



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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OCTOBER 2023



DCG Family,

What a week in our district! I'm writing this on Wednesday, September 27 and we are smack dab in the middle of DCG Homecoming!

This is a week to celebrate absolutely everything! I remember during my time as DCG High School's Principal when I would hear the first couple of notes from our drumline. That sound meant only one thing, pep assembly time! Our building

would come ALIVE! We hope this week showcases DCGexcellence to our entire district community. We all play a huge part in what happens at DCG.

Maybe you were a student here. Maybe your grandson is in preschool here. Maybe you were an all-state musician here. The list goes on. No matter what your connection is to our district, we want you involved! There are so many things to be proud of at DCG - past, present and future!

My challenge to our community is to keep the homecoming spirit alive throughout the year! Our students and staff can feel the support of a proud Mustang community! Connect with your building principal. Come check out a basketball game. Or simply wear red to your workplace on a Friday and tell all of your coworkers how awesome DCG truly is.

I'd also like to give a special shout out to everyone involved with our school year so far. We all felt the energy on our first day of school together. I'm happy to say that very same energy is still rolling through our walls!

This is such a great place! DCG Homecoming was a huge success! We are making incredible memories together!

Sincerely,
Scott Blum
Interim Superintendent



CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday, October 18, 1 pm Dismissal, 12:30 pm Oak View

Friday, October 27, End of First Quarter

Monday, October 30, No School - Teacher Workday

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Home of the Mustangs



www.dcgschools.com

DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OFFICES

Elementary Offices

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Transportation Office/Jeff Wolfe, Transportation Director
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DCG SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Election Day - Tuesday, November 7 - Dallas Center-Grimes CSD will have four open seats in November's upcoming School Board Election. There are two at-large director positions as well as the seats in District 3 and District 4. There is additional information available at DCGschools.com. Visit the Secretary of State's website to find your polling location. DCG CSD will also be holding a School Board Candidate Forum on Thursday, November 2 at the DCG High School Auditorium. We would like to thank our current DCG School Board and those who are currently running for a seat for their dedication to our students!



Staff Tailgate - We were so excited to celebrate Team DCG at the 2023 Staff Tailgate! 200 staff members and their families joined us for an ice cream social ahead of DCG's football game on September 8. This annual tradition is a great way to showcase DCG school spirit!

New Food Service

Director - Please join us in welcoming David Thompson as Taher's new Food Service Director. David graduated from Iowa State in 2008 with a Bachelor's of Science in business with an emphasis in hospitality. Welcome to DCG David!



SPOTTED AT LUNCH



School Resource Officer Alan Loutzenhiser has been busy during the first few weeks of school. We caught Deputy Loutzenhiser enjoying lunch with students at DCG Middle School. We are thankful for the partnership with the Polk County Sheriff's Office!

HIGH SCHOOL

National Merit Semifinalists - DCG High School is home to four (yes, four!!) National Merit Semifinalists. Congratulations to Evin Jerry, Tess Meggison, Elisebeth Illian and Lucas Gerstenberger for achieving this milestone! National Merit Semifinalists represent less than 1% of all high school seniors in the United States! These four now have an opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million. These four scholars are representing DCG on a national level and we are so proud of them!!

DCG's National Merit Semifinalists



Want to travel to France & Spain in 2026? An informational meeting for students and parents interested in the World Language Department trip to France and Spain in 2026 will take place October 10 at 5:30 in the DCG High School Media Center. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please visit passports.com and enter the trip ID #: LHAWKS2026 to find more information. Please send any questions you have to any of the World Language teachers at the high school - emily.smith@dcdschools.com, katheryne.almeida@dcdschools.com, rachel.bartels@dcdschools.com, lara.mollett@dcdschools.com or laree.hawks@dcdschools.com. Looking forward to seeing you!



PTO Update - The Dallas Center-Grimes Parent Teacher Organization works to support the students, schools, and families of all four of the district's elementary schools. Our areas of focus include raising funds to enhance the educational experiences of our children, supporting student literacy, encouraging school spirit, and sponsoring social activities for families. These experiences are possible because of

the funds we raise. Look for information coming home with your child regarding our upcoming elementary school fundraiser.

Be sure to 'Like' your school's PTO page on Facebook for the most current information on upcoming events and ways to get involved! For questions, you can also contact us directly at dallascentergrimespto@gmail.com.



Trip to Italy and Greece - Join our DCG artists on a trip to Italy and Greece in March 2024! We are making stops in Athens, Florence and Rome. You don't need to be an art student to join this incredible journey. Reach out to danell.duncan@dcdschools.com for additional information!

**ORDER NOW
FOR THE
LOWEST PRICE
OF THE YEAR**

GET YOUR YEARBOOK

Order your Yearbook - Now is the time to order the 2023-2024 DCG High School yearbook! Seniors/Senior Parents -- Consider choosing the "ship to home" option to avoid school pick-up next year. Head to jostens.com to make your purchase. Email Mrs. Soener (ivy.soener@dcdschools.com) with any questions.

