



# MUSTANG MONTHLY

VOLUME 23  
ISSUE 5  
January 2024

Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.

## DR. SCOTT BLUM NAMED DCG SUPERINTENDENT

Dallas Center-Grimes CSD is excited to announce that the DCG School Board has officially offered Dr. Scott Blum a full-time contract to be our district's superintendent. Dr. Blum's contract will run through the 2025-26 school year and his interim title will be removed immediately.

"To say I'm thrilled is an understatement," says Dr. Blum. "I am humbled by this opportunity and I'm energized about the future of this district. Dallas Center-Grimes CSD is built on a foundation of excellence. This is a standard I've worked to uphold as interim superintendent and will strive to do every single day moving forward."



While this is a new chapter for DCG CSD, Dr. Blum's commitment to our district has been on display for a decade. Blum served as DCG High School Principal from 2016-2023.

"Dr. Blum's passion for DCG is unmatched. He's developed a culture of trust and transparency and we are so excited that the Blum family picked DCG," shares DCG School Board President Ryan Carpenter. "The School Board received hundreds of feedback forms from parents and staff and the support was overwhelmingly in favor of Dr. Blum. I've also watched Dr. Blum work for the last six months as interim superintendent and it's clear to me that Dr. Blum is the leader this district deserves."

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.

"I am surrounded by hundreds of talented educators every single day at DCG and remain committed to representing them on the local and state-wide level," says Dr. Blum. "I want our families to know that my door is always open. We are partners in this process and I'm so excited to share in the hopes and dreams you have for all of our students."



## CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Tuesday, January 2nd - Classes Resume

Wednesday, January 10th - Early Dismissal

Monday, January 15th - No School - MLK Day - Teacher Workday

Wednesday, January 24th - Early Dismissal

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Home of the Mustangs



[www.dcgschools.com](http://www.dcgschools.com)

## DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OFFICES

Elementary Offices

Patty Morris, Principal/South Prairie Elem.

E-mail: patty.morris@dcgschools.com

Telephone Number: (515) 986-4057

Fax Number: (515) 986-4532

500 SW James Street, Grimes, Iowa 50111

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April Heitland, Principal/North Ridge Elem.

E-mail: april.heitland@dcgschools.com

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Fax Number: 515-986-5376

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Diann Williamson, Principal/Heritage Elem.

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Telephone Number: (515) 300-9627

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Deb Cale, Principal/Dallas Center Elem.

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Middle School Office/Jerry Hlas, Principal

E-mail: jerry.hlas@dcgschools.com

Telephone Number: (515) 992-4343

Fax Number: (515) 992-4076

1400 Vine Street, P.O. Box 608, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

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Oak View/Joan Cundiff, Principal

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Telephone Number: (515) 986-0105

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1300 SW County Line Road, Grimes, Iowa 50111

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High School Office/Travis Donahue, Principal

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Fax Number: (515) 986-9734

2555 W. 1st Street, Grimes, Iowa 50111

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Transportation Office/Jeff Wolfe, Transportation Director

Email: jeff.wolfe@dcgschools.com

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Grimes, IA 50111

Office Hours: 7:00 am - 4:00 p.m.

Central Office/Business Office

Dr. Scott Blum, Superintendent

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Grimes, Iowa 50111

## REGISTRATION PERIOD OPENS SOON

**Registration for 2024-25 School Year** - The registration period for the 2024-25 school year will begin on February 1. To project enrollment numbers, please register incoming students as soon as possible.

**Computer Access:** If needed, a kiosk is available at the DCG Administration Building, located at 2405 W. 1st Street in Grimes. We advise online registration to be completed on a computer and not a cell phone.

**Key Dates:** If your child will be 5 on or before September 15, 2024, register for kindergarten.

If your child will be 4 on or before September 15, 2024, register for 4-year-old preschool.

If your child will be 3 on or before September 15, 2024, register for 3-year-old preschool.

**Families With Students Currently Enrolled at DCG:** Use your Infinite Campus Portal Account to access Online Registration. You will be able to add a student to your account if you have a child who will be entering the district for the first time (preschool, kindergarten, or another grade level.)

**Families With Students New to the DCG District:** Follow the steps listed on the district website: [www.dcgschools.com](http://www.dcgschools.com), registration tab or quick link.

### Preschool Information:

**4-year-old program:** Resident district student registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. When the program is full, your child will be placed on a waiting list. Non-residents will automatically be placed on a waiting list. Open spots will be filled in August.

**3-year-old program:** To be eligible for a random selection to fill a preschool spot, register between February 1 and February 15. If you register after Feb 15, your child will automatically be placed on a waiting list.

