



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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August/September 2024

Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

We've made it! The 2024-25 school year is off to a great start at DCG! The Blum household is doing a million things this fall, sometimes all at once, but I'm so fired up to raise my family in this district! Thanks for all of the ways you support DCG!

I was watching my middle son TJ play in his first high school golf meet this fall and a feeling of "new beginnings" was on my mind as we walked the fairways.



Sure, a lot of it was about my son playing in his first high school golf meet. I'm so grateful that all of my children have found ways to connect to their school and their classmates. There are so many opportunities for our students to be involved at DCG.

I'm also thinking about ALL of the people who support these opportunities. From the classroom to the golf course, there are incredible people in our community. Personally and professionally, they are making a difference in my life.

For some of our students, a *new beginning* means a new school building or even a new school district. Our DCG educators are doing an incredible job at making this transition time as smooth and efficient as possible.

A *new beginning* could also mean a new job. You'll read more about our new DCG educators later in this issue. Their passion and excitement inspire me.

No matter how big, or how small your new *beginning* is, please know DCG is ready to walk alongside you. It's an absolute honor to be the superintendent of this incredible district. This is our district's new beginning, and we are ready to do big things!

- **Superintendent Dr. Scott Blum**



CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

- September 2 - No School - Labor Day
- September 4, 11, 18, 25 - Early Dismissal - 12:30 Oak View - 1:00 All Other Buildings
- October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Early Dismissal - 12:30 Oak View - 1:00 All Other Buildings
- October 25 - No School - Teacher Workday

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Home of the Mustangs



www.dcgschools.com

NEW FACES AT DCG

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.

Dr. Pam Dodge, Interim Principal/DCG Middle School

E-mail: pam.dodge@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, Superintendent

E-mail: scott.blum@dcdgschools.com

Telephone Number: (515) 992-3866

Fax Number: (515) 992-3079

2405 W. 1st St., P.O. Box 680

Grimes, Iowa 50111



Dallas Center-Grimes CSD is excited to announce that Deputy MaKennah Walters will be joining DCG as our second School Resource Officer.

Deputy Walters will work primarily out of Oak View but will serve our entire district. She joins Deputy Alan Loutzenhiser on DCG's SRO team. Deputy Loutzenhiser will continue to be stationed at DCG High School.

"After spending several months working as an SRO at Saydel, I am drawn to this position and I can't wait to get started," shares Deputy Walters. "I will strive to make a meaningful difference and have a lasting, positive impact at DCG. I am committed to fostering a safe and secure learning environment where everyone feels protected and empowered"

"Deputy Walters is a home run hire at DCG," shares DCG Superintendent Dr. Scott Blum. "She impressed our entire interview team by showcasing her work ethic and an extreme dedication to making a difference in the lives of everyone in our community."

DCG School Board Update - The next DCG CSD School Board Meeting is set for Monday, September 23 at 5:30. The meeting will be held at the DCG CSD Administration Office. The agenda and live stream link will be posted at DCGSchools.com.

School Picture Days at DCG Dallas Center Elementary

Picture Day - 9/24

Retake - 11/5

Heritage

Picture Day - 10/3

Retake - 11/12

North Ridge

Picture Day - 8/29

Retake - 10/10

South Prairie

Picture Day - 9/5

Retake - 11/12

DCG Middle School - Picture

Day - 9/19 | Retake - 10/31

Oak View - Picture Day - 10/8 | Retake 11/19

DCG High School - Picture Day - 8/29 | Retake 10/8



HIGH SCHOOL

There are several exciting updates to share at Dallas Center-Grimes High School. Our school year is off to a great start and we are thrilled to share this news.

Alternative Ed Program Moves In-House - For the last several years DCG High School students have attended Metro West to learn in an alternative setting. We've moved that program into our building this fall! We will have between 15-20 DCG High School students participating in our alternative education program this year. There's a talented team of educators supporting this program (photo right) and we have transitioned several classrooms on the west side of our campus to make this happen.



Cell Phone Policy - We believe all DCG High School students deserve an opportunity to learn without distraction. In 2024-25 cell phones are only allowed to be used during passing time, lunch and study hall. Through the first few days of school, we believe this new policy is making a significant impact in our building and we are so thankful to have strong community support.

Parking lot/Pick-up - We are trying to find a way to improve the pick-up process at the high school and get the parking lot cleared at the end of the day. We have put up cones to help direct traffic, and we are also collecting some data to see how we can improve this. During this time, we ask for our community's grace as we try new ideas to see how we can improve our pick-up process at DCG High School. We hope these changes will help, but we are limited on what we can do with our current parking lot. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

More Red! - If you've walked around our campus at all during the last few weeks, you've probably noticed a lot more DCG Red. We've worked hard to showcase our school spirit in several new areas. From a defined front entrance sign to an impressive DCG design on the glass hallway, there's a new look at several key places in our building! Take a look next time you're coming to visit!



Homecoming Week at DCG -

Mark your calendars for the week of September 23-28. We will celebrate Homecoming at DCG with several awesome events! The DCG High School Student Council voted on the theme for 2024 - *Under the Sea*.

We will have our annual DCG Homecoming Parade on Thursday, September 26 in Dallas Center, followed by the football game on the 27th and the DCG Homecoming Dance on the 28th. DCG High School will also be celebrated with dress-up days.

Monday: Under the Sea Stars (PJ Day)

Tuesday: Tourist Day

Wednesday: School of Fish (Class Shirt Day)

Thursday: Bikers vs. Surfers

Friday: DCG Pride

Make plans to join us for 2024 DCG Homecoming!!

High School Yearbook Distribution Night:

On Wednesday, September 11th from 3:45-6 p.m., students/parents can come pick up their child's 2023-2024 yearbook. The books will be available for pick-up in Mrs. Soener's room (W-430). Books will not be distributed during advisory as in previous years. We request that people stop at this event to secure their book. Didn't order one and wish you had? Extra books will be available for sale for \$65. Cash or check is accepted.

