

April 2026



Dolores School District

Newsletter

Superintendent Alesa Reed

Dolores School District RE-4A



Dear Families, Staff, and Community Members,

April showers bring May flowers! I've always loved this saying, and this month we start off with showers! We are excited to dive into the fourth quarter. This month, our students will be taking state assessments to see how much they've grown and learned. Plus, we'll keep celebrating the amazing work of both our students and staff across the district.

As we get closer to the end of the school year, we're still focused on giving our students great learning experiences and helping everyone do their best. Thanks for all your support and for standing by our schools.

Spring Activities

Spring always brings Prom. Have a safe and memorable Prom, Dolores students.

Barnyard Day is approaching and is always a highlight for our students. Thank you to all staff, students, and families who bring this important event to our school.

Spring Athletics

Spring sports are in full swing, and we're excited to see record participation from students this year! Our teams are competing with remarkable dedication and sportsmanship. We encourage families to attend games and meets to support our student-athletes. Schedules can be found on each school's website and on the district's athletic calendar.

Earth Day and Environmental Education

Our middle school staff is organizing a district Earth Day celebration that encompasses the town and the school. Please watch for more information on the individual principals' newsletters. We are so excited to partner with our community to beautify our Town.

Superintendent (continued)

Above and Beyond Staff Recognition

Mrs. Cherie Dennison

I would like to recognize Mrs. Cherie Dennison for being an outstanding addition to our middle school staff. Mrs. Dennison is an exceptional 6th-grade math teacher who demonstrates dedication, professionalism, and a strong commitment to ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed.

In addition to her work in the classroom, Mrs. Dennison has taken on the responsibility of coaching the Battle of the Books Club, which has been a tremendous success for our students. Her leadership has created an engaging opportunity that encourages reading, teamwork, and academic growth.

Mrs. Dennison has also stepped forward to serve on the MTSS team, helping the district grow and develop meaningful goals to support student learning and success. Her willingness to collaborate and contribute beyond her classroom shows her deep commitment to our school and community. I truly appreciate Mrs. Dennison's hard work, positive attitude, and dedication to strengthening our math department and supporting our students. We are fortunate to have her as part of our middle school team.

Jamie Domagata

Jamie is an incredible asset to our school community. Every day she goes above and beyond to support the well-being of our students, ensuring that their social and emotional needs are met alongside their academic growth. Through her lessons on self-regulation, character building, and positive relationships, she helps students develop the skills they need to be successful both in and out of the classroom.

Jamie is always willing to step in at a moment's notice to help anyone in need, often extending her support beyond the elementary school to assist at the secondary level as well. Her compassion, dedication, and calm presence make a meaningful difference for students, staff, and families. She consistently goes the extra mile—whether it's checking in with a student who needs encouragement, supporting teachers, or finding creative ways to ensure every child feels seen and supported. Our school is a stronger, kinder place because of Jamie and the care she brings to her work each day.

Superintendent (continued)

Above and Beyond Staff Recognition (continued)

Rene Cunningham (Art), Jonas Weiss (Welding), Tyson Atwell (Woodshop)

We are thrilled to share the incredible work being done by our dedicated woodshop, welding, and art teachers as they embark on creating the “Dolores Screens.” These stunning screens will proudly showcase the unique stories of Dolores at the forefront of our new school building.

We have so much to look forward to in this design process, and it’s important to take a moment to recognize their exceptional efforts. Over the past year and a half, they have collaborated tirelessly with architects and builders to refine the design and mechanics of this project. Their commitment extends beyond just the physical creation of the screens; they are actively engaging students in the classroom and sharing their expertise in welding, woodworking, and art.

As specialists in their fields, both inside and outside the classroom, they are exemplars of dedication and passion. We are incredibly proud to have Rene, Jonas, and Tyson as part of our Dolores family, and we want to honor their remarkable contributions that are helping to shape an important aspect of our new building project. Thank you for going above and beyond!

Construction Update

Steel Signage

Construction continues to advance on schedule at the new high school facility. Vertical construction is progressing as planned, with walls continuing to rise and the building's structure becoming increasingly visible. The construction team remains focused on maintaining safety standards and quality workmanship. We will continue providing regular updates as this exciting project moves toward completion. Please visit our building website for weekly updates.

