



# MUSTANG MONTHLY™

VOLUME 23  
ISSUE 3  
November 2021

Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

We are within the last 60 days of 2021. There are celebrations to look forward to, as families gather and traditions are carried out over the next couple months. Yet, our world surroundings have thrown us several lemons in the last 20 months which has challenged our resolve. I understand that parents are tired, our teachers and staff are working hard to move students forward, and our students are facing a multitude of challenges. As we enter into these final 60 days of 2021 I want to ask that we rise to the challenge by being kind to one another, accepting change and relying on established protocols of communication,

consistency and collaboration.

Communication in an instantaneous society should be easy. There are many avenues in which to communicate and interact with one another, from emails, social media, podcasts, blogs and websites. Communication should be clear, concise and come from reliable sources. There will always be gaps in communication because we are humans. When communication comes from DCG we want it to be systemic. I'm excited we offer an inside view on our social media to watch our story unfold. We have a variety of ways to communicate, but I still prefer face to face interaction even though our society is challenged to communicate on many different platforms.

As we grow, continuing to be consistent with our small school feel is important to me. Maintaining our small class sizes, keeping our curriculum guaranteed and viable, and preserving a safe and positive environment for all students to learn are some of the ways we can continue to achieve this consistency. Successful education comes down to relationships. From relationships in the classroom, to parents and teachers, to staff and students, positive and healthy relationships are the key to our success.

Finally, we will continue to focus on the whole picture for our students by collaborating with one another. Through purposeful collaboration opportunities, we can teach our students to be critical thinkers that are prepared for what challenges face them when they enter their careers. This collaboration is not only important between staff and students, but parents as well. The upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences is an ideal time for parents to partner with teachers to discuss student progress and learning. By working together, we share the common goal of implementing actions that are best for the students of DCG.

Sincerely,

**Scott Grimes**

Superintendent



## CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Tuesday, November 2nd and Thursday, November 4th, 2:30 pm Dismissal, 2:00 pm Oak View

Friday, November 5th No School, Teacher Comp Day

Wednesday, November 17th 1:00 pm Dismissal, 12:30 Oak View, Staff Professional Development

Wednesday, November 24th - Friday November 26th - No School Thanksgiving Break

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Home of the Mustangs



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

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## DCG ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Anna Pion is a 2018 DCG Alumna. She will be entering her last semester at Iowa State this winter and is majoring in Agricultural Studies with a minor in Agronomy. Anna is the first DCG graduate to be receiving her American Degree through Future Farmers of America (FFA).

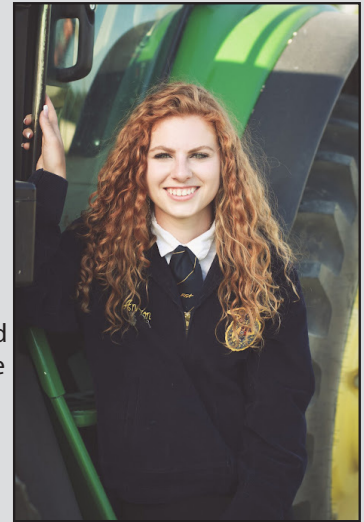
This award is the highest degree achievable in the National FFA Organization.

The American FFA Degree shows an FFA member's dedication to their chapter and state FFA association. It demonstrates the effort FFA members apply toward their supervised agricultural experience and the outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement they exhibited through their FFA career. American FFA Degree recipients show promise for the future and have gone above and beyond to achieve excellence.

In order to earn this degree, Anna put in numerous hours and effort into the process. Before she was eligible for the American Degree she first had to work to receive her Iowa Degree. Anna kept close records while she needed to receive her Greenhand and Chapter degree. Achieving this was the first step of the process. She had to demonstrate that she had a thorough understanding of the history and purpose of FFA and needed a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) plan. She worked at least 375 unpaid hours at a SAE and worked at Ory Farms in Earlham, IA for many of those hours. She also needed 25 hours of community service in more than one activity, and needed to participate in at least five activities above the chapter level.

Anna received her Iowa Degree in the spring of 2019. She then continued keeping records for her SAE project on the Agricultural Experience Tracker. One of the hardest requirements to achieve was the 2,250 hours of unpaid time in her SAE. Through the whole process she remained a full time student involved in many activities. Additionally she worked a part time job. When COVID-19 hit in March of 2020 she lost her internship with a greenhouse and decided to get as many hours as she could with Ory Farms. Without those months in the spring of 2020 working at Ory farms, reaching all the requirements before her eligibility to receive her American Degree would have been difficult. "Receiving my American Degree at the National Convention in Indianapolis at the end of October was absolutely a dream come true," said Anna. Less than 1% of FFA members achieve the Highest award an FFA member may possess.

