

October 2025



Dolores School District

Newsletter

Superintendent Alesa Reed

Dolores School District RE-4A



Dear Dolores Families and Community Members, Living in Colorado gives us many opportunities for seasonal changes. I love this time of year because of the changes in our countryside and the many events at the school. Please read the principal's newsletters and check out the events calendar for all of the Homecoming festivities.

Welcome Board of Education new members

I wanted to welcome Lia Hooper and Michael Rime as Board of Education members starting in November. We had two seats open and two candidates who met the requirements for members of our local Board of Education. The current board asked that we research the feasibility of not paying for an election as we had the appropriate number of candidates. This is called vote by acclimation. These candidates will be sworn in in the November meeting.

We want to thank Clay Tallmadge and Casey McClellan for their dedication and thoughtful service over their many years of service to the district. They have been remarkable members of our Board of Education.

Construction Progress and Campus Updates

I want to remind you that we have a building website that gives information from the contractors and timelines with progress. doloresschools.org/build

Jaynes should be done with the HS micropile drilling in approx 2 weeks. At that time they will move to the Ag building area to start that drilling. We sure appreciate all the construction team does to support our school.

Family Engagement Opportunities

- Our district participates in 2 SCAP (Student Centered Accountability Program) surveys a year. One opens in October and the other one starts in February. The surveys are identical and meant to show growth over time. Please take the time to fill out the survey. Our District Accountability Committee works to analyze the survey results, then we meet to discuss goals based on the data collected.

Superintendent (continued)

- Parent Teacher Conferences are this month. Enjoy the time you have with your child's teacher.
- I wanted to draw your attention to a ballot measure for school meal state support. Please read the measures carefully in the blue book that was sent out by the county.

Alesa Reed

Dolores School District RE-4A

Dolores School District Important Dates

- October 1:** Homecoming activities (see principal schedules and [events calendar](#) for a complete schedule of this week's activities)
- October 2:** JV, Varsity Volleyball Homecoming game vs. Mancos, JV game begins 4:30 p.m. with Varsity game to follow
- October 3:** Cross Country Meet @ Delta
- October 3:** HS football game vs. Sargent, 6:00 p.m.
- October 1-31:** SCAP Family Survey window, please take the time to fill out the survey for each school your child attends
- October 13:** Board of Education Meeting, District Office Board Room, 6:00 p.m.
- October 16:** Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- October 17:** Parent Teacher Conferences 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- October 22:** National Honor Society - Blood Drive
- October 27:** Board of Education Workshop
- October 28:** NMSQT state assessment for Jr's

Director Valiena Rosenkrance

Teddy Bear Preschool



Dear families,

Such a busy month! Our trip to the Canyon of the Ancients was just amazing, the children and adults all had a great informative and fun day. The children learned about how the people before us lived. They were able to see the homes, bowls, cups, moccasins, weapons, and jewelry of the Ancients.

We had a tremendous amount of family involvement for this activity, Thank You Families!!!



Teddy Bear Preschool (continued)



Homecoming Spirit Week: September 29 – October 2

Teddy Bear really does enjoy spirit week! The children and staff both enjoy dressing for the occasion. We are proud of our school district and we like to show it!!

Monday-Teacher Twin Day, Children Crazy Hair/Hat Day

Tuesday-Super Hero Day

Wednesday-Bikers vs. Surfers Day

Thursday-Bear Wear/School Colors, Black/Red



Ms Karen & Ms Evalyn

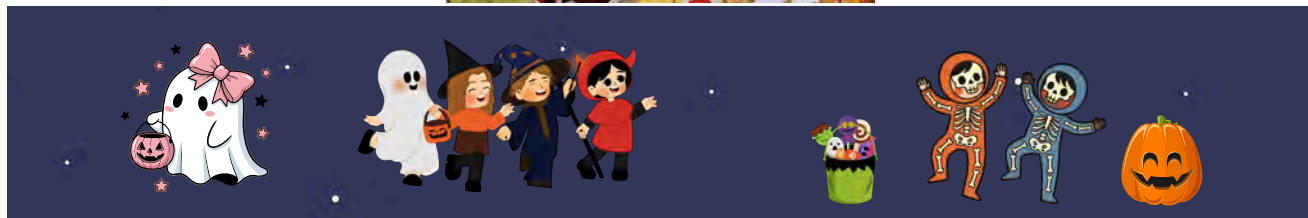


Ms. Pam, Ms. Evalyn, Ms. Karen, Ms. Debbie
Ms. MaryAnn, Jaxton, Ms. Nori, Ms. Nichole, Ms. Teresa

