



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

We did it!

There's no way I can fit this topic into one page, but I'm going to do my best.

Reflecting on the 2023-24 school year at DCG has been a powerful experience for me. I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude and pride for ALL that we have accomplished together. Every single one of us - DCG Staff, DCG Students and the DCG Community. We are in this together and we are doing so many incredible things.

The 2023-24 school year was a journey of learning, growth and collaboration not only for me as a professional but as a person, an educator, a father, a friend and a colleague.

From academic achievements and extracurricular success, to simple fist bumps in the hallway and smiles in the lunch line, there are so many great things to celebrate at DCG. We deserve to celebrate together.

I sat in a new chair at our DCG High School Graduation Ceremony and it gave me a little time to reflect. While each name was called (247), I was reminded of every single person in our community who pours out their time and talent to support these students. Sure the seniors get the well-earned diploma, but we all deserve a sliver of the credit.

I am so grateful for the trust you place in me as DCG Superintendent and I promise I will never take it for granted.

While the 2023-24 was a huge success, I'm also energized for 2024-25 and each year after that. Together, we can create an educational experience that prepares our students for a bright and successful future. Together, we will achieve great things.

Thanks for a great year!

Sincerely,
Dr. Scott Blum
Superintendent

CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

August 19 - Teachers Return
August 23 - School Begins (Optional K - 12)
September 3 - First Day of Preschool

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Home of the Mustangs



www.dcgschools.com

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DISTRICT UPDATES

HF 2586 and Safety Updates at DCG - DCG Administration and the DCG School Board had a conversation during our May School Board meeting centered around HF2586 and safety updates in our district. HF 2586 was signed into law earlier this spring.

HF2586 - Component 1) School employees, with a professional permit, can carry a firearm on school property. *The DCG School Board approved our recommendation to not allow DCG staff members to carry firearms.*

HF2586 - Component 2) School districts with more than 8,000 students are required to employ a school resource officer (SRO). Deputy Alan Loutzenhiser from the Polk County Sheriff's Office is finishing his first year in our district. *The DCG School Board approved our recommendation for our district to hire a second SRO from the Polk County Sheriff's Office, beginning with the 2024-25 school year.*

(Safety Updates Continued on Page 4)



School Board Recognition Month - We celebrated the DCG School Board during the month of May! These seven individuals dedicate their time and talent to make DCG a better place! We are so thankful for all of the ways you advocate for the staff, students and stakeholders at DCG. The next DCG School Board Meeting is set for Monday, June 24 at the DCG Administration Office.

DCG School Board Members (L to R) in photo above: Nick Fiala, Nancy Baker Curtis, Ryan Carpenter, Monica Malmberg, Brandon McNace, Meg Dickinson, Shaylee Vander Velden.

HIGH SCHOOL



Supporting Perry - The DCG High School National Honor Society has been doing some incredible work this week. Seniors Malania Elliott and Callie Stiles delivered 50 gift bags to the staff at Perry High School. These bags were filled with donations from our DCG community and included notebooks, pens, markers, snacks, magnets and handwritten notes! We are so proud of DCG NHS and we all continue to stand with Perry! The DCG NHS contin-

ued their support in May by hosting a car wash with all proceeds going to the family of Ahmir Jolliff. The group raised \$1,456 dollars! A special thank you to BDI Signs, the City of Grimes and Williamson Family Chiropractic for their support of the event!



Welcome to the High School -

Transitioning to a new building can always be a difficult task! DCG High School students and staff welcomed all incoming 8th graders for a visit in late May. This was a perfect opportunity for our students to take a student-led tour of the building, get introduced to all of the clubs and activities that are available and meet some of the staff they'll be working with next year!



DCG Celebrates School-to-Work Program - The school-to-work program at DCG High School continues to reach new levels. We celebrated our students and their community partners at an event this spring. 37 DCG High School students were involved in the program this year, a new record for our district. We'd like to give a special shout out to all of our business partners who opened their doors to our students this year. We are so thankful for the opportunities you are providing!



Education Foundation Update

- A special thank you to all of the scholarship sponsors for 2024, the DCG Education Foundation, and committee volunteers. This year DCGEF awarded over \$175,000 in scholarships during Senior Awards Night on May 22. For a full list of scholarship winners, please visit our website at www.dcgeducationfoundation.org or follow us on these social media platforms. Congratulations to the DCG Class of 2024 and best wishes for a bright future!



Flat Stanley - Students at South Prairie Elementary wrapped up their Flat Stanley project in May. 3rd grader Grayson sent his Flat Stanley to the team at US Crane in Pleasant Hill. In addition to sending the Flat Stanley back to SPE, they brought a crane to the school's parking lot for Grayson to check out! Thanks to ALL of our community partners who participated in this unit! We had some really awesome projects returned to our students!

Safety Updates (Cont) - All DCG staff members participated in active intruder training this year. DCG CSD asked all staff members to complete a feedback survey after the training and our district's next steps are clear.

84% of DCG staff members described our training as very beneficial.

89% of DCG staff members requested similar training every year.

