



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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June 2026

Empowering Every Student to Create Their Future

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

I wanted to provide a quick update on the future of the Mustang Monthly. For years, this newsletter has been mailed to every mailbox in Grimes and Dallas Center, with a select few issues going to families outside of our immediate community.

Starting with the 2026-27 school year, our process will be changing. The Mustang Monthly will only be mailed in September, January and June. We will still produce the newsletter monthly, but it will transition to an electronic version, delivered through ParentSquare. All parents and staff members will receive the Mustang Monthly in their inbox. If you are not a current parent or staff member and would like to receive this newsletter, please email DCG Communications Director AJ Ellingson at aj.ellingson@dcgschools.com, and he will ensure you receive a copy to your inbox as well.

There are several key reasons to make this switch. It will be a cost savings to the district of approximately \$28,000/year. An electronic delivery also allows our team to study the analytics of each newsletter. Most importantly, we are able to guarantee accessibility of our newsletter to all of our stakeholders. Currently, DCG families are receiving information in 19 languages. By transitioning to a ParentSquare delivery, all families will receive our newsletter in their preferred language.

We know this is a change of routine, but we strongly believe that this is the best path forward. You will still receive the same content, stories and photos, just in a new format. Transparency and consistent communication will still be paramount at Dallas Center-Grimes.

A special shout out to the incredible DCG High School Class of 2026! Go change the world!!

- *Dr. Scott Blum* - DCG Superintendent



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Home of the Mustangs



www.dcgschools.com

CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

- August 17 - Teachers Return
- August 24 - School Begins (TK - 12)
- August 31 - First Day of Preschool

DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OFFICES

Elementary Offices

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DISTRICT UPDATES

Art Spotlight - Oak View
Art students worked during the school's service learning project on making the courtyards beautiful at Oak View. The DCG building and grounds donated mulch and rocks for students to spread throughout the area. We were also very lucky that Sherwin Williams donated paint so that we could paint an outdoor mural!



DCG Game Day - This is such a special day at DCG! Hundreds of students from across our district traveled to Oak View for



DCG Game Day. This event showcases the power of teamwork, inclusion and joy. We are so grateful for a community that supports each other and creates incredible experiences for all of our students.

Construction Reminders - North Ridge Elementary and Dallas Center Elementary are closed for the summer! There will be significant and simultaneous construction projects going on. Our project list includes: secure entrances, HVAC upgrades, fire alarm improvements and playground upgrades.

Our construction timeline begins the first day of summer break and will most likely go right up until our teachers return in mid-August. Stay tuned to ParentSquare and our district's social media channels for updates throughout the summer!

The playgrounds at all four elementary schools and DCG Middle School will be closed for the summer as they receive the upgrades that were included in the bond referendum. Please refrain from using any of our district's playground facilities this summer! We appreciate your partnership!

BUILDING UPDATES



DCG High School Hosts Decision Day - May 1 is Decision Day across the country, an opportunity for graduating seniors to celebrate their future plans! We honored the DCG High School Class of 2026 with a special Decision Day Celebration. DCG Superintendent Dr. Scott Blum and

DCG High School Principal Matthew Blackmore spoke with our senior class, we took a group photo and made a special video where students shared their future plans! This group is going to make an impact in this world! Head to DCGschoools.com for a recap of Decision Day at DCG! Thanks to the DCG Booster Club and Hy-Vee for their support!

Memory Project - Art students at DCG High School are creating a kinder world through art. The Memory Project connects kids from across the globe through portraits. DCG students received photos from kids in Honduras who are facing difficulty, and then created a portrait to share the idea that someone in the world is thinking of them!



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 our School Board advocates for the staff, students and stakeholders at DCG. The next DCG School Board Meeting is set for Monday, June 22 at the DCG Administration Office.

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



Garden Tour Update - We are so excited to share this update from the Garden Tour at DCG High School. Our district's culinary educator harvested the first batch of lettuce in May! Our team will prepare the lettuce for use in DCG Cafeterias!

Seal of Bi-Literacy Update - The fifth annual Seal of Bi-Literacy tests were conducted at Dallas Center-Grimes High School in late April. The Seal of Bi-Literacy is an award given by a district to recognize students who have attained proficiency in two or more languages, one of which is English, by high school graduation. The Seal values language as an asset, recognizes the value of language diversity and cultural identity, prepares students for 21st century skills, and provides opportunities for grants or scholarships. The World Language Department is very excited to announce that six seniors received the seal this year, Vinicius Brandeburgo-Suehara (Portuguese), Raquel Gao (Chinese & Spanish), Chloe Wanat (Spanish), Taylor Gray (Spanish), and Hayden Wagner (Spanish).