Old Yearbooks - Looking for an old DCG yearbook? We are having a special sale during the DCG Homecoming Football Game! Look for a table in the DCG High School Commons. Old yearbooks will be \$30 each!

YEARS OF SERVICE

DCG'S NEW TEACHERS

Dallas Center Elementary

Klaire Jungling - Kindergarten
Collin Laughlin - Fourth Grade

Heritage

Amanda Scarboro - Preschool
Autumn Gannon - Preschool
Sydney Wessling - Kindergarten

North Ridge

Brittany Mendlik - Third Grade
Madison Nanke - Fourth Grade
Chloe Nixon - First Grade

South Prairie

Esthela Perez - Kinder.
Paige Carl - Kindergarten

Middle School

Michaela Peters - Fifth Grade
Amy Benjamin - Sixth Grade
Sam Peters - Library
Kyler Olsen - PE
Holly Foarde - Special Ed.
Emily Van Wyk - Special Ed.
Lea Ann DeLeon - Special Ed.

Oak View

Kasey Roberts - Special Ed.
Sarah Rose - Counseling

New Staff: High School

Katy Forsythe - Social Studies
Michael Masteller - Language Arts
Becca Cassel - Vocal Music
Alec Garringer - Band
Angela Lenderts - Special Ed.
Nathan Gross - Counseling
Hayley Kamber - Intervention



5 Years of Service



10 Years of Service

Years of Service at Dallas Center-Grimes CSD - Celebrating staff members reaching years of service milestones at DCG is one of the best parts of the year! Our 2024 recipients are so special! Together, these members have served our district for a combined 675 years! We have a complete list of service awards posted at DCGschoools.com. Your commitment to our students deserves to be celebrated every single day!

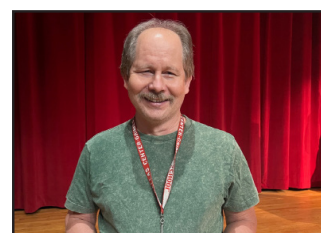


15 Years of Service



20 Years of Service

Years of Service - Our Years of Service Awards were presented at our all-staff celebration before school started. Joe Edmondson, a South Prairie Custodian, was honored for his 30 years of work at DCG! Joe's commitment to DCG is impressive and we are happy to say he received a standing ovation from our entire staff!



30 Years of Service



New Activities Website - There's a new home of DCG Activities online! The DCG Activities Department launched our brand new website this summer - mustangs.dcg-schools.com. This will be your one-stop-shop for schedule updates, team/student features and important information. Visit mustangs.dcg-schools.com (or the QR code left) today for your first look!

DISTRICT UPDATES



DCG's New Teachers - Our new class of teachers gathered for orientation in August! We took a group photo as they kicked off their journey at DCG! Their names are listed on the sidebar of this issue.

DCG's New Teachers

Shared Staff

Avery Nabholz - Music - DCE and Heritage

Hannah Clark - Special Ed. - DCE and Heritage

Mary Hudson-Smith - ESL - DCE and DCG Middle School

Kayla Holland - ESL - DCG High School and Oak View

Cristina Hillmer - TAG - DCE and DCG Middle School

Kerri Parkhill - TAG - South Prairie and Oak View

Erica O'Brien - Intervention - DCE and DCG Middle School

Education Foundation Update

Class of 2025 – August is Back to School month, and for the class of 2025 graduating seniors it's the beginning of your final year of high school! Follow us on social media and or visit our website to learn more about scholarship opportunities and timing! www.dcgeducationfoundation.org



Deputy Loutzenhiser Visits

North Ridge - What a fun way to start the year at NRE. Our kindergarten students spent part of an early guidance lesson with Deputy Alan Loutzenhiser. DCG's SRO discussed his work at DCG and held a question/answer session with our youngest learners!



DCG Partners with Chartwells - DCG CSD has transitioned to Chartwells as our district's food service provider.

About Chartwells - Food is a big part of everyone's well-being, and DCG CSD students need a place to eat where they can connect with others, recharge, and enjoy a sense of happiness in their school. That's why we serve food kids love to eat and create programs that encourage fun and discovery. Our food service team is passionate about using fresh, nutritious, minimally processed and locally sourced ingredients, and we foster a sense of adventure in students through experiential learning activities. Our goal every day is to make sure that DCG students leave the cafeteria happier and healthier!

DCG Menus - Use the QR code (top right) to view the current menus in our cafeteria!



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 supports our students who don't qualify for free and reduced meals but could still use assistance. If you are interested in donating, please visit the DCG School Store via your Infinite Campus Parent Portal. There's also a link to help posted at DCGschoools.com. The DCG Angel Account makes a difference at DCG every single day!

TRANSPORTATION

School buses across the country transport millions of kids every year and are, without question, the safest way to get kids to and from school. We transport more than 1,700 students per day at DCG and our number one priority is "SAFETY". Transporting kids to and from school takes a team effort to be successful. Parents, kids, and the school all need to work together to provide the safest transportation possible. We want all kids to feel physically and mentally safe while on a school bus. 42% of all DCG students ride a school bus every single day. In 2023, the DCG Transportation team drove approximately 500,000 miles! Our commitment is to meet the needs of every student, while doing so in a safe and timely manner!

Parents Responsibilities:

1. Ensure your child arrives at their bus stop safely and on time.
2. During extreme weather, ensure your child boards the bus safely.
3. Review the Bus Rules and Disciplinary Policy with your child (see rules below).

Bus Driver and School Responsibilities:

1. Ensure the school bus is safe to transport students.
2. Ensure buses run on time. Extreme weather may affect bus STOP times.
3. Ensure there is room on each bus to transport students safely.
4. Ensure all students are safely transported to and from school.

