



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.

Election

March 4, 2025

On **Tuesday, March 4, 2025**, all Grimes and Dallas Center residents will have the opportunity to vote on two ballot measures regarding our district's PPEL (Physical Plant & Equipment Levy) and SAVE Revenue Purpose Statement. The elections for PPEL and RPS require a simple majority (over 50%) approval to pass.

How can PPEL dollars be used?

The revenues from this property tax levy are restricted to specific school building repairs, maintenance, improvements, and new construction. It can also be used for non-instructional software, technology, and equipment items \$500 or greater. The money cannot be used to pay for salaries or fund student programs.

What can SAVE funds be used for?

The district receives approximately \$4.6 million per year from the state in SAVE dollars. In recent years, SAVE funds have provided funding for our infrastructure needs, roofing, and our 1:1 technology initiative.

Why are SAVE and PPEL important?

Think of SAVE and PPEL as silos of funding for specific purposes. They are both crucial funding resources that serve our students and staff. If one of these buckets is empty, other buckets are needed and there may not be funding for certain projects. In some cases, it would force DCG to dip into the General Fund bucket, which is primarily used for teacher salaries.

Election Info - Continued on Page 2



CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

March 5, 12, 26 - Early Dismissal

March 10, 12, 13 - PK/8 Parent Teacher Conferences

March 17-21 - Spring Break

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Home of the Mustangs



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DISTRICT UPDATES

National School Counseling Week - DCG CSD celebrated our incredible team of school counselors February 3-8. DCG Counselors are trusted mentors who help our students navigate through their education journey. We are thankful for their dedication and drive every single day!

DCG School Counselors

DCG High School - Danielle Clancy, Lisa Rinehart, Nathan Gross | *Oak View* - Emily Waugh, Sarah Rose | *DCG Middle School* - Emma Olejniczak, Megann Roff | *Elementary* - Courtney Anderson, Mallory DeLacy, Brandon Fitch, Adam Jones, Logan Wilson. Thank you counselors!!

Election Info (cont.)

Will either SAVE or PPEL approval raise taxes?

No. SAVE and PPEL are two different funding resources; neither will raise taxes if approved. Renewal of the PPEL is required to continue to collect voter-approved PPEL funds for another 10 years. Approval of the SAVE Revenue Purpose Statement allows the district to spend the SAVE dollars as needed. This ensures Dallas Center-Grimes CSD will have dollars for new projects, building maintenance, software, and technology in years to come.

What happens if DCG is not able to use PPEL or SAVE funds?

Maintenance of school buildings is essential to meeting the basic educational needs of the students. Repair and improvement expenditures must be made to maintain safe and efficient buildings. If funds are collected through a voter-approved PPEL, costs for building repairs must be paid from another source. DCG CSD has used SAVE funds for large construction projects to avoid needing to levy future property tax construction bonds.

More Info and Voting Locations - Use the QR Code below! Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, March 4.



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

DCG,

We are entering the stretch run of the school year and our team is hard at work! I have three project updates to share with you in our March Mustang Monthly.

Strategic Plan - First, let me say thank you! We've asked for your feedback throughout this process and you've delivered! We started with very general questions - what do you like about DCG? What could we improve on at DCG? Then we moved into our Theory of Action. When x, y and z are happening, DCG is achieving at our highest level. Your feedback gave us incredible insight into what our x, y and z should be. Our most recent DCG Strategic Plan Meeting focused on creating two theories of action, one for the district and one for our classrooms! Our conversations will now shift to the board table.

Facilities Plan - The DCG Facilities team met with our district's new architects from OPN for the very first time on February 20. This group is a great mix of staff members, K-12 parents, coaches/directors and administrators. Our goal is to create a facilities plan that will address our most important needs for the next 5-10 years.

Stronge Instructional Framework - We've asked our staff to engage in learning around an instructional framework throughout the course of the 2024-25 school year. This has been an important learning tool in our professional development learning as well. We believe an instructional framework will align our staff members, all 700+ of us, in one common direction. Our learning will add additional layers throughout the next couple of years.

