



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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Empowering Every Student to Create Their Future

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

It hits me every April. A mix of emotions - closing out one school year and getting ready to start another one. Saying goodbye to a great group of seniors and saying hello to an eager group of preschoolers. I want to start by celebrating some incredible accomplishments.

Ava Smid and the DCG Girls Basketball team made national news! We've heard stories about people watching the highlights from the Netherlands, Canada and Mexico. I know I'll never forget that moment.

For the first time in our history, three jazz ensembles are competing for a state jazz championship! A shout out to Dissonance, Modulation and Jazz One. We are proud of you!

ISASP testing is in full swing. This is a monumental task in planning, preparation and execution. I'm so excited for the state to see the success of our students!

I can't wait to see what the final few weeks of the school year have in store. But first, a quick look at our planning for next year.

Don't forget to register your student/s! Head to DCGschoools.com to get the process started.

Our meetings with the DCG Education Association are underway. I know I can speak for our district and for DCGEA, we are going to have an incredible team at DCG in the 2026-27 school year!

We held a special preschool celebration on Monday, March 30. Our preschoolers bring a one-of-a-kind energy to our district. Check out our social media pages for a look at this special event! Let's have a great sprint to the finish!

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott Blum - DCG Superintendent



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Home of the Mustangs



www.dcgschools.com

CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Early Dismissal, 12:30 Oak View, 1:00 all other buildings

DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OFFICES

Elementary Offices

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DISTRICT UPDATES

Artwork on Display -
Next time you are at the Grimes Public Library, check out the hallway lining the main hallway! You'll get a great look at some brand new artwork from our students at Oak View! You'll be amazed at the talent, creativity and imagination of our students! A special thank you to our community partners for showcasing our students!



Raymond Named New Assistant Principal - Jalen Raymond has been named a new assistant principal at DCG High School. Raymond is currently a math teacher in the building and will transition to his new role on July 1. Congratulations to Mr. Raymond!

Education Foundation Update - Did you know?

DCGEF funds scholarships for DCG seniors through three sources:

Business & Organization Sponsorship - Local businesses and organizations fund scholarships tailored to specific career paths, industries, or achievements. Their generosity supports education and strengthens the local community.

Foundation-Managed Scholarships - Thanks to individual donors and family endowments, DCGEF administers scholarships that honor past educators, alumni, and community members. We carefully manage these funds for long-term sustainability and ongoing student opportunities.

Community Fundraising & Events - Funds are raised directly from our community through events like the RED Dinner & Auction, 50/50 raffles, and other local fundraisers.



DCG CSD
eBackpack

New Additions to the DCG Ebackpack - There are several exciting updates to the DCG Ebackpack! DCG Cross Country Camp, DCG Softball Clinic, Summer Community Events, Foreign Exchange Student Opportunities! Visit DCGschoools.com to stay updated with these exciting events! This page is updated frequently!

HIGH SCHOOL

Spring Break Excitement - After ten days of traversing the streets of Paris, Avignon, Carcassonne, the artistic city of Barcelona and a trip to Montserrat, our students and parents have officially touched down—exhausted, slightly more cultured, and with thousands of photos.



The itinerary was a whirlwind. We touched down in Paris. We spent time at Musée D'Orsay, on a Seine River cruise, a tour of the city, Notre Dame, the Eiffel Tower and a trip to Versailles. We left Paris and arrived in Avignon. We toured the Palais des Papes, Nîmes, the Pont du Gard aqueduct and Carcassonne. We left France and entered Spain on our fifth day. We settled in Barcelona and we visited Montjuïc, Parc Güell, a tour of the city of Barcelona, Montserrat, Sagrada Familia and a trip to the picturesque seaside town of Sitges which is where our picture was taken.

If you are interested in taking part in our next trip, please look for details coming in the fall of 2026.

From the Booster Club - Spring Concessions Are Open — Volunteers Needed! - As spring sports kick off, our concession stands are gearing up for another busy and exciting season at the track and soccer stadium. Concessions are an important part of supporting our student-athletes, and we rely on volunteers to help make them happen.



Each team is assigned specific events to help cover shifts throughout the season, but we know schedules can get busy. That's why we welcome volunteers at any time! If you have a few extra hours to spare or just want to be part of the action, you can sign up for any open shift that fits

your schedule — no need to wait for your assigned date.

Check out the schedule and grab a spot — we'd love to have you join us this spring! Sign up here: www.dcgboosterclub.com/volunteer

Final Day of School - The final day of school for students at DCG will be Monday, June 1. If there are any additional weather cancellations, the last day of school will be pushed back accordingly. Additional details were sent to DCG parents and staff through ParentSquare.



Middle School STEM - Students had the exciting opportunity to learn from the DCG High School Robotics team during a special visit. The high school robotics students shared an overview of the robotics competition, including how the FIRST Tech Challenge program operates, and described their own experience at the state competition. They walked our students through the engineering process they use to design, build, and program their competition robot. Several middle school students were invited to take turns driving the robot and attempted to shoot the competition spheres into the scoring container. The experience gave our students a hands-on look at advanced robotics and helped them see a clear pathway for continuing their STEM learning as they move into high school.