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

Transportation

Jana Arment - 9 years at DCG

Dallas Center Elementary

Deb Cale - 9 years at DCG
Lauri Hart - 19 years at DCG

DCG High School

Robert Geurink - 28 years at DCG

North Ridge Elementary

Ann Mensing - 31 years at DCG

Central Office

DeEtta Rosa - 20 years at DCG

North Ridge Elementary

Laurie Thompson - 30 years at DCG

Heritage Elementary

Diann Williamson - 13 years at DCG

Key Dates for the 2026-27 School Year at DCG

November 25-27 - Thanksgiving Break

December 21 - January 1 - Winter Break

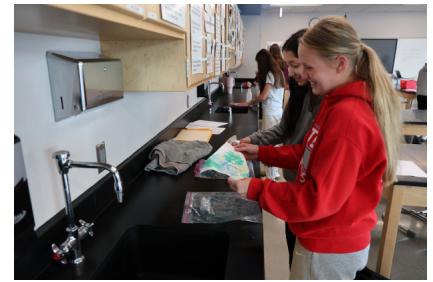
March 15-19 Spring Break

May 21 - Graduation Day for the Class of 2027

May 28 - Final Day of School

OAK VIEW

Service Learning at Oak View - This is such a powerful project for our 7th and 8th grade students! Oak View worked on their service learning project throughout the spring. Students selected from a variety of projects, all focused on giving back. A link to all of the 2026 Oak View Service Learning projects is available at DCGschoools.com. Our students are creating new ways of connecting to those around us. Through collaboration, creativity and compassion, these young leaders are making an impact!



DISTRICT UPDATES

2026-27 DCG Open House

Mark your calendars! We have the official dates and times for DCG Open House!

****Important**** We have divided the event into two nights, allowing all students and families to have more time with Team DCG! This will also allow our staff members to have additional time to prepare their rooms after significant construction projects throughout the summer!

2026 Open House Schedule

August 18 - 4:30-6:30 - DCG Middle School

August 20 - 4:30-6:30 - Dallas Center Elementary, Heritage Elementary, North Ridge Elementary, South Prairie Elementary

August 20 - 5:00-7:00 - Oak View, DCG High School



Community Impact - A special shout out to DCG High School's National Honor Society. The NHS Senior Service Project raised \$950 for the Children's Cancer Connection! Our students continue to make a lasting impact on our surrounding community! Thanks for supporting their event!

The **DCG High School Yearbook** would like to thank the following businesses for their support this school year:
Red Sponsors (\$250): Mann Orthodontics, Talking Heads Salon, City State Bank, Elite Electric & Utility Contractors, Wandering Raccoon Books, GPVC
Silver Sponsors (\$175): Iowa Dental of Grimes & Midwest Heritage Bank
We appreciate your support for our growing program! If you'd like to sponsor us, please reach out to ivy.soener@dcschools.com.

ELEMENTARY



Learning Experience at DCG Middle School - This was a powerful showcase of student learning! Students in Mrs. Ridgeway's class at DCG Middle School just wrapped up their literacy unity focusing on drama! To showcase their learning, students performed

a play in front of their classmates! Their performance of *A Wrinkle in Time - Part Two*, was a great display of bravery and dedication! It takes a lot of guts to get on stage in front of your peers!

Augustine Honored - DCG Vocal Music Teacher Joy Augustine received a prestigious award from the Iowa Choral Directors Association! Augustine received the 2026 Honors Initiative Outstanding South Central District Choral Educator Award! Augustine will receive her award at a banquet in July! The award recognizes educators who exhibit enthusiasm and leadership skills and are eager to advance choral activities in the school setting! Congratulations to our very own Joy Augustine!



Bike Rodeo - Third grade students at Dallas Center Elementary participated in a Bike Rodeo this spring. Organized by community partners, the bike rodeo teaches our students about the rules of the road! Third graders could also get their tires filled with air, and get fitted for a brand new helmet!

Special Presentation - Third grade students at North Ridge Elementary welcomed a special guest who brought powerful learning to life in a whole new way. Students had the opportunity to hear from the mother of our very own Kam Bain, who is blind, sharing her experiences, daily routines, and the tools she uses to navigate the world. From learning about braille to understanding how to be a supportive and inclusive friend, our students asked thoughtful questions and gained meaningful perspectives.



Stock Market Success - Congratulations to Oak View student Tucker Bauman (grade 7) for placing 2nd in the Stock Market Game Middle School Division. The Stock Market Game is a curriculum-based investing simulation that engages teams of students in an exciting competition, reinforcing financial capability. Participants invest a virtual \$100,000 and make real-time investment decisions, gaining a clearer understanding of capital markets, asset allocation, and wealth creation.



