

May 2025



Dolores School District

Newsletter

Superintendent Alesa Reed

Dolores School District RE-4A



Dear Parents, Staff, and Community Members,
As we enter the final weeks of the 2024-2025 school year, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support and partnership with our school. May brings a special energy to our schools—a mix of accomplishment, anticipation, and celebration as we prepare for end-of-year activities and commencement ceremonies.

Our District Accountability Committee is seeking parents, business owners, community members, etc., to join their team. For more information, please refer to the section later in this newsletter.

Our pick-up and drop-off will look very different in August. Please watch for announcements about traffic patterns in this newsletter, the district website, and other publications.

As we look ahead to summer, we remain committed to providing enriching opportunities for our students, including our summer learning programs and facility improvements that will enhance our learning environments for years to come.

Thank you for your continued partnership in education. Together, we are building a brighter future for all our students.

Sincerely,

Alesa Reed
Superintendent of Schools



Superintendent (continued)

Dolores School District Important Dates

- May 9:** Dolores Theater Troupe Presents - *Midsummer Night's Dream* 7:00 p.m.
- May 10:** Dolores Theater Troupe Presents - *Midsummer Night's Dream* 2:00 p.m.
- May 10:** Dolores Theater Troupe Presents - *Midsummer Night's Dream* 2:00 p.m.
- May 12:** Dolores School Board Meeting 6:00 PM, District Office
- May 14:** HS/MS Spring Music Concert 7:00 p.m.
- May 22:** Last Day of School - Elementary School Dismissal 11:50 a.m.
- May 22:** Last Day of School - Secondary School Dismissal 12:00 p.m.
- May 23:** Graduation 2025 3:00 p.m.

Building Project Update

****Calling on Local Subcontractors****

Jaynes, our general contractor for the new building project, is seeking subcontractors in our area who are willing to work with them on our building projects over the next two years. Here is the contact information for their hiring agent.

Ryan Sorenson

Chief Estimator

Jaynes Corporation

o:970.247.1831 c:970.531.2704

www.jaynescorp.com

District Highlights

End-of-Year Testing Information

We had very productive CMAS and PSAT/SAT testing sessions.

- There were pep assemblies, motivational speeches, and, many goals set!
- Thank you to all the parents and students who got up early and came to school ready to support public education.

Summer School Registration

Registration for summer academic and enrichment programs is now open!

Programs will run from May 27 to June 26. For more information, please contact the school or your child's teacher.

Student Achievement

🏆 High School FFA is back from State Competition, check out the FB AG app for details

🏹 Elementary School- Tyler Lindsay attended the national archery competition!

Superintendent (continued)

Staff Spotlight

Tyson Atwell ➔ Mr. Atwell is a dedicated and hardworking teacher. Working with students from high school down to 6th grade requires a special kind of talent and commitment. The variety of impressive projects his students complete is a testament to the guidance and patience he provides every day, as well as the expertise we enjoy in our woods program.

Mr. Atwell spends countless hours, even on weekends, maintaining a clean and organized shop, ensuring that all equipment is in top condition. His efforts help guarantee a safe learning environment for all his students.

It truly takes someone exceptional to do what Mr. Atwell does, and we appreciate him more than he knows.

Denise Arruda And Tonya Castillo - They are among the hardest-working and most dedicated paraprofessionals we have had the privilege of working with. This year, in the absence of a full-time Title 1 teacher, they stepped up in every way imaginable—working tirelessly to ensure that students received the support, structure, and care they needed each day. They developed lesson plans, implemented them, and assessed as our certified staff do. Their unwavering commitment meant that not only did students stay on track, but they also made tremendous academic, social, and emotional growth. The success of this year is a direct result of their passion, resilience, and deep dedication to our students.

HEALTH & WELLNESS CORNER

Seasonal Allergies

As pollen counts rise, we're seeing an increase in allergy symptoms. Ensure the classroom teacher and school nurse have the necessary medications for upcoming field trips.

• • • • We may experience some runoff this spring. Please keep “water safety” at the forefront of your mind when playing near the river.

