

December 2025



Dolores School District

Newsletter

Superintendent Alesa Reed

Dolores School District RE-4A



Dear Dolores Families and Community Members,
December has arrived, can you believe it?

This month, I want to celebrate the outstanding contributions of our staff, share updates on campus improvements, and reflect on what makes our district thrive—the people who show up every day with commitment, creativity, and heart.

Celebrating Our Exceptional Staff

Throughout this newsletter, I want to highlight some of the remarkable individuals who go above and beyond to support our students and schools. These are people whose dedication often goes unnoticed but whose impact is immeasurable.

Lisa Baer (District-wide)

It is with great appreciation that we recognize Lisa Baer for her exceptional dedication and service to the Dolores School District. Mrs. Baer goes above and beyond every single day to ensure the needs of our students, teachers, and administrators are fully supported. Her commitment extends across numerous responsibilities throughout the district, all of which she fulfills with professionalism, consistency, and excellence.

In addition to her many duties, Mrs. Baer provides invaluable coaching and guidance to staff members who seek support with curriculum, instruction, or classroom management. Her willingness to assist others, paired with her deep knowledge and approachable nature, has had a meaningful impact on the success and confidence of our educators.

Mrs. Baer exemplifies what it means to be hardworking, dedicated, and flexible. Her positive influence is felt throughout the district, and our district is truly fortunate to have her on our team.

Kenia Reina (Elementary)

Kenia goes above and beyond each day, always stepping up to support groups of students with a positive attitude and a warm smile. She not only lifts our students and staff with her dedication, but also shares pieces of her culture through the wonderful treats she brings, making our school feel even more like a community.

Superintendent (continued)

Teresa Rosales (Preschool)

Teresa goes above and beyond for every student that she comes in contact with. Her passion is nurturing and growing her students and their families. She goes above and beyond to include her families in the classroom curriculum and ensures they know they are always welcome, and encouraged to participate in their children's classroom. Teresa's contagious laugh and booming voice can be heard above the children's laughter down the hallways!

Campus Improvement Updates

We're pleased to announce that the floor under the bleachers in the main gym has been freshly painted! This improvement may seem simple, but it definitely brightens our beloved gym.

New outdoor lighting outside the aux gym is coming soon. These lights were installed a few years ago, and all went out at once. Unfortunately, the bulbs can't be replaced, but the new lighting will be installed soon.

The maintenance team installed floor mats in our main gym this year. It has dramatically improved the cleanliness of the main gym and keeps our playing floor much cleaner. We are moving forward with installing floor mats in the auxiliary gym in preparation for winter.

Approaching the Christmas Break

Christmas break is approaching fast, and with it, the end of the fall semester. I was shocked at how fast this first semester has gone. Here are some highlights.

- Mr Monk, band, choir, and speakers from the Middle School and High School provided an exceptional Veterans Day presentation. We are so happy to honor our Veterans in this way, and our students keep getting better every year.
- Family involvement in conferences and school activities is strong. We have significant parent participation so far this year. Thank you!
- Bike park installed through a community effort.
- Back-to-school night was several months ago, but the parents and community turned out in remarkable ways to support the school.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at Dolores School District RE-4A!

Alesa Reed
Dolores School District RE-4A



Superintendent (continued)

Dolores School District Important Dates and Information

- December 6:** Ski and Outdoor Gear Swap, Dolores High School , 9:00a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- December 8:** Board of Education Meeting, District Office Board Room, 6:00 p.m.
- December 10:** Secondary Winter Music Program, Main Gym, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- December 15:** Winter Concert “Magic in the Mountains” (K-2), Main Gym, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- December 16:** Winter Concert “Magic in the Mountains” (3-5), Main Gym, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- December 17:** Preschool Winter Program
- December 18:** Last Day Before Winter Break
- December 19:** Begin Winter Break - No School
- January 5:** Staff Returns from Winter Break (No Students)
- January 6:** Students Return from Winter Break
- January 12:** Board of Education Meeting, District Office Board Room, 6:00 p.m.

