



# MUSTANG MONTHLY™

VOLUME 23  
ISSUE 3  
December 2022

Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.



## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

I am simply amazed by our students. Each and every year, I have a great seat to watch our children achieve greatness. From National Merit Scholarship recognition, to all-state music selections, to the daily work happening in our classrooms. We have some pretty incredible students in our district.

We've also been making history this year. On November 14, I was one of the hundreds in attendance at the first-ever sanctioned girls wrestling competition in the entire state of Iowa. There were so many people playing a key role to make this moment happen. I

looked into the stands on several occasions and saw elementary and junior high girls watching in amazement, eagerly awaiting their turn on the mat. The 2022-23 DCG Girls Wrestling team set the standard for the sport in our district. We are proud of you!



Speaking of new and exciting teams at DCG. I'd like to give a special shout out to our DCG E-Sports team. The group just wrapped up their fall season with a record 27 members! There is no rest for our high school team, they've already started preparing for the winter season. Any student currently enrolled at DCG High School can compete on this team. It's a great way to engage with our school community and build STEM skills.

We've also seen some sensational performances on the stage. The high school's presentation of Radium Girls was impressive! Hours of work went into this year's fall play and it showed on performance night! Great job high schoolers. Oak View's fall play was a popular one as well. Congratulations to the crew from Frozen Jr. on a spectacular weekend!

The winter season is a busy one at DCG with games, performances, practices and competitions going on nearly every day. I encourage everyone in the DCG community to come out and cheer on our Mustangs. I know you'll walk away impressed, just like I did.

It's great to be a Mustang!

Sincerely,  
**Scott Grimes**  
Superintendent

## CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

December 14 - Early Dismissal

December 22 - Early Dismissal

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## VETERANS DAY AT DCG

**Veterans Day** at DCG is always a truly special day. It's an opportunity for our students and staff to honor those who serve our country. Several of our schools held assemblies and/or meals. Elementary students wrote cards to local Veterans (video on our website). The Dallas Center Elementary 4th grade choir sang at the Grimes Hy-Vee. Thank you to our students and staff for sharing this day with us.



**Veterans Working at DCG -**  
**Shelly Bailey** (Food Service)  
**Gordon Davidson** (Transportation)  
**Jenifer Eligh** (Admin),  
**Steve Ford** (HS Custodian)  
**Daryl Haynes** (Maintenance)  
**Jeff Roorda** (Transportation)  
**Patricia Schipper** (Pre-school)

**Eric White** (Middle School), **Jeff Wolfe** (Transportation), **Chris Adams** (Transportation), **Aaron Stoltz** (Transportation), **Randy Martin** (Transportation), **Chris Pappas** (Custodian), **Zach Krueger** (ASL Interpreter), **Rhonda Fletcher** (Middle School Associate), **Emily Bassett** (Teacher - Heritage), **Britney Macha** (DCE Associate) . Thank you for your service and commitment to our country and our students!

**RED Dinner** - More than 150 members of the Dallas Center and Grimes communities attended the Dallas Center-Grimes Education Foundation's (DCGEF) 5th annual RED Dinner and Auction held at Three Sisters Barn in Dallas Center. The RED event, which is an abbreviation for "Raising Education Dollars", raised more than \$75,000, a record-setting amount for their scholarship programs. During the RED Dinner and Auction, attendees were treated to a delicious meal, live auction, silent auction, program, and entertainment. In-person attendees could bid on live auction items, while the silent auction was held online for the third year, and open to any community members without a ticket who wanted to participate.

"We are extremely grateful to our local community for their support of DCG students," said Mike Wemhoff, DCGEF board president. "From donors and sponsors to attendees and our fantastic volunteers, DCGEF is making a difference for DCG students in their pursuit of higher education."

DCGEF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, volunteer-run, and operated separately from the Dallas Center-Grimes school district. (continued on page 4)

# HIGH SCHOOL

**Students of the Term** - Dallas Center-Grimes High School awarded their first Students of the Term award in the 2022-23 school year. These students exemplify #DCGExcellence. They lead by example. They work incredibly hard. They make the most out of every single day. Thanks for all you do! One student from every grade level (if possible), in every subject, is selected for this award.

