



Dr. Blincoe's Blog



The End of School Year 2023-2024

It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the school year, it feels like we have just begun and here we are finishing up. We certainly had many "highs and lows" this year, not to mention some strange weather, let's discuss a few:

Coming off a year where we had multiple snow days, we were prepared for another winter of heavy snow and it never showed up. We had a late start of staff one day and nothing else. Can you believe it - no snow days! We did get plenty of snow up the valley towards Rico and Telluride where the river should run heavy for rafting and we should fill the lake for plenty of summer fun.

We lost one of our students this year in an automobile accident and we all felt tremendous pain for this loss. The silver lining in the cloud was that there was a tremendous outpouring of support and love for the family during this most difficult time. This loss will be felt for many years to come but I will also remember the care and love that our community and others showed.

Speaking of showing the love - Our community overwhelmingly passed a bond to build a new high school and renovate the current HS to be used as the middle school, and to also add many safety features to the campus. I will have an interview on May 13th and we will know by May 15 if we receive the BEST grant and get to move forward with the improvements. If so, we will be in full construction mode for at least the next two school years.

As many of you know, we really tightened up on school attendance this year and the records show that it helped. Our attendance rates are up significantly this year and we hope that they keep improving for years to come. While we made improvements there is still more improvement necessary.

Dr. Blincoe's Blog (continued)

We have again had a good year in our extra-curricular activities. For the first year we had a debate team and they did really well in all of their competitions. Our Knowledge Bowl team just finished up national competition, and many of our athletics teams had a stellar year. For the first time in many years we also fielded a baseball team and we look forward to many more great seasons with the baseball team.

I'd also like to mention that this was the first year of this newsletter and I'd like to thank Mr. Vega for helping us put this together. I have received a lot of positive feedback and our community really seems to enjoy it!

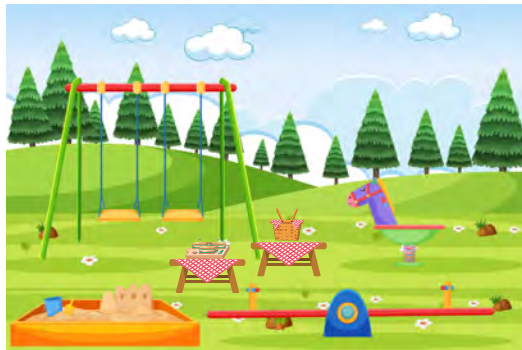
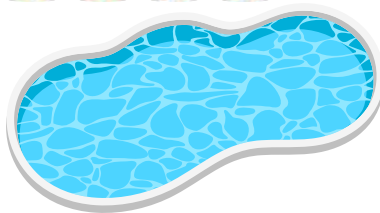
Overall, it's been a terrific year! I wish everyone a fantastic Summer and look forward to seeing everyone again for the 24-25 school year.

Director Rosenkrance Teddy Bear Preschool



Teddy Bear Preschool Important Dates

- May 1 Family Swim Day, Cortez Rec Center 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- May 6 Last day for library
- May 7 Pre kinders eating at the Cafeteria 10:45 a.m.
- May 8 Pre kinders eating at the Cafeteria 10:45 a.m.
- May 15 - 16 Kinder visitation 8:20 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.
- May 22 PRESCHOOL GRADUATION Main Gym 10:00 a.m.**
- May 23 Half day for preschool, Pick up by 12:00 p.m.**
- May 23 End of Year Picnic, Joe Rowell Park 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



Dolores Elementary School



May 2024

It is hard to believe that we are in the last month of school and summer is just around the corner. We are celebrating this month and giving our scholars opportunities to learn outside of the classroom. This week we will conclude school wide testing and staff are excited to see the growth of our scholars since August.

Many of our classes will participate in walking field trips near school. We live in such a beautiful part of the state and our classroom teachers enjoy teaching students about our local ecology and the geography and biology within. Our **fourth graders** will visit Mesa Verde as individual classrooms; this will be an earlier departure from school to accommodate the park and allow our students to complete their tour. **Fifth graders** will be visiting Fort Lewis College to learn and celebrate one of our area's most valuable resources, water. **Third graders** will get to experience aspects of our state's management of fish populations at the fish hatchery in Durango. These field trips also offer opportunities for our parents and guardians to make memories with their child by volunteering to be a chaperone.

Speaking of parent volunteers:

Monday, May 20th Field Day Info:

Session #1 8:30-11 (Grades 3-5)

7:00-8:30 Set Up (all brought out from the Little Bear Gym)

8:30 Meet morning volunteers out on the football field

9:00-11:00 3-5 Field Day (Teachers, meet out on the big bleachers before 9, then pickup at 11)

Session #2 12-2:30 (Grades K-2)

12:00 Meet afternoon volunteers out on the football field

12:30-2:30 K-2 Field Day (Teachers, meet at the big bleachers before 12:30, then pick up at 2:30)

Anyone can also come watch if they'd like. It is important for our volunteers to interact with the students at their station and be free of distraction.

Afternoon volunteers please stay to help Mrs. Elder carry everything back to our gym at 2:30.