Emergency Closures

Monitor local media and check doloresschools.org for weather-related closure announcements. The district also sends an email and a robocall to parents and staff in the case of a delayed start or school closure.

Director Valiena Rosenkrance

Teddy Bear Preschool



Dear families,
 I hope you had a fabulous Thanksgiving Break! I can't believe we are now in December with the Winter Break rapidly approaching. The children are so excited about the snow! PLEASE, send your children with snow gear daily, as we go outside for an hour at a time. Snow is so much more enjoyable when the children are warm.

Snow Delay or Snow Day/Cancellation

In addition to the district notifications for emergency closures, Teddy Bear Preschool will update families using the following:

- Facebook
- Bright Wheel app

In the event of a 2 hour delay, Teddy Bear Preschool will open at 9:30 a.m.



Teddy Bear Preschool (continued)

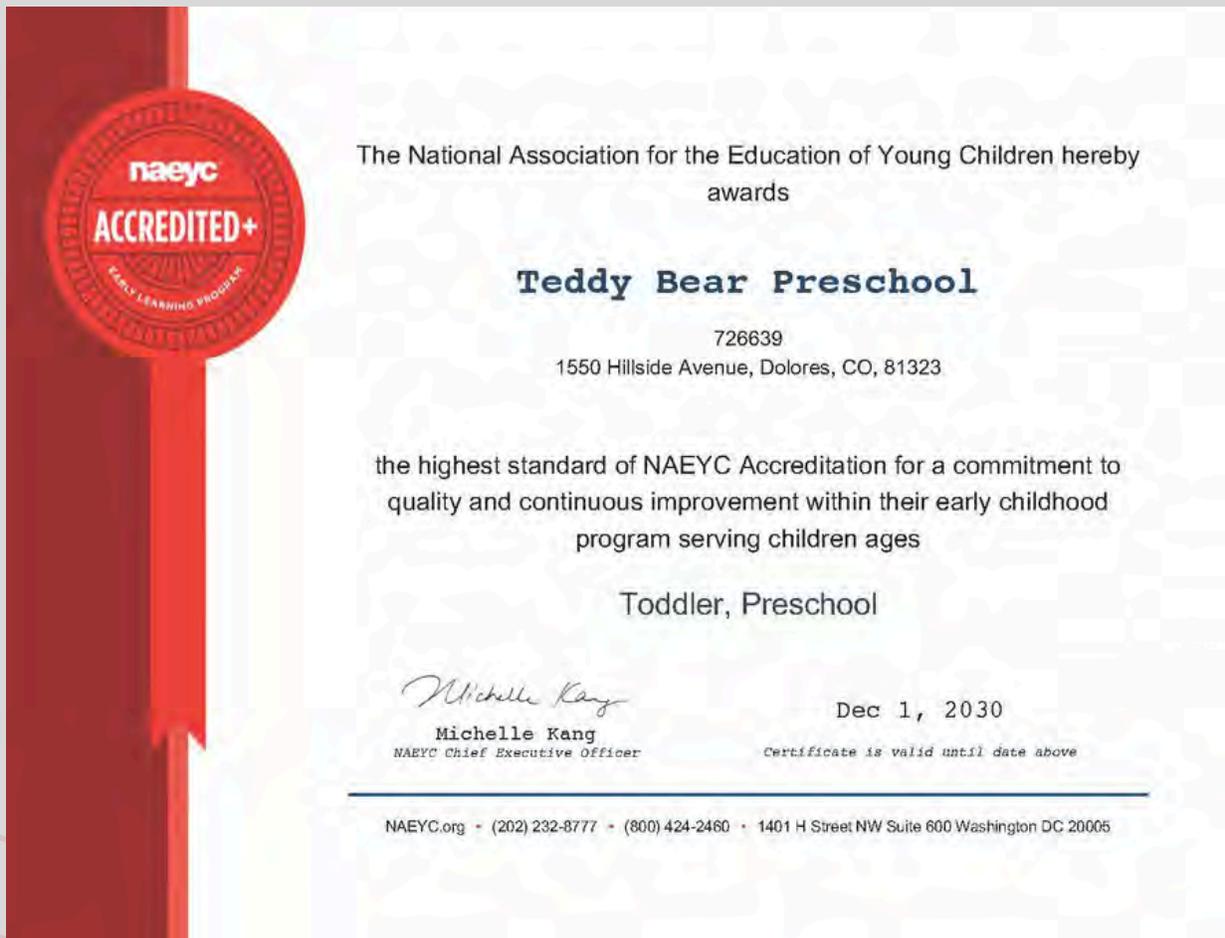
Teddy Bear Winter Program

Teddy Bear will host their annual Winter Program on December 17th in the Dolores High School Main Gym at 6:00 p.m. All toddlers and preschoolers will be participating in the program.



NAEYC Evaluation Update

The results are in! Teddy Bear Preschool has earned our **15th NAEYC accreditation!**



Teddy Bear Preschool (continued)

Winter Spirit Week

Our School Spirit is ALIVE! Join us for some fun, the little's really do enjoy these days and this is why we do it!

WINTER SPIRIT WEEK Date: 12/15-12/18

Monday
Wear your favorite Winter Hat/Head accessory, or sport some Wild Hair

Tuesday
Favorite Winter Character i.e Reindeer, Elf, Frosty the Snowman, Gingerbread Man, the Grinch, etc.

Wednesday
Disney Day: Dress up as your favorite Disney character

Thursday
Pajama Day: Wear your favorite PJs and have a cozy day before **WINTER BREAK**

The poster features a light blue background with falling yellow hearts. It includes illustrations of a red winter hat, a penguin, a reindeer, an elf, a snowman, a green Grinch-like character, a group of Disney princesses, Mickey Mouse, a snowman, and a white winter jacket.

Teddy Bear Preschool Important Dates

December 17: Winter Program, High School Main Gym, 6:00 p.m.

Emergency Closures

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Principal Amanda Hill

Dolores Elementary School



Happy Holidays DES Families!

