



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

DCG,

I absolutely love this time of year! I have so many things to celebrate and be thankful for both personally and professionally.

The Blum family spent the Thanksgiving weekend together. We watched football. We played games. The love I have for my family is a driving force in my life. I'm so grateful for our time together!

I'm also incredibly honored to represent DCG as a professional. The role of DCG CSD Interim Superintendent has filled my professional bucket.

From the construction meetings about a second hallway at the high school, to spending time with our kindergartners, I'm so thankful for it all.

I'm also thankful for the DCG community. We have parents who are invested. We have students who are driven. We have educators who are the best at what they do. We have a school board that truly cares about our district. It's easy to see why DCG CSD is one of the best districts in the state.

The holiday season can be stressful and chaotic. I've been dedicating a few minutes each day to pause and reflect on all of the wonderful people in my life. Even if it's just 30 seconds on a walk to get water, this time has been so rewarding to me. Please know everyone in the DCG community has a special place in my heart.

Have a great holiday season!

It's great to be a Mustang!

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott Blum

DCG Interim Superintendent



CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

December 13 - Early Dismissal

December 21 - Early Dismissal

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www.dcgschools.com

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SCHOOL BOARD UPDATE

2023 DCG School Board Election - Here are the official results from the 2023 DCG School Board Election. The new DCG School Board members held their first meeting on Monday, November 27.

DCG School Director-At-Large (Vote for 2)
1,563 - Ryan Carpenter
1,173 - Shaylee Vander Velden
919 - Matthew Moran
35 - Write-in

DCG School Director District 3 (Vote for 1)
230 - Nancy Baker Curtis
180 - Kim Praska
3 - Write-in

DCG School Director District 4 (Vote for 1)
344 - Meg Dickinson
332 - Sean Cully

Here is the current DCG School Board.

At-Large - Ryan Carpenter
At-Large - Brandon McNace
At-Large - Shaylee Vander Velden
District 1 - Nick Fiala
District 2 - Monica Malmberg
District 3 - Nancy Baker Curtis
District 4 - Meg Dickinson

The next DCG School Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 18. It is a week earlier than normal due to DCG's Winter Break.

Thank You Kathie - We would like to celebrate our outgoing DCG School Board President Kathie Hicok for her incredible dedication to our district. Kathie served on the DCG School Board for 18 years!! She has been serving our district for an entire generation. Our current high school seniors were just



born when Kathie attended her first meeting. They are now graduating and we are saying goodbye to Kathie! We celebrated Kathie at a reception prior to her final full School Board meeting on Monday, October 30. Thanks for everything Kathie!!

HIGH SCHOOL



Rho Kappa Update - The DCG Chapter of Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society, with support of a few members of Key Club traveled to Osceola with Rho Kappa Advisor Jack Vanderflight as part of the organization's annual service day. Rho Kappa is the only national

organization for high school students that recognizes excellence in the field of social studies. As part of the day, members participated in a wide range of activities at a thrift store that provides assistance to people in need. Cross Thrift provides free or low cost clothing, furniture, electronics, shoes, medical supplies and other needed items throughout Iowa and as far away as Africa. The students excelled in providing support and learning about ways to provide service in new environments.

The DCG Chapter of the Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society recently elected its officers for 2023-2024. These officers take an active role in conducting all Rho Kappa business and events. Our officers this year are: President: Tess Meggison | Vice President: Taylor Golly | Secretary: Lillian Holcomb | Public Relations/Media Specialist: Ellie Cole

Lunch with the Principal

This is a special treat for students at South Prairie Elementary! After displaying great leadership skills in the classroom, these students got to eat lunch with SPE Principal Patty Morris! Look at all of these smiles!



RED Dinner Raises Money for DCG Scholars - The DCG Education Foundation held its annual RED Dinner and Auction on Saturday, November 11. What a night it was! The RED Dinner raised a record-breaking \$82,000 to support DCG High School students! This money will go directly to the Class of 2024

and will be presented at the 2024 Senior Awards Night in May! The DCG Education Foundation is a tremendous partner in our district and we'd like to thank their entire team for a job well done! A special shout out to the hundreds of DCG supporters who joined us for the dinner and auction! We can't wait until the 2025 DCG Education Foundation RED Dinner!



