



Dr. Blincoe's Blog



Introducing the Dolores Graduate Profile


After a year of meetings, surveys, and graphic design work, we have finally finished our Dolores Graduate Profile (see next page). Some might ask, "What is a graduate profile?". A graduate profile is a set of skills the community believes every student should possess when they graduate. These are often not "academic standards"; they are intangible skills that might be hard to measure but are very important for success in life.

We started the development of our graduate profile by gathering a group of parents, teachers, students, and administrators to brainstorm ideas. We also developed a survey and sent it to every parent in the district (if we had a correct email address) to get additional feedback, and we received a lot of feedback! Next, we organized the feedback, looked for themes, and incorporated it into the graduate profile. We eventually came up with six areas that we felt students should be proficient in: Character, Innovation, Personal Responsibility, Clear Communication, Resilience, and Balance. I will briefly address each area:

- Character - A young person with emotional intelligence, kindness, respect, and tolerance and a growth mindset.
- Innovation - Someone who is a critical thinker, shows creativity, resourcefulness, and imagination, and is a problem solver.
- Personal Responsibility - a young person is accountable for their actions and demonstrates productivity, work ethic, self-direction, and time management.
- Clear Communications - someone who clearly communicates in writing and discussion, is collaborative, open-minded, actively listens, and shows empathy.
- Resilience - A young person who demonstrates determination, grit, perseverance, and risk-taking.
- Balance - Someone who brings all of these traits together to be prepared for a work/life balance, has financial literacy skills, is prepared academically for life, and is civic-minded.

Dr. Blincoe's Blog (continued)

As we progress with our graduate profile, we will train our staff to begin the new school year and have posters and signs in all classrooms and offices. We hope the parents and community will help us reinforce these traits with our students and future graduates. And finally, we hope that the students will understand the importance of each of these areas and traits and will work hard toward mastering each trait.



Dolores
Graduates
Demonstrate:

CHARACTER <ul style="list-style-type: none">Emotional IntelligenceKindnessRespectGrowth mindsetTolerance	INNOVATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">Critical thinkingCreativityResourcefulnessImaginationProblem-solving
PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY <ul style="list-style-type: none">AccountabilityProductivityWork ethicSelf directionTime management	CLEAR COMMUNICATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">CollaborationOpen mindednessActive listeningEmpathy/sympathy
RESILIENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none">DeterminationGritPerseveranceRisk taking	BALANCE <ul style="list-style-type: none">Prepared for all pathwaysFinancial literacyAcademic excellenceCivic mindedness

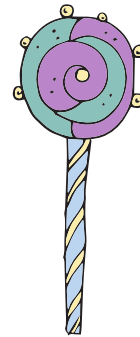
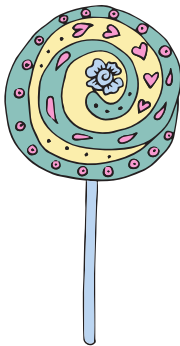


Director Rosenkrance

Teddy Bear Preschool



Teddy Bear Preschool is celebrating Dr Seuss's birthday by building the Cat in the Hat's hat. The children read with their families to fill a reading log. When it is complete they bring it back to school and receive a prize. The children write their names on a strip for the hat and it is added to his ever growing hat. All children that participated will have their names entered in a drawing, two names will be drawn and they will be given a plush Cat in the Hat and the book, *Oh the Places You'll GO*. All classrooms will then celebrate Dr Seuss's birthday by enjoying donuts. The children are so excited to watch how tall his hat has become.



Important Dates

- March 4-7** Dr Seuss Week
- March 12** Ms Elaine/Amanda Family Day @ 9:15 a.m.
- March 27** Vista Grande Nursing Home, Easter Egg Hunt @ 10:00 a.m.
- March 29** Teddy Bear Preschool, Glow Nite @ 5:00-6:30 p.m.
Dinner provided, games & activities to follow

Principal Walker Dolores Elementary School



100 Days

Dolores Elementary Celebrated 100 Days. It is hard to believe that our students have been in school for over 100 days. Our teachers, staff, and families should all recognize the gains that students have made academically, socially and emotionally. Thank goodness for the extra day in February because we needed it with a month jam packed full of events.



Candyland

DES PTA hosted a Candyland themed night that was super sweet – Thanks to all the families that showed up to make it a success and a special thanks to Yvonne Shellhammer, Karelia Ver Eecke, Mari Chubbuck, Chelsey Lacey, Elicia Bedker and Shannon Gonzales.



Dolores Elementary School (continued)

Dolore Bears Got Talent

Our elementary talent show, went off wonderfully. DBGT is the culmination of student practices and performances that began back in the fall and finished with a school assembly for classroom winners to perform, along with light techs, stage hands, and MC's running the show.