Summer Health Tips:

- Schedule any required immunizations for the next school year
- Update emergency contact information
- Remember sun protection for outdoor activities
- Stay hydrated during warm weather

Superintendent (continued)

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Summer Reading Program

The Public Library will kick off its annual Summer Reading Challenge in June. Students who participate can earn special rewards when school resumes in September.

Dolores Rotary

Dolores Rotary will sponsor its annual Youth Bike Rodeo on August 1, 2025. It will be held in Joe Rowell Park. Tons of fun activities, come and enjoy!

Dolores is sending four students to the RYLA leadership Institute!

Reach Out

🌐 Website: www.doloresschools.org

📞 Phone: (970) 882-7255

Director Valiena Rosenkrance

Teddy Bear Preschool



Families,

Well, we are nearly to the end of another great year! In nine months we have watched your children grow into confident learners. Every child from 12 months to 5 years eagerly walks down the sidewalk into their classrooms with confidence and purpose; 98% of those children walk in without an adult.

Those children moving to kindergarten in the fall are prepared and ready for a new challenge.

Teachers, with family support, build a strong team for your child's success. Working together creates the support children need to grow and do well in school and in life. Our success and your child's success is all because of your support of your child, your child's teacher and school.

Thank you.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable, safe summer! We look forward to seeing many of you in the fall.

Ms. Valiena
Program Director

Teddy Bear Preschool (continued)

Teddy Bear Preschool Important Dates

- May 12, 13:** Kinder visitation Dolores Elementary school, 8:20 a.m.
Families are encouraged to attend.
- May 21:** Preschool Graduation Day, DHS Main Gym, 10:00 a.m.
- May 22:** Last Day of School - pickup on this day is 12:00 p.m. at Joe Rowell Park
- May 22:** End of Year Picnic, Joe Rowell Park, 9:30a.m. - 12:00 p.m.,
Families welcome. Lunch provided. Pickup is at Joe Rowell Park

Principal Amanda Hill

Dolores Elementary School



Dear Families,

As we enter the final stretch of the school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the growth, achievements, and joy we've experienced together. May is a time of both celebration and anticipation as we wrap up one academic year and begin planning for the next.

Highlights from This Year

- Student Growth & Learning: Our students have shown incredible perseverance and growth in academics, social skills, and creativity. From reading and math achievements to projects and artistic expressions, our classrooms have been alive with learning.
- Community Engagement: Thank you to all the volunteers, family members, and community partners who have supported field trips, classroom events, and schoolwide initiatives this year. We look forward to many more opportunities to work with you next year. If we don't have a partnership yet, please reach out and see how we can, together, support all students in our school.

Celebrating Our Educators: The Heart of Our Schools

As we approach **Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week**, we pause to recognize the incredible individuals who make our schools feel like second homes. Our teachers, support staff, and specialists do far more than teach academic subjects — they nurture confidence, spark curiosity, and build the relationships that help students thrive.

Whether it's the extra time spent preparing engaging lessons, the quiet encouragement during a tough day, or the joyful celebration of a student's success, our staff consistently show up with passion, patience, and professionalism.

This year, especially, we've seen our educators:

- Go above and beyond to support both academic and emotional growth.

Dolores Elementary School (continued)

- Create inclusive, welcoming environments for all students.
- Collaborate with families to build strong learning partnerships.
- Model resilience, compassion, and lifelong learning.

Their work often happens behind the scenes, but its impact is lifelong. Our staff not only teach — they inspire, lead, and care deeply. Please join us this month in thanking the amazing team who makes our schools exceptional. A kind note, a small gesture, or even a simple “thank you” can go a long way.

Upcoming Events

Please be on the lookout for classroom newsletters with more information. If you have any questions, please contact your child’s teacher.

- Field Day – May 19th A fun day of games, teamwork, and laughter! Volunteers K-5 NEEDED. A HUGE THANK YOU to “Off the Bench” for bringing their blow up obstacle course for all the students to experience. Stop by their fun business this summer for great movement opportunities for all ages.
- [5th Grade Graduation Celebration](#) – May 21st
Join us in honoring our graduating fifth graders as they prepare for middle school.
- Last Day of School – May 22nd EARLY RELEASE- 11:50AM.

Let’s finish the year strong!

Summer Learning Opportunities

Learning doesn't stop in June! Stop by the public library for more information about their summer reading program.