Student's Responsibilities:

1. Arrive at the bus STOP on time.
2. Follow ALL of the bus safety rules.
3. Report any problems you are having on the bus to your school bus driver or teacher.

The bottom line is, we want all students to feel safe while on a DCG school bus, both physically safe and mentally safe. Report safety issues to your school bus driver. If issues continue, contact Jeff Wolfe at jeff.wolfe@dcschools.com or 515-986-5173 ext 1.

Bus Video Cameras

The DCG School Board has authorized the use of video cameras on school district buses. The video cameras will be used to monitor student behavior in order to promote and maintain a safe environment. Bus camera videotapes may be used in student disciplinary proceedings. Digital video will be retained, only if necessary, for use in student disciplinary proceedings or other matters as determined by the administration. Parents may request to view video of their child, if the video is used in a disciplinary proceeding involving their child.

School Bus Routes

Regular school bus routes for each building are sent via ParentSquare. Student's school bus stop information is also available via Infinite Campus on the Transportation tab.

If you can not find your school bus stop, please contact the Transportation Office at 515-986-5173 Ext 3.

Specialized transportation and country routes: If you have not heard from your school bus driver, please call the transportation office at 515-986- 5173 ext 3 for more information.



TRANSPORTATION CONT.

School Bus Rules

1. Follow the instructions of the bus driver.
2. While waiting for the bus, stand in an orderly fashion.
3. Do not walk in front of a school bus until your driver gives you a "thumbs up"
4. After entering the bus, go directly to a seat and sit down.
5. Talk quietly with those around you using inside voices.
6. Loud or vulgar language is prohibited.
7. Treat others on school bus with kindness.
8. Remain seated; facing forward while the bus is in motion.
9. If your school bus is equipped with seat belts, students are expected to wear them.
10. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
11. Do not throw objects on the bus.
12. Keep the bus clean.
13. Students must keep sharp objects and feet off the seat. Any damages will be charged to the student.
14. When exiting the school bus, take five steps away from the bus. Do not walk next to or directly in front of a school bus.



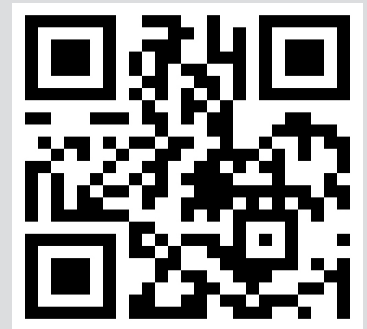
We want your child and every child that rides a DCG school bus to have a pleasant experience on the school bus. Encourage your child to report problems they are having on the school bus to their school bus driver. They can also report the problem to their school teacher, counselor, or principal. We take all reports of problems on the school bus seriously and will be investigated with the intent of correcting the problem.

Dallas Center Fall Festival - We had an awesome time walking in the Dallas Center Fall Festival Parade in August! It's a yearly celebration of our community and we were so excited to see some familiar faces along the parade route! Community support is such an important part of DCG CSD and parades are the perfect showcase! Thanks to the team from Dallas Center for including us and we will look forward to seeing you along the route next year!



PTO News - Welcome to a new school year! The DCG Elementary Schools PTO would like to invite you to join the PTO. Each building has a PTO group that works hard throughout the school year to shower the students and staff with appreciation. From stocking the teachers lounge to helping with teacher grants to social events, there are lots of ways to get involved at the level you feel most comfortable.

To join the PTO go to our website: <https://dcppto.com> and click the "join the PTO" link. Also, please 'Like' your school's PTO page on Facebook for the most current information on upcoming events, ways to get involved, and student resources. For questions, you can also contact your building's president at the email addresses listed below.



The 2024-2025 PTO District Executive Team

Amy Sonntag, Dallas Center Elementary President
Erin Huiatt, Heritage Elementary President
Danielle O'Neill, Interim North Ridge Elementary President
Kim Schaal, South Prairie Elementary President
Beth Hansen, Secretary
Lindsey Weber, Accounts Payable
Jen Ohannessian, Fundraising Chair

FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES



Gilbert at DCG - 8/30
DCG at Newton - 9/6
DCG at Fort Dodge - 9/13
Ballard at DCG - 9/20
CB TJ at DCG - 9/27
DCG at Norwalk - 10/4
Glenwood at DCG - 10/11
DCG at Winterset - 10/18
Lewis Central at DCG - 10/25



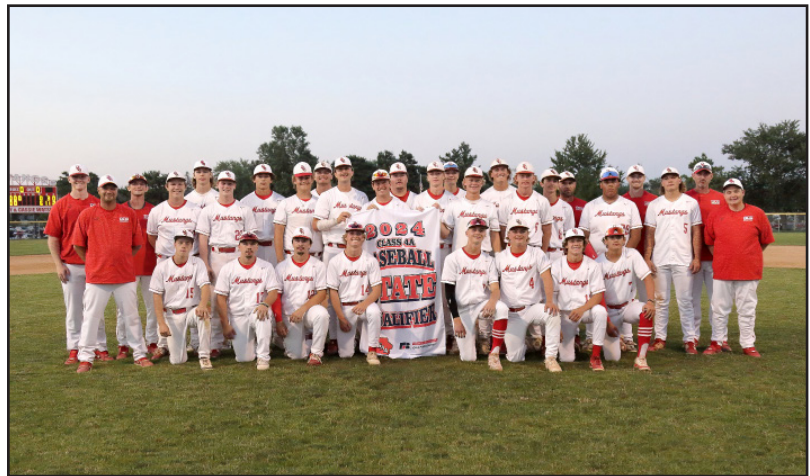
Mustang Invite - 8/27
DCG at Grinnell - 8/31
DCG at Newton - 9/3
DCG at Pella - 9/10
ADM at DCG - 9/12
DCG at SE Polk - 9/14
Oskaloosa at DCG - 9/17
DCG at Benton - 9/21
Indianola at DCG - 9/24
DCG at Nevada - 9/28
DCG at Urbandale - 10/5
Norwalk at DCG - 10/8



