

October 2023



Dolores School District

Newsletter

Dr. Blincoe's Blog



Well, it's been a good start to the 2023-2024 school year. We have a lot going on in extra-curricular activities and academics and I'd like to highlight a few for the October Blog:

- We have continued our Get Better Faster training for our teaching staff with inservice on August 9th and again on September 22nd. Instructional improvement and deeper looks into data is always a good area to help our teachers. More training is scheduled in November and February.
- Football, volleyball and cross country running are in full swing. I'm writing during homecoming week and all three have games/events this weekend; good luck to all! Our FFA has also been very active in preparing for regional and state competitions and a trip to the National Convention.
- Student attendance continues to be a top priority for our district but apparently we aren't the only district in this situation. The Commissioner of Education, Susan Cordova, recently sent an e-mail, that I shared with all of our staff, about how this is a state-wide issue that needs to be addressed. Mr. Schmitt, High School Principal, presented data at the last school board that showed the correlation between missing school and failing classes, it was overwhelming! We need everyone's help in making sure our students come to school so we can ensure their success in education (and life)!

We have a few big events coming up this month that I would encourage you to participate in:

- As I mentioned last month our district has a bond proposal on the ballot in the November election - please vote. Ballots should be arriving in your mailbox within the next two weeks.



Dr. Blincoe's Blog (continued)

- Not only is the bond on the ballot, we have six candidates running for four seats for the school board. The district will be hosting a candidate forum on **October 10th** at 6pm at the Community Center and we highly encourage everyone to attend. There will be questions asked of all the candidates present so you can learn about them and why they are running for the Board. Attendees will have an opportunity to turn in cards with questions prior to the event and we will do our best to summarize similar questions into one question. There will also be an opportunity to visit with each candidate after the Q&A section has concluded. I will be at the event around 5:30 with renderings for the possible new construction and will/can answer “fact based questions”.
- Parent/Teacher conferences will be held **October 16-18**. Look for more information coming soon from your campus.



That's all for this month. Have a great October and we'll see you at a Bear's event soon.

Director Rosenkrance Teddy Bear Preschool



Teddy Bear Preschool has an amazing new play structure and within a couple of weeks we will have our new Sandbox structure; a 12x35 foot carport to keep the elements off of the children and out of the sand. These items were paid for by our school district and a grant from the state.



Teddy Bear Preschool (continued)

The preschool parent group will now be raising funds for a 2 person swing set. We will start selling Butter Braids on October 16th and it will end on November 6th. It has always been one of our best fundraisers and the Braids are delicious.



Important Dates

- October 27th** Fall Carnival
Dinner at 5:00, Games 5:30-6:30, EVERYONE is Welcome!
- October 30th** Nursing Home Field Trip, 9:30-10:30, Wear Costume
Children will make gifts for the residents and sing songs,
The residents really look forward to this annual event!

Jennifer Gaddis

Health and Wellness



As the Flu and cold season approaches, please keep in mind that if your child has minor symptoms of a cough and cold, they are permitted in school while using hand sanitization and covering coughs and sneezes. Please use the updated "How Sick is too Sick" document provided by the CDPHE to help guide you when deciding if your child should attend while ill and recovering. Helping our children to remember to wash hands routinely, bathe daily, and dress in a clean set of clothes (this includes outer sweatshirts) daily will also support health through this season.

Principal Walker

Dolores Elementary School



Hi Dolores Elementary Families,
Our Little Bears are hitting their stride as we near the end of the first quarter. School pictures will be October 9. Scheduling for Parent Teacher Conferences is working its way through the grade levels and our Book Fair is happening the same week ([Link to Book Fair](#)).

Character Assemblies are returning; each quarter we will recognize our students for displaying those traits we have been learning about from our counselor, Susan Miller. This first quarter we have been focussed on Resilience and Persistence.

