



# MUSTANG MONTHLY™

VOLUME 23  
ISSUE  
March 2023

Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm continually impressed by all of our students. They are doing incredible things in the classroom, on the field and on the stage. I'm also proud of our educators, coaches and directors who are walking side-by-side on this journey.

During the month of February, students and staff at Oak View worked through one of my favorite projects to observe each year, service learning. Learning, while simultaneously providing a service, makes for one awesome experience.

Service learning provides our students with a unique opportunity to learn about a community service project that is of interest to them. Here are just some of the options at Oak View.

*Oak View Survival Guide* - helping new students transition to the school.

*Crafts for Kids* - Creating crafts for kids at the Ronald McDonald House.

*Animal Rescue League Donations* - students are making toys for animals in the shelter.

You can find the complete list of powerful experiences on our website. I hope you are as impressed as I am. From social media posts to a story on WHO-TV 13, the service learning project at Oak View is something our entire district should be proud of. The work is important and it will be felt long after we close this year's project. Some photos of the service learning project are included below. Thanks for making a difference! It's great to be a Mustang!



Sincerely,  
**Scott Grimes**  
Superintendent

## CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

March 7 + 9 - Parent/Teacher Conferences

March 8 - Early Dismissal, 12:30 Oak View, 1 pm all other buildings

March 10-19 - Spring Break

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Home of the Mustangs



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

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## DISTRICT UPDATES



**DCG Bus Drivers Receive Praise -** Earlier this year, DCG school bus drivers spent time collaborating in a professional development setting. Our drivers work through crisis

strategies and de-escalation techniques. This meeting was featured in the latest Iowa Pupil Transportation Association Newsletter! We are so thankful to have a dedicated transportation team. A special shout out to Jeff Wolfe for his leadership and commitment!



**DCG Students Receive DMACC Recognition -** Our district has a proud partnership with DMACC. We are excited to showcase our students who have reached academic milestones in their college-level classes. The QR code (left) will list our Dean's List and President's List honorees!

**Job Fair at DCG HS -** On Thursday, April 20th, Dallas Center-Grimes High School will be hosting a job fair. We are looking for companies who are interested in connecting with our students as potential employees. This can include summer work, internships, part-time employment, or full-time employment for our recent graduates. The job fair will be held in the Meadows high school gym approximately 11:30 AM- 1 PM. If interested in participating, please follow the QR code. More information will be provided to participants closer to the event.



**Optional Kindergarten Celebrates Milestone**  
Students in our Optional Kindergarten class are celebrating in style! They recently completed their 100th day of school! We are so proud to see how much they've accomplished this year!

# SOLES 4 SOULS

**Soles 4 Souls** is an organization that receives donations of shoes and clothing and turns them into an opportunity. After donations are collected, the apparel is distributed to people in need all over the world. By doing this, Soles 4 Souls has eliminated millions of waste from ending up in landfills. This process does a lot to protect our environment from hazardous waste and the effects it can have on ecosystems.

This year the DCG High School NHS Chapter is taking our Soles 4 Souls event district-wide with every school hosting its own event from March 1st through the 9th.

Please bring in any gently used shoes to any of the schools in the district - new, old, or even a single shoe. All donations are greatly appreciated and can help people in need and the environment! Last year we collected more than 300 pairs of shoes and we would love to improve on that number this year!



**Students of the Term** - Dallas Center-Grimes High School is excited to celebrate our newest set of Students of the Term (Term 2). These students are making positive contributions in and out of the classroom. Their leadership makes our building a better place!