Girls Cross Country

DCG at Home - 9/3
DCG at Marshalltown - 9/12
DCG at Ballard - 9/16
DCG at Central College - 9/21
DCG at Lakeside Golf - 10/10
DCG at Newton - 10/9
State Qualifier - 10/23
State Meet - 11/1

ACTIVITIES



Baseball Returns to Class 4A State Tournament - The DCG Baseball team reached the state's biggest stage for the second year in a row! The Mustangs qualified for the Class 4A State Tournament in Cedar Rapids and finished the year with a 35-4 record. DCG captured the 2024 Little Hawkeye Conference Championship, going 17-1 in league play. Nine seniors played a key role on the diamond and we are so thankful for the time and energy they devoted to the program! DCG Junior Tatin Gray hit 13 home runs this year, second most in all of Iowa. Gray led the state in on base percentage, slugging percentage and walks.



DCG Band Preps for 2024-25 - Make plans this fall to check out our Marching Mustangs! These students have been working hard for the last several weeks and will showcase their performance throughout the fall season. Our Marching Mustangs would love to have your support at one (or all) of our home

football games! This is such a talented crew! A special shout out to the entire DCG Instrumental Music Department!

DCG Booster Club - The DCG Booster Club is holding their annual membership drive for the 2024-2025 activity year. We are excited to kick off our fall sports season! We have NEW Membership information and options on our website at www.dcgboosterclub.com and you can do a one time donation or a subscription donation (1 time per month for a year). As a member, you're entitled to a vote at our meetings, receive communications on our meetings and events and MOST IMPORTANTLY support our athletics program for grades 7-12th in the DCG Schools!

We are always looking for new volunteers for both board members and concession stand workers. If you are interested in becoming a board member please reach out and let us know. If you are interested in being a volunteer in the concession stand or learning how to be an overseer please visit www.dcgboosterclub.com/volunteer. JOIN US TODAY!

ACTIVITIES

DCG Softball Returns to State - 13 incredible seniors led the DCG Softball team back to the Class 4A State Tournament in Fort Dodge.

DCG earned the #2 seed in the Class 4A bracket and finished the season with a 32-10 overall record. The Mustangs also shared the Little Hawkeye Conference Championship with Norwalk, finishing 16-2 in league play. In addition to 13 seniors wrapping up their stellar careers, DCG also says goodbye to legendary coach Steve Schlafke.



Coach Schlafke's career spans 48 years, the last 22 coming at DCG! He won 1,379 career games, the fifth most in Iowa history. Coach Schlafke led 15 teams to the state tournament, including his 2024 squad. He led three teams to a state softball championship and finished runner-up three times as well! Schlafke was inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2019. Congratulations Coach Schlafke! Thanks for making an impact at DCG!



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Leaving a Legacy - DCG Activities Director Brent Buttjer Announces Retirement After 2024-25 School Year

For 33 years (5+ at DCG) Brent Buttjer has been a devoted partner to the work of activities and athletics at the high school level. Buttjer's longevity in the profession is a credit to his passion and dedication to the position. The 2024-25 school year will be Buttjer's final year as DCG CSD's Activity Director.



"The decision to become an activities director was easy," Buttjer says. "It was my way to build a connection with young people and hopefully provide a memorable experience for them as they navigated their way through high school. It's now time to reconnect with my own family and give them the attention they deserve on a more regular basis." Buttjer will continue his work as DCG Activities Director through June 30, 2025.

The district intends to begin searching for his replacement this fall. Thanks for everything Brent! We appreciate you!

FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES



Boys Cross Country

DCG at DMACC - 8/27
DCG at Home - 9/3
DCG at Marshalltown - 9/12
DCG at Ballard - 9/16
DCG at Valley Southwoods - 9/17
DCG at Central College - 9/21
DCG at Lakeside Golf - 10/10
DCG at Newton - 10/14
State Qualifier - 10/23
State Meet - 11/1

Boys Golf Schedule - The DCG Boys Golf team started their season on August 19. They also played at Jester Park on August 26. The state golf meet will be held on October 14 and 15.

Dance Team Success - Three DCG Dancers are receiving national recognition! Pictured below (left to right - Katie Howard, Madison Roberts and Jordyn Green) are 2024 NDA All-Americans. This honor allows the trio to travel with fellow all-americans around the US and perform at events like the Citrus Bowl and Walt Disney World. Check out our DCG Dancers at a performance this year!



ANNUAL AND SPECIAL NOTIFICATIONS

No Tobacco Use

Tobacco use is prohibited in all district facilities, on school grounds, and in school vehicles.

DCG policy states, "All school district facilities and property, including school buildings, vehicles and land shall be off limits for tobacco use."

The policy continues to state, "This requirement extends to employees, visitors, and students. This policy applies at all times, including school sponsored and non-school sponsored events. Persons failing to abide by this request shall be required to extinguish their smoking material or leave the school district premises immediately and/or be reported to appropriate authorities."

Patrons are asked to abstain from tobacco use on school property. This includes all school activities regardless of the location. We thank you for your continued cooperation.

Student Surveys

Senate File 496 outlines the procedures for administering surveys in a school setting. School districts are prohibited from administering or conducting an invasive physical examination of a student, a student health screening that is not required by state or federal law, or a formal examination or survey of a student that is designed to assess the student's mental, emotional, or physical health that is not required by state or federal law, without first acquiring the written consent of the student's parent or guardian.

