



# MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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May 2024

Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

May is here! It's crazy to think that we are closing the door on the 2023-24 school year this month. We've accomplished so much as a district and we have so much momentum heading into 2024-25.

I want to take this opportunity to share an update surrounding the active intruder trainings we've completed this spring. As of May 1, all seven DCG buildings will have spent dedicated time working through different scenarios designed by the Polk County Sheriff's Office. Our partnership with local law enforcement grows stronger each and every day.

One parent shared these words with us: "Knowing how to defend yourself and others against violence isn't the job you signed up for. I don't imagine today will be fun, especially when it recently hit way too close to home, but what you learn has the potential to save lives."

I need to acknowledge the bravery and professionalism that every single member of DCG showcased in these trainings. We asked our entire team to do something that we hadn't done before. It was tough and it was emotional. But we did it, and we did it together.

Here's what's next. We asked every single staff member to provide feedback after our training sessions were complete. Nearly 85% of DCG staff members have requested active intruder training each year. This feedback provides me, our district safety team and SRO Deputy Alan Loutzenhiser with the guidance we need. There will be another active intruder learning session next year. We will take what we've learned this year and improve.

Our commitment to safety will ALWAYS be at the forefront of everything we do. Thank you for supporting and trusting our mission. You should be proud of our team.

**Dr. Scott Blum** - DCG Superintendent



## CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

May 15, Early Dismissal, 12:30 Oak View, 1 pm all other buildings

May 24, DCG Graduation

May 29, Last Day of School for Students

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- School Calendar Update
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Home of the Mustangs



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

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## DISTRICT UPDATES

**2024-2025 DCG School Calendar Available** - Grab a pen and paper! The DCG School Calendar for 2024-2025 is available online (QR Code below) or at DCGschools.com. The 2024-25 calendar features an early dismissal every Wednesday.

*First Day of School* - August 23

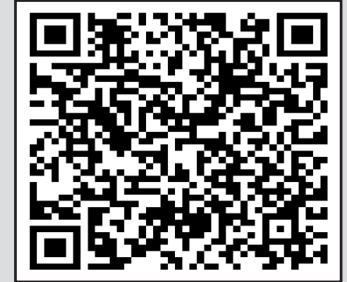
*Thanksgiving Break* -

November 27-29

*Winter Break* - Dec. 23- January 3

*Spring Break* - March 17-21

*Last Day of School* - May 30



**DCG Adds External Bullying and Harassment Investigator** - DCG CSD will always commit to the safety and well-being of our entire community. Our commitment has taken another step this school year. Dallas Center-Grimes has brought on Dr. Gail Callahan as our district's External Bullying and Harassment Investigator. Gail does very similar work for the Waukee Community School District.

The presence of an external investigator underscores our district's unwavering commitment to addressing bullying and harassment promptly and effectively. By partnering with an experienced professional like Gail, we aim to foster an environment where every member of our school community feels valued, supported and free from any form of mistreatment.

As an external investigator, Gail will work independently from the school administration, providing an objective perspective to each case she handles. Her primary focus will be to conduct thorough and fair investigations, respecting the privacy and confidentiality of all parties involved.

**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



**Library Visit** - DCG High School students are getting a great look at the new Grimes Public Library. Students in English 1 took a tour of the new space, learned about volunteer opportunities and updated their library cards. The new library will be a great service for all DCG students!

**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 (right), to learning about sign language, we were able to learn and share in this experience together.



**Plant Sale** - It's almost time to start planting! The DCG Botany I and II classes will be selling a variety of class-raised vegetables, flowers, and house plants on Wednesday, May 1 and Friday, May 3 from 3:45 to 6:30 at the greenhouse right behind the high school. Bedding plants, tomato and pepper plants, vegetables, succulents – lots of plants for sale at great prices! Remember, Mother's Day is right around the corner on May 12! Contact Mr. Harwood at the high school with any questions.



**Guest Speaker** - Students in Mr. Saba's room had a chance to connect with community stakeholder Barb Rothfus. The discussion centered around public relations and marketing. Barb is part of The Home Place in Grimes and shared her knowledge with our students!

**2024-25 Open House at DCG**  
Grab your calendars! Our DCG Open House event has been set.

*2024-25 DCG CSD Open House*  
Tuesday, August 20

4:30-6:30 - North Ridge Elementary, South Prairie Elementary, Heritage Elementary, Dallas Center Elementary and DCG Middle School

5:30-7:30 - Oak View and Dallas Center-Grimes High School

**Education Foundation Update** - That's a Wrap! 2024 Scholarship Applications are Complete! A total of 123 graduating seniors completed the 2024 DCGEF Application for scholarships. Sponsors and evaluators are working through the applications now and making their final selections which will be awarded on Senior Awards Night, May 22, 2024. Good luck to each of you!

If you are interested in learning more about the DCG Education Foundation, please visit our website at [www.dcgeducationfoundation.org](http://www.dcgeducationfoundation.org) or follow us on our social media platforms.

