kindergarten Families - If you have a child that will be 5 on or before September 15, 2021, register for Kindergarten (full days) or Optional Kindergarten (1/2 days) as soon as possible. NOTE: Athletic registration (7-12 grades) and fee payments will begin July 1. Watch for an email notice this summer.

# MEADOWS

## Grimes Governors Days 5K & Fun Run



Saturday, June 12, 2021  
7:00 AM  
\$20 Early Bird Registration

### Registered Participants Receive:

- T-shirt
- Post race refreshments

### Winner Receives:

- Prizes from local businesses
- \$250 DCGEF Scholarship given in your name

All proceeds support the DCG  
Education Foundation.



Register today!  
[governorsdays.com](http://governorsdays.com)

**Online Learning** High School online botany students are doing their own grow project from seed with household supplies. Supplies include mason jars for planters and sticks, leaves and dirt for soil. They will be doing a lab report reflection via Google slides by taking pictures and recording observations over time.



The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards are a significant recognition of talent and skill for our students. We were incredibly pleased last month when three students were awarded gold and silver keys for their work. The entries moved on to the national level, and we have a national medalist! Alexa Farrell's (pictured right along with teacher, Karene Rosenberry) short story, "Dry Feet", was awarded a gold medal and the American Voices medal. The American Voices medal is awarded to one writer per region, similar to a Best in Show award.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL

What do Simone Biles, fencing, and bobsledding have in common? These are some of the topics seventh grade students have researched for their Olympic project in English. Students gathered relevant information about a big question while avoiding plagiarism. Students then created a presentation with a voiceover for their classmates. This research experience will contribute to their background knowledge for the upcoming spring World Peace Day. This is a cross curricular project between English and Social Studies.



# ELEMENTARY

## History Lesson

Third graders at Dallas Center Elementary participated in an Ellis Island simulation. Students interacted in different stations just like immigrants



would have as they entered the United States. Students created and presented passports for legal entry, had a medical check and had to properly register. In addition students wrote imaginary stories about their travel to the United States, what their life was like before they arrived at Ellis Island and what it was like once they were established in the United States.

## PTO

Join the DCG PTO for this year's annual Spring Fundraiser. Are you up for a challenge? Grab your family and join us for 'DCG Rocks! The Scavenger Hunt'. We are holding this event in lieu of Reading Rocks! We are challenging families to get outdoors, participate in fun challenges indoors, and more. Join us in celebrating the kick-off with a virtual event on Friday, April 30th on Facebook. The scavenger hunt will run from Saturday, May 1st through Sunday, May 23rd.

The DCG Rocks! The Scavenger Hunt will consist of fun missions to complete at home and throughout Grimes and Dallas Center using the free GooseChase App. For each mission you accomplish, you will receive points and top teams will win prizes. To participate, this event will be a free-will donation to the DCG PTO. Remember, all money raised through this fundraiser goes directly back into our elementary schools for supplies, equipment, items for teachers, and more.

In addition, Activity Kits will be available for those unable to participate in the scavenger hunt. If you have children that make participating in the scavenger hunt challenging, or kids who prefer indoor activities, have no fear! These fun at-home kits are a perfect way to feed your sensory seeking child and your little artist while taking part in all the fun. We will also hold our amazing Silent Auction, similar to last year, through the 32Auctions website May 20th - 22nd.

If anyone is interested in sponsoring a scavenger hunt mission or donating to our silent auction, please reach out to Shaylee at 515.491.1964 or [dcgROCKS@gmail.com](mailto:dcgROCKS@gmail.com).

**Transportation** The DCG School District would like to remind all drivers that passing a school bus with either its amber or red flashing lights activated is a violation of Iowa motor vehicle law. DCG bus drivers report an average of 25 school bus stop arm violations per year to Polk & Dallas County deputies. The fines and costs are over \$300. Last year, over 600 drivers were convicted in Iowa for school bus violations. Iowa Motor Vehicle Code Section 321.372 states:

"Upon observing a school bus with its amber or red flashing lights on drivers' shall reduce their speed to not more than 20 miles per hour and be prepared to stop when the school bus stops. The driver shall bring the vehicle to a complete stop no closer than fifteen feet from the school bus when it is stopped and the stop arm is extended. The vehicle shall remain stopped until the stop signal arm is retracted after which the driver may then proceed."

