# Dallas Center-Grimes Community School Mustang Monthly 

## "Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Futures"

## Iowa Assessments

During the month of February, Dallas Center-Grimes students in grades 3 through 11 take the Iowa Assessments (formerly known as the ITBS or ITEDS). These tests will be given in the morning starting at 8:30 a.m.

The main purposes of the Iowa Assessments are to provide the school with information that can be used to improve instruction and to help teachers make sound educational decisions about each student's learning. The scores allow teachers to check each student's year-to-year growth and to identify some of each student's strong areas of achievement and needed areas of improvement. Results from the Iowa Assessments will arrive in April.

Students should be encouraged to do their best on the Iowa Assessments, as they should for all of their school activities. During the week of testing, make sure your student gets as much sleep each night as they normally get on a school night, so they arrive at school ready to put forth their best effort.

## TEST TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Put The Test In Perspective - Tell your student that the test is just one of many ways that the school evaluates student progress.
- Reassure Your Student - Pre-test jitters are normal. They get the adrenaline flowing. Everyone gets a little nervous before a test.
- Tell Your Child What To Expect - Explain that even though some questions will be difficult and they won't know all the answers, it's important not to leave an answer blank. It's better to take your best guess rather than leave a question blank.
- Give Them A Head Start - Help your student start test day well rested and with a healthy breakfast.
- A Positive Attitude Is Contagious - Let your student know that you believe they will do their best. Keep the morning before the test as stress-free as possible. Help them get to school on time.

A more detailed description of the tests from the University of Iowa can be found online at http://itp.education.uiowa.edu/IA/TestDescriptions.aspx.

## Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

## Benefits include:

- \$21.63-\$24.39 per hour
- Paid personal, holidays, \& sick leave
- 15 hrs per week

- IPERS retirement
- Excellent facilities and equipment
- Optional field \& activity trips available


## Applicants must:

- Have or be able to obtain a Class B CDL.
- CDL training is available for good applicants.
- Have experience working with children.
- And most importantly have a strong passion for kids.

Contact Jeff Wolfe, 515-986-5173 Ext 1
Email: jeff.wolfe@dcgschools.com
Apply online at:
www.dcgschools.com \& select the EMPLOYMENT tab
EEOC Employer

## School Schedule at a Glance

Wednesday, February 10 - 1:00 p.m. Early Dismissal for Staff Professional Development
Friday, February 19 - No School for Staff Professional Development

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## SchoolMessenger Notification Service

The Dallas Center-Grimes School District is using SchoolMessenger as its Parent Notification system, a leading provider of notification services for parent outreach, emergency broadcasts, and other communications for education.

The SchoolMessenger system is designed to automatically notify parents for reasons that impact the safety and academic performance of students. SchoolMessenger will allow us to enhance our communication with additional features, such as text messages and individual parent control of who receives messages and how they are received.

## District Celebrations

At the beginning of the year we had an all staff training day, and staff had the opportunity to share celebrations of the Dallas Center - Grimes School District. Throughout the year, we will be sharing these with you as well, scattered throughout the pages in the Mustang Monthly.

## Student Assistance Program 515.244.6090

Family issues? Personal relationships creating stress? Financial problems? Stressed about choosing a college or your future after high school? Anything? Students can access the counselors at the Student Assistance program 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. This is a confidential service that is offered at no cost to the student or the family.

## Iowa Sex Offender Registry

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 are 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.

## Nondiscrimination Statement

Students, parents, employees and others doing business with or performing services for the Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District are hereby notified that this school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), or socio-economic status (for programs) in admission or access to, or treatment in, its programs and activities or hiring and employment practices. Any person having inquiries concerning the school district's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), $\$ 504$ or Iowa Code $\$ 280.3$ is directed to contact: Mitzi Chizek, 1414 Walnut St. Suite 200, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063, telephone: 515-992-3866, who has been designated by the school district to coordinate the school district's efforts to comply with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the ADA, $\$ 504$ and Iowa Code $\$ 280.3$.

## Annual Progress Report

Each district in the state of lowa collects various data on their students performance. Last month, reading and writing were shared. This month, the Iowa Assessment proficiencies over the last several years are shared for Social Studies. These assessments assess some knowledge while much of the test is interpreting graphs, charts, cartoons, etc. or inferring and predicting events based on reading passages.