A Final Word

It has been an honor to serve our students, families, and community this year. Your support and involvement make all the difference. Let’s finish this year with gratitude, celebration, and the excitement of what's to come.

Wishing you a safe, joyful, and restful summer ahead.

Partners in Learning,
Amanda Hill
Elementary School Principal

Dolores Elementary School Important Dates

- May 19:** Field Day - Parent volunteers K-5 needed!
- May 21:** 5th Grade Award/Continuation Ceremony, Little Bear Gym 8:10 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
- May 21:** 5th Grade Parade - Begin 4:30 p.m., Line up 4:10 p.m. (East side Football Field)
- May 21:** 5th Grade Social and Dance in the Commons, 5:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.
- May 22:** Last Day of School - Early Release 11:50 a.m., busses run at 12:00 p.m.

Principal Mary Weiss

Dolores Middle School



Dear Dolores Families,
May is a very busy and exciting time of year as we wrap up the school year. It's a time filled with energy, celebration, and a strong focus to end on a high note with positive behaviors and enthusiasm!

Dolores Students Help Select Colorado's Top Teen Book

Two Dolores Middle School students, Tristan Rime and Kyler Shoopman, proudly represented our district in this year's Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award—a statewide competition where student judges select the top young adult novel of the year.



Dolores has participated in the Blue Spruce program for the past three years and remains the only team representing Southwest Colorado. Tristan and Kyler committed to weekly meetings, joined state-wide Zoom discussions, read at least four of the nominated books, and collaborated with other student teams across the state to help determine the winner.

This year, 59 student judges cast their votes for the official Blue Spruce Award. Additionally, 501 students from 18 Colorado schools and public libraries participated in selecting the Readers' Choice Award.

We are thrilled to share that "The Island" by Natasha Preston—nominated by our very own Dolores team, Duck O' Tears—won the Readers' Choice Award!

Want to hear more? Colorado Public Radio recently featured Tristan and Kyler in a fantastic story about their role in this unique reading competition. You can check it out here:

[CPR Story on the Blue Spruce Book Awards](#)

Dolores Middle School (continued)

8th Grade Continuation and Awards Ceremony

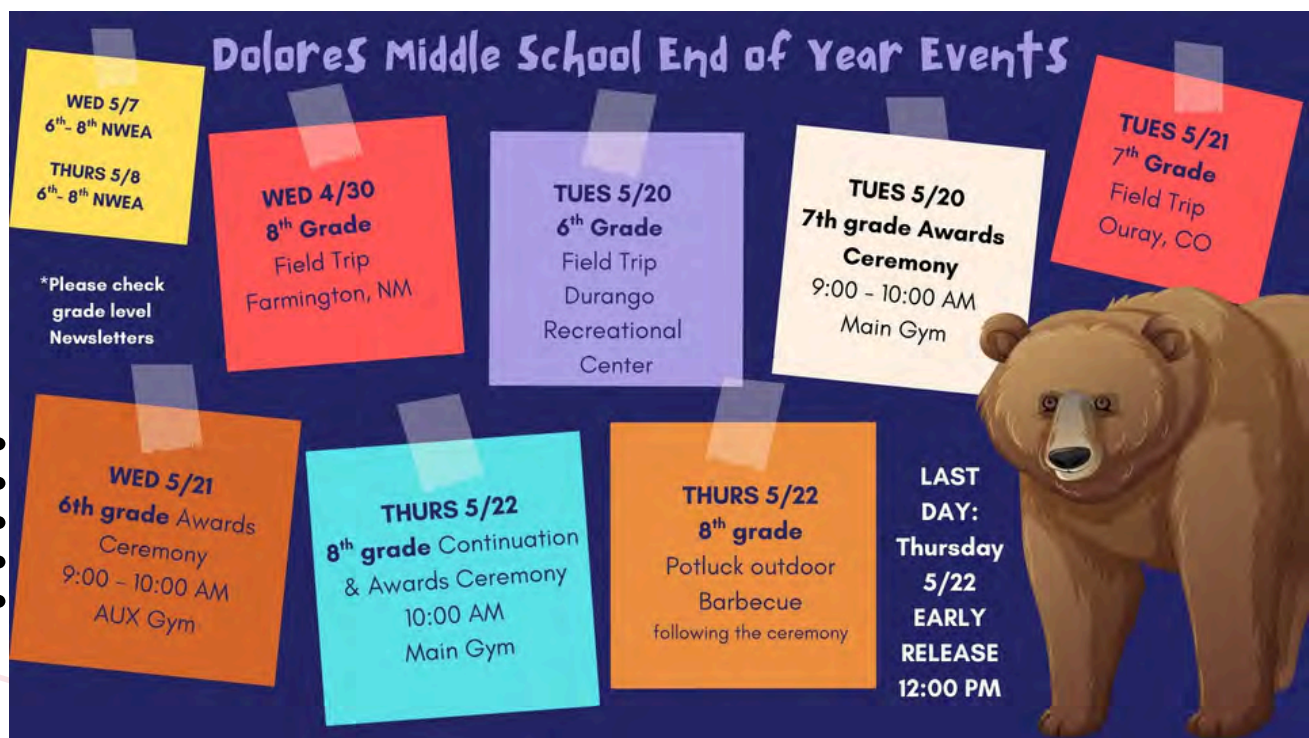
It's time to say goodbye to our amazing 8th graders as they move on to high school! It has been a pleasure working with them and watching them grow into the wonderful young adults they are today.