Dolores Elementary School (continued)

FOR STUDENTS: hats, apply sunscreen ahead of time, sweatshirts if needed, filled water bottles

One of the 9 stations that the kids will rotate around to with their homeroom will be a "Snack Shack" with popcorn, water, and popsicles! IT IS GONNA BE A SUPER FUN DAY OF MOVING and CELEBRATING A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR!

We will also be celebrating the promotion of our fifth graders as they conclude their elementary years. Promotion and the fifth grade parade are scheduled for May 22nd at 1:30 with the parade starting at 4:15.

Our teachers invest so much in our kids each day. Please join me and our PTA to help celebrate our staff May 6-9.

Dolores Elementary School Important Dates

May 20 Field Day preparation 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

May 20 Field Day 3rd -5th grades 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

May 20 Field Day Kindergarten - 2nd grades 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

May 22 5th Grade Promotion, Little Bear Gym 1:30 p.m.

May 22 5th Grade Parade 4:15 p.m.

May 23 End of year assembly, location TBD 8:15 a.m.

May 23 Early Release, pickup at 12:00 p.m.

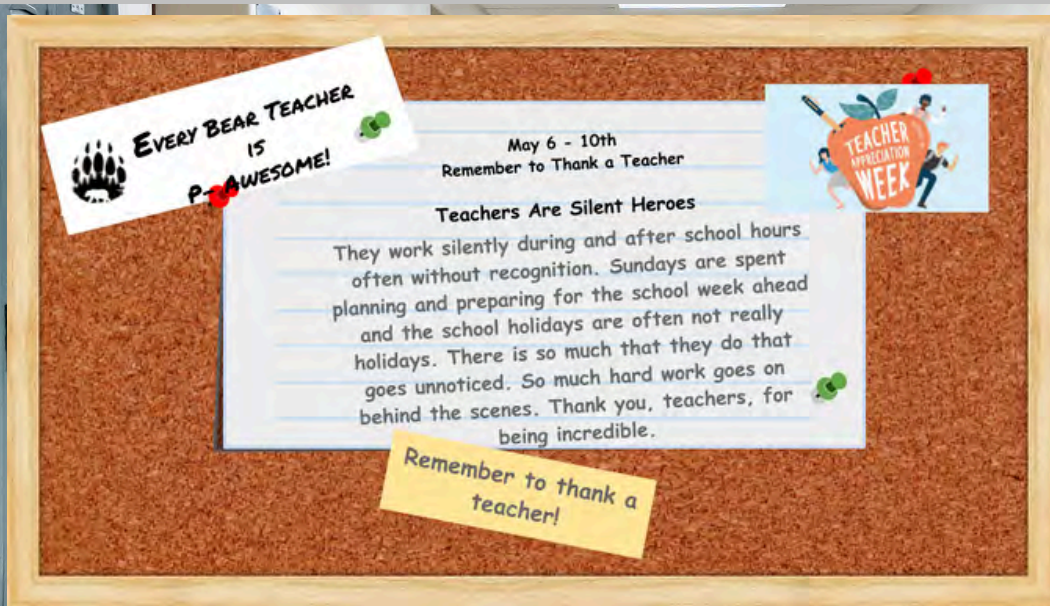
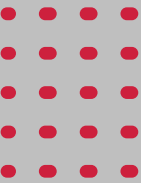


Principal Weiss Dolores Middle School



Dolores Middle School Important Dates

- May 7-8 NWEA Testing
- May 7 Middle School Showcase 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- May 13 8th Grade Field Trip to Ft. Lewis
- May 20 6th and 8th Grade End of the Year Field Trip
- May 21 6th Grade Awards 1:30 p.m.
- May 21 7th Grade Awards 2:00 p.m.
- May 21 8th Grade Awards and Continuation 3:00 p.m.**
- May 22 7th Grade Field Trip
- May 22 8th Grade BBQ 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- May 23 Early Release, pickup at 12:00 p.m.**



NWEA Information

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

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.

NWEA
◆ May 7-8th

Dolores Middle School (continued)



Congratulations to our April 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 Student of the Month is **Autumn Begay**! This student has many, if not all of the character qualities we love to see in our Dolores Middle School students. Autumn's work ethic is consistent no matter the situation or task. She is inquisitive, an analytical thinker; and is intrinsically motivated to do her best in everything she does. She is extremely responsible and cares about her grades and her future. Thank you Autumn for being an incredible human being!



7th grade Student of the Month **Sam Lindus** is working very hard at developing his character of the Tin Woodsman in our production of "The Wizard of Oz." He has a lot of lines to memorize for the role, and he is well on his way to being completely "off-book" for the show. He has offered many suggestions for how the production can be staged -- suggesting that we use several feathered crows for the stand where the scarecrow is first met, etc. Sam went down to the KKDC radio studio with several older actors & helped write and perform in a recording session for commercials to promote / advertise the show.



