



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.

DR. SCOTT BLUM NAMED INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

The Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District is excited to welcome Dr. Scott Blum as the Interim Superintendent for the 2023-24 school year. Dr. Blum's new role was approved by the Dallas Center-Grimes School Board on Friday, April 28.

Dr. Blum is currently serving as the Dallas Center-Grimes High School Principal, a role he's held since July of 2016. Prior to his role as high school principal, Dr. Blum was the DCG High School Dean of Students.



"My family is proud to be Dallas Center-Grimes Mustangs. It's at the core of who we are as a family," Dr. Blum says. "I am honored to serve our district as interim superintendent and look forward to the tremendous opportunity ahead of us."

"Dr. Blum's commitment to DCG is unmatched and we are so excited to work alongside him next year," says the DCG School Board. "We had an exceptional pool of candidates for this position and Dr. Blum's love and compassion for our students and staff stood out."

Dr. Blum received his Bachelor of Science from Iowa State University in 2004. He completed his Masters of Ed Admin at Iowa State in 2008. In 2020, he received his Superintendent License from Drake University and completed a Doctorate in Education Leadership from Drake in 2022.

"This is a milestone moment for me and my family," Dr. Blum says. "My passion for DCG is unwavering and I am committed to serving this district with my heart and soul."

Dr. Blum's first day as DCG Interim Superintendent will be July 1, 2023.

CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

May 17, Early Dismissal, 12:30 Oak View, 1 pm all other buildings

May 26, DCG Graduation

June 1, Last Day of School for Students

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Home of the Mustangs



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DISTRICT UPDATES

School Calendar Update

- The final day of school for students this year is now Thursday, June 1. This reflects the two make up days due to snow. There will be a teacher work day on Friday, June 2. DCG Graduation is still scheduled for Friday, May 26.



Special Election Results - Dallas Center-Grimes CSD held a special election on Tuesday, April 11. There were three topics on the ballot in this election (only voters in District 1 were able to vote for all three).

School Board Director | At-Large - Nancy Baker Curtis was elected as an At-Large School Board Director, receiving 809 votes. Matthew Moran received 580 votes. Baker Curtis will be seated through November 2023.

School Board Director | District 1 - Nick Fiala was elected as the District 1 School Board Director, receiving 190 votes. Kendra Wolf received 175 votes. Fiala will be seated through November 2025.

Method of Election for School Board Directors - Voters decided to stay with School Board Director Districts. Voters cast 1,004 no votes (stay with four director districts and three at-large districts) and 372 yes votes (move to seven at-large director districts). The current Dallas Center-Grimes School Board will now use Director Map #3. Use the QR code below to view the map along with other DCG Special Election information.



<--- **QR Code** to view all Special Election information. The Director District Map #3 was also published in the April 2023 Mustang Monthly.

DCG EBackpack - Are you on the look out for summer opportunities for your students? Don't forget to take advantage of the DCG EBackpack. This is a one-stop-shop for all community/school events. You can find a link to the EBackpack at DCGschools.com. This is also a great spot to check for DCG summer camps!

HIGH SCHOOL

Dallas Center-Grimes High School inducted the new members of the 2022-23 National Honor Society in April. This is a significant achievement for all of these students. We are thankful for the way they represent our high school and our district every single day!

National Honor Society 2022-23 Members - Cole Blessman - Charlie Engel - Brogan Fuller - Evin Jerry - Dayne Mauk - Ryan Mickelsen Leah Newell - Nathan Scholl - Courtney Wojtowicz - Amasa Altman Elias Arbuckle - Anna Bahnsen - Sophie Bauman - Emma Behnkendorf - Grace Buethe - Kate Busby - Ella Christensen - Caroline Edsen Marley Eickelberg - Abby Esser - Alexa Farrell - Jackson Foy - Karley Friesen - Alexa Grill - Landry Glasgow - Taitn Gray - Sam Harbaugh Alex Hofbauer - Lily Holcomb - Jacob Hope - Carson Ibeling - Jack Iverson - Caylie James - Caden James - Sophie Kramer - Jozie Kubovich - Ben Maggard - Anna McKernan - Evelin Mead - Jensen Petrak Isabel Schall - Madelyn Schmitz - Patrick Schmitz - Carter Schwantes Drew Sonberg - Caeley Springer - Madison Stevens - Karlee Strang Neela Williamson - Elle Wood - Mesa Worley - Braden Zach



Justice Visits DCG HS - Iowa Supreme Court Justice Dana Oxley had a great conversation with DCG HS AP Government students in April. Their dialogue focused on the role of a justice in Iowa and all of the preparation work that takes place before a case begins!

This is Iowa - A special shout out to DCG Senior Val Jungck for creating this amazing piece of art on a wall in the high school. Val spent hours carefully painting logos from each college/university in the state of Iowa. Look at all of the precision! Val graduated from DCG at the end of Term 3. Thanks for leaving this incredible work for the district to enjoy!



