



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

As a district we continually look for areas that we need to adapt and change to meet the needs of our students and the ever changing job market. During the 2013-2014 school year, we implemented Project Lead the Way (PLTW) at the high school to help increase student learning in the area of Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM). The district has continued to expand this program through the last several years.

PLTW is an instructional program that encourages students' thinking in the area of STEM. This program is a comprehensive curriculum that encourages our students to think critically, creativity, and apply real-world problem solving. We have been using this program in our secondary course offerings and continue to look for ways to expand this program. Recently we integrated PLTW concepts into our fifth and sixth grade technology literacy courses, which adds a new computer science component for our middle school students.

This PLTW program aligns with our 5-12 vision, because it allows our students to apply the knowledge and skills they are learning to life outside of the classroom walls. We have secured partnerships with John Deere, Corteva and HyVee in the areas of agriscience, math, technology and engineering to help students learn how the skills they are using inside the classroom can be applied to their future careers. Student exposure to job opportunities earlier in their education opens access to careers in fields which can potentially help them find a passion and a desire to work in areas they did not know even existed.

I am thrilled about the new opportunities we are creating for our students. I understand that true student engagement occurs when students find purpose and meaning between what we teach in school and their lived experiences. I am confident that the expansion of PLTW is one way we are providing that link to bring transformative learning experiences for the students at DCG.

Sincerely,
Scott Grimes
Superintendent

CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday, March 2nd Early Dismissal, 12:30 Oak View, 1 pm All other buildings

Tuesday, March 8th and Thursday, March 10th 2:30 Dismissal, Parent Teacher Conferences

Friday, March 11th, No School, Teacher Compensation Day

Monday, March 14 - Friday, March 18th, No School, Spring Break

Wednesday, March 30th, Early Dismissal, 12:30 Oak View, 1 pm All other buildings

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Home of the Mustangs



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DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES

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DCG ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

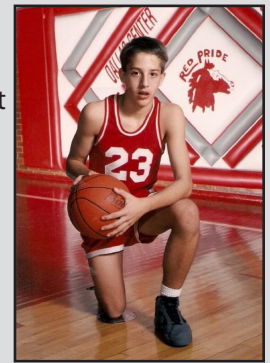


Nineteen-ninety-six alumni, Michael Nelson came back to his home roots and enjoys raising his family in Dallas Center. Michael currently holds two jobs. He is a Regional Sales Director for Arcoro, a HR company located in Urbandale and is also the Middle and High School Youth Director for Grimes United Methodist Church. He has worked in various sales positions over the

last 15 years and held several leadership roles. Over the last 22 years he had been involved with and led many youth programs.

One thing Michael wishes he would have known in college that he knows now is that he would have taken the opportunity to encourage others to chase their dreams. "I would have focused more on building others up versus trying to build my own reputation," said Nelson.

During his time at DCG he was involved in several sports teams and loved competing with teammates. Michael and his wife Lynelle, have three daughters that attend DCG, Abigail, Kayla and Tegan. He is actively involved with the Des Moines Dream Center providing hope and opportunities for students in our community.



BUS DRIVER SPOTLIGHT



February 23rd marked bus driver appreciation day and we wanted to spotlight one of our many appreciated bus drivers. Jene Greif has been a bus driver at DCG for nine years. He is in charge of getting 38

kids to and from school a day on the country bus route in Dallas Center. His favorite part of driving a bus for DCG is the kids and the funny things they come up with. "I love being around kids. They bring a different perspective to things and it is great to watch them grow through the years," said Greif.

Before becoming a bus driver, Jene worked for 17 years as a head custodian for West Des Moines Schools. He also has a yard care business and takes care of 28 yards during the growing season. In his spare time he enjoys working on his property and making salsa.

HIGH SCHOOL



Students of the Quarter Congratulations to our DCG High School Students of the Quarter! These students were selected by their teachers and stood out for their leadership and work ethic in their classes for the second quarter.

Agriculture: Riley Kovaleski (12), Bailey Ice (11), Kaydence Westergreen (10), and Caylee Brobst-Hike (9)

Art: Krista Erickson (12), Sydney Ashby (11), John Kitenge (10), and Johanna Bonefas (9)

Band: Anthony Munoz (12), Anna O'Tool (11), Luella Montgomery (10), and Charlotte York (9)

Business: Katey Luebke (12), Jacob Dotson (11), Amelia Ehlert (10), and Elle Wood (9)

FCS: Corbyn Paup (12), Ben Brushaber (11), Derika Andrus (10), and Carter Schwantes

Tech Ed: Zoie Firkins (12), Carter Southwick (11), Lucas Gerstenberger (10), and Clayton Fleming

Language Arts: Bailey Pierce (12), Sage Abrahamson-Stratton (11), Sam Weiss (10), and Marley Eickelberg (9)