**Driver's Education** - Spring and summer dates are now available for DCG students. DCG partners with the Triple "R" Driving School. Visit the QR code below for more information!



**School Board Update** - The DCG School Board will meet on Monday, May 20. The agenda will be posted at [DCG-schools.com](http://DCG-schools.com) along with a link to watch the meeting live.

## OAK VIEW

**Solar Eclipse at Oak View** -April 8 was a special day across our country. A solar eclipse passed over the United States and our students stepped outdoors to take a look! Mark your calendars, the next total solar eclipse is scheduled for August 23, 2044. What a fun day for our students and staff!



**3rd Grade Visitor** - Singer/songwriter/author Ericka Corban stopped by South Prairie Elementary in April! This was a fun way to connect our students with a professional who is living out her dream! Thanks for stopping at DCG Ericka!

**Eclipse at DCG Middle School** - Our students also got a great look at the Solar Eclipse on April 8! It was a great experience for our students and staff.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL



**Author Visit** - Bestselling author Lindsay Currie stopped by DCG Middle School on Tuesday, April 16 to speak with our students! Lindsay encouraged students to practice their writing and to think of it as a skill instead of a talent. She showed pages from her editor and reminded students not to get discouraged when they have to make many edits and changes. The students asked great questions and had a lot of fun!



**Support for Perry** - DCG CSD continues to stand united with our neighbors in Perry. We hope this banner, signed by students and staff at DCG Middle School showcases the love and support we have for the students and staff in Perry. DCG also hosted a pasta bar for the staff at Perry Elementary on April 5. Our hearts are with you Perry!

# ELEMENTARY

## Advice from an Astronaut -

This was a special treat for all four DCG elementary schools! Astronaut Susan Kilrain is the youngest person to pilot a Space Shuttle and has logged 472 hours in space! During her visit to DCG, Susan showcased the importance of hard work and goal setting. Susan's book "The Unlikely Astronaut" profiles her pursuit of career with NASA and all of the hurdles she overcame before getting into space.

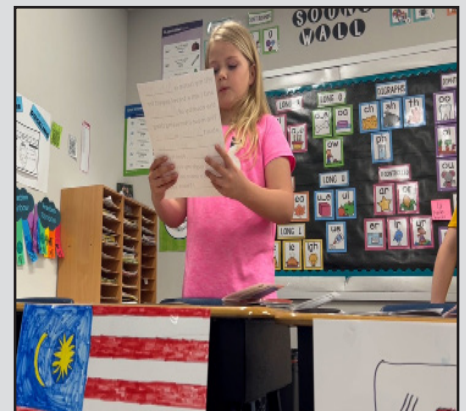


**Art and Science Fair -** What a turnout for the Dallas Center Elementary Art and Science Fair! 42 student exhibits were on display this year, all featuring incredible projects! It's amazing to watch these students pour into a project like this. Thanks to the DCE community for supporting our big ideas!

## Optional Kindergarten

**Chickens -** O/K students at South Prairie had a few visitors last month. Students watched as their eggs hatched and then quickly grew into learning buddies! These baby chicks joined students in math, literacy and independent reading!

**3rd Grade Field Trip -** This is such a special annual tradition for 3rd graders at DCG! Students are making their way out to Kuehn Conservation in Earlham to learn about the habitat, diet and survival of animals found in Iowa. This is a perfect tie to our Environment and Survival Unit in science.



**WaterRocks at DCG Middle School -** It was a fun afternoon of learning for TAG students at DCG Middle School. The WaterRocks! team from Iowa State University stopped by for a day of learning, including a game of habitat hopscotch.

## Second Grade Travel Agents

**at South Prairie -** If you are looking to book a summer vacation, make sure you check with our South Prairie Travel Agents before you hit submit! Our students selected a country and designed key facts and selling points before a big day of presentations! A story is available at [DCGschoools.com](http://DCGschoools.com)!

# ACTIVITIES

## Students of the Term (Term

**3) - Agriculture:** Senior – Stella Shelton, Junior – Allen Huinker, Sophomore – Payton James, Freshmen – Avery Madsen

**Art:** Senior – Will Kline, Junior – Lily Holcomb, Sophomore – Natalie Garland, Freshmen – Maggie Leifker

**Band:** Senior – Willem Bartels, Junior – Alexa Farrell, Sophomore – Logan Halverson, Freshmen – Alix Catron

**Business:** Senior – Hannah Renz, Junior – Johanna Bonefas, Sophomore – Coltyn Nelson, Freshmen – Alayna Boel

**FCS:** Senior – Naomi Mills, Junior – Mara Redenius, Sophomore – Sarah Chittum, Freshmen – Roxy Monner

**French:** Senior – Alaina Ervin, Junior – Vivian Patch-Quates, Sophomore – Liliane Nyagatutsi, Freshmen – Derek Kraft

**Language Arts:** Senior – Gabriel Lee, Junior – Kwamena Soe, Sophomore – Dieudonne Kitumbika, Freshmen – Bronwyn Squires