Dolores Bears Got Talent



Dolores Elementary School (continued)

Activities

Additionally this month our fifth grade competed in the state archery competition, second grade explored what it was like to travel the Oregon Trail, and first grade prepared for their Patriot Event.



Farewell Ms. Miller

February was also bittersweet as our beloved counselor Ms. Miller reluctantly left to take advantage of a career opportunity. She left a message [here](#), and in true Ms. Miller fashion she did not miss the chance to leave our families with skills and practices for our well being. Ms. Miller leaves behind big shoes to fill and we have begun the process to find a fully certified replacement that will serve our students as professionally as Susan has.

Parent Teacher Conferences

We look forward to seeing you at Parent Teacher Conferences next week. On those evenings there will be a survey that our District Advisory Committee will be conducting and your participation is encouraged. With Spring Break coming soon, there is an excellent opportunity for you and your scholar to read. Whether they take a book outside, curl up by the fire, or while traveling on your way to an awesome vacation, allocate time for this worthwhile endeavor!

Dolores Elementary School Important Dates

March 11 Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

March 13 Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Principal Weiss

Dolores Middle School



Congratulations to the Elks Lodge Essay Contest Winners

In December, the eighth grade class submitted essays to our local Elks Lodge 1789 for their annual Americanism essay contest. This was a great opportunity for our students to write captivating essays stating their beliefs and values on a personal narrative level. The winners of this contest will receive cash prizes and will have a chance to move on to Districts. At the local level, the winners were chosen and were celebrated at a ceremony this past weekend. Congratulations to the following DMS members:

- 1st place** Gavin Veach (left)
- 2nd Place** Rylan Maloney (right)
- 3rd Place** Branson Lee (middle)



Welcome Ms. Dearle Ricker

Dearle will be joining the Middle School Bears the last few months as a volunteer. She has been a preschool teacher, substitute teacher and para. Derle has worked in health care and has her BA in Biology and an AA in early childhood.

Dearle has lived in Cortez for 8 years and loves hiking and viewing wildlife. Welcome to the Middle School Bears Team!



Dolores Middle School (continued)



Congratulations to our February 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 has chosen **Brody Conrad** as our February Student of the Month. Brody has shown so much maturity throughout his 6th grade year and we are more than confident that he will continue to be awesome in 7th grade. He is organized, responsible, respectful, focused and proactive. This guy makes sure he takes care of business in class and out of school when he has missed a day. Additionally, Brody has shown great leadership among her peers. They look to him for guidance and he is always willing to help others. His integrity shines through each day and we are excited to see him thrive in 7th grade next year. Congratulations Brody! We are so proud of you!



Arthur Lien is an exemplary student who can best be described as a go-getter. He sets a good example to his peers. He encourages competition and excellence in those students in his classes. Arthur has persevered and thrived in 7th grade. Mr. Lien sets a high standard for student spotlight this month and for those who succeed him in months to come.



Congratulations **Jocelyn Hofman**! Jocelyn has really stepped up her game this year and she has been one of the most improved students of the 8th grade. She is really trying her best to have As and Bs in all of her classes and makes sure she is caught up. She always asks those clarifying questions to make sure she fully understands a topic. Miss Hofman is also a student who takes initiative in knowing what she needs in order to be successful. Jocelyn is a student who is participating more in class and is showing great pride in her work. She is kind and compassionate to her classmates and always shows respect to the adults in the room. Her patience, attentiveness in the classroom, and overall exceptional behavior in the school deserves to be awarded. Congratulations Jocelyn!

Dolores Middle School (continued)

Important Middle School Dates

Parent Teacher Conferences

March 11th from 4:15 - 7:00 p.m.

March 13th from 4:15 - 7:00 p.m.

Report Cards will be handed out during PTC.

CMAS Testing

April 9th and 10th - 8th grade (Science)

April 16th thru 19th - 6th, 7th, and 8th grades (ELA, Math and Reading)

NWEA Testing

May 6th - 6th, 7th, and 8th grades

Middle School Showcase

May 7th from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

8th Grade Field Trip

May 13th - Fort Lewis

8th Grade End of the Year Field Trip

May 20th - Information and permission slip will be sent out by the 8th grade team

6th Grade End of the Year Field Trip

May 20th - Information and permission slip will be sent out by the grade level teams

7th Grade End of the Year Field Trip

May 22nd - Information and permission slip will be sent out by the grade level teams

Middle School Awards and 8th Grade Continuation Ceremony (Main Gym)

May 21st

- 1:30 p.m. 6th grade awards
- 2:00 p.m. 7th grade awards
- 3:00 p.m. 8th grade awards and continuation program

Preparing students for success in the classroom

With 3 months of school remaining I would like to stress the importance of students being prepared for class and turning in assignments on time. Please have a discussion with your student to see if they have the supplies that they need and also discuss the importance of showing up to class prepared. Thank you for your support and encouragement in helping us get through the rest of the year together!