We had a great week participating in Homecoming festivities, dressing up and attending the parade. This was just a warm up for Red Ribbon Week that will take place at the end of the month. Another event we are excited to bring back is Dolores Bears Got Talent ([Link to DBGT](#))

I would like to introduce our new teachers this year at Dolores Elementary. For more information about our Dolores Elementary School staff please visit the [Dolores Elementary Staff](#) page on our website.

Sandra Jaburg
Kindergarten
Teacher



Robbin Lewis
4th Grade
Teacher



Kayleen Lindsay
Kindergarten
Teacher



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.

Dolores Elementary School (continued)

Important Dates:

- October 9** Picture Day
- October 16 - 20** Book Fair
- October 16 & 18** **Parent Teacher Conferences**
- October 19.** Character Assembly (Aux Gym) @8:15
- October 27** Fall Family Event (PTA)
- October 30 - 4** Red Ribbon Week



Afterschool Clubs: Flyers for after school clubs are located in the office.

Alesa Reed Curriculum Director



The state of Colorado requires that school counselors utilize the Colorado Suicide Risk Assessment Toolkit anytime a student threatens suicide or if a threat is reported by someone else. We at Dolores will take every precaution to ensure students are safe by following the new Colorado suicide risk protocols. For more information, please get in touch with your child's counselor.

safe²tell[®]
Make a Call. Make a Difference.
1-877-542-7233
safe2tell.org

Colorado Department of
Education Suicide Prevention



Principal Weiss

Dolores Middle School



September has been a very busy month with activities and continuing to get middle school routines and procedures figured out. I appreciate all the parents signing and getting all the paperwork turned in. If you are not sure if you have all the paperwork turned in please feel free to call the office.

PBIS Information



This year, the middle school is implementing PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports). This is an evidence-based framework that supports students' behavioral, academic, social, and emotional growth. We're focused on teaching and reinforcing the positive behavior expectations we want to see from our students.

You may be familiar with PBIS if your student attended Dolores Elementary. Our elementary school saw a drastic reduction in office discipline referrals after implementing PBIS. We're excited to continue with this model and set of schoolwide expectations that many of our students are already familiar with.

Our expectations are PAWS: Positive Attitude, Act Respectfully, Work Responsibly, and Stay Safe. Students have been taught what these expectations look like in different settings, like the classroom or the cafeteria.

When teachers see students demonstrating these positive behavior expectations, they can reward students with points using our digital platform, PBIS Rewards. Every student can use the website to track their points and spend them in either the school store or teachers' stores. Our school store includes school supplies, toys and games, snacks, and also things like a hat day pass, special lunch/recess activities, and tickets to dances. During Homecoming week, many middle students chose to use points to purchase a ticket to the high school's Peach Fuzz game.

We're excited to see how PBIS improves our school climate and culture for the rest of this school year!

Dolores Middle School (continued)

Bradfield Bridge Field Trip



The 6th grade staff took the students to the Bradfield River for cross-curricular learning. What a great experience for the students. Each teacher had their own station along the river. Groups rotated as if they were in school.



Congratulations to our September Middle School Students Spotlights

We look for the following to be chosen for Students Spotlight:

Effort - work hard and is persistent ● Character - displays initiative, honesty, respect, responsibility, compassion, optimism ● Behavior - no referrals ● Social Relationships - leadership, willingness to help peers, show respect ● Attendance - good daily attendance and no excessive tardies.



The 6th grade team is proud to announce that our September Student of the Month is **Randon Hooper!** This student shows integrity in all aspects of his life. He is always the first one to help someone in need. His help is done in a compassionate manner. He excels in all of his classes because of his attention to detail, depth of knowledge and critical thinking skills. Congratulations Randon! Keep up the great work!

Dolores Middle School (continued)



The 7th grade team would like to acknowledge the outstanding **Mayci Garver** this month. Mayci is a hard working student who uses her class time wisely to get her work done. Her assignments are always neat, organized and they showcase her best work. She is always kind and respectful to her classmates, teachers and others. We really appreciate Mayci.



