# **BEAR** ESSENTIALS

Monthly Publication | Dolores School District RE-4A | 970-882-7255

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Download the <u>free</u> app for updates and health screener

## **Dolores School District Prepares for Students**

The summer is over for the staff and students of Dolores School District RE-4A. In all reality, many of the staff did not have a break this summer. As the constantly changing regulations and guidelines were unfolding for a safe reopening of school, the administration had to continually adjust plans.

The district has spent thousands of dollars preparing for a safe opening. Face shields, masks, disinfectant, hydrostatic sprayers, plexiglass barriers, signage, and much more were needed to get the buildings in proper order. We have recently also purchased four outdoor tents for better outdoor learning spaces. Another needed item was picnic tables. The finance department was able to replace some broken ones and purchase several more to allow for outdoor eating and learning.

The staff returned on August 12 which gave adequate time to provide training and preparation for the many changes this year. The kindergarten through the eighth grades are also implementing a new curriculum sequence that is vertically aligned. There was needed time for this training as well. The board authorized an additional week for the staff to really understand the expectations for this year and prepare any online modules in the event school is closed by the governor.

The enrollment is holding steady. The high school enrollment is up as well as the middle school. Our elementary classes are not as full as last year and we hope to get some of our students coming back through the year. Many times in leadership change, families will try other school options. It is common for them to return as well.

Having students return on August 31 will make everything worth it! See the following page for some pictures.



School districts are full of many unsung "heroes." This month our employee of the month is one of those heroes, Mr. Jeromie Schumacher. He serves as the athletic director



and the academic advisor in the secondary school. He is also coaching the cross country teams.

Mr. Schumacher worked tirelessly all summer! The Colorado High School Athletic Association changed plans several times and forced many schedule and operational changes. He weathered all of this like a champ and handled it with his great attitude. He is an excellent role model to our young people and we are so fortunate he calls Dolores home.

Mr. Schumacher started his teaching career in 2001 at Pomperaug Regional School District 15 in Southbury, Connecticut. After serving as a Physical Education, School Heath Education teacher, and Middle School athletic coordinator for 14 years he left teaching to start Nutmeg Striders LLC, an athletic coaching service for youth and adults. He served as an advisory board member on Dylan's Wings of Change, a Sandy Hook foundation dedicated to children on the autism spectrum. Mr. Schumacher developed Wingman for Schools and Wingman for Clubs programs for Dylan's Wings of Change which empowers children to go above and beyond for others. In 2013 Mr. Schumacher was recognized as Connecticut's High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year. He also competed for Team USA in the 2013 Triathlon World Championship in London. Mr. Schumacher moved with his wife and son to Colorado in 2016 to be closer to family. He started teaching at Dolores Schools in 2018 and coaches the cross country and middle school track & field teams at Dolores. Mr. Schumacher is now in his 27<sup>th</sup> year of coaching cross country and track and field at the middle school and high school levels. Mr. Schumacher graduated with his B.S. in Exercise Science/teacher certification and with his M.S. in Exercise Science/Human Performance.

## Some of the new features in the buildings:



Floor decals are added as reminders of distancing and direction.

Masks are used for reading group time. Each student has their own.





Secondary also has floor decals to remind students of distancing.

## **DSD BOARD UPDATES**

#### Mission and Vision Driven for our Stakeholders

#### **Current School Board**

Kay Phelps - President Term Expires: November 2021

Casey McClellan - Vice President

Term Expires: November 2021

**Lenetta Shull - Treasurer** Term Expires: November 2023

Maegan Crowley - Secretary Term Expires: November 2023

**Clay Tallmadge - Director** Term Expires: November 2023 BOCES Representative

School Board Meetings 2nd Thursday of Each Month at 6:00 p.m. Virtual Attendance at: www.doloresschools.org The Dolores School District Board met in August for their regular monthly meeting. Below are highlights from the meeting:

- The board took a moment to recognize the hard work of our facilities and maintenance crew. Due to all of the increased need, they have worked diligently to prepare for the return of our staff and students.
- Mr. Goad, Facility Director presented a list of priorities for needed repairs and replacements on the facilities. The total cost was estimated at \$1,424,800.00 to cover current needs. The board has requested bids on items and will make determinations in the next meeting as well as allocate reserve funds for needed projects.
- A representative from the School to Farm Garden project presented to the board. The district is allocating \$9,600.00 to this project in order to help provide more outdoor education for our students as well as educate them on health and gardening skills.
- The school board met for an entire day in July to plan their strategic plan for this year as well as other important goals. The new strategic plan was approved last night and can be found here: <u>https://doloresschools.org/wp-content/uploads/</u>2020/08/Strategic-Plan-Goals-2020-21.pdf
- As we face very difficult times for many in our community, the board remains cognizant of this in their decisions. They voted to suspend the services of our architectural firm working on the design plans for a new facility and further put this decision to the community. They passed a motion to form a committee for marketing and working on the needed funds through a bond initiative for the 2021 November election. They also voted to develop an advisory committee to keep the good work going to plan for our future facilities.
- The District Re-entry Plans were also a topic of discussion. The CDE and CDPHE just released (8/12/20) new flowcharts for districts to utilize for determining when students or staff should go home. Those are available on the website.
- Many new staff were approved for hire.

UPCOMING VENTS

September 4	No School, Staff Professional Development	
	DHS/DMS Cross Country at Monticello, 3:00 pm	
September 7	No School - Labor Day	
September 8	Town Hall, 7:00 pm in Library (RSVP)	
September 8-30	Testing Window for DIBELS and NWEA K-11	
September 9	DHS/DMS Cross Country at Moab, Utah, 3:00 pm	
September 10	MS Cross Country at Bayfield, 4:30 pm	
	School Board Meeting, 6:00 pm	
September 14	DHS/DMS Knowledge Bowl at Telluride, 3:00 pm	
September 18	No School for Students	
	DHS/DMS Cross Country at Ridgeway, 2:30 pm	
September 23	SAT Testing for Seniors at District Office, 8:30 am	
September 25	DHS/DMS Cross Country at Pagosa Springs, 3:00 pm	
September 30	DHS/DMS Cross Country at Blanding, Utah, 3:00 pm	





Topic: Core Knowledge Sequence of Learning Location: Dolores School Library or virtual attendance through Zoom Please RSVP for library seats: 970.882.7255

## **Dolores School District**

#### **Download our Mobile App for Free!** Stay in touch with Dolores School District while on the go.

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Calendar
Schools
Portal
Parent Resources
Available on the App Store
Google play

APP FEATURES:

✓ Notifications

✓ News

**Bear Essentials** Newsletter is edited and published from the Dolores School District RE-4A Administrative Office.

Suggestions and comments are welcome. Please email <u>larnett@dolores.k12.co.us</u>.



Dolores School District RE-4 100 N. 6th Street Dolores, CO 81323

District Office 970-882-7255 www.doloresschools.org

## School App Used for Screening

Download Today

One of the new requirements for the district in this COVID environment is that we screen anyone entering our buildings. In order to maintain privacy, we are asking parents and staff to assist this process by completing the daily screening through our school app. The screener will be opened on the app soon and made available to anyone in our school system who downloads the app.

The screener will ask only yes or no questions and will be quick and easy. There will be a brief set up process the very first time. Parents will need to identify their students and the school building they attend. Once this process is done, the daily process is seamless.

The screening may be done on the app between 6:00 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. Any students who are not screened will need to go through screening prior to entering their buildings. There will be a designated space for this in each school.

One of the questions will be in regard to temperature. If any family cannot afford to buy a thermometer, simply call the school office and we will arrange for you to receive one for your family. It is a privilege to help in this area.

The app is completely free. This is an invaluable tool of communication for the district. Please allow for the app to send push notifications. This will notify you of needed communications and even emergency notices.



Remember:

Students have every other Friday off of school.

Home of the Bears

# **BEAR** SFACTS

Monthly Blog by Superintendent Lis Richard

## Lawnmower or Helicopter?

There are many names for the different kind of parents. Recently, I read an interesting article that described the "lawnmower" parent. It was coined by a teacher who was describing a parent who was determined to knock down every obstacle their child would have to face. These parents tend to be obsessed over every potential problem or conflict their child may have to overcome in the near future. They do everything in their power to eliminate any obstacles for a "smooth" course through life. The helicopter parent is famous for hovering over every part of their child's life and actually being intrusive into conflicts that arise.

I believe the obvious outcomes for both types of parenting are the inability of those children to actually know how to fail and to resolve conflict on their own. Helicopter parenting was very prevalent for years and now the lawnmower parent is becoming more prevalent. May I propose to our parents that trying to remove any possible obstacle in your child's way will literally exhaust you! It is not possible and really may not be the best goal in parenting for your child.

