

August 2026



Dolores School District

Newsletter

Superintendent Alesa Reed

Dolores School District RE-4A



Welcome to a New School Year!

Dear Students, Families, and Community Members,

Welcome to the start of the 2026-2027 school year! I hope you all enjoyed a restful, refreshing summer with family and friends. As your Superintendent, it is an absolute honor to welcome our returning families and extend a warm greeting to those joining our school community for the first time.

Our amazing Contractor (Jaynes), Maintenance Team, Teachers, Administrators, and Support Staff have been working tirelessly this summer to prepare our classrooms, facilities, and curriculum. We are focused on creating safe, engaging, and inspiring environments where every student can learn, grow, and thrive.

We are very excited for students, parents, and community members to see and tour the newly remodeled high school and the new high school on August 6th at 5:00 and 5:30. Meet at the East end of the HS hallway.

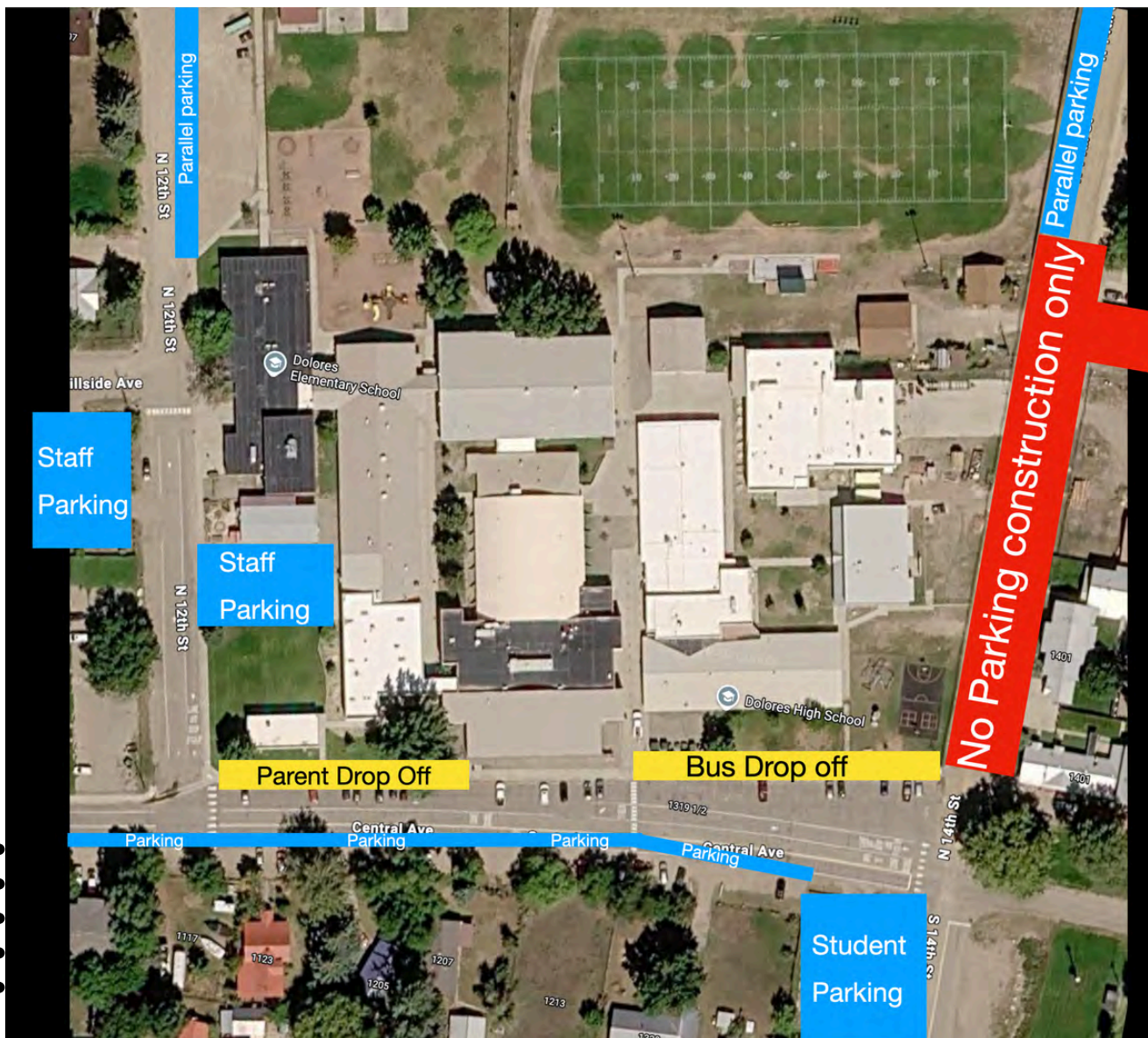
A drop-off map is included in the newsletter; it is much the same as last year, with a brand new bus loop.