There are a lot of "big ticket" items at DCG. Don't think for a second that we are taking our eyes off the everyday prize, our students. Our commitment to their learning will never waver!

- Superintendent Blum

Education Foundation Update - Attention DCG seniors - scholarship applications are now officially open! DCGEF is the hub for a wide variety of locally-sponsored scholarships, including options for students pursuing most post-secondary educational paths: the trades, community colleges, and universities. You don't want to miss out on this opportunity - last year, 145 scholarships totaling \$174,150 were awarded to DCG seniors!

March 1 - Applications Open / March 31 - Applications Close / May 21 Senior Awards Night - More information at dcgeducationfoundation.org



South Prairie Field Trip - First-grade students had an amazing time during a recent field trip to the Science Center of Iowa! This hands-on experience helped bring to life many of the concepts we've been learning in the classroom. The kids got to dive deeper into science with some fun and interactive activities. We're so grateful for the opportunity to take our classroom lessons into the real world!

National School Resource Officer Day - We celebrated Deputy Alan Loutzenhiser and Deputy MaKennah Walters on Saturday, February 15. DCG's SROs keep our schools safe, provide support to students and build positive relationships with the community. Our SROs make a meaningful impact every single day!

School Board Update - The DCG School Board will meet on Monday, March 31. The agenda will be posted at DCGSchools.com along with a link to watch the meeting live.

Seal of Biliteracy - The Seal of Biliteracy is an award recognizing students who attain proficiency in two or more languages, one of which is English, by high school graduation.

The Seal of Biliteracy:

- Values language as an asset
- Recognizes the value of language diversity and cultural identity
- Prepares students with 21st century skills that will benefit them in our global society, especially during college and job searches
- Provides recognition and evidence for students' proficiency in two or more languages

To be eligible for the Iowa Seal of Biliteracy, each student must demonstrate proficiency in English and a world language through various assessments. Students who earn the Seal of Biliteracy will be recognized during the graduation ceremony, and the seal will be shown on their diploma and official transcript.

Dallas Center-Grimes Testing Information:

The school district will cover the cost for administering the initial test, but the students will be responsible for the fees associated with retakes.

Dates: April 14, 15 and 16, 2025
Times: April 14 & 15 3:15 p.m. and April 16 at 1:00 p.m.

Room: Mrs. Hawks Room #628
Please contact Mrs. Hawks by April 4th if you would like to sign up to participate in the upcoming testing session: laree.hawks@dcgschools.com

HIGH SCHOOL



CPR Training - Students in Health Class at Dallas Center-Grimes High School received CPR training in February! This is a crucial skill to carry throughout life and was a great way to provide this hands-on experience to our students!

World Language Trip - Journey through France and Spain with the DCG school sponsored high school World Language Department in the Spring of 2026. We will arrive in Paris to start our journey. We will see the Montmartre district, Versailles, the Eiffel Tower with a trip to the top, Musée D'Orsay, the Latin Quarter tour, a Seine river cruise and many stops around the city. We leave Paris and set our sights on Avignon. Our visit to the south of France will include a visit to Avignon, Nîmes and Carcassonne. After our visit in Carcassonne, we will arrive in Barcelona, Spain. We will visit Las Ramblas, the Basilica of the Sagrada Familia, Plaça de Catalunya, Parc Güell and many other sights around the city. We will also take trips to Montserrat and Sitges. The cost of this trip is \$4,122 which includes a discount. If you have any questions, would like more information or would like to sign up for the trip, please email laree.hawks@dcgschools.com.

DISTRICT UPDATES



Jason Snow Named DCG Middle School Principal * Pending School Board Approval - Dallas Center-Grimes CSD is excited to announce that Jason Snow has been named Principal of DCG Middle School.

