



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

DCG,

I've started this letter a few different times and to be totally transparent, it's the hardest letter I've ever worked on for the Mustang Monthly. I have to say goodbye, good luck and thank you in the same message.

Let's start with goodbye. It's been a hard couple of months in my office. I've been doing things for the final time. I signed my final DCG diploma and I attended my final construction meeting. I've personally said farewell to members of the DCG staff who've changed my life for the better. We worked together on critical building projects. Watching Oak View rise was a highlight of my time here. I truly believe the facilities at DCG are among the best in the state. I was also fortunate to help build a team of 475 staff members who work collaboratively across grade levels, buildings and towns. I'm so proud of Team DCG.

I will never stop hoping and wishing for good things to happen to Dallas Center-Grimes. So today I also wish you good luck. Public education has hurdles to overcome in the future. I believe DCG has a chance to lead the way. We have incredible educators providing amazing opportunities to our students. This doesn't happen in every school setting. I know how important this work is and I hope that passion never goes away. Our students and our community are better when we are all working together.

Finally, thank you. Dallas Center-Grimes you've changed my life. Personally and professionally. All four of my children received a DCG diploma! We will always be grateful to the educators who encouraged them to learn at their highest level and inspired them to be their true self every single day. I am a better leader, learner, professional and colleague because of my time in this district. I wish I could personally thank so many people, but that simply can't be done in one Mustang Monthly article. My hope is that through our time together, you know how much you've impacted my life. Through COVID-19, grade level configuration, building projects and legislative changes, I've partnered with so many incredible people. A special shout out to the DCG School Board who allowed my superintendent experience to reach a whole new level 12 years ago. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

As I sign off as DCG's superintendent, I do so full of pride. I'm proud of the work we've done the last 12 years and I hope you are as well. It's a new seat for me, but I'll always keep an eye out for #DCGexcellence.

Sincerely,

Scott Grimes

Superintendent



CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

August 16 - Teachers Return

August 23 - School Begins (Optional K - 12)

August 31 - First Day of Preschool

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Home of the Mustangs



www.dcgschools.com

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DISTRICT UPDATES



ASL Interpreter Day - We celebrated National Interpreter Day on May 3. Our district is blessed to have a dedicated team of interpreters working with our students every single day! Pictured left is South Prairie Interpreter Anna Ewald and a student she works with regularly. They provide vital services to our students!



ParentSquare

DCG Transitions to ParentSquare - Dallas Center-Grimes CSD is getting ready to launch ParentSquare—a simple and unified school-to-home communication platform—to reach and engage every parent, helping ensure all parents have the opportunity to actively participate in their children’s education. DCG families will be receiving activation emails in July. Teachers/directors/coaches will start sending communication via ParentSquare this fall. ParentSquare will be replacing Thrillshare and the DCG app. We believe ParentSquare will allow all DCG families to receive information in one centralized location. More information to come.



School Board Recognition Month - We celebrated the DCG School Board during the month of May! We are thankful for their commitment to our district! The DCG School Board has a regularly scheduled

meeting on Monday, June 26. The agenda and link to livestream will be published at DCGSchools.com.

Free Lunch for Kids - The USDA Summer Food Service Program was created to ensure that children continue to receive nutritious meals during the summer months when school is not in session and children do not have access to school lunch or breakfast. Meal locations are available at DCGSchools.com.

HIGH SCHOOL



DCG Celebrates School-to-Work Success - 24 DCG High School students participated in our School-to-Work experience this year. It's a tremendous opportunity for high school students to gain on-the-job training in a field that interests them. It's also important to celebrate our local business partners who've opened their doors to DCG!

8th Graders Visit DCG HS -

It's a time of transition in our building! We are excited to welcome our newest students for a morning of learning. 8th grade students at Oak View traveled over to the high school on May 24 to meet our staff and students.



DCG Education Foundation Awards Night - Wow! What an incredible way to show our support to the Class of 2023. The DCG Education Foundation held their annual scholarship awards night on Wednesday, May 24. Our Foundation presented 124 scholarships to DCG seniors, worth a total of \$181,250!! Thanks to the Foundation for making this possible! Thanks to our communities for supporting our students!

Thank You Donna! - We would like to thank Donna Sevenich for an outstanding career of serving DCG students. Donna spent the last 18 years working as Taher's Director of Nutrition Services! Enjoy retirement!



