

November 2024



Dolores School District

Newsletter

Superintendent Alesa Reed

Dolores School District RE-4A



Dear Dolores District RE-4A, Home of the Bears!

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

The unverified results show that our Dolores Community passed the Mill Levy Override to support our students and teachers! We are truly grateful. Our community has supported our school in boundless ways over the years. Your generosity is remarkable.

We are in a great position to receive the BEST grant. We will let you know as soon as we hear if we are allocated funds.

Academic Progress

Our students have made significant strides in their learning this semester. Teachers have implemented new strategies promoting engagement and critical thinking across all grades. I encourage parents to stay involved and support their children's educational journey. We recently provided our district performance frameworks on our website. I hope you all were able to see the growth we are making. I also want to provide a [link](#) to browse our district scores on the CDE website. When you click this link, you will look for the blue tab at the top that says "Schoolview." from this page, you can see interactive data based on our CMAS, PSAT/SAT, and graduation rates. It is a powerful tool; enjoy it!

Upcoming Events

Our regular Board Meeting is November 11 at 6:00. The elementary school will present during our celebrations agenda item.

Our Veteran's Day Presentation is November 14th at 10:00. I'd like to acknowledge the veterans in our community for their service and commitment to this great Nation.

Please look for additional dates and calendar events in the principal's reports.

Community Engagement

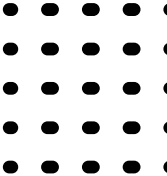
To strengthen our community ties, we invite families to participate in our food drive at the Secondary School from November 1st to 20th. Your contributions will support local families in need during the holiday season.

Superintendent (continued)

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our schools. Together, we can provide the best possible education for our children. Wishing you all a wonderful November filled with warmth and gratitude.

Sincerely,

Alesa Reed



Director Valiena Rosenkrance
Teddy Bear Preschool

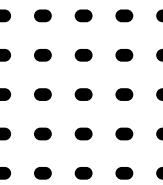


Teddy Bear Preschool has the distinction of once again being the **#1 Day Care Center / Child Care Provider in Montezuma County!**

The staff at Teddy Bear Preschool strive every day to be the best we can be. With our preschool families' support and our district's never ending support, we get it done!

Parent Teacher Conferences

Teddy Bear Preschool will hold their PTC'S the evenings of November 6th and 7th from 4:10-8:00 p.m. PTC's are short meetings between a parent and their child's teacher to discuss academics, social-emotional progress and to collaborate to support the child at school and home. Your child's teacher should contact you in the next week, if you have not heard from your child's teacher please contact the office (970-882-7277).



Teddy Bear Preschool (continued)

Halloween Activity

Our annual Halloween visit to the Vista Grande Nursing home was once again amazing!

Many families joined us for this event. This activity teaches the littles about empathy, social connection, how to interact with people who may have different abilities and needs, allowing them to gain a deeper understanding of life stages and the value of respecting older generations.



Thanksgiving

Our tradition has always been that the classroom staff prepare a Thanksgiving meal for their classroom families. This year the families are collaborating and preparing a meal for their child's classroom families and their teachers. We have always read and enacted the *Stone Soup* book with the children; teaching about sharing and caring. This year the children will again do the Stone Soup activity and the adults will be doing their own version while modeling, sharing and caring for the children.

School Photos

School picture retakes are on November 19th, right after breakfast.

Fall Break

Fall Break is the week of November 25-29th. Enjoy your time with family and friends.



DSD Librarian / MTSS Coordinator Katherine Freeman Dolores School District



Instructional Spotlight: How Teddy Bear Preschool prepares students for academic and social success

Often we as K-12 educators are unaware of the preparation our students receive in their early education years. Teddy Bear Preschool equips our students with skills to independently problem-solve and navigate social and personal conflicts.

