

March 2025



Dolores School District

Newsletter

Superintendent Alesa Reed

Dolores School District RE-4A



Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,

As we welcome March and the first signs of spring or more snow (yay!), I'm pleased to share our monthly update on the exciting developments throughout our district. This month marks the midpoint of our spring semester, and I continue to be impressed by the dedication of our students, teachers, and staff.

March brings a flurry of activity to our schools – from state testing preparations to spring sports, art performances, and planning for end-of-year celebrations. It's a crucial time for academic focus as we approach the final quarter of the school year.

I want to personally thank our community for your continued support and partnership in education. Your engagement at recent school board meetings, parent-teacher conferences, and volunteer opportunities demonstrates the strong foundation that makes our district exceptional.

Sincerely,

Alesa Reed, Superintendent of Schools

Dolores School District Important Dates

- **March 7** Professional Development (State Testing Training)
- **March 10:** School Board Meeting 6:00 PM, District Office
- **March 17-21:** Spring Break - No School
- **March 24:** School Board Workshop (Policies) 6:00 PM, District Office
- **March 27:** Middle School Showcase
- **March 27 & 28:** Parent Teacher Conferences

Superintendent (continued)

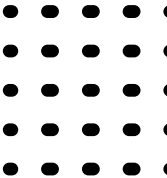
Academic Spotlight

State Testing Preparation

Our schools are preparing for the upcoming standardized assessment period in April. Teachers are working diligently to ensure students are comfortable with testing formats while maintaining a balanced approach to curriculum.

Parents can help by:

- Ensuring students get adequate sleep and nutrition
- Maintaining regular attendance
- Encouraging a positive attitude toward testing
- Contacting your child's teacher with specific questions



Staff Spotlight

This month, I want to highlight two employees who consistently exceed expectations.

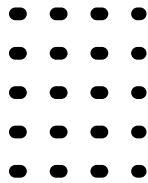
Chelsi Podrasik-Frascht - a paraprofessional in the secondary school, is always willing to step in and assist in any situation. She has frequently been asked to substitute or work one-on-one with students who need redirection. Chelsi has established strong working relationships with both staff and students, prioritizing their needs. She is flexible and easy to collaborate with, and her willingness to go the extra mile is refreshing and contributes positively to the school culture.

Shirley Tourjee - Shirley Tourjee has worked at Dolores Schools for many years in various roles. She always prioritizes the best interests of her students and strives to enhance their learning experience. Shirley excels at building strong relationships with her students and their families. She often incorporates after-school activities and tutoring sessions for her students, frequently doing so without compensation. Her dedication to her job, as well as to the staff and students of Dolores, is exemplary.

Department Updates

Curriculum & Instruction

Our ELA curriculum review committee has narrowed its selection to two 6-12 ELA programs. The programs will be at the district office for public review and comment through March. After carefully considering alignment with state standards, effectiveness, accessibility, and public comment, the committee will present its recommendations to the superintendent by March 31st.



Superintendent (continued)

Facilities

Spring maintenance projects will begin in March, focusing on roof repair, stanchion upkeep, and district office safety components.

Core drilling will be on campus during spring break in preparation for the new high school foundation.

Student Achievements

- We have one state wrestling qualifier, whoo hoo!
- 4 members of our Knowledge Bowl team advanced to the state competition
- The fashion show put on by the booster club was a huge success
- DMS 7th-grade students again entered this year's Elks Lodge Americanism Essay Contest. The theme this year was "What does Patriotism mean to you?" Our school swept the 7th grade category. Check out Mrs. Weiss's newsletter for more information.

Health & Wellness

As spring allergies approach, our school nurse reminds families to update health records with any seasonal medical needs. Field trips are numerous this time of year, and students need updated allergy medications available. Help students stay well with appropriate handwashing. It does make a difference.

Reach Out

Phone: (970) 882-7255

Website: doloresschools.org

Social Media: [Dolores District RE-4A](#)



Director Valiena Rosenkrance

Teddy Bear Preschool



Wow! Teddy Bear just had another FABULOUS fundraiser over the weekend. We hosted a Sock Hop and a Silent Auction over the weekend. Dinner was generously provided by one of our families and we had many items donated by our wonderful community. Our school district provides for all of our needs but as always there is just that one little “extra” that a building “wants”. We are fortunate to have such a caring

community and staff that goes that extra mile to help us get those “wants”. The Auction raised right at \$4,000. Again, Wow! This year we are fundraising for a Sensory Room that will be located in our building. This sensory room will benefit the students’ motor development, cognitive development, self-regulation, as well as help improve social interaction. The Teddy Bear Preschool focus is always on the needs of our children and program.