As we enter this joyful season, I want to recognize how incredibly hard our staff and students have worked over the past 3½ months. Their dedication, perseverance, and positive attitudes continue to shine each day. Over the next three weeks, we have many fun experiences planned for students while still keeping our focus on learning and preparing for upcoming assessments.



Thank you, parents and families, for your unwavering support of our school. Every time we host an event, you show up and make it special for our students. This year, at our Holiday Dinner, we served a record number of meals to families—thank you for sharing such a meaningful day with us. Our Student Council Food Drive collected over **1,500 food items**, all donated directly to our DES families. In addition, our PBIS Read-A-Thon was a huge success, raising over **\$4,000** for our Bear Store. Your volunteering, your presence at events, and your continued involvement boosts morale, sets strong role-modeling for students, improves academics, supports social and behavioral growth, and fosters a true love of learning. Your participation has an overwhelmingly positive impact on our entire school community

Another important part of our work this year is strengthening our school culture and building positive connections between the secondary and elementary levels. Our students have been energized by visits from our High School Student Government, who recently greeted them at the doors with smiles and well wishes for a great day of learning. We also had the joy of celebrating our High School Volleyball Team as they headed to the state tournament, giving them an enthusiastic send-off through our elementary hallways.



High School Student Government greets elementary students bright and early.



High school Volleyball receives elementary send-off support.

Dolores Elementary School (continued)

In addition, the High School Cross Country Team, High School Football Team, and Cheer Team have greeted our students, and the Cross Country Team received their own spirited state send-off as well. These moments help our younger students see what school pride, teamwork, and perseverance look like, all while fostering a shared sense of community across all grade levels.



High school teams from cross country, football, and cheerleading greet elementary students bright and early.



The High school Cross Country team receives elementary send-off support.