The board of directors of a school district must receive the prior written consent of a student's parent or guardian before requiring a student to take part in any survey, analysis, activity or evaluation that reveals information concerning any of the following about the student or the student's family, whether the information is personally identifiable or not:

- a. The political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent or guardian.
- b. Mental or psychological problems of the students or the student's family.
- c. Sexual behavior, orientation, or attitudes.
- d. Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior
- e. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has close familial relationships.
- f. Legally recognized privilege or analogous relationships, such as those of attorneys, physicians, or ministers.
- g. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent or guardian.
- h. Income, except when required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program.

An employee of a school district, or a contractor engaged by a school district shall not answer any question pertaining to any student related to the social or emotional abilities, competencies, or characteristics of the student, unless the board of directors satisfies all of the following requirements:

- a. Parents and guardians are provided detailed information related to the survey.
- b. District received written consent from a student's parent or guardian authorizing the employee to answer questions in the

survey pertaining to the student.

c. This section does not prohibit an employee or a contractor engaged by a school district from answering questions pertaining to any particular student enrolled in the school district as part of the process of developing or implementing an individualized education program for each student.

Each district will give written notice to a student's parent or guardian of an examination or survey of the student required by state or federal law that is designed to assess the student's mental, emotional, or physical health not less than seven days prior to the examination of the survey.

The notice shall include a copy of the examination or survey or a link to an internet site where the parent or guardian may access the examination or survey. This does not apply to a hearing or vision examination.

Anti-Harassment and Anti-Bullying Policies Code 105

The Dallas Center-Grimes School District is committed to providing all students with a safe and civil school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect. Bullying and/or harassment of or by students, staff, and volunteers is against federal, state, and local policy and is not tolerated by the board. Bullying and/or harassing behavior can seriously disrupt the ability of school employees to maintain a safe and civil environment, and the ability of students to learn and succeed. Therefore, it is the policy of the state and the school district that school employees, volunteers, and students shall not engage in bullying or harassing behavior in school, on school property, or at any school function or school-sponsored activity, and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school or District.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the defined words shall have the following meaning:

- "Electronic" means any communication involving the transmission of information by wire, radio, optic cable, electromagnetic, or other similar means. "Electronic" includes but is not limited to communication via electronic mail, Internet-based communications, pager service, cell phones, and electronic text messaging.
- "Harassment" and "bullying" shall mean any electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or conduct toward a student based on the individual's actual or perceived age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status, and which creates an objectively hostile school environment that meets one or more of the following conditions:
 1. Places the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property.
 2. Has a substantial detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health.
 3. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's academic performance.

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4. Has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

• "Trait or characteristic of the student" includes but is not limited to age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status.

• "Volunteer" means an individual who has regular, significant contact with students.

Filing a Complaint

A Complainant who wishes to avail himself/herself of this procedure may do so by filing a complaint with the superintendent or superintendent's designee. An alternate will be designated in the event it is claimed that the superintendent or superintendent's designee committed the alleged discrimination or some other conflict of interest exists. Complaints shall be filed within 30 days of the event giving rise to the complaint or from the date the Complainant could reasonably become aware of such occurrence. The Complainant will state the nature of the complaint and the remedy requested. The Complainant shall receive assistance as needed. School employees, volunteers, and students shall not engage in reprisal, retaliation, or false accusation against a victim, witness, or an individual who has reliable information about an act of bullying or harassment.

Investigation

The school district will promptly and reasonably investigate allegations of bullying or harassment. The building principal or person(s) designated by the principal (hereinafter "Investigator") will be responsible for handling all complaints alleging bullying or harassment. The Investigator shall consider the totality of circumstances presented in determining whether conduct objectively constitutes bullying or harassment. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall also be responsible for developing procedures regarding this policy.

Decision

If, after an investigation, a student is found to be in violation of this policy, the student shall be disciplined by appropriate measures, which may include suspension and expulsion. If after an investigation a school employee is found to be in violation of this policy, the employee shall be disciplined by appropriate measures, which may include termination. If after an investigation a school volunteer is found to be in violation of this policy, the volunteer shall be subject to appropriate measures, which may include exclusion from school grounds.

A school employee, volunteer, or student, or a student's parent or guardian who promptly, reasonably, and in good faith reports an incident of bullying or harassment, in compliance with the procedures in the policy adopted pursuant to this section, to the appropriate school official designated by the school district, shall be immune from civil or criminal liability relating to such report and to participation in any administrative or judicial proceeding resulting from or relating to the report. Individuals who knowingly file false bullying or harassment complaints and any person who gives false statements in

an investigation may be subject to discipline by appropriate measures, as shall any person who is found to have retaliated against another in violation of this policy. Any student found to have retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, suspension and expulsion. Any school employee found to have retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, termination of employment. Any school volunteer found to have retaliated in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, exclusion from school grounds.

Student Records

Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District maintains records on each student in order to facilitate the instruction, guidance and educational progress of the student. The records contain information about the student and his or her education and may include, but are not limited to, the following types of records: identification data, attendance data, record of achievement, family background data, aptitude tests, educational and vocational plans, honors and activities, discipline data, objective counselor or teacher ratings, and observations and external agency reports.

The records of each student are generally located in the school in which he or she is attending. The person in charge of record maintenance for each school building will note in the student's other records any exception. The name and position of the person responsible for maintenance of student records for each school building is listed:

Dallas Center Elementary - Debra Cale/Principal

Heritage Elementary - Diann Williamson/Principal

North Ridge Elementary - April Heitland/Principal

South Prairie Elementary - Patty Morris/Principal

Dallas Center-Grimes Middle School - Dr. Pam Dodge/Interim Principal

Oak View - Joan Cundiff/Principal

Dallas Center-Grimes High School - Travis Donahue/Principal

The following persons, agencies and organizations may have restricted access to student records without prior written consent of the parent or student over the age of 18 years. Any other access to student records shall be only upon written consent or upon court order or legally issued subpoena.