Iowa Assessment Social Studies

|  | $3^{\text {rd }}$ | $4^{\text {th }}$ | $5^{\text {th }}$ | $6^{\text {th }}$ | $7^{\text {th }}$ | $8^{\text {th }}$ | $9^{\text {th }}$ | $10^{\text {th }}$ | $11^{\text {th }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $2002-03$ | $88.9 \%$ | $91.0 \%$ | $81.8 \%$ | $84.6 \%$ | $77.6 \%$ | $84.8 \%$ | $83.2 \%$ | Not <br> Tested | $88.1 \%$ |
| $2003-04$ | $81.2 \%$ | $93.7 \%$ | $82.2 \%$ | $80.7 \%$ | $82.6 \%$ | $79.3 \%$ | $83.5 \%$ | $82.0 \%$ | $83.5 \%$ |
| $2004-05$ | $80.7 \%$ | $95.7 \%$ | $85.8 \%$ | $82.3 \%$ | $75.8 \%$ | $82.1 \%$ | $79.8 \%$ | $79.6 \%$ | $89.5 \%$ |
| $2005-06$ | $83.3 \%$ | $89.5 \%$ | $86.7 \%$ | $89.1 \%$ | $84.1 \%$ | $79.5 \%$ | $86.4 \%$ | $77.6 \%$ | $86.8 \%$ |
| $2006-07$ | $89.3 \%$ | $92.4 \%$ | $86.5 \%$ | $81.9 \%$ | $81.0 \%$ | $76.8 \%$ | $86.2 \%$ | $77.3 \%$ | $85.2 \%$ |
| $2007-08$ | $83.8 \%$ | $92.0 \%$ | $93.3 \%$ | $85.9 \%$ | $83.7 \%$ | $90.0 \%$ | $75.8 \%$ | $73.1 \%$ | $83.6 \%$ |
| $2008-09$ | $92.8 \%$ | $90.1 \%$ | $91.6 \%$ | $83.9 \%$ | $82.4 \%$ | $81.6 \%$ | $76.2 \%$ | $72.8 \%$ | $68.5 \%$ |
| $2009-10$ | $90.3 \%$ | $90.9 \%$ | $94.8 \%$ | $84.6 \%$ | $89.8 \%$ | $89.5 \%$ | $84.6 \%$ | $84.1 \%$ | $81.3 \%$ |
| $2010-11$ | Not | Not | Not | Not | Not | Not | Not | Not <br> Tested | Tested |
| Tested | Tested | Tested | Tested | Tested | Tested | Not |  |  |  |
| $2011-12$ | $90.3 \%$ | $95.1 \%$ | $88.6 \%$ | $86.0 \%$ | $87.2 \%$ | $86.3 \%$ | $94.4 \%$ | $93 \%$ | $91.9 \%$ |
| $2012-13$ | $88.5 \%$ | $92.7 \%$ | $88.7 \%$ | $81.2 \%$ | $87.2 \%$ | $74.7 \%$ | $94.6 \%$ | $93.7 \%$ | $93.7 \%$ |
| $2013-14$ | $91.8 \%$ | $92.2 \%$ | $83.5 \%$ | $75.0 \%$ | $80.1 \%$ | $80.2 \%$ | $92.0 \%$ | $94.6 \%$ | $88.6 \%$ |
| $2014-15$ | $92.0 \%$ | $90.4 \%$ | $86.4 \%$ | $81.9 \%$ | $84.7 \%$ | $73.1 \%$ | $93.6 \%$ | $91.4 \%$ | $86.7 \%$ |

## 2015-2016 Drivers Education for Dallas-Center Grimes

 High School and MeadowsWe will continue to offer four sessions of driver's education each year, if we have enough interest. The cost at the present time is $\$ 320$ for each session. Fees for out of district students are $\$ 375$. Students must be at least 14 years old and have a permit to sign up, as well as a signed parent permission slip. Students in grades 8-12 may sign up for each session. Usually the fall and spring sessions are the busiest. Please call the Meadows school office at 986-0105 to sign up your child for any of these programs. All payments and permission slips should be made or turned in before the first classroom. Payment plans may be arranged with the office. The winter session is already underway. Below you will find information about the upcoming spring and summer sessions.

Spring Session 2016---The spring program will begin after spring break and end in May. There will be a meeting before spring break to hand out information and collect payment. Classroom days are Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 6:45 to 8:00 a.m. Most students will drive during their study hall times. If this can't be worked out, before or after school driving may be arranged. All students who drive during study halls will drive at least once on Saturday for 2 hours in downtown Des Moines. Shuttle bus service from Dallas Center will also be available in the morning to bring students in early for classroom work. Class size is limited to 40 students. Home school students are welcome. Classrooms will be held in the Meadows Media Center.

Summer Session 2016---Our summer program is held during the months of June and July. Class time will begin Monday, June 6 and end on Friday, June 24. Classes will be every day for the
 first three weeks from 7:00-9:00 a.m. Driving times will be (6) twohour periods with a driving partner. (Example, a student might drive from 9:00-11:00 a.m. on a Monday). Driving times will be scheduled until 3:30 p.m. and may also

be on a Saturday. If you live in Grimes, your child may be picked up at a central location such as Casey's, True Value, or Kum and Go, and then be dropped off there when the driving lesson is over. This needs to be prearranged with the instructor. Driving groups will be able to change times with other groups if necessary. Students will draw numbers for driving times the first day of class. They will choose their own driving partner and driving times. Class limit will be 48 students. Home school students are welcome.

## Professional Development

The focus of professional development for teachers in grades 6-12 this school year is a continuation of authentic literacy, higher order thinking skills, and technology integration that includes a spiral review and going deeper into each area. The learning targets for this year are:

- Participants will understand the importance of authentic literacy and increase the time in which students are authentically engaged in reading, writing, and speaking.
- Participants will be able to develop and implement assessments that align with the essential learnings and higher order thinking.
- Participants will have students use technology for higher order engagement aligned with the Iowa Core.
- Participants will engage students in higher order thinking/tasks aligned with the Iowa Core.

There are some changes in practice that teachers are implementing. The change that is highlighted this month is assessments that assess higher order thinking skills. Teachers learned there are three guiding principles when assessing higher order thinking and not just rote learning or recall:

1. Use introductory material. When assessing, teachers give students something to think about. For example, instead of answering low level knowledge questions, students may be given a situation in which they need to apply knowledge or analyze in order the answer questions.
2. Use novel material. Novel material means material students have not worked with already as part of classroom instruction. Using novel material means students have to actually think, not merely recall material covered in class. For example, a seemingly higher order thinking essay question about how Herman Melville used the white whale as a symbol is merely recall if there was a class discussion on the question "What does the white whale symbolize in Moby Dick?" From the students' perspective, that essay question becomes "Summarize what we said in class last Thursday." Teachers who want their students to be able to demonstrate higher order thinking should teach it. Dealing with novel ideas, solving problems, and thinking critically should not be something students feel they "never did before." By the time students arrive at a summative assessment that requires higher order thinking in the content domain of instruction, they should have had many opportunities to learn and practice, using other novel material.
3. Manage cognitive complexity and difficulty separately. The level of difficulty (easy versus hard) and level of thinking (recall versus higher order thinking) are two different qualities. Recall can be easy (Who is the main character in The Cat in the Hat?) or difficult (Name all the characters in Hamlet.) At the same time, higher order thinking can also be at various levels of difficulty. "Why do you think the Cat cleaned up the house before the Mother came home?" is higher order and relatively easy while "Hamlet wrestles with a major question in his soliloquy, 'O, that this too, too solid flesh would melt' in Act 1, Scene 2, Lines 131-161. What is the question in his mind, and how do you think he resolves it by the end of his soliloquy? State your interpretation of his major question and his resolution, and use evidence from the speech to support it." is much more difficult. All students can think at higher levels.