The week of April 13th, students, staff, and community members will be able to sign a steel beam that will be placed in the new commons infill and visible to everyone to mark this new building project. Please reach out to your building principals for the schedule, we’d love for parents and community members to sign their names for posterity.

Have a great April,

Alesa Reed

Superintendent (continued)

Dolores School District Important Dates

April 13: Board of Education Meeting, District Office Boardroom, 6:00 p.m.
Agendas are posted on the [website](#) and outside the district office.

April 13-16: Steel Beam Signage - Contact school principals to schedule

April 23: [Kindergarten Registration](#), Dolores Elementary School Little Bear Gym
3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Click [here](#) for more information

April 27: Dolores School Board Retreat, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Emergency Closures

Monitor local media and check doloresschools.org for weather-related closure announcements. The district also sends an email and a robocall to parents and staff in the case of a delayed start or school closure.

District Nurse Brandy Dunn Health and Wellness



The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) will be hosting a mobile vaccine clinic at Teddy Bear Preschool on April 16, 2026.

This clinic will offer no-cost and low-cost vaccines for children under 19. Please check the links below for more information.

Vaccine Clinic

Date: April 16, 2026

Location: Teddy Bear Preschool

Time: 2-5pm

- [Vaccine Event Flyer](#)
- [Immunization Consent Form](#)
- [Mightier than Measles](#)



Director Valiena Rosenkrance

Teddy Bear Preschool



Welcome back!

We hope you all had a wonderful, relaxing Spring Break and enjoyed some quality time together. It's hard to believe we're entering the home stretch, with just a few months of preschool left before summer break begins. We have so many fun activities and milestones planned for these final weeks, and we can't wait to make the most of our remaining time with your little ones. Let's make these last few months the best ones yet!

Kindergarten Transition

The transition to kindergarten is such a huge milestone—it's all about helping your little ones move from our familiar preschool world to the "big kid" environment of elementary school. To make this change feel exciting rather than overwhelming, we've planned several transition visits over the next two months! Our pre-kindergarten students will be heading over to the elementary school to explore the kindergarten classrooms, run around the big playground, and even practice eating lunch in the cafeteria. They'll also get a firsthand look at "specials" by attending P.E. and music classes. These hands-on experiences are designed to build their confidence and get them comfortable with their new surroundings before the first day of school.

Registration - Dolores Elementary Kindergarten 2026-2027

[Kindergarten Registration](#) will take place on Thursday, April 23, in the Dolores Elementary School - Little Bear Gym from 3:00 -6:00 p.m.

Field Trips

The preschool classes are scheduled to visit the [Vista Grande Nursing Home](#) for a special intergenerational egg hunt on April 2. This visit offers a wonderful opportunity for students to connect with the local community and experience the value of intergenerational friendships. It is a beautiful way for both generations to bridge the gap through laughter, discovery, and a few hidden treats.

On April 22nd, all of our preschoolers and toddlers are heading out for a day of fun at the FFA's Barn Yard Day! This is such a fantastic hands-on learning experience where the kids get to see real farm animals up close and even check out some big tractors. Beyond the excitement, visiting the barnyard helps children understand where their food comes from and teaches them about the important roles animals and machinery play in our community. It's a great way to spark their curiosity about nature, practice gentle interactions with animals, and see "big machines" in action!



Teddy Bear Preschool (continued)

Teddy Bear Preschool Important Dates

- April 2:** Intergenerational Easter Egg Hunt, Vista Grande Nursing Home
- April 20-21:** Kinder visitation Dolores Elementary school, 8:30 a.m.
Families are encouraged to attend.
- April 22:** FFA Barnyard Day!
- April 23:** [Kindergarten Registration](#), Dolores Elementary School-Little Bear Gym, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m., Click [here](#) for more information

Principal Amanda Hill

Dolores Elementary School



Welcome back from Spring Break!

I hope everyone enjoyed the beautiful weather, had time to relax and rejuvenate, and made special memories with family and friends.

As we return, let's take a moment to celebrate some of the

wonderful events from late March and look ahead to an exciting April!