Addison (Addy) Thompson is one of those students that teachers dream to have in class. She shows academic success not only by turning in all work at an above proficient level, but also asks those questions that expand her comprehension. Addy also shows her compassion and respectful nature to all students by sharing kind words and compliments. She is one that you can trust and know that she will work hard for you while expressing every positive student attribute. Keep up the good work Addy!

Important Dates



Oct. 16 and 18th

PTC - Please bring your student and join us in the lunchroom for PTC. You will receive your students report card as well as their 2023 CMAS results.



Oct. 23-26th

The Middle School will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week with dress-up days, pep assembly, decorating hallways and will end the week with a dance.



The Importance of Writing

Why Should We Write?

Many students consider writing to be a chore, a boring task to satisfy a teacher, or even a punishment. When they receive a writing assignment they too often approach it as a problem to be completed as quickly as possible, or to be avoided altogether, rather than as an opportunity to build and refine skills that are essential for future success.

Students write in order to develop their thinking and demonstrate that thinking. Dr. Jordan B. Peterson describes writing as *"formalized thinking."*

The primary reason to write an essay is so that the writer can formulate and organize an informed, coherent and sophisticated set of ideas about something important."

- Dr. Jordan B. Peterson

In his *Essay Writing Guide* Dr. Peterson argues that throughout our lifetimes we will find ourselves in situations in which we have to convince others to choose us, our perspective, or our product. Those who can articulate the best argument for why they should be selected for the job, or granted the promotion, or convince their prospective customer why their product is superior, always win. Requiring students to write is not just an exercise that is done to keep students busy or a way for teachers to get students to show what they know, it is much more important than that. To be able to write one has to be able to think. The two are two sides of the same coin.

When students write they have to identify a problem (the thing they will be writing about), gather and analyze information, select the proper words and phrases needed to convey their thoughts, organize those thoughts into coherent arguments, and then integrate their own personality into the writing. Being able to use language and choosing the right words is the most powerful thing about us. Very successful people are great at articulating their ideas, goals and strategies. If students can learn to be effective writers, speakers, and communicators they will have all the tools and confidence they need to ascend the mountaintop of life. (Dr. Jordan B. Peterson)

"It is useful to note that your mind is organized verbally, at the highest and most abstract levels. Thus, if you learn to think, through writing, then you will develop a well-organized, efficient mind – and one that is well-founded and certain."

- Dr. Jordan B. Peterson

Dolores High School (continued)

Artificial Intelligence

A.I. is a powerful technology that offers mankind endless possibilities, and when we are dealing with such a powerful technology, there is a greater need for self-control, honesty and restraint. As a research tool, programs like ChatGPT are extremely powerful, and when used properly can produce endless amounts of content almost instantaneously. Finding resources for a research paper has never been easier. When used inappropriately the consequences can be steep.



The benefits of writing, as discussed above, can be almost completely negated if tools like ChatGPT are used unscrupulously. Students may cheat themselves out of the opportunity to develop, grow and refine their thinking process. They may never build the writing, speaking, and communication skills that are so essential to their future success. Teachers won't be able to tell if students are truly learning what they are teaching. The ability to use words to develop coherent arguments is the most powerful thing we can do in this life.

M.T.S.S. (Multi-tiered Systems of Supports) Goal - Writing

Recently our High School MTSS team met to select an area of focus for the 2023-2024 school year. We chose writing. This means that we will be emphasizing writing across the curriculum throughout the year. Students will be given writing assignments in most of their classes at different times throughout the semester. They will be given guidance and they will be assessed on their writing according to a common rubric that all teachers will use. Students will be expected to write correctly even when the writing doesn't take place in their English classes. We value your support as we get set to tackle this goal.

Contact the Dolores School District

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Dolores School District Calendars

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

Download the Dolores SD App

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