**Athletic Registration:** Athletic Registration in rSchool for 7th-12th grade athletes will not start until early July. The school will send email reminders as July 1 approaches.

**Registration Fees:** Registration fees will not be available for payment until July 1, 2024.

# HIGH SCHOOL



**Peer PE Returns to DCG High School** - This is such a fun program to showcase at DCG High School. Peer PE showcases the power of friendship and inclusion. There are 16 high school students in Peer PE this term and they've been traveling all over the metro to participate in inclusive activities! They've explored the Jester Park Nature Center, played kick ball at the

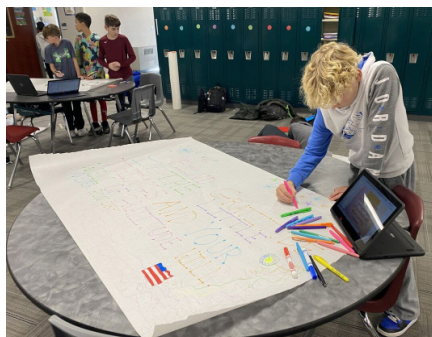


Miracle League complex in Waukee, played on the playground at Triumph Park in Waukee and went bowling at Warrior Lanes! Watching these friendships form is certainly a special feeling! Thanks to DCG High School PE Teacher Curt Castenson for teaching this course! We can't wait to see where your adventures will take you next!



**Shop with a Cop** - Two DCG students had quite the night with DCG School Resource Officer Alan Loutzenhiser in December. The trio from our district joined SRO's from other districts in central Iowa at a Shop with a Cop event! Each student got to spend \$250 on presents at a Wal-Mart in Ankeny! Our students were picked up from school in Deputy Loutzenhiser's patrol car and got to ride in the back all the way to Ankeny! Thanks to the team from the Polk County Sheriff's Office for spreading holiday cheer!

**Gratitude at the Middle School** - DCG Middle School held their annual associate breakfast in December. As part of the celebration, students designed special "thank you tablecloths" that were spread across the celebration! It's clear that our students realize the difference our associates make every day at DCG!



**Angel Account** - Looking for a way to help a neighbor in need? Consider giving to the DCG Angel Account. This fund helps students who do not qualify for free or reduced meals, but still have a need for our support. Angel Funds are provided to accounts in an equal distribution to children with negative meal balances. The DCG Nutrition department must balance the desire to provide for our hungry children with the demands of maintaining the financial viability of the school's food service operation. There is an Angel Account donation link available on the Infinite Campus School Store. Thank you for your dedication to our students!



**Taher Update** - We'd like to introduce a new Kitchen Manager at DCG High School, Leona Nelson. Leona has worked with Taher for the last six years. She's enjoying her new role as kitchen manager because it allows her to work directly with new hires. Leona says working in a high school cafeteria is the perfect fit for her because she is helping students receive a meal they need! Please join us in welcoming Leona to the DCG High School Cafeteria! DCG CSD would also like to thank Taher for all of their contributions to our district! We are thankful for the quality product you provide!

**School Board Update** - The next DCG School Board Meeting is set for January 22 at the DCG Administration Office. The meeting will begin at 5:30. Links are available at [DCGschoools.com](http://DCGschoools.com). The meeting will also be live streamed on the district's YouTube page.



**Nutcracker Visits 3rd Grade** - DCG 3rd graders got to a special holiday treat in December! The Iowa Cats Dance Company performed portions of The Nutcracker for all of our students. What a fun way to showcase the holiday season!

### Education Foundation Update

As the calendar year of 2023 winds down, the DCG Education Foundation is very thankful for the many businesses, organizations, and individuals who continue to support our efforts to provide scholarship opportunities for Dallas Center-Grimes students.

Since the formation of the foundation, we've given 683 scholarships for a total of \$810,250! We're on our way to hit the \$1 million dollar amount and would love for you to consider being a part of hitting that milestone. How can you participate?