Anna's favorite thing about DCG is the community. Seeing a familiar face when she comes home and knowing she has the support of our communities makes her feel grateful to have grown up here. When a tragedy in our community or even other communities have happened she has witnessed the DCG community come together and do whatever they can to support those in need. Whether it is a fundraiser, showing up to a sporting event, or even a poster in the hallway with well wishes to an individual fighting mental health problems from her high school years, she appreciates the community. Anna says, "I have been out of high school for only four years, but I know that DCG will always be my home and I will always have those community members there to support me"



# HIGH SCHOOL

## Hands on Experience

The DCG construction class went on a field trip to the Masonry Institute of Iowa located in Marshalltown. Students had the opportunity to learn about careers in masonry and bricklaying. Mason jobs are a vital part of the construction industry. Masonry workers are in high demand and the jobs in this area are expected to increase over the next decade. DCG students were able to experience some hands-on learning while on their field trip and got to try some simple mason work. They also got to try their skills in operating a backhoe. Students were learning to use the controls by picking up a soccer ball off a traffic cone and place it in a trash can.



**Grimes Public Library** During recent advisory time high school students could choose to attend a Grimes Public Library session to learn more about teen library program-

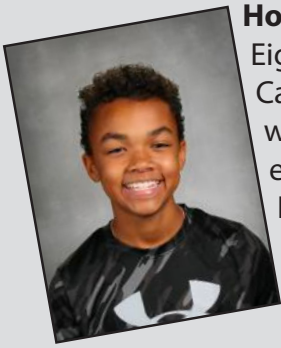
ming. The Grimes Public Library teen programming offers online audio/video content, homework help, and volunteering opportunities. Students heard about the proposed dedicated teen space in the new library that will offer an expanded graphic novel and nonfiction sections, along with a technology space for gaming and work. Additionally the library offers homework help for DCG students via online databases. Students can simply use their student ID number to login and they have access to research resources, live tutors, study guides for AP/ACT prep and writing and foreign language help.

**Personal Finance Class** Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF), a non-profit with a mission to ensure every High School student in America takes a personal finance course by the year 2030, has awarded Dallas Center-Grimes High School its Gold Standard School award. Montana State University researchers teamed up with NGPF to evaluate thousands of high school course catalogs and graduation requirements on the following scale:

Bronze Standard Schools offer some personal finance instruction in less than one continuous semester, often by embedding it into other courses (e.g. Economics).

Silver Standard Schools offer at least one semester of personal finance as a standalone elective OR offer a standalone personal finance course as one option among multiple that can fulfill a one semester graduation requirement.

Gold Standard Schools ensure all students take at least one standalone semester course in personal finance before graduation. Outside the six states (AL, MO, UT, MS, TN and VA) that currently guarantee every high school student will take a personal finance course, researchers identified just over 1,500, Dallas Center-Grimes High School among them!



### Honor Choir

Eighth grader, Caethen Stocker was accepted into Opus Honor Choir! Hundreds of students around the

state audition for this Honor Choir and only a select number get chosen based on their audition!

### Oak View Veterans Day Assembly

This November 11, Oak View students and staff will hold our first Veteran's Day Assembly. This day will be devoted to recognizing and celebrating the service of staff members and family members at Oak View. For this school year, our assembly will not be open to the public. We appreciate the service of those in the military and look forward to our day of recognition and celebration.

**EFR Services** Dallas Center Grimes offers all staff members and families with services to help manage life's challenges so that everyone can reach their full potential at or away from school. As a district, we feel that providing support from EFR is needed to help everyone better focus on their role and be more productive with their work each day. The Dallas Center School Community has 24/7 access with master level counselors that can focus on school-life balance, family or relationship issues, emotional issues as well as issues that interfere with your daily living, happiness, and overall well-being. This service is available to all DCG students and staff. If you want to know more about how the EFR services can assist you, contact them anytime at 800-327-4692.

## OAK VIEW



### Healthy Living Month

At Oak View, the month of October was devoted to promoting healthy living. Each week, students focused on a different approach to a healthy lifestyle. During advisory, they walked together to promote physical health and wore blue and partici-

parted in bullying prevention month discussions. They learned different coping strategies to promote positive mental health, along with hosting a hat day fundraiser to raise money for the local food pantries. Students engaged in discussions around healthy decision making and choices. It was a month full of fun and each student was able to focus on ways to improve their health.

### Oak View Bands

Eighth grade band students began the school year with an "Intro to Marching Band" unit.