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 (QR code below). Email Mrs. Soener (ivy.soener@dcg-schools.com) with any questions.

Senior Parents - Baby, toddler and senior photos are also due to Mrs. Soener by December 22!

Class of 2023 - Grab your yearbook at the DCG HS Front Office!



Celebrating Substitutes - We celebrated all of the amazing substitutes in our district on National Substitute Educators Day on Friday, November 17. We've had 82 substitutes in our buildings so far this year and we couldn't be more thankful! Thanks for all of the ways you support our students and staff!



Mark Your Calendars - The 6th Grade Choir Winter Concert is scheduled for December 12 at 7:00 at the DCG Middle School! We hope to see you there!

Important Dates

December 21 - Early Dismissal 12:30 Oak View - 1:00 All other buildings

December 22-January 1 - No School - DCG Winter Break

January 2 - Students Return

Veterans at DCG

Jenifer Eligh - Administration

Steve Ford - Custodian - DCG High School

Daryl Haynes - Maintenance

Chris Pappas - Custodian - SPE

Patricia Schipper - Preschool Teacher

Eric White - Teacher DCG MS

Jeff Wolfe - Transportation

Aaron Stoltz - Transportation

Randy Martin - Transportation

Brandon Kraklio - Transportation

Zach Krueger - Interpreter - DCG High School

Emily Bowlin - Teacher - HE

Britney Macha - Associate - DCE

Shelly Bailey - Food Service

Craig Gooder - Transportation

Kevin Lull - Transportation/Custodian - NRE

Ronda McCarthy - Teacher - DCG Middle School

Gail Georgou - Administration

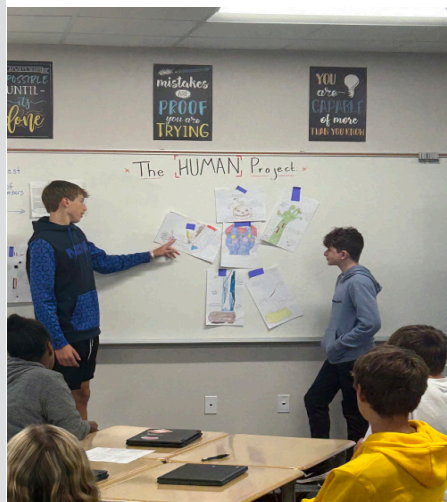
James Roberts - Teacher - DCG High School

Shawn Cain - Transportation

Rebecca Keeling - Custodian - Oak View

Renaë Conway - Teacher - DCE

FROM OUR BUILDINGS



The Human Project - Oak View students are wrapping up The HUMAN Project in November. Students in Austin Oborny's Health Class presented to classmates on different facts on their body part of study, while adding a decision making skill. For example, washing your face helps prevent facial acne. A broken bone, means you need to go to the doctor. It's a great way for our students to learn about the body and different ways the body forces a decision to be made.



Veterans Day at DCG - Dallas Center-Grimes CSD takes great pride in the way we honor our Veterans. DCG High School, Oak View and DCG Middle School all held an assembly on Thursday, November 9. We are all incredibly grateful for the dedication of our Veterans. Your commitment to our community and country deserves to be celebrated each and every day! There are also 23 Veterans currently working at Dallas Center-Grimes. Please see the list to the left and join us in thanking our DCG Veterans!

Iowa Knowledge Bowl Success -

DCG High School had two teams qualify for the finals of the Iowa Knowledge Bowl! Congratulations to the following students:

Team A: Griffin Kleis, Hannah Fasse, Bodee Krob

Team B: Alex New, Aaron Bonefas, Eli Holcomb, Finley Welch, Ryan Wolf



DISTRICT UPDATES

Taher Update - The Taher team would like to introduce Chef Smith Cavan. Smith is a Kitchen Manager at DCG High School. Chef Cavan earned a Culinary Degree from the Art Institutes of Charlotte and has 25 years of chef experience! Chef Cavan's wife is a cancer survivor and he took the job at DCG to spend more time with her. He also loves working with kids! Chef Cavan's culinary resume also includes time with the Carolina Panthers in the NFL! Please join us in welcoming Chef Cavan to DCG!