- \* A year-end tax-deductible donation
  - \* Sponsor a scholarship
  - \* Volunteering to be a board member or committee member
- Learn more at [www.dcgeducationfoundation.org](http://www.dcgeducationfoundation.org)

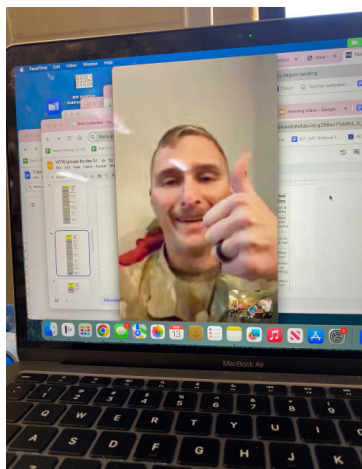
## OAK VIEW



**Middle School State Mock Trial** - Team Left Adidas Sneaker took home 3rd place honors at the Middle School State Mock Trial event this year! This is a tremendous accomplishment! They also won the Critelli Award for Sportsmanship! Gable Bond and Silas Miller were named Outstanding Witness and Evie Dahm was awarded Outstanding Attorney. There were more than 130 middle school teams in the competition. To finish 3rd is simply incredible! Congratulations

to Team Left Adidas Sneaker - Sharla Benning, Gable Bond, Evie Dahm, Roxanne Gao, Elana Hamp, Fisher Krob, Silas Miller, and Noah Townsend with coaches Jill Altringer and Garrett Bond.

## FROM THE BUILDINGS



**Mystery Reader** - Students in Major Johnson's 3rd grade class at North Ridge Elementary get a special visit each week! Students are starting the week with Mystery Reader Monday. In addition to reading together, students are also able to ask questions to their featured guest. One of the first guest speakers was Titan Johnson (Major's brother). Titan is a teacher in Kansas City, Missouri. He's also a Drill Sergeant in the Army. What a fun way to get students invested in reading and professions for the future!

### Thank You Bus Drivers! -

We'd like to take a quick moment to thank the entire DCG Transportation team. Your commitment to our students and staff is simply incredible! The impact our bus drivers make every single day does not go unnoticed. Take Friday, December 8 for example. 1,500 students were transported to and from school safely! We also had an additional 575 kids/teachers/coaches who needed transportation to and from field trips and activities! All in a days work for our bus drivers! Please give them a special thank you next time you see them driving in your neighborhood!



# ELEMENTARY

**Author Visits North Ridge** - Children's author Ryan O'Connor stopped by some of the classrooms at North Ridge Elementary in late November. Ryan's the author of a new children's book, *Bobby the Bear Helps Build a Nest*. Kindergartners and first graders got a special look when Ryan read his new book to the class. This book shines a light on perseverance and patience!



**Learning About the Brain** - Students in Mrs. Bigger's third-grade class are learning about growth mindset and how the brain learns. To better understand how neurons in our brain create pathways for learning, we became human neurons labeling our hands and arms with the specific parts of a neuron. Then, we formed a chain, and when the neurons were all connected, an energy tube lit up symbolizing the creation of neural pathways!

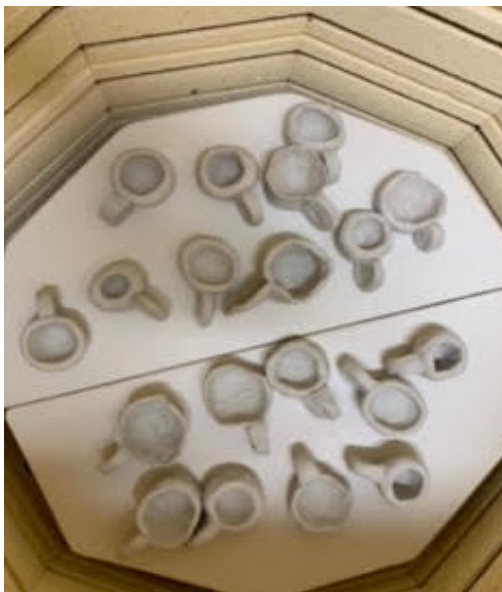


**Balloon Parade at DCE** - It's parade season at DCE! Our 4th graders marched through the hallways for a special celebration after reading *Balloons Over Broadway*! *Balloons Over Broadway* showcases the power of creativity and persistence. It's also a great connection to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade!

**Pen Pals** - There's a special bond forming between Dallas Center Elementary 4th graders and residents at Spurgeon Manor! These pen pals met for a special conversation in late November featuring Thanksgiving BINGO and an opportunity to connect. This is a strong community partner that emphasizes the power of relationships! Thanks to the team at Spurgeon Manor for giving our students this opportunity!



**DCG Celebrates Computer Science Week** - Computer science is such an important part of what we do at DCG! National Computer Science Week was held December 4-8 and we celebrated in a special way. DCG High School students traveled to a few of our elementary schools to work on a coding project with 3rd graders! This student-to-student learning was such a powerful experience for everyone involved!



