

March 2026



Dolores School District

Newsletter

Superintendent Alesa Reed

Dolores School District RE-4A



Dear Families, Staff, and Community Members,

As we welcome the arrival of spring, March brings renewed energy and exciting opportunities throughout our district. We look forward to connecting with families during parent-teacher conferences and enjoying a well-deserved spring break. Thank you for your continued partnership in making

our schools outstanding places for students to learn and grow.

We completed our SCAP review on Tuesday, March 2nd. We will present the executive summary at our March 9th board meeting.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences will be held on March 12th and 13th. These conferences provide an invaluable opportunity to discuss your child's academic progress, social development, and overall well-being with their teachers.

Sign-up information and scheduling details will be sent home from individual schools. We strongly encourage all families to participate in conferences to maintain strong home-school partnerships that support student success. If the scheduled times don't work for your family, please contact your child's teacher to arrange an alternative meeting time.

Our District Accountability Committee (DAC) is providing books for families to help them better understand their children. These books will be distributed at the parent-teacher conferences. If you are unable to attend or pick up a book, please let your child's teacher know, and we will order more.

Superintendent (continued)

Staff Spotlight

Lisa Vaughn - Dolores Middle School English Teacher

We would like to recognize and thank you for all that you do for our students and our school.

As our 7th-grade ELA and Reading teacher, Lisa consistently goes above and beyond to support students. She is always there for them, ensuring they have opportunities for extra help during lunch and after school on Wednesdays. In addition, She willingly assists with detentions while still welcoming any student who wants or needs additional academic support during that time. Her commitment to meeting students where they are truly makes a difference.

Lisa's involvement with the Student Council is another example of her dedication.

- ▶ She plays an important role in helping organize pep assemblies, dances, and dress-up days. Additionally, she manages PBIS store merchandise and activities that help build school spirit and create a positive middle school culture.

She clearly understand that being a middle school teacher takes a special person –one with patience, understanding, flexibility, and yes, sometimes a little bit of “middle school crazy.” Lisa's willingness to support students both academically and socially helps make our school a successful and welcoming place.

Pam Leon - Teddy Bear Preschool Secretary

We sincerely appreciate all that you do for our students and for contributing to everything that makes our preschool a great place to learn and grow. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Pam consistently goes above and beyond, she is truly the irreplaceable glue of our school; Pam leads with the highest level of integrity and reliability, ensuring our community's well-being is always a top priority. No matter what is happening, she greets every child and adult with a nurturing smile, creating an environment where everyone feels safe and loved.

What makes Pam truly extraordinary is her amazing resilience. Despite facing a very challenging year personally, she hasn't missed a beat, continuing to pour her heart into our school's culture. Her positive impact is essential to our success, and we are so incredibly lucky to have her. She is a total treasure!

Pete Swingle - Secondary Science and Drama Teacher

For the past 13 years at Dolores High School, Pete Swingle has inspired students in both science and drama, blending curiosity, creativity, and love of learning in his classroom. This fall, after visiting the Alps, he brought back a small piece of Mont Blanc for each student in his geology class—turning a global adventure into a hands-on learning experience. Since beginning his career in 1978, Pete has modeled unwavering dedication to public education. His decades of service stand as a powerful example of commitment to students, colleagues, and the greater Dolores community.

Superintendent (continued)

Student Activities & Events

- Spring sports- we are transitioning from winter to spring sports. It's the first time I remember starting baseball on the fields instead of the gym.
- Music programs are preparing for spring concerts and competitions.
- Be sure to walk through the elementary halls to view the art show and showcase students' talents.
- Middle school will present its showcase during parent-teacher conferences.
- Elementary is competing in a Battle of the Books. Check with your 3rd, 4th and 5th grade student for details.

High School Construction Update

Exciting progress continues on our new high school facility! We received most of our steel package last week, and the wall structures are now going up. This represents a significant milestone in the construction timeline, and it's inspiring to see the building begin to take its final shape.

