



MUSTANG MONTHLY™

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DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES - BOND REFERENDUM

DCG Family,

I'm writing this to you as we wrap up the first week of school at DCG! There's a lot to celebrate and a lot to catch you up on!

We have an absolutely incredible community supporting our district every single day. I've been in all seven of our buildings this week, and you can see, hear and feel the passion that makes our district come alive. This is going to be one amazing year!



Let's get you up to speed on what's been happening this summer, with an emphasis on our construction projects! All five playground projects are complete! This was a massive undertaking and I want to give a special shout out to our operations team for their leadership! Our district playgrounds are available for community use outside of school hours; we just ask that you pick up your garbage before heading out. Please don't ride e-bikes or scooters on our turf! Together, we can keep these playgrounds in perfect condition for our students.

We also completed our secure entrance project at North Ridge and Dallas Center Elementary. These new entrances will allow our front office staff to have a better vantage point for who is coming and going from our building. All seven of our buildings now have a secure vestibule at their main entrance point.

Our attention now shifts to the major project at Dallas Center-Grimes High School. We are in the planning and design phase this fall. The photo (on page two) highlights a recent visit to OPN Architects. I was able to try their virtual reality tour of the new high school design. It's an incredible sight to see!



CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - 1 pm Dismissal, 12:30 pm Oak View

Wednesday, October 7, 14, 21, 28 - 1 pm Dismissal, 12:30 pm Oak View

Monday, September 7 - No School - Labor Day

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Home of the Mustangs



www.dcgschools.com

DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OFFICES

Elementary Offices

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Grimes, Iowa 50111

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



(Cont. from Page 1) In the days and weeks to come, we will take several of these projects out to bid. It's an important process that will allow construction to start next summer! As a reminder, there is a Bond Referendum article on DCGschools.com. This is the best place to keep tabs on all of our projects!

Thanks for your support of Dallas Center-Grimes! More information to come from me in the near future, but please reach out at any point!

Dr. Scott Blum
DCG Superintendent

DISTRICT UPDATES

Key Dates for 2026-27 School Year

Monday, September 7 - No School (Labor Day)

Friday, October 23 - End of 1st Quarter

Monday, October 26 - No School (Teacher Workday)

Friday, November 13 - No School (Teacher Comp Day)

November 25-27 - Thanksgiving Break

December 21 - January 1 - Winter Break

Thursday, January 14 - End of 1st Semester

Friday, January 15 - No School (Teacher Workday)

Wednesday Early Dismissal Reminders - DCG CSD will once again run an early dismissal schedule every Wednesday in 2026-27. This professional development time provides essential learning and collaboration for our staff. Thanks for your partnership!

School Board Meeting - The next DCG School Board Meeting is set for Monday, September 28 at 5:30 in the DCG Administration Board Room. The agenda and livestream links will be posted at DCGschools.com.

YEARS OF SERVICE

Years of Service at Dallas Center-Grimes CSD - Our district celebrated a combined 560 years of service at our all-staff kickoff event in August! These incredible professionals are making an impact in our district every single day! The 2026-27 Service Award Recipients are available at DCG-schools.com. A special shout out to Jeff Wolfe and Deanna Sandegren for their 25 years of service!!



Mustang Monthly Moves Digital - As a reminder, the Mustang Monthly is moving digital, beginning with the October 2026 issue! The Mustang Monthly will be produced on ParentSquare and will be sent to all parents and staff members at Dallas Center-Grimes. Community members can sign up to receive the Mustang Monthly by emailing DCG Director of Communications AJ Ellingson at aj.ellingson@dcgschools.com. By moving our monthly newsletter digital, we are adhering to updated compliance standards and saving approximately \$3,500 each month. You can expect the same updates and content each month!

DCG Education Foundation Update - Save the date!

Saturday, November 14, 2026 will be this year's Raising Education Dollars (RED) dinner and auction.

After a successful RED 2025, where we raised \$81,000, we will be returning to Stoney Creek Inn again this year for a night of entertainment, auction items, and of course, the same incredible cause: scholarships for DCG students.

Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details as we gear up for another unforgettable night in support of our students' futures.

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 supports our students who don't qualify for free and reduced meals but could still use assistance. If you are interested in donating, please visit the DCG School Store via your Infinite Campus Parent Portal. There's also a link to help posted at DCGschoools.com. The DCG Angel Account makes a difference in our district!

Early Dismissal Reminders - DCG CSD runs an early dismissal schedule every Wednesday. This professional development time provides essential learning and collaboration for our staff. Thanks for your partnership!