School bus drivers who observe a violation of this law are responsible to forward a written report to a police officer indicating when and where the violation occurred as well as a vehicle description and license plate number. Upon receiving this information, the police officer shall complete an investigation of the incident and if the officer is not able to clearly identify the driver at the time of the violation, the officer shall serve a uniform traffic citation for the violation to the owner of the vehicle.

Please stay alert for pedestrian and school bus traffic. Tomorrow's future depends on today's safety.

For 19 years, Coach Tim Lauck has been a part of the DCG Basketball coaching staff. Head Basketball Coach Joel Rankin still remembers the first time he met him at the old High School in Dallas Center. "I was a young, unsure, nervous coach that needed help and a friend. It was like I was given a gift from above. It didn't take me long to realize that Coach Lauck was a special coach and guy." said Coach Rankin. A common joke between Rankin and Lauck is that if Ames calls Fred Hoiberg the mayor, then Tim should be called the GOVERNOR because he always knows someone somewhere.

Rankin reminisces of Lauck's legendary stories. "I have heard them many, many times but they never get old. He has been the perfect Yin to my Yang."

Throughout the years, Coach Lauck has established positive relationships with so many in the DCG community. He loves Mustang Basketball.

Coach Lauck will retire from teaching after this school year and will be missed.

# ACTIVITIES

Three DCG students, Will Kielty (11th), Jack Evans (12th), and Brock Wolf (12th) played in the State Hockey tournament last month. They all play together on the Oak Leafs hockey team. The Des Moines Oak Leafs Hockey Club was established in 1998 as a member of the Iowa High School Hockey League. The league has since changed names and the Oak Leafs now compete as a member of the 13-team league called the Midwest High School Hockey League (MHSHL). The Oak Leafs have represented the MHSHL in three National USA High School Hockey Championships.



## DCG GIRLS BASKETBALL CAMPS SUMMER 2021



Camp	Date	Days	Entering Grades	Time	Location	Cost
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Skills Camp	June 8-11	Tues – Fri.	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8:30 – 9:30	Northridge	\$45
9 <sup>th</sup> –12 <sup>th</sup> Skills Camp	June 8-11	Tues – Fri..	9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 – 11:30	Meadows	\$65
4 <sup>th</sup> –5 <sup>th</sup> Skills Camp	June 8-11	Tues – Fri..	4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup>	11:45 – 1:15	Meadows	\$65
6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Skills Camp	June 8-11	Tues - Fri.	6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup>	1:30 – 3:00	Meadows	\$65
3 <sup>rd</sup> –5 <sup>th</sup> Competition Camp	June 18 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup> , July 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup>	8-9am	Meadows	\$60
6 <sup>th</sup> –8 <sup>th</sup> Competition Camp	June 18 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup> , July 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup>	9-10am	Meadows	\$60
5-8 <sup>th</sup> Shooting Camp	June 28 <sup>th</sup> June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Mon. / Wed.	5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 -12:00	Meadows	\$50

**\*\*There is a \$10 sibling discount for any family that is signing up more than 1 Mustang from the same family.**

### **SIGN UP NOW!**

**Sign up for basketball camp online at [www.dcgcamps.com](http://www.dcgcamps.com)**

For any and all information concerning DCG Girls Basketball Camps, please contact Coach Jones at [adam.jones@dcgschools.com](mailto:adam.jones@dcgschools.com)

#### **Skills Camp:**

This camp will provide fundamental instruction on the game of basketball including shooting, ball handling, and defensive / offensive concepts. Along with basketball instruction, each camper will participate in competitive basketball games and compete in individual skill contests. This is a great opportunity to learn / work on your basketball skill while getting to know the Girls Basketball Coaching Staff and current players. All participants in this camp will also receive a DCG basketball camp t-shirt.

#### **Competition Camp**

This camp will provide girls the opportunity to play 4 on 4 or 5 on 5 games against kids similar in age. Campers will receive a little fundamental instruction and then will be split into teams and play 2 games each week for a total of 8 games during camp.

#### **Shooting Camp:**

The shooting camp is designed to help girls develop their shot. Along with instruction on proper technique, campers will improve their footwork and learn how to shoot the ball on the move, off of the dribble, and from the free throw line.