Parking, again, will be an avenue for us to grow in *patience* and *flexibility*. Great Character Words to Start the School Year!

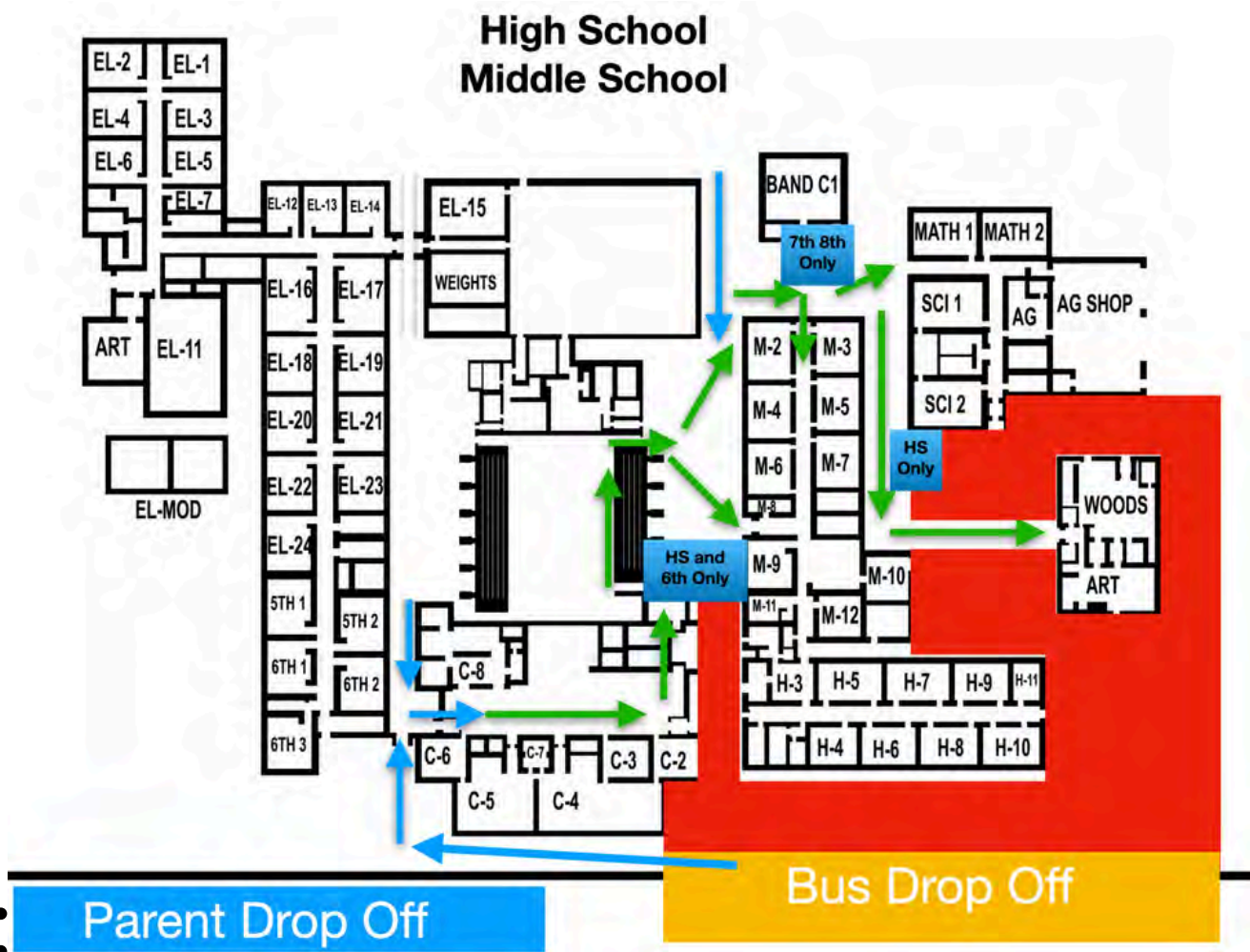
What to Look Forward To This Year

- **Academic Growth & Innovation:** Expanding hands-on learning opportunities, updated classroom technology, and tailored support for every learner.
- **Student Well-being:** Enhancing our campus resources to ensure students feel safe, supported, and connected every day.
- **Community & Family Engagement:** The District Accountability Committee met with our administrators recently and developed goals for the new school year. We are excited to partner with the DAC to cultivate a better culture for you and your child.