## **Agriculture**

Matthew Deimerly, Kamryn Henrichs  
Jack McCaulley, Kayli Reggio

## **Art**

Leela Todd, Asia Jahangir  
Arianna Freitas, Halle Olson

## **Band**

Ethan Ibarra  
Corey Berogen-Perez  
Caroline Edsen, Holden Quandt

## **Business**

Marjona Ikromova  
Summer Campbell  
Kolby Carpenter, Brynn Weydert

## **FCS**

Trevor Hamil  
Elizabeth Kirkpatrick  
Ryan Pertzsch, Addison Wych

## **Industrial Tech**

Sabrina Masic, Mujo Rizvanovic  
Ky Wilkens, Griffin Kleis

## **Language Arts**

Laura Klaessy, Gabe Lee  
Shay Welle, Hayden Wagner

## **Math**

Emma Foley, Mya Vongphasouk  
Patrick Schmitz, Coltyn Nelson

## **PE**

Christian Stockman  
Alexis Harrington, Trafina Siah  
Hudson Heidgerken

## **Science**

Emma Sump, Nermina Husic  
Zachary Caldwell  
Jackson Chiochon

## **Social Studies**

Jilly Janssen, Cole Blessman  
Neela Williamson, Adalia Teah

## **Vocal**

Kiley Crivaro, Brie FitzGerald  
Miranda Ginn, Campbell Bowen

## **Spanish**

Rachel Becker, Elle Illian  
Sierra Callahan, Kendall Eischen

## **French**

Jack Kidd, Addaley Snoberger  
Audrey Nichols

## **Student Services**

Konnor May, Kelly Ebanda  
Kwamena Soe, Madi Uhl

**Senior Photos** - 2023 graduates and parents: Please make sure you submit your baby, toddler, and senior photos to Mrs. Soener (ivy.soener@dcschools.com) by Thursday, December 22nd. Check the requirements emailed to you earlier this semester or email her directly for more information.

**Winter Break at DCG** - Winter break at DCG is scheduled from December 23 through January 2. We look forward to our students returning to the classroom on Tuesday, January 3!

**Taher News** - Chef Jozsef has been pretty busy around the school. He was able to visit with the Spanish II class where he demonstrated Spinach and Feta Quiche. He also spent time with the French IV class where he introduced the students to new foods through a variety of Tapas. The high school hosted a Dueling Chef competition between Superintendent Scott Grimes and Chef Michael. It was a pasta battle with Chef Michael coming out with the win.



Taher was excited to be able to provide the meal for the production of Frozen at Oak View. We were also honored to be a part of the Veterans Day breakfast at the Middle School. It was an amazing experience and we just want to send a big THANK YOU to all Veterans both past and currently serving! Have a great December!



## DCG PTO -

Our school community is the BEST!

So many people volunteered to stock the teacher's lounge and provide food for conference meals. Thank you so much for your generosity and support! Our teachers and administrators truly appreciate all that our school community does. Providing meals during conferences is just one of the many ways the DCG Elementary Schools PTO gives back to our schools.

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 go to 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)



## FROM OUR BUILDINGS

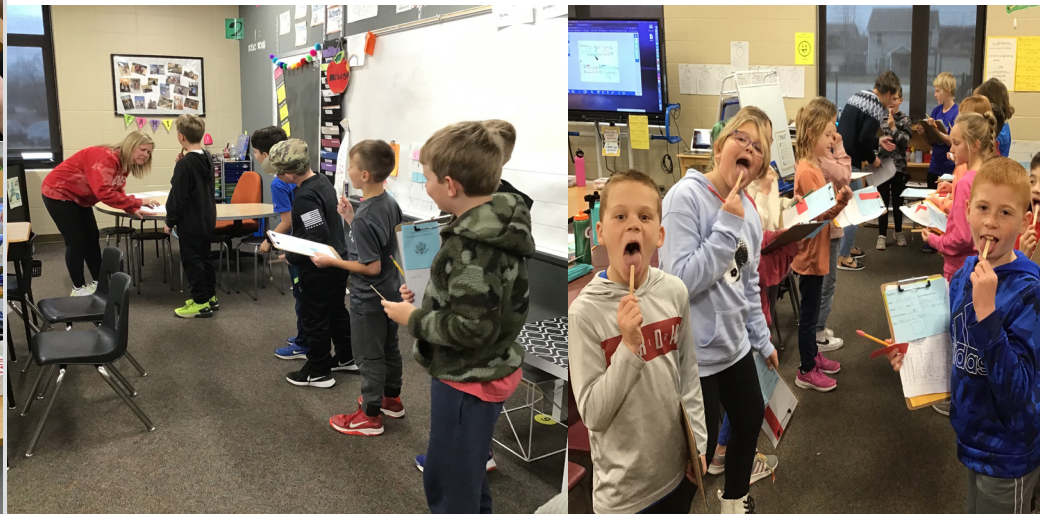
**Oak View Presents Frozen Jr.** - Congratulations to the cast and crew from Oak View on a stellar presentation of Frozen Jr. The team put on three performances in the middle of November and all three were outstanding! Jim Shutt directed the show once again this year! As you can see below, even our youngest fans were on the edge of their seats for this performance!