**Agriculture** - Senior – Cameron Miller | Junior – Brandon Bailiff | Sophomore – Landon Russell | Freshmen – Tonyah Lindsey

**Art** - Senior – Kylee Albright | Junior – Jack Kidd | Sophomore – Sierra Callahan | Freshmen – Zofiana Woollums

**Band** - Senior – Anna O'Tool | Junior – Jack Crilly | Sophomore – Marley Eickelberg | Freshmen – Emma Adair

**Business** - Senior – Sabrina Masic | Junior – Kiley Wuebker | Sophomore – Kenny Harman | Freshmen – Noah House

**FCS** - Senior – Alysa Poe | Junior – Ben Every | Sophomore – Landry Glasgow | Freshmen – Ben Rowe

**Tech Ed** - Junior – Trenton Randolph | Sophomore – Jack McCaulley | Freshmen – Ben Rowe

**Language Arts** - Senior – Madison Falk | Junior – Macey Jermier | Sophomore – Karlee Strang | Freshmen – Issac Hosic

**Math** - Senior – Jilly Janssen | Junior – Kylie Knief | Sophomore – Ky Wilkens | Freshmen – Maykaylee Philippson

**Library News** - The Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation recently awarded the high school library a \$250 grant, through support from Iowa Farm Bureau, to purchase books with agriculturally themed nonfiction materials. The addition of these books will help reinforce students' understanding of crop and animal management, fill in gaps related to Iowa's agricultural history or potential technology-in-agriculture careers, and highlight agricultural leaders. Not only will these books focus on Iowa-specific topics and leaders, but they will also offer general historical and practical knowledge.

## Students of the Term (cont) -

**PE** - Senior – Gable Tunink | Junior – Keaton Fenn | Sophomore – Cael Nelmark | Freshmen – Kayli Reggio

**Science** - Senior – Rachel Becker | Junior – Brianna Huisman | Sophomore – Jada Hennessy | Freshmen – Jazmin Berogan

**Social Studies** - Senior – Sydney Vaughan | Junior – Tess Meggison | Sophomore – Caroline Edsen | Freshmen – Madisyn Golly

**Vocal** - Senior – Ari Barber | Junior – Brady Kinman | Sophomore – Max Ringgenberg | Freshmen – Lily Brigge-man

**Spanish** - Senior – Campbell Valline | Junior – Ava Gannon | Sophomore – Caden James | Freshmen – Luke Lampe

**French** - Junior – Jack Every | Sophomore – Alexa Gill | Freshmen – Lars Dodd

**Student Services** - Senior – Jake Anderson | Junior – Linna Hennick | Sophomore – Sophia Fox | Freshmen – Kahne Westergreen

**Oak View Jazz Bands** - On Friday, February 17, the Oak View Jazz Bands and Show Choir traveled to Indianola HS for the Indianola Jazz/Show Encounter. This competition marked the end of the show choir competition season and the beginning of the jazz band competitions. We will officially conclude our season with joint concerts with the high school jazz bands on Tuesday, March 21 at DCG High school Auditorium.

**Solo & Ensemble Contest** - All of our students have been working hard and growing like crazy. We are looking forward to showcasing their hard work. The 7th-grade contest will be held Tuesday, March 2. The 8th-grade contest will be on Tuesday, April 25th.

**SCIBA Middle School Large Group Contest** will be hosted at Knoxville High School on Saturday, April 1. This event is curricular and required for both our 7th-grade and 8th-grade bands. At this event they will perform and receive a rating.

**Music students** in both 5th and 6th grade classes played "Forbidden Pattern" as a school wide competition. "Forbidden Pattern" is a game that requires students to remember and not sing/sign the forbidden solfege pattern as they receive multiple patterns. The game is first against Mrs. Augustine, trying to get more points each round. If the class beats Mrs. Augustine, they receive a point to compete against the entire grade! 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 (photos right):

5th Grade Winning Class: Mrs. Christiansen's Class  
 6th Grade Winning Class: Mr. Bisher's Class  
 Our concerts are coming up in May!

## OAK VIEW



### Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

Only the very best artists and writers earn awards through Scholastic. It is a competitive contest as awards are given to the top 15% of all entries grades 7-12.

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

Sharla Benning: Silver Key (Writing: science fiction & fantasy)

Aubrey Borcharding: Silver Key (Art: sculpture)

Evelyn Dahm: Honorable Mention (Writing: flash fiction)

Katelyn Daugherty: Gold Key (Writing: personal essay & memoir)

Bronwyn Squires: Silver Key, Honorable Mention (Writing: poetry)

The gold key piece will move on to national judging. Results from national judging will be available on March 22, 2023. All of the regional award winners will be invited to a virtual celebration ceremony on Saturday, March 4, 2023. Congratulations to all of our artists and writers who submitted pieces to this prestigious program. We are proud of you and your talent!

