

December 2024



Dolores School District


Newsletter

Superintendent Alesa Reed

Dolores School District RE-4A



Dear Students, Parents, and Members of our School Community,

As we approach the end of the calendar year and the exciting Christmas season, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support of our  students and school.

Upcoming Events

*We are thrilled to share that Dolores Schools will build a new high school and renovate a new middle school! It took years and many hands to make this happen for Dolores: architects, the board, several building committees, previous superintendents, and the voters who passed the bond. So many people brought us to this point. **It indeed has been a village supporting our students.***

As I look at the Events Calendar on the Website, I see busy parents, teachers, coaches, and students. Please tune into staff newsletters, FB postings, and the events calendar (District Website) for **student showcase events, including concerts, games, competitions, and performances.** I encourage all families to participate in these upcoming events. Engaging with other families, teachers, and staff in a positive and supportive environment is a beautiful opportunity. Keep an eye out for details on all our winter activities. It's a very busy time, and you won't want to miss a thing!

The Board of Education will attend the annual CASB conference in CO Springs. There, they will collaborate with other board members, attend training, and set goals for the upcoming year.

Safety and Well-Being

The safety and well-being of our students and staff remain our top priority. As the weather changes, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the colder temperatures and remind them about safety tips, especially as we approach the holiday season. If you notice any signs of distress in your child or fellow students, please contact school counseling services for support.

Superintendent (continued)



Early release or snow day announcements will follow the same protocol as in the past. New families to our district should be aware that our maintenance and transportation teams, along with myself, will drive the roads early when storms are forecasted to assess whether buses can safely and reasonably provide

transportation. An automated phone call will be made by 6:00 AM to inform families about any late starts or snow days. This information will also be available on the school app and the school website.

Community Engagement

I would like to thank everyone who performed and attended the Veteran’s Day Celebration. It was wonderful to see so many individuals honored, and I was especially impressed by the talent of our students. Exciting programs and initiatives are planned as we enter the new year. Our priority will continue to be fostering a safe, inclusive environment that promotes every student's academic and personal growth. We aim to implement new strategies to support our students’ diverse learning styles and needs.

In closing, I wish you a joyful holiday season filled with love, laughter, and togetherness. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Director Valiena Rosenkrance Teddy Bear Preschool



Our biggest Fundraiser, Butter Braids is just winding down. Butter Braids are so yummy and just in time for the Holiday’s! All of our families and staff are selling them at this time. For every Butter Braid we sell we make a minimum of \$5.00; therefore it’s a super good fundraiser. We are fundraising for a preschool Sensory Room.

- A Sensory room will help in supporting a students focus, motor development, cognitive development, self-regulation, and improved social interaction to name just a few. Orders have to be turned in by December 5th at 8:00 a.m and they will be delivered to the school December 11th at 10:00.

Teddy Bear Winter Program is scheduled for December 16th at 6:00 at the Dolores High School Main Gym. The children will sing songs and a “Special Guest” will be making an appearance. We ask that if you are able to, bring a finger food to share with everyone.

Teddy Bear Preschool (continued)

We are now distributing Treasure Chests for families that would like to use them. They are activities for you and your child to do together! Each box includes a variety of books, games, puzzles, etc. Research shows that children learn best through play. Families who spend just 10-15 minutes each day reading or playing together:

- Increase literacy levels and school readiness
- Improve relationship between parent and child
- Show a reduction in challenging behaviors

If you are interested in participating please connect with your child's teacher.

Winter Break is December 23 - January 6. We return on Tuesday January 7. Enjoy your time with family.

District Nurse Brandy Dunn Health and Wellness



Mental Health Matters

Winter can bring about feelings of isolation or Seasonal Affective disorder (SAD). Here are some tips to help prevent SAD: get plenty of exercise, spend time in the sun, do something fun with friends/family (playing games), maintain healthy eating habits, get good quality sleep and practice having a positive mindset.

Boost Your Immune System

A well-balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains can help boost the immune system. Five elements that support our immune system are Vitamins C & D, Zinc, probiotics, and sleep. Vitamin C's antioxidant properties can be found in citrus, bell peppers and broccoli. Vitamin D is made in the skin when exposed to sunlight. In the winter or when sun exposure is limited, sources like fatty fish (salmon, mackerel) and fortified foods can help. Zinc is an essential mineral found in meat, shellfish, legumes, seeds, and nuts. Probiotics, found in fermented foods like yogurt, kefir, sauerkraut, and kimchi are beneficial bacteria that support a healthy balance of gut microbiota. Finally, quality sleep is important to help boost the immune system.

Winter Nosebleeds

If your child suffers from winter nosebleeds it may be from the dry air. Try using a cold air humidifier at night. Saline nose drops or petroleum jelly may help too.

A healthy and happy winter starts with small, consistent habits. Let's make this winter season a time of well-being and community. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the school nurse.