Teddy Bear Preschool (continued)

Teddy Bear Fall Festival

Teddy Bear is busy preparing for their annual Fall Festival, On October 24 from 4:00–6:00. We will have games, prizes and dinner for everyone. Please join us for some Spooky Fun! On October 30th we will be taking a field trip to the Vista Grande Nursing Home. A tradition we share with the residents spanning the 30 years that I have been here. The children dress up, and sing songs for the residents, they give them handmade gifts and Trick or Treat their way out the door to the bus. The residents really enjoy seeing the small children. It is our way of giving back to the community and the residents themselves.



Teddy Bear Preschool Important Dates

- October 1:** Homecoming Spirit Week - Dress up, Bikers vs. Surfers
- October 2:** Homecoming Spirit Week - Dress up, Bear Wear School Colors (Black/Red)
- October 24:** Fall Festival, Teddy Bear Preschool 4:00 p.m - 6:00 p.m.
- October 30:** Field Trip, Vista Grande Nursing Home

Principal Amanda Hill

Dolores Elementary School



Dear Families,

Fall has officially arrived, and our mornings are beginning to feel crisp and chilly. Please make sure your children come prepared with jackets or sweaters for those brisk starts to the day. One of the many things we love about our small school is the uplifting climate and culture that connects all of our

students, from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Recently, our **high school cross country team** greeted elementary students in the morning, making sure they started their day with smiles and encouragement for a great day of learning. This month, we look forward to welcoming our **high school cheerleaders** to continue this tradition of support and positivity.

Dolores Elementary School (continued)



We would like to invite all parents and guardians to attend **Parent-Teacher Conferences** on **Thursday, October 16th from 4:00–7:00 p.m.** and **Friday, October 17th from 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.** These conferences are an important opportunity for you to connect with your child's teacher, celebrate progress, and discuss goals for continued growth. When schools and families work together, students are more successful academically, socially, and emotionally. We encourage every parent to attend and partner with us in supporting your child's learning.

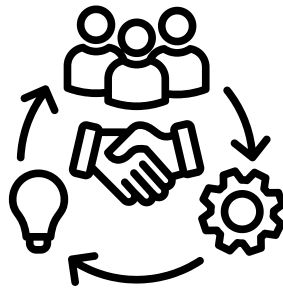


On **Thursday, October 16th at 8:15 a.m.**, we will hold our **First Quarter Character Assembly**. During this time, we will recognize students with perfect attendance, 4th and 5th grade students who are on the honor roll, and those who have demonstrated our character traits of **acceptance/diversity** and **teamwork/friendship**. In addition, our **1st and 2nd grade** students will showcase their talents in a special Music and PE performance. We hope you will join us in celebrating the accomplishments of our students!

I also want to take a moment to highlight the **outstanding instruction** happening in our classrooms every day. Our teachers are dedicated to ensuring that every student is growing and achieving, not only during lessons but throughout the entire school day.

Dolores Elementary School (continued)

Even during transitions in the hallways, teachers are engaging students in meaningful ways, reinforcing skills, and fostering positive habits. We are proud of the commitment our staff shows to making every moment count for our learners.



We are also excited to announce our **newly elected Student Council officers!** Congratulations to **Braxton, President; Brinlee, Vice President; Madison, Secretary; Kale, Treasurer; and Jose, Historian.** We are eager to see their leadership skills flourish and look forward to the positive impact they will have on our school community. We know this group will accomplish wonderful things that benefit the entire student body.

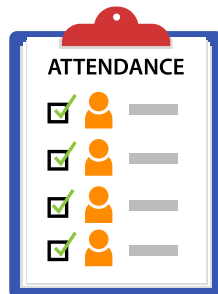


Dolores Elementary School (continued)

October is also a busy month for **field trips**. We are grateful for the many outdoor learning opportunities available to our students right here in our community. Our **4th graders** will attend their annual trip to **Crow Canyon** to explore Colorado history, **3rd graders** will continue their study of animal adaptations at the **Durango Nature Center**, and our **Kindergarteners** will observe seasonal changes during their visit to **Transfer**. These experiences bring classroom learning to life and provide lasting memories for our students.