Math: Chloe Traver (12), Mitchell Bridie (11), Malaina Elliott (10), and Sydney Miller (9)

PE: Zack Sigler (12), Kaden Woody (11), Jaden Jones (10), and Lily Holcomb (9)

Science: Connor Pertzsch (12), Kennedy Wurtz (11), Molly Schock (10), and Maliya Carlson (9)

Social Studies: Drew Bissell (12), Kylee Albright (11), Elayna Patterson (10), and Braden Zach (9)

Spanish: Bella Bauman (12), Emma Sump (11), Gabe Lee (10), and Blake Brent (9)

French: Kieran Shawhan (12), Audrey Ellis (11), Emma Fuller (10), Landon Russell (9)

Vocal: Katie Rath (12), Eli Forbes (11), Brooke Krug (10), and Emma Behnkendorf (9)

Student Services: Renesse Uwezo (12), Sydney Ostring (11), Muhamed Bivic (10), and Cael Nelmark (9)

DCGEF Scholarship applications for the DCG Class of 2022 will open on March 1, but there is one more opportunity to help support the DCG Education Foundation (DCGEF) and their mission to support DCG students in the pursuit of higher education through financial scholarships.

This March, Hy-Vee in Grimes will be supporting DCGEF through their reusable bag program. To participate, purchase a "My Heart" reusable bag at Hy-Vee during the month of March, and \$1 from the bag purchase will be donated to DCGEF. Bags are \$2.50 each. Learn more about the program at HyVee.bags4mycause.com.



The Mustang Message podcast launched last month to give an inside look around the district and tell the great stories of our students and teachers. As a district we wanted to start this podcast because there are so many wonderful things happening everyday and we want to use this platform to provide conversation, shine light on a variety of topics and spread joy by sharing



great stories with all of those in these two communities and hopefully beyond. The Mustang

Message can be found anywhere you get your Podcasts, like Apple Podcast, Google, and Podbean to name a few places it can be found.



OAK VIEW

Scholastic Awards 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.

Oak View had three award winning pieces this year in the following categories:

Hayden Wagner: Silver Key (Writing: sci fi/fantasy)

Hayden Wagner: Silver Key (Writing: dramatic play)

Elle Wedeking: Gold Key (Writing: novel)

The gold key artwork will move on to national judging. Results from national judging will be available on March 23, 2022. Both regional award winners will be invited to a virtual celebration ceremony on Saturday, March 5, 2022. Congratulations to all of our artists and writers who submitted pieces to this prestigious program.



Middle School Music Students in both 5th and 6th grade classes played Forbidden Pattern as a school wide competition during Quarter 2. Forbidden Pattern is a game that requires students to remember and not sing/sign the forbidden solfege pattern as they receive multiple patterns. There were four classes total that did not miss any points during the competition, which resulted in having a couple of tiebreaker rounds to determine the winning class in both grade levels! The winning class in each grade level will receive a party of their choice! Congratulations to all of the classes for working hard and growing in their solfege singing and signing skills! The results are in and shown below:

5th Grade Winning Class: Ms. Hansen's Class

Second Place: Mrs. Heidemann's Class

6th Grade Winning Class: Mrs. Smothers' Class

Second Place: Mr. Tucker's Class

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Math Unit Sixth graders recently learned to build houses in math class. They didn't use lumber and nails, but created the houses mostly of cardboard and paper. The recent activity was an extension of a geometry and area unit. Students were challenged to build a two story home around 1500 square feet. They had to include at least two bedrooms, a kitchen, one bathroom, a living room, garage and getting to the second story had to be functional. Once students had their structures completed they needed to calculate the scaled square footage of each room in their house. Then they calculated their estimated cost of building the house. After completion, students calculated the cost of the house with interest after receiving a bank loan. All calculations were used on present day pricing which the students researched. Students worked together in teams to complete their houses. This was a great hand on learning experience for the students and an example of a cross curricular activity where students can not only use their math skills but analytical, critical thinking, reading and teamwork skills all in one.



