

April 2024



Dolores School District

Newsletter

Dr. Blincoe's Blog



Student Centered Accountability Program (S-CAP)

The Dolores School District will be entering into a new way to evaluate the district and find areas of improvement beginning in the 2024-25 school year. This new evaluation tool is called S-CAP (Student Centered Accountability Program).

S-CAP was established in 2015 when five rural districts (S-CAP Core Districts) came together to establish a collaborative approach to accountability that would drive system improvement in rural settings where state accountability reporting was often limited. This aim was initially, and continues to be driven by peer site visits/feedback called System Support Reviews. As of the 2022-23 school year, S-CAP included 17 rural Colorado school districts. Next year there will be 21 districts and two external partners, Breezy Strategies and the University of Colorado, Denver Center for Practice Engaged Education Research. S-CAP emphasizes every student and the whole student including their academic competence, thinking processes and dispositions towards learning. In addition to state assessment results, S-CAP considers local assessments, classroom assessment and measures of student engagement, mindsets and post-secondary readiness to provide more meaningful and comprehensive data to describe student success. S-CAP uses System Support Reviews, collaborative, peer reviews with diverse sources of evidence to provide feedback to districts about their system components that support student success.

So what does all of this mean? In October of next year we will have staff members from multiple rural districts from all over the state come to Dolores for a one day evaluation, the following year it will be a two day evaluation that is more extensive. They will review the curriculum and instructional practices to begin. There will be 3 forms of surveys: Teachers, Students, and Community Members. There will also be focus groups that will meet and discuss questions about our school district. In return, we will be sending staff members to other rural districts around the state to evaluate their districts and to learn and pick up information on good practices occurring in their districts.

Director Rosenkrance Teddy Bear Preschool



Our prekinders will be going to the elementary school for Computer class and P.E this month to participate in the classroom with those teachers. This is a piece of our Kindergarten Transition Plan; taking the children to the elementary school before they start school there in the fall can greatly relieve a child's anxiety about going to a different school. In the next month or so we will also be going to the district cafeteria to eat lunch. Students will also spend a morning in the kindergarten classrooms with the kindergartener's and the teachers.



Glow Nite was a huge success!



Jennifer Gaddis Health and Wellness



Happy Spring Everyone!!

Please remember as Spring Allergies begin to occur, we can not administer allergy medications to your student in school. For more information on symptoms and care for seasonal allergies please refer to The American Academy of Asthma, Allergy and Immunology specialists.

Principal Walker

Dolores Elementary School



April is here and with it opportunities for our students to learn outside the classroom. Over the next two weeks each grade level will participate in an interactive video call with the Phoenix Zoo. Students will be able to ask and answer questions with the handlers and other zoo personnel. Grades 3-5 will be Thursday and K-2 will occur next Wednesday.



On April 9th our third grade will immerse themselves in Southern Ute culture in Ignacio. The following week Empire Electric will be out for a workshop for our Fourth and Fifth graders. Fifth grade will also be visiting the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum in Durango. Dolores Elementary could always use chaperones whether it be field trips or field day, consider completing a [volunteer form](#) under the community tab on the district website.



April 3rd is Paraprofessional Day and we are celebrating the people who work behind the scenes and in the trenches to make sure our school runs smoothly.



If you would like more detailed information about what is going on at Dolores Elementary Please check out our most recent [Galloping Goose Newsletter](#).

Principal Weiss

Dolores Middle School



Important Middles School Dates

CMAS Testing

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

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

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 - Trampoline park - Farmington, NM

6th Grade End of the Year Field Trip

May 20th -Durango Recreation Center - Durangon, CO

7th Grade End of the Year Field Trip

May 22nd - Box Canyon - Ouray, CO

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

CMAS and NWEA Information

CMAS - State Assessment

The CMAS report gives families information on how well their child performed on different sets of skills in each subject. Families can use this information to identify where their child is doing well and where they may need support or practice. This helps families better support learning at home. It can also help them start meaningful conversations with teachers, to set goals for each student's areas of improvement and to identify resources and strategies that can be used at home and in school to help students make progress.