Angel Account - There's a need in our DCG cafeterias. The DCG Angel Account helps students receive the meals they need every single day. The account helps support our students who don't qualify for free and reduced meals but could still use our help. If you are interested in donating, please visit the school store on Infinite Campus or online at DCG-Schools.com

Culture Day at Heritage - Second graders at Heritage Elementary learned about Native American Heritage Month in a really unique way during November. Kendra Shuckahosee's husband is 100% Native American, (Meskwaki Tribe in Tama and the Sac & Fox Tribe in Kansas). Kendra brings several cultural items including videos of pow wows to show her students each year! What a fun way to share in this learning! Enjoy some of the photos below!



App Design at Oak View - 7th grade computer science students at Oak View showcased their creativity and ingenuity during their recent app creation project. Students were tasked with designing an app that would feature beneficial inputs and outputs along with creating an overall process. Check out a video story at DCGschools.com!

ELEMENTARY



Fire Safety at DCG - A special thanks to the Johnston-Grimes Fire Department for spending time with our youngest students this fall! We've had a lot of really great opportunities to learn about fire safety from our local professionals! Your commitment to the safety of our students is appreciated!!

Life in Bosnia - 3rd grade students at Dallas Center Elementary learned about life in Bosnia, thanks to an incredible presentation from DCE Special Education Teacher Nejra Vates. Nejra shared her family's experience in Bosnia and even made a special treat for students to try! What a powerful experience for our students! Thank you Nejra!



ACTIVITIES

All-State Success



All-State Success - The DCG Music Department had a banner day at the All-State Music Auditions! We hope you'll help us celebrate these students!

All-State Orchestra

Jack Crilly – 1st Trumpet
Ella Christensen – 2nd Horn

All-State Band

Caroline Edsen – 3rd Clarinet
Isabel Schall – 2nd Alto Sax
Marley Eickelberg – 3rd Cornet
Brady Kinman – 2nd Trombone
Max Ringgenber – 2nd Percussion
Alternates - Charlotte York (Oboe) Hannah Thies (Alto Saxophone)

All- State Vocal Music - Addilyn Stine–Soprano 2 | Kylie Perdue–Soprano 1 | Charlie Peterson–Soprano 2 | Sara Saleh–Alto 1 | Alex Pries–Tenor 1 | Noah Dutchuk–Tenor 2 | Gavin Eickelberg–Tenor 1 | Nathan Scholl–Bass 1 | Kyler Willenborg–Bass 2 | Hunter Quandt–Bass 1 | Alternate - Elisebeth Illian



State Cheer Results!

Our DCG Cheerleaders had an incredible weekend at the state competition. The Mustangs finished 5th place in the Class 4A Cheer/Dance Division. This is their highest finish in Class 4A! We also celebrated Angie Rubel's incredible coaching career. Coach Rubel has been a cheer coach for the last 20 years, the last 12 years as DCG's head coach! She guided the Mustangs to the state meet 19 times and she holds five state titles! Congratulations on a great career Coach Rubel! Thanks for your dedication to DCG!

Volleyball Recap - The DCG Volleyball team capped off the 2023 season with 20 wins and a spot in the Class 4A Region 3 Championship. Freshman Gwen Farley led the Mustangs with 700 assists and fellow freshman Maggie Leifker was DCG's leader in kills with 198 on the season! The future is bright for the Mustangs, but they will say goodbye to six seniors. These six poured hours of hard work into the program and we are so thankful for their dedication! See you back on the court in 2024!



Football Recap - It was another incredible year of DCG Football on the gridiron. The Mustangs finished the year with a 4-5 record including a 17-7 victory over Norwalk on DCG Homecoming! Senior Eli Carpenter led the Mustangs with 829 rushing yards, while Ty Mikkelsen threw for 1,166 yards and 10 touchdowns. Lane Nelsen was the Mustangs leading tackler on defense, with 48 on the year. 17 seniors capped off their careers wearing the Red and White in 2023!

