

February 2026



Dolores School District

Newsletter

Superintendent Alesa Reed

Dolores School District RE-4A



Dear Dolores Families and Community Members,

As February arrives, our focus naturally shifts toward spring planning. While I truly enjoy this season of preparation, I often find myself wishing we didn't have to move quite so quickly through the winter months!

On the administrative side, the Board of Education recently approved our final budget. We are currently on track with our expenditures through the end of the June cycle. This process continues to be an incredible learning experience, offering valuable insights into how we best support our students and staff.

We will send a parent survey via email to all parents who have provided an email address. Your feedback is important to us, and we use this information to improve our schools and district. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey. Thank you!

Survey

Preparing for our S-CAP Review

This March, our district will undergo its Student-Centered Accountability Program (S-CAP) review. We will host approximately 30 professionals from across Colorado who will evaluate our Leadership and Vision, Learning Climate, and Curriculum and Instruction.

This process is vital to our growth; the resulting executive summary directly shapes our goals and strategic planning for the coming year. In fact, our current alignment work is a direct result of last year's findings.

Get Involved: We are looking for parents to participate in our review groups. If you would like to share your perspective and contribute to this process, please contact your child's building principal.

Superintendent (continued)

CELEBRATING OUR EXCEPTIONAL STAFF

Kate Lein goes above and beyond every single day for her students. She is one of the most passionate educators I have had the privilege to work with, with a heart so big it extends to all of her current and former students. With more than 20 years of service, Kate demonstrates unwavering dedication to each child, every day. She cares deeply about her students' well-being and success—so much so that she is often moved to tears when advocating for what is best for them. At the same time, she is their biggest cheerleader, celebrating both big and small victories with genuine joy. Kate's passion, commitment, and love for her students make her an extraordinary teacher, and her students are incredibly fortunate to learn from someone so deeply invested in their success.

Rylee Kiddoo consistently demonstrates a strong commitment to student success through engaging, hands-on instruction that supports meaningful learning. Her classes are highly interactive and continuously aligned with clearly defined learning targets, ensuring that students understand both the purpose and outcomes of each lesson. Ms. Kiddoo's curriculum is centered on career exploration and real-world applications, providing students with relevant, practical learning experiences.

In addition to her classroom instruction, Ms. Kiddoo actively enhances student learning by coordinating visits from outside speakers, allowing students to gain firsthand insight into a variety of career pathways. She also takes the lead in organizing middle school field trips by completing the necessary planning, communication, and paperwork, significantly reducing the workload for other staff members. Through her dedication, initiative, and student-centered approach, Ms. Kiddoo makes a positive and lasting impact on both students and the middle school program.

Superintendent (continued)

Campus Update

Big things are happening on campus! The High School foundation is officially finished, and the elevator shaft is currently being walled in—seeing the building start to move upward is an incredibly exciting milestone. We’ve also partially completed the Ag infill foundation and placed the order for our steel package.

Behind the scenes, we are busy picking out furniture and setting a tentative move-in schedule. We expect a few challenges as we enter this next phase, but the vision of our beautiful new campus is closer than ever!

Dolores School District Important Dates and Information

February 9: Board of Education Meeting, District Office Board Room, 6:00 p.m.
Agendas are posted on the [website](#) and outside the district office.

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 Rosenkrance Teddy Bear Preschool

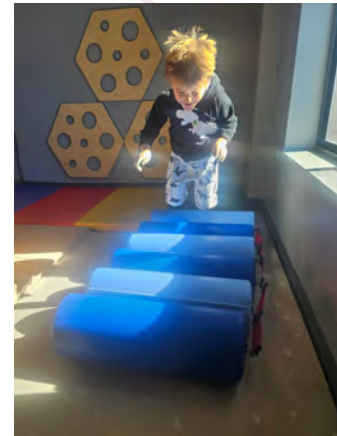
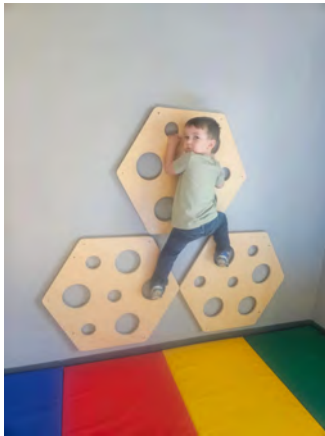