Our Winter Concerts, “**Magic in the Mountains,**” will take place on **December 15th (K–2)** and **December 16th (3–5)** from **6:00–7:30 pm**. Please drop off your student with their teacher in their classroom at **5:45 pm**, then head to the main gym for the performance. I am truly excited for this year’s concerts—the students have been working incredibly hard on their songs, instruments, and dances. They cannot wait to dress up and perform for you!



It is also testing season. **DIBELS Benchmark Testing** will take place **December 8–18**, and **NWEA Testing** is scheduled for **January 13–14**. While we do have multiple assessments, they are spaced out to help students do their best without feeling overwhelmed. Here are a few helpful tips for parents: build a positive mindset through communication and connection, ensure your child gets plenty of sleep, maintain strong attendance, read with them each night, encourage healthy eating, and limit screen time.

Dolores Elementary School (continued)

Wow—time is passing so quickly! It’s hard to believe that half of our school year has already flown by. We have a busy couple of months ahead with celebrations and important assessments. Our **Character Assembly** is scheduled for **December 18th at 8:10 am**. Please join us in celebrating students with perfect attendance, honor roll, and the character traits of gratitude and compassion, along with a special presentation from our art and technology departments. **Winter Break** will run from **December 19th–January 5th**, and students will return on **January 6th**.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Mrs. Hill



Dolores Elementary School Important Dates

December 15: Winter Concert “Magic in the Mountains” (K-2) Main Gym, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

December 16: Winter Concert “Magic in the Mountains” (3-5) Main Gym, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

December 8 - 18: Dibels Benchmark Testing

December 18: Character Assembly, Aux Gym, 8:10 a.m.

December 19: Begin Winter Break - No School

January 5: Staff Returns from Winter Break (No Students)

January 6: Students Return from Winter Break

January 13 - 14: NWEA Testing

Emergency Closures

Monitor local media and check doloresschools.org for weather-related closure announcements. The district also sends an email and a robocall to parents and staff in the case of a delayed start or school closure.

Principal Mary Weiss

Dolores Middle School



Cell Phone Policy

Middle school is an important time for students to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. To help them focus on learning and build strong connections with their peers, **our middle school does not allow cell phone use during the school day.**

Limiting phone use helps students stay engaged in lessons, participate fully in activities, and develop essential skills like attention, problem-solving, and face-to-face communication.

Dolores Middle School (continued)

It also supports their social and emotional well-being by encouraging meaningful interactions and reducing the distractions and pressures that can come from constant access to screens. By setting this boundary, we are helping students thrive in a safe, focused, and supportive learning environment—preparing them for success both now and in the future.



Guest Speaker: Tommie Lewis

We were pleased to have students hear from Tommie Lewis, President & CEO of Make It Plain Consulting. Mr. Lewis brought over 30 years of experience helping schools, businesses, and communities create positive, respectful, and inclusive environments.

Mr. Lewis is a nationally recognized consultant, executive coach, and co-host of the podcast Diversity Conversations. His work focuses on building strong communication skills, understanding differences, and helping individuals recognize and use their strengths.

Mr. Lewis spoke with students about:

- Treating others with respect
- Understanding and appreciating differences
- Building positive relationships
- Recognizing their own strengths and potential

His message was encouraging, practical, and focused on helping students grow into confident and respectful young people.



Middle School All State Choir Selection

We are incredibly proud to announce that Tatum Otteson has been selected for All State Choir, marking a historic first for Dolores Middle School. Tatum is the first middle school student from Dolores to earn this highly respected and competitive honor. Please join us in celebrating Tatum's remarkable accomplishment. We can't wait to see her represent Dolores at the All State event!

Dolores Middle School (continued)

Woodworking & Design Program:

This month, we are proud to highlight the exceptional work happening in our 6th–8th grade Woodworking & Design program. Our students experience a truly comprehensive CTE pathway—beginning with processing local beetle-kill pine and aspen logs on our school’s sawmill and continuing all the way through precision woodworking and modern digital fabrication using our laser engraver and new NeatBoard touchscreen design station. This hands-on learning directly aligns with Colorado CTE standards in safety, technical tool competency, material processing, measurement, design literacy, and project management.