New this Year Digital PSAT/SAT

Testing Window April 15-26

Spring testing is quickly approaching; this includes PSAT and SAT for 9th, 10th, and 11th-grade students. ***The most significant change this year is the PSAT/SAT will be administered digitally instead of using paper and pencil.***

The PSAT and SATs are taken instead of the CMAS test for these grade levels. All students, whether college-bound or not, must take the PSAT or SAT for state reporting. The staff will meet with each grade level and help students.

1. Create a College Board account
2. Some Juniors have already opted into SAT ESSAY; the deadline was February 15th. Colleges sometimes require this ESSAY for entrance. FYI- if a student does poorly on the ESSAY, it does not reflect on the overall SAT score. More information is included in the links below.
3. Students will participate in “a digital readiness check” to ensure they have the tools to take the PSAT/SAT digitally this year.
4. Students will be guided to download Apps pertaining to testing and scholarships.

PSAT/SAT Testing Dates (times may vary)

April 16th 11th grade 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

April 16th 10th grade 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

April 16th 9th grade 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Many students and parents are asking about **ACT**; the following information is included in this article to give background about Colorado’s selection process to administer the PSAT and SAT for state testing instead of the ACT.

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/11thand10thgradeexams>

Students are still able to take the **ACT** if their college choices are asking for it. We can help you find a testing site if you choose, but students may not take the ACT instead of the SAT. SAT is required by state law for Colorado 11th graders.

CMAS Testing Window

April 8-26

Grades 3-8 will take the CMAS reading and math assessments.

Grades 5, 8, and 11 will take the CMAS science assessment.

Please check out the state [CMAS Information](#) page.

Principal Schmitt

Dolores High School



Attendance Policy Explanation

Over the past few weeks high school staff members have fielded numerous questions and addressed numerous concerns about the new attendance policy that was passed by the board in late January. Advisory teachers spent time with their advisory students clarifying the policy, reviewing scenarios, but I believe further clarification is needed for parents as well. So here we go -

There are two parts to the attendance policy regulation that was passed that pertain to high school students:

Part 1 - Requirement to make up seat time hours

- If a student accrues more than 15 absences in one semester in a particular class he/she will have to make up hours for every hour they miss above the 15 absences mark. 15 absences is equivalent to missing 20% of the scheduled school days, or 1 full month out of 5 for the semester. If this happens in more than one class he/she will have to make up hours in those classes as well.
- The only absences that are exempt from this policy are absences for school sponsored events like FFA, athletic competitions, or knowledge bowl. Suspensions from school are also exempt because the school does not allow the student to be on campus when they are absent.
- This policy was implemented to address chronic absenteeism, not just truancy, and for that reason it does not matter if absences are excused or unexcused. This policy applies to the total number of absences students have per class per semester.
- If a student is passing a class that he/she has more than 15 absences in, no credit will be awarded for the class until the hours are made up. At that point the credit will be given.
- This policy does not apply when a student fails a class and has more than 15 absences because the student will not receive credit for the class anyway and will have to retake the entire class.

Part 2 - Out of District Re-enrollment

- Many of our classes are at capacity and we are having to turn students away who want to enroll in our school. At the same time, we have many students in those classes who are severely chronically absent. Attendance at Dolores Schools is a privilege and if we have students from out of district attending our school who aren't meeting our attendance expectations and taking a seat that could otherwise be filled by a student who wants to attend school they may not be readmitted for the following year.

Dolores High School (continued)

Part 2 - Out of District Re-enrollment (continued)

- When a student's guardian completes an out of district enrollment form at the start of each year one of the things that they agree to by signing the out of district request for enrollment form is that the student(s) will maintain good behavior and good attendance and that failure to do so could result in a denial of enrollment in the future.
- This part of the new attendance policy regulation only applies to out of district students.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why did the district choose to implement this policy?

When our MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) team reviewed student data during the spring semester of last school year we discovered that **89% of high school students who failed one or more classes were also chronically absent.** Although teachers, administrators and other school personnel know that the more students are absent from school the less likely they are to succeed academically, this data provided some quantitative support and really emphasized to us the scale of the problem. **27% of high school students failed at least 1 class last spring.** This policy was adopted for the sole purpose of improving attendance and therefore significantly increasing the likelihood that students will pass their classes.

What if my student's absences are excused?

For the purposes of this policy, excused and unexcused absences are treated the same. The district truancy policy applies to students who have too many unexcused absences from school ([JHB Truancy](#)). [Attendance Policy Regulation - JH-R](#) applies to all absences from school regardless of whether the absences are excused or unexcused. The only exception, as stated above, is for absences for a school sponsored event or for school discipline.