Families,

Brrr! Well, we received a bit of snow but we need so much more. Please, keep those warm coats and hats coming in with your child. Outdoor time is essential for children but when the temperatures are down in the teens and twenties we **WILL NOT** go outdoors.



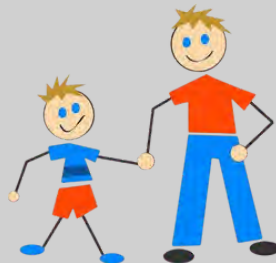
Teddy Bear Preschool (continued)



Our Sensory Room is starting to come alive! A sensory room for preschoolers is a specially designed, safe and controlled space equipped with tools/equipment/activity to stimulate or calm the senses. It can help young children regulate themselves, reduce stress and improve focus. It can provide a place to de-escalate, reducing meltdowns and anxiety. On days that the weather is not cooperating and we need to stay indoors, teachers split their classrooms in half and rotate them in groups to provide large motor time. Our Parent Group raised a large amount of money fundraising last year to purchase approximately half of the equipment.

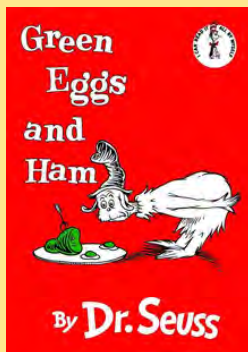
Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are coming up quickly. Here at Teddy Bear, they are essentially “team meetings” for the two biggest influences in a child’s life; their parents and their teachers. They are not about grades; instead they focus on how your little one is growing, making friends and handling big feelings. We feel these meetings are crucial for both the teachers and the parents. The conferences are scheduled for February 18-19 from 4:00-7:30. You should hear from your child’s teacher the week of February 9 for a conference day and time. We look forward to seeing you during these conferences.



A HUGE, **Thank you** to those of you who completed the Program Survey recently. Your input helps us as we strive for improvement.

Teddy Bear Preschool (continued)



It's almost time for one of our favorite traditions! During the months of February and March, we will be celebrating the wonderful world of Dr. Seuss. You might be wondering why we dedicate a whole month to these silly stories. In addition to being a lot of fun, Dr. Seuss books are incredible tools for early childhood development. We focus on his work because:

- It helps our students develop the ability to hear and play with sounds in words, which is a huge step toward learning to read.
- Dr. Seuss uses many made-up words that encourage kids to use their imaginations and help them feel more confident when they encounter new or difficult words.
- His books teach everything from protecting the environment to trying new things.

We have a week of “wacky” activities planned, including themed dress-up days, reading logs, prizes, and for the finale, an ice cream party! We can't wait to celebrate the joy of Dr. Seuss with your child!

Preschool Staff need Rest and Relaxation too! It takes incredible energy and heart to put your all into a classroom of energetic children every day. While we love the “organized chaos” of preschool life, it does take a lot out of you. Therefore, our preschool staff was treated to an hour of Yoga on our Professional/Work Day. Not only is it restful and healing, it also fosters stronger more collaborative relationships among our preschool staff. Relationships which are vital for the program environment and overall success.



Teddy Bear Preschool Important Dates

February 18-19: Parent-Teacher Conferences, Teddy Bear Preschool, 4-7:30 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.

Principal Amanda Hill

Dolores Elementary School



Greetings Little Bear Families,

January was a very busy and successful month for our students! They worked incredibly hard during NWEA testing, and we are thrilled to share that our student growth was among the best we have seen in the last five years. Achievement levels are trending upward, and I am so excited to see what the rest of the school year brings. Way to go, Little Bears! I am so proud of you.