- Information taken from How to Assess Higher Order Thinking in your Classroom by Susan Brookhart (2010)
For example, on a recent Language Arts test given at DC-G high school, the students that typically struggle did better on the higher order thinking questions than on the recall.

This information is being shared to help understand what are some of the changes that are occurring in school. DC-G continues to improve to prepare our students for their next step in their life journey!

## Kindergarten Sign-up

2016-2017
Kindergarten is an exciting new adventure in a child's life. A child's first year of school provides so many new opportunities: working with letters, sounds, beginning to read, working with numbers, art, music, guidance, physical education, computer lab, and library. They also learn how to get along with others and problem solve.

## If you have a child who will be five on or before September 15, 2016, your child should be enrolled in Kindergarten.

We also have a half-day optional kindergarten program for students who are kindergarten eligible but could benefit from an additional year to prepare for full day kindergarten. Recommendations will be made to parents regarding their child's placement after roundup has been completed. Please complete the steps below even if you intend to enroll your child in optional kindergarten.

## If you have a child that will be five on or before September

 15, 2016. .1) Complete the online form available on the school's webpage: http://www.dcgschools.com
2) Kindergarten Roundup (where the students come to school for a morning or afternoon) will be held in the spring
3) Once we receive all the information, you will receive a mailing in the spring indicating your assigned time, materials to bring, and additional information for roundup.
4) During roundup, kindergarten parents are invited to attend an informational meeting while their child is spending time in the kindergarten classrooms.

If you have any questions, please contact either of our elementary schools at the phone numbers below.

Dallas Center-515-992-3838

## South Prairie-515-986-4057

The DC-G staff is looking forward to meeting and working with you to make your child's early experience in school a most positive one.

## DC-G Mission Statement Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Futures!

The Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District is committed to developing positive, productive, and responsible citizens who are independent thinkers, value themselves and others, and have the knowledge, skills, and desire to be lifelong learners. Excellence in education comes from setting high expectations for all and providing the resources needed for every student to excel.

## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

## High School P.E. Students Take Time Away To Play A Student Created Game <br> \section*{By: Adam McDonnell}

The high school P.E. department takes aim at getting students to a different level of engagement. Students had the opportunity to create a game or sport completely from scratch, including all the rules, equipment, and items needed to play. Some of the games were a major success and have been incorporated into small parts of the curriculum. Outside of this we focus on students taking responsibility for their own health and wellness. Lifelong fitness skills are covered in each unit in hopes that as students graduate and prepare for life outside of high school, they are able to continue to be physically active. We have incorporated a lot of new ideas and units that have not been done before. The plan is to keep things rolling and changing to make P.E. meaningful for all students in the years to come.


## Developing Technology Literacy

## By: Cindy Bassett and Jolie Morgan

Technology tools have provided many academic opportunities for students at DC-G High School. While classroom learning focuses on content knowledge, technology skills are also infused to ensure student preparedness in postsecondary and workplace environments. The Iowa Core outlines Technology Literacy Standards, which focus on six areas: Creativity \& Innovation; Research \& Information Fluency; Communication \& Collaboration; Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, \& Decision Making; Digital Citizenship; Technology Operations \& Concepts.

Through researching, constructing, presenting, and more, students build skills in these areas. The Bright Bytes Clarity Survey is used to gather data on students' and teachers' technology literacy awareness. As a result of this data, instructional coaches and the technology leadership team at the high school have emphasized development of digital citizenship, communication, and collaboration skills. Early in the school year, we challenged teachers to develop more opportunities for students to communicate and collaborate using technology. As we move into second semester, our team will focus on incorporating digital citizenship skills. Our first step was to begin educating teachers on topics such as online safety and cyberbullying, which we did during our December professional development. Next, the technology leadership team will plan when and how to share information with our school community on these same topics. Our goal is to raise awareness of what digital citizenship means and how our students can be digital citizens today and in the future.


## Students in Peer P.E. Take Time To Go To Courage League Sports in Urbandale

 By: Adam McDonnellThis is the first year of Peer Partner P.E. at the High School and Meadows campus. The class is an outstanding way to include special education students with general education students. Each adaptive student is paired with two or three general education students to serve as their partners. This years students range from eighth through twelfth grade. We spend a lot of time doing some great activities in which students work together to make an inclusive environment for all to be successful. Activities range from bowling to broomball, from basic motor skills to fitness skills, and from team games to individual work. We are very excited to have this opportunity continue into next semester.

## High School Spring Conferences 2016

High School Parent-Teacher Conference dates are Tuesday, March 8 and Thursday, March 10 from 3:30-8:00 p.m. Parents may attend conferences at any time during the scheduled hours to visit with teachers. You may stop at the office to pick up your child's grade report. Parents may conference with individual teachers in the gym. We strongly encourage your child to attend these conferences with you.

## High School Art Spotlight

 By: Mike Burgher This artwork was created by Abby Ryan in her Art 1 class. Students were assigned to create a comic page using three famous works of art. She selected The Scream by Edvard Munch, Starry Night by Vincent van Gogh, \& Melting Watch by Salvador Dali as parts of her story.

## Dear Senior Parent,

Your child's high school career is coming to an end! We know how exciting and busy this time of year can be for you. To assist you in planning the next several months, we have compiled a list of school-related activities of which you should be aware.

Thank you for sharing your child's life with us at school. Please continue to support your child and the school through attendance at the senior activities.

Sincerely,
Cary Justmann
High School Principal

Immediately Turn in baby, childhood, and senior pictures for the senior slide show if this has not yet been done.

