



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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December 2025

Empowering Students to Take Charge of Their Future.

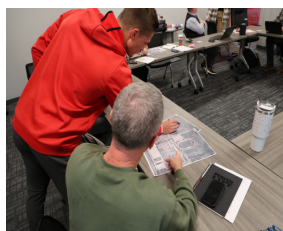
VOTERS APPROVE 2025 BOND REFERENDUM



Referendum Approved - On November 4, voters in Polk County and Dallas County approved DCG CSD's 2025 Bond Referendum project! 74.9% of the votes were in favor of the bond referendum project! This was the highest approval rate in the central Iowa

area and the second highest approval rate in the state of Iowa! Your support of this project will make an immediate impact on each and every student in our district!

What's Next? - District administrators are meeting with OPN Architects to develop a project timeline and design plans for each part of the project. This phase includes internal discussions, visits to surrounding school districts for ideas and exploration, and community feedback from DCG CSD students, staff and families.



When Will Construction Begin? - The planning and timeline phase will go throughout the winter season. We anticipate the first shovels to hit the ground as soon as snow melts. Installing inclusive playgrounds at our district's elementary schools will be one of the first projects completed.

DCG CSD School Board Election November 2025



Nick Fiala
District 1



Monica Malmberg
District 2



Julie Quandt
At-Large



Dallas Center-Grimes
Community School District

School Board Election Recap - Three spots on the DCG School Board were also up for election on the November ballot. Nick Fiala was reelected in District 1. Monica Malmberg was reelected in District 2. Julie Quandt was elected for the At-Large Director position. All three members were sworn in at our November School Board Meeting.

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CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

December 3, 10, 17 - Early Dismissal

December 22- January 5 - Winter Break

DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OFFICES

Elementary Offices

Patty Morris, Principal/South Prairie Elem.

E-mail: patty.morris@dcgschools.com

Telephone Number: (515) 986-4057

Fax Number: (515) 986-4532

500 SW James Street, Grimes, Iowa 50111

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

April Heitland, Principal/North Ridge Elem.

E-mail: april.heitland@dcgschools.com

Telephone Number: 515-986-5674

Fax Number: 515-986-5376

400 N.W. 27th Street, Grimes, Iowa 50111

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Diann Williamson, Principal/Heritage Elem.

E-mail: diann.williamson@dcgschools.com

Telephone Number: (515) 300-9627

Fax Number: (515) 300-9627

500 NE Beaverbrook Blvd., Grimes, IA 50111

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Deb Cale, Principal/Dallas Center Elem.

E-mail: debra.cale@dcgschools.com

Telephone Number: (515) 992-3838

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1205 13th Street, P.O. Box 400, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

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Middle School Office/Jason Snow, Principal

E-mail: jason.snow@dcgschools.com

Telephone Number: (515) 992-4343

Fax Number: (515) 992-4076

1400 Vine Street, P.O. Box 608, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Oak View/Joan Cundiff, Principal

E-mail: joan.cundiff@dcgschools.com

Telephone Number: (515) 986-0105

Fax Number: (515) 986-3155

1300 SW County Line Road, Grimes, Iowa 50111

Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

High School Office/Matthew Blackmore, Principal

E-mail: matthew.blackmore@dcgschools.com

Telephone Number: (515) 986-9747

Fax Number: (515) 986-9734

2555 W. 1st Street, Grimes, Iowa 50111

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Transportation Office/Jeff Wolfe, Transportation Director

Email: jeff.wolfe@dcgschools.com

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255 SW Jazzwood Dr.

Grimes, IA 50111

Office Hours: 7:00 am - 4:00 p.m.

Central Office/Business Office

Dr. Scott Blum, Superintendent

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

Grimes, Iowa 50111

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

DCG Family,

My goal for this month's letter is to say thank you! Your support of the 2025 Bond Referendum will impact so many kids!



From our very first bond meeting, our goal was simple: meet the immediate needs of our students, staff and families, while creating a vision for the future of DCG. I truly believe we have done just that. Not only for our current students, but also for the thousands of future Mustangs that will call DCG home.

As we tallied up the votes and saw a 75% approval, I was overwhelmed with emotion. 75% is a huge number! In fact, 75% approval was the highest percentage in the Des Moines area and the second-highest percentage for any district in the state of Iowa. These numbers showcase the unmatched support that our community has for DCG CSD.

Time and time again, you show up for students!! That's at the ballot box, but it's also in so many other ways. You sold out the three performances of The Wizard of Oz at DCG High School. You packed the stands at all of our home football games this year. You showed up in a big way for our fall parent/teacher conferences. You are showing up for our kids, and that means the world to me!