We will be celebrating their accomplishments on May 22nd with an Awards and Continuation Ceremony, followed by a BBQ. Please see the flyer on the next page for details and sign-up using the link on the flyer.

Thank you for being part of their journey!

Dolores Middle School Important Dates

- May 20:** 6th Grade Field Trip, Durango Recreational Center
- May 20:** 7th Grade Awards Ceremony, Main Gym, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- May 21:** 7th Grade Field Trip, Ouray
- May 21:** 6th Awards Ceremony, Aux Gym, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- May 22:** 8th Grade Continuation and Awards Ceremony, Main Gym, 10:00 a.m.
- May 22:** 8th Grade Outdoor Potluck Barbecue, (following the 8th grade ceremony)
- May 22:** Last Day of School, early release 12:00 p.m.



Dolores Middle School (continued)

**COME CELEBRATE
YOUR DOLORES STUDENT!**

**8TH GRADE CONTINUATION
& POTLUCK BARBEQUE**

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025

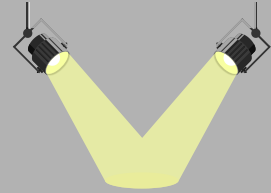
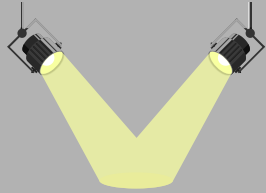
**10:00 AM DHS MAIN GYM
SLIDESHOW, AWARDS &
BBQUE TO FOLLOW**

**THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING
(SEE BELOW BY LAST NAME)**

SIGN-UP HERE

**A-G BUNS & CONDIMENTS
H-L HOTDOGS
M-N PLATES, UTENSILS, CUPS
O-S SIDE DISHES
T-Z DESSERT & BOTTLED
WATER**

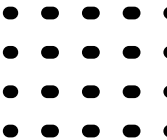
Dolores Middle School (continued)



Congratulations to our April Middle School Students Spotlights

Criteria to be selected for Student of the Month:

Academic excellence, positive attitude, active participation, responsibility, supportive to peers, personal growth, attendance, and punctuality



The 6 Grade Team is pleased to acknowledge **Aylan Warren** as this month's student of the month. Aylan is a great student who shows up and tries her hardest with every task. She is polite and outgoing towards her classmates, participates in all aspects of the classroom, and is dedicated to her studies. Aylan is creative, meticulous, and always gives her all on assignments. She is a positive ray that spreads her kindness far.



7th Grade **Gabby Hollen**

- G-regarious
- A-micable
- B-lissful
- B-right
- Y-ES!



