

September 2025



Dolores School District

Newsletter

Superintendent Alesa Reed

Dolores School District RE-4A



Dear Dolores Families and Community Members,
What an incredible start to the 2025-2026 school year! As we settle into our September rhythm, I am continually amazed by the resilience, dedication, and positive spirit that define our Dolores community. Our students have returned with enthusiasm, our staff is energized and ready to inspire, and our families continue to support us in countless ways.

Construction Progress and Campus Updates

Our building project continues to advance steadily, and we appreciate your patience as we navigate this exciting phase of improvement. Micropiles are being drilled routinely this month. These micropiles are the first piece of the foundation for the new high school. The new concrete work on our stanchions is completed, enhancing both safety and the visual appeal of our campus. While we continue to adjust traffic patterns and maintain enhanced safety protocols, our community's flexibility and understanding have made these transitions remarkably smooth.

Fall sports are underway and we are happy to announce that new overflow bleachers are coming to our football field soon!

New Language Arts Program Success

Our new comprehensive language arts program for grades 6-12 has launched successfully! Teachers report that students are already engaging more deeply with reading and writing activities. The carefully selected curriculum is strengthening communication skills and preparing our students for future academic and career success.

Dolores School District Important Dates

September 8: Board of Education Meeting, District Office Board Room, 6:00 p.m.

September 12: Staff Professional Development

September 18: Fall Picture Day

September 22: Board Workshop/Policy Mtg, District Office Boardroom, 6:00 p.m.

September 26: Staff Professional Development

September 29: Homecoming Week Begins

Superintendent (continued)

Staff Spotlight

Alfonso Goad - Facilities Director

We want to take a moment to recognize our Facilities Director, Alfonso Goad, for his extraordinary dedication during our building project phase:

- Keeps Things Moving - Maintains operations despite constant necessary interruptions from contractors, including weekly meeting responsibilities
- Problem Solver - Navigates daily challenges while being pulled in multiple directions
- School Ready Champion - Working tirelessly to ensure our buildings are ready for students
- Behind-the-Scenes Hero - Your efforts may not always be visible, but they are deeply appreciated

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to creating safe, functional learning spaces for our students and staff.

Mark Baxter - Technology Director

We want to recognize our Technology Director, Mark Baxter, for his extraordinary dedication to keeping our district running smoothly:

- Always Available - Thank you for making yourself available even when off contract
- Willing to Help - Your readiness to support staff and administration doesn't go unnoticed
- Extra Mile Mentality - Your commitment extends far beyond job descriptions
- Community Builder - You strengthen our Dolores family through your generous spirit

Thank you for all your behind-the-scenes work to keep us up and running technologically. Your efforts enable teaching and learning to happen seamlessly every day.

Kady Meyer - Middle School Educator

Kady Meyer's exceptional dedication to her students and school community does not go unrecognized. Educators like Kady, who willingly serve on committees and provide support to students beyond regular hours, are invaluable to the success of the middle school. Her commitment to creating a supportive environment during planning periods and outside school hours demonstrates a profound dedication to student success and a collaborative school culture.

Thank you for all you do!

Superintendent (continued)

Family Engagement Opportunities

We believe that strong partnerships between home and school create the best outcomes for students. Watch for upcoming opportunities to get involved, including:

- Volunteer opportunities in classrooms and with special events
- Community service projects
- Volunteer opportunities through district committees
- Athletic and fine arts events

A Shoutout to our Students

I was in the store the other day during student lunchtime, and I noticed a lot of student activity. I decided to hang around, chatting with the students and observing them. I was impressed by how our high school students conducted themselves in public, away from campus. I heard minimal inappropriate language, and the students seemed positive and upbeat. I felt a great deal of pride in our students, their conduct, how they treated each other, and how they interacted in public. I have no doubt our MS and elementary students' behavior would be similar. We have much to be proud of in our Dolores Community.

Alesa Reed

Dolores School District RE-4A

Email:areed@dolores.k12.co.us

Director Valiena Rosenkrance

Teddy Bear Preschool



Families, we have had a great start to our year!