- to school officials within the school district and AEA personnel whom the superintendent has determined to have a legitimate educational interest, including, but not limited to, board members, employees, school attorney, auditor, health professionals, and individuals serving on official school committees;
- to officials of another school district in which the student wishes to enroll, provided the other school district notifies the parents the student records are being sent and the parents have an opportunity to receive a copy of the records and challenge the contents of the records unless the annual includes a provision that records will automatically be transferred to new school districts;

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Notification includes a provision that records will automatically be transferred to new school districts;

- To the U.S. Comptroller General, the U.S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education or state and local educational authorities;
- In connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received if the information is necessary to receive the financial aid;
- to organizations conducting educational studies and the study does not release personally identifiable information; to accrediting organizations;
- To parents of a dependent student as defined in the Internal Revenue Code;
- To comply with a court order or judicially issued subpoena (consistent with an inter-agency agreement between the school district and juvenile justice agencies);
- In connection with a health or safety emergency; or, as directory information.

Student records are reviewed and inappropriate material destroyed periodically and, at a minimum, whenever a student moves from the elementary level to the middle school level, from middle school level to the high school level, and when a student transfers out of the district. Those records not of permanent importance are destroyed within three years after graduation or discontinued attendance.

The parents of disabled students, or disabled students over age 18, will be informed when personally identifiable information in the records is no longer needed to provide educational services, and before the information is destroyed. Parents of students under age 18, or over 18 if still claimed as a dependent, and students over age 18 may exercise the opportunity to review educational records of the student, to obtain copies of the records, to write a response to material in the record, to challenge the content of the record on grounds of inappropriateness, inaccuracy or an invasion of privacy, and to have the records explained.

The procedure to be followed in exercising any of the rights under school policies or files may be obtained from any of the aforementioned persons responsible for maintaining student records.

Students and parents may file with the Department of Education, complaints concerning alleged failures of the school district to comply with federal legislation dealing with student records. Correspondence should be addressed to: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Office, Department of Education, Switzer Building, 330 C Street SW., Washington, D.C. 20201.

If you are the parent or legal guardian of a student, you have the right to (1) inspect and review your child's educational records; (2) ask for an explanation of any item in the records; (3) have copies made at a reasonable cost; (4) be informed of types and locations of records being collected or used by the agency; (5) ask for the amendment of any record if you feel it is inaccurate, misleading or violates privacy rights; (6) a records hearing if the agency does not make the requested amendment; (7) give or withhold consent to disclose your child's records; (8) be told to whom information has been disclosed.

Asbestos Notification

Asbestos has been an issue of national concern for many years. The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986 (AHERA) was designed to determine the extent of asbestos concerns in the schools and to act as a guide in formulating asbestos management policies for the schools.

The school district facilities have been inspected by a certified asbestos inspector as required by AHERA. The inspector located, sampled and determined the condition and hazard potential of all material in the school facilities suspected of containing asbestos.

The inspection and laboratory analysis records form the basis of the asbestos management plan. Ultimately, though, starting with the 2004-05 school year, all DCG students attended classes and activities in facilities that are certified as asbestos free. A certified management planner has developed an asbestos management plan for the school district facilities which includes: notification letters, training for employees, a set of procedures designed to minimize the disturbance of asbestos-containing materials, and plans for regular surveillance of the materials. A copy of the management plan is available for inspection in the district office at: 2405 W. 1st Street, Grimes, IA 50111.

Homeless Children and Youth Publication

In accordance with 281 IAC Chapter 33, Iowa Administrative Code, the Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District is required to give written notice to homeless children and families if the district is going to deny access to their educational programs. Homeless children and families may obtain free legal services by contacting:

Legal Aid Society of Polk County 1111 9th Street – 3rd Floor
Des Moines, IA 50314 - Phone: (515) 243-1193

In accordance with Chapter 33, Iowa Administrative Code, the Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District encourages homeless children and youth to enroll in school. Roxanne Cummings, Director of Student Services, is the identified homeless education liaison. She can be contacted at 515-992-3866.

"Homeless child or youth" is defined as a child or youth from the age of 3 years through 21 years who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes the following:

1. A child or youth who is sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; is living in a motel, hotel, trailer park, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; is living in an emergency or transitional shelter; is abandoned in a hospital; or is awaiting foster care placement;
2. A child or youth who has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
3. A child or youth who is living in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting; or
4. A migratory child or youth who qualifies as homeless because the child or youth is living in circumstances described in paragraphs "1" through "3" above.

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Private Instruction (Home School) Students Publication

Private Instruction applies to students between the ages of 6 and 16 (by September 15th) that are using a plan and a course of study in a setting other than a public or organized accredited nonpublic school. It includes competent private instruction (CPI) by a licensed practitioner or a non-licensed person, independent private instruction (IPI), home school assistance programs (HSAP), and non-accredited nonpublic schools. Dallas Center –Grimes does not have a home school assistance program (HSAP.) If you have questions on the options, need help on the forms, or assistance with this information, please contact Deanna Sandegren at 515-992-3866 or go to <https://www.educateiowa.gov/> and search for Private Instruction. Families that are participating in CPI are required to file CPI forms with the district by September 1st of each school year. Only CPI students may dual enroll with the district for the purposes of state testing or participation in academic or extra-curricular activities.

CPI students that do not have an Iowa certified teacher assisting with their educational program, must take an annual assessment. The annual assessment can either be a standardized test or portfolio as a baseline as well as annually. Parents may choose to dual enroll for testing purposes and DCG will administer the tests if parents wish to use these services. If a portfolio review is chosen, the parent is responsible for finding a portfolio evaluator that is a certified, licensed teacher in the state of Iowa.

Families who are participating in IPI are requested to communicate the names of the students to central office.