Campus Parking Map



Secondary Student Drop Off Map



Superintendent (continued)

Partnering for Success

Education is a team effort, and strong communication between home, school, and the broader community is at the heart of student achievement. We encourage you to stay connected through our school website, attend district events, and reach out to your school leaders whenever you have questions or ideas. We also want to extend ourselves to partner with you for the success of your child and family.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in our schools. Together, let's make this school year our best one yet!

Sincerely,

Alesa Reed
Superintendent of Schools
Dolores School District RE-4a

Dolores School District Important Dates

August 6: Back to School Event, elementary, middle, and high schools, 3:00-6:00 p.m.
Elementary students can bring their supplies during this time!

August 10: First Day of School!

August 10: Board of Education Meeting, District Office Boardroom, 6:00 p.m.
Agendas are posted on the [website](http://www.doloresschools.org) and outside the district office.

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.

Director Valiena Rosenkrance

Teddy Bear Preschool



Welcome new and returning Teddy Bear Preschool families!

We are so excited to meet our brand-new littles and their families, and we can't wait to welcome back all of our returning children and familiar faces. This fresh new school year is going to be packed with exciting things and wonderful new experiences for your children. First day of school is August 10th!

Mandatory Teddy Bear Preschool Back-to-School Open House

To kick things off, we will be hosting our mandatory Open House on August 7th. This meeting is vital for every family to ensure a smooth transition into the school year.

Teddy Bear Preschool (continued)

It is the perfect opportunity to:

- Meet the teachers with your child.
- Understand parking logistics and procedures.
- Learn the processes for daily drop-off and pick-up.
- Connect with our mission and preschool philosophy.
- Get answers to any questions you may have.

We want to make sure this fits your schedule, so we are offering two sessions to choose from:

- Morning Session: 10:00 a.m.
- Evening Session: 6:00 p.m.

Our Open Door & Community Philosophy

As always, we love connecting with our community. If you would like to share a special trade, job, or hobby, we would love to have you come into the classroom to share it with the children! Connect with Valiena to schedule your presentation.

Please also remember that we maintain an open-door policy. You are welcome at any time to drop in and play with your child. You never have to arrange a day or time in advance.

If you should ever have questions or concerns, your contact person is Valiena at 970-882-7277, 970-739-4244 or vrosenkrance@dolores.k12.co.us

Let's make it a wonderful year together!

Ms. Valiena

Teddy Bear Preschool Important Dates

August 7: Teddy Bear Preschool Mandatory Open House

Choose one session:

- morning session 10:00 a.m.
- evening session 6:00 p.m.

August 10: First day of school!

August 10: Board of Education Meeting, District Office Boardroom, 6:00 p.m.

Agendas are posted on the [website](#) and outside the district office.

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Principal Amanda Hill

Dolores Elementary School



Welcome back, Little Bears!

I am so excited to welcome both our returning students and the many new families joining Dolores Elementary School this year. A new school year always brings new opportunities to learn, grow, and create lasting memories together.

Our school-wide theme this year is **"Great Minds... Sweet Success!"** Inspired by the colorful world of Candyland, our theme reminds us that every step of the learning journey is worth celebrating. Success isn't about racing to the finish—it's about showing kindness, working hard, overcoming challenges, and growing a little sweeter every day. Together, we'll make this school year one filled with learning, laughter, and lots of sweet successes!

At DES, we believe every child deserves the opportunity to achieve at high levels academically, socially, and emotionally. We will support our students through high-quality instruction, an exciting new reading curriculum, effective math instruction, increased opportunities for play and movement, engaging specials, and a caring school community that puts students first.

We know that the strongest schools are built on strong partnerships with families. We invite you to partner with us throughout the year to make this the very best year possible for your child. At DES, we truly are an open-door school. Whether planned or spontaneous, you are always welcome to visit, volunteer, participate in classroom learning, join your child for lunch, or simply stop by to see the wonderful things happening throughout our school. If you ever have questions, concerns, ideas, or simply want to talk, my door is always open. Working together as a team is what will make this a truly sweet and successful year for every Little Bear.

We cannot wait to fill our halls with smiling faces, excited learners, and the energy that makes Dolores Elementary such a special place. Thank you for trusting us with your children and for being an important part of our DES family. Together, let's make this a year filled with growth, joy, kindness, and Great Minds... Sweet Success!