Our **Little Bear Character Assembly** was a great success. We honored students who consistently demonstrated the important character traits of **Respect, Responsibility, Empathy, and Kindness**. These traits are taught by our school counselor throughout the quarter, and our staff loves recognizing students who model them not only during the quarter, but all year long. We also celebrated students for **perfect attendance, honor roll achievements, and IXL participation**—what an accomplishment!



Dolores Elementary School (continued)

During the assembly, our talented 3rd grade students showcased their love of music and movement with a fun performance of the Cupid Shuffle, even inviting families to join in. We also enjoyed a demonstration from our **Battle of the Books** teams, highlighting what a “battle” looks like and encouraging more of our avid readers to participate. We were proud to have two teams represent Dolores Elementary at the competition in Durango, with our 4th/5th grade team advancing to the second round!



Dolores Elementary School (continued)

Another highlight from late March was our **1st Grade Patriot Day Performance**. Our students impressed families with songs, short plays, and presentations that showcased their learning. They took the audience on a journey through early American history—from the Boston Tea Party, to Paul Revere's famous ride, and the beginnings of the Revolutionary War. It was a wonderful demonstration of both their knowledge and confidence!



Dolores Elementary School (continued)

PBIS

We are also proud to celebrate our student's **3rd Quarter PBIS accomplishment!** Our students worked hard to meet schoolwide expectations and successfully filled the letter "A" with bear paws to recognize extraordinary behavior. To celebrate, the entire school participated in a fun, schoolwide scavenger hunt. Students worked together in classroom teams to solve riddles that led them to different locations throughout the building, all the way to a final destination. It was a great way to build teamwork, problem-solving skills, and school spirit!



Dolores Elementary School (continued)

April is a busy and exciting month!

CMAS Testing will take place April 6–8 and April 13–15. We are excited for students to show all they have learned this year! We ask for your partnership in encouraging students to do their very best—for themselves, their families, their teachers, our school, and our community. We truly believe in every one of them.

We have set a goal of **95% attendance during testing**, and your support is key. It is very important for students to test alongside their peers, as this helps them feel more comfortable and confident. To help your child succeed, we recommend:

- Getting a good night's sleep
- Arriving at school on time (or even a few minutes early)
- Eating a healthy, nutritious breakfast

Our **Secondary Student Council** will once again host an **Egg Hunt** for our elementary students. We are so grateful for this partnership. Opportunities like this allow our younger students to build connections with positive older role models, helping foster leadership, mentorship, and a strong sense of community. Thank you, Student Council!

Another memorable opportunity this month is for our elementary students to **sign the steel beam** that will be placed in our new high school. This is a unique chance for students to leave their mark on something that will be part of our community for years to come—what an extraordinary experience!

We are also looking forward to “Barn Yard Day,” sponsored by our amazing Dolores FFA students. This hands-on experience teaches our younger learners about agriculture and its impact on our daily lives. Students will have the opportunity to interact with farm animals, explore equipment, and learn directly from our secondary FFA members through engaging presentations. This is always a favorite event, and we are so thankful for the dedication of our FFA program.

We are especially excited for our **2nd Grade Wax Museum**, taking place on April 16th from 12:00–1:30 PM. Our second grade students are currently researching famous historical figures and will soon bring them to life through presentations. This interactive event is always a favorite, and it's wonderful to see students so engaged in their learning. We hope you can join us!

Dolores Elementary School (continued)

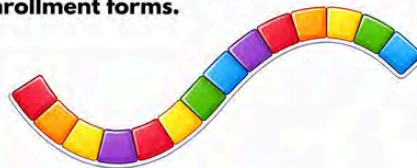
Finally, we are excited to welcome our future Little Bears! **Kindergarten Registration for Fall 2026 will take place on April 23rd from 3:00–6:00 PM.** Families can meet our teachers, complete enrollment paperwork, and tour our campus. Please bring a birth certificate and proof of residency. As an open-enrollment school of choice, we warmly welcome both in-district and out-of-district families.

Bright Minds- Sweet Success

Kindergarten Registration



This is an opportunity to meet the Kindergarten teachers and fill out enrollment forms.



Thursday, April 23rd
3:00pm - 6:00pm
Dolores Elementary
Little Bear Gym

12th and Hillside



Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We are looking forward to a fantastic month of learning, growth, and celebration!