Based on these results, DCG CSD will now be participating in active intruder training yearly. We will work closely with Deputy Loutzenhiser and the DCG Safety Team to formulate our plans for next year. Several staff members described scenarios they would like to work through and we will design strategies with these requests in mind.

We'd like to thank everyone in the DCG community for their support of continued improvement in our safety plans.

Key DCG Dates

August 13-15 - New Teacher Orientation

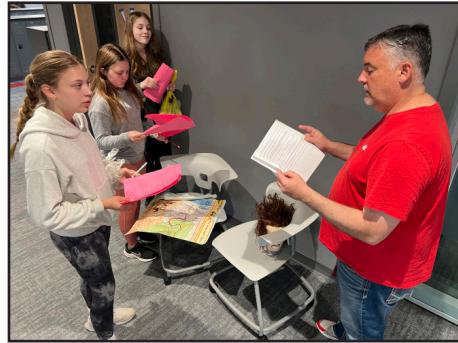
August 19-22 - DCG Staff Returns

August 23 - First Day of School (OK-12)

September 2 - No School (Labor Day)

September 3 - First Day of DCG Preschool

OAK VIEW



Scavenger Hunt - 8th grade social studies students at Oak View capped off their Lewis and Clark learning with a one-of-a-kind scavenger hunt! The list of "findings" included bears, cheese, flags, maps and a strict penalty for being late! What an awesome way to learn about an event from the

early 1800's and another reminder of the incredible creativity of our teachers! You never know what might be roaming our hallways!

Getting Ready for 2024-25 at Oak View - We are so excited to welcome a new set of students to Oak View next school year! We held our annual 6th grade visit in May, allowing students from DCG Middle School to get their first look at their new building! Students also got to learn about opportunities available in 7th and 8th grade!



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Community Service at the Middle School - 5th grade students at DCG Middle School wrapped up a guidance lesson on community service in May. One of their big projects was a clean up day on the DCG Middle School campus.

"Helping our environment helps us become better people," says 5th grade student Bella Bumbauld.

In addition to community service, this unit also introduced students to internships and job opportunities. As our students begin looking at what the future could look like, these lessons provide hands-on experiences.

"You can help the community by doing even minor things like this" adds 5th grade student Maybellene Crow.



ELEMENTARY



South Prairie Art Show - It's an awesome annual art tradition at South Prairie! Students and staff showcased their work to friends and families at the 2024 Art Show. The creativity of our students is simply amazing! Thanks to our community for supporting this event every single year!

Donation Dominoes - Students at North Ridge Elementary put together a food drive to help the Grimes Storehouse Food Pantry. In the month of May, NRE students brought in 1,050 food items (787 pounds)!! We are so thankful to have a supportive community to help out in projects just like this!



Before they officially donated the food, North Ridge held a Donation Dominoes event that weaved through the gym. Head to DCG-schools.com to watch the dominoes/food items fall!



FFA Tour - Talk about a hands-on learning experience for DCG elementary students! FFA students from DCG High School traveled to several of our buildings to showcase the animals this group works with on a daily basis. It's a special opportunity to connect with older

students and get an introduction to DCG's incredible FFA program. Our youngsters got to see goats, horses, cows and other livestock!

Animal Research - 1st grade students at South Prairie have been working hard on their Animal Research Project! After learning about their individual animals, students put together a presentation for families and staff members to enjoy. Manatees, hammerhead sharks, sea stars, snakes and leopards were all part of the project!



Parnau Honored - Julie Parnau, a South Prairie Special Education Teacher was nominated by one of her students for her work supporting special education and autism awareness! The Fi & Friends recognition showcases the incredible work Julie does in our building every single day!

Celebrating DCG Retirees - DCG CSD will be saying farewell and congratulations to six incredible educators this year!

North Ridge Elementary

Sharon Mackey - 22 years of service at DCG

Janet Broderick - 25 years of service at DCG

Heritage Elementary

Mary Schaeffer - 21 years of service at DCG

DCG Middle School

Todd Lewis - 33 years of service at DCG

DCG High School

Lisa Hofmann - 21 years of service at DCG

TAG

Paddy Degnan - 23 years of service at DCG

ACTIVITIES



Track Season Ends at State -

The DCG Boys and Girls Track programs had another record-breaking year. The teams combined to send 25 events to the state meet!