March 10 Local scholarship applications are available.
March 28 Jostens will deliver caps, gowns, and announcements during the lunch period.

April 15 All local scholarship applications are due.
April 27 Academy Awards at Dallas Center-Grimes High School Auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

May 6 Awards information and final transcript request form due in Deans' office.

May 15 "Milk and Cookies with Mr. Justmann" during advisory in the High School Commons

May 23 Senior semester tests. All fines must be paid prior to checkout. Checkout sheet must be turned into the office, with all required signatures, before student leaves.

May 25 Senior Awards Night at Dallas Center-Grimes High School Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. All scholarships, honors, and awards will be presented.

May 25 Baccalaureate at Dallas Center-Grimes High School Auditorium at 7:45 p.m.

May 27 Senior Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. - DC-G High School Commons.
May 27 Commencement practice will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the auditorium. All seniors that are participating in commencement ceremonies are required to attend.

May 27 Commencement at Meadows Gymnasium - 7:00 p.m.

## MEADOWS NEWS

## Meadows and High School Art

## By: Danell Duncan and Mike Burgher

The eighth grade students continue to be very productive and experience several media throughout the quarter, including clay, colored pencil, acrylic paint, oil pastel, and watercolor. A change this semester, is that advanced art for eighth grade is being offered. In this course, students are extending their experience with pen $\&$ ink, acrylic paint, clay, and chalk pastel. Students will get new experiences with printmaking, wire sculpture, and charcoal.

Freshman and sophomores are taking Art I or Art II, to lay the foundation for their upper level courses. Students are able to gain a deeper appreciation of the art world through our extensive art history unit spanning from ancient art through today. Students are also delving deeper into the various medias available to them in upper level courses, refining the processes of proportion and perspective, and learning about the differences between right and left-brain processes.

Ceramics classes have been working on several hand-building techniques, with a strong emphasize on surface decoration. One of the most successful projects was a slab container project in which the students were required to create a miniature home with ornamentation.

Painting classes have also been working hard. After an introductory unit on color mixing and matching, they were off and running on several projects that challenged them with technical skills like portraiture, as well as creative skills such as visualizing a musical selection.

The Art Appreciation class has delved into the purpose of art and its origins and progression through time. A highlight of the class was a field trip to the Des Moines Art Center and the Pappajohn Sculpture Park.

Drawing classes have been focusing on technical skills, recently completing an architectural drawing and several portraits. Students also worked on their compositional skills while developing a historical comic strip.

The Graphic Design classes recently donated their time and talent to North Fayette Valley schools to design their yearbook cover. The students also created the fall/winter activity program cover.

Several juniors and seniors had the opportunity to enroll in Independent Art. They have created several artworks over the course of the semester, which requires them to be responsible in time management as well as push their artistic skills.

In all our classrooms, our students create wonderful artwork that aids them in becoming well-rounded citizens. Our entire visual art staff would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents, students, and community members for their support of the arts in our schools!
Mustang Monthly



## Large Group Speech

## By: Anne Frett

The 2016 Large Group Speech season is off to a strong start.
The students performed for a very receptive audience at the $5^{\text {th }}$ Annual Speech Parent Night on January 16. Parents and friends were able to enjoy some great theater, and the participating students were treated to a wonderful audience. Thanks to all who attended.

The DC-G large group speech team had a great day at District Speech Contest on January 23 at Ballard High School. DC-G took 100 students in 20 groups to contest to participate in the categories of One Act Play, Choral Reading, Reader's Theater, Musical Theater, Ensemble Acting, Improvisational Acting, and Short Film.

Groups who received a I rating at District Contest have moved on to compete at State Contest on February 6 at Waukee High School. Please come and support these talented students.

## Meadows P.E./Peer P.E.

This quarter, students in eighth grade P.E. are learning offensive and defense skills in basketball. In Peer P.E. at Meadows students do a a variety of activities including dancing to get their exercise and learning how to bowl and keep score. Students are pictured dancing to "YMCA."


## Meadows Art Spotlight

By: Danell Duncan
Ella Hopkins created this amazing work during her eighth grade art class. The students were asked to combine two or more artworks using oil pastels. Ella chose the most recognized artwork, DaVinci's Mona Lisa and one of Piet Mondrian's abstract compositions.

## FOFA Volunteers

FOFA would like to thank the following volunteer parents for taking tickets at football, volleyball, basketball, wrestling and drama events this fall:

Kim Moran, Paul Judd, Dana Nelson-Snyder, Jill Ellsworth, Karyl Palmer, Gayle Palmer, El-
 len Workman, Keith Workman, Lisa Thompson, Bryan Thompson, Kelley Brown, JoAnne Ramaeker, Valarie Rich, Janet Harwood, Rodney Asman, Lyddia Asman, Sally Briggs, Mike Briggs, Tammy Chance, Janet Stevens, Sandy Bayse, Ann Beavers, Shellie Schaben, Andrea Wessels, Julie Dittmer, Terrie Heeren, Angie Price, Kary Austin, Dawn Dillivan, Wendy Becker and Dawn Murphy.

There are many opportunities this winter for ticket takers. Please visit Volunteer Spot at http://vols.pt/63Nud7 to sign up for events.
FOFA receives money from the DC-G Administration every time a parent takes tickets. This is a big reason why FOFA was able to donate money towards each student's band/choir trip. Volunteer parents are a huge reason why our fine arts program is so successful at DC-G, so keep up the great work!

# MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS 


#### Abstract

"The Middle School's cross curricular projects are highly successful. The students are challenged, and they achieve things they didn't think they could. Former students have said they were inspired to go into their career because of their role in these projects." \#DCGexcellence


## Middle School Art News

## By: Vicky Myers

Colorful, interesting, textured, Cubist, tells a story, patterned...... these are just a few words used to describe sixth grade art projects. Sixth grade art units are focused on the elements of design: line, shape color, texture and value. They explore a variety of art materials and tools as well as several different processes including drawing, painting, ceramics, and printmaking. Sixth grade artists delve into art history by learning more about the life and works of Paul Klee, Pablo Picasso, Wassily Kandinsky, MC Escher and Rembrandt, as well as an introduction to folk art.