Journey through France and Spain with the high school World Language Department Spring 2026. We will arrive in Paris to start our journey. We will see the Montmartre district, Versailles, the Eiffel Tower with a trip to the top, Musée D'Orsay, the Latin Quarter tour, a Seine river cruise and many stops around the city. We leave Paris and set our sights on Avignon. Our visit to the south of France will include a visit to Avignon, Nîmes and Carcassonne. After our visit in Carcassonne, we will arrive in Barcelona, Spain. We will visit Las Ramblas, the Basilica of the Sagrada Familia, Plaça de Catalunya, Parc Güell and many other pretty sights around the city. We will also take trips to Montserrat and Sitges. The cost of this trip is \$3997 which includes a discount. If you have any questions, would like more information or would like to sign up for the trip, please email laree.hawks@dcgschools.com.



Computer Science Activity

- It was a hands-on learning experience for our students! DCG High School students in the Advanced Computer Science class worked with all of our third grade students on a computer science lesson on the football field! They worked together to decipher code that would show the directions of Minute to Win It games. A special thank you to our high school students for sharing their knowledge!

OAK VIEW



Poetry Success

Oak View
8th Grader
Receives State
Recognition

Bronwyn Squires

Awesome Poetry - A special shout out to 8th grader Bronwyn Squires. Her entry into the Iowa Poetry Association contest will be published in *Lyrical Iowa 2023*! Visit DCGschoools.com to read her poem "Her Spirit Lives On."

Middle School Music - Middle school band and choir students put on quite the show this spring! Enjoy some photos of their incredible performances below. A special thanks to Joy Augustine and Ashton Reams for their leadership!



World Peace Day - This event is always such a positive experience in our building. 7th grade social studies students displayed their projects and ideas for the community to see during the World Peace Day open house. We were so inspired by the dedication of our students during this project. They are ready to make an impact on the world!

Thirteen students at Oak View competed in the **Caribou Math Contest** this year. Caribou is an international online math competition run by a small team in Canada and representatives in other countries.

The Caribou Cup final standings are in! A student's Caribou Cup score takes into account the student's performance throughout the year, based on their best 5 out of the 6 contests from October through May. Here are the impressive results for Oak View (based on country ranking):

Adrian Ibarra - Top 30% | Jack Perman - Top 30% | Calen Harrington - Top 25% | Silas Miller - Top 25% | Ryan Wolf - Top 25% | Quincy Hibbing - Top 20% | Lukas Miller - Top 20% | Wyatt Worley - 44th place out of 427 participants | Alex New - 41st place! | Evelyn Dahm - 25th place! | Katelyn Daugherty - 10th place! | Preston VanderVelden - 9th place! | Aaron Bonefas - 3rd place overall!!!

MIDDLE SCHOOL

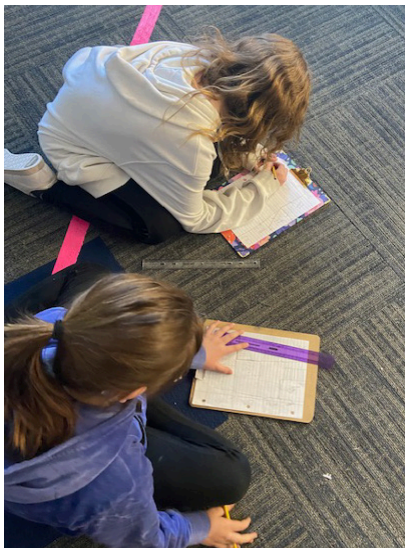


ELEMENTARY



Wax Museum at South Prairie - The third grade biography unit capped off in a really cool way! Students held their annual wax museum for parents and teachers. It was a fun way for our students to showcase everything they learned about a historical figure of their choosing. Interviews with some pretty famous people are available at DCGschoools.com.

DCE Contractors- Mrs. Davison's fourth graders became DCG contractors. Students were asked to create their dream home and were given the parameters of 5 rooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 or more dream rooms and 1 irregularly shaped room. Students then used rulers to measure out each room by centimeters or inches. For every room, students found area and perimeter. We had a lot of fun and learned a lot about measurement and precision.



KCCI Visits North Ridge - A special thanks to KCCI Meteorologists Trey Fulbright and Zane Satre for visiting with our third graders in May! This was a fun conversation about weather patterns and wearing slippers on TV! Thanks for providing this learning experience to our students!

Life in the Middle School (photo right) - Fourth graders are getting ready to make a big move! A special thank you to our DCG Middle School team for coming to fourth grade classrooms across the district to answer all of our questions! From questions about the bus, to a new recess plan, we appreciate your knowledge!



Soccer Stars Visit North Ridge Elementary - Second grade students in Mr. Krause's class had a special visitor in their room! Members of the DCG soccer team spent part of the day reading to our students and talking about life as a DCG soccer player!