When will students be able to make up hours if they have more than 15 absences or are on pace to have more than 15 absences for a particular class?

Students will be able to make up hours by either attending Friday school or attending summer school.

- Beginning after spring break Dolores High School will provide students with the opportunity to attend Friday School. Students can attend Friday school for the purpose of making up attendance hours and/or getting help with their coursework. We recommend that students make up hours on Fridays prior to the end of the school year so that

Dolores High School (continued)

the work they do while at Friday school can have a positive impact on their grade. If they wait until the summer to make up hours the grades will already be finalized and they will be solely making up seat time.

- Summer school will be available for students to make up seat time as well. The summer school schedule has not been developed yet, but it typically runs from 8am-12pm Monday-Thursday.

What if my student has an IEP or a 504 plan for a medical reason that impacts his/her attendance?

In these rare and unique circumstances please contact the school principal to discuss the situation and make a plan for success for your student.

Why is the school going to give my student summer school just for being sick?

Students are not given summer school or Friday school because they are out sick for a few days during the semester. Seat time makeup time applies to students who miss a cumulative total of over 15 absences (20%/1 month of school), it is not required just because a student stays home sick a few times.

Why is the school going to give my student summer school for going to an excused doctor's appointment?

The school does not give students summer school because they went to a doctor's appointment. Just because the doctor's appointment may have been the 16th absence, the seat time make up is required because of all of the absences that accrued throughout the semester, which could include the following: **2** days because the student was tired and wanted to sleep in, **2** days for orthodontist appointments, **4** days for a family vacation, **2** days because the student was sick, **4** days for a hunting trip, and **1** more day just because they wanted to stay home for the day. At this point they are already at **15** absences for the semester and the doctor's appointment gave them their **16th** absence. The student would now owe **1** hour of seat time.

Our family hunts to provide food for our family. Why would the school require my student to make up seat time because we have excused absences due to hunting?

Please see the response to the question above.

If my student passes his/her classes, will they have to make up seat time?

In the circumstance in which a student passes their class(es) and still has more than 15 absences they are still required to make up seat time. Seat time make up *ONLY* applies to students who pass classes.

Dolores High School (continued)

Improved attendance will help students who are passing classes because they will most likely receive a higher grade than they would have otherwise received. This policy does not apply to students who fail classes because they don't get credit for the class anyway and have to make the whole class up.

★ ★ ★ Principals Honor Roll ★ ★ ★ All A's

12th Grade

Darwin Cooper * Ashlyn Mikkelson * Lara Rimbert * Analisa Vega

11th Grade

Natkritta Sriwang

10th Grade

Ben Carpenter * Adeline Dettloff * Kale Gates * Jadyn Gorsuch
Ava Gregory * Amelia Pym * Julianne Vega

9th Grade

Eleri Brown * Kendall Chavez * Savannah Johnston * Koby McClellen
Orin Samulski * Madison Thornbrugh * Augustus Vaughn

★ ★ A/B Honor Roll ★ ★

12th Grade

Kylee Burt * Joshua Carpenter * Brooklyn Lee * Jonathan Purkat

11th Grade

Samantha Abate * Isla Vaughn

10th Grade

Nicholas Abate * Miles Anderson * Bridger Beyhan * Taylor Erault
Nathan Hill * Suria Hogue * Tierney Marsell * Kacey Schmittel
Nevaeh Settles * Novay Siglin * Liam Tarpey * Lilah Young

9th Grade

Kaianna Ashmore * Kaida Barry * Piper Green * Cheyanne Keim
Waylon Kiddoo * Owen Lowe * Judah Marty * Evangeline Porter
Ava Pyeatt * Autumn Settles * Declan Warren * River Wickstrom * Grant Wright

Cheri Walker

Academic Advisor



Spring is right around the corner, and there is so much going on at the secondary schools!

Scheduling:

Dolores administration is beginning to discuss scheduling for the fall semester, and will be putting together the master

schedule soon. In order to create the best schedule, we need to know what students are wanting to take. Please encourage your students to fill out the “Scheduling Interest” form in their Academic Advising Google Classroom, the more responses we receive, the smoother scheduling will go! (This is not a schedule request, that will come later.)

ICAP Meetings:

I am currently visiting with the freshman class to create four year plans and graduation checklists. Parents are welcome to join, but all information will be shared via email following the meeting. These meetings have a set agenda and a 30 minute time limit. I am happy to schedule meetings to discuss other topics at any time.

Advising Site:

Please bookmark the advising site, and refer to it regularly for updates or information regarding your child’s academic experience. We do have testing coming up for all 9-11th grade students, and there are a number of resources available on the site, for your convenience.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.
cwalker@dolores.k12.co.us

[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!