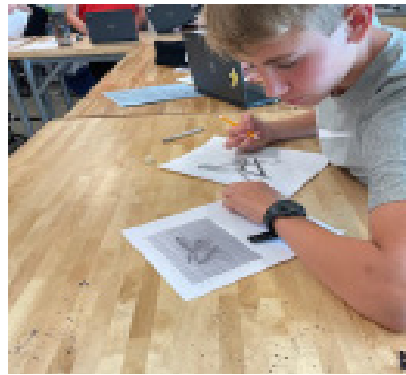
Senior Parents - Baby, toddler and senior photos are also due to Mrs. Soener by December 20! These should all be electronic. More info from Mr. Donahue coming soon!

Homecoming Week at DCG -

Enjoy some of the sights from DCG Homecoming 2023!

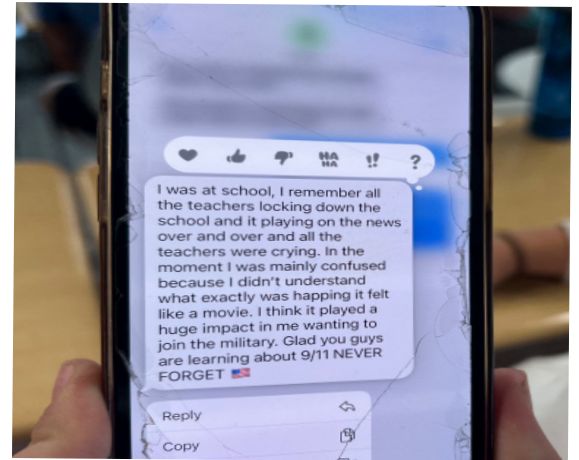


OAK VIEW UPDATE



Oak View Art - It's been a great start to the school year for art students at Oak View! 7th grade students tackled zen-tangle landscapes for their first project of the 2023-24 school year. 8th graders started with a still life project. We are so excited to watch the creativity come alive in our Oak View art rooms this year!

Remembering 9/11 - Oak View students in Mr. Rankin's 8th grade social studies class spent part of their period connecting with friends and family. Students were tasked with texting a question - where were you on September 11 and how did these events make you feel? What an engaging lesson for our students.



School Board Update - The next DCG School Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 30 in the DCG Administration Office. The meeting agenda will be posted at DCGSchools.com and a livestream is available on the district's YouTube page. DCG CSD will also have a school board election on Tuesday, November 7. There are four seats available on the DCG School Board.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELD TRIP



The **Voas Prairie Field Trip** is an annual tradition for all fifth graders at DCG. Voas Prairie is public land located outside of Minburn, Iowa. It is managed by Dallas County Conservation. We are lucky to have conservationists come to each classroom and share information about this

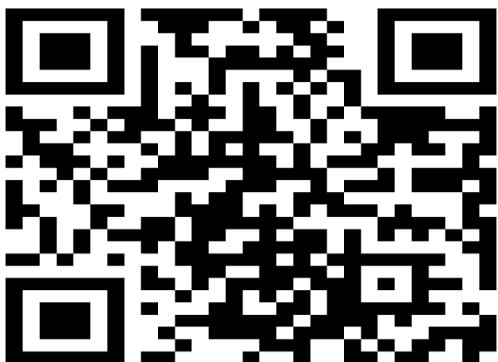
habitat and the monarch butterflies that stop here on their way to Mexico. On the field trip, students learn how to orienteer using a compass and work as a team to explore the prairie searching for clues about their native animal. Students take part in a research program that tags monarch butterflies so that they can help researchers track the monarch's migration to Mexico.

ELEMENTARY



Peace Path Update - In our September issue of the Mustang Monthly we profiled the new Peace Path at Dallas Center Elementary. Our youngest learners are already working through their conflict resolution strategies in the photo above! Great job kindergartners!

DCG Education Foundation RED Dinner - Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 11! The DCG Education Foundation RED Dinner will take place from 5-9 pm at the Three Sisters Barn in Dallas Center. Proceeds from the RED (Raising Education Dollars) Dinner will be used to continue the DCG Education Foundation's commitment to supporting excellence within the DCG School District through educational scholarships to students as well as teacher grants for classroom supports! Join us for the 6th Annual RED Dinner on Saturday, November 11! Tickets are now available at dcgeducationfoundation.org. QR below.



Preschoolers Begin - Our youngest learners joined Team DCG on Thursday, August 31. 234 preschoolers are learning and growing in our district this year. There are morning and afternoon preschool sections at Heritage Elementary and then another group of kiddos at Kids Korner in Dallas Center! We are so thankful to have a dedicated group of educators introducing these students to life at DCG! This is a special group of students and we are so excited to watch their educational journey through our district! Have a great year 3 and 4 year olds!!