DCG High School Students of the Term at DCGSchools.com



DC-G High Schoolers & Parents

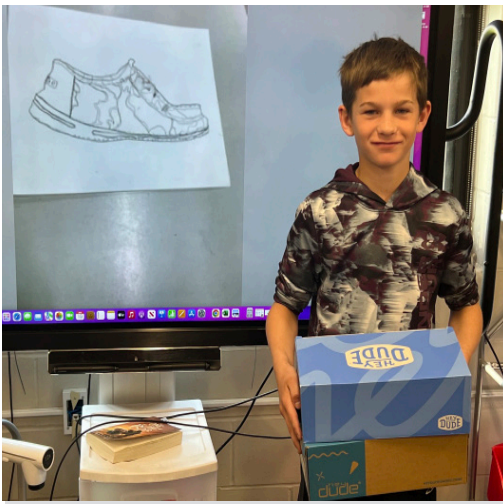
Order your 2022-2023 yearbook before it's too late! Use the QR code below to place your order today. The book is \$65, but payment plans are offered if you prefer to break those payments up. Please contact Mrs. Soener if you have any questions (ivy.soener@dgc-schools.com). And if you have any photos you'd like to share, feel free to email them to Mrs. Soener.



2023 Graduate Parents -- Don't forget to purchase an Ad for Your Grad on the Jostens website. It's a great way to include a surprise final send-off in their senior year yearbook.



Culture Week - DCG High School held our Spring Culture Week. It was another exceptional week of learning for our students and staff. From trying new foods, to learning about sign language (above), we were able to learn and share in this experience together.



Hey Dude! You won't believe this! Dallas Center Elementary student Greyson Keller sketched a picture of his favorite HEYDUDE shoes in art class. The drawing was so incredible that Mrs. Cory sent a copy to the Hey Dude team! They were impressed with Greyson's sketch and wanted to surprise him with two new pairs of Hey Dude shoes! Mrs. Cory presented Greyson with his new shoes on April 19!

Honor Band - 13 6th grade students were accepted into and participated in their first honor band! Congratulations to the following students on representing DCG Excellence: Bella B., Amelia D., Kai E., Kealey J., Owen K., Abigail O., Addison O., Burke P., Brynn S., Cullen S., Ari S., Jax U., and Grant W.



OAK VIEW

Overflowing Talent - Oak View held an all-school variety show last month! From singing to musical performances, this was quite the show! It takes a lot of courage to get on stage in front of the entire school!



Did You Know?? -

There are 12 sets of twins at Oak View this year! We have 576 students in our building, 24 of them are twins!

Levi and Skyler Pierce - Jaron and Jevan Mills - Devonna and Devonne Teah - Kate and Addison Ward - Alex and Zach Kluss - Ava and Henry Smid - Zoey and Isabella Boots - Aaden and Isaac Johnson - Carter and Sean Stewart - Braxton and Khloe Baker - Madden and Mason Humes - John and Nick Reece



MIDDLE SCHOOL



Middle School Art - 5th graders (photo right) have been learning about 1-Point Perspective. They also finished up their Gargoyle clay projects - students got a choice on if they wanted to make a monster, character, or animal.

6th graders are working on a quilling project (photo left). They are choosing a word to fill with quilling techniques, while incorporating color theory groups into their projects. Students are also learning a variety of paper folding techniques.

ELEMENTARY

North Ridge Music - The 3rd and 4th grade students each performed their yearly music concert at NRE. The 3rd graders performed "Disney: The Movies, The Music" and the 4th graders performed "Kid Flix" to a full gym! They worked hard on their music, dancing, and instruments for over 2 months and should be very proud of their accomplishments! Congratulations on two GREAT performances!



Battle of the Books - Teams from all over Iowa came to DCG Middle School to compete in this reading competition that is only open to students in grades 5-8. The tournament was a pool play format with 54 teams competing to bring home the official Battle of the Books trophy to their school. After an intense battle, the Battle of the Books trophy found its home in Dallas Center-Grimes.

Bringing home the hardware this year was the Dallas Center-Grimes sixth grade team, The Storytellers. Members of this team included Kealey Johnston, Hannah Cook, Addison Callahan, and Amelia Dahm. They were coached by sixth grade literacy teacher, Sara Cockrum. Congratulations to The Storytellers for winning first place in this competition. Hats off to all the teams for their good sportsmanship and outstanding effort in this competition. Students spent months preparing for the Battle of the Books by reading their share of the 20-book list and working collaboratively as a team to prepare for this knowledge competition.

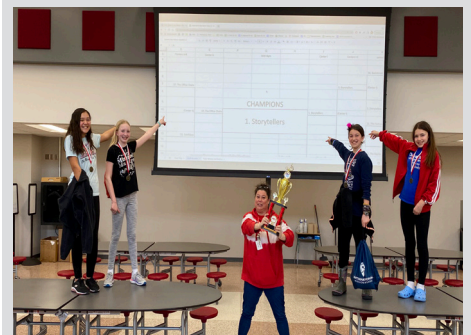


Special Kindergarten Guest - North Ridge Kindergartners had a chance to learn about Down Syndrome from a very special guest. A sibling in Mrs. Irlmeier's class lives with autism and together they had a magical afternoon. The family had a great conversation with our students about Down Syndrome. They capped off the learning experience by singing and dancing together. Look at all of the smiles in this photo!