In this unit they learned to march in formation, how to hold instruments for marching band, and how to play and march at the same time. Some students also had the opportunity to try Color Guard (flags) and marching percussion. The unit was wrapped up by marching in the Homecoming Parade playing, "Smoke on the Water." Students are also working on music for our Winter Concert on Thursday, December 9th. It has been so much fun getting to know the seventh grade band students. Due to COVID mitigation last year, this year is their first opportunity to play as a full ensemble. Seventh graders have been learning how to play as an ensemble with good timing and listening skills. The growth of this ensemble has been amazing. We can't wait for you to hear us at our Winter Concert on Thursday, December 9th. The concert will be at Oak View Gym and the seventh grade portion of the concert will begin at 6:30. Seventh graders need to arrive 6:00 pm. The eighth grade portion of the concert will begin at 7:15. Eighth graders need to arrive by 7:00 pm that evening.

This year we had seven students chosen for the South Central Iowa Bandmasters Association Middle School Honor Band (SCIBA). Aidan Leiran (8th) on French Horn, Emma Adair (8th) on Bassoon, Kate Wilson (7th) Mallory Hersleb (7th) on Flute, *continued on page 6.*

## MIDDLE SCHOOL



**General Music** Music students at the 5/6 Building in Dallas Center have learned a lot during the 1st Quarter of the school year! They began the year learning a brand new counting system called Takadimi. Students learned about the importance

of the Time Signature and why the bottom number changing makes a world of difference! They got to experience music from a different perspective by watching and discussing "The Landfill Harmonic" documentary. Bucket drumming began! Students learned how to read bucket drumming music and were able to successfully play through two songs while sight reading their music. They also got to compose a 16-measure bucket drumming piece! Students finished the quarter with a Takadimi Relay Game and a Halloween break out room to test their knowledge! Do you want to keep up with what is happening in the DCG MS Music Room? Scan the QR Code to follow us on Social



**School Bus Safety** In the first four weeks of school, Polk County Deputies have issued 12 citations in Grimes to motorists that illegally passed a DCG school bus while they were loading or unloading students at a school bus stop. This is an expensive ticket but more importantly, it is very dangerous for the kids around the school bus. An accident in this situation could change your life and the lives of other affected families forever.

**PTO** The DCG Elementary Schools PTO fundraiser was a HUGE success! Thank you to all our students and community members that participated and donated. Our combined efforts raised more than \$68,000 and more than \$14,000 for recess and PE equipment for our elementary schools. These funds will allow the organization to continue to do important and fun work- like buying kindergarten shirts for incoming students, purchasing books, iPads, along with supplemental curricular materials and supplies for teachers!

The DCG Elementary Schools PTO would like to invite you to join the PTO at any time. There are lots of different ways to get involved and at a level you feel comfortable. Reach out to your principal or join the PTO at our website: <https://dcgpto.com>. Click the "join the PTO" link. For questions, you can also contact us directly at [dallascentergrimespto@gmail.com](mailto:dallascentergrimespto@gmail.com)

## ELEMENTARY



**Buddy Benches** October is Bullying Prevention Month. All elementary schools at DCG have Buddy Benches on their playgrounds. The Buddy Bench is a place for students who might be looking for a friend at recess. When someone sits on

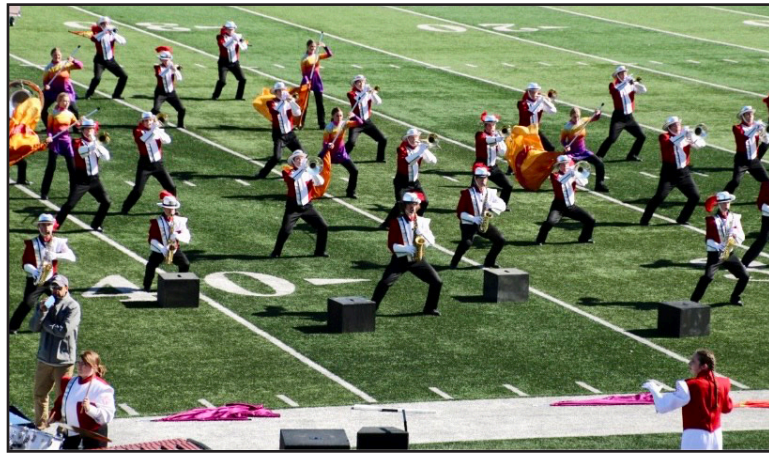
the bench other students ask them to join. The benefits of the bench helps students that are new to the school, if they want to make new friends, if their friends aren't at school that day or they want to play something different than what their friend is playing. The first buddy bench was installed at DCG in 2018.