During their time in art class, the seventh-graders completed some wonderful pieces of art. Their focus is still on the elements and principles of design, but their studies are more in depth and challenging. New media such as charcoal and chalk pastels are being introduced. They have also learned about many famous artists including Vincent Van Gogh, Frank Lloyd Wright, Piet Mondrian, Georgia O’Keeffe and Claude Monet.

Watch for displays of student work in the middle school commons, hallways and at parent teacher conferences in the spring. Many students also photograph their finished projects to share on their Google Docs sites. Encourage your child to bring their artwork home, as many of their projects are suitable for framing!

## Art Club

## By: Vicky Myers

Middle School Art Club began Tuesday, January 12 after school. Art Club is an opportunity for seventh-graders to spend more time developing their creative skills and exploring the many facets of the art world. Students can choose from painting, drawing, ceramics, art trading cards, and the potter's wheel. Each week, I will demonstrate a new art form for the students to explore, if they choose. Some choices might be printing, oil pastel, calligraphy, scratchboard, fiber art, and jewelry. Art Club meets weekly from 3:15 to 4:20 p.m. Shuttle busses are available. For more information or to sign up, contact Mrs. Myers at vmyers@dc-grimes. k12.ia.us.

## Middle School P.E./Peer P.E.

## By: Todd Lewis

Peer Partner P.E. is now in its second year at the middle school. This program is directed towards helping the special needs students with their physical fitness needs and
 social needs as well. Each student is matched up with a minimum of two peer helpers who work with that particular student throughout the class period. Peer P.E. class is scheduled in with all other P.E. classes on a six day rotation.


All the students have participated in a wide variety of activities this year. These activities include fitness tests, strength training, basketball, soccer, kickball, noodle tag, bubble dodge, and rhythms, along with two of their favorites, the parachute and scooters. The peer helpers have been very helpful in adapting each activity to meet the students' individual needs.

The peer helpers do a great job of connecting with the kids and helping them with their social needs as well. We recently had a winter celebration in class where the helpers presented gifts to the students, followed up by parachute activities. A good time was had by all. A special thank you goes out to all the peer helpers
 for their efforts.


## Art Spotlight

## By: Vicky Myers

The Middle School Art Spotlight shines on seventh-graders Maddie Evans and Cael Duey for their picture word project. Maddie's WILDLIFE and Cael's WEATHER illustrate planning, drawing and colored pencil skills. Well done!!

# ELEMENTARY NEWS 

## Instructional Coach Spotlight

By: Melissa White

What does it mean to be an instructional coach?
This year our district added the role of instructional coaches to the staff in our schools. While the word coach has been around and used in many different arenas of our lives, the role of an instructional coach is a new position for our district. Ultimately, instructional coaches work to support teachers by helping to bring best practices in instruction into the classroom. I feel so very lucky to have the opportunity to be the Instructional Coach at South Prairie Elementary. As we navigate through this first year, there are many things that I have learned about coaching, teaching and learning. Since it is a new position, people often ask me what this job means, and what it is like to be a coach. Now that we have finished one semester, I would like to share three things about instructional coaching that I have learned from my first semester in this new role.

## 1. Coaches build connections.

Instructional coaches offer another layer of support in our schools. We offer a whole catalog of ways we can support teachers and students; in fact, the elementary coaches created a menu of ways we can offer support as a starting point at the beginning of the year. By looking at the school through the lens of a coach, I am able to see the school from a big picture perspective. What I have learned is that we are all connected by our drive to create irresistible learning experiences for our students as well as build the capacity for them to achieve. I have spent a majority of my days in classrooms and have worked with teachers in a variety of ways: modeled and co-taught lessons, attended team meetings, engaged in planning and reflective conversations, analyzed data, and collaborated on lessons and assessments. From this work, I have been able to build connections between teachers and between the elementary schools in our district. These connections can help support teachers and students. As a coach, I want to work alongside teachers to help them discover ways of working that are rewarding and result in positive outcomes for students.

## 2. Coaches are vehicles of change and growth.

Even though the title of my job has changed, I still consider myself a teacher. My classroom is the biggest it has ever been. Most often, I am learning right along with the teachers. I believe that coaches are vehicles of change for the school; we can create opportunities for teachers to learn and grow in their profession. An important part of my job is asking the right questions and listening to teachers. Change comes from our conversations; sometimes these conversations are planning a lesson or unit, or they are reflecting on how a lesson or unit went. Also, by offering my support, teachers are more comfortable to try new things. We are able to tackle a new strategy or tool together and talk afterward to reflect on how it went and any changes we would like to make.

## 3. Coaches design learning opportunities for teachers.

Coaches work with the principals to help plan professional development. We are able to design learning opportunities during the school day as well as during professional development time. For example, I will be taking teachers in my building on learning walks around South Prairie. In small groups, we will visit several classrooms in our building to look at student learning. We will meet after to discuss our observations, look for patterns, and reflect on ideas we have for our own teaching. From this, teachers can gain a sense of teaching and learning in our building, share strategies, make connections, and participate in their own on-site learning. The learning opportunities that come from classroom observations paired with reflection will help create a system of excellence in teaching and learning at South Prairie and positively impact our students.

## North Ridge Fourth Grade Vocal Concert

## By: Michelle Breach

Students at North Ridge Elementary will present a music concert entitled "I Have a Dream" on Thursday, February 18. Classes will be split into two groups for this performance. Students in Mr. Tjeerdsmàs, Mrs. Spray's, and Mrs. Kinnick's classes will perform at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. Students in Mrs. Pink's, Ms. Hinrichs', Mrs. Osborn's, and Mrs. Peters' classes will perform at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

Students have been developing many skills for this performance including singing in harmony, singing with expression and dynamics, and music literacy skills. In addition students have been learning about African American Spirituals. Students have looked at the meaning of these songs both literally and figuratively and the historical context, including the role
 the songs played in the Underground Railroad and throughout the Civil Rights Movement. Students are encouraged to dress up for the concert.