Finally, I want to highlight the importance of **good attendance**. Regular attendance ensures that students don't miss valuable instructional time and remain connected to their peers and teachers. October is also an especially important month because of the **October Count**, which determines school funding across Colorado. Each student's presence makes a difference, not only for their own learning, but also for the resources that support all of our students. Thank you for making attendance a top priority in your family.



We are looking forward to a wonderful October filled with learning, growth, and celebration. Thank you for your continued support of our students and school.

Partners in Learning,

Amanda Hill- Principal

Dolores Elementary School Important Dates

October 16: First Quarter Character Assembly, Check in at the DES Office, 8:15 a.m.

October 16: Parent Teacher Conferences, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

October 17: Parent Teacher Conferences, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Principal Mary Weiss

Dolores Middle School



Dear Dolores Families,

We are excited to invite you to our upcoming **Middle School Showcase** taking place on October 16, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and October 17, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The showcase will be held in conjunction with **Parent-Teacher Conferences**! As you come in to meet with teachers, you will also have the chance to

walk through the middle school and see a variety of student projects on display. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the hard work and creativity of our students while connecting with teachers about your child's progress.

Every Day Matters – Let's Work Together for Great Attendance

We are so thankful for the partnership we share with you in helping our students grow, learn, and thrive. One of the most powerful ways you can support your child's success is by making sure they are at school every day. When students come to school consistently, they feel more connected to their classmates and teachers, keep up with lessons more easily, and build the confidence that comes with being part of the learning community. Even missing just a couple of days each month can add up quickly and make it harder for students to stay on track.

We know life can get busy, and unexpected challenges happen – and when they do, we are here to help. Together, we can work on solutions that support your child's attendance and keep them moving forward.

Our goal is to see every child here, every day, ready to learn – because every day really does make a difference. Thank you for being such an important part of our school family and for working with us to make school a place where students want to be.

Darryl Bellamy – Guest Speaker October 9 for grades 8 – 12

I'm excited to let you know that our school will be hosting Darryl Bellamy Jr., founder of Fearless Inside, for an upcoming presentation with our students. Darryl is a motivational speaker, researcher, and creator of the Fear Intelligence™ framework, and his work helps students face fear, uncertainty, and self-doubt with courage and resilience.

Here's what you and your child can expect from his presentation:

What Fearless Inside Talks About

- Collecting & Understanding Fears
- Fear Intelligence™ Framework
- Leadership, Confidence, & Resilience
- Belonging and Connection

Dolores Middle School (continued)

We believe this presentation will be very valuable for our students. It aligns with our goals of supporting their emotional health, building resilience, and helping them grow into confident, empathetic young leaders.

Red Ribbon Week – Celebrating Healthy Choices at Our Middle School ♥

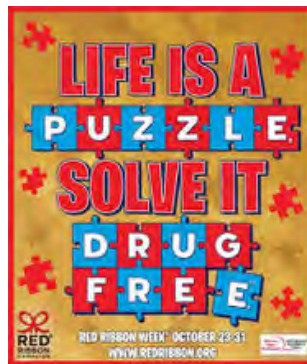
October 23 – October 31, our middle school will join schools across the nation in celebrating Red Ribbon Week, the largest drug-prevention campaign in the country. This important week raises awareness about living drug-free and encourages students to make safe, healthy choices that will help them reach their goals.



Throughout the week, our middle school will take part in a variety of activities, including a pep rally, hallway decorations, themed dress-up days, and a school dance. These events are designed to build school spirit while reinforcing the message that our choices matter.

Red Ribbon Week is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a school community to support our students and encourage positive decision-making. Together, we can inspire students to say YES to healthy living and NO to drugs!

Thank you for your support as we celebrate this important week with our students.



Dolores Middle School Important Dates

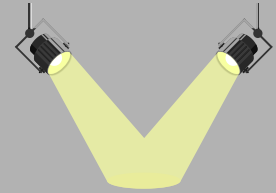
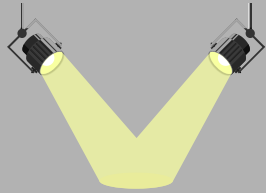
October 9: Guest Speaker Darryl Bellamy (8th grade only)

October 16: Parent Teacher Conferences, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

October 17: Parent Teacher Conferences, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

October 23 - 31: Red Ribbon Week

Dolores Middle School (continued)



Congratulations to our September 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 6th grade team would like to recognize Miss **Aspen Brafford** as your student of the month. Aspen is a phenomenal student, both inside and out of the classroom. In the class, Miss Brafford is engaging, always on task, and is always eager to share in discussions. She maintains straight As and cares for her grades. Outside the classroom, Aspen is involved in many different things. She is always one to say "Hello" and has the personality to be noticed. We, as her teachers, appreciate her creativity and work ethic



7th grade student **Sara Halcomb** is a conscientious and hardworking student who consistently puts forth her best effort in everything she does. She is dedicated to her studies and demonstrates kindness and respect toward both her peers and her teachers. Sara's positive attitude, reliability, and caring nature make her a true role model for others.



