



MUSTANG MONTHLY

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Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

DCG,

I just love the holiday season! From the greeting cards my family gets in the mail, to our family tradition of shopping on Black Friday (I know, I know), the Blum family loves it all! I'm thankful for the quality time I'll get to spend with the Blum crew over the next few weeks!



Partnerships have been on my mind lately. There are so many special partnerships that we are thankful to have at DCG. You'll read about our connection with Raccoon Valley Bank and the DCG Booster Club later in this issue. These two organizations allowed us to unveil a new video board this month!

How about the 33 partnerships we have in our school-to-work program?! Future-ready skills are vital to everything we do at DCG.

I'm reminded of our connection with parent volunteers! We've enjoyed mystery readers, field trip chaperones, Junior Achievement presenters and so much more! Thanks for giving back to our students.

In my role as superintendent, I'm grateful for the partnership with the cities of Grimes and Dallas Center. The community we build around our district is so important.

I know I will forget a few partners on this list, but please know we are so grateful for you - DCG PTO, DCG FOFA, Polk County Sheriff's Office, Dallas County Sheriff's Office, DCG Activities Sponsors, Chartwells and so many more! Your partnership makes our district a better place. Thank you!!

Dr. Scott Blum
DCG Superintendent

CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Monday, January 6 - Classes Resume

Wednesday, January 8/15/22/29 - Early Dismissal

Friday, January 17 - No School - Teacher Workday

Monday, January 20 - No School - MLK Day/Staff PD

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Home of the Mustangs



www.dcgschools.com

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REGISTRATION OPENS SOON

Registration for 2056-26 School Year - The registration period for the 2025-26 school year will begin on February 1. To project enrollment numbers, please register incoming students as soon as possible.

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

Key Dates: If your child will be 5 on or before September 15, 2025, register for kindergarten.

If your child will be 4 on or before September 15, 2025, register for 4-year-old preschool.

If your child will be 3 on or before September 15, 2025, register for 3-year-old preschool.

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

Families With Students New to the DCG District: Follow the steps listed on the district website: www.dcschools.com, registration tab or quick link.

Preschool Information:

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

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

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

Registration Fees: Registration fees will not be available for payment until July 1, 2025.

DISTRICT UPDATES



Strategic Plan Update - The DCG Strategic Plan continues to make significant progress. DCG's Strategic Planning Committee met in December to review the Daily Desired Experience Surveys that were sent to students, families and staff members in December. 534 DCG Middle School students responded to the survey. 300 Oak View students responded to the survey. 780 DCG High School students responded to the survey. 360 DCG parents responded to the survey. 270 DCG staff members responded to the survey. The overwhelming response to our survey request provided the team with the feedback we need to proceed. District leadership presented to the DCG School Board in December. The next part of this process will be January's meeting with the DCG Strategic Planning team. We will begin designing a three-year operational plan! This plan will be our "true north" and will be a visionary document that will shape our work moving forward.

We are still on track to complete the strategic planning process in May 2025!

Making Music at DCG Preschool -

DCG's youngest learners are wrapping up their music unit with a special guest! Members of the Des Moines Symphony Academy stopped by our classrooms in the month of December to showcase some of the instruments they use in performances! Our preschoolers even got to try the viola and cello!



From the PTO - We are thrilled to share the success of our recent fundraiser, the Mustangs Glow Run, which raised over \$64,000 for our elementary schools combined! This incredible achievement was made possible by the generous contributions from our community partners!

Fundraiser Goals and Achievements

This year, the funds raised will support several key initiatives aimed at enhancing the educational experience for our students, including:

Playground Equipment: Providing new and accessible play structures for students to enjoy during recess.

Assemblies: Organizing educational and entertaining assemblies that foster learning and creativity.

Technology: Updating and enhancing technological resources to support students' learning needs.

Teacher Grants: Offering grants for classroom projects and resources.

Teacher Appreciation: Recognizing and celebrating the hard work and dedication of our teachers and school staff.

We encourage all parents and guardians to consider joining the PTO and becoming part of a team that makes a meaningful difference in our schools. Your involvement is invaluable and greatly contributes to the success of our students and educational programs. Interested in joining the DCG PTO? Reach out to Kim Schaal at southprairiedcgpto@gmail.com!