## Father/Daughter Dance

The Father/Daughter Dance, sponsored by the DC-G After Prom Committee, will be held on Saturday, February 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. This dance is for girls in pre-school through fifth grade and their favorite guy. This year's theme is Winter Ball. Look forward to seeing you there!

## Parent Teacher Conferences for Kindergarten - Fifth Grade Students

Elementary Conferences will be held Tuesday, March 8 and Thursday, March 10. Babysitting will be provided at all elementary buildings. School will dismiss at 2:30 p.m. on these days. In the near future an email will be sent to you through School Messenger, providing you with a link to sign up for the Spring conferences.

## Dallas Center Elementary Art

## By: Linda Korpanty

Students at Dallas Center Elementary are up to their necks in a variety of clay projects.

The students in fifth grade just finished the processing of glazing, which means that their clay masks and/or picture frames were on display for the Geography Bee at the end of January.

Fourth-graders are beginning their clay unit, in which they will create a clay vessel. A clay vessel is a container that can be whatever the student desires to create as long as the end product can "hold" something. The students have a wide range of options including coil, slab, drape, or wrapped methods.

Third grade students will be attempting their rolling skills by creating coil pots. The rolling skill is learning how to create a clay snake without flattening. The skill to rolling is to learn the part of the hand that allows the student to roll the clay, and applying the right amount of pressure to create a rounded snake without flattening it. As per the third grade curriculum of the Native American Indian Culture, we discuss the reason for pottery and it's uses, whether decorative or functional. The students also learn that the source for obtaining color to apply to these clay items was not obtained by going to an art store to purchase, but rather obtained from nature. This discussion lends itself to reinforcing that nature provides many


## Elementary P.E.

By: Jeff Nihart

During the second quarter the elementary physical education classes have included skills such as tossing and catching, volleyball, football, basketball, jumping rope, and one of the students' favorites, the Halloween Obstacle Course.

We will jump rope again during third quarter, and we will participate in Jump Rope for Heart during that time. We have also been working on completing various assessments for the second nine weeks. Skills such as moving your feet in a sliding manner, skipping, and doing carioca are just some of the assessments we use.

The last unit of the quarter will be gymnastics. The kindergartners will roll sideways the width of a tumbling mat. Older students will perform the forward roll and the backward roll. The fifth-graders are assessed on the tripod and/or headstand along with the cartwheel and/or mini-cartwheel.

useable products. It also shows that in problem solving, contemplating an equivalent to what we need should be a first consideration.

The second grade students will soon begin their study of insects, which is also part of their science curriculum. During this study, students will learn to draw, in detail, their insect of choice, painting according to the observations like Audubon did in his artist practices. After that, they will create their insect of choice from a ball of clay. Students will learn that texture can be used to create the visual surface similar to the actual texture of the insect.

First-graders will also play with clay. In every grade level, we always begin with a day to "play" using the techniques and goals of a final product as our guide. This allows students to learn to manipulate the clay. Students quickly learn that overworked clay is similar to overworked dough, and one must be able to "repair" or "restore" the medium to a workable texture. Our first-graders will be creating a pinch pot with the addition of personalizing with texture.

Kindergarten students are now sharing their clay tiles. In a previous class, they learned how to make texture marks and surface impressions with a variety of tools. They also learned they could just as easily erase those marks with a damp finger. Once the tiles were fired the students used oil pastels to add color, enhancing their designs, then a black diluted tempera wash was applied. A spray fixative was used to seal the oil pastel and paint.

## North Ridge Elementary Art

By Kayde Sberal
Third grade is kicking off the New Year with a color unit focusing on complementary colors. They will examine the artwork of Keith Haring to create a complementary color painting.

Fourth grade has begun a sculpture unit creating relief sculptures out of clay. They looked at traditional Chinese wall pockets for inspiration to create their own wall pocket.

Third-grader Jenna Morrison was awarded "Artist of the Month" for January. Jenna's drawing, along with more details about her piece of art, is featured on the back cover of this month's issue.

## PRESCHOOL SPOTLIGHT



## Boxes, Boxes, Boxes

By: Rachel Nieland
Ms. Rachel's preschool class has been very busy learning about boxes. The class worked to collect boxes for a variety of investigations. The students learned about how boxes are made, what comes in boxes, and jobs that use boxes. We found a lot of boxes around the school used for a variety of purposes. We had an "expert gift wrapper" come in and show the kids how to wrap a present. Afterwards they worked to wrap their very own gift for their parents. In the end the students celebrated their learning by making their very own creation from a box. Boxes are pretty cool, and there is so much you can do and learn from a box.
"A preschool teacher had a parent of a student in special education come to her house at night crying tears of joy. The parent said that she was so proud of her child's growth this year. He just went back through all his old work and corrected the mistakes that he had made. The parent was so excited he was in this district to help him grow and learn like that." \#DCGexcellence

## Music Making

## By: Jennifer Haack

Ms. Jenn's preschool classes have started a unit on music making. They are learning about instruments, types of music, and how they can make music with their bodies. They will also be making musical instruments. Guest speakers are coming into the room to teach the students about music as well. One of their guest speakers is Jeani Shepherd, who is a grandparent of a student and taught at the high school.