The construction team continues to work diligently. As the vertical construction progresses, the community will be able to see the building rising from the ground in the coming weeks. We will continue to provide regular updates on this transformative project that will serve our students for generations to come.

Spring Break

Spring break will be observed March 23-26, with no school for students. This break provides students, staff, and families with time to rest and recharge before the final quarter of the school year. School buildings will be closed during this time. Classes will resume on Monday, March 31st. We hope everyone enjoys a safe and relaxing break!

Looking Ahead to April

As we transition into the fourth quarter and final stretch of the school year, April will bring spring activities, including:

- State testing windows for required assessments. The district [assessment calendar](#) is on the [website](#), and building-level testing schedules will be posted.
- Spring sports competitions and tournaments
- Spring concerts and fine arts performances
- Continued construction progress on the new high school

Community Appreciation

As we enter the spring season, we want to express our gratitude to our dedicated teachers, staff, and volunteers who work tirelessly to support our students. We also thank our families for their partnership and our community for its continued support of our schools.

Superintendent (continued)

Special recognition goes to our construction crews who are working diligently on our new high school facility, often in challenging weather conditions. Their commitment to quality and safety is helping us build a world-class facility for our future students.

As we move through March and toward the conclusion of another successful school year, we remain committed to providing every student with exceptional educational opportunities. Thank you for being part of our learning community.

With gratitude,

Alesa Reed

Superintendent of Dolores Schools

Dolores School District Important Dates

- March 2-3:** SCAP review
- March 6:** Staff Professional Development - Tommie Lewis-Make it Plain
- March 8:** Daylight Savings - Spring Forward 1 Hour!
- March 9:** Board of Education Meeting, District Office Boardroom, 6:00 p.m.
Agendas are posted on the [website](#) and outside the district office.
- March 12-13:** Parent Teacher Conferences
- March 23-26:** Spring Break; Return March 30
- March 30:** Board of Education Policy Meeting, District Office Boardroom, 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 Rosenkrance

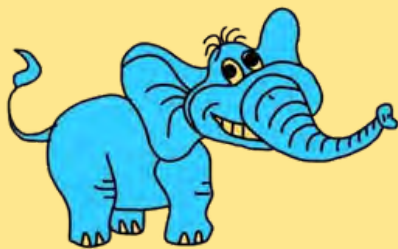
Teddy Bear Preschool



Wonderful Families,

Welcome to the month of March! The year is just flying by. We were so excited that we were finally given some moisture. The children have really enjoyed the snow and the mud, in a child's eyes nothing is more exciting. Please continue to send in warm snow gear so that they can enjoy themselves on the playground..

Teddy Bear Preschool (continued)



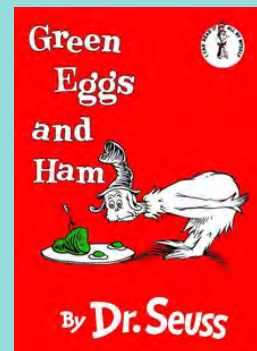
Dr. Seuss month is finally here! The month of March is so much fun at Teddy Bear. We send home reading logs with the children. Every time a child reads a book to you, or you to them, enter it into your child's reading log. When the form is complete, your child brings the log back, your child is given a strip of red/white paper to place on Dr Seaus's hat and they are given a prize for doing so. They can continue to fill numerous logs and bring them back for a prize. The hat just grows and grows until it reaches the end of the hallway. The children watch the strip being placed on the hat, they get so excited as the hat grows and grows. The three children that read the most books will earn a grand prize. All the classrooms will be treated to a Dr Seuss Ice Cream Party on March 19th courtesy of the Teddy Bear Parent Group. Also, we will have a Dr Seuss Spirit Week the week of March 16th.



Dr. Seuss Spirit Week Dress up Schedule:

- Monday - Wear green for *Green Eggs and Ham*
- Tuesday - Dress as your favorite animal or animal print
- Wednesday - Wear socks or crocks, or both
- Thursday - Dress as your favorite Dr. Seuss character

GET IN THE SPIRIT and celebrate DR. Seuss with us!