(L to R above): Evelyn Dahm, Sharla Benning, Aubrey Bocherding, Bronwyn Squires, and Katelyn Daugherty)

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

### Future City Success -

The DCG Middle School TAG program has a lot to be excited about.

The team of Camden McPherson, Landon Secory, Zane Osborn and Pamela Kluender



(right) competed at the Regional Middle School Future City Competition in Cedar Rapids! Teams were tasked with creating a city dealing with climate change. The DCG MS group did an exceptional job answering tough questions about engineering, while also explaining the rationale for creating their city. Their city, South, Colorado, will be on display at Parent/Teacher Conferences in March! All future city projects start with a simple question - how can we make the world a better place? Great job DCG Middle School students!

### Mr. Bisher's Class

### Mrs. Christiansen's Class



# ELEMENTARY



**Free Coffee at South Prairie**  
Our educators were treated to free coffee from Travelin Tom's Coffee in Ankeny. This was a special way to honor the entire team at South Prairie, and say thank you for everything you do! It was also a really cold morning, so it was a perfect day for coffee!

**From the PTO** - Your DCG Elementary Schools PTOs have been busy these past few months. Individual schools have been busy planning fun social events, awarding teacher grants and supporting our teachers. Our PTOs are made up of caring parents and community members that want to help ensure that our schools, students and staff have everything they need.

We would like to invite community members to join us for our annual open meeting on Monday, April 10 at 7PM at Heritage Elementary School. Our meeting will be held in the library.



**100th Day of School** - DCG celebrated the 100th day of school on Tuesday, January 31. This was a great way to honor all of the amazing experiences we've enjoyed together so far and energize our buildings about the opportunities coming soon! It's also another sign that spring is coming soon!

**Bingo!** - Heritage Elementary students had a blast at Bingo night in February! The event was sponsored by the school's PTO. In addition to Bingo, there was popcorn, prizes, a chance to meet DCG athletes and Thunder!! The Heritage gym was packed with close to 200 students and their families! A special thank you to the Heritage PTO for supporting this event!



**Taher Update** - The Taher team put together a great Valentine's Day spread for our high school students. Head Chef, Jozsef Grull, (above) made chocolate covered strawberries for every student to enjoy! Our nutrition team also shared our February Harvest of the Month in our cafeterias - persimmon (fruit), cauliflower (vegetable) and flat leaf parsley (fresh herb). We had a great month of school lunch!



**Meggison Named National Merit Finalist** - Congratulations to DCG High School's York Meggison on being named a National Merit Finalist. Meggison is one of approximately 15,000 high school students across the country to receive this honor! Meggison remains in the running to receive a National Merit Scholarship Award!

**School Board Update** - The DCG School Board will meet on Monday, March 27. The agenda will be posted at [DCGschoools.com](http://DCGschoools.com) along with a link to watch the meeting live.

## Basketball Update

The **DCG Girls Basketball** team is heading back to state! Our Mustangs will return to the state tournament for the third consecutive season! DCG knocked off Humboldt in a regional championship game on Tuesday, February 21. The Mustangs earned the #1 overall seed in the Class 4A bracket and will take on Glenwood in the state quarterfinals. This game will be played on Tuesday, February 28 at 11:45 inside Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines. The state semifinal game is scheduled for Thursday, March 2 at 5:00 and the Class 4A State Championship will be played on Saturday, March 4 at 2:30. Congratulations to the Mustangs on another incredible season!



The **DCG Boys Basketball** team is on the tournament trail as well! The Mustangs beat Des Moines North in the first round of the Class 4A Substate 8 bracket 73-63. DCG took on Council Bluffs Abraham Lincoln in the substate semifinals on Friday, February 24. The Mustang Monthly was sent off to printing before game day, so we will have a season recap in our March issue. DCG's transition to Class 4A has been a success and we look forward to watching this program continue to excel in the future!

