

September 2024



*Dolores School District*

## Newsletter

Superintendent Alesa Reed

### Dolores School District RE-4A



Welcome back, everyone. It is so good to see students, staff, parents, and community members on campus participating in and partnering with Dolores School District RE-4A.

I have long lived in this community and school. My memories take me back to when my kids went to school here, to building projects, glory days, and days that brought heartache.

Dolores School District has always strived for excellence. We want to build all aspects of our district to positively impact our students and community. To attain excellence, we will continue establishing high behavioral, academic, and personal standards at all levels. We excel now in some areas, and we will put more time and effort into others. I appreciate the standards and expectations our staff and building administrators set to continue building pride in our school district and campus. It does take effort from all involved.

Last year, we made significant progress in improving attendance, and this wouldn't have been possible without the invaluable support of our entire school community. We are deeply grateful for everyone's efforts in ensuring our students are in school, participating with their peers, and engaging in academics and activities that enrich their school experience.

We have many teams that are working for the betterment of our school. I want to bring attention to two of them.

Our District Accountability Committee DAC comprises staff, parents, and community members who value public education and want to see it succeed in our town. They receive charges from our board of education and then work to accomplish those charges meaningfully.

# Superintendent (continued)

The building committee has also met in preparation for hopefully receiving the BEST grant in November. This team consists of parents, community members, and staff. They are working on a timeline for the state. This timeline will determine the work accomplished before the election and immediately following. We are choosing to move forward aggressively as we are determined we will prevail this November!

It's been good to be back, Dolores-GO BEARS!



## Director Valiena Rosenkrance Teddy Bear Preschool



Welcome back families!

It has been a very busy start to the year! Thank you for entrusting us with your children. We are very excited for the coming year.

We have started the year off with a new school project! Families and staff built raised Garden Boxes last Friday and the children will be planting edible/native plants this week.

We will be starting our Library Days on September 9th. The bus will pick up the children on Monday mornings and take them to the Dolores Elementary Library. They will check out books and return the following Monday.

September 10th and 11th from 9:00-11:00, we will be screening the children on their developmental skills. This screener gives us a baseline of where your child is so that we can meet your child where they are and build up from there. Skills that are observed are counting, colors, letter recognition, patterning, prepositions, writing, jumping, throwing, skipping and cutting. Parent volunteers are needed for this day. Let your child's teacher know if you are able to help us out.

# Teddy Bear Preschool (continued)

A field trip to the Canyon of the Ancients is planned for all of our preschool students for September 24th. We will explore how the people of ancient times lived. Many hands-on activities are planned for this event. You are invited to join us on this day! Let your child's teacher know if you are planning to attend.

Teddy Bear Parent Group will start their meetings on September 16th at 6:00 p.m. This is a great way for families to meet other families, plan family activities and make program recommendations. Hope to see you there!

If you should ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Valiena at 970-739-4244.

Principal Amanda Hill

## Dolores Elementary School



We at the elementary were so excited for school to begin. It is not the same being here without the students. Even though we had a lot to prepare for this year, we couldn't wait to get the students back in the building.

Speaking of a lot to prepare for this year, the teachers and paraeducators

have been busy with our new initiatives: IXL-computer learning program, iReady-new math curriculum, PBIS-digital rewards system, and Write Now, Right Now-writing curriculum.

After early reading testing with DIBELS teachers and paraeducators have set up small group instruction for reading. Those groups will begin this week and will focus on skills specifically needed in each group. The new IXL computer learning program will also help students work on skills at their level. This is something they can work on at home with their individualized learning path. Teachers and students have also been busy learning and implementing the

● new math program; iReady. Look for updates to come home from teachers regarding this.  
● We are excited for this curriculum because it helps the students develop problem solving  
● skills and allows for them to discuss in depth the math they are learning. Lastly, I have  
● observed classrooms during writing time and students are really excited about the game  
● "team complete".

We are continuing with our same PBIS system of rules and expectations. Instead of paper bear paws this year we have gone digital. Students are able to earn paws and shop on our digital store.

# Dolores Elementary School (continued)

Students have already been shopping and enjoying the new system.

Mrs. Domagata, our school counselor, is implementing “A Little Spot” social emotional curriculum for grades K-2 to talk about feelings with our young learners. She will use “Zones of Regulation” for our students in grades 3-5. These lessons will begin this month so ask your students when she will visit. We are very excited to have her here teaching students how to regulate their emotions and feelings and be able to learn here at school. She will also be teaching character development with character traits each month. This month we are focusing on “friendship”.