Students recently completed their first two major projects of the semester: a wall-mounted shelf installed with a French cleat system, and a mortise-and-tenon step stool created using the Domino joinery machine. Now, learners are applying their design thinking and creative problem-solving skills to individual choice projects ranging from modular shelving systems to hinged-lid benches and even custom chess boards made from our locally milled blue-and-white pine.



Dolores Middle School (continued)

We are incredibly proud of the professionalism, craftsmanship, and collaboration our students demonstrate daily. Dolores continues to stand out as one of the strongest Career and Technical Education woodworking programs in Southwest Colorado—offering industry-relevant skills, authentic problem-solving experiences, and real pathways into the trades and design fields. Our students are learning to think creatively, work safely, and take pride in producing high-quality work from start to finish.

We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to Mr. Atwell for his exceptional leadership and instruction. His commitment to creating an engaging, rigorous, and industry-aligned woodworking experience is a key reason our students thrive and our program continues to stand out across Southwest Colorado.



Dolores Middle School Important Dates

December 10: Secondary Winter Music Program, Main Gym, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

December 19: Begin Winter Break - No School

January 5: Staff Returns from Winter Break (No Students)

January 6: Students Return from Winter Break

Emergency Closures

Monitor local media and check doloreschools.org for weather-related closure announcements. The district also sends an email and a robocall to parents and staff in the case of a delayed start or school closure.

Principal Matt Walker

Dolores High School



Our Music Department delivered an exceptional Veteran's Day performance. This is a busy time of the year for them as auditions for state choir and band are happening and the annual Winter Concert that will be held in the Main Gym on December 10, from 6 to 8 pm.

Our Winter Sports are underway and while we have a few games prior to break it really picks up for our students participating in Basketball and Wrestling.

We are proud of our Cheer Team who won the 2025 Western Colorado Spirit Regional title for the 2A all-girls division. They will travel to the State Competition in Denver, December 11 - 13.

Dolores High School (continued)

Dolores High School Important Dates

December 10: Secondary Winter Music Program, Main Gym, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

December 16-18: High School Final Exams

December 19: Begin Winter Break - No School

January 5: Staff Returns from Winter Break (No Students)

January 6: Students Return from Winter Break

Emergency Closures

Monitor local media and check doloresschools.org for weather-related closure announcements. The district also sends a robocall to each number we have listed for parents and staff in case there is a delayed start or school closure.

District Nurse Brandy Dunn Health and Wellness



Happy December, everyone!

As we wrap up the year and head into a festive season full of celebration, connection, and colder weather, it's a time filled with excitement, joy, and lots of activity. It's also a wonderful opportunity for students to practice kindness, take care of themselves, and enjoy the simple moments that make this season special. Please encourage your child to check in with their

feelings, take breaks when needed, and embrace the fun spirit of the month as we focus on staying healthy and thriving.

Boost Your Immune System

A well-balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains can help boost the immune system. Important essential elements that support our immune system are Vitamins C & D, Zinc, probiotics, staying hydrated, and getting plenty of sleep.

Important Deadline: December 4th

Just a friendly reminder that proof of required vaccines—or exemption certificates—must be submitted by **December 4th**. Please submit the necessary paperwork as soon as possible to ensure your child stays compliant with state requirements. Colorado law (Board of Health rule 6 CCR 1009-2) requires students attending Colorado schools and licensed child care facilities to be vaccinated against certain diseases, unless an exemption is filed. Which means, if we don't receive the proper documentation, your child won't be able to attend school until it's provided.

• Important Links:

- [School-required Vaccines](#)
- [Vaccine Exemptions](#)
- [How Sick is too Sick?](#)
- [Student Health Form](#)
- [Is it Cold or Flu?](#)

Wishing you a warm, safe, and joyful holiday season!

Brandy Dunn - District Nurse

Contact the Dolores School District

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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!



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