



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

As our district experiences growth in all of our buildings, I'm thankful for the partnerships we continue to build throughout our communities. It's a reflection of the student-focused success we all look for at DCG. I want to take this opportunity to shine a light on a couple of the leadership teams working in our district. Their guidance and conversation is beneficial to my work as superintendent.

The DCG Leadership Team (known as the DCG Cabinet) is made up of district administrators. We meet in-person on a monthly basis, and we are able to have an all-district dialogue. Our discussions feature topics including school safety, technology, and leadership decisions. Their guidance makes DCG a better place. I'm thankful to work alongside these amazing leaders.

Each building has their own leadership team/s, made up of building administrators, teachers, counselors and occasionally students. They are working and learning alongside each other on a daily basis. Together, they are able to make decisions that improve the life of their building and make improvements that will impact future students. These groups can be building-wide or even project-based, depending on the need.

DCG SIAC (School Improvement Advisory Committee) features parents, students, teachers, district administrators, and school board members. The feedback received in these quarterly meetings is brought back to our district administrators and then to our school board for discussion. Our last meeting focused on the DCG District Needs Assessment Survey that was completed by the Iowa Association of School Boards. Reach out to me if this seems like a committee you would like to join in the future.

The DCG School Board is another group of dedicated individuals who are focused on learning and growing together. I would like to thank Kathie Hicok, Ryan Carpenter, Marco Bejarno, Mark Wills, Brandon McNace, Monica Malmberg, and Kim Praska for their commitment to our district! I am personally thankful for the relationship we've built as a team and individually.

As superintendent, I'm passionate about connecting with our students and staff in a variety of settings. It's important to have a pulse on the goals and aspirations of our entire district. I look forward to building on this work in the future.

We have a lot of talented leaders, doing their best to showcase #DCGExcellence - today, tomorrow and into the future.

Sincerely,

Scott Grimes

Superintendent



CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday, February 8th Early Dismissal, 12:30 Oak View, 1 pm All other buildings

Friday, February 17th, No School Staff Professional Development

Wednesday, February 22nd, Early Dismissal, 12:30 Oak View, 1 pm All other buildings

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Home of the Mustangs



www.dcgschools.com

DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OFFICES

Elementary Offices

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Middle School Office/Jerry Hlas, Principal
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Fax Number: (515) 992-4076
1400 Vine Street, P.O. Box 608, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063
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DISTRICT UPDATES

Jolie Morgan Named Educator of the Year - Dallas Center-Grimes High School's Jolie Morgan was named 2022's Educator of the Year by the Grimes Chamber & Economic Development. Morgan is currently an Instructional Coach at DCG HS. We are so proud of Jolie and the impact she is making every single day! She is a great representative of our entire team! Thanks for devoting your time and talents to DCG Jolie!



Senator Grassley Visits DCG High School - Our Government and Rho Kappa students had a chance to sit down with United States Senator Chuck Grassley in January. The conversation was fueled by thoughtful questions from our students. We are thankful this dialogue led to a powerful learning environment for all involved!

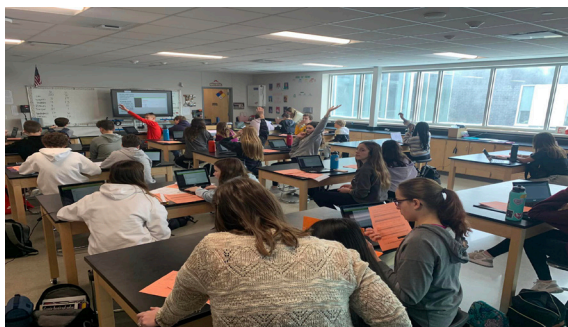
Educational Conversation - Building leaders met with representatives from the Ministry of Education & Foreign Affairs from Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan. We are partners in the World Link connection, and this relationship continues to build positive experiences for our Foreign Exchange Program.



HIGH SCHOOL

Student Course Registration

The course selection process for the 2023-24 school year began Monday, January 24th. Students worked with their advisors all week to prepare for their selection of courses. Students did a check of their current credits and took a look at what is still needed to graduate. A video was shown to all students walking the different grade levels through their core requirements for the next school year. Students were able to explore their elective options through the course description book and the DCG High School Registration Website. Juniors were given a presentation about the different opportunities available to them outside of DCG including; Des Moines Central Campus, Waukee APEX, School to Work, and DMACC Career Academy. Current freshman and sophomores registered on Monday, January 30th and Tuesday, January 31st. Eighth grade students began the process Thursday, January 5th and completed registration on Thursday, January 19th.