Key dates for this month:

- Sept. 4- PTA meeting @ 2pm- Elementary school
- Sept. 9- Board Meeting @ 6pm
- Sept. 17-18- NWEA testing @ 8am
- Sept. 16-19- Homecoming Week Activities- More Information to come
- Oct. 2- PTA meeting @ 2pm- Elementary School



# Principal Mary Weiss Dolores Middle School



**We missed you!**

## **Parent Support**

Supporting middle school students in their academic journey is crucial for their development and success. Here are some strategies for parents to help their student's thrive during these formative years:

### **Encourage a Growth Mindset**

- Teach your child that intelligence and abilities can improve with effort and learning.
- Celebrate their efforts and progress rather than just achievements.

### **Establish a Routine**

- Create a consistent daily schedule that includes time for homework, study, and breaks.
- Encourage regular sleep patterns to ensure they are well-rested.

### **Create a Study Space**

- Designate a quiet, organized space at home for studying and completing homework.
- Ensure they have all necessary supplies nearby (e.g., pencils, paper, books).

### **Stay Engaged with Their Education**

- Attend school events like parent-teacher conferences, open houses, and academic fairs.
- Communicate regularly with teachers to monitor your child's progress.

By actively participating in your middle school student's education and supporting them through the challenges they may face, you can foster a positive learning environment that encourages academic success and personal growth.

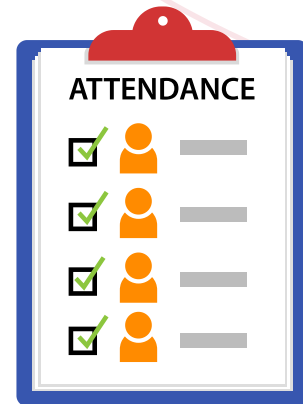
I look forward to a wonderful school year.

# Dolores Middle School (continued)

## Attendance Matters

Did you know?

- Missing 10% (or 2 days a month) over the course of a school year can affect a student's academic success.
- If a student misses 2 days of school per month for their entire school career, they will miss 1 year of school by graduation.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.



### 2023-2024 School Year Data

	Students missed 10-19%	Students missed > 20%	Total % of chronically absent students
Middle School	24%	8%	32%

## Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

We will continue to use the PBIS system in middle school this year. This is an evidence-based framework that supports students' behavioral, academic, social, and emotional growth. We are focused on teaching and reinforcing the positive behavior expectations we want to see from our students.

Our expectations are PAWS: Positive Attitude, Act Respectfully, Work Responsibly, and Stay Safe. Students have been taught what these expectations look like in different settings, like the classroom or the cafeteria.

This has been a very successful program and we are excited to see how PBIS continues to improve our school climate and culture for the rest of this school year!

★★★★★ **Academic Achievement** ★★★★★

Congratulations to the following students for their academic achievements from the last nine weeks of the **2023-2024** school year. The middle school staff is honored to recognize these students.

**Principal's Honor Roll - Students that have received all A's.**

**8th Grade**

**Calliope Barber, Jordyn Erautt, Madisyn Gapp, Emilyynn Hill,  
Corben Tallmadge, Matthew Vega**

**7th Grade**

**Zane Brown, Arthur Lein, Isaac Samulski**

**6th Grade**

**Brody Conrad, Ellie Gregory, Parker Heaton, Gabriella Hollen,  
Randon Hooper, Cedar Hunt, Alexis Lewis, Isaac Marty, Hayes Robinson,  
Abigail Schmitt, Atticus Smith, Sean Tarpey, Callista Vaughn**

**A and B Honor Roll**

**8th Grade**

**Ansel Barber, Lavender Blacow, Nathan Gaddis, Chloe Hanson,  
Lane Johnson, Branson Lee, Victoria Lopez, Emmett MacMillan,  
Rylan Maloney, Taylin Myers, Emma Nielson, Joseph Padilla, Bodhi Patillo,  
Kyndall Schmitt, Ayion Stresen-Reuter, Addison Thompson, Gavin Veach**