Principal Amanda Hill

Dolores Elementary School



Happy Holidays Elementary Families! This time of year is the best and the energy among the students and teachers is contagious. I am excited for these next 3 weeks because the teachers have many fun lessons and activities planned for learning. It is a magical time when we are gearing up for testing, but incorporating holiday fun into the preparations.

Thank you parents and families for your support of our school. Every time we have something planned you all show up to support the students. This year at Holiday Dinner we served a record number of meals to families. So thank you for joining us on this special day. Volunteering and showing up for special occasions at the school helps boost morale, gives a positive role model for students, boosts academic achievement by showing that it is important, improves social and behavior skills among all students, fostering the love of learning, and showing that the school community is valuable. Just joining us has an abundance of positive impact for all of us!

Our Winter Concert “Winter in Space” is going to be on December 12th from 6-8pm. Drop off your student with their teacher in their classroom at 5:30 and join us in the main gym for the concert. We will have treats and a special guest after the concert. I am very excited for this concert this year. The students have worked extremely hard on their songs, instruments, and dances. They are very excited to dress up and perform for their families.

This month Mrs. Domagata will be teaching lessons that focus on courage and confidence. “**Courage** doesn't always roar. Sometimes **courage** is the little voice at the end of the day that says I'll try again tomorrow.”- Mary Ann Radmacher. Helen Keller once said, “Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.” Teaching our students to have the growth mindset and to keep trying is what courage and confidence is all about. Students can show courage and confidence on their DIBELS tests coming up this month and NWEA and iReady tests in January. Our second quarter Character Assembly will be on Dec. 19th at 8:10am. Please join us for attendance awards, honor roll awards, and character awards.

As mentioned above, it is the testing season also. DIBELS benchmark testing will take place Dec. 9-19. NWEA testing will take place Jan. 14th and 15th. iReady math benchmark testing will take place Jan. 13-23. We do have lots of testing, but we have them spaced out to encourage students to take their time on each one and do their best on the test.

Dolores Elementary School (continued)

Here are a few helpful tips for parents: build a positive mindset through communication and connection, get enough sleep, have great attendance, read with them each night, encourage healthy eating, and limit screen time.

Wow, as always time is ticking by at a rapid rate. I can't believe that half of our school year has passed. We have a busy couple of months with some big ticket testing happening. Please stay rested and enjoy the season. Winter Break is scheduled for Dec. 20th-Jan. 6th. Students will return on Jan. 7th.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!
Mrs. Hill



Dolores Elementary School Important Dates

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| December 9-19 | DIBELS benchmark testing |
| December 12 | Winter Concert 6-8 p.m. in the HS Main Gym |
| December 23 | First day of Winter Break |
| January 7 | Return from Winter Break (begin semester 2) |
| January 13 - 23 | iReady math benchmark testing |
| January 14 - 15 | NWEA testing |

Principal Mary Weiss Dolores Middle School



The excitement before Christmas break in schools is truly contagious! It's like a mix of anticipation and a little bit of chaos, as everyone knows that a well-deserved break is just around the corner. You can feel the energy in the halls, as students and teachers alike count down the days.

For students, it's about the thrill of not having to worry about schoolwork for a while. They're buzzing about upcoming gifts, family traditions, and the fun of holiday celebrations. In December we will be doing our advisory door decorating contest and the music department will be hosting their music concerts. Teachers will be making learning more interactive, with holiday-themed lessons or activities that build excitement for the break.

Everyone knows that the break means some well-earned rest and a fresh start to the new year, so the last few days before the holiday are filled with a special energy, even as the workload starts to ease up. It's that wonderful mix of joy, excitement, and the promise of relaxation that makes the lead-up to Christmas break so special in schools!

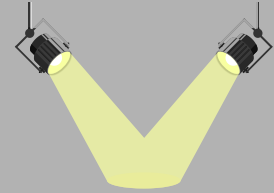
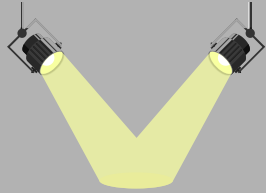
Student Achievement Showcase

We started doing a middle school showcase last year. It's a great way to highlight the talents, creativity, and achievements of students. The 8th graders gave talks and presented projects focused on "Night of the Notables" as the other grades showcased their work. On November 20th the students showcased their projects and it was a huge success. I was very proud of all the projects and the hard work students and staff put into this event. The middle school Showcase Night was a fun and empowering event, celebrating the hard work and talents of students while fostering a sense of community.

We will have another Showcase Night in the spring!



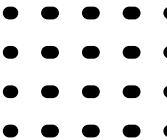
Dolores Middle School (continued)



Congratulations to our November Middle School Students of the Month

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



6th grade student **Blake Schmitt** has stepped up this quarter. He is polite in class and ensures that he gets his work done. We truly admire his politeness and we appreciate it when he comes in during class and “thanks” us for the lesson. Blake cares about his assignments and his grades. He participates in class by answering questions and adding to discussions. Blake also shows great leadership. He holds other students accountable for their actions and ensures students are doing their part. Blake also ensures that the class is having a good time. Congratulations Blake! Keep it up!