Snow currently serves as the McCombs Middle School Principal in the Des Moines Public School District. Previously, Jason was the Associate Principal at Harding and Weeks Middle School in DMPS.

"This is such an exciting day for the entire Snow family," shares Jason. "My two daughters are students in the district and I've seen firsthand how incredible this team is! I can't wait to get started!"

Jason earned his Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Iowa State University and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Drake University.

Snow's first day at DCG Middle School will be July 1, 2025.

Note - This issue of the Mustang Monthly was sent to print ahead of the February School Board Meeting.

ELEMENTARY



100th (and 101st) Day of School at DCG - It's important to celebrate! Our students and staff showcased their learning for the year with Day 100 (Tuesday, February 4 and Day 101 (Wednesday, February 5). We are so proud of all the work they've accomplished so far and are excited to see what can be done in the second half of the year! Great job students and staff!



Day in the Life of a Kindergarten Student - Have you ever wondered what life is like as a kindergarten student? We have the all-access pass you need! Use the QR code (top left) to observe what a typical day is like in a kindergarten classroom at Dallas Center-Grimes! The video is narrated by one of our youngest learners! Don't forget to register to join us next year!



Reward Day at Heritage - Kindergarten students at Heritage Elementary earned a special class reward in February! One of the biggest celebrations allowed students to practice their sight words with shaving cream on their desks! What a great way to continue the learning!



New Art at North Ridge - How cool does this look?! A North Ridge family donated a brand new mural to the school! This mural was painted by artist Courtney Moller of Art You Would Love. The text in the mural says "North Ridge is better

with you in it!" Staff and students are loving the feel of their brand new hallway display!



North Ridge Authors - Abby Burns, a 3rd grade student was inspired to write a story based on a wood chip incident that happened at recess. With a little help from Miss Delilah, her book was published and added to the system for students to check out. This quickly inspired other students in 3rd and 4th grade to write and publish their own stories to share with others. At this time, we have 18 authors! Once the books started circulating, some of our younger readers began to notice and wanted to join in the fun. Stories written by kindergarten-2nd graders are located in a Student Stories basket in the library for others to enjoy on our checkout days. Watching the kids write and read these stories has been such a joy and has encouraged many, who might not check out books regularly, to join the fun!

Register for the 2025-26 school year at DCG - Our enrollment team can use your help! Please register your student/s for next school year. Use the QR code below to start the process!





Stratton Wins Award - DCG's Cory Stratton was named Class 4A's Middle School Football Coach of the Year in February! Stratton, a DCG HS graduate, coaches several sports at DCG, he spent the winter with DCG Wrestling. Thanks for pouring into our student athletes Coach Stratton!



Rankin Wins 350th Game/DCG Claims LHC Crown - This has been a history making season for the DCG Boys Basketball program! Head Coach Joel Rankin won his 350th game at DCG! Rankin started his journey at DCG in 2002 and has guided the program to several milestones throughout his tenure. The DCG Boys captured the 2025 Little Hawkeye Conference Championship this year, finishing league play undefeated. This marks the first time in program history that a team has finished conference play without a loss! What a remarkable achievement! DCG opens postseason play on Monday, February 24.

ACTIVITIES



IOWA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH ASSOCIATION

DCG All-State Speech - It's a record-breaking year for the DCG Speech program. Eight groups were selected for all-state, setting a record at DCG High School! Six of the eight groups performed at the All-State Festival in Ames on February 22, another record for DCG High School.