# ACTIVITIES

**Basketball** The 2020-21 Mustang Basketball Team adopted the motto, "Whatever it Takes." It was a fitting theme in a year of many uncertainties and unknowns. A year where those uncertainties lead to not knowing if one game would be played let alone a whole season. The Mustang team started the season strong going 7-0 and was ranked number one in 3A before winter break. A blow out win at ADM, a close four point win against a highly ranked 2A Des Moines Christian and a low scoring defensive battle at Indianola highlighted the early part of the season. A disappointing loss at Pella gave the Mustangs their first loss in early January. An overtime loss to



Indianola was a heart breaker at home and prevented the Mustangs from a share of the Conference title. A 16 point win against Pella in their second meet up was a thrill as the Mustangs made eleven three pointers. The team felt confident they could reach their goals, even with a 10 point loss to number one ranked Ballard. The Mustangs earned the number one seed in sub state 8. The first game on the road to The Well was against Perry at home. The team allowed just 12 points, which broke a school record for least amount of points allowed in a game. Rival ADM was next. This game was a battle but the Mustangs showed mental toughness and won 39-34. A very talented Atlantic team was the opponent in the sub state game. The Mustangs came out on fire making the first six three pointers taken and won 60-39. With that win the Mustangs were going to the dance for only the sixth time in school history.

A positive culture helped the team be successful on the court. DCG earned the number four seed and played number five Davenport Assumption. Assumption was led by University Texas recruit Emerson Ellis. It was a physical game and unfortunately, a strong performance by Ellis and a scoring drought in the second half ended the Mustang season and a chance at a State Championship title. The Mustangs did not hang their heads, but reflected on the opportunities to play 24 games safely during a pandemic and winning 20 games with a challenging schedule, let alone a trip to the state tournament. "This (season) is a testament to our kids," said Coach Joel Rankin. "They showed sacrifice, perseverance, toughness and grit throughout the year. They learned lessons that will benefit them the rest of their lives. They did whatever it took to be successful. They earned and deserved a rewarding season."

## DCG BOYS BASKETBALL 2021 Summer Camps

- Option A: MUSTANG CAMP Entering 1st/2nd, June 14th-June 17th (Mon.-Thurs.), 8-9:00 a.m. at North Ridge
- Option B: MUSTANG CAMP Entering 3rd/4th, June 14th-17th (Mon.-Thurs), 10-12:00, at North Ridge
- Option C: MUSTANG CAMP Entering 9th Grade, June 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th (Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs) at Meadows 10am-12:00pm
- Option D: MUSTANG CAMP Entering 7th/8th, June 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th (Mon/Tues/Wed,Thurs), 1-3:00pm at Meadows
- Option E: MUSTANG CAMP (Entering 10th/11th/12th) = July 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th 10-12:30pm (Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs), at Meadows
- Option F: MUSTANG CAMP (Entering 5th/6th) = July 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 1pm-3:00 (Mon-Thurs), at Meadows
- Option G: MUSTANG SHOOTING CAMP (Grades 7th-12th) = July 5th-8th, 10:00-12:00 (Mon-Thurs) at Meadows
- Option H: MUSTANG SHOOTING ACADEMY (Grades 3rd-6th) = July 5th-8th, 1:30-3:00 (Mon - Thursday) at North Ridge
- Option I: 3rd-5th COMPETITION LEAGUE, Fridays June 18th, 25th, July 2nd, July 9th, July 16th at Meadows, 10 am -11:00 am.
- Option J: 6th-8th MUSTANG COMPETITION LEAGUE, Fridays June 18th, 25th, July 2nd, July 9th, 16th at Meadows 11 am -12:00 pm
- Option K: BIG MAN POST CAMP entering 5-12th grades July 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd (Mon-Thursday) 1-3:30pm at Meadows Register online at [DCGCamps.com](http://DCGCamps.com)

Dallas Center-Grimes Community School  
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Grimes, IA 50111

Nonprofit Org.  
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Grimes, IA 50111  
Permit No. 5

TM

POSTAL CUSTOMER



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



This artwork was created in acrylic by sophomore, Keira Stine, for one of her Painting I assignments. Keira was able to very successfully capture the concept of atmospheric perspective.

