



Dr. Blincoe's Blog



Thank you so much for overwhelmingly passing the Dolores School Bond! A special thanks goes out to the Citizens Bond Committee, which worked tirelessly to help educate our community on the true needs of the district. Yes, this is a big win for our staff and students, but it's also a big win for our community.

We will be able to construct a facility that will be, first and foremost, safe! New secured entrances will provide the highest level of safety. This new design will provide a safe and secure outdoor learning area and a place to eat lunch and not be in harm's way. All the new classrooms will be built to state standards for size, accessibility, lighting, acoustics, and air quality. This will certainly benefit our teachers and our students in the learning environment. The new science labs will allow our middle school students access to a fully functional science lab that is not available now, and the new labs will be fully equipped to offer advanced science classes. New facilities don't guarantee academic gains, but they certainly will allow our students to learn at a higher level and take pride in their school.

While our students and parents will certainly benefit, our community will benefit also.

New schools have a way of refreshing the town. It is a sign to all that pass through that we care about our students and the town's future so much that we invest in them and their education. New buildings beget new buildings; it's typical to see more new businesses and housing as new schools go in. New housing attracts new families, and it's typical to see growth in the town and student populations. New buildings also encourage renovation and a renewed vigor to refresh our existing properties to help beautify our town. This has already occurred in Dolores, and I believe it will continue.

We still have a lot of work to do. I will lead a team as we refresh our BEST grant and submit it in January. I will interview with the selection committee on May 13th, and we will hear the outcome of our grant application on May 15th.

Dr. Blincoe's Blog (continued)

If we are awarded the grant, we will get final approval from the Colorado State Legislature in mid-June and can proceed. Right off the bat, there will be a lot of work with Lawyers and finance experts to help us prepare for construction. We will, of course, have to select our construction company through a competitive bid process and then select an architect who will turn out construction documents as quickly as they can. A lot of planning and preparation will go in before we ever start construction, but this is necessary for a successful project. If all goes well and the weather is nice, we could move into a new high school in 2026.



Director Rosenkrance

Teddy Bear Preschool



Teddy Bear will be hosting a benefit for one of our Toddler Teachers, Nori Begay. She has been out 50+ days with her son who is fighting for his life. Nori has been with us for 8 years and is an amazing teacher. We will be serving a chili/frito pie/fry bread/tortilla meal with a cookie. We will be doing take out also. If you call ahead of time we will deliver your meal to the curb for you. The date is December 16th from 3-6:00. All meals are \$10 a plate. You may dine in at the Dolores High School cafeteria or call 970-739-4244 ahead of time and we will deliver to your vehicle/curb. We will also have a Bake Sale going inside the cafeteria. Thank you for supporting this amazing teacher and her family. :)



Teddy Bear Preschool (Continued)

Winter Break will start on December 25th and go through January 8th. The children's first day back will be January 9th.



Winter Program Schedule

Our classrooms will be hosting individual Winter Programs this year in their classrooms, the dates are as follows:

- Ms. Brittney/Elaine's classroom will be December 12 at 9:15 am
- Ms. Carisa's classroom will be December 14 at 9:15 am
- Ms. Nancy and MaryAnn's classroom will be December 20 at 2:20 pm
- Ms. Karen and Ms. Jaycee's classroom will be December 21 at 9:15 am
- Ms. Teresa's classroom will be December 21 at 2:30 pm
- The Toddler Classroom will be December 21 at 3:00 pm

Important Preschool Dates

December 16th \$10 Dollar Benefit Meal (Nori Begay)
December 25th Winter Break Begins!
January 8th Last day of Winter Break
January 9th First day back to school

Dolores Elementary School



We are quickly approaching the end of the semester and for this to coincide with the holiday season means a jam packed schedule of academics and activities. Beginning next week we will start our Middle of the Year (MOY) DIBELS testing. What parents should know is that our staff constantly assess our students as a best practice. DIBELS assesses the acquisition of literacy skills based on nationwide standard procedures and measures. While our teacher assessments through classwork, homework, tests and quizzes allow our teachers to adjust instruction, the norm based tests give us insight to areas of concern and areas of celebration. When used in a strategic manner DIBELS, NWEA, & CMAS allow accountability and information for our school to make sure our students are receiving the most appropriate instruction.

What is going on at DES? Check out the [Holiday Happenings](#) for December events.



Congratulations to our November Accelerated Readers:

10 Points

Sawyer Bowman, MacKenzie Stowe, Avram Verdahl, Aylan Warren, Beats Beckman, Lily Edwards, Emmie Brown, Addy Gonzales, Ryder Prairie, & Avery Vreeken

25 Points

Cedar Blacow, Abigail Hurst, Alanna Lindsay, & Parker Pribble

50 Points

Kinlea Wright, & Finn Tarpey



Lastly, as the weather begins to cool off and the snow stays on the ground, please make sure your student has appropriate clothing for recesses. Families that are struggling securing these items are encouraged to reach out to the school so we may connect you with those resources. DES office staff use WeatherBug to assist with weather decisions regarding lightning and Feels Like Temp. When the Feels Like Temp falls below 10 we keep our students inside, there are very few exceptions. Weather also brings changes to pick up and drop off. The amount of room for parent parking decreases, which means more cars in line. At drop off please encourage your child to be ready to exit the vehicle once you have come to a complete stop and please remain in your vehicle in the drop off/pick up line. In the afternoons I wanted to remind you that Kinder, 1st and 2nd grade get out at 3:45 and 3rd-5th grades are dismissed at 3:50. Adjusting your time to the schedule can help us alleviate some of the traffic in and around the school.