During an observation in October, Miss Elaine and Miss Amanda's class learned how to create a "solution suitcase" with strategies for solving problems. This allows students to independently problem solve instead of always relying on a teacher to provide solutions for them. Miss Evalyn and Miss Karen's class heard a story about scribbles to help them learn how small acts of kindness can make others feel included. Teddy Bear teachers have created structured, organized, classrooms with routines that prepare students for learning, like "listening ears, looking eyes, peaceful body." They also build classroom community with routines like "wishing well," where the class sends positive wishes to their classmates who aren't present that day. Dolores is fortunate to have such an excellent preschool that sets up our students for academic and social success before they begin kindergarten!



Principal Amanda Hill Dolores Elementary School



Greetings Little Bear Families and Friends,

This is my favorite time of the year! I love the Holiday Season! Halloween is the kick off, giving way to Thanksgiving and all the things to be thankful and grateful for, ending with the magic of Christmas!

Let's give Halloween its fair share of acknowledgement. The students had a blast on Halloween with all of the spectacular activities that the teachers planned from jack o' lantern carving to pumpkin pie in a bag. The biggest hit this year was students getting to wear their costumes all day and the costume parade sponsored by our very own Student Council. Parents and Families, the costume parade was made possible because of all of your generosity! We had such a great turn out of parents that we were able to line the entire sidewalk in front of the elementary to the corner by the clinic with parents handing out candy to our students! Please enjoy all of the photos below for all of our Halloween celebrations and remember to keep all of the candy at home and not in lunchboxes or backpacks 😊.



Dolores Elementary School (continued)

I want to take this opportunity to talk a little bit about the attendance letters that you may have received. We have been sending the letters via a message (email) from Alma. We send the letters every 14 days. If your child has missed 10% or more of the days in schools we have sent letters. We have been in school for 47 days, therefore 10% of those days would be 4.7 rounded to 5 days missed. These letters at the elementary level are informational in nature. In severe cases there could be consequences for missing 20% or more of school as deemed by our policy [JH](#), [JH-R](#). We appreciate parents calling in to let us know what is happening with their students. However, even if the days are excused the student has still missed that amount of instructional time and will still receive the letter. The elementary school is responsible for setting good learning standards and habits that will support students throughout their school careers. Attendance is important at the elementary school level because it helps students learn, develop social skills, and build habits that can lead to future success. Here are a few tips from google.ai: **Learning:** Elementary school learning is sequential, so each day missed is a chance to learn something that will be needed later. **Achievement:** Students who attend school regularly tend to achieve more than those who don't. **Social skills:** Students build relationships with their peers and teachers, and learn how to get along with others. **Habits:** Students develop good habits, discipline, and responsibility, which can help them succeed academically and personally. **Engagement:** Attendance is a primary indicator of how engaged a student is with their studies. Please know that the letters are to inform you of your student's attendance. The notification of attendance is in our policy and in our handbook. We are working hard as a district to improve in many areas and attendance is one of them.

Looking ahead to November and December. We will be talking about thankfulness, gratitude, and giving. In December, we will work with the character traits of courage and confidence. We are very thankful for our Counselor Mrs. Domagata. She is doing a great job incorporating these character traits into her lessons each month.



Be on the lookout for information to come regarding our Winter Concert and our 2nd Quarter Character Assembly. I hope that all of our families have a blessed Holiday Season and a thankful Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Hill

District Nurse Brandi Dunn


Health and Wellness



Clothing - Kindergarten to 3rd Grade

With this colder wetter weather, please make sure your student has an extra change of clothing in their backpack in case of unforeseen circumstances or accidents that may arise during the school day.