Fundraiser

Teddy Bear Preschool Parent Group will be selling Domino's Pizza "Slice the Price" cards. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go toward the Teddy Bear Preschool sensory room. March 2nd is the kick off for this event. For more information email emedina@dolores.k12.co.us.



Teddy Bear Preschool (continued)

Glow Night

The staff at Teddy Bear and our Teddy Bear parent group will be hosting a “Glow Nite” for families on March 13th from 5:00–6:30. The entire event is **FREE**. Come join the fun!

Dinner will be served at 5:00, games and crafts will start immediately after dinner. This has always been a favorite with the children and staff alike. The theme this year is “**Under the Sea**”.



Class Photos

Class pictures will be March 18th. Class pictures are typically taken on the playground structure; very cute! These are done early in the morning, beginning at 8:30. Envelopes will go out a day or two before picture day.

Teddy Bear Preschool Important Dates

March 8: Daylight Savings Time, Spring Forward 1 Hour!

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

March 16: Dr. Seuss Spirit Week

March 19: Parent-Teacher Conferences, Teddy Bear Preschool, 4-7:30 p.m.

March 23-26: Spring Break; Students return on March 30

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



Hello Little Bear Families,

I want to begin with a heartfelt shout out to our incredible families—once again, you have stepped up to support Dolores Elementary! We had many parents volunteer and participate in our SCAP review parent focus groups. Your willingness to share your voice, ideas, and feedback means so much to us.

I am excited to review your input and work collaboratively to set meaningful goals for Dolores Elementary. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your partnership. We truly value open lines of communication and believe strong collaboration is the key to a thriving school community.

The **2nd Annual Winter Art Show** was absolutely outstanding! Our students' artwork was spectacular, and I am continually inspired by their creativity and talent. A very special shout out to our wonderful art teacher, **Mrs. Lowe**, whose passion, dedication, and guidance helped bring out the very best in each of our young artists. A huge thank you to our Student Council for sponsoring such a wonderful event—complete with Dress to the Nines Day, refreshments, and a donation collection for new playground equipment. Your leadership and commitment to serving your fellow students is commendable! Parents, thank you for attending and generously supporting the event through your donations. It was a beautiful evening celebrating our Little Bears.



Dolores Elementary School (continued)

A Sampling from the 2nd Annual Winter Art Show



Dolores Elementary School (continued)

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Our staff is excited for the month of March, and we are looking forward to Parent Teacher Conferences on March 12th and 13th. Teachers are eager to share the incredible work your students are producing and the important learning taking place in their classrooms.

Parent Teacher Conferences are a wonderful time to:

- Celebrate your child's growth and accomplishments
- Review academic progress and assessment data
- Ask questions about classroom expectations and curriculum
- Discuss social-emotional development
- Set goals together to support continued success
- Strengthen the home-school partnership

We value this time together and look forward to meaningful conversations with each of you.

CMAS Testing

During March, teachers are also preparing students for CMAS testing. They are intentionally reviewing key standards and building student confidence to ensure every child feels prepared and capable on test day. We believe our students are ready to do their very best!

CMAS Testing Dates:

- 5th Grade Science: April 6, 7, 8
- 4th Grade Social Studies: April 7
- Grades 3-5 ELA & Math: April 13, 14, 15

As a staff, we are planning special incentives for students who attend on testing days and give their best effort. Stay tuned for more details in our upcoming Goose Newsletter! We also recognize how important nutrition is for fueling the brain, so Dolores Elementary will be providing both a morning and afternoon snack for students during testing days. We love giving our Little Bears the motivation and support they need to succeed!

• Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and partnership. We are so proud of our Little Bears and grateful for the amazing families who stand behind them every day.