**Red Dinner (continued from page 2)** - During the program, former DCG student Tyler Willey presented his college experiences at Buena Vista University, a school he says he wouldn't have been able to attend without the financial support of the DCGEF scholarship.

"I was considering attending a local state college following high school," said Tyler. "But the RED scholarship I received from DCGEF changed everything for me. With the additional funds, I was able to go to a private school a little further from home and have had an amazing educational experience. I am so grateful to the DCG community for their support."

Last year, DCGEF awarded 120 scholarships totaling \$151,000 to the DCG class of 2022. These scholarships were a combination of DCGEF-fundraised and investment dollars and locally sponsored scholarships. Scholarships are awarded each May to the DCG graduating class.



**Ellis Island Simulation at North Ridge (above)** - Third graders at North Ridge Elementary participated in an Ellis Island Simulation. Students worked through different stations in their classrooms, simulating the stages immigrants had to, as they prepared to enter the United States. Several students dressed the part of their immigration experience - a business owner, a 60-year-old Italian woman, an immigrant farmer and an immigrant with a fever.

# DISTRICT UPDATES

**Oak View Music-** We have some exciting news to share coming from the music department at Oak View. 12 students were accepted into the top Honor Choir and Honor Band in the state. This is the highest music honor 8th graders can receive! Way to go!!



**Opus Honor Choir (left)-** Gwenna Wambold, Akeelah Washington, Kayla Atanga



**SCIBA Honor Band (top right)-** Kate Wilson, Ahren Ervin, Nathan Fitch, Evan Friesen, Katelyn Daugherty, Shiloh Schock, Izzy Powell, Audrina Harryman, Paige Wubbena

**Oak View Band** - The 8th grade band performance at the Veterans Day assembly was a huge success. In addition, we had 2 seventh grade trumpet players perform taps. We were inspired by their performance! Oak View's next band concert is scheduled for Thursday, December 8.

# ELEMENTARY

**Ocean Animal Exhibit at Dallas Center Elementary-** First grade students at Dallas Center Elementary are learning all about ocean animals in a very hands-on way. Students were tasked with learning about ocean animals and all of the different ways they can protect themselves from others. After their discussion, the students made their respective animals with defense features built-in. To conclude the project, first graders held an Ocean Animal Defenses Exhibit for other students and teachers at Dallas Center Elementary.



**Airplane Party at Heritage** - It was a "Flying Fiesta" at Heritage Elementary this month. Students received 3,500 High Five points for modeling excellent behavior and earned a paper airplane party in the gym!



**Owl Day at North Ridge** - First grade students at North Ridge Elementary had a special visitor this month. The Dallas County Conservation Board for spent a day educating our children. They even brought in an owl for our students to learn from! What a special day for our entire building! Thanks to Dallas County Conservation for always helping our district with fun learning experiences!



# ACTIVITIES

**Girls Wrestling at DCG** - It's going to be a special winter season on the wrestling mats. For the first time in history, girls wrestling is a sanctioned sport in the state of Iowa. Our high school team started their season on Monday, October 31 and held their first competition on Monday, November 14. We are looking forward to watching the Mustangs this winter. We also featured Rex Gray, DCG Girls Wrestling Head Coach, on our latest episode of the Mustang Message. Visit our website to download the episode.



**History on the Mats** - The girls from DCG made history on Monday, November 14, when they hosted the state of Iowa's first sanctioned competition. The Mustangs rolled out the mats to take on Waverly - Shell Rock, Ankeny and Spencer. This team is making history in our school and in our state and we can't wait to watch them this season. Go Mustangs!

**Level Up with DCG Boys XC** - Even before we found out DCG was moving to Class 4A, Level Up was chosen as our motto for 2022. And the Mustangs did that, looking for ways to become their best, to reach beyond their grasp, and remember they are better than they think they are. Though the season dealt the Mustangs a hefty dose of adversity, we kept fighting to Level Up in all ways: as student-athletes, as teammates, as family members, and as part of our community. The Mustangs celebrated their season at a banquet on November 10. We finished third in the Little Hawkeye Conference with four All-Conference members, fourth at the District Meet, and sent two team members, AJ Angus and Jack Every, to the Class 4A State Meet. The JV team also finished third at



Conference, with four team members in the top 15 at that race. JV maintains an impressive 92% winning percentage over nine years, and Varsity has an 89% winning percentage over the same time span. Additionally, there were 19 additions to the record board. On top of all that, they enjoyed year nine of the Joy Project and also made blessing bags for those in need. The team knows the most important thing they do is treat each other with kindness and respect. The team is looking forward to building on the success they've had! Next year promises to be exciting, and we invite you to be a part of it; keep an eye on opportunities for young runners with the boys 5th-12th grade Mustang Cross Country Camp as well as the Run for Fun in the Sun Camp through Grimes Parks and Recreation for 1st-4th grade boys and girls. We all appreciate the awesome support of the Dallas Center-Grimes community. Go Mustangs!