Shadow Unit Begins - Preschoolers at Heritage Elementary are wrapping up their shadow unit this month. Taking advantage of a beautiful spring morning, preschoolers filled the Heritage sidewalks with shadow tracings of their teachers, dinosaurs and classmates!



School Board Update - The DCG School Board will meet on Monday, May 22. The agenda will be posted at DCGschoools.com along with a link to watch the meeting live.



Five DCG students attended the annual **Technology Student Association (TSA) State Conference** and competed in various events against more than 250 other students from across the state of Iowa. The Fashion Design team of Brianne FitzGerald, Rylee Matthes-Stumbo, Dylan Stoll, and Maddy Waddingham took first place with their amazing dress. This was the first year that DCG entered this event and came back with a trophy!

The team of Alex Chittenden and Matthes-Stumbo competed in Forensic Science and took first place. This is a back-to-back finish for Alex in this category, and a first in Iowa TSA history.

On top of all this, Alex ran and was elected as a State Officer for TSA and representing DCG. This is also a first for a school to only be in its 2nd year of competition and to have an officer elected. Congratulations to this group of students (photo below)!



Looking for Summer Athletic Camps? - The DCG EBackpack is LOADED with summer athletic camp opportunities. Make sure you visit the EBackpack site to secure your spot today! The DCG EBackpack can be found at DCGSchools.com

ACTIVITIES

DCG Hosts Art Day - Our district was proud to host the Little Hawkeye Conference Art Day event in April! Students were able to enter their work into several different categories and have it judged against other pieces of art in the LHC. Visit DCGSchools.com to see a full photo gallery of the art submissions from the day!



Art Show Results

2D Best in Show: Ian Grimes

1st Placements

Chalk or Oil Pastel: Sara Saleh

3D Mixed Media: Keira Stine

2nd Placements

Chalk or Oil Pastel: Jack Kidd

Charcoal: Kylee Albright

3rd Placements

Colored Pencil: Sydney Ashby

Charcoal: Jackson Kaune

Ink: Katie Harryman

Honorable Mentions

Acrylic Painting: Kenzie Towne

Graphite: Kylee Albright

Featured Artwork: Arianna Freitas, Pluto Evans, Val Jungck, Ari Barber

Victoria Mikesell, Naomi Anderson



300 Wins - Congratulations to DCG Girls Soccer Dan James! Coach James recorded his 300th career win on April 24. He's one of only three coaches in Iowa history to reach this milestone! Thanks for your dedication coach!

DCG Gets Footloose - A special shout out to the cast and crew of DCG's presentation of Footloose! We had more than 120 students involved in the 2023 spring musical! The talent on our stage was simply incredible!



ACTIVITIES



The **DCG Individual Speech Team** sent six speakers to the 2023 All-State competition. This is a tremendous accomplishment for our students and a significant milestone for our DCG Speech program. The speakers are listed from left to right above.

Alex Pries - Junior - Original Oratory | Pluto Evans - Sophomore - Literary Program | Alexa Farrell - Sophomore - Poetry | Daphne Swayne - Freshman - Radio News | Audrey Ellis - senior - After Dinner Speaking
Campbell Valline - senior - Solo Musical Theater (non-performing)/not pictured.

Individual Speech Honors:

- Academic Award for having a GPA of 3.4
- State Qualifying Record - 32 advanced
- 2023 Outstanding Interpretation Speaker Award - Jackson Kaune
- 2023 Outstanding Spontaneous Speaker Award - Daphne Swayne
- 2023 Outstanding Original Speaker Award - Audrey Ellis
- 2023 Spirit Award - Emma Altman
- 2023 Outstanding DCG Speaker Award - Alexa Farrell
- 2023 Most Improved 9th Grade Speaker - Nora Spooner
- 2023 Coach Choice Award - Zofiana Woollums



Track Season Starts - It's an exciting time to be a student athlete at DCG. Our 7th grade girls track team started their season with a meet on March 30. It's great to see a huge turnout of athletes on the roster this year. Good luck 7th graders!

The **DCGHS Annual Botany Class Plant Sale** is coming up! The sale is scheduled for May 11 and 12 from 3:30 to 6pm in the Greenhouse behind the west end of the high school. Botany II students have planted thousands of seeds and raised lots of garden vegetables, flowers, and a



number of baby succulents and a few other houseplants. Vegetables include: several varieties of tomatoes, peppers, herbs, and cucumbers, along with kohlrabi, watermelon, cantelope, pumpkins, squash, chard, and more. Money raised from the sale goes into growing our program!

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Sunshine Returns = Great News at DCG - If you need a smile this spring, just drive by one of our elementary schools with your windows down. There's nothing quite like the laughter and excitement coming from our youngest students. April brought LOTS of outside recess and PE classes in the sun.



Abe Heads to Middle School - Sending 4th graders off to middle school with a clap-out is a Dallas Center Elementary tradition. Abe was scheduled for surgery later and was going to miss the celebration. But his classmates weren't going to let him leave without giving him this incredible farewell! Video is available on our district's Facebook page!