7th grade student **Ripley Lamkins**

R--radiant
I--intelligent
P--polite
L--lovely
E--eccentric
Y--yahoo!



8th grade student **Marshal Wickstrom** is a fine example of respect, responsibility and scholastic achievement. He has been a huge help to other students and to teachers in the classroom. All while keeping outstanding grades. Marshal is a fun-loving character and always takes a firm stance on wrongdoings in the classroom. He is a great role model for his classmates.

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:

Discuss Goals and Aspirations

- Talk about their interests and aspirations to help develop a sense of purpose.
- Help them set achievable academic and personal goals.

Celebrate Achievements

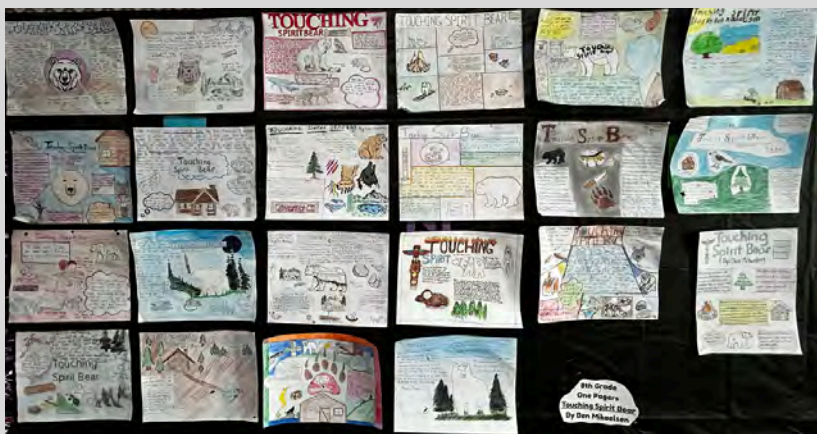
- Recognize and celebrate both small and large accomplishments to motivate and encourage a positive outlook.
- Create a system of rewards, not just for grades, but for effort and perseverance.

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.

7th Grade
Letters to American soldiers
recovering at Walter Reed
Medical Center



8th Grade
Touching Spirit Bear
By Ben Mikaelson



Principal Matt Walker

Dolores High School



It's the most wonderful time of the year, but for some folks, those you know or even your own family the most wonderful time of the year comes with struggles. Dolores High School student groups have shown commitment to helping others in our community such as the Food Drive and Thanksgiving dinner delivery that the student council accomplished prior

to Thanksgiving. Currently DHS wrestlers are collecting items for the homeless in our area; this will be ongoing through next semester. Our school partners with organizations in the community and there are also individuals that contact us this time of year that would like to help any families in need. If you are aware of a family that would benefit please contact us.

The holiday season can also be stressful for our students and families mentally. There is a lot of guidance about scheduling down time, exercise, and sometimes just saying no. Our hope is that this time of year will offer opportunities to grow and connect as a family and community.

Dolores High School Boys and Girls Basketball began December 3 with a home game. The two teams will participate in tournaments between now and the break in Rangely and Sangre de Cristo. Wrestling also gets started this weekend in Blanding and will have a busy schedule prior to the break as well. Band had a competition in Grand Junction the first weekend of Thanksgiving Break and performed well and will have their Winter Concert, December 11. Debate heads to Palisades this weekend for a tournament but before that they will scrimmage Telluride. We want to wish our cheer team well as they head off to the State Competition next weekend. Knowledge Bowl is nearing the midway point of the season after their competition in Mancos on December 2. In FFA news Morgan Chaffee competed in the District Speaking event and qualified for the State Competition.



Lastly, our Drama Troupe's performance of Moby Dick has been moved from December 5 & 6 to **January 10 & 11**. All of our teams and groups have been working hard this fall and I would like to recommend supporting and enjoying what they have done.

Dolores High School (continued)

We are nearing the end of the first semester. The grades that our students receive will go on student transcripts, which has huge implications for college, military, and trade school admissions, scholarships, and participation in spring activities. Grades have more significance once students begin taking high school courses.

We also want to recognize the four students who entered the Voices of Democracy contest and were selected as finalists. Each year, nearly 25,000 ninth through 12th grade students from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$1 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program that is operated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We would like to congratulate Dolores High School's Elieri Brown, Piper Green, Tyrus Phelps, and Easton Gofforth.

Dolores High School Important Dates

December 11 Music Department HS/MS Concert

December 16-19 High School Finals Week

Contact the Dolores School District

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Dolores School District Calendars

[Events Calendar](#)

[2024-2025 Yearly Calendar](#)

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