We had an amazing turnout to our Parent Orientation where we shared important details of drop off and pick up, riding the bus, classroom schedules, and communication details. Parents met with their child's teacher and got familiar with the classroom.

Our start to the year has been very smooth because all of you! Thank you for your continued support and understanding of our policies and schedules. You are very much appreciated!

Last year the children planted an edible garden, they are now picking and eating blackberries. The returning children from last year were so excited the first day of school to see that their plants/garden had really grown. We will start our monthly Garden lessons this month with Ms. Karelia.

Teddy Bear Preschool (continued)



Toward the end of last school year, the graduating children were asked what they wanted to be when they grew up and we had several children say, “a garden person”!



Our annual visit to the Canyon of The Ancients Museum will take place this month. The children enjoy the hands-on activities. The museum staff are wonderful with our small children and plan appropriate activities for their age.



will be working with the children to complete Ages and Stages: 3 screeners with the children. The screener is a tool used to monitor young children's development and identify potential delays in areas like communication, gross and fine motor skills, problem-solving, and personal-social skills. Teachers use the results as a baseline for each student. We plan individually for each student and meet them where they are.

Please as always, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact your child's teacher or Valiena (970-739-4244). We have an open door policy and urge you to stop in at any time to see all the learning your child is involved in.

Principal Amanda Hill

Dolores Elementary School



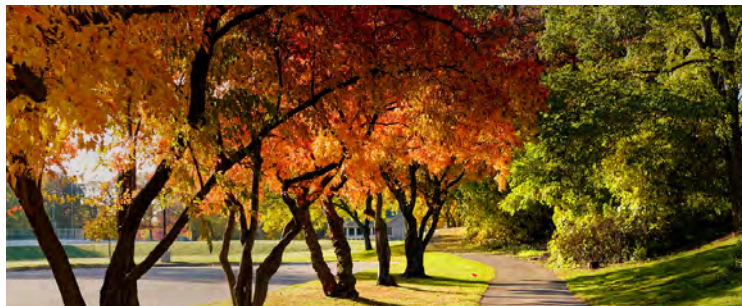
Dear Families,

As we step into September, we welcome the start of the “BER Months”—a special time of year that brings cooler air, changing leaves, and the excitement of fall traditions. This season is filled with opportunities for learning, growth, and connection both in and out of the classroom. Please remember to send your child

with a sweatshirt or light jacket for that morning recess time.

We’re looking forward to a wonderful season ahead, filled with memorable events, classroom adventures, and the strong partnership we share with you—our school families.

Here’s to a beautiful fall and a fantastic start to the school year!



Outdoor Adventures Ahead!

We’re **so excited** for our **Kindergarten** and **3rd Grade** students, who will be taking a special field trip to our local mountains this month!



A huge **THANK YOU** to the **Montezuma Inspire Coalition** for partnering us with the **San Juan Mountains Association** to provide these incredible outdoor learning experiences. Our students are lucky to live and learn in such a beautiful part of the world! Parents please keep an eye out for communication from these teachers! This is a great volunteer opportunity!

Dolores Elementary School (continued)

Little Bear Pride During Testing Week!

Over the last three weeks, ALL students have completed:

DIBELS Reading Test

NWEA Reading Test

NWEA Math Test

We are SO proud of our students for showing **Little Bear PRIDE** by staying focused, taking their time, and doing their very best. 🏆💪 Way to go, scholars! Student reports will be sent home soon and students will be creating goals around their data!



Smooth Dismissals — Thanks to You!

We're THRILLED to report our average **dismissal time is just 8–10 minutes** — a HUGE improvement from day one!

We kindly ask that **families avoid picking students up early**. Leaving even 5–15 minutes early can cause them to miss valuable Science and Social Studies time, including hands-on experiments and fun projects!

Let's make every minute count!

Here's to an awesome September full of learning, laughter, and adventure!



Partners in Learning,
Amanda Hill – Principal

Dolores Elementary School Important Dates

September 8: Board of Education Meeting, District Office Board Room, 6:00 p.m.