NWEA - MAPS

Measures of Academic Progress - is a computerized adaptive assessment that measures your students knowledge of reading, math and science. All students are asked the same number of questions, but the difficulty of each questions is based on how well a student answers all the previous questions.

Please have all students attend daily. Thank you for your support parents!

CMAS

8th Grade Science

- ❖ April 9 - 10th
- ❖ MS ELA / Math
- ❖ April 15 - 17th

NWEA

- ❖ May 6-9th

Dolores Middle School (continued)



Congratulations to our March 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.



Sean Tarpey is hardworking and organized. He has excellent participation in class and always puts his best foot forward when it comes to academics. Sean has a positive attitude and a great sense of humor. He stays on task while also encouraging others to do so as well. He is a great role model and has really become a leader in the 6th grade this semester!



The 7th grade spotlight is shining on **Bryson Schmitt** this month. Bryson is not only an amazing athlete, he is also an outstanding student! He always has a positive attitude, he is friendly and kind to other students and staff, and he is also a responsible kid who likes to showcase really great work. The 7th grade team is so happy to see his face every day. Way to go Bryson Schmitt!



Bodhi Pattillo is an exceptional student that is always one to answer questions, participate in deep conversations, and include all other students in activities. Bodhi has an excellent work ethic that ensures his grades are a high priority. Bodhi is a student who is always on his best behavior and shows his leadership in class for others to follow. Bodhi helps other students and is always eager to explain and discuss. He loves to let his creativity shine which escalates his quality of work.

Dolores Middle School (continued)

Destination Imagination (DI)

Our secondary DI team scored 1st place in the Fine Arts category at the regional tournament in Durango. The team's selected main challenge involved choosing an artwork to inspire a skit. They had to include a reimagined version of the artwork using a performance genre, create a kinetic artwork, and include both static and dynamic characters. At the tournament, the team also had to complete an instant challenge, which involved solving a challenge with provided materials in a few short minutes. The team did a great job collaborating and sharing their creativity!

Thank you to our amazing coaches, Mrs. Freeman and Cara Gildar for all their hard work and dedication to the DI program.

2023-2024 Destination Imagination Team Members: Emmett MacMillan, Ansel Barber, Callie Barber, Riley Shubert, Addy Thompson, Joseph Padilla and Eli Heaton.



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.

Important High School Dates

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 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

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

CMAS Testing Dates (11th grade only)

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



From the Technology Department:

The Spring testing season is here. HS students please help us minimize technology related problems on test days by following the Chromebook tips and reminders below:

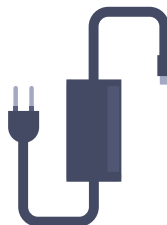
1. Make it a Habit! Charge your Chromebook overnight alongside your phone and it will always be charged and ready to go!
 2. Be sure to turn on and use your Chromebook in the days leading up to the test. By doing so, any automatic updates will be installed in the background without any further action from the user.
 3. If your Chromebook is not working or it is damaged, immediately turn it into the office for repair.
 4. More information on student Chromebooks can be found by clicking on the following link <https://doloresschools.org/chromebooks/>.
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**Bring your
Chromebook to
School.**



**Charge it at night
alongside your
phone.**



**Leave your
charger at home.**



**Report damaged or
malfunctioning Chromebooks
to the office.**

Cheri Walker

Academic Advisor



ICAP: 8th grade meetings are underway! [Use this link](#) to schedule an appointment. (Any 9th-11th graders who have not had a meeting should also schedule a time.)

Scholarships: Seniors - there are still a number of scholarship opportunities out there, including local scholarships. Visit the *scholarship* page on the advising site for more information.

Scheduling: Registration forms will be shared with students very soon, and need to be completed by all students. Please note that not submitting a form will result in a schedule being created, based on credit need, and these schedules will not be changed in the fall.

Opportunities: A number of summer work-based learning opportunities have been shared with students, including paid experiences. Visit the *opportunities* page on the advising site for more information.

PSAT/SAT: Students who wish to participate in BigFuture School or Connections must submit the student consent form. Visit the *testing* tab on the academic advising site to learn more and print the consent form.

***Visit the [academic advising](#) site to learn more on these topics.**

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!