## ACTIVITIES



### Fritz Makes the State Podium

The DCG Girls Wrestling team had an impressive first season on the mats. Maya Fritz became the first DCG wrestler to reach the medal stand at the IGHSAU Sanctioned State Meet. Fritz placed 8th in the 170 pound bracket. She was one of seven DCG wrestlers to qualify for state. We are so proud of this team!!



### Great Year for DCG Wrestling

- The DCG Boys Wrestling team also had an incredible season! The Mustangs sent 10 wrestlers to the Iowa High School State Wrestling Tournament! Ayden Beck, Blake Forrester, Logan Gard, Carson Springer, Luke Benson, Ethan Riesselman, Brendan Smith, Jacob Fistler, Ben Brushaber and Lane Nelsen all represented our district at Wells Fargo Arena. This

is a significant accomplishment for this group of grapplers! Jacob Fistler (above) led the way by finishing 6th place in the 170 pound weight bracket. Fistler capped off his career by becoming DCG's fourth 4-time state qualifier.



# ACTIVITIES



The **DCG Speech** department had an incredible performance at the 2023 state competition. DCG sent 22 groups to compete, 16 of those teams received a "I" rating, the most "I" ratings in school history! DCG also had six groups named all-state. This is a monumental achievement for our speech program and a showcase day for our dedicated students.

## **DCG All-State Groups**

### *Performing:*

Group Mime – The Miraculous Journey of the Porcelain Bunny: Ellie Cole, Anna McKernan, Tess Meggison, Norah Southwick, Addilyn Stine, Elle Wood

Solo Mime – Siblings' Sweet Struggles: Elena Nelson

TV News – KFFN: Kid & Family Friendly News: AJ Altman, Claire Boerre, Johanna Bonefas, Josephine Bond, Arnacha Intawaree, Elena Nelson, Drew Sonberg, Braden Zach

### *Non-Performing:*

Readers Theater – Gossip: Emma Behnkendorf, Izzy Bustamante, Kiley Crivaro, Tyler Fitch, Arianna Freitas, Ellie Friesen, Ayden Frisk, Lily Holcomb, Ash Hutzel, Ella Kleckner, Grace Mernone, Alex Pries, Ellie Schmitz, Maddie Waddingham, Joshua Warnke

Ensemble Acting – Three Tall Women: Audrey Frett, Brinn Johnson, Drew Sonberg, Madison Stone

Ensemble Acting – Five Women Wearing the Same Dress: Tess Meggison, Sara Saleh, Emma Sump, Campbell Valline, Maddie Waddingham



The IHSSA State Office states that fewer than 10 percent of student groups that begin the season are selected to receive All-State honors. The DCG High School team was fortunate to have 33 percent of their groups chosen for All-State and 35 percent of the team's students recognized. Their coaches are proud of the students' talent and work ethic which helped them receive this prestigious honor. Congratulations to the DCG Large Group Speech Team!



The **DCG High School Esports** team has had a very successful winter season! Both of our varsity teams will be heading to the State Finals Tournament on March 3 and 4. These events will be held in the Esports Arena at the MidAmerican Energy Company RecPlex in West Des Moines.

Our *Overwatch2* squad finished the season 6-1, which earned a #4 seed and an auto-qualification to the 8-team State Finals Field. This team lost their first match of the season to Ames by mere seconds, and have been improving every week since! Good luck to Ajon Ervin, Jesse Ramirez, Jacob Dotson, Ben Maggard, Austin Willey, and Konner Besch as they take on Cedar Rapids Kennedy in the first round on March 4!

The *Rocket League* team of Jaycob Robinson, Jesse Ramirez, Austin Willey, and Ben Every also had a great season, finishing 6-1! This group will take on Waterloo East in the first round on March 3.

Check the DCG\_Esports Twitter for possible links to live streamed state competitions. Special thanks to our awesome supporters for donating money to help keep this program rolling. Keep an eye out for our Esports Future Champs Camp opportunities for grades 4-8! GO MUSTANGS!

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**Zofiana Woolums used a variety of acrylic painting techniques to create this beautiful landscape in Art 1.**

**Victoria Mikesell added great details and a unique color scheme to create her amazing Alice in Wonderland themed clay box in Art 1.**