DCG CREATORS

Registration Reminder - Getting excited for the 2026-27 school year at DCG?? Don't forget to register your students on the DCG online portal. By registering in the spring, our enrollment team gets a head start on completing student rosters for the upcoming year! Visit DCGschoools.com to get started!



Heston's Essay Wins State Contest - Help us celebrate Claire Heston, a 5th grade student at DCG Middle School. Claire won the American Legion's Fifth Grade Flag Essay Contest! The essay focused on the history of the American Flag and what it means to her! Claire will be recognized at the American Legion's annual convention this summer! Way to go Claire!!

School Board Meeting - The next scheduled DCG School Board meeting is Monday, April 27. The agenda and YouTube link will be posted at DCG-Schools.com



DCG Creators - We are excited to showcase another group of DCG Creators! These staff members were recognized by their colleagues for living out our district's core values! Congratulations to our DCG Creators for the month of February!

DCG Creators - February 2026 Carrie Ingvall – Dallas Center Elementary, Aimee Munson – Dallas Center Elementary, Grant Hayward – Oak View, Holly Glade & Donielle O'Brien – Oak View, Tara Johansen – Substitute Teacher (Nominated by South Prairie), Ashley Petersen – South Prairie Elementary, Mindy Farrell – South Prairie Elementary Heather Caron – South Prairie Elementary, Leah Mertz – Heritage Elementary, Molly Kremer & Jenna Reynolds – Heritage Elementary Delilah Bonner – North Ridge Elementary, Steph Rupp – North Ridge Elementary, Paige Herbsleb – North Ridge Elementary Barb Chieves – DCG Technology, Danyale Boardman – DCG High School, Kara Stuart – DCG High School, Dr. Greg Carena – DCG Associate Superintendent, Alex Glade – Curriculum Facilitator

INCLUSION WEEK

Unified Sports Day - Dallas Center-Grimes High School sent 10 athletes to Unified Sports Day on Tuesday, March 3. Our athletes participated in football, volleyball, pickle ball and several other activities. They were joined by dozens of other districts in the central Iowa area. This was an awesome opportunity to showcase teamwork, dedication and inclusion!



Middle School Assembly - We held our third all-school assembly in March. Students came together to celebrate the end of Quarter 3, and to learn about our next building wide challenge for The Mustang Way. It was a great opportunity for our kids to come together and celebrate all the amazing things happening at DCG Middle School!

ELEMENTARY

Kindergarten Parent Night - All four DCG elementary schools will be holding a 2026-27 Kindergarten Parent Night in April. This is a great chance to meet our teachers, principals and support staff! You'll also get a look into our classrooms!

North Ridge Night - Monday, April 20

South Prairie Night - Tuesday, April 21

Dallas Center Night - Thursday, April 23

Heritage Night - Thursday, April 23

Building principals will send out detailed information as we get closer to the event!



Read Across America Week - DCG celebrated Read Across America Week during the first few days of March. This celebration connects our students to a love of reading that will enhance their educational experience!

Fourth Grade Visit to DCG Middle School - We are getting ready for the 2026-27 school year at DCG! All current fourth grade students traveled to DCG Middle School to begin the transition process! The visit includes a tour, introductions to building leaders, and a performance by the school's band and choir programs! We are committed to making this transition as smooth as possible for all our students!



Planting Day - Students in Transitional Kindergarten are kicking off our Garden Tower Learning project by planting seeds this morning. They will germinate for a couple of weeks before transferring into a garden tower for observation. All seven DCG buildings will have a garden tower this spring!



Non-Discrimination Statement - It is the policy of the Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. In addition, the Dallas Center-Grimes Community School District is required by Title IX and its implementing regulations not to discriminate on the basis of sex and this requirement extends to admission and employment. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy contact Dr. Greg Carena, Associate Superintendent of School Improvement, 2405 W. 1st Street, Grimes, IA 50111, Telephone: (515) 992-3866, Email:greg.carena@dcgschools.com Director of the Office for Civil Rights, Denver Office, U.S. Department of Education, Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Building, 1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 310, Denver, CO 80204-3582. Telephone: (303) 844-5695, Facsimile: (303) 844-4303, TDD:(800) 877- 8339. Email: OCR.Denver@ed.gov

Spring Botany Plant Sale -

Mark your calendars, because the Spring Botany Plant Sale is just around the corner! On Monday, May 4th, from 3:45 to 6:30 in the Greenhouse behind DCG High School, we will have a ONE DAY sale to get your garden started! The students have been planting and caring for 12 kinds of tomatoes, 5 kinds of peppers, 8 herbs, melons, cucumbers, squash and mini pumpkins, and 9 types of flowers! Some house plants and succulents are also for sale! All money goes to help fund our Botany Program, so thanks for your support!



From the Discovery Kitchen with Chartwells - This month's theme is "Bring on Breakfast," focusing on helping students see how easy it can be to make a breakfast that keeps them full and ready to learn throughout the school day.