We look forward to seeing you at our events this holiday season and know that my door is always open.

Principal Weiss Dolores Middle School



Middle School Academic Showcase

Thank you all to all who came out to watch and support your children in the Fall Showcase. This was a great interdisciplinary hands-on project. We had several 8th graders perform their oral presentation for the Night of the Notables. The students' projects turned out great! Each 8th grade student chose a historical character that they deemed notable and then researched and wrote about that person. They had to research 5 sources, create a Facebook page, ghost story, recipe, acrostic poem, and some other type of writing of their choice, as well as create a model to present their work on and then discuss orally on their findings. We had everyone from Frank Sinatra and Louis Armstrong to Douglas MacArthur and Oppenheimer. I encourage each parent to discuss their child's notable figure as they worked hard on this project. It was a true rewarding experience to watch these students get so invested in a classroom project and see them light up when they put it all together. We will be having another MS Showcase in the spring, so be watching for more information.



Dolores Middle School (continued)



No Cell Phones

Please help me by talking to your student about leaving their cell phone in their lockers and staying off of them during the school day. Cell phones in the classroom serve as a distraction to student's learning. If cell phones are allowed in school very few students would actually pay attention to what is being taught. Why would they pay attention when they could be talking with friends in another school or class, surfing the web, or playing games? Cell phones in the classroom only cause a distraction and student's grades greatly suffer. Thank you for your help and support.



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



The 6th grade team is proud to announce that our November Student of the Month is **Ayden Winter**! This student shows integrity in all aspects of his life. He is respectful and Kind. He is always the first one to help someone, in a compassionate manner. He is a calming force that allows others to feel safe and valued. Ayden is a leader and exemplifies all the characteristics we love to see in our Dolores Bear students. Congratulations Ayden! Keep



The 7th Grade Student Spotlight is shining on **Jordyn Witskin** this month. Jordyn is a lovely girl who is simply a pleasure to have in class. She is extremely kind and giving to other students. She is helpful when others need her help. She is positive and productive throughout her day. We are all grateful that we get to spend our days with her!



Matthew Vega is an all- star student full of curiosity, kindness, and knowledge. He is one who excels in the classroom and puts his heart and soul into every piece of work that he turns in. Vega is a student who never complains and always tries to do things, even if it's not his favorite task. Matthew is one who asks clarifying questions and is willing to jump in to help with any task. Matthew also puts his knowledge to the test where he competed in knowledge bowl this year and ranked high with his teammates at a challenging meet. We appreciate his kindness to all, his polite attitude and his work ethic inside and outside of the classroom. Congratulations to a well- deserving student!

Dolores Middle School (continued)

Thank you to the Middle School Positive Parent Group for providing an amazing Thanksgiving lunch for the middle and high school staff. The staff appreciates the opportunity to all be together for a delicious lunch and enjoy each other's company. It's not very often that the entire staff gets the chance to eat together.

Thank you again!



Important Middle School Dates

December 20th NWEA Testing

December 21st. NWEA Testing

December dress-up days for staff and students



Principal Schmitt Dolores High School



As we near the end of the semester I want to share the high school final exam schedule with you so that you can plan for your student to be in attendance. Please do all that you can to ensure that your student(s) is in attendance for their final exams on Wednesday, December 20th and Thursday, December 21st. Making up final exams is not easy and it can have detrimental short term, (and in some cases, long term) impact on your student's final grades. If your student's absence from school is unavoidable please contact the teachers and let them know that as soon as possible so that makeups can be scheduled. Students who miss the scheduled exam date will have an alternate exam that they will complete when school resumes in January. Semester grades for classes that finals have not been taken for will be recorded as an "I" (incomplete) until the exam is taken. This means that course credit will be withheld until the final exams are taken and the final grade for the course(s) is calculated and finalized.

Please see below for the Fall 2023 final exam schedule. You will notice that final exams for odd numbered classes will be taken on Wednesday, December 20th and for even numbered classes on Thursday, December 21st. If you have any questions please contact the high school office.

Final Exam Schedule **Wednesday 12/20 Thursday 12/21**

Period 1 7:55 - 9:55	Period 2 7:45 - 9:55
BREAK 10:00 - 10:10	BREAK 10:00 - 10:10
Period 3 10:15 - 12:15	Period 4 10:15 - 12:15
Lunch 12:15- 12:55	Lunch 12:15- 12:55
Period 5 1:00 - 3:00	Period 6 1:00 - 3:00
Period 7 3:05 - 3:55	Period 7 3:05 - 3:55

Cheri Walker

Academic Advisor



Please check out the new Academic Advising site for resources related to scheduling, concurrent enrollment, scholarships, college planning, and more!

Academic Advising



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!