Open Enrollment Notification Publication

Open Enrollment is the process by which parents/guardians residing in an Iowa district may enroll their children into another Iowa school district under the terms and conditions of Iowa Code section 282.18 and 281–Iowa Administrative Code 17. House File (HF) 2589 eliminates the previous March 1 deadline for open enrollment. This change allows parents/guardians to apply for open enrollment at any time without the need for good cause. The receiving district may deny an open enrollment request if one of the following applies:

- The application violates the district's insufficient classroom space policy,
- The district does not have the appropriate special education program,
- The application would adversely affect the district's implementation of a court-ordered desegregation plan, or
- The student has been expelled or suspended.

Equal Educational Opportunity

Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District does not discriminate in its education programs or educational activities on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, marital status, socioeconomic status, or abilities/disabilities in its education programs, activities or employment policies as required by Title VI and Title XII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendment, Federal Rehabilitation Act

of 1973, and the Iowa Code #216.9. Students are educated in programs which foster knowledge of, and respect and appreciation for, the historical and contemporary contributions of diverse cultural groups, as well as men and women, to society. Students who feel they have been discriminated against are encouraged to report it to the school district Affirmative Action Coordinator, Roxanne Cumings at roxanne.cumings@DCG-schools.com. Inquiries may also be directed in writing to the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, IA, 50319-0201, (515) 281-4121; or the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 500 West Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661

Fees

The district charges fees for certain items, such as textbook rental, and other items in accordance with state law and guidance from the Iowa Department of Education. Students whose families meet the income guidelines for free and reduced price meal, the Family Investment Program (FIP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), transportation assistance under open enrollment, or who are in foster care are eligible to have their student fees waived or partially waived. Students whose families are experiencing a temporary financial difficulty may be eligible for a temporary waiver of student fees. Parents or students who believe they may qualify for fee waivers can pick up waiver forms in any school office or can be downloaded from the school's website. This waiver does not carry over from year to year and must be completed annually.

Military Recruiter Access

Under federal law, DCG must provide military recruiters your child's name, address and telephone number, without your prior or written consent. Parents of secondary school students have a right to request that their child's name, address and telephone number not be released to a military recruiter. Parents/Guardians may request that information not be provided by completing the form that can be found on the school's website, www.dcgschools.com or by calling 515-992-3866. Please return the form to the Superintendent's Office, 2405 West 1st Street, PO Box 680, Grimes Iowa 50111.

Release for Student Information

Student directory information is designed to be used internally within the school district to assist certified personnel.

The principal or person in charge of each attendance center may release the following types of information to the public, where appropriate, keeping in mind the privacy of the student and the student's family and the totality of the surrounding circumstances:

- Student's name
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Photograph
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level

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The most recent educational agency or institution attended. If you choose not to allow any information to be released, please complete the appropriate form and send it to Superintendent's Office, 2405 West 1st St., PO Box 680, Grimes, IA 50111. The form can be accessed on the school's website, www.dcgsschools.com, or by calling 515.992.3866. Please understand that by completing and signing this form, no information can be released, including athletic or music programs, plays, the district newsletter, etc. Release of information on the district's website does not allow for the identification of individual students' contact information.

Level 1 Investigator: Abuse

In compliance with the child abuse policy passed by the State Board of Education, the Dallas Center-Grimes Schools designate the following as investigators of physical and sexual abuse of students by school employees:

Level I Investigators for Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District are:

Primary Investigator: Dr. Greg Carezza, 515-992-3866

Alternate Investigator: Mrs. Shana Olson 515-992-3866

Level II Investigators will be an official(s) from outside the district's regular staff. The primary investigator will examine reported incidents of physical and sexual abuse of students by school employees. She/he will review all allegations and determine whether a Level Two referral is warranted. The investigator must notify local law enforcement authorities in cases of proven serious physical and sexual abuse.

The investigator must also give a copy of the report to the employee's superintendent. All proven cases of abuse by certified employees will be reported to the Iowa Professional Teaching Practices Commission. Counseling services for the student will be arranged upon request from the parents or student.

Communicable and Infectious Diseases

Students who have an infectious or communicable disease are allowed to attend school as long as they are able to do so and their presence does not pose an unreasonable risk of harm to themselves or does not create a substantial risk of illness or transmission to other students or employees. If there is a question about whether a student should continue to attend classes, the student shall not attend class or participate in school activities without their personal physician's approval. Infectious or communicable diseases include, but are not limited to, mumps, measles and chicken pox.

Free and Reduced Lunch/Breakfast

Families that meet federal guidelines can qualify for free or reduced breakfast or lunch. Forms to make application for free or reduced lunches may be picked up in any one of our school offices or can be downloaded from the school's website. These forms must be completed annually. These can also be completed on the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

Iowa Sex Offender Registry Publication

Many communities in Iowa, including Dallas Center and Grimes,

have residents living in the community that are on the Iowa Sex Offender Registry. We are aware of residents living in Grimes and in Dallas Center that are on the sex offender register, although we no longer receive any official notification. We want to make you aware of the situation so you can discuss it with your child(ren).

The sex offender register is available Online at <http://www.iowasexoffender.com/>. Parents are encouraged to be aware of this information by accessing this website. If you do not have access to the Internet, or need assistance in accessing this information, please contact 992-3866. If you are unable to access this information, we will provide the information verbally or send copies of the information in the mail.

Please be aware that this notification is to serve only as a means for the public to protect themselves. Any action taken by anyone against these individuals, including vandalism of property, verbal or written threat of physical harm, or physical assault against these individuals or their family can result in arrest and prosecution.

Corporal Punishment, Restraint, and Physical Confinement and Detention

State law forbids schools employees from using corporal punishment against any student. Certain actions by school employees are not considered corporal punishment. Additionally, school employees may use "reasonable and necessary force, not designed or intended to cause pain" to do certain things, such as prevent harm to persons or property.

State law also places limits school employees' abilities to restrain or confine and detain any student. The law limits why, how, where, and for how long a school employee may restrain or confine and detain a child. If a child is restrained or confined and detained, the school must maintain documentation and must provide certain types of notice to the child's parent.