Partners in Learning,

Amanda Hill- DES Principal

Dolores Elementary School (continued)

Dolores Elementary School Important Dates

August 6: Back-to-School Night, Elementary School & Football Field, 3:00-6:00 p.m.
Elementary students can bring their supplies and meet their teachers!

August 10: First Day of School!

- 7:30 a.m. breakfast and recess
- 8:00 a.m. tardy bell

August 10: Board of Education Meeting, District Office Boardroom, 6:00 p.m.
Agendas are posted on the [website](#) and outside the district office.

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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 Mary Weiss

Dolores Middle School



Welcome to the New School Year!

I am delighted to welcome both new and returning families to our New Adventure middle school community! It is with great enthusiasm that I anticipate a year filled with growth, learning, and discovery for your student.

Our dedicated middle school team is committed to creating a nurturing and stimulating environment where every student can thrive academically and personally. We believe in fostering a strong partnership with you to support your student's educational journey. Thank you for entrusting my team with your student's education. I'm confident that, together, we can make this school year a memorable and enriching experience for all.

Back-to-School Night!

The Dolores Middle School Back-to-School Night, will take place **Thursday,**

August 6, from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. This open format gives you the freedom to arrive at your convenience and spend quality time exploring our classrooms and connecting with teachers and staff. The district will be providing dinner on the football field along with games, music and an opportunity to tour the new building.

Important Dates to remember for starting school.

Monday, August 10th is set for our Super Sixth Graders' FIRST DAY

7:45 AM, 6th grade students will meet in the Auxiliary Gym for a short WELCOME and to prepare for the rest of the day.

Dolores Middle School (continued)

Tuesday, August 11th, all middle school students will return to school.

7:45 AM, 7th and 8th grade students will meet in the Auxiliary Gym for a short WELCOME and to prepare for the rest of the day, while the 6th graders will report to their classrooms.

Please Remember: No Cell Phones During the School Day in the Middle School. Cell phones are **not allowed at any point** during the school day for **all middle school students**.

Students in grades **6-8** must **power off and store** personal devices in lockers.

Lockers will be assigned to students and it will be up to them if they would like to check out a lock. Locks on lockers will not be a requirement.

Dolores Middle School Important Dates

August 6: Back-to-School Night, Dolores Middle School, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

- Dinner provided by DSD
- Explore classrooms
- Connect with teachers and staff

August 10: First Day of Middle School 6th Grade Only!

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 7:45 a.m. Tardy Bell

August 10: Board of Education Meeting, District Office Boardroom, 6:00 p.m.
Agendas are posted on the [website](#) and outside the district office.

August 11: Grades 7 and 8 First Day of School! All middle school students

- 7:30 a.m. breakfast
- 7:45 a.m. tardy bell

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



Our motto this year, "Same Beast, New Cave," acknowledges that while we are moving into a new building, we will continue to hold fast to the community values that have served Dolores School District for nearly a century. We are one semester away from moving into the new high school and one year away from completing the BEST Grant Building Project. Much of the traffic

pattern will remain similar to what it was at the end of last school year. Parking will continue to be a challenge throughout the fall semester, and we will make adjustments as construction progresses. Our seniors have signed up for their parking spots, while underclassmen will be assigned or directed to designated student parking areas.

Our students and staff were busy over the summer.



Bentley Monk presented at the **Modern Band Conference** hosted by CSU in Fort Collins.

Dolores Rotary is one of several organizations that provide our students with opportunities to attend summer leadership camps. This year, Waylon Kiddoo and Orin Samulski represented Dolores High School in Divide, Colorado, where they joined students from across the state to develop leadership skills and build relationships with their peers.



Many of our athletic teams took advantage of the summer to work out and attend open gyms. Many thanks to the coaches and volunteers who gave their time to help our students prepare for the upcoming year. Football, volleyball, cheer, and cross-country are ready for an exciting fall season. Many of our FFA students also spent time volunteering at the fair in July and exhibiting their supervised agricultural experiences.

The first day of school is August 10, beginning at 7:45 a.m. We will begin the school year by continuing the **"Away All Day"** cell phone policy implemented during the final two months of last school year. **Students will not be permitted to use cell phones on campus during school hours, including lunch.** This does not apply to students who leave campus for lunch or attend off-campus classes. Families may contact students during the school day by calling the front office at 970-882-7288 or emailing their student at firstname.lastname@dolores.k12.co.us.

Let's have a Great Year!

Food Service Director Joshalynn Hicks

Nutrition Services



Welcome Back!

The Nutrition Services Department works hard to meet the dietary needs of every student every school day. The two priorities below are an important part of achieving this goal.