Signs and Symptoms	Cold	Flu
Symptom onset	Gradual	Abrupt
Fever	Rare	Usual
Aches	Slight	Usual
Chills	Uncommon	Fairly common
Fatigue, weakness	Sometimes	Usual
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Chest discomfort, cough	Mild to moderate	Common
Stuffy nose	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Sometimes
Headache	Rare	Common

#FIGHT FLU 

Head Lice

It's that time of year where our students break out their coats, scarves and hats. Please encourage your child not to share these items along with brushes or any other personal items. Lice is not a danger to your child's health, it is simply an annoying problem that comes around this time of year, so no need to panic. Please know that anyone and everyone can get lice. Getting lice has nothing to do with you being clean or dirty, it only has to do with the fact that you are human. It is very important to check your family regularly for lice this time of year. If you find any live lice or eggs, it is absolutely necessary to treat each person, AND notify the school so that we can effectively and privately assist you with monitoring. The school nurse can assist you with proper treatment options.

Vision & Hearing Screenings

Students' ability to see and ability to learn. The sight and kindergarten, first, second, grades, or children in comparable age groups referred for testing, shall be tested during the school year by the qualified person authorized by the school district, in our case the school nurse.



hear greatly impacts their hearing of all children in the third, fifth, seventh, and ninth

Health and Wellness (continued)

We're about halfway through the elementary screenings and will be starting 7th and 9th grades very soon with TeddyBear Preschool screenings in mid November. If you get a letter from the nurse with the screening results please have your child evaluated by the appropriate provider to better assess their needs.

Vaccinations

Ideally, all students MUST be up to date on their vaccinations at the start of every school year. Colorado law ([Board of Health rule 6 CCR 1009-2](#)) requires all students attending Colorado schools and licensed child care centers to be vaccinated against certain diseases, unless an exemption is filed.

If you have any questions or concerns about the current vaccine requirements, please contact the school nurse.

Again, here are some important reminders:

- WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN WITH SOAP AND WATER
- MAKE SURE ALL OF YOUR IMMUNIZATIONS ARE UP TO DATE
- COVER YOUR COUGH
- AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE
- AVOID CONTACT WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE SICK
- STAY ACTIVE

Please don't hesitate to contact the nurse if you have any questions or concerns.

Brandy Dunn, RN

School Nurse

Dolores School District

970-882-4688

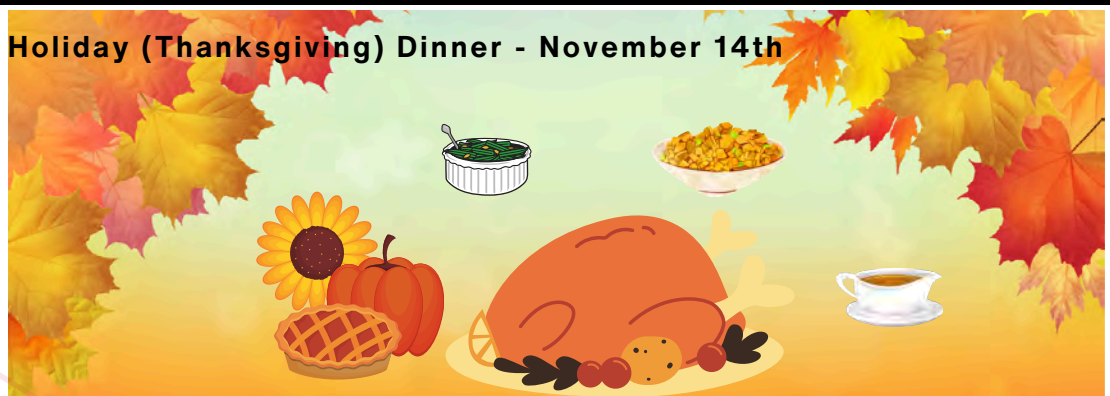
bdunn@dolores.k12.co.us

Food Service Director Joshalynn Hicks

Dolores School District



Holiday (Thanksgiving) Dinner - November 14th



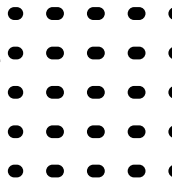
Principal Mary Weiss

Dolores Middle School



Middle School STEM Classes

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) ignites creativity and innovation. Our middle school STEM program is buzzing with hands-on projects that allow students to explore real-world concepts in creative and engaging ways. From solar ovens to sumobots, students are building, designing, and experimenting with their knowledge of science and engineering.