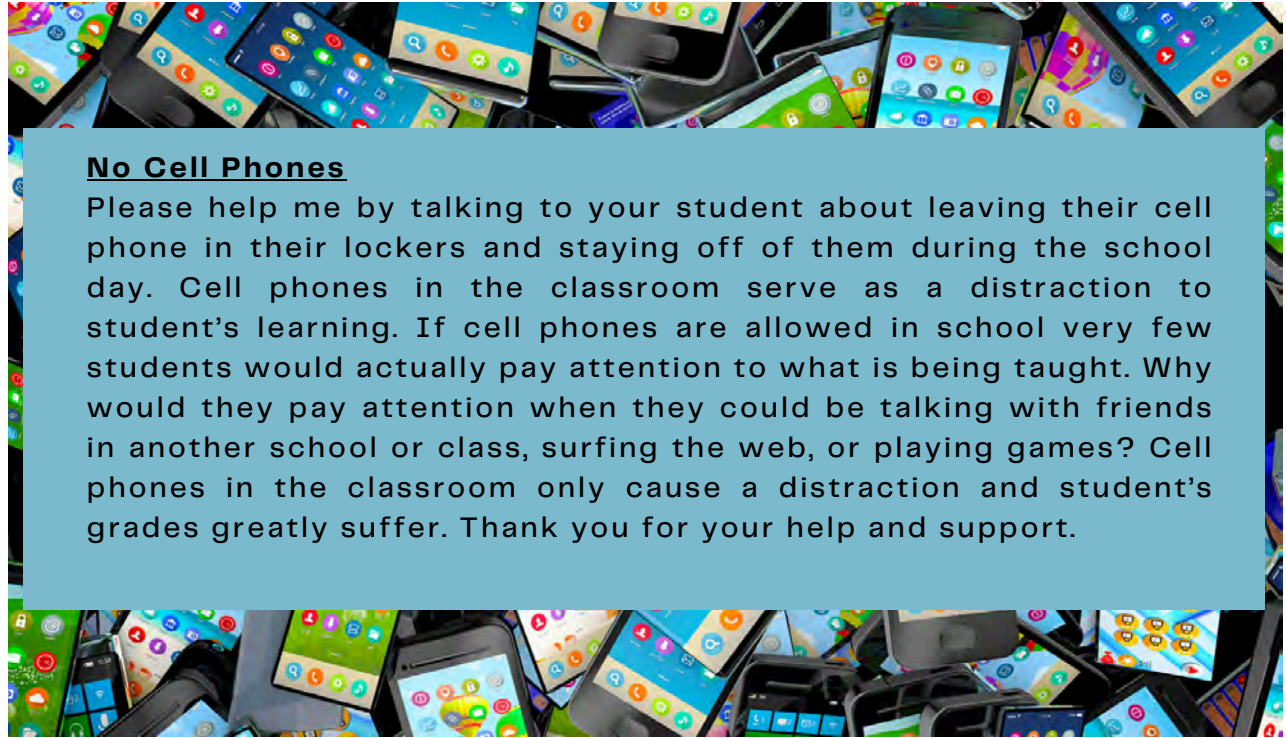
**7th Grade**

**Traevan Yoder, Mayci Garver, Trenton Gofforth, Haylee Hanson,  
Chloe Lockhoff, True Loomis, Stella Reininger, Bryson Schmitt,  
Nevada Schoonover, Kyler Shoopman, Brayson Trevino, Marshal Wickstrom**

**6th Grade**

**Autumn Begay, Adriana Dorsey, Kennedy Erautt, Aleiah Grove,  
Bryson Higman, Keara Keene, Kaytin Lindsay, Isabel Lockhoff,  
Ryatt Loomis, Tatum Otteson, Isaiah Perez, Lorelei Rantz, Leif Alexander,  
Alexis Simmons, Jack Stanley, Ayden Winter**

# 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.

**Please welcome the following new staff members to the middle school bear family!**



**Karen Batson**  
Science Teacher  
7th and 8th grades



**Toi Smith**  
Substitute Teacher  
Long Term



**Cherie Dennison**  
Math Teacher  
6th grade



**Heather Wilson**  
Math Teacher  
8th grade



# Secondary Counselor Amanda Higgins Dolores Secondary Schools



September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. We understand this is a very sensitive topic, but want to take this time to discuss and raise awareness of this very serious issue. We also want to celebrate hope and provide helpful information so those experiencing suicidal ideation, or know someone that is have access to resources to seek help.