February is another strong month for learning, with minimal disruptions to instructional time. Please help us make the most of this valuable learning window by ensuring your child is present every day, arrives on time, and stays for the full school day. Teachers and students will be moving quickly through the curriculum, and daily attendance truly makes a difference.

We are also looking forward to celebrating Valentine's Day with our students and families. Valentine's Parties will take place on **February 12th**. Please be on the lookout for communication from your child's teacher regarding party times and volunteer opportunities.

Mrs. Lowe is busy planning our **2nd Annual Art Show**, scheduled for **February 25th from 5:00–6:30 p.m.** She is collaborating with Student Council to determine where this year's donations will be directed. More details will be shared as the event approaches, and we hope you can join us for this wonderful celebration of student creativity.

Lastly, we kindly ask parents to take a moment to complete the **SCAP Survey**. Your feedback is extremely valuable to us—it helps guide improvements and lets us know what we are doing well. The survey will be sent to the email address on file in Alma.



Dolores Elementary School (continued)

Student Supervision at Athletic Events and Evening Activities

Student safety remains our top priority during athletic events and evening activities. We ask for your cooperation in ensuring that students are supervised at all times while attending school-sponsored events.

Students should not be left unattended or allowed to run through the commons areas, hallways, or outside the building. For safety reasons, students must remain with their supervising adult or in designated seating areas throughout the event.

Your support helps us maintain a safe, respectful environment for all students, families, and staff. Thank you for partnering with us to ensure our events are enjoyable and safe for everyone.

Thank you for your continued partnership, support, and trust. Together, we are making this a fantastic school year for our Little Bears. We look forward to an exciting and productive February!

Partners in Learning,
Amanda Hill

Dolores Elementary School Important Dates

February 9: Board of Education Meeting, District Office Board Room, 6:00 p.m.

February 2-26: **SCAP Survey Window for Parents**

Click [here](#) to take the survey

February 12: Valentine's Day Parties

February 18: PTA Meeting 4:15 PM @ Dolores Elementary School

February 19: Battle of the Books Hat Day Fundraiser

February 19: Spirit Stick Sale

February 25: 2nd Annual Art Show 5:00-6:30 p.m., Dolores Elementary School

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.



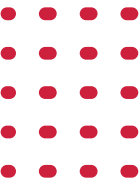
Principal Weiss Dolores Middle School



Dolores Middle School Families,

We are proud to recognize our middle school students who have earned Honor Roll status. This achievement reflects their hard work, responsibility, and commitment to academic excellence.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child develop strong study habits and a positive attitude toward learning. We are very proud of their accomplishments! Please see the next page for the complete list of honor roll students.



Perfect Attendance – Way to Go!

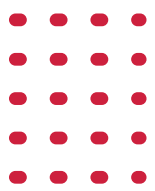
Congratulations to our middle school students who earned perfect attendance for the 2nd nine weeks! Being here every day matters, and your commitment shows responsibility and pride in your learning. Keep up the great work! See our list of students who had perfect attendance on page 10.

Teacher Spotlight – Melissa Dalzell / Life Skills (9-Week Course):

It is my pleasure to introduce Melissa Dalzell as the new Secondary Technology Instructor. Since joining our school district in October, Mrs. Dalzell has hit the ground running in our secondary computer lab. In addition to the technology courses that she teaches, she has been tasked with our middle school Life Skills 9-week course. In this practical and engaging course, students will learn everyday skills that build confidence, responsibility, and independence. Over nine weeks, they'll practice a variety of real-world tasks such as meal planning and cooking, kitchen and food safety, personal hygiene, basic sewing and laundry, budgeting, and simple home or car maintenance. The class also focuses on communication, manners, and social skills – including public speaking, listening, and standing up for oneself respectfully. By the end of the course, students will be better prepared to navigate daily life, and hopefully even have a little fun along the way!