• Partners in Learning,

Amanda Hill

Dolores Elementary School (continued)

Dolores Elementary School Important Dates

- March 5:** PTA Meeting, Elementary School Art Room, 4:00 p.m.
- March 8:** Daylight Savings Time, Spring Forward 1 Hour!
- March 9:** Board of Education Meeting, District Office Boardroom, 6:00 p.m.
Agendas are posted on the [website](#) and outside the district office.
- March 12:** Character Assembly, 3rd Grade Performance, 8:10 a.m.
- March 12:** Parent-Teacher Conferences, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- March 12-13:** PTA Sponsored Book Fair, during Parent-Teacher Conferences
- March 13:** Parent-Teacher Conferences, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- March 19:** PTA Sponsored Pickles and Popcorn
- March 23-26:** Spring Break; Students Return on March 30

- April 6-8:** 5th Grade CMAS Testing (Science)
- April 7:** 4th Grade CMAS Testing (Social Studies)
- April 13-15:** Grades 3-5 CMAS Testing (ELA & Math)

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 Weiss

Dolores Middle School



Hello Middle School Families!

We value the partnership we share in supporting our students. Our goal is to ensure that every student feels safe, respected, and ready to learn the moment they step onto campus. To keep our school

culture thriving, we wanted to share a few areas where we could use your help.

Building a Respectful Environment

Recently, we've noticed some challenges in our common areas. We've seen an increase in students gathering in restrooms and damage to facilities. Additionally, our hallways have become a bit too loud, and we're hearing language that doesn't reflect the kind, respectful community, we strive for here, at Dolores Middle School.

Every Minute Counts

We also want to help our students develop the life skill of punctuality. We've seen a rise in tardiness, which often means students miss out on those crucial

Dolores Middle School (continued)

first few minutes of instruction. To help everyone stay on track, we are reinforcing our attendance habits:

- Consistency is Key: After a student reaches four tardies, they will be assigned an after-school detention from 4:00–5:00 p.m.
- Communication: We will always notify you directly if a detention is assigned.

How We Can Team Up?

We would love for you to have a quick "check-in" chat with your child about the importance of being a positive leader in the hallways, using respectful language, and showing pride in our school building.

When we work as a team—school and home together—we help our students grow into responsible, accountable, and respectful young adults. Thank you for being such an essential part of our community and for your continued support in keeping our school a great place to be!

Teacher Spotlight Consumer Science Program - Andy Lewis

This month we are excited to highlight the meaningful learning taking place in our 7th and 8th grade Consumer Science classes. Over the past nine weeks, students have built a strong foundation in everyday consumer and life skills, gaining insight into the kinds of tasks and decision-making that support independence beyond the classroom.

Through hands-on experiences in the kitchen, students have explored a wide range of cooking techniques, preparing both baked and no-bake foods while learning processes such as proofing, scoring, docking, laminating, caramelizing, and safe food handling. These experiences help students connect practical skills with the science behind food preparation while building confidence through real-world application.

As we transition from our cooking unit, students are beginning to explore broader concepts such as entrepreneurship and small business development. We look forward to connecting with local businesses in the community to learn more about what it takes to run a successful operation and how these skills translate beyond school.

Our next area of focus will shift toward clothing care, repairs, and alterations. Students will develop practical skills such as sewing buttons, repairing small tears, and making adjustments—learning to care for and extend the life of everyday items. These experiences encourage problem-solving, creativity, and a sense of capability as students engage in hands-on work that builds confidence and resilience.

We are proud of the curiosity, effort, and willingness our students bring to class each day as they develop skills that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Dolores Middle School (continued)

CMAS Testing Information:

As we begin the 4th Quarter, I want to thank you and your child for partnering with the Dolores Middle School faculty to create a healthy, positive, and academically focused school climate. Your support truly makes a difference.

We are asking you to join forces with the DMS staff once again as we demonstrate to the State of Colorado the tremendous growth and progress our students are making. For us to show this success, it is crucial that your child is present during our state testing window.

