

November 2023



Dolores School District

Newsletter

Principal Walker

Dolores Elementary School



The State Qualifying Dolores Cross Country Team joins DES Girls on the Run Club before the GOTR event in Durango November 4th. DES teacher and GOTR Coach says “GOTR loves the support from family, friends, teachers, and especially the DHS XC Team! The ladies, gentlemen, and coaches of that team are truly motivating and inspirational!”



The DES Student Council has made PSA's for our students this week about the importance of making healthy choices. Age appropriate, direct conversations go a long way in helping our kids understand drug and/or alcohol use realities. Please reach out to DES for more resources.

Dolores Elementary School (Continued)



PTA hosted the Fall Family Festival October 27 in the Commons. Mrs. Christenson won the costume contest for the teacher category and the Rice's won the family category as characters from Despicable Me. Yvonne Shellhammer defied the laws of nature and unexplainably made more delicious cookies than scores of hungry elementary students could eat. Thank you to all the parents that made this event possible.

The Lego Robotics Team worked on skills for their upcoming competition while fundraising. This event was hosted by the Dolores Bike Hostel where arts and crafts, cookie decorating and an obstacle course allowed community children the opportunity to burn off some energy.



Going on around the school; our 5th graders are carving pumpkins to display in front of the Dolores Food Market, our kindergarteners have learned all the letters and their sounds and our 3rd graders are presenting new animal species they have discovered. Make sure you are connected to your student's teacher to see what they are doing.





Join us for Night of the Notables

The 8th grade students are working on a multi-genre research project, Night of the Notables, which will be presented at the Middle School Academic Showcase on Tuesday, **November 14, 5-7pm.**

For this project, students select a notable figure from history, conduct their own research, and then present their learning through creative writing in various genres. Students also have a choice for different formats of oral presentations, including writing and performing skits, creating and reading a picture book to younger students, writing and recording a short podcast, and more.

In social studies class, students are creating a visual timeline connecting their notables' accomplishments and important historical events.

We hope all students and families can join us at the Middle School Academic Showcase to read and explore students' projects, and to watch performances!

Fozzie Farm Field Trip

The 7th and 8th graders had a great all day field trip this past week visiting Fozzie's Farm and discovering the Overlook Trail in their own backyard. The 8th grade teaching team along with Miss Brown planned a multidisciplinary learning day for the students to show our young learners just how much we use all our areas of learning everyday.

Jay Loschert (previous Dolores 4th grade teacher) planned a multi-station work day at the Farm. Fozzie's Farm is a farm education center that takes a unique approach to connecting students to the land. The land was donated to the Montezuma Land Conservancy in 2016. This 83 acre farm is outside of Lewis, Colorado just a skip and a jump away from Dolores. The Farm is the center of the Conservancy's community education programming and the site of a newly constructed classroom. Since 2017, Fozzie's has hosted over 750 youth 200 adults.

Dolores Middle School (continued)



8th Grade takes a moment to enjoy the Overlook Trail



Students help put up a newly donated hoop house.



Down in the dirt



Outdoor learning

Perfect Attendance

Congratulations to these Middle School students for perfect attendance.

Isabella Myers, Dustin Johnson, Lorelei Rantz, Easton Goodall, Dameon Muff, Branson Lee, Addison Thompson, Isaac Samulski, Evan Elder, Randon Hooper, Nevada Schoonover, Brody Gabel, Dominik Wise, Stella Reininger, Aleiah Grove, Gabriella Hollen and Jaxon Swann. (Not pictured Isabel Lockhoff and Callista Vaughn)



Dolores Middle School (continued)



Congratulations to our October Middle School Spotlight Students

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



Cedar shows maturity beyond her years. She always has a positive attitude and a strong work ethic. She excels in all of her classes because of her attention to detail, her depth of knowledge and critical thinking. Furthermore, she is involved in many extracurricular activities. Her confidence and tenacity to try new activities and learn as much as she can is inspiring.



Isaac is not only intelligent, kind and a hard worker, but he is also quite humorous. He brings a smile to many faces throughout his day. We appreciate Isaac and are happy to have him as an amazing 7th grader.

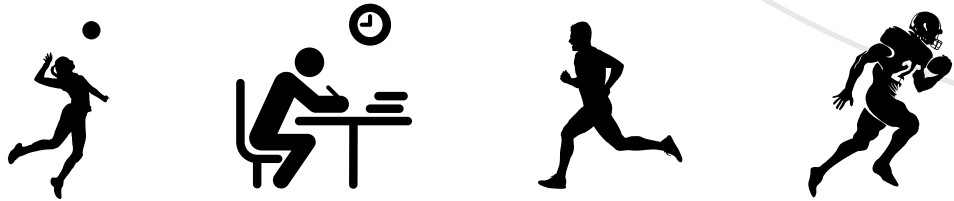


Hunter is a rockstar! Out of the entire 8th grade class, she was the only one who stepped up to be on Student Council. She is always one to turn her work in on time where her creativity shines through. All of her teachers appreciate her easy-going attitude and her politeness. She is friendly towards her peers and gets along with everyone. Way to go Hunter!

Important Date

November 14th Night of the Notables, 5:00 -7:00

Principal Schmitt Dolores High School



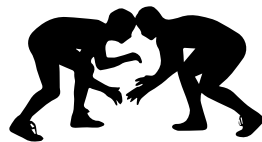
Athletic/Activities Eligibility Explained

CHSAA

The Colorado High School Activities Association requires schools to track and enforce eligibility for participation in high school athletics and other activities in two ways. The first way applies to high school students ONLY. In order for students to be eligible to participate they have to have successfully completed 2.5 credits (5 classes), the previous semester. If they did not pass at least five classes they are permitted to practice with the team BUT they CANNOT participate in competitions with other schools until after the eligibility regain date, which is set by CHSAA. The second way applies to both the middle school and the high school. Schools must choose to implement either weekly or bi-weekly eligibility. Our district has chosen to do weekly eligibility. This means that each time a student is failing a class, after the warning week for the grading period, he/she will be ineligible for one week.