Congratulations to Lexi Simmons

Lexi Simmons, president of the Dolores Middle School FFA chapter, recently achieved an impressive victory in the AgVocate Contest, placing first in the junior division with her in-depth presentation on sheep handling and husbandry. Her project stood out for its clarity, practical knowledge, and passion for agricultural education, highlighting key topics such as rumen health, proper shelter, vaccinations, wool care, and calm animal handling techniques to promote safety and well-being. Simmons' success in this competitive contest reflects her deep commitment to agriculture.



Middle School

★★★★★ Academic Achievement ★★★★★

Congratulations to the following students for their academic achievements during the 2nd Quarter of the 2025-2026 school year. The middle school staff is honored to recognize these students.

Principal's Honor Roll - All A's

8th Grade

Ellie Gregory, Gabriella Hollen, Randon Hooper, Isaac Marty, Hayes Robinson, Sean Tarpey, Callista Vaughn

7th Grade

Paisly Andrews, Brian Boniface, Amelia Daniel, Brantley Frans, Nyah Gorsuch, Marissa Hill, Cambri Hooper, Bronson Jensen, Zoey Kennedy, Alanna Lindsay, Parker Pribble, Vann Robinson, MacKenzie Stowe, Aylan Warren, Kinlea Wright

6th Grade

Aspen Brafford, William Chubbuck, Annalise Cunningham, Lyle Dalzell, LeRoy Keim, Johanna LaRose, Patricia Nielson, Idris Pietruszka, Olivia Stanley, Finn Tarpey, Jamya Tolbert, Daisy Williford

A and B Honor Roll

8th Grade

Olivia Elder, Owen Elder, Kennedy Erautt, Ripley Lamkins, Chloe Paine, Atticus Smith, Jack Stanley

7th Grade

Fynn Anderson, MaKayla Beaudoin, Abigail Hurst, Hannah Huston, Callie Lacey, Josephine Nichols, Ophelia Pietruszka, Jaxx Robson, Lamijo Salt, Avery Shoopman, Jamal Tolbert, Kyndal Winter

6th Grade

Leighton Clah, Eviana Domagata, Peyton Erautt, Nya Holgate, Desiree Kitley, Colten Lanus, Rylee Otteson, Hailey Patterson, Tresden Rennert, Isabel Sassmann, Matix Smith, Lilliana Walker

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
SECOND QUARTER
PERFECT ATTENDANCE
AWARDS**

6TH GRADE

ASPEN BRAFFORD
LYLE DALZELL
DESIREE KITLEY
JACKSON MCGEE
RYLEE OTTESON
HAILEY PATTERSON
IDRIS PIETRUSZKA
TRESDEN RENNERT
FINN TARPEY
JAMYA TOLBERT

7TH GRADE

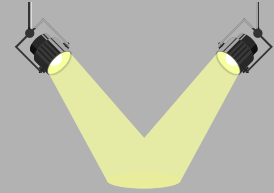
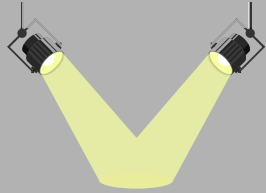
AMELIA DANIEL
ABIGAIL HURST
HANNAH HUSTON
DUDLEY MORRIS
OPHELIA PIETRUSZKA
VIOLET PORTER
JAXX ROBSON
MACKENZIE STOWE
MICAH UNREIN
AYLAN WARREN
KYNDAL WINTER

8TH GRADE

OLIVIA ELDER
OWEN ELDER
ISAAC MARTY
ISAIAH PEREZ
SEAN TARPEY
AYDEN WINTER



Dolores Middle School (continued)



January Middle School Students of the Month



The 6th-grade team is proud to recognize **Johanna LaRose** as our Student of the Month. Johanna is an exceptional young lady who consistently models what it means to be a dedicated and responsible student. She approaches every task with a positive attitude, completes her work without complaint, and actively participates in class discussions. She frequently seeks feedback, not because she has to, but because she genuinely wants to learn and ensure that she is submitting her very best effort. Johanna's work ethic, maturity, and willingness to grow make her a standout member of our 6th grade community. Congratulations, Johanna!