ELEMENTARY

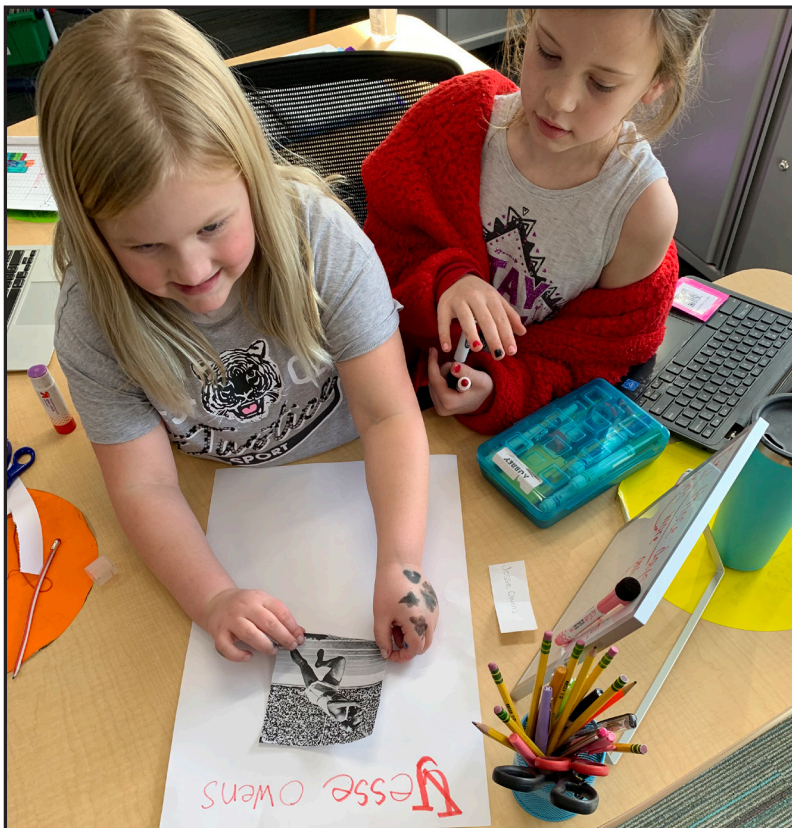


Book Tasting- North Ridge first graders got to experience a book tasting in the classroom. Their room was

transformed into "Starbooks" complete with dining tables and menus. The menus included books that fell into different genres. The genres included; graphic novels, controlled readers, chapter books, fairy tales, picture books and nonfiction. Students were instructed to look at the cover, read the title, take a picture walk through the book, read a few pages and write a review on what they sampled. Students got to rate the book based on their interest level and kept their review sheets so when they go to the library or have free reading time they can select books they are interested in.

Black History Month

Second graders spent all month learning about the significance of Black History Month. After learning about several important African American figures, Heritage second graders worked with a partner to research African American leaders. They are creating a "notecatcher" where they will be recording facts and putting together a timeline of their person's life.



Valentines Breakfast Pictured below is a highlight from the Heritage Kindergarten Valentine Parent Breakfast. Kindergarteners invited parents to come in and share donuts, fruit, muffins and milk. The students learned and preformed a few songs to sing and read some Valentine poems.



PTO The PTO has been busy planning social events and supporting students with teacher grants. Families at Heritage Elementary enjoyed a fun BINGO night with the DCG Mustang High School Football team calling bingo for us! Students enjoyed snacks and prizes. Families at South Prairie got out for our first ever "Big Chill". It was a fun afternoon of hot chocolate, snow painting and sledding.



Students are raving about their new reading materials. When asked about the new decodable texts they reported, "I love these books! They are just the right level for me." And "I like this book because it is funny." Kindergarten students love their nonsense word twists. Using these fun materials, students are building the foundation for a lifelong love of literacy.

ACTIVITIES

Jazz Band and Jazz Choir

DCG show choirs are hitting the final stretch of the competition season and ready to compete next at Southeast Polk. They are pictured getting in some practice and sharing their talents with their peers as they recently serenaded



students and welcomed them at the beginning of a school day.



The DCG jazz bands have had a great month. Jazz I received a I rating at the IHSMA festival and finished third at the Simpson Jazz Festival behind Waukee NW and Liberty.

DCG girls and boys basketball are on a roll. The girls won the Little Hawkeye Conference and punched their ticket to state. The girls have not lost at home since the first game of the 2020-2021 basketball season! Look to follow their post regular season journey by visiting <https://ighsau.org/>. The DCG boys also won the Little Hawkeye Conference.



They need to win one more game to punch their ticket to Wells Fargo

Arena. Tournament time is an exciting time for high school athletes. Our students athletes will represent DCG well.



NHS is hosting Soles 4 Souls again this year. Soles 4 Souls is a nonprofit organization that donates used shoes to people in places of need. We will be hosting this event from March 1st through March 10th. You can donate wearable shoes for the cause and they don't necessarily have to be matching. If students attend the High School, they can bring their donated shoes to their advisors. If you are a community member and would like to donate shoes to the cause, please bring them to the front office at the high school. You may also drop off shoes at the high school during conferences.

SOLES 4 SOULS

Taher hosted a "Beat the Winter Blues" beach themed lunch tasting at each elementary building. Sweet and Sour Meatballs, Cilantro Lime Rice, Grapefruit and Orange Coleslaw, Tropical Flavored Smoothies, and Hydration Stations were all available to try. It definitely made the cold day seem a lot warmer and the students enjoyed trying new foods. The high school implemented Culture Week at the end of January and the Taher staff supported the week by having a UK inspired lunch of Bangers and Mash. The following week the high school had a wing bar to help kick off the big game weekend!



