



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

VOLUME 23
ISSUE 3
November 2023

Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you've had a great month of October! There are so many great things happening at DCG. Here's only a small sample: High School Fall Play, parent/teacher conferences, state events for fall sports, and costume days at the elementary level! We are learning and growing together!

Another important event in our district is next week's School Board Election. We have four open seats and seven candidates on the ballot. I'd like to take this opportunity to show my immense appreciation for all seven of these individuals. DCG School Board Directors are not paid. This is a volunteer position and sometimes it's not easy. Stepping up and answering the call deserves to be recognized. Please join me in thanking Ryan Carpenter, Matthew Moran, Shaylee Vander Velden, Nancy Baker Curtis, Kim Praska, Sean Cully and Meg Dickinson. I spent one year serving on a public school board before our family moved to Grimes. It was a humbling and impactful experience for me. I am thankful that these individuals have shown a desire to serve and make a positive impact on our incredible school district. I hope you'll join us on Thursday, November 2 for our School Board Candidate Forum! More information on page 2!

Voting and elections have always piqued my interest. I think back to my days in the classroom, both as a student and a teacher. From the campaigns, to voter turnout, I've always been intrigued by how these work.

I always encouraged my students to participate in elections and I'd like to do the same today. Everyone in our district has an opportunity to vote on Tuesday, November 7. Our district is thankful for the support we receive in all phases of education. School Board elections play a major role in this process. Thanks in advance for your contributions to the work we do every single day!

One more thing I enjoy about the fall season... pumpkin spice lattes!

Dr. Scott Blum
DCG Interim Superintendent



CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Tuesday, November 7 - Election Day

November 6 + 9 - Parent/Teacher Conferences (PK-8)

Friday, November 10 - No School, Teacher Comp Day

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- School Board Elections
- RED Dinner
- Seminar Success
- Field Trip
- Activities Update

Home of the Mustangs



www.dcgschools.com

**DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OFFICES**
Elementary Offices

Patty Morris, Principal/South Prairie Elem.
E-mail: patty.morris@dcdgschools.com
Telephone Number: (515) 986-4057
Fax Number: (515) 986-4532
500 SW James Street, Grimes, Iowa 50111
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

April Heitland, Principal/North Ridge Elem.
E-mail: april.heitland@dcdgschools.com
Telephone Number: 515-986-5674
Fax Number: 515-986-5376
400 N.W. 27th Street, Grimes, Iowa 50111
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Diann Williamson, Principal/Heritage Elem.
E-mail: diann.williamson@dcdgschools.com
Telephone Number: (515) 300-9627
Fax Number: (515) 300-9627
500 NE Beaverbrook Blvd., Grimes, IA 50111
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Deb Cale, Principal/Dallas Center Elem.
E-mail: debra.cale@dcdgschools.com
Telephone Number: (515) 992-3838
Fax Number: (515) 992-3467
1205 13th Street, P.O. Box 400, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Middle School Office/Jerry Hlas, Principal
E-mail: jerry.hlas@dcdgschools.com
Telephone Number: (515) 992-4343
Fax Number: (515) 992-4076
1400 Vine Street, P.O. Box 608, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Oak View/Joan Cundiff, Principal
E-mail: joan.cundiff@dcdgschools.com
Telephone Number: (515) 986-0105
Fax Number: (515) 986-3155
1300 SW County Line Road, Grimes, Iowa 50111
Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

High School Office/Travis Donahue, Principal
E-mail: travis.donahue@dcdgschools.com
Telephone Number: (515) 986-9747
Fax Number: (515) 986-9734
2555 W. 1st Street, Grimes, Iowa 50111
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Transportation Office/Jeff Wolfe, Transportation Director
Email: jeff.wolfe@dcdgschools.com
Telephone Number: 515-986-5173
255 SW Jazzwood Dr.
Grimes, IA 50111
Office Hours: 7:00 am - 4:00 p.m.

Central Office/Business Office
Dr. Scott Blum, Interim Superintendent
E-mail: scott.blum@dcdgschools.com
Telephone Number: (515) 992-3866
Fax Number: (515) 992-3079
2405 W. 1st Street, P.O. Box 680
Grimes, Iowa 50111

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Dallas Center-Grimes CSD will have four open seats in the 2023 School Board Election. There are two at-large positions along with Director District 3 and Director District 4.