Dolores Elementary School Important Dates

- April 2:** HS Student Council Egg Hunt
- April 6-8:** CMAS Testing, 5th Grade Science
- April 7:** CMAS Testing, 4th Grade Social Studies
- April 9:** Spring & Class Picture Day
- April 13:** Board of Education Meeting, District Office Boardroom, 6:00 p.m.
Agendas are posted on the [website](#) and outside the district office.
- April 13-15:** CMAS Testing, ELA and Math, Grades 3,4,5
- April 16:** PTA Spirit Stick Sale
- April 22:** FFA Barnyard Day!
- April 23:** [Kindergarten Registration](#), Dolores Elementary School-Little Bear Gym, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m., Click [here](#) for more information
- April 28-29:** NWEA Testing

Principal Mary Weiss

Dolores Middle School



Dear Dolores Families,

Welcome back! I hope you had a chance to fully unplug and recharge during the break. As we move forward, I ask that you once again join forces with our DMS staff as we **demonstrate to the State of Colorado during CMAS Testing** that our middle school is stronger than ever and that our students are making significant academic growth. In order to show this progress, it is crucial that your child is present during the testing window.

In addition, please help your child be successful by ensuring they get a good night's sleep each evening, especially during testing. Proper rest plays an important role in focus, performance, and overall well-being.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to your child's success.

Middle School Community Clean-Up Day

On April 22nd from 1:00–3:55 PM, the middle school students will be partnering with members of the community to help clean up the school grounds as well as areas around the town of Dolores. This is a great opportunity for our students to work together with community members to help beautify our town and take pride in the place we live.

Students will be working in groups with staff and community volunteers to pick up trash, clean outdoor areas, and help make both the school and town look their best. Activities like this help teach responsibility, teamwork, and the importance of giving back to our community.

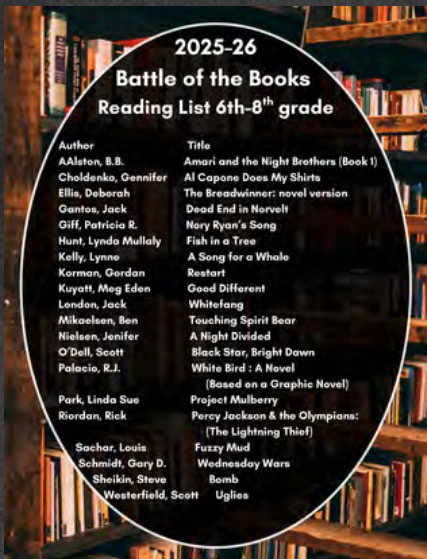
We appreciate the support from our community members who are joining us in this effort. Working together makes a difference, and we are excited for our students to be a part of this positive project. If you would like to be part of this event, please call the secondary office (970) 882-7288 for more information.

Battle of the Books

On Wednesday, March 4, five Dolores Middle School 7th graders attended the inaugural Battle of the Books competition in Durango, Colorado. Avid readers Parker Pribble, Ophelia Pietruszka, Zoey Kennedy, Kinlea Wright, and Hannah Houston—coached by Cheri Dennison—barely missed advancing to the semifinal matches by just one point. Great Work Bears!

Dolores Middle School (continued)

Battle of the Books

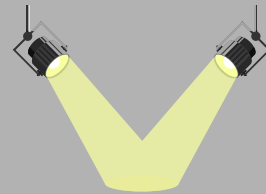
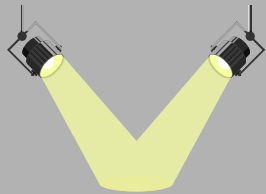


Middle School Showcase

I would like to recognize and thank our outstanding staff for their dedication, professionalism, and creativity in preparing the exceptional projects presented during the recent middle school showcase. The displays reflected the high level of engagement, innovation, and learning that takes place in our classrooms each day. Their commitment to providing meaningful and enriching educational experiences for our students continues to be evident in all they do. We are truly grateful for the collective efforts of our staff, students, and families who continue to make our school a place of excellence and pride.



Dolores Middle School (continued)



March Middle School Students of the Month



Patty Nielson has been a strong asset for the 6th grade. She is always on task, participates in group discussions, and is an active body in Dolores Middle School. Miss Nielson cares about her studies and ensures her work is done to the best of her ability. Patty is also one to help those around her, share a funny story, and check in on you on a daily basis.