This demo features a Very Berry Parfait, which was a huge hit. Chef Jozsef highlighted how just a few simple ingredients can set students up for success in the morning. Breakfast doesn't have to be complicated or lack flavor!

ACTIVITIES



Oak View Success - A special shout out to the Oak View Jazz Band for taking 1st place at the Jim Coffin Jazz Festival in late February!

State Floor Sweepers - For the second consecutive year, DCG student athletes participated in the "Cleanest Show in Town," helping sweep the floors at halftime of state championship basketball games! What a great way to connect our students to the community!



State Basketball Recap - It's six straight trips to state for the DCG Girls Basketball team! After capping off the regular season with a 21-2 record, the Mustangs rolled through postseason play, locking up another trip to the state tournament!

The Mustangs earned the #2 seed in the Class 4A Bracket and opened state tournament play with a 59-39 victory over Waverly-Shell Rock. Up next for DCG was their third game of the season against Norwalk; each team won a game in the regular season. The finish of this game stole national headlines, with Ava Smid scoring six points in 13 seconds, pushing DCG to the Class 4A State Championship Game. Carlisle knocked off DCG in the title game, 38-36. Junior Macy Meyer and Sophomore Ava Smid were named to the 2026 all-tournament team!

DCG says goodbye to two seniors from the 2025-26 team, Paige Harvey and Leah Brauch. We are proud of the girls this season and congratulate them on their state accomplishments!

DCG Boys Basketball - The DCG Boys Basketball team advanced to the substate semifinals in 2026. The Mustangs finished the year 13-9!

History in the DCG Music Department - Two jazz choirs (Dissonance and Modulation) from DCG were selected to compete in the Iowa Vocal Jazz Championships! This is the first time in DCG school history that we have had two groups selected for this event! Modulation will make their first performance in history at the IVJC, and Dissonance will be returning for their third time in a row to compete. The Iowa Vocal Jazz Championships require groups to submit recordings of their performances for judging. The top 8 scores across the state in each class are invited to compete in the championships.

Also, DCG High School Jazz One was selected to compete in the Iowa Jazz Championships. After placing highly against intense competition at Northwest Waukee, they were able to beat out enough bands to earn an invitation to IJC. This is the first time since moving to Class 4A that DCG has had a band selected for this prestigious contest.

ACTIVITIES



State Champs.... Again! - DCG's 2026 Overwatch2 team qualified for the in-person Iowa High School Esports Association (IAHSEA) "Winter Showdown" State Championship in Marshalltown on Feb. 26, 2026. They received the #2 seed after completing a 7-0 regular season.

The team members included Austin Willey, Clayton Borland-Moon, Liam Wallace, Loki Quintana, Issac Hosis, Christian Sharp, and Caden White. The team is coached by Dave Harwood.

Eight teams (all with 6-1 or 7-0 records!) qualified for the Class 2A State Tournament. The Mustangs swept ADM 3-0 in the quarterfinal round and followed it up with a sweep of Marshalltown in the semifinals. The championship match pitted DCG against a strong squad from Williamsburg. DCG and Williamsburg both have a long history at the championships; DCG finished 5th in 2023, 2nd in 2024, and 1st in 2025, while Williamsburg had finished 1st in 2024 (in a smaller class) and 3rd in 2025.

DCG jumped out to a hard-fought 2-0 lead, and then the Raiders battled back to make the score 2-1. In what proved to be the final game, DCG pulled out the win to take the match and the championship title for the second year in a row! Congratulations to DCG ESports on another incredible season!



DCG Hosts Take Two - It's one of the premier winter events at DCG, Take Two! DCG's show choir programs were on display in front of a packed house at the DCG High School Auditorium! The contest featured teams from Johnston, DM Lincoln, Woodbine, Ottumwa and Atlantic. The vocal music program at Dallas Center-Grimes continues to impress! Great season DCG Show Choir!

Mock Trial Success - Two mock trial teams representing DCG competed at the Des Moines regional competition on March 3rd. The Des Moines regional is the largest in the state, with the fiercest competition. One team advanced to the playoff round of competition on March 4th. After a strong performance at playoffs, DCG lost a close trial to Dowling Catholic's varsity team.

Mock trial judges have the opportunity to recognize exceptional performances by nominating outstanding attorneys and witnesses. If both judges in a single round nominate the same student or a nominated student receives very high scores from all judges, the student is awarded All-District Attorney/Witness. This is the highest honor for individual performance that can be awarded at the regional competition. The following students were recognized as All-District Attorneys and Witnesses:

All-District Attorneys- Nash Townsend, Berkeley Lemon-Davis, Alex New, Quincy Hibbing, Hayden Wagner

All-District Witnesses- Daphne Swayne, Raquel Gao, Zofiana Wool-lums, Oliver Davidson, Gwen Schlak



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Art Spotlight - Art 1 students at DCG High School recently learned how to build a clay slab box. They added and subtracted clay in order to create unique themes and finished them with glaze or paint. These three students all did an excellent job with craftsmanship in both building and painting! A special shout out to our featured artists this month - Larissa Duncan (left) Kiah Chicoine (middle) and Olivia King (right).