7th Grade Field Trip

Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project

The trip began at the Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project, where students learned about the importance of heritage fruit trees in the region. Our 7th graders engaged in hands-on activities, such as finding graft marks and pressing cider. The staff shared insights on the orchard's history, the challenges of climate change, and the significance of biodiversity in local ecosystems.

Montezuma County Heritage Museum

Following the orchard visit, the group traveled to the Montezuma County Heritage Museum. The museum provided a fascinating glimpse into the area's rich history, featuring exhibits on Native American culture, early settlers, and the agricultural development of the region. Students explored artifacts, photographs, and interactive displays that brought local history to life. The knowledgeable staff guided discussions about the evolution of the community and its significance in Colorado's broader historical context. The visit reinforced the connection between the region's past and present, deepening the students' appreciation for their local heritage.

Dolores Middle School (continued)

8th Grade Science

8th grade students just completed a study in chemistry. We learned the Periodic Table of Elements, unique substances, chemical reactions, kinetic energy of particles, states of matter and phase change. The students had to design an experiment and demonstrate phase change of matter: solids, liquids, gasses and plasma. They demonstrated their experiments for a few of the elementary school classes ranging from 2nd grade to 5th grade.

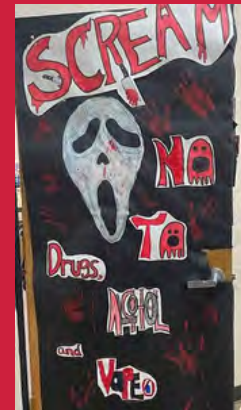
Red Ribbon Week is celebrated in schools to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and to promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle among students. The goal is to instill a sense of personal responsibility and empower students to stand up against drugs, and violence.

Our Student Government Students sponsored activities and themed days throughout the week.

- Theme dress-up each day
- Door decorating contest
- Hall decorating
- Pep Rally



Halloween/Say No to Drugs Themed Doors



Dolores Middle School (continued)

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:

Limit Distractions

- Set boundaries around screen time and social media that suit your family's values and encourage focus on schoolwork.
- Encourage technology-free zones or times in the home, especially during study hours.

Encourage Extracurricular Activities

- Support your child in getting involved in sports, music, art, or clubs, which can help them build skills and friendships.
- Help them balance extracurriculars with academic responsibilities.

Teach Healthy Coping Strategies

- Discuss ways to handle stress, such as mindfulness, exercise, or talking about their feelings.
- Be available to listen when they are feeling overwhelmed or anxious.

Be a Role Model

- Demonstrate positive attitudes towards learning and education through your actions.

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.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Thank you to all the parents who attend PTC!

You're always welcome to come in and visit with the staff during their team time. Please call the office to setup a time.

Parent Teacher Conference Stats

Total 51 % (93 out of 166 parents)

PTC Attendance by Grade:

6th - 57 %

7th - 61 %

8th - 35 %

Middle School First Quarter Attendance

Attendance is a key to education and is one of the district's goals. Attending school regularly allows your child to fully participate in classroom activities, engage with teachers and peers, and stay up to date with their learning.

1st Quarter Attendance by Grade:

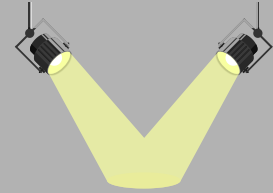
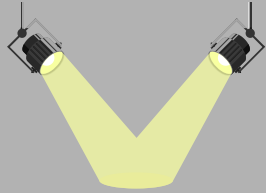
6th Grade- 92.87 %

7th Grade- 87.97 %

8th Grade- 90.51 %

Total- 90.64

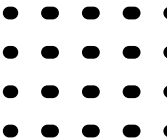
Dolores Middle School (continued)



Congratulations to our October Middle School Students Spotlights

Criteria to be selected for Student of the Month:

Academic Excellence, Positive Attitude, Good Behavior (active participation, responsibility, supportive to peers, personal growth, attendance and Punctuality



This month, the 6th grade team would like to recognize **Bronson Jensen**. In the first couple of weeks, Bronson has been polite, attentive, and tries his hardest on his assignments. He freely requests to read outloud and participates in class with discussion and answering questions. He always raises his hand to answer questions and has kept up with all of his work. He is adored by classmates and volunteers to lend a helping hand when needed. Congratulations Bronson and keep up the good work!



