



Dr. Blincoe's Blog



Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! I truly believe that this will be one of the most important years of the Dolores School District in quite a while. There are a lot of big-ticket issues that will be addressed this year and many important initiatives as well; let's dig in:

First and foremost, The voters in Dolores School District will vote on a bond to construct a new high school, renovate and convert the current high school into the new middle school, create a secure common space where students can safely gather, provide a new agriculture science lab, provide safe and secure double-vestibule entrances at all new entrance points, create a dedicated bus loop and covered walkways, create a covered entrance for elementary students, Correct Americans with Disabilities Act issues, and improve drainage flow issues from snow melt runoff. The bond will be valued at 12 to 14 million dollars, depending on latest assessed values, and will be matched, if/when awarded, with a 17 million dollar BEST grant, for a project total near 30 million dollars. There will be a number of meetings scheduled for more information and additional fliers will be mailed as well.

Student attendance continues to be a top priority in our district and, with the help of the MTSS committee, we will firmly address chronic absenteeism. Last year, close to 50% of the student body missed 10% of school, that's 17 days, and many were above 20%, 35 days! At the high school level, 90% of students that failed one or more classes were considered chronically absent. This has to end, our students must be in class to pass. We will work diligently to address issues of absences and how to resolve the problem.

We will be working on improving communication this year as well. A designated committee has been formed to address a number of communication issues. We will specifically be working to improve information on the district website, have an up-to-date activity calendar, assist principals in updating campus website pages, publish a monthly newsletter, and remind the Superintendent to write his monthly blog!

Dr. Blincoe's Blog (continued)

Last year we began an instructional improvement initiative called "Get Better Faster" commonly referred to as GBF. We worked with an outside organization to train our principals and other instructional leaders on how to better deliver instructional content and manage the classroom. We will be entering year two of GBF and we began by hosting an all-day catchup for our new teacher. We are committed to continuing GBF and will have a number of workshops this year as we expand our initiative into "data dives" and other improvements.

As most of you remember, during COVID times, most parents and volunteers were restricted from coming into the schools. Well those days are gone and our doors are again open to visitors. We are looking to improve our parent participation in our schools and increase our volunteerism this year. If you are interested, please contact the campus that you would like to help and see how they can get you involved.

Well that's all I have to share this month. Hope everyone has a great start to the new school year and we'll see you soon on campus or at a school event!

Director Rosenkrance Teddy Bear Preschool



Preschoolers will begin riding the bus to the Dolores Elementary Library starting on September 11. They will go every Monday to check out books.

This month each Teddy Bear classroom will begin holding their monthly Family Day. Teachers plan a one hour chunk of time on the same day each month and invite families to come in and do an activity with their child.

Our Teddy Bear playgrounds are finished!

Our playgrounds are finished! We have a new beautiful structure on the preschool playground and two new toddler structures. The toddler playground also has a new steel shade structure that covers their main climbing structure so that they are able to play outdoors in the snow and the sun.



Chuck Soukup Nutrition Services



Legislation voted on and approved last fall is going to provide free meals for ALL Dolores students this year and for the foreseeable future. Additional Ala Carte purchases will be offered at additional cost but students are allowed breakfast and lunch at NO cost.

It IS important to collect and process applications for economic statistics to provide additional benefits for the entire district including curriculum, athletics and facilities needs. Please use the following links:

<https://www.lunchapplication.com/>
<https://www.k12paymentcenter.com/>

Dolores Elementary School



School is off to a great start at Dolores Elementary. We are excited this year to “Level Up” , which is our theme. In fact Mario and Luigi showed up for the first day to welcome our students back to school. Thanks to our Superintendent, Dr. Blincoe, for joining in on the fun.

We have completed the beginning of the year testing. We tested our students on their reading and math skills. Students will be bringing home their family reports which will give parents insight into their child’s skill level as well activities to work on at home. These reports will go home the week of September 5.

There are many after school activities and clubs that are starting up. Please use the embedded links for more information.

[Dolores First Lego League](#)

[Free Friday Funday](#)

[Girls Youth Basketball](#)

Attendance is an area of focus for our district this year. This [Flyer from AttendanceWorks](#) has quick information. I will caution you that some of the numbers used in comparison are based on a longer school year than your Dolores School District and it was also published during the recent pandemic.

Character Assemblies are returning and will be held each quarter. More information will follow for our first scheduled assembly in October. The character trait we are emphasizing this quarter is resilience. Ms. Miller is visiting the classrooms teaching lessons on how we can demonstrate resilience.

August was spent practicing our routines and procedures. Now that they are in place we are leveling up our classroom instruction as we start our instructional coaching rounds.

PTA - Our Dolores Elementary Parent Teacher Association is up and running, please volunteer. We would love to have you join us for our [next meeting](#) on September 6 at Dolores Elementary.

Click on this [form](#) and add your email address to stay connected with PTA updates.

Principal Weiss

Dolores Middle School



I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new staff to our Middle School Team. We are fortunate enough to have these amazing teachers join our Middle School Bears. For more information about our Dolores Middle School staff please visit our [Dolores Secondary Staff](#) page on our website



Tyson Atwell
Industrial Arts Teacher



Ethan Hainey
Science Teacher



Melody Harris
Social Studies Teacher



Kady Meyer
Language Arts Teacher



Tyler Nielson
Math Teacher



John Reina
Social Studies Teacher

Principal Schmitt

Dolores High School



The 2023-2024 school year is upon us and we are looking forward to a great year! The staff at Dolores High School is second to none and we are fortunate to be able to bring back the majority of our teachers, paraprofessionals, secretaries and support staff back for this school year. Some members of our team left to pursue other opportunities and we thank them for their service to our school and wish them luck in their new endeavors. That being said, we have some fantastic additions to our team that I am excited to introduce you to. If you would like to visit our website to see bios for all of our staff members you can go to the [Dolores Secondary Staff](#) page on our website.

Meet the new high school teachers!!!



Rene Cunningham
Art Teacher



Leslie Higgins
ESS Teacher



Reese Smith
English Teacher



Cheri Walker
Academic Advisor



Adrienne Zimmerman
Math Teacher

Contact the Dolores School District

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Dolores School District Calendars

[Events Calendar](#)
[2023-2024 Yearly Calendar](#)

Download the Dolores SD App

Download the updated Dolores SD App, available for free on both Android and iOS platforms. Allow push notifications!