# February Activity Calendar 

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 4:30pm BasketballB/7th Grade Marshalltown 5:30pm Wrestling-JV Dallas Center-Grimes HS vs. Multiple Schools 6:00pm BasketballB/9th Grade Away vs. Oskaloosa 6:00pm BasketballG/9th Grade Away vs. Oskaloosa 7:00pm BasketballB/JV Ankeny Centennial 7:15pm BasketballB/10th Grade Away vs. Oskaloosa | 3:15pm Bowling 4:15pm BasketballB/8th Grade Adel DeSoto Minburn CSD 4:45pm BasketballG/JV Away vs. Oskaloosa 6:15pm BasketballG/Varsity Away vs. Oskaloosa 7:00pm FOFA Meeting 7:45pm BasketballB/Varsity Away vs. Oskaloosa |  | 4:30pm BasketballB/8th Grade Away vs. Urbandale 6:00pm BasketballB/9th Grade Away vs. Gilbert 6:00pm BasketballG/9th Grade Gilbert 7:15pm BasketballB/JV Ankeny | 4:45pm BasketballB/10th Grade Grinnell 4:45pm BasketballG/JV Grinnell 6:00pm BasketballB/9th Grade Grinnell 6:15pm BasketballG/Varsity Grinnell 7:45pm BasketballB/Varsity Grinnell | West Liberty High <br> School Show Choir Contest <br> Large Group State Speech Contest Jack Oatts Jazz Festival at Earlham <br> 12:00pm Boys Swimming |
|  | State Jazz Choir <br> Contest <br> LHC Instrumental Concert <br> 4:30pm Basketball- <br> B/8th Grade WDM- <br> Indian Hills <br> 4:30pm Basketball- <br> B/7th Grade Away vs. <br> Norwalk <br> 6:00pm Basketball- <br> B/10th Grade North Polk <br> 6:00pm Basketball- <br> G/9th Grade Away vs. <br> Valley <br> 6:00pm Booster Club Meeting <br> 7:00pm Basketball- <br> B/JV Away vs. <br> Southeast Polk <br> 7:15pm Basketball- <br> B/9th Grade North <br> Polk | 3:15pm Bowling 4:30pm BasketballB/8th Grade Away vs. Norwalk 6:15pm BasketballG/Varsity Away vs. Knoxville 7:45pm BasketballB/Varsity Away vs. Knoxville | Dismiss at 1:00-Staff Development | 12:30pm Bowling <br> 4:30pm Basketball- <br> B/7th Grade Fort Dodge <br> 4:45pm BasketballB/10th Grade Pella Christian <br> 4:45pm BasketballG/JV Pella Christian 6:00pm BasketballB/9th Grade Pella Christian 6:00pm South Prairie 2nd Grade Concert 6:15pm BasketballG/Varsity Pella Christian 7:45pm BasketballB/Varsity Pella Christian | 6:00pm Basketball- <br> B/10th Grade Away vs. Waverly-Shell Rock 7:30pm BasketballB/Varsity Away vs. Waverly-Shell Rock | North Polk MS Show <br> Choir Contest <br> North Polk MS Show <br> Choir Contest <br> North Polk Vocal Jazz <br> Competition <br> SCIBA MS Jazz Band Contest at Norwalk <br> North Polk Show Choir <br> Competition-HS <br> After Prom <br> Father/Daughter Dance <br> @ High School Gym <br> 12:00pm Boys <br> Swimming <br> 12:00pm WrestlingVarsity Dallas CenterGrimes HS vs. Multiple Schools |
|  | 4:30pm BasketballB/8th Grade Away vs. Ankeny Centennial 7:00pm BasketballB/JV Waukee | Bowling <br> 4:30pm Basketball- <br> B/7th Grade Away vs. Marshalltown 4:45pm BasketballB/9th Grade Away vs. Southeast Polk 6:00pm BasketballB/10th Grade Away vs. Southeast Polk 7:30pm BasketballB/Varsity Away vs. Southeast Polk | 7:00pm BasketballG/Varsity Away vs. TBA | 1:30pm WrestlingVarsity Away vs. TBA 4:30pm BasketballB/8th Grade Johnston MS Purple 6:30pm Northridge 4th Grade Concert | Pella MS Show Choir Contest <br> No School Professional Development 9:00am WrestlingVarsity Away vs. TBA | All State Large Group Speech Contest Pella HS Show Choir Contes TBD Wrestling-Varsity Away vs. TBA 7:00pm BasketballG/Varsity Away vs. TBA |
|  | TBD Basketball- <br> B/Varsity Away vs. TBA <br> 4:30pm Basketball- <br> B/8th Grade Away vs. WDM- Stilwell 7:00pm School Board Meeting | 4:00pm-8:00pm 7th Band and Vocal Solo Conetest 7:00pm Basketball- G/Varsity Away vs. TBA | Bowling 24 |  | 26 | $27$ <br> Southeast Polk HS Show Choir Contest District Individual Events Speech Contest |
| $28$ | South Central MS Honor Choir 7:00pm BasketballB/Varsity Away vs. TBA |  |  |  |  |  |