Emma Phillips has been chosen as 8th Grade Student of the Month for her outstanding kindness, helpfulness, and the genuine care she shows toward her classmates. Emma is always ready to lend a hand, offer a kind word, or support a friend in need. Her positive attitude creates a welcoming environment in the classroom, and her efforts to help others do not go unnoticed. In addition to her caring nature, Emma has made impressive improvements in all academic areas, showing dedication, focus, and a willingness to grow. We are proud to recognize Emma for being a shining example of what it means to be both a strong student and a compassionate classmate. Keep up the amazing work, Emma!

District Nurse Brandy Dunn

Health and Wellness



Dear Dolores Families,

Thank you for a wonderful school year! It has been my pleasure to care for and support your children's health and well-being.

Wishing all our students and families a safe, healthy, and happy summer break — I look forward to seeing you all next year!

Brandy Dunn, RN
District Nurse

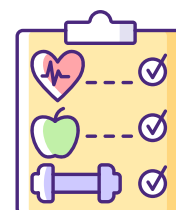


End-of-Year Reminders

- Pick up any medications from the nurse's office before summer break!
- Be sure to check the school's lost and found for any missing items before they're donated!
- SENIORS – Let us know if you need your immunization records for your next adventure!
- Schedule any required immunizations for the next school year
- Schedule summer sports physicals if needed: (2 possible options)
 - 4 Corners Youth Clinic, Dolores (970) 560-4890
 - Wednesdays from 8-4
 - 4 Corners Youth Clinic, Cortez (970) 560-5056
 - Wednesdays from 8-4
 - AFC Urgent Care in Cortez (970) 516-5500

Healthy Summer Habits

- Stay active — play outside, ride bikes, or go for walks
- limit screen time
- Eat colorful fruits and veggies
- Wear sunscreen and a hat for outdoor activities
- Stay hydrated throughout the day and take breaks in the shade



May Health Spotlight: Mental Health Matters

- May is Mental Health Awareness Month Let's remember:
- Take breaks when feeling overwhelmed
- Get plenty of sleep and healthy food
- Talk to someone you trust if you're feeling sad or anxious



Principal Matt Walker

Dolores High School



Congratulations to our 26 seniors who are entering their last month as Dolores students. This group may be small in number but they have accomplished a great deal in the classroom, on the court or field, or on the stage. This group leaves us as leaders, scholars, and compassionate individuals ready to make their mark on the world and even

though they may not walk the halls of DHS next year, they will ALWAYS be a member of the Dolores Bear Family.

To our senior parents, thank you for all of the countless hours you have spent volunteering, organizing, loving, and preparing your students. Without your support we would not be where we are today. As the next group of students prepare to take on the torch from the Class of 2025; I encourage these underclassmen to continue to be curious, courageous, and kind.

There is a lot of information regarding scheduling, summer school, and programming for next year in the Academic Advising letter. This year, with Alma, we have an online platform to submit the student requests for classes. This is the first year, so we have worked through some learning obstacles, but our students and staff have done an outstanding job being flexible and patient.

Prom was a memorable event for many of our students and the fun that was enjoyed by the students attending could be attributed to the magnificent job of the Junior Class and their Sponsors.

Also, I would encourage you to check out the articles that are published by our Journalism Class. We would love to hear old stories, legends, and myths surrounding DSD as we connect our student body to the traditions and history of our wonderful community.

Thank you again for your continued support of our students. Next month's article we will spotlight the awards, honors, and scholarships earned by this group of students.



Dolores 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 Dolores High School Journalism articles.

Academic Advisor Cheri Walker Dolores High School



Looking Ahead

DHS ADVISING ♦ Bears



As 24-25 wraps up, a look forward to the year to come...

It's hard to believe another year has come and gone! Before we transition to summer living, I want to share with you information, updates, and exciting things to look forward to in the next school year.

As a staff, we are constantly looking for ways to improve our practices, make learning and education more meaningful for our students, and to prepare students (and their parents!) for life after high school. This means that change is inevitable, and that new initiatives are bound to roll out.

As we look into the 2025-2026 school year, it is my hope that our community will continue to rally together to support what is best for students. It takes a village, and we sure have a great one!

SUMMER SCHOOL

There are three reasons students can/should attend summer school.

- Credit Recovery
- To make up attendance seat time
- Voluntary interest (student financial responsibility \$225)
- College credits (student has full financial responsibility)

For all students wishing or needing to take summer school, please request your course by [filling out this form, ASAP](#). Registration begins May 5th, and many classes fill.