Testing Dates:

- Tuesday, April 7, 2026 (8th Grade Only, Science)
- Tuesday, April 14, 2026 (Grade 6-8)
- Wednesday, April 15, 2026 (Grades 6-8)

As a school, our goal is to achieve a 95% attendance rate during testing. Being present and giving their best effort helps not only your child, but our entire school community.

Students will earn PBIS points for attending and completing each test session, with additional points awarded for putting forth strong effort. Encourage your student to share what these points can earn them in the PBIS store and how they contribute to our grade-level competitions.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we will make this a strong finish to the school year!

Dolores Middle School Important Dates

March 5: End of the 3rd Quarter

March 8: Daylight Savings Time, Spring Forward 1 Hour!

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

March 12: Parent-Teacher Conferences, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Middle School Showcase during PTC

March 13: Parent-Teacher Conferences, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Middle School Showcase during PTC

March 19: PTA Sponsored Pickles and Popcorn

March 23-26: Spring Break; Students Return on March 30

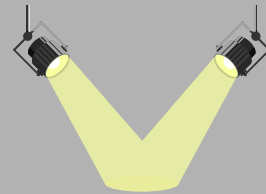
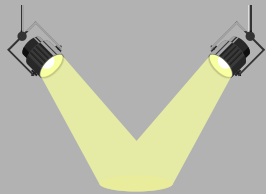
April 7: 8th Grade, CMAS Testing (Science)

April 14-15: Grades 6-8, CMAS Testing (ELA & Math)

Emergency Closures

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Dolores Middle School (continued)



February Middle School Students of the Month



The 6th-grade team is pleased to announce that **William Chubbuck** is this month's Student of the Month! William is an exceptional student who consistently does what is asked of him and always puts forth his best effort. He is a true perfectionist when it comes to his work, taking the time to ensure everything is top-notch before submitting it, even correcting teachers' grammar in some instances. William also stands out for his active class participation, regularly contributing to discussions and confidently answering questions. His dedication, responsibility, and positive attitude make him a wonderful role model for his peers. Congratulations, William!



The 7th grade team is proud to announce that **Fynn Anderson** has been chosen as our February Student of the Month. Fynn is an outstanding student. He is friendly, kind, intelligent and funny. Fynn is also a diligent worker who always does his best work. We are so happy Fynn moved to our school!



Congratulations to **Atticus Smith**, our 8th Grade Student of the Month! Atticus has shown exceptional dedication to his work and consistently puts forth his best effort in class. He stands out for his creativity and for always bringing fresh, thoughtful ideas to classroom activities and discussions. His commitment to learning and positive contributions make him truly deserving of this recognition.

Principal Walker Dolores High School



March 2026

Four Dolores Wrestlers qualified for the State Tournament in Denver. Junior Kenji Edwards brought home the bronze in the 132 lbs. weight division. Also competing at state were Senior Nathan Hill, Junior River Wickstrom, and Sophomore Daniel Jacket. The Dolores girls basketball team saw tremendous growth this year led by seniors Kacey Schmittel, Natalya Castillo, and Taylor Erautt, their season concluded last week vs #6 ranked Nucla. The boys basketball team continues into the post-season and will travel to Vail Christian for the regional playoff round.



Competing at the State Tournament in Denver, Junior Kenji Edwards brings home the bronze!

Dolores High School (continued)



FFA week combined fun with information about agricultural industries – a solid part of our local community.



Pee Wee Cheer puts on a show at the Dolores basketball game under the excellent tutelage of the DHS Cheer Team.

Dolores High School (continued)

Cell Phones

A bipartisan bill, HB25-1135, requires Colorado school districts to adopt a formal cell phone policy by this summer. While our district already has a policy in place, the statewide conversation has amplified an already growing national, and even international, discussion about cell phones, social media, and appropriate restrictions in schools. From a professional standpoint, a majority of our staff agree that cell phones in the classroom have a significant impact on instruction and student focus. Additionally, extensive research has highlighted the effects of social media use on adolescents' mental and emotional health. Given this information, we must ask ourselves: how do we respond in a way that strengthens our school, supports student well-being, and prioritizes academic growth and essential skill development?