Zoey Kennedy is a wonderful example of what it means to be a positive and engaged member of our school community. She is fun, outgoing, and enthusiastic, bringing great energy to the classroom each day. Zoey is a dedicated and studious student who consistently completes her work on time and often goes above and beyond expectations. She is respectful, cooperative, and always willing to help others. Her positive attitude, strong work ethic, and kindness toward others make her truly deserving of this recognition.



Harlie Nielson has done an excellent job this quarter. Many of her core teachers have noticed her effort and focus in class, and the quality of her work reflects that dedication. Harlie has also consistently demonstrated respectful behavior toward both her teachers and her peers. She is very deserving of Student of the Month recognition.

Dolores Middle School (continued)

MS/HS Fine Arts Night

Join us for an evening of creativity, talent, and student expression at our annual Middle School/High School Fine Arts Night on April 16th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. The night will feature our beloved Poetry Café, held in the library, where middle school students will share original poetry in a relaxed and welcoming setting. It's always a highlight of the evening and a wonderful opportunity to hear our students' voices and creativity firsthand.

A gallery showcasing a wide range of mixed media student artworks will also be on display. Guests can explore impressive displays including 2D artwork, sculptures, welding creations, and woodwork projects that reflect the skill and dedication of our students.

The evening will also include performances by student musicians, along with a showcase of high school writing featuring short stories and poetry.

We encourage families and community members to attend and celebrate the incredible artistic talents of our students. It promises to be an inspiring night you won't want to miss!

Dolores Middle School Important Dates

April 7: CMAS 8th Grade Science

April 8: 7th Grade field trip

April 14-15: CMAS Testing, Grades 6,7,8

April 16: Fine Arts Night, High School Library, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

April 22: Community Clean-Up

April 22: FFA Barnyard Day!

April 23: 8th Grade field trip

May 5-6: NWEA Testing

May 14: 8th Grade field trip

May 20: 6th Grade field trip

May 14: 8th Grade Awards/Continuation/BBQ

(8th grade parents check your email for the event flyer and BBQ signup)



Principal Walker

Dolores High School



Moving into the second half of the spring semester, I want to share a few important updates from Dolores High School. As we approach the end of the year, consistent attendance remains critical, and we appreciate your support in keeping students engaged each day.

Testing

An important date for students and our district is **April 15**, which is our **PSAT and SAT** day for grades 9, 10 and 11. PSAT and SAT are a part of our district accountability, and an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge. On April 8th, 11th grade students will take the CMAS Science assessment.

Course Selection

Prior to Spring Break, students completed course selection, which helps us build a master schedule aligned to student interests and goals. We are now working on that schedule while also reviewing staffing and conducting interviews for open positions.

Senior Interviews

Our seniors participated in mock interviews on March 30, and gained valuable real-world experience.

Cell Phone Policy

At the state level, Colorado House Bill 25-1135 requires districts to adopt a formal cell phone policy by this summer. In response, we will implement an updated cell phone procedure this month aimed at improving instruction, increasing engagement, and strengthening campus culture. We appreciate the thoughtful input from students, staff, and families as we move forward.

Events and Activities

The **Student Government elementary egg hunt takes place on April 2**. The **Dolores High School Prom is April 4** at the Dolores Community Center. Our FFA students continue to represent our community well, with several members fundraising to attend the National Convention and hosting **Barnyard Day on April 22**. We are also excited to have students attending the **Blue Spruce Reading Convention from April 17-19** at UC Denver, where they will meet authors and speakers and engage in meaningful literacy experiences.

Athletics

Spring athletics are underway—please come support our teams, including **baseball, track and golf**. **Track will compete in Cortez on April 10**, and the **Dolores Girls Golf Team hosting at Conquistador Golf Course on April 22**.

As always, thank you for your continued support of Dolores High School as we focus on strong academics, meaningful opportunities, and a positive school culture.

Contact the Dolores School District

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100 N. 6th Street / PO Box 727
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Dolores School District Calendars

[Events Calendar](#)

[2025 - 2026 Yearly Calendar](#)

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