# ACTIVITIES

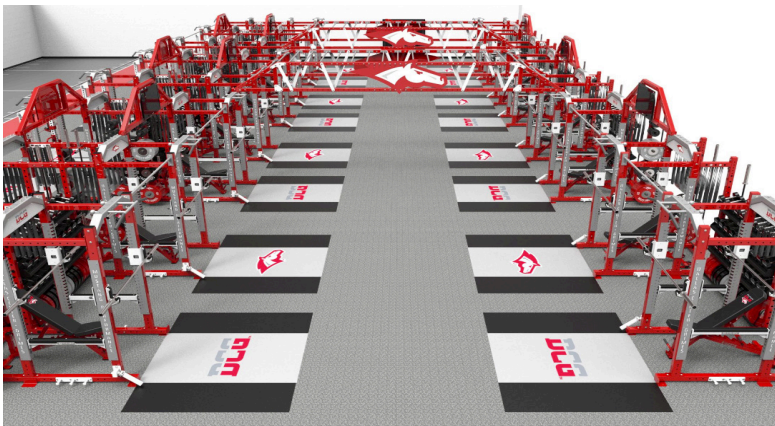
**DCG Dance** - The DCG Dance Team has four members who received the Honor of being selected for the All Iowa Dance Team that will perform at the girls state basketball tournament in March 2023. Pictured left to right are Natalli Besch, Emma Bushnell, Katie Harryman and Emma Altman all of whom are two-time honorees. The dancers will perform along with other honored members of Iowa High School dance teams from the state of Iowa, and will be showcased on IPTV.

The DCG Varsity Dance Team will compete at the State Championships on December 2nd at Wells Fargo Arena. The 13 member team will compete in three group routines including Pom, Jazz and Hip Hop. Six soloists will also compete for a title in the solo division. The championships will begin at 8am on Friday morning with the team taking the floor with their Jazz routine as the first routine of the day! They will follow up with their hip hop routine at 9:05am and Pom later that evening at 6:33pm. Team members Madison Stone, Emma Altman, Natalli Besch, Katie Harryman, Ella Kleckner and Emma Bushnell will represent DCG and begin competing at 3:00pm that same day.



**Mustang Athletic Performance Center** - Work continues on our brand new Mustang Athletic Performance Center (south end of DCG HS campus). The MAPC will allow our district to put our students in the best positions to be successful and further develop a championship culture. Upon completion, the MAPC will

be one of the top performance facilities in the Midwest and it will support all DCG High School students and athletes. The DCG Booster Club is helping generate funds

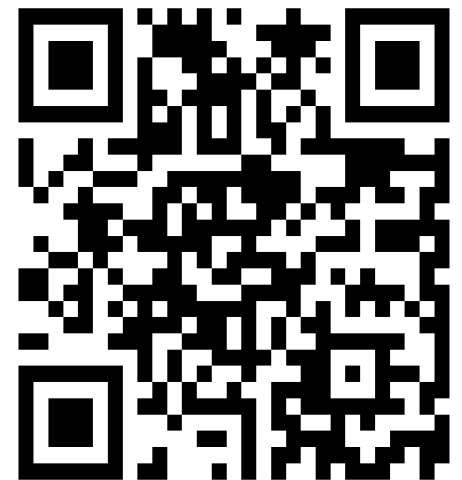


to support the equipment needs of the MAPC. A QR code (right) will take you directly to the DCG Booster Club donation page. You can also learn more about the project and get an update on the construction progress. We are so thankful for all of the ways the DCG community supports our students!

**FOFA**-Thank you so much to the generous families in our community who have become FOFA members or who have donated online. Your donations directly help with student scholarships, costumes, equipment and our fine arts teachers. In fact, our incredible high school Marching Mustangs had brand new hats for their uniforms this year thanks to funds raised by FOFA. It's not too late to become a member or get involved! Follow the QR code to learn more!



**Mustang Athletic Performance Center QR Code (Below)**



DallasCenter-GrimesCommunitySchool  
2405 West. 1st St.  
P.O. Box 680  
Grimes, IA 50111

TM

Nonprofit Org.  
ECRWSS  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Dallas Center, IA 50063  
Permit No. 5

## POSTAL CUSTOMER



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



**From the Art Room** - Asia Jahangir (face) and Arianna Freitas (bagels). Both did a great job of creating realistic paintings for Painting 1. Keep up the great work!