**Math:** Senior – Rita Iwasa, Junior – Vanessa Donaghy, Sophomore – Logan Anderson, Freshmen – Wyatt Worley

**PE:** Senior – Jenna Kalk, Junior – Aidan Bryan, Sophomore – Aner Music, Freshmen – Isaac Johnson

**Science:** Senior – Jack Kidd, Junior – Finn DeDoncker, Sophomore – Hudson Heidgerken, Freshmen – Charlie Hoakison

**Social Studies:** Senior – Avazbek Erkinov, Junior – Kenny Harman, Sophomore – Hannah Fasse, Freshmen – Cash Ainsworth

**Spanish:** Senior – Nathan Wanat, Junior – Maddy Stevens, Sophomore – Nikki Gerstenberger, Freshmen – Madilyn Brown

**Technology Ed.:** Junior – Ava VanScoy, Sophomore – Emma Askvig, Freshmen – Gabe Russell

**Student Services:** Senior -Jack Every, Senior – Wisley Kabamba, Junior – Darielys Santana, Freshmen – Nathan Macke

**Vocal:** Senior – Jack Tiemeier, Junior – Anna McKernan, Sophomore – Brynn Weydert, Freshmen – Micah Mason



**The DCG Boys and Girls Basketball** programs partnered with The Home Place for our annual Achieve Scrimmages. Both teams were recently recognized by the Iowa High School Athletic Association as Achieve Challenge Service Award Winners! DCG is one of five Iowa high schools to receive this award.

Our activities department received a plaque and a \$500 check that will be given to the Dallas Center-Grimes High School Student Council.



Help us celebrate the **DCG High School Students of the Term (Term 3)**. Names are listed in a column to the left!

Sixteen DCG High School students competed in the **Conference Math Competition** at Simpson College on Tuesday, April 16. Teams of four per grade-level worked to collaboratively solve math problems against other schools in the Little Hawkeye Conference.

We are excited to announce that DCG's freshman team won the competition for their grade-level. Congratulations to Aaron Bonefas, Katelyn Daugherty, Preston Vander Velden and Evan Friesen for bringing home first place!



Both **Oak View Bands, 7th and 8th grade**, received Division I Ratings at our large group contest on April 6 at Knoxville High School. The solo contests at Oak View were a huge success. 63 of 72 soloists received a Division 1 Rating. Congratulations to all of our students who decided to participate in this year's contest.

# ACTIVITIES



## Dissonance Shines at State Jazz Championships -

The DCG Vocal Music department continues to shine! 2024 was their best year yet! DCG finished 2nd place in Class 4A at the Iowa Vocal Jazz Championships (left)! This is the highest honor this group has received in Class 4A. Senior Jack Crilly also received an Outstanding Soloist recognition! A special shout out to Dissonance Director Eric Mohlis for his leadership! Second place in Class 4A is an outstanding accomplishment and deserves to be celebrated! Great job Dissonance! Thanks for paving the way!

Ten DCG Middle School 6th grade students participated in the **Iowa Choral Directors Association's 6th Grade Honor Choir (right)**! These students auditioned and filled out an application to be selected for this honor. Our 6th grade students, alongside 180 students from Des Moines area schools, spent the day rehearsing with Guest Director Cailee Wenger and then performed their selections at a concert in the evening. Congratulations to the following students: Jace Bohnenkamp, Elise Caddell, Emmy Cochran, Zaria Farmer, Abraham Glay, Orlando Jimenez, Benjamin New, Bostyn Swarts, Alexis Werth and Jesse Wilkens.



**DCG Theatre Presents The Addams Family** - Dallas Center-Grimes High School put on an incredible performance in their 2024 Spring Musical "The Addams Family"! The cast and crew put on three shows during late April. "The Addams Family" performance is another example of how talented the DCG Theatre program really is. More than 100 DCG High School students were part of the cast and crew this year!

Pictured below is a shot of several members in "The Addams Family" cast. The photo on the right showcases the incredible set that was designed by our crew. Congratulations to DCG Theatre on another awesome year. You continue to raise the bar for future DCG students!



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**Little Hawkeye Conference Art** - The DCG High School Art Department had 16 talented artists represent DCG at the Little Hawkeye Conference Art Show on April 10. The results were fantastic with almost half of our students being recognized for their efforts.

Claire Boerre: Honorable Mention in Ink - JoElla Duncan: 2nd Place in Wearable Art - Jack Kidd: Honorable Mention in Functional Ceramics - Will Kline: 1st in Oil/Chalk Pastel - Chloe Wanat: Honorable Mention in Sculpture - Elli Sigler: Honorable Mention in Oil/Chalk Pastel - Axel Boerre: 2nd in Functional Ceramics