September 17: PTA Meeting 4:15 PM @ School

September 18: Pickles & Popcorn Sale \$1 Each

Principal Mary Weiss

Dolores Middle School



What a fascinating start to the school year! Thanks to our students and families for adjusting with us as we implement a new scheduling system, new drop-off and pick-up areas, new procedures and changes to lunch times. Through it all, our kids and families have been amazing—patient, flexible, and supportive.

A special thank-you goes to **Amanda Higgins**, who dedicated countless hours to building the master schedule and entering each student's classes by hand. We also worked closely with parents to address concerns and did our best to honor student requests. Additional adjustments for some students may be revisited at the end of the semester, if needed. Despite the challenges, our commitment remains the same: to adapt, problem-solve, and provide the best possible learning experience.

I am also very proud of our **attendance percentages** this year. Each day we track attendance, and at the end of each month, the grade with the best attendance will earn an extra recess—a fun way to encourage consistency and responsibility.

With the ongoing construction, the middle school is planning several educational field trips this year. A big thank-you to **Mrs. Rylee**, who is leading the planning and organizing of these exciting opportunities for our students.

Finally, we are excited to introduce **Bear Time**, a new 25-minute block of time after lunch. During Bear Time, students focus on their **ICAP (Individual Career and Academic Plan)** two days a week, **Character First** one day a week, and **WIN (What I Need)** one day a week.

What are the ICAP and Character First programs?

ICAP

An **Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP)** is a student-driven, ongoing process that helps students:

- Explore their interests, strengths, and goals.
- Connect their schoolwork to career and college opportunities.
- Build a roadmap for life after graduation.

ICAP is a living portfolio that students update throughout middle and high school.

Key Components of ICAP

- Career exploration → Interest inventories, career clusters, job shadows.
- Academic planning → Course selections that align with career/college goals.
- Postsecondary options → College, trade school, military, apprenticeships.

Dolores Middle School (continued)

- Workplace readiness → Resume writing, interview prep, soft skills.
- Personal reflection → Students track progress, strengths, and growth.

Character First

Is a program that focuses on helping students grow not only in academics, but also in the positive character traits that make them successful in life. We are focusing on building our school culture into becoming more **positive** and **respectful**.

It emphasizes teaching and modeling values such as:

- Respect – treating others the way you want to be treated.
- Responsibility – owning your actions and choices.
- Kindness – showing care and compassion to others.
- Perseverance – working hard and not giving up.
- Integrity – being honest and doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.

Why it matters for students?

Builds a positive school culture where students feel safe, respected, and valued.

Helps students develop the life skills they'll need beyond school – in college, careers, and relationships.

Reinforces what many families are already teaching at home.

Encourages students to see that who they are is just as important as what they know.

Team Time at the Middle School

Our middle school teachers meet regularly in Team Time to discuss student progress, learning goals, and important topics that support student success. This also provides a wonderful opportunity for parents who would like to meet with several of their child's teachers at once.

If you would like to schedule a Team Time meeting, please call the school office, and we will be happy to help arrange it.

Team Time Schedules:

- 6th Grade Team – 1:00 PM to 1:30 PM
- 7th & 8th Grade Teams (combined) – 8:50 AM to 9:30 AM

Principal Matt Walker

Dolores High School



Greetings all,

We have had a very CONSTRUCTIVE start of the school year made possible by all reading this newsletter. After visiting classrooms in August, I observed that our students were ready to learn. The level of student engagement in lessons was the highest I've seen since I started working in Dolores. This goes

back to our teachers and paraprofessionals creating a learning environment that fosters mutual respect.

Both DSD Maintenance and Jaynes, our general contractor, have been quick to address areas of concern for staff and students to minimize distractions.

Lastly, the partnership with our families and community creates bonds that strengthen the value of learning in our community. Thank you for your investment and continued support.