District Wide Registration for the 2023-2024 school year opened online (dcgschools.com) February 1. If you do not have a computer to complete the registration, a kiosk is available at the DCG Administration Building located at 2405 W. 1st Street, Grimes.

Families With Students Currently Enrolled at DCG:

Use your Campus 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 the district for the first time (preschool, kindergarten, or another grade level.)

Families With Students New to the DCG District:

Follow the steps listed on the district website: www.dcgschools.com, "School Registration" tab or quick link.

If your child will be 5 on or before September 15, 2023, register for kindergarten

If your child will be 4 on or before September 15, 2023, register for 4-year-old preschool

If your child will be 3 on or before September 15, 2023, register for 3-year-old preschool

Preschool Information:

4 year old program: Registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis until all spots are filled. When the program is full, your child will be placed on a waiting list.

3 year old program: To be eligible for a random selection to fill a preschool spot, register between Feb 1st and Feb 15th. If you register after Feb 15th, your child will be automatically placed on a waiting list.

Athletic Registration:

Athletic Registration in rSchool for 7th-12th grade athletes will not start until July 1, 2022.

The school will send email reminders as 7/1 approaches.

Registration Fees:

Registration fees will not be available for payment until July 1, 2023. The district will send email reminders as 7/1 approaches.



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 19, 2023

Time: 1:00 pm

Room: Mrs. Hawks Room

Please contact Mrs. Hawks by April 14th if you would like to sign up to participate in the upcoming testing session: laree.hawks@dcgschools.com

OAK VIEW



Tire Changing at DCG HS - You never know when this might happen to you! High school students received a crash course on how to change a tire! Our students in Independent Living experienced a tire changing demonstration in our parking lot. Hopefully it never happens, but these teenagers will be ready if it does!

From the DCG Education Foundation

- Dallas Center Grimes Education Foundation (DCGEF) scholarship applications for the DCG class of 2023 will open March 1st. DCG seniors gain access to locally sponsored and supported scholarships for post-secondary education through DCGEF. The foundation makes applying for scholarships easy through collaborating with the DCG school district and community supporters. Scholarships available include locally sponsored scholarships from community businesses, organizations, and individuals. DCGEF also raises funds throughout the year to make several additional scholarships available, including the four-year renewable RED scholarships.

Recipients are announced in May. DCG Alumni are also eligible for scholarships. Please visit dcgeducationfoundation.org for more information!



Mouse Trap Cars at Oak View
Science students at Oak View are working on a unique project featuring mouse traps and cars. Through trial and error, our students are taking a hands-on approach to this assignment. 8th graders were tasked with figuring out a way to start a "car" in motion by the release of a mouse trap. The longer their car stayed in motion, the better grade they received (for this part of the project). It's inspiring to see teamwork and creative thinking on display in this environment. A video story on our district website includes a feature on a successful mouse trap car "Lightning McQueen."

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Bobblehead Unit in Art Class - It's been a winter of creativity in the DCG Middle School art room. Students have been working through a bobblehead unit. It's clear to see that our students were invested in this project from the very first day! Take a look at some of the finished projects below!



ELEMENTARY

LET IT GLOW at Heritage - Heritage Elementary students are showcasing their dance moves in celebration! Students received enough “High Five Tickets” to earn a dance party in the gym. High Five Tickets



are earned by students showcasing their BEST behavior. It’s a great way to celebrate all of the positive things happening at Heritage and the growth our students are making this year! Get your GLOW on Heritage Elementary!

Preschool Vets - Preschool students at Heritage Elementary are working through another round of centers. The primary focus of this learning experience features dramatic play. One of the favorite stops on the center rotation is the preschool veterinary clinic. Our students are taking great care of the animals you see here. It’s exciting to see these little minds at work. All of the animals received the care they needed!



Coach Sloth Visits North Ridge - North Ridge Elementary students gathered for an assembly in January featuring Coach Sloth. Coach Sloth, a former football player at Iowa State, is now the author of children’s books. He spent time with our students exploring creativity! Learn more about Coach Sloth by visiting coachslotch.com.