Each year art teachers have the opportunity to select four works of art to submit into the **Des Moines Arts Festival**. The idea is to promote the arts and encourage students to pursue their passions in that area. This is also a great way to recognize all of the hard work that students put into their artwork throughout the year. This year Nora Bejarno (5th, below right), Chloe Siebrecht (4th, below left), Charlee Kelloway (4th), and Alec Merten (3rd) were selected from North Ridge Elementary. The selected students were recognized on the main stage, received a medal, and had their artwork proudly displayed in the student exhibition tent. There is so much talent flowing through the halls of North Ridge. Make sure to check out the festival next summer to support the arts.



ACTIVITIES

DCG Theatre invites you to our upcoming play, *The Dining Room*, written by A.R. Gurney! The show pieces together some touching, some funny, but all around entertaining scenes to paint a deep portrait of a vanishing level of society: the upper middle class. More than 75 high school students are involved in the upcoming production! We look forward to your attendance!

Performance dates are Friday, October 27th at 7:00, and Saturday, October 28th at 7:00.

Ticket information will be available at DCGSchools.com

DCG Theatre Presents
THE DINING ROOM
By A. R. Gurney

Senior Resident Activity Passes

Reminders - Lifetime Passes are available to the citizens of the Dallas Center-Grimes community ages 60 and older to attend athletic events. There is no charge for these passes if living within district lines or if their student is open enrolled to DCG in the current school year. If the senior citizen lives outside of the district, passes are available at the student rate of \$45.00. This individual pass allows access to all athletic activities, excluding tournaments and Regional/State events. Passes may be picked up from the Administration Building located at 2405 West First St. Grimes, IA 50111, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. To receive a pass, an individual must present a valid photo ID with a home address. Please call the Administration Office at 515-992-3866 with any further questions.



All-American Honors - A special shout out to DCG's Kylie Knief. Kylie was selected as a United States Soccer Association All-American. Kylie is a key part of DCG's soccer program, playing a pivotal role in their back-to-back state championships. Kylie is one of 34 players in the entire country to receive this honor! She will be honored at the United Soccer Coaches convention in California this winter. Congratulations to Kylie! We are so proud of you!

DCG Homecoming Court - There are 12 seniors on the 2023 DCG High School Homecoming Court! These students are active in our district every single day! They also work hard to make lasting connections with their fellow students! Congratulations DCG Homecoming Court!

Homecoming Court (pictured left to right)

- Jack Crilly
- Aubrey Johansen
- Macey Jermier
- Jack Every
- Vanessa Bickford
- Jon Howard



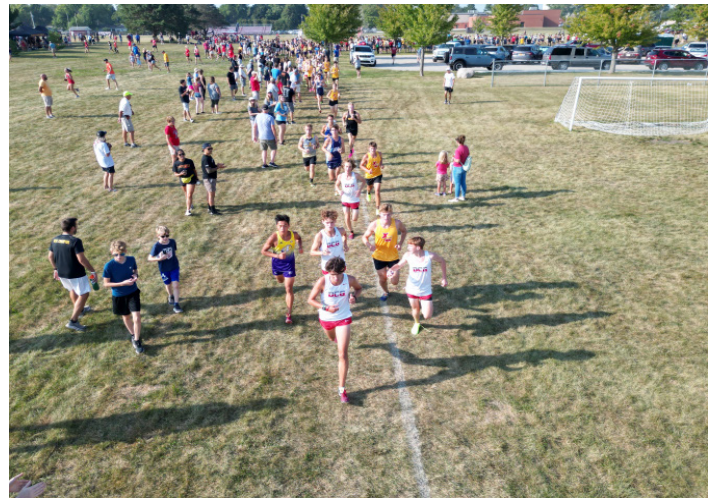
Homecoming Court (pictured left to right)

- Eli Carpenter
- Emma Bushnell
- Ben Every
- Addy Janssen
- Olivia Curtis
- Corey Berogan-Perez

DCG Homecoming Royalty - Eli Carpenter and Emma Bushnell were crowned DCG Homecoming Royalty at the conclusion of our annual parade. A special thank you to Dallas Center for hosting our DCG Homecoming festivities!



ACTIVITIES



Cross Country Update - The DCG Cross Country teams are off to incredible starts. Both varsity teams captured first place at the Dallas Center-Grimes Invitational on Tuesday, August 29. It was a perfect day to run at our gorgeous course in Dallas Center. The following day, both teams took time away from running to help out in the community. The DCG Girls Cross Country team packaged meals at Meals from the Heartland. The boys held their annual "Honk Project," as they lined the streets of Grimes with messages of positivity for the community to see! Great job runners!



DCG Captures Inaugural Beisser Bowl - The DCG Football team captured their first trophy of the season on Friday, September 8 by winning the first-ever Beisser Bowl. Beisser Lumber Company sponsored the matchup between our DCG Mustangs and Fort Dodge. The Mustangs knocked off the Dodgers 35-0 and got to raise a trophy after the game! Dayne Mauk was named Player of the Game and received a \$1,000 check that goes directly to the DCG Booster Club.



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Art Spotlight - Students in Art I at DCG High School learned a variety of watercolor techniques and chose their final projects to demonstrate these skills. Emalee Brown (plant) and Sydnee Johnson (oranges) both did a great job of planning their design and layering colors to create a 3D effect. Great work!