Congratulations to 8th grade student **Easton Goodall**, our Student of the Month! Easton has shown tremendous growth and determination in his learning. His impressive improvement on his most recent NWEA assessments reflects Easton's commitment to working hard, staying focused, and challenging himself to do his best. His dedication sets a positive example for his peers and demonstrates the power of perseverance. We are proud to celebrate Easton's success and look forward to seeing him continue to shine!

Secondary Counselor Amanda Higgins

Dolores Secondary Schools



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Higgins- School Counselor



Happy October,
October is National Bullying Prevention Month.

When children experience difficulties in their social interactions, the behaviour is often quickly labelled as bullying. This assumption is made not only by children themselves but also by adults. The term bullying is widely used in many contexts, from schools to workplaces, and children in particular apply it often. However, in my conversations with them, I find that genuine bullying is actually less common than it seems.

That's why it's important to clearly distinguish between different types of negative or concerning behaviour among children. By doing so, educators, parents, and caregivers can respond in ways that are both accurate and effective.



Amanda Higgins Secondary School
Counselor
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ahiggins@dolores.k12.co.us

Teasing • Everyone is having fun • No one is getting hurt • Everyone is participating	Conflict • No one is having fun • There is a possible solution to the disagreement • Equal balance of power
Mean Moment • Someone is being hurt on purpose • Reaction to a strong feeling or emotion • An isolated event (does not happen regularly)	Bullying • Someone is being hurt on purpose • Repetitive (happens regularly) • Imbalance of power

Resources

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/dealing-with-bullying/>

<https://www.pacer.org/bullying/info/questions-answered/conflict-vs-bullying/>

<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/bullying/>



October Happenings

- Classroom Lessons
 - 6th- Spookley the Square Pumpkin
 - 7th grade- Be Kind
 - 8th grade- Be Kind
- Colorado School Counselor Conference
- Fearless Presentation
- Parent / Teacher Conferences



Principal Matt Walker

Dolores High School



September was a busy month at DHS, and we have plenty to celebrate. Students took the NWEA MAP test, which measures how they're doing compared to other students across the country. This year, 73% of our students scored in the average to above-average range. That is a step up from 66% two years ago. We're also seeing better attendance and stronger focus in the classroom.

Our staff has worked hard to stay steady and committed to teaching, and that effort is showing in the results.

Activities are off to a strong start as well. Volleyball, football, cross country, Knowledge Bowl, FFA, cheer, drama, and band have all been busy. As September wraps up, competition will pick up, and students will be preparing for contests and auditions. Of course, Homecoming is right around the corner. It's one of those weeks that students will remember long after high school. Looking ahead to October, many of our teams will be recognizing Cancer Awareness Month, acknowledging the impact it has had on families while also promoting the importance of health checkups.

We are also highlighting Bullying Prevention this month. Our policy, like many others across the state, is built around educating students and addressing bullying directly. Not every report fits the textbook definition of bullying, but they all have something in common, respect is missing. Life can be tough, and we want our students to develop the resilience they'll need to face challenges. At the same time, as a school and a community, we can make that road easier by focusing on each other's strengths instead of perceived weaknesses. Parents have an important role in this too, guiding kids as they learn how to make decisions and manage their impulses.

When I look back at September, what stands out most is growth—academic growth, growth in activities, and growth in character. That doesn't happen without teamwork between our students, staff, parents, and community. Thank you for being part of it, and I'm excited to see what we can accomplish together as we move into October.



Athletic Director Travis Rantz

Athletics/Activities



Fall Sports Update

The fall season is well underway, and our student-athletes are off to an outstanding start!

Middle School Athletics

- Football: The team will compete in the League Championship on October 1, 2025, in Mancos at 5:00 PM.
- Volleyball: Currently holding an impressive 9–1 record, the team is on track to host the League Championship games here in Dolores.
- Cross Country: Our runners continue to excel, achieving personal bests and placing individually at competitions.