Nutrition Updates - Families that meet federal guidelines can qualify for free or reduced breakfast or lunch. Applications for free or reduced lunches may be picked up in any one of our school offices or can be downloaded from the school’s website. These forms must be completed annually. These can also be completed on the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

Angel Account - Looking for a way to help a neighbor in need? Consider giving to the DCG Angel Account. This fund helps students who do not qualify for free or reduced meals, but still have a need for our support. There is an Angel Account donation link on RevTrak!

Upcoming Taher Events - We are excited to partner with our schools in the coming days!

- Chef Jozsef will help judge the Booster Club’s Cake Auction.
- February 14: Valentine’s Day in the Cafeteria
- February 21: National Pancake Day
- February 23: National Chili Day

We’ve also introduced new salads in our cafeterias - Chicken Craisin Salad and Southwestern Chicken Salad.

Chef Jozsef will also be in our buildings sampling the newest Harvest of the Month: Persimmon, Flat Leaf Parsley and Cauliflower.

ACTIVITIES



Booster Club Cake Auction

When: Friday, February 10
Where: Meadows Commons

Live Auction Times

- Girls Halftime (6:40)
- In-between Games (7:15)
- Boys Halftime (8:15)

Silent Auction - 5:00-8:30
Cake and Ice Cream Social - 5:00

Come out and bid on your favorite cake! All proceeds help our DCG student-athletes!



DCG Show Choir Hosts Take Two - The Dallas Center-Grimes High School Choral Department put on a fantastic show at their annual Take Two event. For two days, the DCG High School Auditorium was full of incredible performances from some of Iowa's top high school musicians. Junior high musicians took the stage on Friday night, followed by the high school competition on Saturday. This is a huge event for our fine arts department and an excellent showcase of our students. We can't wait for Take Two in 2024!

Speech Team Update - The Large Group Speech team had a great day at District Speech in Johnston on January 21. The high school team took 18 events to district speech. Seventeen of these received a I rating and moved on to State. The 9th-grade team took 9 events to districts, 5 of which progressed to the State level. The students look forward to performing at the state competition at Waukee High School on February 4. The event is open to the public for a free-will donation of \$3.



ACTIVITIES

The DCG Softball Association presents - FUTURE DCG MUSTANG SOFTBALL CLINIC 2023

The 2023 DCG HS Softball staff and athletes will be conducting a softball fundamental skills clinic for girls in grades third through eighth. Cost for the clinic is \$35.00 and includes a clinic t-shirt.

Sunday, March 5 at the Oak View gym 1300 SW County Line Rd, Grimes
Grades 3-5 from 12:30-3:00 P.M.
Grades 6-8 from 3:30-6:15 P.M.

REGISTRATION: begins 30 minutes prior to the start of the clinic. Please plan to arrive early so we can begin on time.

CLINIC FOCUS: throwing, fielding, outfield and infield defensive play, hitting & bunting
Parents and coaches are encouraged to attend the clinic and observe their child or players' participation.

PARTICIPANTS BRING: a glove, bat, and wear appropriate attire
Please mark your equipment with the player's name so we can return it if left at the clinic.

QUESTIONS: Contact Steve Schlafke at (515) 975-5453

(Please return this portion of the form to Coach Steve Schlafke)

606 Hickory Ct Dallas Center, IA 50063 or email form to steve.schlafke@dcgschools.com

Send check or pay by Venmo at Steve-Schlafke

DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2023 to ensure a t-shirt

Name _____ Grade _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

Select participant T-shirt size:

YOUTH ___ Small ___ Medium ___ Large
ADULT ___ Small ___ Medium ___ Large ___ X-Large

My daughter has permission to participate in the girls softball skills clinic. I hereby accept full responsibility for her behavior. The DC-G Schools will not be held responsible for accidents or injuries. My daughter is covered by an insurance plan to cover accidents.

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: STEVE SCHLAFKE, DCG SOFTBALL



Milestone Moments - Emma Miner (left) scored her 1,000th career point for DCG on Tuesday, January 24! Emma and the Mustangs are #1 in the latest Class 4A poll. Jacob Fistler (below) became the 20th DCG Wrestler to reach the 100 win milestone! Jacob and the Mustangs also qualified for the Class 3A Regional Dual Tournament. Great job by both athletes!



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Keira



Sierra



Keira



Sierra

High School students taking Ceramics I have been busy creating wonderful things. These are works by senior Keira Stine and sophomore Sierra Callahan