This month, the 8th grade Student of the Month is **Chloe Hanson**! Chloe has really stepped up her game and has increased her effort across the board when it comes to her education. She is always one that is on task and likes to let her creativity show. In addition to asking those clarifying questions to ensure she is getting the most out of her education, Miss Hanson always shows a great deal of respect and kindness towards her peers and her teachers. She can easily adapt to any scenario and succeed. We all appreciate you in class and we're thrilled to see you continue to climb to success in high school.

Cheri Walker

Academic Advisor



From the Counselor's Desk

Scholarships: Seniors, make sure to take advantage of the remaining local scholarships due over the next week. Juniors, opportunities are being updated for you to begin applying. Please check out the [scholarships tab on the advising site!](#)

Concurrent Enrollment: All students wishing to be enrolled in CE college courses for the fall need to begin the process, as registration is now open! See the advising site, or previous email communications for more information.

Content Advancement: Students wishing to request core content acceleration must [submit the request form](#). DHS staff will collect data for each student to make decisions. This process is extensive, so get those requests in quickly to get it initiated.

Summer School: Information has been shared via email regarding summer school opportunities for credit recovery, content advancement, and attendance seat time. Letters will be going out this week to high school students who we believe will benefit from summer school. All summer school enrollments must be made by the school, [please use this link to RSVP today!](#)

Congratulations to the Class of 2024! We are so proud of you, and look forward to all of the great things you will accomplish.

Technology

High School Students: Now is the time to make sure your Chromebook is ready to be returned for the summer, and in working order for the start of the 2024-25 school year. If your Chromebook is in need of repair please bring it to the office. We do not bill for most repairs. The most common bill is for a broken screen, the replacement cost is \$25. If you need a charger they can be purchased at the office (\$25) or visit <https://doloresschools.org/chromebooks/> to see other purchasing options. **All students taking high school classes** will turn in Chromebooks and chargers at the end of the school year even if you will be attending summer school.

Principal Schmitt Dolores High School



What I'm Reading - *"The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness"*

This book is a must read for parents and educators. The mental health of adolescents has plummeted since the early 2010's. While there have been various attempts to explain this phenomenon, none have proved a more compelling, data based

rationale for why this has occurred.

Rates of anxiety, depression, self harm and suicide have all risen dramatically over the past decade and a half. The author, Johnathan Haidt, argues that the timing of this startling increase aligns with the advent of social media, smart phones, and universal access to high speed internet.

Haidt draws the conclusion that the group that has been impacted by this trend the most is teenage girls, followed by teenage boys. Teenage girls are most impacted by social media, applications like Instagram are especially problematic, and teenage boys are most impacted by video games and pornography. Haidt explains that although all age groups have been impacted by the confluence of social media and smartphones, adolescents are the most susceptible because their developing brains are the most impressionable during the early teenage years.

Social media companies, streaming services, and video game companies put billions of dollars into strategies to maximize the amount of time people spend engaged with their platforms. Social media companies have created algorithms that provide us with an endless feed of curated content that hooks and sustains our attention. Autoplay functions that companies like YouTube and Netflix utilize, are designed to keep us watching for longer and longer periods of time. We are more connected than ever before in human history and yet, we are becoming more and more isolated from one another. Digital connections and communications with strangers are quickly replacing face to face, real world interactions with the members of our own families and communities.

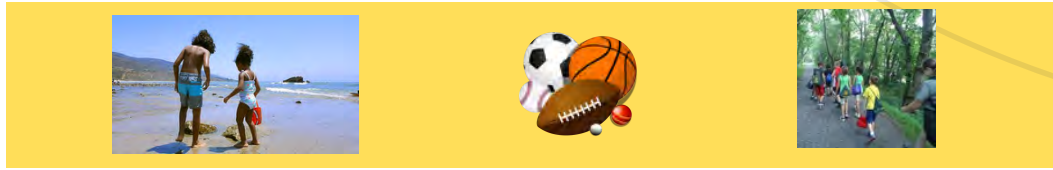
From an education perspective, the emergence of all of this highly engaging and even addictive content is extremely challenging to compete with for the attention of our youth. The author points out that even if a student is not actively using their device in the classroom, just having it in their possession creates a distraction. The notifications and the impulse to check those notifications is a constant distraction. The lure to hop onto their device to check their feeds is extremely strong. If phones are put away in phone lockers and not accessible to students throughout the school day the engagement in the learning process has been shown to improve a great deal.

If you are interested in how social media, video games, streaming services and pornography are affecting the development of the next generation and what we can do about it, check this book out.

["The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness." Haidt, Jonathan. 2024.](#)

Jennifer Gaddis

Health and Wellness



As this school year comes to an end, it is a good time to start thinking about...

SPORTS PHYSICALS, medication permissions, and immunization updates for the next school year... as well as summer vacations.

Please call to make these appointments before MID JUNE as many clinics are scheduled out several months. There will also be open clinics at various locations for sports physicals at the end of July and the beginning of August. Please keep your eyes open for those notices on Facebook and in the local paper.

Also feel free to contact our School Based Health Clinic at 970-560-4890 for physical health and mental health needs during the summer. I hope everyone has a fun, safe summer with family and friends!!

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!