**Dallas Center-Grimes CSD School Board
At-Large Candidates**

Two Seats Open



Ryan
Carpenter



Matthew
Moran



Shaylee
Vander Velden

At-Large Director Nominees (voters will select two): Ryan Carpenter, Matthew Moran, Shaylee Vander Velden

**Dallas Center-Grimes CSD School Board
District 3 Candidates**

One Seat Open



Nancy
Baker Curtis



Kim
Praska

Director District 3
(voters in DCG District 3 will select one):
Nancy Baker Curtis
Kim Praska

**Dallas Center-Grimes CSD School Board
District 4 Candidates**

One Seat Open



Sean
Cully



Meg
Dickinson

Director District 4
(voters in DCG District 3 will select one):
Sean Cully
Meg Dickinson

Important Information

- Voting for the 2023 DCG School Board Election will take place on Tuesday, November 7.
- Visit the Secretary of State's website to find your polling location.
- DCG will be holding a School Board Candidate Forum on Thursday, November 2 from 7:00 - 8:30 in the DCG HS Auditorium. The event will be recorded and posted to the district's YouTube page the following day. All seven candidates have been invited. (More on page 3)

HIGH SCHOOL



Chris Norton Visits DCG High School - Several DCG High School students got to hear from Chris Norton as part of a Character Counts presentation in October. Norton was injured playing college football and lost all feeling and movement from the neck down. Norton's story of perseverance and determination has taken the world by storm. Our students had a chance to speak with Norton and ask some very impactful questions. Norton's story is now featured on Netflix and Amazon Prime.



Special Cafeteria Guest - DCG students had a special guest in the lunchroom during October. Corporate Taher Chef Tony was in the cafeteria serving up a delicious Mongolian dish to our students. We are so thankful for Taher's commitment to providing excellent meals to all of our students!

DCG Education 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 November 11! Tickets are now available at dcgeducationfoundation.org. QR Code (right).



DCG Celebrations - The month of October is certainly a special one when it comes to school celebrations! Here are some of the groups we celebrated with this month:

10/2 - National Custodian Day

10/5 - World Teacher Day

10/6 - National Instructional Coach Day

10/16 - National Boss's Day

October - National Principals Month

Thanks to this entire crew for always making a difference at DCG!

School Board Continued

DCG CSD will also be hosting a community town hall on 11/2. This event will run from 5:30-6:30. This will be an event focused on answering questions from DCG CSD families and staff. The questions will be submitted via online form from our families. This event will also be recorded and posted to our district's YouTube page.

- DCG CSD is thankful for the commitment of all seven candidates. We are thankful for your support of our students and staff.

- The next DCG School Board meeting is set for Monday, October 30 at 5:30. The agenda and YouTube link will be posted at DCGschools.com.

Order your Yearbook - Now is the time to order the 2022-2023 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 22!

Homecoming Photos - The October issue went to print on Thursday of DCG Homecoming. We have some more Mustang School Spirit to share!



Interim Superintendent Dr. Scott Blum hangs out in the Oak View dunk tank!



We had quite the crowd watch our DCG Homecoming Royalty take the stage in Dallas Center!

Phonics with DCG's Superintendent! - Dr. Scott Blum stopped over at a North Ridge Kindergarten classroom for a phonics lesson! The photo below showcases how excited these students were!



FROM OUR BUILDINGS



Paw-erful Learning- We had a talented group of educators representing DCG at the Iowa BEST Summit, including Fog (DCE) and Eureka (DCG Middle School). Our district's professional therapy dogs are always ready to help our students! The Iowa BEST Summit provides guidance to our educators surrounding mental health strategies in our district.

Seminar Success - There's a new learning opportunity at Oak View this year. Seminar is a class for our 7th and 8th graders that focuses on career ready skills. It's a chance for our students to take their first step into what life could look like as a professional. In our Seminar Class, several community partners have volunteered their time to speak with our students about their occupation. Our first two guest speakers were a local nurse and a law enforcement officer from the Waukee Police Department. We've also heard from professionals in IT, communications and education. We'd love to add your profession to our list! If you are interested and willing, please email Principal Cundiff at joan.cundiff@dcgschools.com



OAK VIEW BAND



Oak View Band - Auditions have been completed and rehearsals have now begun. We are so excited about the interest level in the DCG Jazz Program. The growth of the program is very noticeable and exciting. The Oak View Jazz Band is an auditioned group featuring both 7th and 8th-grade students. The Oak View Jazz Club is open to all

students at Oak View and focuses on skill development and learning about America's Art Form. Key Dates - December 2 - Jazz Clinic | January 4, 2024 - Home Preview Concert | January 6 - Jazz Clinic | January 13 - DCG Jazz Festival | February 17 - Paul McKee Jazz Festival at Indianola | March 19 - Oak View Jazz Showcase

ELEMENTARY



Special Reading Guest - DCG School Resource Officer Alan Loutzenhiser stopped by some of our preschool classrooms for story time in October. It was a great chance for our students to connect in a new way to someone they will see in our district. After they finished the story, Deputy Loutzenhiser answered a few questions and talked with our students about his job and all of the fancy equipment he uses on a daily basis!