What exactly is a warning week?

Perhaps the best way to explain what a warning week is is to first explain what it isn't. A warning week is not a "get out of jail free card" that students can save in their back pocket for when they are failing a class one week and they don't wish to be ineligible to play in that week's games. A warning week cannot be saved for later use. The purpose of the warning week is to give students warning the first time within a grading period that their grade falls below a 60% in one or more classes. Warning weeks are typically utilized early in a grading period when there aren't as many grades in the gradebook and one failing grade or missing assignment can have a larger impact on a student's overall grade. Dolores High School has two grading periods, the fall semester and the spring semester. Dolores Middle School has four grading periods, quarters 1-4. High school eligibility is based on semester grades. Middle school eligibility is based on quarter grades. If a class has fewer than 3 grades in the gradebook for the current grading period it is not included in the eligibility determination.



Dolores High School (continued)

How Does it All Work?

Each Thursday afternoon the athletic department pulls a grade report for all of the students that are participating in a sport or other activity for the current season. We are currently between the fall and winter sports seasons, but activities such as Cheerleading, Knowledge Bowl and Debate span across multiple seasons so eligibility continues to run. Eligibility is pulled on Thursdays for the following week. This gives coaches, players, and parents adequate time to prepare for the week ahead rather than having the eligibility go into immediate effect the day it is pulled. If a student is failing one or more classes when eligibility is pulled they will not be eligible for participation in competition (games, wrestling matches, knowledge bowl meets, etc.) the following Monday - Saturday.



Example:

Student A plays basketball and is failing his science class on Thursday, November 30th, when eligibility is pulled. The team is playing in a tournament over the weekend and has games scheduled for November 30th, December 1st, and December 2nd. Student A is eligible to participate in all three tournament games. Beginning Monday, December 4th, Student A is ineligible and will be ineligible all week, from Monday, December 4th - Saturday, December 9th. Eligibility will be pulled again on Thursday, December 7th. If Student A is passing all classes he will be eligible to play games again beginning on December 11th. He will NOT be eligible to play in any games scheduled for December 7th, 8th or 9th. His eligibility is regained on December 11th and he will be permitted to participate in games from Monday, December 11th - Saturday, December 16th.

Director Rosenkrance

Teddy Bear Preschool



We have a new sandbox. It is a 12 x 35 foot sandbox! Huge! The children are so excited to have such a big area. We will now be able to play in the sand all winter long. It was bought with grant money and the sand was donated to us by Smith's Materials.

Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled in the evenings for November 6-10th.

We have been very busy with individual Family Days in the classrooms and a field trip to the Vista Grande Nursing Home. The children made gifts to give to the residents at the home, sang songs for them and then Trick or Treated out the door. We have been visiting the home for at least 30 years. They really do appreciate our visits.



Jennifer Gaddis

Health and Wellness



As the cold and flu 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.



The Influential words of a teacher

I was on Instagram the other day and came across a post that said the following:

The first time Josh Johnson did a stand-up comedy routine at his high school talent show, his teacher said, "I'll see you on the Tonight Show one day."

Fast forward several years. Josh was invited to the Tonight's Show and flew his teacher to see his performance in person!

The video played on and showed Josh giving credit to his teacher and Jimmy Fallon calling him up out of the audience and giving him credit.

I had a similar experience in college. On the first day of class, Mr. Hundley, my American History teacher, who also happened to be the Superintendent of Schools in the college town of San Marcos, Texas, went through the class roster and had each one of us tell him what job we wanted after graduation. I told him I was going to be an Agriculture Teacher. Of course, being in education, Mr. Hundly appreciated that answer, and we would visit from time to time about the ups and downs of education. One day, about six weeks into the class, we were discussing presidential leadership, and I was contributing to the conversation. Mr. Hundly stopped me and said: "You know how you told me you were going to be an Agriculture teacher?" I said, "Yes, that's what I'm going to be." He said, "Yes, you are, but you are going to be much more; you're going to be a school leader." I laughed it off; I'd never dreamed of anything but being an Agriculture Teacher.

After that class ended, Mr. Hundley and I stayed in touch. Throughout the years, he would send me letters and ask how my career was going. After I landed my first superintendent job, Mr. Hundley was one of the first to call and congratulate me. He followed me throughout my career, and we still write letters to each other. I have always remembered his comments and words of encouragement.

Let me put it this simply: Mr. Hundley changed my life. He gave me a new career direction with one 30-second statement: "You're going to be much more." I knew what he had done for me, and throughout my career, I tried my best to do the same and tell people when I thought they were "going to be much more." Whether it was students in my class, teachers who worked for me, or administrators, I always tried to let the great ones know they could do so much more.

Dr. Blincoe's Blog (continued)

Teachers (and parents) hold the power to change kids' lives with a single statement. They also hold the other power to kill dreams. I hope you will use that power to encourage our children to "be so much more." Give them a reason to set the bar high and to work hard for a new dream. If you plant that seed in their head, it may take a decade to grow, but it will grow.

I wish you all the best as we head into November, the Fall, and Thanksgiving. Enjoy time with your family, and use this opportunity to encourage others!

Contact the Dolores School District

Dolores School District RE-4A
100 N. 6th Street / PO Box 727
Dolores, CO 81323
Phone: (970) 882-7255
Fax: (970) 882-7685

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!