**Clay Cups at DCE** - We are heading to the art room at Dallas Center Elementary for this awesome art spotlight! Here's a look at the first grade clay cup project! The students molded a great design and added an extra layer with adding a handle. Thanks to all of our district's art teachers for their creativity and passion for helping our students shine!

# ACTIVITIES



**Music Showcase** - Our incredible DCG Musicians are on display this winter! We caught a performance from our crew at a Lunch & Learn put on by the Grimes Chamber & Economic Development. We have so many talented musicians at DCG High School and they work so hard at their craft. Our district encourages all of our stakeholders to check out a concert or performance this year! You'll be so impressed by their talent!



**Mustang Athletic Performance Center Update** - The construction project on our new auxiliary gym and weight room is near completion! Please make plans to join us on Friday, January 12 at 5:30 for the Mustang Athletic Performance Center Open House. Get your first look at this incredible space! Our open house is scheduled right before a home doubleheader for our DCG Basketball teams! There are also construction updates available at DCGSchools.com. Join us on January 12!!



**Middle School Wrestling** - It was a historic evening on the mats! DCG held our first-ever middle school girls wrestling meet at Oak View on Monday, November 20! Fans packed the stands and cheered on our wrestlers to a 21-3 record on the night! We look forward to cheering on this program throughout the winter! Great job by everyone involved in the growth of this sport at DCG!

**Save the Date** - There are two important dates to mark on your calendar this winter!



February 2 - DCG's Annual Cake Auction

Cake Auction Presented by KRM Development  
Theme: Game Night

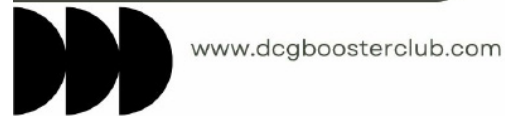
**February 2nd** Meadows Gym 6:15pm

February 15 - Trivia Night at Destination Grille.

Trivia Night Presented by Destination Grille

**February 15th** Destination Grille 6pm

Both events support the DCG Booster Club!



**Volleyball Gives Back** - The DCG High School Volleyball team spent a weekend at the Des Moines Public Library helping kids make Christmas ornaments and decorations. The girls spread their Christmas joy to children involved in the Des Moines Refugee Support Group which helps more than 500 refugee families make Des Moines, Iowa feel like home. This wasn't where the Mustangs stopped! The players also unloaded U-Hauls at two Des Moines schools full of new, shiny toys, household items, clothing, and groceries as a part of an event called Santa's Ride. This is another huge event put on by the DM Refugee Support Group, and we love to see our Mustangs making an impact in our community. Great job Mustangs!



# ACTIVITIES



**State Dance Championship** - We have a state dance title to celebrate! DCG Junior Jordyn Green captured the Class XII Solo State Title! Jordyn is the first ever DCG State Dance Champion! The Mustangs had several incredible performances in the team competitions as well!

*Class XII Pom - 3rd place, the highest Pom finish in DCG history.*

*Class VII Hip Hop - 5th place*

*Class VI Jazz - 7th place*

Way to go Mustangs! Great job!! State Champion Jordyn Green was also a featured guest on our latest episode of The Mustang Message. Our district podcast is available at [DCGschoools.com](http://DCGschoools.com).



Immediately following their state competition, eleven members of the DCG Dance team traveled to California (left) to take part in the Dance the Magic Parade! Our dancers spent time at two amusement parks and made memories that will last a lifetime! The DCG Dance program is reaching new milestones every single year! We are so proud of their hard work!!

The **Large Group Speech** team is off to a great start and proud to have the participation of 120 students who have dedicated their time and passion to make the activity a success this year. On January 20, students will gear up to captivate the audience with their performances at District Contest. But before contest day arrives, we invite you to join us for Parent Night on January 5 at 6PM in the auditorium. This event offers a sneak peek into the creativity and dedication that the students have poured into their performances so far this year.



**New Activities Website** - We are so excited to share that a brand new DCG Activities website is coming soon! We hope to create a landing page that showcases all of the amazing things our students are doing. Each team/program/department will also have a page to call their own. More information coming soon!!

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## POSTAL CUSTOMER



[www.dcgschools.com](http://www.dcgschools.com)

**DCG Middle School Gives Back** - This group deserves a special shout out! Students at DCG Middle School donated 6,249 items to the Dallas Center Food Pantry this year! This surpasses their old record by several thousand!! Pictured below is Jacob Heinemann's 5th grade homeroom. This group brought in 1,130 items!! Students delivered their donations to the DC Food Pantry on Wednesday, December 20. We are so thankful for the giving spirit on display at DCG Middle School. Great job students. Thanks for making a lasting impact in your community!