In the book, *The Gift of Failure* the author shares an experience with a young mother coming to her with worry about her daughter. After listening for a time, she knew that the mother had fallen into a common trap of our current parenting trend: she had sacrificed her daughter's natural curiosity and love of learning on the altar of achievement (Lahey, 2016). Today, parents and society at large are doing such to our young people. We are teaching through our methods that a young person's potential is tied to their intellect and that is more important than character. This has led to the lawnmower and helicopter parents who stunt the growth, curiosity, and even failure in children.



Nearly seven-in-ten (68%) millennial moms describe themselves overprotective, compared with 60% of Generation X moms and 54% of Boomer moms

Failure *is* an option. It is the most traveled option on the road to success. A parent's hovering or removing of obstacles, come from a heart of love and good intentions. The struggle is that the very thing a parent wants for their child is undermined by this action. This robs the child of the true joy of finding an answer, solution, and finished product of their own making.

I am a perfectionist at times. My struggle as a parent was to allow imperfections in my own children as they learned. Even something as small as making their bed was a task for me to let them do it their own little way and still praise their efforts. I remember my son, Garret one year refused to help decorate the Christmas tree. I was so hurt because this was our "thing" as a family. We would listen to holiday music, drink hot chocolate and decorate the tree. Well, my wise 16 year-old son said no on this particular year. When I later went to his room and asked him why, his response was life changing for me. He said, "Why should I help? You always rearrange everyone's decorations when we go to bed. You want it the same every year."

What a life lesson that has been for me. The beauty that I see is not shared by everyone. The finished product I want may not be what my children crave, need, or create. I am a parent, not a dictator. My job is to nurture, provide, praise, guide, love, enable choices, and so much more. They will fail. They will cry. They will be so discouraged. That is when true parenting shines. Parents will come alongside their child and listen. They will ask questions and wait for responses. They will craft

their "help" in a way that the child is the one who succeeds through their own efforts at resolution.

In Daniel T. Willingham's book on *Why Don't Students Like School?*, he emphasizes that children must connect to their learning. One of the ways they connect is by being intrinsically motivated and interested. Parents and teachers who hover over their children or who remove every obstacle, tend to cause their children to lose interest in the process of learning. The motivation to figure things out is lost. Failure during the learning process is a significant part of the entire process.

Let's work together to give our children room to learn. For our parents who have chosen to be home with their children during this unprecedented time, remember to take time to care for yourself and leave your children to learn at their own pace and way. If they don't get it right away-oh well! They will eventually get it. I recall my oldest daughter, Kristin when she was so frustrated with her oldest boy who was six at the time. He did not care about learning to read. Kristin was a school teacher prior to taking on the challenge of homeschooling. She wanted to see her own child making the gains she experienced in the classroom. He did not show ANY interest. She was frustrated and frankly worried. She called me and asked what to do. My answer was equally frustrating to her when I said, "There is nothing you can do." She wanted to do something to help him progress toward reading. I told her to keep reading rich text, exciting stories and wonderful poetry. He loved to listen to this and wanted more. I am very pleased to report that our now nine year-old grandson is an avid reader. His mom has to pull him away from his books to get him to the dinner table.

As we raise our "little people," relax and enjoy every moment as a gift. That gift may be experiencing their failures together, cleaning up a cut from a fall, or watching them read their first real words! Whatever the moment, seize it with joy and hope.

#### Lis Richard

Superintendent of Dolores School District

#### Resources:

https://www.scarymommy.com/confessions-reformedlawn-mower-parent/ https://keepcalmitslife.org/9-incedible\_parentingtrends-of-2019/

<u>The Gift of Failure</u> by Jessica Lahey, Harper Collins Publishing, 2016.

<u>Why Don't Students Like School</u> by Daniel T. Willingham, Jossey-Bass, A Wiley Imprint, 2009.

#### Tips for Parenting During COVID-19

- Don't be afraid to discuss the coronavirus. Not talking about something can make kids worry more. Convey the facts and be reassuring.
- Acknowledge your own anxiety. And take care of yourself. Remember to "put the oxygen mask on first before you help your child."
- Focus on what you're doing to stay safe. Kids feel empowered when they know what to do to keep themselves safe.
- Go to childmind.org/coronavirus for free resources and links to tele-health services.



#### September 1, 2020

#### Volume One, Issue 1

## **Preschool Goes on a Bear Hunt**





Teachers greet the preschool "hunters" as they looked for bears throughout the schools. Balloons, bubbles, and bears were plenteous.