This year Teddy Bear moved to a different curriculum, C4L (Connect 4 Learning). We began using the new curriculum at the start of this school year with the guidance from a staff member who had used it in the Denver area. We are excited to work with the C4L and look forward to a curriculum training session for the entire teaching staff next week. The children really do seem to enjoy the new curriculum.

Connect4Learning is rooted in the latest research on learning and teaching across four domains:

- Connected Science Experiences
- Engaging Math
- Authentic Literacy
- Social-Emotional Development for All Learners

Teddy Bear Preschool Important Dates

March 17-20: Spring Break

March 26: School pictures (after breakfast)



Teddy Bear Preschool (continued)

Teddy Bear Preschool is working toward a fundraising goal of \$25,000! The funds will go toward a sensory room. Below is our goal poster with examples of sensory items.



Principal Amanda Hill Dolores Elementary School



100 Days of School

Our students marked this exciting milestone with great enthusiasm this past week! They participated in a variety of fun and engaging activities that not only celebrated their hard work but also emphasized the learning and growth they have experienced so far this year. It was a joyful occasion, and seeing their smiles and excitement was truly heartwarming!

Fun Activities: Students engaged in various activities including counting, crafts, some students dressed up as 100 year olds, and special presentations that focused on the number 100.



Student Achievements: We are so proud of our students for their hard work and creativity in celebrating this milestone together. Their enthusiasm was contagious! Check out Mrs. Jaburg's kindergarten class writing.



Dolores Elementary School (continued)

Thank you for encouraging your children to participate and celebrate this special occasion with us! Please ask them about all of the things they have learned this year. Since we celebrated on Tuesday last week that means that we only have 46 school days left. WOW! This school year has flown by!

Spring Fever

Although this winter was quite mild, students and teachers are excited to enjoy the warmer and longer days ahead. Please take a moment to read the Dress Code section of the student handbook:

DRESS CODE

(District Policy [JICA](#))

In order to promote a positive and productive educational environment the following dress code will be enforced. We appreciate the cooperation of parents in supervising their children's attire by making sure students are appropriately dressed before coming to school.

- Students should always come to school in neat and clean attire.
- Please make sure your child is appropriately dressed for the current or impending weather conditions.
- Dresses, skirts, and shorts need to reach mid-thigh length, not shorter than 3 inches above the knee.
- Students should be able to bend over without exposing themselves or their undergarments.
- Pajamas and costumes are allowed only on school approved days for special occasions.
- Sleeveless shirts should have a shoulder strap at least two inches wide.
- Clothing or accessories that are distracting or with inappropriate language, symbols, or advertisements are not allowed. This includes, but is not limited to, references to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, and excessively negative or vulgar sayings.
- Belt lines for pants are at the waist. Underwear must remain below the belt line.
- Students should wear sturdy play shoes to school. Flip-flops, slides, and high heels are not allowed due to safety reasons.
- Hats may not be worn indoors.
- Wheeled shoes are not permitted.
- Any clothing and/or accessories otherwise deemed disruptive to the learning environment is not permitted.

Students who come to school inappropriately dressed will be given alternate clothing, or parents will be contacted to bring a change of clothes.

Dolores Elementary School (continued)

The **Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)** plays a vital role in our school. Volunteering with the PTA is a rewarding way to get involved and support our students and teachers.

By joining the PTA, you can help organize events, advocate for our students, and foster a strong school community. Email them at doloresbears.pta@gmail.com if you would like more information.

Additionally, I am excited to announce that the PTA purchased a new **Recess Ball Cart!** This will provide our students with more equipment options during recess, promoting active play and teamwork as well as responsibility by picking up our recess equipment and taking care of it. The cart is on wheels so this allows the first group of students to wheel it out and the last group to bring it in.

CMAS

We understand that assessment periods can be a time of anxiety for both students and families. To help our students perform their best, we encourage you to support them by ensuring they get plenty of rest the night before their assessments. A good night's sleep can make a significant difference! Additionally, please encourage your child to arrive at school on time, as this helps them settle in and prepare mentally for the day ahead. Maintaining a positive attitude and giving their best effort during these assessments is essential, and your encouragement at home plays a crucial role in helping them succeed.