The 7th-grade Student of the Month is **Aylan Warren**. Aylan has consistently shown that she cares deeply about both her work and the people around her. She is cooperative, smart, and highly engaged in class, always putting forth strong effort. Aylan's kindness and dedication set her apart, and she is a positive presence in the classroom every day. Her attitude and work ethic make her a well-deserving Student of the Month.



Callie Vaughn has stood out amongst her 8th-grade peers. Callie is the primary 8th grader on the student council as well as Student Council President. Callie is also the only 8th-grader on the Knowledge Bowl team as well as the Team Captain. Callie is a dedicated student, always having spectacular grades. Callie always tries to lead by example. Her dedication and willingness to take charge is something to be emulated. Callie is the genuine article; what you see is what you get. Anyone who has her as a friend is truly blessed. Her terrific personality matches her laugh and smile. Callie has the respect of her teachers who also admire her work ethic.

Dolores Middle School (continued)

Dolores Middle School Important Dates

February 2-26: SCAP Survey Window for Parents

Click [here](#) to take the survey

February 9: Board of Education Meeting, District Office Board Room, 6:00 p.m.

February 12: 6th-grade NNAT3 Testing

February 25: 7th-grade field trip

February 25: 8th-grade National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 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 Matt Walker

Dolores High School



Greetings Bear Families,

I wanted to use the majority of the newsletter space to highlight our students and their successes from the first semester. Please see the complete list on the following page.

First, Junior parents, please mark your calendars for February 10, for the administration of the ASVAB test. This is one of several ways Dolores School District meets state graduation requirements for students. A score of 31 or better on the four batteries (Arithmetic Reasoning, Mathematics Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension, and Word Knowledge) meets the requirement. Scores on other tests like the SAT or an industry certification also meet the state requirement for demonstration of postsecondary readiness.

Senior families, scholarship deadlines begin this month. Do not forget to make use of your Senior Seminar GoogleClassroom for more tips-PLUS the writings you have done in Seminar to streamline the application. Lastly, check out the [Dolores Master Scholarship List](#), look at the bottom for the tabs, there is something for everyone and grade level.

Now for the Celebrations!



HIGH SCHOOL FIRST SEMESTER TEACHER AWARDS



12TH GRADE

MIKAYLA EATON - BUSINESS MATH, MR. RANTZ
NAAYAH HOLIDAY - ENGLISH 4, MS. KUNTZ
MICHAEL RANTZ - INTRO TO COMPOSITION, MS. KUNTZ
AIDAN SWEAT - YEARBOOK, MS. DALZELL



11TH GRADE

TRISTYN EATON - COMPUTER LITERACY, MS. DALZELL
ELI HEATON - ENGLISH 3, MS. COOK
ELI HEATON - ART, MS CUNNINGHAM
SAVANNAH JOHNSTON - INTRO TO COMPOSITION, MS. KUNTZ
CHEYANNE KEIM - GEOLOGY & ASTRONOMY, MR. SWINGLE
KOBY MCCLELLAN - MICROECONOMICS, MR. MILLER
KOBY MCCLELLAN - PHYSICS, MR. SWINGLE
EVIE PORTER - ANIMAL SCIENCE, MS. BROWN
MADISON THORNBRUGH - ENGLISH 3, MS. COOK