Dolores School District welcomes back the Teddy Bear Preschool students with a Bear Hunt on August 24! Students from the ages of 2-5 years old walked from the preschool to the high school and their final destination at the elementary building. Along the way they picked out many bears sitting in windows, on picnic tables, on top of boulders, on door handles and even a life-size bear waved at them in front of the library. They arrived at the elementary with the entire staff blowing bubbles, cheering, giving stuffed Teddy Bears and balloons to the children and a treat of Teddy Grahams! What a welcome!!











Read the story of going on a bear hunt with your children! It is a wonderful story of fun and imagination.





Home of the Bears

## LEARNING OPTONS FOR DOLORES STUDENTS

#### In-Person Learning for all grades K-12 will be fully operational with all safeguards in place.





### Elementary and Middle School - Edgenuity.

(For more information:http://www.virtualschoolresourcecenter.com/runningyour-program/student-success/)

The district will **cover the cost of enrolling** and also provide a connection to the school through making staff available to the online learner.

High School (select 6-8 students): Southwest E-School This option provides a local resource through our BOCES and also has better flexibility with our program. Students who meet the qualifications may also choose online concurrent enrollment classes with our partner colleges and universities.



3

2

#### K-12: Live-streaming Dolores Classroom Instruction from Home

A remote option for staying home. It is interacting all day with the actual class of students.

Here is a **checklist** when considering the options available:

#### Live-Streaming (K-12)

- High-speed, reliable and non-limited internet access
- Adult supervision
- Commitment for pick up and drop off of school resources biweekly
- Commitment following the daily class schedule

#### Edgenuity (K-8)

- High-speed, reliable internet access
- Adult supervision
- Parent is the primary learning coach at home with access to support
- 3-hour commitment of academic work online (may vary by grade)

## Southwest E-School (Secondary) =High-speed internet access

- Adult involved in the progress monitoring process
- Self-motivated and able to follow the online teacher's expectations
- Commitment to 5-6 hours per day





September 1, 2020



PURCHASE ONLINE AT FANCLOTH.SHOP/ASM8B

ORDER ONLINE AT FANCLOTH.SHOP/ASM8B



#### Dolores Bears Booster Club Proudly Supporting Our Bears

		Bear Backer Support 2020-2021	
Level	<u>Cost</u>		
Platinum	\$250	Gym Sign and Business Card Ad in Athletic Programs	
Gold	\$100	Sign (\$250 Level): YES or NO (Circle whether sign is requested and if so, attach business card with information wanted on sign. This will also be used for ad Program. Business Card Size Ad in Athletic/Activity Programs	
Silver	\$50	Recognition in Athletic/Activity Programs	
Bronze	\$25	<b>Recognition</b> in Athletic/Activity Programs	
Be A Bear	\$10	<b>Recognition</b> in Athletic/Activity Programs	

#### "Active" Membership

\$30 - Sign up to help with various needs. This is a way to share your time and skills in ways that work for you! (Includes T-shirt) Please make sure to add Phone number and email below

Volunteer to help specifically with the following:

Date:	Amount Paid:	(cash or check #)
		(

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone:

Bear Backer Membership - Receipt Tax ID: 30-0350968

Date:\_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid:\_\_\_\_\_ (cash or check #)

Email:

Name:\_

Please make checks payable to:

"Dolores Bears Booster Club". PO Box 2286, Dolores, CO 81323 Proceeds benefit the academic, athletic, and all other activities and programs of Dolores High School and Middle School. Thank you!!

\*Bringing back tradition and bear spirit \*

#### Booster Club Scholarship Winners from Last Year:

The "Just Because" Scholarship Recipients were:

Bryan Escarecega

**Trey Seekins** 

**Madison Gailey** 

Kolby Burt

**McKenzy Howerton** 

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL AND BEST WISHES!

Home of the Bears



#### **Employment:**

Bus Drivers Needed: Training is available. If interested, please call 970-882-7255.

Substitute Teachers Needed: If interested, please call 970-882-7255.

**Secondary Band/Music Teacher:** Please contact the district office or view the information on line. 970-882-7255

Community Members, Parents, Business Owners for the **District Accountability Committee**: Look on the district website under the "About Us" tab for more information on the DAC.

**Booster Club** is seeking volunteers for concessions and other activities. For more information contact: Shelly Purkat 970-759-3101, Brenda Spurlock 970-739-1925

PTA - Do you want to be involved in your child's education and provide support to the school? Call the elementary school office for more information.



Please be patient as we are not able to allow visitors in the buildings. Once our restrictions are lifted, we will gladly welcome visitors!

**Elementary Bear Wear**: Click below to purchase special bear wear for the elementary:

https://t-shirtpeople.com/ dolores\_elementary\_school/shop/home