DCG Boys - State Qualifiers

200 Meter Dash – John Kitenge
400 Meter Dash – Jack Every
800 Meter Run – AJ Angus
800 Meter Run – Sam Watkins
1600 Meter Run – Elias Arbuckle
3200 Meter Run – Elias Arbuckle
4×400 Meter Relay
4×800 Meter Relay
Distance Medley Relay
Discus Throw – Eli Rupp
Shot Put – Aidan Charlson
Shuttle Hurdle Relay

DCG Girls - State Qualifiers

800 Meter Run – Tess Meggison
1500 Meter Run – Piper Messerly
1500 Meter Run – Addison Doolley
3000 Meter Run – Piper Messerly
3000 Meter Run – Emily Meyers
4×200 Meter Relay
4×400 Meter Relay
4×800 Meter Relay
800 Sprint Medley Relay
High Jump – Preslie King
High Jump – Jacey McFarland
Shot Put – Halley Beaudet
Distance Medley Relay



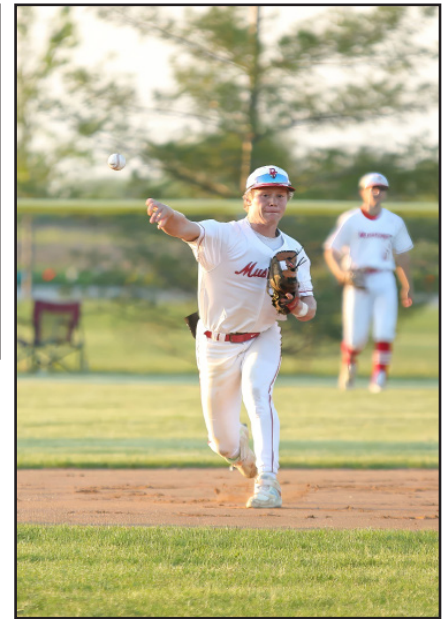
Field Trip - A group of DCG High School Computer Science students and DECA members took a trip to Workiva in Ames. Students had the opportunity to get a tour of the facility and talk one-on-one with a range of employees. These conversations

explored a typical day at Workiva and what their educational and employment background looks like. This was a wonderful learning experience for our students!



Baseball and Softball Season Underway at DCG -

Make plans to join us this summer in Dallas Center for DCG Softball and Baseball. We have two incredible teams on the diamond! Both teams will be taking aim at Little Hawkeye Conference Championships. Visit DCGschoools.com for updated schedules and game locations!



Sponsorship Opportunities -

We are excited to showcase the first sponsorship package at Dallas Center-Grimes. The Iowa Clinic's logo is now placed on a wrap around the softball batting cage at DCG! They also are featured in our gymnasium

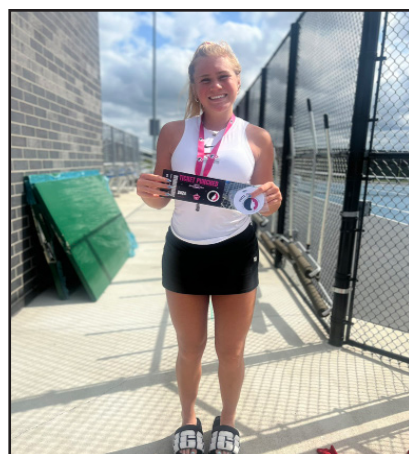
and football complex. The sponsorships available support all DCG students and really add to the atmosphere throughout our district. Interested in becoming a DCG sponsor? Reach out to aj.ellingson@dcgschools.com or brent.buttjer@dcgschools.com.

ACTIVITIES



Big Spring on the Courts - The DCG Boys Tennis program had a great year, highlighted by a 3rd place finish at the Little Hawkeye Conference Tournament in May. Sophomore Brendan Fitzhugh earned second place in #1 singles. Juniors Ky Wilkens and Zach Arends placed second in #2 doubles. Sophomore Griffin Kleis, junior Sam Harbaugh and senior Christian Bauer earned valuable team points in consolation play. The Mustangs are always on the lookout for new players. Reach out to leslie.shipp@dcschools.com and/or jerry.kinder@dcschools.com if you'd like to join the roster next spring! Great year Mustangs!

History on the Courts - Year two of DCG Girls Tennis was a huge success! The season was capped off in grand fashion with the performance of DCG Freshman Gwen Farley. Farley earned a spot in the Class 2A Individual State Tournament, the first state appearance in program history! Gwen was on the court in late May. Not only did she participate in the tournament, she placed! Farley took home 8th place in the individual bracket, also making her the first state place winner in DCG history. Congratulations on a great season Gwen!



Mustangs Advance to State Soccer - It's been a special season on the pitch for DCG Soccer! Both the DCG Boys and DCG Girls advanced to the state tournament! This is the 7th time in school history that both programs qualified for state in the same year - 02, 09, 18, 19, 21, 23 and 2024! This edition of the Mustang Monthly was printed during State Soccer Week so final results were still in progress! The DCG Girls are headed back at state for the 4th straight season! They were the #3 seed in the Class 2A bracket, entering the state tournament with a 15-3 overall record. The DCG Boys also had incredible regular season success, heading to state with a 14-4 overall record. The Mustangs earned the #2 seed in the Class 3A bracket. This is a significant achievement for both programs! Great season Mustangs! We will provide state tournament updates at DCGschoools.com after the state tournament is complete. Both state tournaments were played May 28-June 1.

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POSTAL CUSTOMER



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Congratulations to the DCG Class of 2024 - We celebrated this incredible group at a commencement ceremony on Friday, May 24. The DCG Class of 2024 featured 247 students! They are getting ready to make a lasting mark on this world and we are so proud of them! Thank you to the entire DCG community for supporting our students!