ACTIVITIES



DCG Boys Cross Country Recap - Our Mustangs finished third in the Little Hawkeye Conference, with four all-conference members, third at the district meet with five all-district members, and finished seventh at the IA HS State Meet. The JV team won the conference title, with seven team members in the top 10 at that race. JV maintains an impressive 91% winning percentage over nine years, and varsity has an 87% winning percentage over the same time span. Additionally, there were 37 additions to the record board. On top of all that, they enjoyed year ten of the Honk Project and also made blessing bags for those in need. The team knows the most important thing they do is treat each other with kindness and respect. (XC Awards listed to the right)

Keep an eye out for opportunities for young runners with the boys 5th-12th grade Mustang Cross Country Camp as well as the Run for Fun in the Sun Camp through Grimes Parks and Recreation for 1st-4th grade boys and girls.

We appreciate the awesome support of the Dallas Center-Grimes community!



DCG Girls XC Recap - In their second season in class 4A (cross country's largest class) and the smallest school in class 4A the DCG Girls Cross Country team had their most successful season on record by most accounts. In the regular season the girls won their home meet, placed 2nd at the Marshalltown meet, placed 2nd at the Heartland Classic at Central College, placed 5th in the Gold Division at the Rim Rock Farms

meet at the University of Kansas, and placed 2nd at the Fort Dodge meet. At the Little Hawkeye Conference Championship meet, the girls swept all races by winning the JV and Varsity team and individual crowns. This was their 7th consecutive JV conference title and their 4th varsity title in the last 6 years. Piper Messerly was the individual conference champion! Also earning all conference honors by placing in the top 15 were; 5th Emily Meyers, 6th Maddy Stevens, 11th Addison Dooley, 12th Abbey Angus. Tess Meggison was the individual JV champion. The season culminated at the IA HS State Meet with the Mustangs placing 3rd in Class 4A, just 4 points out of second with 126 points. This was the teams first time on the class 4A podium and 5th time total in the last 6 years. They placed 3 in the top 20 with Piper placing 6th to earn All-State Honors as well as Elite All-State Honors by being the 7th fastest across all classes at the State Meet. The team also had a banner year in the classroom, Tess Meggison earned Academic All-State Honors and the team earned the IGHSAU Distinguished in Academics award by having a team average cumulative GPA of 3.87.!

Booster Club Save the Dates -

There are a few important dates on the DCG Booster Club Calendar!

February 2 - Annual Cake Auction. This year's theme is Game Night.
February 15 - Trivia Night at Destination Grille.

More information at www.dcg-boosterclub.com

DCG Boys XC Awards -

All-Conference: Elias Arbuckle, Jack Every, Colin Mandernach, Cael Ramsey

All-District: Elias Arbuckle, Colin Mandernach, Jack Every, AJ Angus, Graham Ibeling

Academic All-Conference: (9th-12th grade letterwinners earning a 3.5 GPA or above) 9th – Graham Ibeling, Jack Meggison 10th – Harper Gessmann, Colin Mandernach, Ben Pudenz, Cael Ramsey, Owen Weiler

11th – Elias Arbuckle, Carson Ibeling
12th – AJ Angus, Ben Every, Jack Every, Nick Kessler, Alex Pries, Nathan Wanat, Sam Watkins, Will Weydert

Academic All-State: (Senior, 3.8 GPA, 28 ACT, top 30 at District or compete at State) Alex Pries

Most Improved: Harper Gessmann, Conner Simpson

DCG Sportsmanship Award: Carson Ibeling, Will Weydert, Jack Every

Group Dynamic Youth Servant Leadership Award: Sam Watkins

Coaches Award: 9th – Evan Friesen, JV – Ben Every, Varsity – Alex Pries
Most Valuable Team Member: AJ Angus

2023 Captains: Colin Mandernach, Elias Arbuckle, Carson Ibeling, Ben Every, Jack Every, Alex Pries, Sam Watkins

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Art Spotlight - Here's a look at some of the work coming from Art 1 students at DCG High School. Students are learning how to use facial and body proportions as they create their own portraits of someone that has meaning to them. Elli Sigler did a great job using proportion and shading to create a realistic portrait of her and her brother as little kids (bottom left).

Art 1 students also learn how to paint a realistic landscape. Sydney Miller showcases mixing colors, creating depth, and adding texture in the photo on the right. Awesome work art students!