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

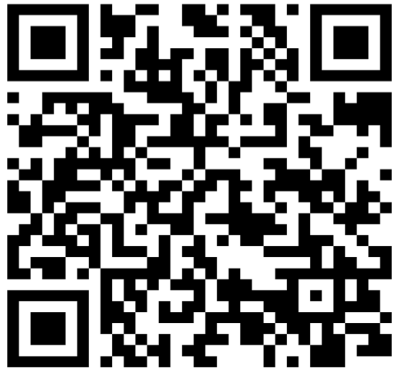
Art Trip - Students and Families of the class of 2027, 2028, 2029, & 2030:

You are eligible to travel with the DCG Art Travelers Group during Spring Break 2027. Experience three major European cities: London, Paris, and Rome! Find out more by scanning the code below. There will be an informational meeting on Wednesday, April 9th @ 6pm in the DCG High School art room 141. We hope to see you there!



HIGH SCHOOL

School Board Update - The next DCG School Board Meeting is set for January 27 at the DCG Administration Office. The meeting will begin at 5:30. Links are available at DCGschoools.com. The meeting will also be live streamed on the district's YouTube page.



DCG Menus - Looking for a way to have the latest DCG Menus on your phone? Download the Nutrislice App, presented by Chartwells. A QR with instructions is above. The Nutrislice app is updated frequently. We also have a link available at DCGschoools.com.

Education Foundation Update - Are you a business or community member in Dallas Center or Grimes looking to give back in a meaningful way? Consider partnering with the DCG Education Foundation as a scholarship sponsor, where you'll help our students achieve their educational goals and shape a brighter future! The DCG Education Foundation will help you prepare a scholarship for those pursuing degrees through trade schools, junior colleges, and both private and public universities. You can also identify specific criteria for the scholarship you sponsor. For more information, visit www.dcgeducationfoundation.org.



Turkey Food Drive Success - The DCG High School Food Drive made a tremendous impact this year! Our students donated 2,310 food and toiletry items and \$4,539.84 to the Grimes Storehouse and the Dallas Center Food Pantry. Students and staff donated the items to both communities during the month of December! This yearly tradition

makes such an impact in our community! Members of the Dallas Center Grimes Student Council traveled to both food pantries to hand off the donations in December!



FROM THE BUILDINGS



DCG Middle School Students Travel to BizTown - 6th grade students have been working hard in a Junior Achievement lesson! They capped off the unit by traveling to BizTown in early December. This BizTown experience allowed students to participate in a simulated business

community. From working a shift at various companies, to volunteering, and spending money to keep the economy health, this experience had it all! There's a video story of DCG Middle School's trip to BizTown available at DCGschoools.com! A special thank you to the Junior Achievement program for facilitating this experience! We had a blast!

Concert Season at DCG Middle School - What an incredible display of music at DCG Middle School in December! Our 5th and 6th concerts were exceptional! Did you know that an impressive 74% of the building participates in Band, Choir, or both ensembles? That's 431 out of 584 students making music a central part of their school experience! This level of involvement highlights the commitment of our students, staff, and families to fostering a strong and vibrant music program. Bravo to all the performers and their directors for kicking off the concert season on such a high note!



ELEMENTARY



Parade Season at DCG

- There are celebrations going on across our district! Dallas Center Elementary students held their own parade after reading the book "Balloons Over Broadway" (photo above) and South Prairie celebrated with their own Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade (photo left).



Insect Zoo at North Ridge Elementary

- There were a few special guests at North Ridge last month! The Iowa State University Insect Zoo stopped by for a visit! This hands-on learning opportunity was met with all kinds of "ohhhs" and "ahhs" - we should all be impressed by the bravery and excitement of our students!



Pies at Heritage - It was a special afternoon of learning for English Language Learners at Heritage Elementary. After reading the book "Amelia Bedelia's First Apple Pie," students made their own pie with our district's culinary educator. This connection to classroom learning was full of smiles and excitement! The Heritage hallways still smell like apple pie!

Campout Day at South Prairie

- Students at South Prairie Elementary are cashing in good behavior points for a Campout Day in December. The celebration included pajamas, tents, flashlights and an awesome reading environment for the day! We are loving their creativity and their passion for reading! Great job SPE students!



Holiday Learning at Heritage - 1st grade students at Heritage Elementary completed their Holidays Around the World unit in December! We stopped over for their spotlight on Germany, which included a delicious glass of hot chocolate from DCG's Culinary Educator.