Dolores Elementary School CMAS Dates (Grades 3-5)

April 7-10: 5th Grade Science

April 8: 4th Grade Social Studies

April 14-17: 3-5 Grades ELA and Math

As always, I am grateful for your continued partnership and support in fostering a positive learning environment for our students. Thank you for being an essential part of our school community. Together, we can achieve great things!

Dolores Elementary School Important March Dates

March 6: Character assembly Aux Gym, 8:10 AM

March 26: Spring Picture Day

March 27: Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00-7:00 PM

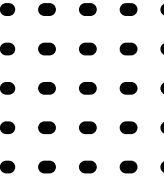
March 28: Parent Teacher Conferences 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Principal Mary Weiss
Dolores Middle School



Why it's important to have School-Family Working as a Team:

School-family collaboration is crucial for children's development and educational success. Aligned expectations and family involvement boost student motivation, engagement, and emotional well-being. This partnership fosters a supportive community, enabling effective problem-



solving and consistent discipline. Regular communication and shared responsibility for a safe, respectful environment further enhance student success by teaching essential life skills and reinforcing positive values. Ultimately, this united support system nurtures academic achievement, emotional growth, behavioral development, and social well-being, empowering children to thrive.

Thank you for all you do for your children.

Dolores RE-4A Gifted & Talented

Colorado school districts offer Gifted & Talented programs designed to meet the unique needs of students who demonstrate exceptional abilities or potential at the 95%ile. These programs aim to provide challenging and enriching learning experiences that go beyond the standard curriculum. Areas of Identification include general intellectual ability (GIA), writing, reading, mathematics, science, social studies, and creative productive thinking.

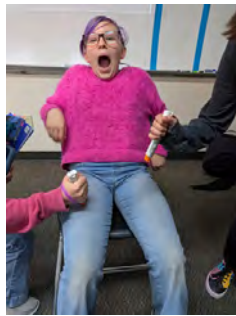
Identification of gifted students typically involves a multi-faceted approach, including cognitive and achievement assessments, teacher recommendations, parent input, and student work samples. Once identified, students may participate in various program models, such as cluster grouping, accelerated classes, and/or independent study courses to name a few. Individualized learning plans, known as Advanced Learning Plans (ALPs), are developed by each gifted student and our GT Coordinator Lisa Baer working together to outline the specific goals and strategies for academic and social-emotional growth each year.

Dolores School District has 50+ students identified as Gifted, along with the same amount in the Talent Pool (85%ile). We are actively seeking out exceptionalities in our students. Please refer to the district website for more information and to access the referral form if you are interested. GO BEARS <https://doloresschools.org/gifted-and-talented/>

Dolores Middle School (continued)

6th grade cross-curricular event

On Thursday, February 13th, the 6th graders participated in a large cross-curricular day to accompany their current science unit on the human body. Guest speakers Toi Smith, Jen Gaddis, and Al Brokofsky taught students first aid practices and CPR. Students also tested their heart rates at various intervals and finished their heart dissection lab. This was a powerful way to create a more integrated, engaging, and relevant learning experience for middle school students. It promotes skills that are essential for future success, critical thinking, collaboration, and real-world problem-solving while making learning more connected and meaningful.

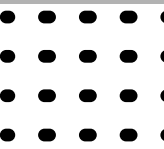
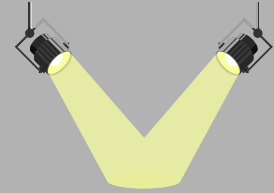
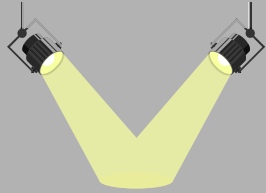


Elks Lodge Essay Contest

Dolores Middle School 7th grade students once again entered this year's Elks Lodge Americanism Essay Contest. The theme this year was "What does Patriotism mean to you?" Our school swept the 7th grade category. 3rd Place went to Keara Keene, 2nd Place went to Alexis Lewis and First Place was awarded to Sean Tarpey. All 3 won certificates and cash prizes. We are so proud of our outstanding 7th grade writers!