We will keep showing up for you as well. We will be there to answer questions. We will update you on our progress. We will be there to celebrate the milestone moments. We will be there to support the day-to-day achievements.

I promise to keep you posted as the construction projects begin. It's a great time to be a Dallas Center-Grimes Mustang!

Thanks for your continued support!

Dr. Scott Blum

School Board Update - The next DCG School Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17 at 5:30. The agenda and livestream link will be available at DCGsSchools.com.

FROM OUR BUILDINGS

Ready for the Future - Students at Oak View are taking a look into the future! Oak View's Future Ready students participated in mock interviews this fall. The conversations were led by community partners! This is a great way to connect school learning to the real world! It was a meaningful experience for everyone involved!



South Prairie Citizens - Being responsible is a building expectation at South Prairie this year! Part of this learning includes citizenship outside of school! A special thanks to Metro Waste Authority for spending a day with our students to showcase the importance of recycling!



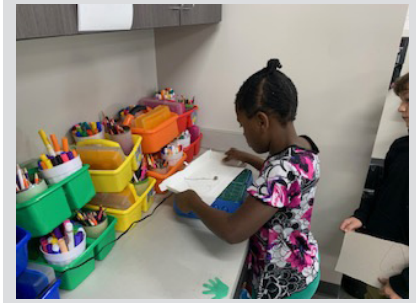
Celebrating Our Students - Way to go DCG Math Stars! At October's DCG School Board Meeting, we honored nine incredible students! These nine scholars scored in the top 2% of all 3rd graders in Iowa on the 2025 Math ISASP exam!! Congratulations to Luke Folkerts, Blake Gustafson, Max Kemp, Quinn Markey, Jaxon McKnight, Rowen Miller, Addison Pelton, Ellery Snow and Harper Woolworth!



Internet Safety - Internet safety has been a topic of conversation at DCG Middle School! DCG SRO's Deputy Alan Loutzenhiser and Deputy Ben Spracklin met with all 5th and 6th graders to share best practices for online activity. This is a timely conversation as our students begin to use technology on a frequent basis!

Education Foundation Update - To everyone who made the DCGEF RED Dinner & Auction such an incredible success — thank you. Whether you attended the event, bid in the silent auction, donated an item, sponsored an activity, or supported us from behind the scenes, your generosity has made a real and lasting difference.

Because of the community's support, we've raised over \$81,000 to provide scholarships for DCG seniors and alumni pursuing college, community college, and trade school. These funds will open doors, fuel dreams, and change lives.



Thank You FOFA - Heritage Elementary would like to extend a huge thank you to FOFA (Friends of Fine Arts) for their incredible generosity. Their support allowed us to purchase a new "chomp saw" for the art room, which has already been a fantastic asset! Speaking of the Heritage Art Room, students are learning to work safely and independently use hot glue to attach their cardboard pieces. Their creativity and cooperation were truly impressive!

Did you forget to order your 2024-2025 high school yearbook? Don't worry - Mrs. Soener has extras! Reach out to ivy.soener@dcgschools.com if you'd like to purchase one.

Is your business interested in sponsoring the high school yearbook? We have packages as low as \$75 for those who want to support our organization. Email ivy.soener@dcgschools.com with inquiries.

Veterans Day at DCG - Our district takes tremendous pride in honoring our Veterans each year. Several DCG buildings held assemblies and meals to honor our local Veterans on November 11. To our Veterans - your service has paved the way for the freedoms we cherish, and we are forever grateful. Students at Dallas Center Elementary also connected with Veterans via letters. There's a video story posted at DCGschools.com after we presented these letters at Hy-Vee's annual breakfast.

We are also proud to honor a dedicated group of Veterans working on Team DCG. We've listed their names below.

Veterans at DCG

Daryl Haynes – Maintenance
 Patricia Schipper – Preschool Teacher
 Jeff Wolfe – Transportation
 Aaron Stoltz – Transportation
 Randy Martin – Transportation
 Brandon Kraklio – Transportation
 Craig Gooder – Transportation
 Kevin Lull – Transportation
 Ronda McCarthy – Teacher – DCG Middle School
 James Roberts – Teacher – DCG High School
 Shawn Cain – Transportation
 Rebecca Keeling – Custodian – Oak View
 Caelyn Briley - Associate - High School
 Doug Kardell - Transportation
 Jaycie Gurnsey - Teacher
 Gravis Alger - Transportation
 Mark Lux - Custodian - North Ridge
 Coda Skeffington-Vos - Transportation

FROM OUR BUILDINGS



DCG Middle School Visits Junior Achievement BizTown
 - This is such an exciting experience for our middle school students! After working hard for the first quarter of the school year, they put their knowledge to work on a visit to JA BizTown. This opportunity partners the in-class learning at DCG Middle

School, with a day-long experience in a simulated town (BizTown). Students play different roles at BizTown, from citizens, community leaders, business owners and so much more. They work together to make their town thrive. We have a photo gallery from the trip to BizTown available at DCGschools.com!