# Dallas Center Grimes Breakfast Menu 

| MONDAY | UESDAY | WEDNESDA | LJURNDA | FRIDA |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Breakfast Pizza <br> OR <br> Choice of WG Cereal <br> Graham Crackers <br> Vegetable Selection <br> Canned Fruit <br> Milk | Mini Pancakes <br> OR <br> Choice of WG Cereal <br> Graham Crackers <br> Vegetable Selection <br> Apple Juice <br> Milk | Egg Omelete <br> Tri Tator <br> OR <br> Choice of WG Cereal <br> Graham Crackers <br> Vegetable Selection <br> Fresh Fruit <br> Milk | Bosco Stick <br> OR <br> Choice of WG Cereal <br> Graham Crackers <br> Vegetable Selection <br> Orange Juice <br> Milk | WG Long John <br> OR <br> Choice of WG Cereal <br> Graham Cracker <br> Vegetable Selection <br> Fresh Fruit <br> Milk |
| Breakfast Pizza <br> OR <br> Choice of WG Cereal <br> Graham Crackers <br> Vegetable Selection <br> Canned Fruit <br> Milk | Cinni Mini's or Cinnamon 9 <br> Roll <br> OR <br> Choice of WG Cereal <br> Graham Crackers <br> Vegetable Selection <br> Apple Juice <br> Milk | Breakfast Sandwich <br> 10 <br> OR <br> Choice of WG Cereal <br> Graham Crackers <br> Vegetable Selection <br> Fresh Fruit <br> Milk | WG Mini Donuts or Long John OR Choice of WG Cereal Graham Crackers <br> Vegetable Selection Orange Juice Milk | Mini Chocolate Chip <br> French Toast <br> OR <br> Choice of WG Cereal <br> Graham Crackers <br> Vegetable Selection <br> Fresh Fruit <br> Milk |
| Breakfast Pizza <br> OR <br> Choice of WG Cereal Graham Crackers <br> Vegetable Selection Canned Fruit Milk | Mini Waffles <br> OR <br> Choice of WG Cereal <br> Graham Crackers <br> Vegetable Selection <br> Apple Juice <br> Milk | Egg Omelete <br> Tri Tator <br> OR <br> Choice of WG Cereal <br> Graham Crackers <br> Vegetable Selection <br> Fresh Fruit <br> Milk | Bosco Stick <br> OR <br> Choice of WG Cereal <br> Graham Crackers <br> Vegetable Selection <br> Orange Juice <br> Milk | No School 19 |
| Breakfast Pizza <br> OR <br> Choice of WG Cereal <br> Graham Crackers <br> Vegetable Selection <br> Canned Fruit <br> Milk | Cinni Mini's or Cinnamon 23 <br> Roll <br> OR <br> Choice of WG Cereal <br> Graham Crackers <br> Vegetable Selection <br> Apple Juice <br> Milk | Breakfast Sandwich <br> 24 <br> OR <br> Choice of WG Cereal <br> Graham Crackers <br> Vegetable Selection <br> Fresh Fruit <br> Milk | WG Mini Donuts Long John OR Choice of WG Cereal Graham Crackers <br> Vegetable Selection Orange Juice Milk | Mini Pancakes, Waffles, 26 or French Toast OR <br> Choice of WG Cereal Graham Crackers <br> Vegetable Selection Fresh Fruit Milk |
| Breakfast Pizza <br> OR <br> Choice of WG Cereal Graham Crackers <br> Vegetable Selection Canned Fruit Milk | Cabbages are 90\% water. |  | Free \& Reduced Price Meal Benefit information \& application can be obtained by contacting the Food Service Office. |  |



Menus are subject to change without notice. This Institution is an equal opportunity provider.

| MONDAY |
| :---: |
| French Toast Sticks <br> Warm Cinnamon Apple Slices <br> Sausage Patty <br> Deli Sub <br> Chicken Caesar Salad <br> Tomato Slices <br> Celery Sticks <br> Seasonal Fruit |

TUESDAY
Chicken Nuggets
Tator Tots/Corn
WG Dinner Roll
Combo Sliders
Cravin Crasin Salad
Baby Carrots
Cauliflower
Seasonal Fruit

THURSDAY
Beefy Nachos
w/ Homemade Cheese Sauce
Refried Beans
Deli Sandwich
Chef Salad
Cauliflower
Tomatoes
Seasonal Fruit


| Walking Taco |
| :---: |
| Pinto Beans |
| $\begin{array}{c}\text { Deli Sandwich } \\ \text { Chef Salad }\end{array}$ |
| $\begin{array}{l}\text { Tomato Slices } \\ \text { Celery Sticks } \\ \text { Seasonal Fruit }\end{array}$ |

Pepper
Pepper Medley
Seasonal Fruit
Chicken Nuggets
Rice
WG Breadstick
Combo Slicers
Taco Salad

Broccoli
Romaine Lettuce
Black Beans
Seasonal Fruit


| Cheesy Flatbread |
| :---: | :---: |
| w/ Dipping Sauce |
| Garlic Herb Broccoli |
| Pretzel Bites w/Cheese |
| Cubes/ Crispy Chicken Salad |$\quad$| Macaroni and Cheese |
| :---: |
| Green Beans |
| Cherry Tomatoes |
| Celery Stick |
| Seasonal Fruit |$\quad$| Yogurt Pack |
| :---: |
| Chef Salad |
| Celery Sticks |
| Chery Tomatoes |
| Seasonal Fruit |

Popcorn Chicken
Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy
WG Dinner Roll
Deli Sub
Chef Salad
Baby Carrots
Cauliflower
Seasonal Fruit


| PRICES |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Regular | $\$ 2.50$ |
| Reduced | $\$ 0.40$ |
| Milk | $\$ 0.45$ |
| Adult | $\$ 3.45$ |
| Extra Entrée | $\$ 1.85$ |


EXTRA INFO
Milk choice of 1\% White, Skim or Chocolate
Skim is included with lunch.
For questions or comments,
contact the Food Service Office at:
d.sevenich@dc-grimes.k12.ia.us
or call 515-986-9747 ext. 162


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## POSTAL CUSTOMER

## North Ridge Elementary "Artist of the Month"

## By Kayde Sberal

Third-grader Jenna Morrison was awarded "Artist of the Month" for January because of her outstanding attention to detail and use of value on her "Snowmen at Night" inspired oil pastel drawing. The students studied how light affects objects and how they can use that to create the illusion of 3-D objects in drawing.



## South Prairie Art

## By: April Busch

The South Prairie art room is busy creating all things snow related. Kindergarteners just finished creating a snowy day paper collage complete with painted snow falling down. Now they are learning to draw a straight line with a ruler and oil pastel techniques to create shape and line snowflakes.

The firstgraders are using sponges to paint snowmen, complete with different expressions and unique scarves.

Finally, students
 in second grade are practicing paper techniques by cutting out snowflake snowmen. They had a great time "seeing" pictures in each unique snowflake, incorporating that into their design, and sharing with others.