# ACTIVITIES

...continued from Oak View Bands...Tessa Jones (7th) on Clarinet, Evan Friesen (7th) on Trumpet, and Parker Leiran (7th) on Euphonium. They will perform on November 2, 2021 at Ankeny Centennial High School. Way to go!

The Oak View Jazz band has a lot of interest. Currently there are 32 students who are working really hard to learn the beginning fundamentals of jazz. The band rehearses three mornings a week at 6:45. Music they are working on include; Woodchopper's Ball, A Warm Fuzzy, Moondance, and Sun Cat. The first performance for the Oak View Show Choir/Jazz Band Preview Concert in the Oak View Gym on Thursday, January 6th. In other exciting jazz band news, the following students were selected as part of the 2021 Middle School Jazz Combo Workshop held on Friday, October 29 at Waukee Middle School: Nora Spooner (8th) - Alto Sax, Ade Rowe (7th) - Trumpet, Grace Crow (8th) - Trombone, Logan Halverson (8th) - Bass, and Holden Quandt (8th)- Drum set. Congratulations to these students!

**DCG Booster Club** The Booster Club is in need of more members and volunteers. Come join the fun at our next meeting November 3rd, 2021, 6pm at the high school media room. Not sure what the booster club is all about visit our website <https://www.dcgboosterclub.com> for more information!



**Marching Mustangs**  
The DCG Marching band season ended a successful season. They performed the show entitled, "Tales from the Silk Road." The

show is based on travel of the ancient Silk Road using music from Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade", Ellington's "Caravan", and Saint-Saëns' "Bacchanale", crafted together into a powerful, high energy show! DCG Drum Majors are Anthony Munoz, Madison Stone, and Emma Foley. Soloists included; Ryan Fitch, trumpet, Drew Bissell, trombone, and Jack Crilly, trumpet. This year's band included 120 members, ranging from winds, battery, frontline, and color guard. Overall the band received the following achievements; Urbandale Marching Invitational fourth place, Valley Marching Invitational, 11th place, Valleyfest Showdown, seventh place, outstanding soloist, Ryan Fitch, Waukee Marching Invitational, sixth place. The Marching Mustangs received a division I rating at the state contest.

**Key Club** students took time out of their day on November 5th and 6th to clean up trash around the high school



campus for one of their fall service projects. When Key Club first met at the start of the school year, student leaders wanted to help improve the cleanliness and environment around the school.

Key Club is an international, student-led organization that provides its members with opportunities to provide service, build character and develop leadership skills. DCG Key Club students plan and take part in events throughout the school year in order to better the DCG community and the world.

# ACTIVITIES



**Dance Team** DCG dancers recently auditioned for the All Iowa Honor Drill Team. 4 members of the Varsity squad were selected to perform at the Girls State Basketball Tour-

namment in March with other dancers from all over the state. Congratulations to juniors Emma Altman, Katelyn Harryman and Natalli Besch along with sophomore Emma Bushnell.



## 4TH ANNUAL RED DINNER & AUCTION

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2021  
5 PM - 9 PM  
GRIMES COMMUNITY CENTER**

**Raise a  
paddle to  
raise  
scholarship  
funds**

(R)aising (E)ducation (D)ollars proceeds will be used to continue the DCG Education Foundation's commitment to supporting and promoting excellence within the DCG School District through educational scholarships to students as well as teacher grants for classroom support.

*Tickets Available*

[dcgeducationfoundation.org](http://dcgeducationfoundation.org)

**Culinary Club** The Culinary Club started this month at Oak View. The club will meet monthly throughout the remainder of the school year in the Oak View kitchen from 3:00 - 4:15 pm. Students must sign up if they are interested and need to have their own transportation home. The class is taught by Taher Chef, Phillip Carey. Skills taught include; how to read and understand a basic recipe, measuring ingredients, beginning knife skills, how to saute, roast and bake a variety of foods.

DCG Oakview Proudly Presents:

Disney

# MOANA JR.

**Friday November 12  
Saturday November 13  
7pm @ The Oakview Commons**

**Enjoy a Hawaiian Luau before the fabulous show!  
Ticket Info: <https://www.vancoevents.com/14559>**

Music & Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Mirands, Opetia Foa'i & Mark Mancina

Book Adapted by Susan Soon He Stanton

Music and Orchestations Adapted and Arranged by Ian Weinberger

Based on the 2016 Disney film Moana

Music & Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Mirands, Opetia Foa'i & Mark Mancina

**Director:**  
Jim Shutt

**Special Student Choreographers:**  
Sylvie O'Byrne, Isabella Lamb, and Macey Clark