The 7th grade team would like to shine a light on **Ian Wise**! He's had an amazing month and we are so happy to have him in our classes.

Intelligent
Admirable
New Attitude
Wonderful
Insightful
Sensitive
Exuberant



8th grade - **Annabelle Paine**

Annabelle is a hard worker and participates regularly in class discussions. She is detail oriented and takes pride in her work. Her kindness towards other classmates shines through in all she does. Annabelle is a leader and so respectful, we love having her in class.

★★★★★ **Academic Achievement** ★★★★★

Congratulations to the following students for their academic achievements during the 1st quarter of the 2024-2025 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

Arthur Lein, Isaac Samulski, Kooper Thomas

7th Grade

Randon Hooper, Isaac Marty, Hayes Robinson, Sean Tarpey

6th Grade

Paisly Andrews, MaKayla Beaudoin, Amelia Daniel, Nyah Gorsuch,
Marissa Hill, Cambri Hooper, Abigail Hurst, Hannah Huston,
Bronson Jensen

A and B Honor Roll

8th Grade

Zane Brown, Mayci Garver, Sophee Heaton, Dustin Johnson, TRUE Loomis,
Asher Marsell, Annabelle Paine, Keith Quintana, Stella Reininger, Tristan
Rime, Bryson Schmitt, Kyler Shoopman, Karrigan Taft, Dorian Westover,
Marshall Wickstrom

7th Grade

Brody Conrad, Kennedy Erautt, Ivan (Alex) Gonzalez, Ripley Lamkins, Isaiah
Perez, Abigail Schmitt, Elijah Smith, Callista Vaughn

6th Grade

Brian Boniface, Elahn Delarey, Mazdyn Frayre, Alanna Lindsay, Myles Maule,
Josephine Nichols, Amelia Paul, Temperance Pyle, Jaxx Robson, Lamijo
Salt, Blake Schmitt, Avery Shoopman, Micah Unrein, Kyndal Winter

Cheri Walker

Academic Advisor



ICAP Meetings:

We wrapped up sophomore ICAP meetings last week, and November is the month for freshman meetings. Check email or the Freshman advising google classroom for the link to sign up for an appointment. Parents are welcome to attend, but I ask that students take the initiative to make the appointments for these meetings.

Volunteers Needed:

One of the big projects in senior seminar is to create a professional portfolio and ultimately participate in mock interviews at the end of our career unit. This year, I would like to reach out to our community for volunteers to serve as interviewers. Ideally, we are looking for professionals who have experience in HR, or have served as managers in any field or industry. However, we are happy to have anyone who is willing to help! These interviews will have 30 minute time slots, and will take place November 19th, from 11-12 and 12:45-1:45. Please email me at cwalker@dolores.k12.co.us to if you would like to volunteer, or get more information. I will follow up with all volunteers to provide information about the event. *Please respond by Tuesday, November 12 if you'd like to volunteer.* -Thank you!

[Academic Advising](#)



Principal Matt Walker

Dolores High School



Greetings Bear Families,

As we move into the holiday season the weather gets cooler, our athletic seasons change, our music department prepares for their performances, and we move ever so closely to the end of the semester.