Zoo Trip - North Ridge Kindergartners are learning about animals. They went on a field trip to the zoo to learn even more! It was a fun day on their first school field trip.



The **DCG HS Art Appreciation Class** took a field trip to see local art. Students observed a Des Moines neighborhood sculpture park, traveled downtown to the renowned Pappajohn Sculpture Park, and finished the day at the Des Moines Art Center. This DMACC concurrent course is a great way for high school students to not only get exposure to the art world but also gain an arts & humanities credit required by most post secondary schools!



Conference Meet Success - Lydia Eligh (left) finished 12th in the Little Hawkeye Conference meet, earning her 1st team All-Conference recognition. Laura Klaessy (right) finished 4th in the LHC meet, earning her 3rd All-Conference recognition in 3 years. Congratulations to these two seniors on a great career!

Postseason Soccer - The DCG Soccer teams are having an incredible season! Both squads qualified for the state tournament!! We will have a full recap in our August issue of the Mustang Monthly! Good luck Mustangs!

ACTIVITIES



First Season of DCG Tennis - It was a historic spring on the tennis courts at DCG. The girls and boys wrapped up their first ever season! The DCG boys had 16 players out for the team, nine of them earning a varsity letter! They had several players/teams win a match at the conference and district meets. There were 19 girls out for our first season! We are so proud of the growth these two programs made this season. Contact DCG coaches if you have interest in joining the team next spring!



Dragon Games - DCG students had the best time participating in Dragon Games. Thanks to our friends from Johnston CSD for hosting this event featuring so many smiles and all kinds of joy. The sun was shining and our students were able to try their hand at so many fun activities on the field and track!

Military Appreciation Night - The DCG Girls Soccer team held their Military Appreciation Night on May 16. The night included a special landing from the Iowa National Guard's BlackHawk Chopper! What a fun way to say thank you to our local military!



Baseball and Softball Season Underway - Make time this summer to check out our DCG Softball and Baseball teams in Dallas Center. Both teams have a loaded home schedule! Visit DCG-Schools.com for an updated look at game times!

ACTIVITIES



Fantastic Footloose! - DCG Theatre's presentation of Footloose was simply incredible. Our cast and crew are now receiving statewide recognition. DCG received 16 Iowa High School Musical Awards!

Production Awards Outstanding Overall Performance | Outstanding Student Orchestra | Outstanding Community Engagement

Student Awards

Outstanding Performance in a Principal Role – Brinn Johnson as “Rusty” | Outstanding Performance in a Principal Role – Alex Pries as “Ren” | Outstanding Performance in a Principal Role – Campbell Valline as “Ariel”

Outstanding Achievement in a Behind-The-Scenes Role – Ellie Cole and Anna McKernan for Choreography Team | Outstanding Achievement in a Behind the Scenes Role – Ryan Fitch for Pit Orchestra Conductor

Outstanding Achievement in a Behind the Scenes Role – Johanna Bonefas for Marketing Director | Outstanding Achievement in a Behind the Scenes Role – Johanna Bonefas for House Manager

Special Recognition

Special Recognition for Performance in a Principal Role – Ella Christensen as “Vi Moore” | Special Recognition for Performance in a Principal Role – Noah Dutchuk as “Willard” | Special Recognition for Featured Ensemble – “Bickle, Garvin, Jeter” | Special Recognition for Featured Ensemble – “Chicago Ensemble” | Special Recognition in a Behind the Scenes Role – Rachel Becker and Isabel Schall for Lighting Heads | Special Recognition in a Behind the Scenes Role – Madeline Waddingham for Head of Props



DCG Sends 17 Events to State Track and Field Meet - It was a standout spring on the oval for DCG's Track and Field teams. Kileigh Lachacz was busy! She finished 2nd in the Class 4A Discus Throw, her longest attempt was 138' 06". She also finished 10th in the Class 4A Shot Put. The DCG boys competed in eight events at state, highlighted by Anthony Glay's 5th place performance in the Class 4A Long Jump. Glay soared 20' 11.5" to become DCG's first individual state place winner in Class 4A. Congratulations to this extraordinary group of student athletes! Reaching this level in Class 4A is a major accomplishment. Visit DCGschoools.com to see the complete list of state qualifiers!

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POSTAL CUSTOMER



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Congratulations DCG Class of 2023 - The Class of 2023 graduated from Dallas Center-Grimes High School on Friday, May 26. 231 seniors walked across the stage at commencement. This group accomplished so many incredible things during their time in our district. They are going to make a difference in this world! A special thank you to the DCG team members who challenged, inspired and educated these students along the way! This is such a special group!