Stuffed Animal Party! - A cold start to December was the perfect opportunity for a stuffed animal party at Dallas Center Elementary! These students earned good behavior points and cashed in their reward for this special celebration!



National STEM Day at DCG Middle School - Students participated in National STEM Day by completing different activities in their homerooms. STEM activities are challenges that foster collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity among students. Students enjoyed challenges such as stacking shoes to creating the tallest tower, building the tallest tower out of note cards, creating the longest chain out of a piece of paper, and a cup toss using plastic cups.

ACTIVITIES

DCG Night with the Iowa Wolves

- Mark your calendars for DCG CSD Night with the Iowa Wolves on Saturday, February 8 at 6:30. The Wolves play their home games inside Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines. \$5 of every ticketed purchased will go directly back to the DCG Education Foundation! Enjoy a night with the Wolves and support our students! Use the QR code below for a ticket link.



Morning of Music - It's one of our favorite holiday traditions at DCG! Several talented musicians put on an incredible performance for members of the DCG Chamber and Economic Development. December and January are busy months for our high school musicians, but they always make time for our community!



State Champ! - The DCG Dance team continues to shine on the statewide scale! Let's celebrate DCG Sophomore Katie Howard! Katie claimed the Division IX State Dance Championship in December. This is the second consecutive year a DCG Dancer took home the crown, Jordyn Green was a state champ in



2023! Green earned 8th place honors this fall!

As a team, DCG earned a Division I rating in every dance - pom, jazz, hip hop and mix! They placed 6th in pom and hip hop and 7th place in mix and jazz! Well done DCG Dancers!!



DCG DECA - DCG DECA had 31 participants in the Iowa DECA 2024 District III Competition, with 17 members placing in the top seven in their respective categories! **DCG** DECA also had a chance to go on several field trips including a DECA leadership conference at ISU and a fun business competition at Graceland University.



Celebrating Difference Makers - DCG CSD is full of difference makers! Each member of the DCG Girls and Boys Basketball team selected a member of Team DCG that has made an impact on their journey in our district. Players surprised their difference maker with a note and t-shirt during the school day and invited them to a game later this season! We are also creating a special video that will highlight some of the incredible moments that our players shared with the staff member. Look for this video on our district's website and social media channels! Thanks to our basketball programs for sharing your gratitude and thank you to our staff members for continually pouring your time and talents into our students! You are truly difference makers!!

ACTIVITIES



New Video Board!! - Have you been out to the DCG High School Gymnasium lately?! If so, you've noticed a brand new video board that was donated to DCG by Raccoon Valley Bank (title sponsor) and the DCG Booster Club. The video board stands 13' by 8' and was installed on December 2, 2024. DCG's new video board is one of the largest in the state and provides an immediate upgrade to the gameday environment in our gymnasium! We've already started thinking of new ways to incorporate the video board into our daily routine at DCG. We are also excited about the possibilities it might give us for large events like pep rallies and graduation! We held a special unveiling ceremony at our basketball games on Friday, December 6. Check out DCGschoools.com for a look back at this special event! A special thank you to Raccoon Valley Bank and the DCG Booster Club for your continued support of our district!



Middle School Mock Trial - After three months of practice, DCG Middle School Mock Trial had three teams compete at various regionals in November. Team POW-TOWN!!! was one of the thirty-two teams to qualify for state. 8th Grader Nash Townsend was named Best Attorney and Best Witness at the state competition. Team POW-TOWN!!! was made up of 6th Graders: Tenley Peterson and Nolan Townsend; 7th Graders: Kylee Daugherty, Emma Oberreuter, Kyrie Peterson, and Alexis Werth; and 8th Graders: Maggie Hawthorne and Nash Townsend. The three teams were coached by Calvin Schlak and Peter Hapke.



DCG Choir Showcase - The DCG Vocal Music Department was on display in December. Our DCG Singers put on an incredible show at their December with DCG event. This was a showcase of all five of our choirs and the professional string ensemble - Quartet 515. December with DCG fills every seat in the DCG High School Auditorium and is a great way to celebrate the musical talent in our district.

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POSTAL CUSTOMER



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Art Spotlight - Painting II students at DCG High School recently completed animal portraits. They did a great job of layering paint, matching colors, and using a variety of textures to create realistic looking animals. Maddie Walker (bottom right), Ashlynn Menough (bottom left), and Arroe Chittenden's (bottom middle) work is featured below.