Library Stats - DCG students checked out 61,051 books during the 2025-26 school year, an average of 16.4 books per student! We are growing avid readers at DCG!





DCG Camps and Clinics - The DCG EBackpack is updated frequently with the latest camps and clinics for the summer of 2026! Newest updates: DCG Boys Cross Country, Driver's ED, Basketball Camps. Use the QR code (above) to check out the latest offerings and secure your spot today!

Soccer Update - The DCG Boys and Girls Soccer teams are having a great year and are starting postseason play at the time of printing! We will post updates online and on our district's social media channels!

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 Cary Justmann, Director of Human Resources, 2405 W. 1st Street, Grimes, IA 50111, Telephone: (515) 992-3866, Email:cary.justmann@dcschools.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

ACTIVITIES



IHSMA Awards - The Dallas Center-Grimes theater department participated in the 2026 Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards Showcase, presented by EMC Insurance Companies, in honor of the school's achievements for its November production of *The Wizard of Oz*.

Production Awards

Distinguished Scene - "The Merry Old Land Of Oz"

Special Recognition for Student Orchestra

Student Awards

Outstanding Achievement in a Behind-the-Scenes Role – Hayden Wagner - House Manager

Special Recognition in a Principal Role - Hunter Quandt as "Scarecrow"

Special Recognition in a Principal Role – Blaire Ehlert as "Dorothy"

Special Recognition in a Principal Role – Gavin Eickelberg as "Tinman"

Special Recognition in a Behind-the-Scenes Role - Addison Ramirez and Zoe Frazier - Set Designer

Special Olympics Update - DCG sent six athletes to the 2026 State Special Olympics in Ames. We have so much to celebrate this year!

Vincent Grund placed 1st in the 100-meter wheelchair. Kelsey Stover placed 1st in the softball throw. Myracle Carrol-Payne placed 1st in the softball throw. Riley Williams placed 2nd in her 50-meter dash. Allie Bahnsen placed 3rd in her 50-meter dash. Christine Hasselman placed 3rd in both her 100-meter dash and softball throw. Great job, Mustangs!!



ACTIVITIES



FFA Learning Day - It's a favorite spring-time tradition at DCG! Each May, the FFA program at DCG High School travels to all four of our district's elementary schools for FFA Learning Day, a hands-on experience for our youngest learners! This is a great way to connect our students with opportunities they will have as they get older!



School-to-Work Success at DCG High School - The DCG High School-to-Work program had another incredible year! Thirty-two seniors partnered with local businesses to pursue a career field that they are interested in! This important option for students doesn't happen without the support of our community! Thanks to our business partners for opening your doors to our students! Check out the 2025-26 School-to-Work Businesses partners at DCGschoools.com!



Rho Kappa Update - The DCG Chapter of Rho Kappa, the National Honor Society for Social Studies, has been busy this Spring. The members traveled to Kansas City to tour the World War I Museum, learning about its history and the role it played in future events. The members also spent a day listening to court cases in the Iowa Supreme Court and visiting Iowa Legislators at the Capitol. Students were provided opportunities to question legislative leaders, tour the facility, and watch the legislature in session.

On May 6, an induction ceremony was held at the high school for new members. New members must apply for membership and meet several criteria to be approved. This year, we had our largest group of new members inducted into the organization's history. Twenty-four students met the qualifications for approval.

State Track Update - The DCG Boys and Girls Track Teams qualified 24 events for the Iowa High School State Track and Field Championships!

DCG Girls State Track Qualifiers - 400 Meter Dash – Leighton Stanford, 800 Meter Run – Tenley Heidgerken, 1500 Meter Run – Tenley Heidgerken, 1500 Meter Run – Addison Dooley, 3000 Meter Run – Piper Messerly, 100 Meter Hurdles – Macey Rohrbeck, Shuttle Hurdle Relay, 4×100 Relay, 4×200 Relay, 4×400 Relay, 4×800 Relay, Sprint Medley Relay, High Jump, Long Jump – Aniyah Boens, Distance Medley

DCG Boys State Track Qualifiers - 110 Meter Hurdles - Darien Walker, 400 Meter Hurdles - Charlie Bohnenkamp, 4x100 Relay, 4x200 Relay, 4x800 Relay, Distance Medley Relay, High Jump - Christopher Opoku-Sekyere, Shot Put - Wyatt Valenta, Shuttle Hurdle Relay

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DCG High School Class of 2026 - Congratulations to the DCG High School Class of 2026! We celebrated our incredible senior class at commencement on Friday, May 22. Relive some of the best moments from this special day at DCGschools.com. This group will make a lasting impact on our world!