ACTIVITIES

Stock Market Challenge

DCG students rocked it at the stock market challenge competing against a variety of schools in Central Iowa. Students were in groups of 3-4 competing against other teams/schools. Out of the 35 teams, DCG had three in the top five. They all had a great time and gained some valuable investing experience.



DCG DECA participated in the State DECA competition on Sunday, Feb. 20th, and Monday, Feb. 21st. The competition consisted of each student taking a 100 question exam based on marketing, management, entrepreneurship,

and finance concepts. They also choose one of 15 role-play events, read a case study, and presented their solutions to a judge. The test scores were averaged with the role-play scores to determine the winners. The students received awards for the top test scores, role-play scores, and then the overall placing. Any student that placed in the top three overall scores for each event qualified for the International DECA.

DCG has 10 members that have qualified for the International DECA competition! They include:

Ariadne LeBeau: 1st Overall (State Champion)- Marketing Communications

Alex Pries: 2nd Overall- Food Marketing

Katey Luebke: 2nd Overall- Apparel and Accessories Marketing

Hannah Renz: 3rd Overall- Sports and Entertainment Marketing

Ashlynn Kluss-Teta: 3rd Overall- Automotive Services Marketing

Elle Wood: 3rd Overall- Apparel and Accessories Marketing

Owen Pries and Isaac Short: 3rd Overall- Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team Event

Amelia Ehlert and Macey Jermier: 3rd Overall- Travel and Tourism Team Event

Other State Award Winners:

Tyler Adams: Honorable Mention- Human Resource Management

Jacob Dotson: Honorable Mention- Entrepreneurship Individual Event

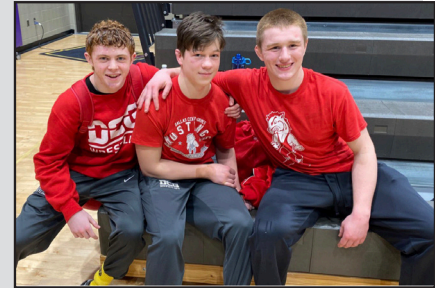
Cecelia Rowe: Honorable Mention- Food Marketing

Haylee Uhl: Honorable Mention- Restaurant and Food Service Management

Maddie Waddingham: Honorable Mention- Hotel and Lodging Management

Matt Deimerly and York Meggison: Honorable Mention- Entrepreneurship Team Decision Making

Wrestling Logan Gard (132), Jacob Fistler (152) and Connor Pertzsch (182) represented DCG at the State Wrestling Tournament in February at Wells Fargo Arena. Gard and Pertzsch lost their first matches but both bounced back with wins to advance to the consolation bracket. Fistler had his time cut short with an injury leaving him unable to continue in the tournament. These wrestlers represented the program and school well on the big stage.



Logan Gard, Jacob Fistler and Connor Pertzsch after qualifying for state.



Connor Pertzsch wrestling SEP's Harrison Gibson.



Jacob Fistler wrestling Newton's Brennan Amos.



Logan Gard wrestles an Indianola opponent during a dual earlier in the season.

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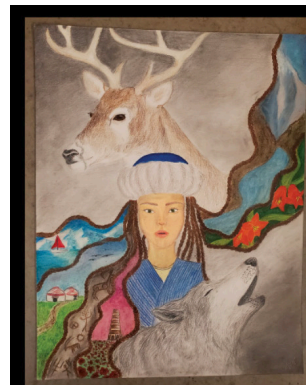
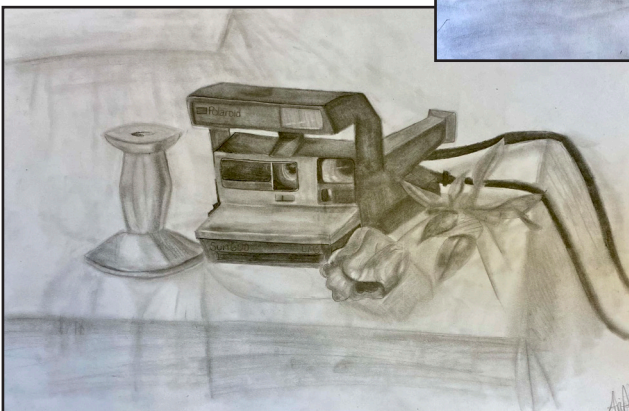
POSTAL CUSTOMER



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Art 1 students worked on using observational drawing skills. They looked closely at proportion and value as they created realistic drawings. Great job Arianna Freitas and Zoe Gard for creating a variety of textures and contrast!



Elayna Patterson

Baiana Sharsheeva

Drawing II students recently reviewed the art elements and principles and were tasked with creating a piece that specifically illustrated at least three of them.