Conversations with students have provided valuable insight. Many students openly acknowledge that smartphones are a major distraction and recognize the challenges of managing their use during the school day. Student perspectives vary; some believe they should be able to manage their own devices, while others suggest the district frame any policy change as an opportunity: an opportunity for increased face-to-face interaction, stronger classroom engagement, and higher expectations for instruction and learning. Community conversations reflect similar themes. Parents and community members frequently share concerns about the distraction phones create at home and in everyday life. At the same time, families value the convenience of being able to contact their children quickly regarding after-school plans or for peace of mind. As we continue this discussion, parents are encouraged to stop by during Parent-Teacher Conferences to share their thoughts, ask questions, and provide input.

Taken together, the research, staff feedback, student input, and community perspectives—as well as the limitations of our current procedures—present an opportunity. This is not about restriction, but about creating a stronger school culture, fostering healthier habits, and supporting a more focused, engaged student body.



Dolores High School (continued)

We are reaching the midway point of the Spring Semester, communication about seat time and summer school will be going out soon. Also Freshman ICAP meetings are beginning, talk to your freshman and see if they have already scheduled that appointment. These meetings will give you and your student a better picture of the next three years at Dolores High School.

Spring activities are underway. Prom is April 4th, but get in the spirit earlier at the Spring Prom Pop Up Show at the Sunflower Theater Saturday, March 7. Our Jazz Band will perform at Fort Lewis College March 5, with the band and choir performing at the Denver Music Festival at the end of April.

District Nurse Brandy Dunn

Health and Wellness



Spring is the season of renewal, and adjusting your diet can help you feel more vibrant and energetic. March is National Nutrition Month, below are several ideas you can try!

- Incorporate fresh, seasonal produce like spring greens, asparagus, strawberries, citrus fruits, and fresh herbs
- Hydrate more by increasing your water intake, adding lemon or cucumber for a refreshing twist
- Lighten your meals, shifting from dense, comfort winter foods to lighter, fresher meals

Nutrition Tips for All Ages

For Elementary Students (K–5)

- Offer a variety of colorful fruits and vegetables; repeated exposure builds acceptance.
- Encourage children to help select and prepare simple foods to increase engagement.

For Middle School Students (6–8)

- Teach label literacy: review Nutrition Facts labels together and compare sodium, added sugars, fiber, and protein.
- Emphasize balanced meals that include lean protein, whole grains, fruits, vegetables, and dairy or fortified alternatives.

Health and Wellness (continued)

For High School Students (9–12)

- Encourage planning ahead for busy schedules, extracurricular activities, and athletics.
- Promote adequate protein, iron-rich foods, calcium, and hydration to support rapid growth and development.

Seasonal Wellness Activities

With the warmer weather, March provides fun opportunities to connect nutrition and movement:

- Try “green foods” such as grapes, kiwi, broccoli, spinach, avocado, green apples, and celery.
- Blend leafy greens into fruit smoothies for added nutrients.
- Organize a family walk, bike ride, or outdoor scavenger hunt as weather permits.

Healthy Habits That Support Learning

In addition to nutrition, overall wellness significantly impacts classroom success:

- Hydration: Encourage water intake throughout the day.
- Sleep:
 - Elementary students: 9–12 hours nightly
 - Middle school students: 8–10 hours
 - High school students: 8–10 hours
- Physical Activity: Aim for at least 60 minutes of daily movement for school-aged children and teens.
- Screen Balance: Promote consistent routines that prioritize rest and outdoor activity.

Wishing your family a healthy and productive March. Visit [RealFood.gov](https://www.RealFood.gov) for more information.



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!



Safe2Tell Colorado Initiative

The logo for Safe2Tell, featuring a red speech bubble with a white number '2' inside, followed by the text "safe tell" in a red, lowercase, serif font.
Make a Call. Make a Difference.
1-877-542-SAFE