Dolores High School Current Events

- Knowledge Bowl continues to impress throughout their season.
- Debate is about to get underway.
- Our Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams each qualified for state, a first for Dolores. Both teams finished the season as the 13th best 2A Cross Country team in the State of Colorado.
- Nevaeh Settles earned a spot in a statewide Math Contest.
- Future Farmers of America (FFA) District Speaking Event will be held November 13, in Durango.
- The National Honor Society (NHS) completed a blood drive at the end of October.
- Yearbook organized a secondary school wide photo which was coordinated and carried out with the help of Empire Electric.
- New equipment has arrived in our metal fabrication and woodworking shop. The end of October definitely brought in a treat as we received a CNC router for woods and a CNC plasma cutter for metal, in a sharing cohort through Southwest Education Collaborative.
- Quarterly Student Academic Awards, were celebrated during the pep assembly.

FIRST QUARTER STUDENT ACADEMIC AWARDS

MS. HOBBS, ALGEBRA 1 - GRACIE COKER
MS. HOBBS, ALGEBRA 2 - MICHAEL RANTZ
MS. BROWN, ANIMAL SCIENCE - AUTUMN SETTLES
MRS. CUNNINGHAM, ART 1 - LOGAN NELSON
MR. HOPCIA, BIOLOGY - KOBY MCCLELLAN
MR. HOPCIA, BIOLOGY - WILLY MILLARD
MRS. WEBSTER, CODING/PROGRAMMING - MICHAEL NIELSON
MS. KUNTZ, COLLEGE ENGLISH COMPOSITION - JADYN GORSUCH
MRS. WEBSTER, COMPUTER LITERACY - MADISON THORNBRUGH
MRS. CUNNINGHAM, DRAWING - MATTHEW VEGA
MRS. COOK, ENGLISH 1- ELLISIA WINTER
MS. KUNTZ, ENGLISH 2 - BRYLEY PAUL
MRS. COOK, ENGLISH 3 - MILES ANDERSON
MS. KUNTZ, ENGLISH 4 - MICAH VRTATKO
MS HIGGINS, ESS - NAAYAH HOLIDAY
MS. BROWN, FOOD SCIENCE - JADYN GORSUCH
MR. SWINGLE, GEOLOGY & ASTRONOMY - ADELINE DETTLOFF
MR. VAUGHN, GEOMETRY - DAMEON MUFF
MS. HOLLEN, HEALTH - BEN CARPENTER
MS. HOLLEN, HIGH SCHOOL PE - IZZY AIKEN
MS. HOLLEN, HS STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING - KALE GATES
MR. SWINGLE, INTEGRATED SCIENCE - HUNTER BUCHANAN
MR WIESS, INTRO WELDING - MASON HILL
MRS. CUNNINGHAM, JEWELRY - KENDALL CHAVEZ
MR. MILLER, MICROECONOMICS - JADYN SUTHERLAND
MR. HOPCIA, PCC BIOLOGY 105 - AUTUMN SETTLES
MR. NIELSON, PCC HIS 1210 - ORIN SAMULSKI
MR. SWINGLE, PHYSICS - LEVI PORTER
MR. VAUGHN, PREALGEBRA - LANE OTTESON
MR. HOPCIA, PSYCHOLOGY - EVERLY HEATON
SRA. BLOISE, SPANISH 1 - DONTE RIFFLE
SRA. BLOISE, SPANISH 2 - LILAH YOUNG
MS. HOBBS, TRIG/PRE CALC - ISLA VAUGHN
MR. NIELSON, US GOVERNMENT - SAVANNAH STIEGELMEYER
MR NIELSON, US HISTORY - WAYLON KIDDOO
MR. NIELSON, WEIGHT TRAINING FOR ATHLETES -DECLAN WARREN
MR. WIESS, WELDING - WYATT KIDDOO
MR. WIESS, WELDING - CASEY SCHMITTEL
MR. WIESS, WELDING - KALE GATES
MRS. WEBSTER, YEARBOOK - AIDAN SWEAT
MRS. WEBSTER, YEARBOOK/MEDIA - AARON NIELSON

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!