The majority of individuals who are considering suicide give some sort of indication or warning either verbally, or behaviorally. Here are some things to look for:

- Suicidal threats- "You would be better off without me"
- Depression
- Anger or increased irritability
- Change in behavior- suddenly sleeping all of the time
- Lack of interest
- Increase or decrease in appetite
- Sudden changes in appearance
- Dwindling academic performance
- Interest in suicide and death
- Previous suicide attempts
- Making final arrangements- giving away prized possessions, saying goodbye to family and friends

Many of these things by themselves might not be an indication of suicide, but could mean the person is struggling and could use some extra help and support. If not addressed, these behaviors could result in suicidal thoughts or attempts.



## Resources:

- [parentguidance.org](http://parentguidance.org)
- [afsp.org/teens-and-suicide-what-parents-should-know](http://afsp.org/teens-and-suicide-what-parents-should-know)
- [healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/emotional-problems/Pages/ten-things-parents-can-do-to-prevent-suicide](http://healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/emotional-problems/Pages/ten-things-parents-can-do-to-prevent-suicide)
- [bark.us/blog/5-things-suicide-prevention-month](http://bark.us/blog/5-things-suicide-prevention-month)
- [bethe1to.com/resources/](http://bethe1to.com/resources/)

If you have any questions, or concerns about your child, please contact your child's school counselor.

Amanda Higgins- Secondary School Counselor- 970-882-7288 ext. 2075

Jaime Domagata- Elementary School Counselor- 970-882-4688 ext. 3040

# Principal Matt Walker Dolores High School



School is so much better with students and we have been full tilt since we began. I am very excited about our beginning of the year events and want to thank you for participating. Our staff has also been reflecting on how we can improve the process and we already have ideas for next year.

We are really wanting to make this event a positive experience, community based event that gets our school year started on a positive note, as well as provides information for parents and addresses items that cause loss of time in the classroom that first week.

We did move to a new student information system this year, Alma, while this system is going to be an excellent resource for stakeholders moving forward there were a few unexpected issues that arose; we appreciate your patience with this and also the new system for Athletics and Activities. While we are on the topic, Volleyball, Cross Country, Cheer, and Football have all begun their seasons and we have students participating at MCHS in soccer and softball. Knowledge Bowl, FFA, Drama, Band, and Debate are getting organized and ready for their competitions and performances. We would love to encourage you to support our students not only academically in class but as students push themselves in outside events.

A group that was not mentioned previously was student government, they have been encouraged this year to take ownership, participate, and be a voice for the student body. They take an active role in organizing social and service events through our school. I would like to thank the parents that have provided feedback and look forward to conversations with more who are interested in improving our school.

Our High School Leadership Team composed of teachers, counselors, and support staff have been asked to focus on instruction, systems, and student engagement. Our school's main mission is to provide students with an excellent educational foundation. We are committed to finding qualified professionals that are passionate about teaching. We are also looking at ways to minimize loss of classroom time.

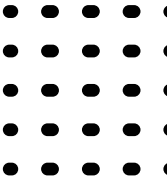
Lastly we are about to begin sending out formal letters regarding student attendance. The purpose is to keep everyone informed about the number of days students have missed. At the high school every 14 days we will check attendance for students who have missed 10% or more of the school year.

# Dolores High School (Continued)

Any student with absences totaling 10% or more of the school year will receive a letter. We are happy to answer questions you may have or meet to help with solutions or barriers to school attendance.

Homecoming week begins September 16, we would love to see our families at the festivities.

Go Bears!



## Food Service Director Joshalynn Hicks Dolores School District



The Healthy School Meals for All program continues to be in effect for ALL Dolores students this year and for the foreseeable future. Under the program, students are provided breakfast and lunch at NO cost. Additional Ala Carte items are available for purchase.

Please [click](#) to fill out the form. Even though all lunches are free as described above. It is very important to collect and process applications for economic statistics which are used to provide additional benefits and funding for the entire district including curriculum, athletics, and facilities needs. Use the link provided above, or go to our website and click Departments> Nutrition Services> Lunch Application.



## Transportation Director Curt Haun Dolores School District



Students who rode the bus last school year, and will be riding the same bus route this school year, **do not** have to contact the transportation department. For other transportation inquiries contact the transportation department at (970) 882-2649.



# 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](#)

[2024 - 2025 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!