DCG's New Teachers

Dallas Center Elementary

Abby Borth - Counselor
Claire Vandever - Special Education

Heritage Elementary

Kelsey Bohlke - 1st Grade
Amber Ver Ploeg - Special Education

North Ridge Elementary

Shea Walker - North Ridge

South Prairie Elementary

CeCe Grabinski - Special Education
Sadie Eagle - Nurse

DCG Middle School

McKenna Dirks - 6th Grade
Emily Theiss - 5th Grade
Julie Drake - Special Education
Emily Harvey - Special Education
Melynn Tillotson - Counselor
Alissa Phillips - 6th Grade

Oak View

Katelyn Scharlau - PE
Emili Lopez - ELA Teacher

DCG High School

Kade Mauk - Special Education
Kimberly Huskey - Counselor
Lisa Sobotka - Spanish
Tracy Levang - Counselor
Chantel Karns - Science
Claire Redpath - ELA Teacher
Ryan Williams - ELA Teacher
Mikayla Sutter - ELA Teacher
Hunter Brashaw - Math
Orfa Foss - EL Teacher
Cody Iwig - Social Studies
Jerrod Johnson - Special Education
Ryan Brennecke - Special Education
Trey Hull - Math

Shared Staff/District

Adyson Hook - DCE/MS - Special Education

Please help us welcome this incredible group of educators to Team DCG!

BUILDING UPDATES



Heston Wins Award - We are excited to celebrate sixth grader Claire Heston! Claire's essay on the American Flag captured the American Legion of Iowa 5th Grade American Flag Essay Contest Championship! There were 1,431 essays entered in the competition! Claire qualified for the state competition after being selected as the top essay in the American Legion Post 49 competition and then the District 6 competition as well! Great job, Claire!

World Language Trip - Journey through France and Spain with the high school World Language Department Spring 2029. We will arrive in Paris to start our journey. We will see the Montmartre district, Versailles, and the Eiffel Tower. We will leave Paris and set our sights on Chartres, the Loire Valley, Bordeaux and Biarritz. After our visit in Biarritz, we will arrive in Burgos, Spain. Leaving Burgos, we will travel to Segovia, El Escorial, Toledo and Madrid. Please come learn the details of this trip on October 5 at 6:30 p.m. The cost of this trip is \$4,992 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.



DCG EBackpack - Looking to stay connected to all of the camps and clinics at DCG? How about community events? The DCG EBackpack is your place for the latest news and information at DCG! There's also a submission link for our community partners to use for event submissions! Bookmark the QR Code (left) and check back often!

NEW DCG TEACHERS



TRANSPORTATION

School buses across the country transport millions of kids every year and are, without question, the safest way to get kids to and from school. We transport more than 1,700 students per day at DCG and our number one priority is "SAFETY". Transporting kids to and from school takes a team effort to be successful. Parents, kids, and the school all need to work together to provide the safest transportation possible. We want all kids to feel physically and mentally safe while on a school bus. 42% of all DCG students ride a school bus every single day. In 2025, the DCG Transportation team drove approximately 500,000 miles! Our commitment is to meet the needs of every student, while doing so in a safe and timely manner!

Parents Responsibilities:

1. Ensure your child arrives at their bus stop safely and on time.
2. During extreme weather, ensure your child boards the bus safely.
3. Review the Bus Rules and Disciplinary Policy with your child (see rules below).

Bus Driver and School Responsibilities:

1. Ensure the school bus is safe to transport students.
2. Ensure buses run on time. Extreme weather may affect bus STOP times.
3. Ensure there is room on each bus to transport students safely.
4. Ensure all students are safely transported to and from school.

Student's Responsibilities:

1. Arrive at the bus STOP on time.
2. Follow ALL of the bus safety rules.
3. Report any problems you are having on the bus to your school bus driver or teacher.

The bottom line is, we want all students to feel safe while on a DCG school bus, both physically safe and mentally safe. Report safety issues to your school bus driver. If issues continue, contact Jeff Wolfe at jeff.wolfe@dcgschools.com or 515-986-5173 ext 1.

Bus Video Cameras

The DCG School Board has authorized the use of video cameras on school district buses. The video cameras will be used to monitor student behavior in order to promote and maintain a safe environment. Bus camera videotapes may be used in student disciplinary proceedings. Digital video will be retained, only if necessary, for use in student disciplinary proceedings or other matters as determined by the administration. Parents may request to view video of their child, if the video is used in a disciplinary proceeding involving their child.

2026-27 School Picture Dates at DCG DCG High School

Picture Day - 8/27 - Retake - 10/13

Oak View

Picture Day - 10/8 - Retake - 11/17

DCG Middle School

Picture Day - 9/17 - Retake - 10/29

Dallas Center Elementary

Picture Day - 9/23 - Retake - 11/3

Heritage Elementary

Picture Day - 10/1 - Retake - 11/10

North Ridge Elementary

Picture Day - 9/1 - Retake - 10/8

South Prairie Elementary

Picture Day - 9/3 - Retake 11/17

DCG High School Yearbook Up-

date - DCG High School parents, guardians, and students: The HS yearbook is at its lowest price of the year! Purchase your 2026-2027 yearbook before September 18th for \$60. Scan the QR code (right) to place your order today. The 25-26 yearbook will be delivered in Sept.



FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES



8/28 - Urbandale at DCG
9/4 - DCG at Ottumwa
9/11 - DCG at Dowling
9/18 - DM Roosevelt at DCG
9/25 - DCG at Waukee
10/2 - Waterloo West at DCG
10/9 - Marshalltown at DCG
10/16 - DCG at Ames
10/23 - CR Kennedy at DCG



8/27 - at Johnston Tourney
8/29 - at Unity Christian Tourney
9/1 - Pella at DCG
9/3 - DCG at Marshalltown
9/8 - Newton at DCG
9/12 - at SE Polk Tourney
9/15 - DCG at DM Christian
9/19 - DCG at Benton Tourney
9/22 - DCG at Oskaloosa
10/3 - at Urbandale Tourney
10/6 - DCG at Norwalk
10/13 - Pella Christian at DCG
10/15 - Ames at DCG



Girls Cross Country

8/29 - DCG at Johnston
9/10 - DCG at Marshalltown
9/19 - DCG at Central College
9/28 - DCG at Ogden
10/8 - DCG at Fort Dodge
10/13 - DCG LHC Conference Meet

ACTIVITIES



DCG Softball Returns to State - It was a special season on the softball diamond at DCG! The Mustangs qualified for the Class 5A State Tournament for the first time in school history. They didn't stop with just appearing, the Mustangs ended their season in the Class 5A State Semifinals, ending their season with a 31-8 overall record! DCG was led by Addie Abens with 21 home runs on the summer, tied for third most in all of Iowa. Abens also finished her season with a 1.245 slugging percentage, fifth best in all of Iowa. Tessa Jones had a sensational season in the circle, finishing with a record of 22-6. She struck out 211 batters, with a minuscule ERA of 1.95. What a great season on the diamond!

Youth Night for DCG Volleyball - We are launching a new project in the DCG Activities department this year. Beginning this fall, each of our four elementary schools will have a special night at a DCG Volleyball game. In addition to an in-game celebration, all DCG students will receive a free ticket to the game on their specific game night. The tickets will be sent to all elementary families via ParentSquare a few days before their assigned game. Parents are encouraged to screenshot the ticket or have it loaded in ParentSquare on the night of the game. You'll be able to show the electronic ticket to our cashier and catch our Mustangs for free!

September 1 - Dallas Center Elementary Night

September 8 - South Prairie Elementary Night

October 13 - North Ridge Elementary Night

October 15 - Heritage Elementary/DCG Preschool Night

Support Mustang Athletics with the DCG Booster Club! The DCG Booster Club is a nonprofit organization that raises funds for DCG student-athletes and athletic programs. Club funds go toward the purchase of new uniforms, equipment, facility improvements, training camps, and more.

Here are three easy ways to show your support for Mustang athletics:

1. Become a member of the Club through our website at www.dcg-boosterclub.com.
2. Volunteer in one of our Club-led concession stands – we LOVE new volunteers!
3. Shop online for all of your Mustang fan gear at www.dcgletterman-locker.com (every purchase benefits the Club)

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Starting Strong - Here are a few photos from the first day of school at DCG! We started our year together on Monday, August 24! This is going to be a great year!



ANNUAL NOTICES



Annual Notices - Please use the QR code (left) to view our district's published annual notices. We had previously published annual notices in the September edition of the Mustang Monthly. Due to frequent updating and the need to translate the annual notices, we've transitioned to a digital platform. These annual notices will be updated on an as-needed basis.

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 Carenza, Associate Superintendent of School Improvement, 2405 W. 1st Street, Grimes, IA 50111, Telephone: (515) 992-3866, Email: greg.carenza@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

FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES



Boys Cross Country

9/3 - DCG at ISU
9/10 - DCG at Marshalltown
9/19 - DCG at Central College
10/1 - DCG at SE Polk
10/8 - DCG at Fort Dodge
10/13 - DCG at LHC Meet

Boys Golf Schedule - The DCG Boys Golf team started their season on August 17. The season will conclude at the 2026 Iowa High School State Meet on October 12.



Shout Out to DCG Dance

- Congrats to the DCG High School Dance Team on qualifying for the UDA Nationals! This is an incredible achievement for this program! Make sure you catch one of their routines this year! It's a must-see performance!



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POSTAL CUSTOMER



www.dcgschools.com

Team DCG - Here's a look at the official Team DCG for the 2026-27 school year! Together, we will work to create incredible learning environments for our students! This is a group of talented and dedicated professionals, eager to make the 2026-27 school year the absolute best! We appreciate your support!