Thank You Hy-Vee - Dallas Center Elementary would like to thank Hy-Vee Grimes for their continued support of our students! For the second consecutive year, Hy-Vee Grimes donates food for our DCE Backpack program. They deliver food to our building once a month, and then our team provides it to our students who need nutrition assistance over the weekend. Together, we are meeting the needs of all our students.



The Wizard of Oz at DCG - The 2025 DCG Spring Musical was a huge success! More than 100 DCG High School students participated in a performance of The Wizard of Oz! A special shout out to several 4th graders from all DCG elementary schools who took on the role of Munchkins this fall! This incredible crew has been working on their performances for several months! Their hard work paid off with three performances in November!



DISTRICT UPDATES



DCG Creators - We are excited to showcase our latest set of DCG Creators. Members of Team DCG are nominated by their colleagues for living out our district's core values! This is a special way to celebrate the incredible professionals working at DCG every single day! DCG Creators (October 2025): Brittany Halsrud,

Asia Olson, Nejra Vatres, Sara Jones, Kyler Olsen, Travis Donahue, Sean Shatava, Bethany Johnson, Austin Oborny, Leanna Houston, Abbi Wych, Hannah Clark, Abby Crannell, Emily Drey, Valarie Rich, Kathryn Hopper, Lindsay Kasperbauer, Jolie Morgan, Shauna Pertzsch, Jasmine Smith, Sarah Jenkins, Jessica Soukup. Visit DCGschoools.com for a look at our surprise presentations to the latest DCG Creators!

DCG Staff Tailgate - Team DCG had the best time at our 2025 Staff Tailgate! A special thank you to our sponsors - DCG Booster Club, Hy-Vee in Grimes and Fareway in Grimes! Garrett Morris (son of South Prairie Principal Patty Morris) played live music for our group as well! Thanks for celebrating with us!



2025 SIAC Kickoff - DCG CSD held our first SIAC (School Improvement Advisory Committee) Meeting in October! This partnership between administrators, teachers and parents strengthens our commitment to partnering with each other throughout the educational journey! Our next meeting is in February!

FFA Trip - The DCG FFA took a trip to Indianapolis, Indiana last week to experience the National FFA Convention. During this trip, students went on farm tours, explored the career fair, and learned from leaders in the agriculture industry. They explored Fair Oaks Dairy Farm, Churchill Downs race track, and the Hermitage horse breeding program. The speakers at this convention included our National FFA Officers, the secretary of agriculture, and keynote speaker A'ric Jackson. They even got to experience the opening ceremony spoken completely in Spanish by the FFA chapter from Puerto Rico! Overall it was a great trip that the kids and advisors will be reminiscing about for years to come.



Angel Account - There's a need in our DCG cafeterias. The DCG Angel Account helps students receive the meals they need every single day. The account helps support our students who don't qualify for free and reduced meals but could still use our help. If you are interested in donating, please visit the school store on Infinite Campus or online at DCG-Schools.com

Blood Drive Update - The National Honor Society Fall Blood Drive was a huge success! They had 164 registered donors, 50 of them donating for the first time! 168 units of blood were collected, saving or sustaining 504 lives! Congratulations to the DCG National Honor Society on a great drive! This is such an important community service event!



Oak View Award - Help us celebrate Oak View 8th grader Alison Stone! Alison is the recipient of the 2025 CHC Sam Salmon Scholarship, which can be used to attend a jazz camp! She was eligible to be nominated by attending and participating in the monthly jazz jam sessions. These are held on the first Sunday of the month from 2-4 pm at The Cave DSM. Way to go Alison!

ACTIVITIES



Great Year for DCG Band - What a year for the DCG Marching Mustangs! Our incredible band earned their 14th consecutive Division I rating at the state competition on Saturday, October 18. The Division I Rating represents talent, dedication and months of hard work! The Marching Mustangs also received a score of 85.25 at the Waukee Marching Invitational, their highest score of the season, and their highest score ever in a Class 4A competition!! The Marching Mustangs also put on a great show at our home football games this fall!