North Ridge Field Trip - Fourth graders at North Ridge Elementary took a field trip to Living History Farms in October. Our students learned how farming has changed over time and what life was like as a child in the 1800's! We also were able to learn from a blacksmith in the shop. Our tour included stops at three farmhouses, a schoolhouse, a print shop and a drugstore! We'd like to give a special shout out to the team at Living History Farms for always providing these learning opportunities to our students!



Balloon Car Learning at DCG Middle School - It's been several weeks of hands-on learning for our 5th and 6th grade students. The balloon car project is wrapping up in October, but not before our students showcase their designs. Students were given one balloon, cardboard, plastic lids and tape. They were tasked with turning those supplies into a moving car! You'll be impressed by the drive and determination shown by these students! Trial and error was a major part of this project! There's a video available at DCGschoools.com. "If something doesn't work the way they want it to, continue to keep trying and just try it again and try it again," says DCG Middle School Teacher Ronda McCarthy. "Every time it fails, fix it, and try it one more time."

FCS Project at Oak View - Safety and sanitation is the name of the game at Oak View this month. FCS students are practicing their safety and sanitation skills as they begin their work in the kitchen. After the safety work was completed, our students started reading recipes and taking measurements for one of their first projects of the year..... air fryer donuts! FCS classes always provide such unique and important learning lessons for our students! We are thankful they have this opportunity in the DCG kitchen! 360 donuts coming from one classroom!



ACTIVITIES



Double DCG at State! - Our Mustangs are moving to state! BOTH the DCG Boys and DCG Girls Cross Country Teams are heading to the state meet! The state meet is scheduled from Friday, October 27 in Fort Dodge! The DCG Girls won the State Qualifying Meet Championship in Ames on October 18. The Mustangs had four runners in the top ten! Piper Messerly (3rd), Maddy Stevens (4th) and Emily Meyers (5th) paced the Mustangs! All seven runners finished in the top 16! Way to go DCG! The DCG Boys finished 3rd at the State Qualifying Meet in Ames on the 18th. This was one of the most talented state qualifiers in the state with Ankeny and Iowa City Liberty in the field. DCG had six runners in the top 17, including Elias Arbuckle, Colin Mandernach, Jack Every, Graham Ibeling and AJ Angus finishing 10th-15th! Good luck at state DCG XC! Congratulations on a great season!!



Fall Sports Update - The DCG Volleyball and Football teams are in the home stretch of their seasons! They are enjoying incredible years and we will recap their seasons in our next issue of the Mustang Monthly!



The following students were accepted for the **2023 SCIBA Middle School Honor Band** which will take place at Ankeny Centennial High School on Tuesday, November 7, 2023: Izzy Powell, Evie Dahm, Paige Wubbena, Lilly Rosenbury, Nathan Fitch, Gabe Bennett, Teag Phillips, Hayden Homan, Roxanne Gao, Addison O'Neil, Brynn Senne, Kai Enderlin, Owen Kleckner.

All nine 8th graders who auditioned were accepted into the honor band!

8th Grade SCIBA



7th Grade SCIBA



DallasCenter-GrimesCommunitySchool
2405 West. 1st St.
P.O. Box 680
Grimes, IA 50111

TM

Nonprofit Org.
ECRWSS
U.S. Postage Paid
Dallas Center, IA 50063
Permit No. 5

POSTAL CUSTOMER



www.dcgschools.com



Oak View Art Spotlight (above) - 7th and 8th graders have been painting their clay pieces during October. 7th graders made totems that either symbolized themselves or have a theme. 8th graders made clay phone amplifiers. We have talented artists all over our district!

High School Art Spotlight (below) - This month we are checking out a project in Drawing I at DCG High School. Students were tasked with creating a portrait of a significant person in their life that also communicated an emotion that they associate with their featured subject. We are loving this project from DCG Junior Claire Boerre! Next time you are in the building, spend a few extra minutes checking out the incredible work of our students. You'll see them displayed in the west commons. Great work!!