High School Athletics

- Football: The Bears are having a remarkable season and are in strong contention for a postseason appearance—something that has not been achieved in 20 years! October brings a challenging schedule, so we encourage everyone to come out and support the team.
- Volleyball: With only one loss so far, the Lady Bears are proving to be one of the top teams in Class 2A. The upcoming month will be exciting as they compete for a top seed in the state tournament. Go Lady Bears!
- Cross Country: The boys' team consistently finishes in the top three at meets, while both boys and girls are on pace to qualify individually for the State competition. The boys' team as a whole is also in contention for State qualification.

Looking Ahead

Basketball and Wrestling season is just around the corner. Please ensure that all physicals and required paperwork are completed prior to the first day of practice.

- Middle School Boys' Basketball: Season begins on October 8, 2025.



District Nurse Brandy Dunn

Health and Wellness



Happy Fall Dolores Families!

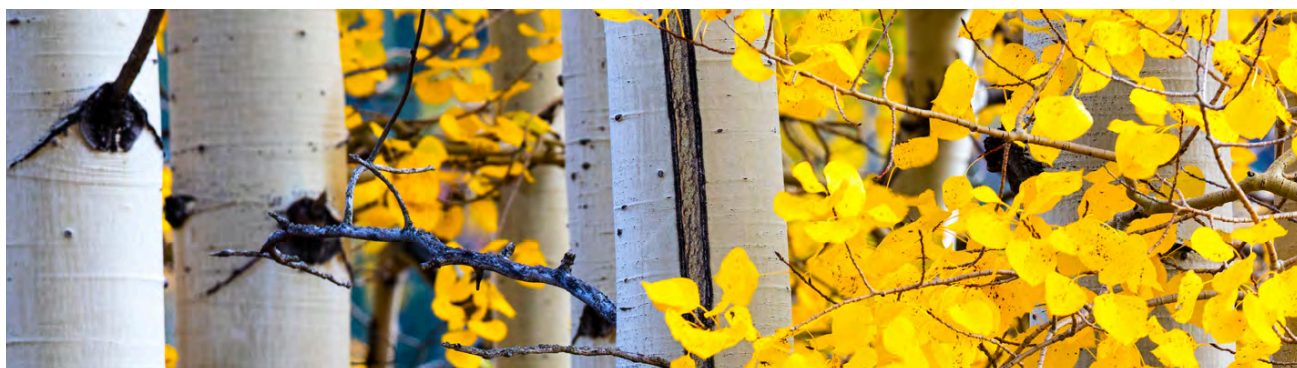
With cold and flu season upon us, good hand hygiene remains one of our best defenses. We'll be reinforcing proper handwashing techniques at school, and I encourage you to do the same at home. Covering coughs and sneezes

with an elbow or tissue is also crucial!

Is it [Cold or Flu?](#)

Tips to stay healthy:

- Stay hydrated • Stay active • Dress in layers • Wear sunscreen or a hat
- Have a warm drink • And my favorite: go for a drive to enjoy the fall colors!



Important Reminders:

- [School-required Vaccines](#) Please ensure your child's immunizations are up-to-date.
- [Vaccine Exemptions](#) Nonmedical exemptions must be submitted each year.
- [How Sick is too Sick?](#) Please keep your child home if they are experiencing symptoms of illness such as cough, fever (100.4°F or higher), vomiting, diarrhea, or a new, unexplained rash. They should be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication before returning to school.
- [Student Health Form](#) If not completed, please fill out the health questionnaire.

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



Fall is officially upon us!

Thank you to the students and parents who joined us in September for "Prepare for College Night". We will be offering sessions like these throughout the year, please come out and join us.

Sophomore ICAP meetings will take place this month, so don't forget to sign up, if you haven't already. [Here is the link to schedule your appointment.](#)

Juniors (and their parents) who signed up for PSAT NMSQT will be receiving information regarding this assessment soon, so check your email!

College application season has begun, and seniors are ready to submit FAFSA applications. See the flyer below for information on our FAFSA night. While anyone is welcome to attend to learn more about financial aid, we will finish our session by providing guidance to anyone who has not yet submitted their application.

*Application opens October 1st, and aid is given on a first-come, first-serve basis, so don't delay!





Contact the Dolores School District

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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