Opus Honor Choir Update - Thirteen students from DCG Middle School, Oak View, and DCG High School were recently selected to participate in the 39th annual Opus Honor Choir Festival. We are excited to announce 6th graders Aubrey Blum, Clementine Dahm, Trinity Diersen, Andrew Heitland, Charlotte Kelloway, Mackenzie Lyon, and Tegan Nelson, 7th grader Charlie Christensen, 8th graders Verona Moore, Carter Briggeman, Ben New, and Lincoln Wager, and 9th grader William Schall for this prestigious honor. Over 3,000 students were nominated by their directors across the state of

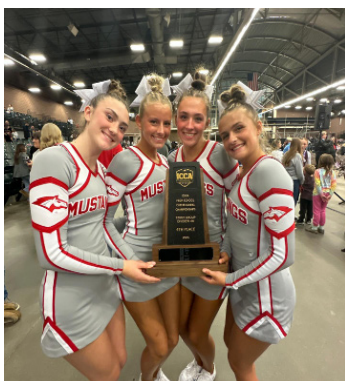


Iowa for 720 positions in the four Opus Honor Choirs. Selections were made by means of a recorded audition. The 2025 Opus Honor Choirs performed on November 20th at Stephens Auditorium in the Iowa State Center in Ames.



Back to State, DCG Volleyball Qualifies for State - The DCG Volleyball team closed out the 2025 season at the Iowa High School State Volleyball Tournament! The Mustangs qualified for the Class 4A State Tournament after sweeping ADM in a regional final. DCG's season came to an end in the state quarterfinals against North Scott, but there is still so much to be proud of! The Mustangs finished the season with a 26-12 record, winning five of their last six matches. Maggie Leifker, Avery Edgington and Ava Smid all tallied 200+ kills. Gwen Farley had 1,020 assists. Anna Jackson led the team with 445 digs.

State Cheer Recap - The DCG Cheer program has been busy this fall! In addition to their support during our fall events, they also put together their routines for state! We are thrilled to share that the DCG Stunt team finished 4th place in Class 4A at the championship event on November 1. This is a significant accomplishment in the state's biggest class! Way to go DCG Cheer!



Dance Team Update- The DCG Dance team is off to a great start! Katie Howard qualified for the ISDTA State Solo Championship and the Mustangs will also compete in four team events at state! Good luck!

ACTIVITIES

Again! Piper Messerly Wins State Cross Country Title -

Piper Messerly claimed a second consecutive Class 4A Cross Country Championship, running a time of 17:41. Her winning time is the 6th fastest in state meet history! Piper's teammate, Tenley Heidgerken finished 3rd in Class 4A with a time of 17:51, the second fastest time in state meet history by a freshman! Piper and Tenley led the Mustangs to a 4th place finish as a team. DCG has finished in the top five at state nine times in the last eleven years! The DCG Boys Cross Country team finished in 6th place at the 4A state meet. This was the 12th trip to State in the last 13 seasons for DCG, and the 14th trip overall. Since 2014, in their State trips, they've always placed seventh or better. The Mustangs finished second in the Little Hawkeye Conference, with four All-Conference members (Graham Ibeling, Jack Meggison, Harper Gessmann, and Noah Kerndt) and second at the District Meet with four All-District members (Ibeling, Kerndt, Meggison, Gessmann). Ibeling also earned second team all-state honors.



Mustangs Send Two to State Swimming - Two DCG High School students qualified for state swimming as part of our district's partnership with Johnston. Evie Dahm qualified in the 100 breaststroke. Izzy Ernsperger swam the 200 medley relay, 100 fly, 500 free, and 400 free relay. The Iowa State Swimming and Diving Meet was held in Iowa City on November 13 and 14. A special thank you to the Johnston Activities Department for supporting our students!



All-State Music - The Dallas Center-Grimes Activities department had another incredible showing at the 2025 All-State Auditions. We are so excited to celebrate our talented musicians!

2025 All-State Chorus

Campbell Bowen – Tenor
Mady Brown – Alton
Gavin Eickelberg – Tenor
Izzy Ernsperger – Alto
Nathan Fitch – Tenor
Taylor Gray – Soprano
Will Kestel – Bass
Izzy Powell – Soprano
Hunter Quandt – Bass
Leo Rzewnicki – Tenor
Elle Wedeking – Alto
Recall Auditions – Macey Clark,
Griffin Kleis, Zach Kluss

2025 All-State Band

Kate Wilson – Flute
Emma Adair – Bassoon
Alternates - Ahren Ervin, Archer Ervin

2025 All-State Orchestra

Hannah Fasse – Oboe

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Art Showcase - Paige Harvey (middle), Samantha Heim (right), and Taylor Gray (left) did an excellent job of layering, color matching, and creating texture in their acrylic pet portraits in Painting II. We are continually amazed by the creativity and skill of the artists at DCG High School!