Dolores Middle School (continued)



Congratulations to our February Middle School Students Spotlights

We look for the following to be chosen for Students Spotlight:
Effort, Character, Behavior, and Attendance



The 6th grade team is thrilled to announce **Kyndal Winter** as the student of the month. Kyndal is a bright girl who is consistently in the right. She always makes the correct moral choices, even when that doesn't go with her peers. Kyndal is a great student who cares about her grades and turns in phenomenal work. Kyndal is a great role model for her peers to look up to in the 6th grade



7th Grade- **Ayden Winter**
A- awesome
Y- yare
D- dedicated
E- earnest
N- notable



The 8th-grade team is proud to recognize **Keylie Stevens** as our Student of the Month! Keylie is a dedicated and hardworking student who has shown remarkable growth this year. She brings kindness and positivity to every situation, with a smile that brightens the day of those around her. Keylie consistently demonstrates respect for her classmates, teachers, and others, creating a welcoming and supportive environment. Her inquisitive nature and strong focus on her schoolwork make her a standout student. We are so proud of Keylie and excited to see all that she will continue to accomplish!

Dolores Middle School (continued)

Dolores Middle School Important Dates

March 27: Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:00 PM, MS classrooms

March 27: Showcase Night 4:30-7:00 PM, 7th grade in the commons/cafeteria, all other grades in the Library

March 28: Parent Teacher Conferences 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM, commons/cafeteria

CMAS Test Dates

April 8-9: 8th Grade Science

April 10: 7th Grade Social Studies

April 15-17: 6-8th Grades ELA and Math

District Nurse Brandy Dunn

Health and Wellness



Spring into Wellness!

March is here, bringing with it warmer weather and longer days! As we transition into spring, it's a great time to focus on our health and well-being.

Spring Allergies - Ah-Choo!

Allergies can be a challenge for many students. Here are some tips to manage them:

- Know your triggers: Identify what triggers your child's allergies (pollen, grass, etc.).
- Monitor pollen counts: Check local weather reports for pollen levels.
- Keep windows closed: Especially during peak pollen hours.
- Wash hands and face: After being outdoors.
- Talk to your doctor: About appropriate allergy medications or treatments.

Protect Your Skin

With increased sunshine, it's important to protect our skin from harmful UV rays. Remember to:

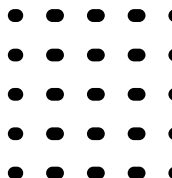
- Apply sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher before going outdoors.
- Wear protective clothing, such as hats and long sleeves.
- Seek shade during peak sun hours.
- Please send a water bottle, and apply sunscreen to your student before school.

Health and Wellness (continued)

March is National Nutrition Month

Use this month to start making informed choices about your food. Some ways to kickstart healthy habits are as follows:

- Plan weekly meals ahead of time.
- Use the nutrition fact labels to help compare ingredients and find foods with higher amounts of vitamins, minerals, and dietary fibers, and low amounts of sodium, saturated fats, and added sugars.
- Use myplate.gov to create healthy, complete meals that cover all 5 food groups.



Principal Matt Walker Dolores High School



Happy March!

March is a busy month filled with academic milestones, exciting events, and a strong push towards the end of the school year. Please check the calendar for important dates and events, such as Parent Teacher Conferences that will happen this month.

Our students have been busy competing and representing our school over the past month. DHS Wrestling was represented by Nathan Hill at the State Tournament. Our boys' and girls' basketball teams both finished 5th this season in the San Juan Basin League. Mikayla Eaton, Jocelyn Hofmann, and Hailey Lindt finished 3rd in the FFA Quiz Bowl held in Cortez. This Saturday FFA will host Trivia Night with dinner at 5:30 and Trivia at 6:30. Also Neveah Settles and Ava Gregory traveled with Ms. Hobbs to the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley for the State Math Competition. The Knowledge Bowl team will leave for the State Tournament during spring break. If you were able to make the Prom Popup Fashion show you were treated to an awesome event hosted by the Booster Club. This event provided discounted formal wear for our students, so they may attend prom in style.

The DHS Drama Troupe, directed by the inimitable Pete Swingle, will be performing Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* this spring, as rehearsals are underway. Girls' golf, boys' and girls' track, and baseball will kick off their seasons over the next week. There are around 50 students competing in track and field this year, around 30 students competing in baseball, and 7 girls playing golf in its first season back on campus in 5 years.

Dolores High School (continued)

Our bands will be participating in events throughout the remainder of the year as well as a joint effort with Mancos to field a complete Jazz Band.

There have been architects, contractors, and engineers on campus preparing for the construction that will begin in May. PSAT & SAT will be taken by freshmen, sophomores, and juniors during the morning of April 16th.



High School Journalism

Student journalism is alive and well at Dolores High School! The Journalism class is an elective offered to all students. The purpose of the Journalism class is to allow students to have a voice on issues of students' interests in and outside of school. [Click here](#) to view High School Journalism articles.

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](#)

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