10TH GRADE

NATHAN GADDIS - SPANISH 2, MS. COPELAND
EMILYNN HILL - JEWELRY, MS. CUNNINGHAM
DAMEON MUFF - ALGEBRA 2, MS. HOBBS
EMMA NEILSON - ENGLISH 2, MS. KUNTZ
JOSEPH PADILLA - INTRO TO BUSINESS, MR. RANTZ
DONTE RIFFLE - BIOLOGY, MR. LEWIS
DONTE RIFFLE - ENGLISH 2, MS. KUNTZ
RILEY SHUBERT - SCULPTURE, MS. CUNNINGHAM
MATTHEW VEGA - ENGLISH 3, MS. COOK

9TH GRADE

TAYLOR CARIGNAN - PRE-ALGEBRA, MR. VAUGHN
TIERZAH COLEY - ENGLISH 1, MS. COOK
BODIE FISCHER - WORLD HISTORY, MR. MILLER
HAYLEE HANSON - INTRO TO AGRICULTURE, MS. BROWN
ANNABELLE PAINE - ALGEBRA 1, MS. HOBBS
ANNABELLE PAINE - INTEGRATED SCIENCE, MR. SWINGLE
KOOPER THOMAS - GEOMETRY, MR. VAUGHN



**High School
Excellent Attendance**



12th Grade

Isabelle Bedker

11th Grade

Cheyenne Keim

Eleri Brown

Orin Samulski

River Wickstrom

Waylon Kiddoo

10th Grade

Bohi Patillo

Booker Morningstar

Branson Lee

Evan Elder

Everett Arps

Madisyn Gapp

Nathan Gaddis

Rylan Maloney

Zaiden Suhr

9th Grade

Arabelle Arps

Ava Saunders

Dorian Westover

Isaac Samulski

Kooper Thomas

Marshal Wickstrom

Quinn Taylor

Rian Frascht

Dolores High School (continued)

February signals the start of spring sport practice as well as the conclusion for regular season basketball. It will also be exciting to see our knowledge bowl and wrestling teams compete, as they begin their post seasons. I cannot wait to report on this next month!

We are proud to announce Dolores Junior, **Savannah Johnston**, was recently published by Appelley Publishing in the 2026 Rising Stars Collection. Here is the [Link](#).

SCAP Survey

SCAP survey results show steady improvement across all areas at Dolores High School. Students report stronger teaching practices, a growing sense of belonging, and high motivation to learn. Learning habits remain a clear strength, and overall student confidence in the school is improving. While some areas are still catching up to the average of similar SCAP schools, the positive trend tells us our work is moving in the right direction. Our work is not done but we are committed to closing and eventually surpassing these gaps. Students, staff, and families will be able to participate this month. Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to strengthen our school community.



Over 20 Dolores students traveled to The National Western Stock Show in Denver in January. This event is a valuable experience for FFA students because it connects classroom learning to real-world agriculture. Students gain hands-on exposure through livestock shows, judging contests, and leadership events while exploring college and career pathways in agriculture. The event also provides opportunities for scholarships, networking with industry professionals, and building confidence by participating in a respected national-level agricultural tradition.

Here's to a fabulous February!

District Nurse Brandy Dunn

Health and Wellness



Happy February!

This month is [American Heart Month](#), a great time to practice heart-healthy habits at every age. For our younger students, this may include active play, trying colorful fruits and vegetables, and washing hands often. Older students are encouraged to stay physically active, make balanced food choices, manage stress, and prioritize adequate sleep. As always, please remember to keep students home when they are ill to help reduce the spread of illness at school. Thank you for partnering with us to keep our school community healthy and thriving!



Screening Update

Hearing and vision screenings have been completed for all Teddy Bear Preschool students, as well as Elementary students in grades K-3 and 5. In the coming weeks, screenings will continue for all 7th and 9th grade students.

Brandy Dunn - District Nurse

Academic Advisor Cheri Walker

Dolores High School



DHS will be conducting mock interviews for the entire senior class. We are looking for community professionals to serve as interviewers. If you are interested, please click [here](#).

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

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