Additionally, students will attend a summer school orientation during the school day on May 14th, and will need to complete the [online learning agreement](#). For more information, please reference the summer school board by the front office. Students who are recommended summer school for credit reasons will receive a letter with specific information via USPS this week!

In this newsletter
you can find
information about:

Summer School

ICAP
Implementation

Resources

Advising Events

Online Course
Options

Dolores High School Advising (continued)



ICAP Implementation

Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, CDE will require all schools to submit their ICAP plans as part of the state reporting process.

Districts have been provided with middle and high school standards, that are being used to develop our plan and seminar curriculums (see below for more info.)

Once finalized this summer, the plan and grade level checklists will be made available to all students and parents.

From the CDE website:

"ICAP is a multi-year process that intentionally guides students and families in the exploration of career, academic and postsecondary opportunities."

"With the support of adults, students develop the awareness, knowledge, attitudes, and skills to create their own meaningful and powerful pathways to Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness (PWR)."



Advisory/Seminar

Beginning this fall, students will attend a shortened period, grade level specific seminar each day. Our ICAP curriculum team will be working through the summer to complete lesson planning to make this content relevant and meaningful for our 6-12 grade students.

Middle school students will continue with Bear Time, implementing the new ICAP curriculum. For high school, Seminars will be a .25 credit, grade bearing course each semester, beginning with freshman seminar, and culminating with senior seminar. Seminar advisors will maintain the same students throughout high school, providing a homeroom environment for each student.



ICAP Meetings

Each year, HS students will meet with the Academic Advisor to review and update their 4-year plans and track credit progress toward graduation.

During these meetings, discussions will take place around interests, strengths, and skills in an effort to identify and develop potential academic and career goals for after high school, and the courses, opportunities, and tasks to help them accomplish those goals.

Parents are always invited to attend these meetings, and a calendar invite will go out to students and parents to sign up for a time slot about a month before grade level meetings take place.

Dolores High School Advising (continued)

Resources



Advising Handbook

This year, we published the Academic Advising Handbook to continue our efforts to provide consistency and equity in our programming.

[Selecting Courses](#)
[Postsecondary Readiness](#)
[Academic & School Policies](#)



Course Catalog

Click on the link above to access the current course catalog.

This document has a wealth of information for each class including prerequisites, type of credit awarded, course descriptions, and more!



“Class of...”

Each graduating class has their own Academic Advising Google Classroom. This site is full of assignments, resources, and announcements relevant to that grade level. Make sure students are regularly checking, and that parents have guardian accounts set up!



DSD Site

If you're looking for general district information, school board policies or meetings, the assessment calendar, the Bears Athletics page, or anything else “Dolores”, visit the district website by [clicking here](#).

Academic Advising Site

This site is full of information and resources, sorted by tabs, including:

- College Resources
 - Financial Aid
 - Student Athletes
 - College Planning
- Scholarships
- Concurrent Enrollment
 - ASCENT
- Opportunities
- Scheduling
- Testing
 - SAT
 - ASVAB
 - CMAS
 - NWEA
- Military

Dolores High School Advising (continued)



Advising Events

We have an exciting schedule of advising events to help both students and parents navigate the high school experience, and to prepare and plan for the future! Be on the lookout for a calendar and more information for each event. For now, sessions will include:

- Freshman Bootcamp - August
- Open House
- Grade Level Orientations
- Preparing for College
- FAFSA Night
- Scholarships
- Assessments

Online Course Options

As a rural school with a small staff, we cannot offer the same variety of core and elective courses that a larger district can. In an effort to expose students to the widest array of options and interests possible, we partner with online learning institutions. When we do not offer courses you're looking for, don't forget to think about online course options.

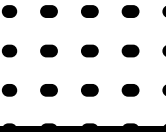
- HS Courses
 - Core (Graduation requirements must be taken in person with our teachers)
 - Elective
 - AP (Advanced Placement)
- College Courses

Thank you for reading!

CHERI WALKER	ACADEMIC ADVISOR
Academic Advising Site	cwalker@dolores.k12.co.us

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!



Safe2Tell Colorado Initiative