Lunch Application

Please fill out the [school lunch application](#) using the link provided or by going to the [Nutrition Services Department](#) section of the school [website](#) and clicking on the "lunch application". While meals are free to our students under the "Healthy Meals for All Program", **filling out the form helps to maximize funding for our district** which is extremely important.

Food Allergies

Students in Colorado schools qualify to fill out the **Medical Statement for Meal Modification** form if they have a **documented** physical or mental impairment, food allergy, or medical condition that restricts their diet and affects a major life activity.



District Nurse Brandy Dunn

Health and Wellness



Welcome back, Bears!

I hope everyone had a fun, relaxing, and memorable summer! As we prepare for another great school year, here are some important links from the Nurse's Office:

- [Immunization Requirements to attend childcare and preschool](#)
- [Immunization Requirements to attend K-12](#)
- [Exemptions to school-required vaccines](#)
- [CDE Healthcare Plans](#) (asthma, allergies, diabetes, seizures, and other medical conditions)
- [How sick is too sick? When to stay home from school.](#)

Health and Wellness (continued)

These resources and more are available on the [Student Health](#) page of the Dolores School District website.

If your student needs medication at school, please remember that all prescription and over-the-counter medications require the appropriate authorization forms.

Four Corners



Youth Clinics

Sports Physicals at Four Corners Youth Clinics

Dolores Clinic 970-560-4890

August 3-6, 8am-4pm

If you have questions about immunizations, medications, food allergies or other student health concerns, please contact the District Nurse. Thank you for helping keep our students healthy, safe, and ready to learn. We look forward to another wonderful school year!

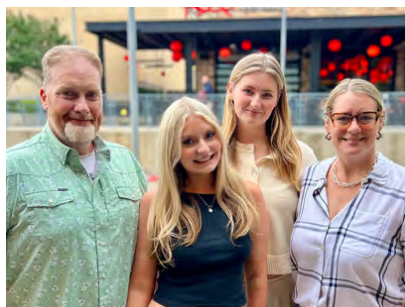
Academic Advisor Aurora Everett Dolores High School



Welcome back to a new school year!

I am so glad to be joining the Dolores High School community as your Academic Advisor. I am a proud graduate of Grand Canyon University, in Phoenix, AZ. I double majored in Biology for Secondary Education & Kinesiology.

I met my husband in Phoenix, and we raised two daughters. Scout is finishing up her accounting degree at GCU, and Brooke is starting her pre-nursing journey at Texas Tech this month.



Academic Advisor (continued)

While I am new to DHS, I bring more than 20 years of experience as a district and school leader, teacher, and advocate for students. I look forward to supporting your students as you navigate this exciting and important year of secondary school.

After students receive their printed schedule at **Back-to-School Night** (or view it in Alma on Friday, August 7th), anyone who needs to request a schedule change should complete the Google form linked below:

[Schedule Change Request Form](#)

I am excited to meet you and partner with you this year. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions.

Warmly,



Aurora Everett, M.Ed.

Academic Advisor
Dolores High School
aeverett@dolores.k12.co.us

Athletic Director Travis Rantz Athletics



Welcome to the 2026-2027 sports and activities season!

Following an incredible past year, we are excited to build on our momentum starting with this fall's lineup. **Go Bears!**

Important Dates & Deadlines

- July 13: Registration Portal Opens
- July 27 @ 5:30 PM: Mandatory Fall Sports Parent Meeting & Discounted Physicals
- August 10: High School (HS) Official Practices Begin
- (Note: Non-mandatory mini-camps run the week prior)
- August 17: Middle School (MS) Official Practices Begin

Athletics (continued)

Action Items for Parents & Student-Athletes

- Complete Registration & Upload Documents
- All physicals and required paperwork must be uploaded prior to the first day of practice. Upload Link: [Dolores Secondary ArbiterSports Portal](#)
- Pay Sports Fees
- All sports fees must be settled before participating in the first game or scrimmage.
- Review the Handbook
- Please read through the Activities Handbook and registration materials found on the ArbiterSports link. It covers policies and solutions for most situations that arise during the season.

Stay Connected

We use the **Band app**  as our primary communication channel for all team updates and announcements. If you are not yet connected to your sport's Band group, please reach out to your head coach or the Athletic Department.

Contact Information

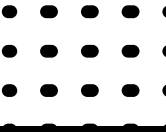
If you have any questions or need assistance with registration, don't hesitate to reach out:

Travis Rantz, Athletic Director
Phone: 970-570-3002
Email: trantz@dolores.k12.co.us



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](#)

[2026-2027 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