Performing:

Group Mime – Jeremy: Alexa Farrell, Anna McKernan, Vivian Patch-Quates, Cael Ramsey, Addilyn Stine, Elle Wood

Group Mime – After School Special: Lily Briggeman, Grace Crow, Joella Duncan, Taylor Gray, Emily Kleckner, Gabi Vandenberg

TV News – SHHH: AJ Altman, Sofia Berdeha, Campbell Bowen, Johanna Bonefas, Aaliyah Jacobo, Braden Zach

Musical Theater – Seussical: Kayla Atanga, Mady Brown, Noah Dutchuk, Evelin Mead, Charlie Peterson, Hunter Quandt, Leo Rzewnicki, Elle Wedeking

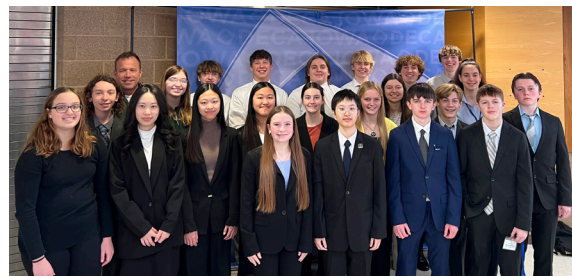
Short Film – The Magical, Musical, Magnificent Moving Library of Montgomery and Margaret: Marley Eickelberg, Gavin Eickelberg, Drew Sonberg, Noah Dutchuk, Nora Spooner, Elle Wedeking

Choral Reading – The Raven: Sharla Benning, Evie Dahm, Blaire Ehlert, Roxanne Gao, Elana Hamp, Audrina Harryman, Rebecca Mathesius, Silas Miller, Izzy Powell, Noah Townsend, Fisher Krob

Non Performing:

Improv – Sophie Hrubetz, Will Kestel, Nora Spooner, Gabi Vandenberg

Musical Theater – Urinetown: Campbell Bowen, Ella Christensen, Gavin Eickelberg, Marley Eickelberg, Tyler Fitch, Evan Friesen, Will Kestel, Addilyn Stine



DCG DECA Update - DCG DECA competed in the State DECA competition in February. Participants completed a 100-question exam covering marketing, management, entrepreneurship, and finance concepts.

Additionally, each student selected one of 15 role-play events, analyzed a case study, and presented their solutions to a judge.

Final rankings were determined by averaging test and role-play scores, with awards given for top test scores, role-play performance, and overall placement.

DCG had 13 Top-10 State Finalists and two State Champions: Grace Edsen and Rachael Gao.

ACTIVITIES



Girls State Wrestling Recap - The DCG Girls Wrestling team capped off a tremendous season at the 2025 Iowa High School Girls Wrestling State Tournament. The Mustangs qualified eight wrestlers for the tournament and two of them

earned a spot on the podium! Halley Beaudet, a three-time state qualifier, finished 3rd place in the 190 lb. bracket! Josephine Bond, another three-time state qualifier, finished 6th place in the 115 lb. bracket! Congratulations on a great season Mustangs!



Boys Wrestling Update - It's been a great season for the DCG Boys Wrestling team as well! The Mustangs sent nine wrestlers to the Iowa High School State Wrestling Championships (February 19-22). We will have a full recap in the April issue of the Mustang Monthly. The nine qualifiers are 106 – Noah Kerndt, 113 – Peyton Philavanh, 120 – Avery Van Zelderen (District Champion), 126 – Blake Forrester, 132 – Ayden Beck (District Champion), 150 – Cole Hemmingsen, 157 – Cayden Mayfield (District Champion), 165 – Tyde Nelsen (District Champion), 285 – Ryan Pertzsch.



Big Year for DCG Girls Basketball - The DCG Girls Basketball program captured a share of the Little Hawk-eye Conference Championship in 2025, the fifth straight time the Mustangs have won at least a share of the LHC crown! DCG finished the regular season with a 17-4 overall record, 11-1 in conference play. DCG shared the title with Norwalk. The Mustangs earned the #1 seed in the Class 4A Region 6 bracket and played their postseason opener. We will have a full season recap in the April issue of the Mustang Monthly!

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Art Spotlight - Drawing I students focused on the use of value, pattern, and overlap to create these drawings based on a theme of their choosing. It is great to see the variety of interests! The students represented here are from L to R: Alayna Boel, Charlotte Klocke, Cale Shiffer, and Keti Palavandishvili.