Activities Recap:

- Cross Country hosted their annual Bear Chase meet at Boggy Draw. The boys team finished second. The team has high expectations for the year and are eyeing a post season run, pun intended. Emilyynn Hill is the **only** female participant in high school this year after the departure of a strong senior group last year, but is looking to improve upon her state qualifying year last year. See more in the August 24, Journal Article.
- Our Cheerleaders are bursting with school spirit and pride.
- Volleyball participated in a tournament in Crested Butte
- Student Government got to work week one of the school year with a quick turnaround for the planning of Homecoming Week.
- Football traveled to Walsenburg to play Justice High School out of Denver. Adams State allowed the team to use their field for practice along with a tour of some of their facilities.
- Knowledge Bowl has begun practice and their first meet is on September 22, in Dove Creek.
- FFA had several students participate in the MCFA showing projects ranging from rabbits to steers as well as home goods and foods. District competitions will begin in October.
- The Dolores Bands are bringing the spirit this year. We will all get to grooving with their participation in games and events!

Dolores High School (continued)

Will Nielson, Dolores High School Senior, takes the Military Oath of Office. He will be joining the Navy once he completes his senior year at Dolores.



District Nurse Brandy Dunn Health and Wellness



September Is National Suicide Prevention Month

Mental health is just as important as physical health. If your child is experiencing anxiety, depression, or emotional distress, we are here to help.



Please reach out to your school counselor or nurse. You can also contact:

☎ Colorado Crisis Services: 1-844-493-TALK (8255)

📱 Text "TALK" to 38255

🌐 Visit coloradocrisiservices.org

School Health Checklist

✓ Immunizations:

Colorado state law requires up-to-date immunizations, or an exemption, for school attendance. If your child has received recent vaccines or you have an exemption certificate, please provide those records to your school nurse.

*Please note: non-medical exemptions must be submitted each school year.

[CO School-required Vaccines](#)

[Exemptions to School-required Vaccines](#)

Health and Wellness (continued)

✓ Annual Health Forms:

If you have not done so, please fill out the Student Health Information form. This form will provide information on allergies, medications, any significant health concerns AND allows you to choose which over-the-counter medications you give permission to be given to your child at school.

[Student Health Form](#)

🧐 Seasonal Illness Reminders

[How sick is too sick?](#)

Cold and flu season begins ramping up in the fall. Help us keep our school community healthy:

- Keep your child home if they have a fever over 100.4°F, vomiting, diarrhea, or other signs of illness.
- Teach your child to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or elbow.
- Encourage frequent handwashing with soap and water.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns!

Brandy Dunn – District Nurse



Academic Advisor Cheri Walker

Dolores High School



What a robust and eventful start to the year! Students and teachers are engaged in challenging content and activities in classrooms, and our new ICAP curriculum has hit the ground running in grade level seminars from 6th–12th grade. Seniors have worked through graduation credit audits, juniors are already attending ICAP meetings, and there are a number of events planned for the fall. **Please review the two documents**

below for more information on the fall advising schedule, how to request an appointment, and the September family event, “Preparing for College.” Here’s to a great fall semester!

Dolores High School Advising (continued)

Fall 2025

Advising Schedule

ICAP Meetings

Seniors	August
Juniors	September
Sophomores	October
Freshmen	November
8th Graders	May

Students can sign up for 1:1 meetings in their "class of" google classrooms.

Meetings are 30 minutes and include HS course planning, and preparing for postsecondary goals.

General Advising

By Appointment Only

Students, staff or parents wishing to schedule an advising appointment will complete the google form below.

Depending on the nature of the request, an appointment, phone call, or email will follow the request.

<https://forms.gle/EnilUYDaiPhr37k29>

Fall Events

Grade Level Orientations	Seminars
CDLS & PCC Orientations	August
Preparing for College Night	September
FAFSA Night	October

Dolores High School Advising (continued)

Dolores High School



Preparing for **COLLEGE**

High school students and their parents are invited to join us to learn more about how to prepare for college.

Topics will include:

- Grade Level Timelines
- Defining Admissions Criteria
- Current Admissions Trends
- College Entrance Exams (SAT)
- The College Application
- Choosing a College & Major
- Paying for College



September 25th, 2025



6:00 pm



Dolores HS Library

PLENTY OF HANDOUTS

Helpful Vocabulary
Timelines
Financial Planning
and more!



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](#)

[2025 - 2026 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