If you have any questions about this state law, please contact your school. The complete text of the law and additional information is available on the Iowa Department of Education's Web site: www.iowa.gov/educate.

Student Lockers and Desks

Student lockers and desks are the property of the school. As such, they should not be considered private or confidential. Locker/desk inspections without prior notice may be conducted periodically throughout the school year and when conducted, the students will be present for the inspection. Student lockers/desks may also be searched in compliance with the board policy that regulates search and seizure.

Senior Year Plus

Through Senior Year Plus (SYP), school districts are provided with a variety of options to enhance students' high school experience. Enacted by the legislature in 2008, SYP was created to provide increased and more equal access to college credit and advanced placement courses. Courses delivered through SYP provide students the opportunity to take a rigorous college curriculum and receive, in many cases, both high school and college credit concurrently.

ANNUAL AND SPECIAL NOTIFICATIONS

SYP includes: Postsecondary Enrollment Option (PSEO), courses delivered through sharing agreements between community colleges DCG (concurrent enrollment), enrollment in college courses independently as a tuition-paying student, and Advanced Placement courses. It is important to note that students must demonstrate proficiency on the Iowa Assessments in reading, mathematics, and science to participate in SYP programming (with the exception of CTE courses.)

Human Growth and Development

The school district provides students with instruction in human growth and development. Parents may review the human growth and development curriculum prior to its use and have their child excused from human growth and development instruction. Parents should contact the principal if they wish to review the curriculum or to excuse their child from human growth and development instruction.

Board Support of Discipline Procedures

The Board of Directors of the Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District hereby confirms its intent to support the school discipline policy, to support staff that enforces the discipline policy, and to hold staff accountable for enforcing the discipline policy.

Health Records and Finding Medical Help Publication

In keeping adequate health histories, we are better able to evaluate, understand, and be responsive to your child's individual needs. Please contact the school nurse regarding any developments concerning your child's health. This would include hospitalizations, all medications (type, amount and time given), fractures, all recent diagnoses of medical conditions and any other medical information that would be pertinent to the student's performance and attendance.

If you are a new resident and do not have a doctor or dentist, you may call the Polk County Medical Society (288-0172) or the school nurse who will be glad to give you assistance.

Identification of Gifted and Talented Students

The district has an approved process for identifying students to receive services in the gifted and talented program. Part of the identification process allows parents to nominate their child for this program. If you would like additional information about the gifted and talented selection process, or would like to nominate your child, please contact your building principal or talented and gifted instructor of your school.

Notice to Parents Regarding Teacher Qualifications

Parents/Guardians in the Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District have the right to learn about the following qualifications of their child's teacher: whether the teacher has met state licensing criteria for the grade level(s) and subject area(s) taught; whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or provisional status through which state licensing criteria have been waived; the undergraduate degree major of the teacher, and any graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, including the field of discipline of the certification or degree; if your child is provided services by paraprofessionals, their qualifications. Parents/Guardians may request this information from the Office of the Superintendent by calling 515-992-3866 or sending a letter of request to the Office of the Superintendent, 2405 W. 1st Street, PO Box 680, Grimes, Iowa 50111.

Early Graduation

Students may graduate early if the course work required for graduation under board policy "Graduation Requirements" has been fulfilled. Students interested in graduating early should contact the high school guidance counselor for an application form and details. Please refer to Board Policy 505.1. Students who graduate early cannot participate in any of the school activities, except for prom and commencement.

Healthy Kids Act

In May of 2008, Governor Culver signed the Healthy Kids Act. This act has three major parts: nutrition guidelines, CPR education and physical activity. Nutrition guidelines go into effect July 2012 and changes have been made in the vending machines and in the breakfast and lunch programs. All students are required to take a course leading to certification of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). DCG has integrated this training into the Health class, with CPR being taught to all freshmen and seniors that have not taken the training at this time. The final area is physical activity. All physically able students in grades K-5 are required to engage in physical activity for a minimum of thirty minutes per day. This requirement will be met with recess and PE. All physically able students in grades six through twelve shall be required to engage in a physical activity for a minimum of one hundred twenty minutes per week. This requirement can be met through PE and school sponsored activities that involve physical activity, as well as non-school sponsored activities, including a home exercise program. All students in grades 6-12 are required to complete a physical activity contract and return to the school stating other activities in which the student is involved.

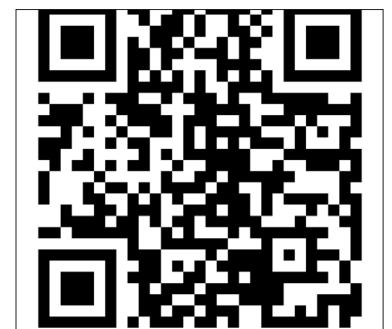
Vaccines

According to Iowa law, parents must be permitted to submit a religious or medical exemption for their child to attend school and/or daycare centers if their child is not fully up-to-date on their vaccinations. There are many reasons, including religious and medical, that may cause parents to decide not to follow the recommended CDC childhood vaccination schedule.

Iowa Code, Chapter 139a.8(6) and Iowa Administrative Code, 641-7.7(139) outlines the immunization requirement for Iowa children attending licensed childcare centers and/or elementary or secondary schools. This code states students shall submit one of the following: Iowa Department of Public Health Certificate of Immunization, Certificate of Immunization Exemption – Religious Exemption, or Certificate of Immunization Exemption – Medical Exemption.

Annual Notices

All DCG CSD annual notices are available online. Please use the QR code right to view.



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

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www.dcgschools.com

Team DCG - We are excited to showcase Team DCG for the 2024-25 school year! This is a team of 560 dedicated and driven professionals who show up every single day ready to serve our students! We took our annual staff photo on the football field following our all-staff meeting on Tuesday, August 20. Team DCG is ready to rock in 2024-25. Thanks for supporting this incredible group!

