

May 2026



# Dolores School District

## Newsletter

Superintendent Alesa Reed

### Dolores School District RE-4A



Dear Students, Staff, Families, and Community Members,

As we head into the final weeks of the school year, there is a tangible sense of excitement and accomplishment in our halls. May is a time of reflection, celebration, and looking forward to the future. I want to take a moment to thank everyone for their dedication and hard work throughout this academic year

#### Upcoming Important Dates

Please mark your calendars for these essential end-of-year events:

- May 11 - Regular Board Meeting, Board Room, 6:00 p.m.
- May 21 - Last day of school ½ day, early release, 12:00 p.m.
- May 22 - Graduation, Main Gym, 3:00 p.m.

#### Building Update

We are pleased to report that our facility building project is moving forward on schedule. We are excited to share the new learning stair! This space is designed to foster collaboration, creativity, and beauty, and we cannot wait to see it in full use by our students.

The flood mitigation grant project will start in the latter part of this month. This has been a long-awaited project. We are grateful to our owner's representative, Artaic Group, for making this grant possible.

#### Staff Above and Beyond

I want to take a moment to shine a spotlight on our incredible staff. Many of our team members have gone above and beyond this month to ensure our students finish the year strong. Their unwavering dedication, patience, and creativity—often behind the scenes—are what make our district such a special place to learn and grow. Thank you for your commitment to our students' success.

# Superintendent (continued)

## **Melissa Dalzell - High School Technology**

Our secondary technology teacher has quickly become an integral part of our school community. Since joining the staff, she has built strong connections with students and embraced the school's culture. Melissa has led the creation and editing of both the high school/middle school yearbook and the elementary/Teddy Bear Preschool yearbook, showcasing her commitment to capturing and celebrating student experiences across all levels. She has also developed a computer and digital literacy curriculum to better prepare our students for the demands of today's world, while introducing middle school courses focused on practical life skills. We are excited to have Melissa in our district and look forward to her continued contributions to DHS.

## **Mrs. Schurr - Middle School Science**

I am pleased to take this opportunity to recognize Mrs. Schurr for her outstanding contributions to our school and her unwavering dedication to both her students and colleagues.

Mrs. Schurr is an exceptionally experienced educator who brings science to life in her classroom through meaningful, hands-on learning experiences. Her ability to engage students in active exploration not only deepens their understanding but also fosters a genuine excitement for learning. Students in her classroom don't just learn science—they experience it.

Beyond her work with students, Mrs. Schurr is a valued member of our staff community. She is always willing to lend a helping hand, collaborate with colleagues, and contribute in any way possible to support others' success. Her positive attitude and team-first mindset make her an invaluable asset to our school.

Mrs. Schurr's dedication, creativity, and passion for education truly set her apart. She consistently goes above and beyond to ensure her students are engaged, supported, and inspired.

It is with great appreciation that we recognize Mrs. Schurr for her continued excellence in education.

# Superintendent (continued)

### A Message from the Superintendent

This time of year is always bittersweet. For our seniors, it marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. We are incredibly proud of the resilience, leadership, and curiosity you have shown. For our underclassmen and staff, it is a time to finish strong and prepare for the opportunities that summer and the coming year will bring. Let's continue to support one another as we cross the finish line together.

Sincerely,

Alesa Reed  
Superintendent of Schools

### Dolores School District Important Dates

- May 11:** Board of Education Meeting, District Office Boardroom, 6:00 p.m.  
Agendas are posted on the [website](#) and outside the district office.
- May 21:** Last day of school ½ day, early release, 12:00 p.m.
- May 22:** High School Graduation, Main Gym, 3:00 - 5:00 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,

As we head into our last month of school before summer break, we wanted to take a moment to say a huge thank you to all of our wonderful Teddy Bear families. It has been such a joy watching your little ones grow, and we can't thank you

enough for trusting us with the start of their education. Your constant support and partnership have truly made our program feel like a community. Let's make these final few weeks together the best ones yet!

Huge thanks to Alison Brown and the AG/FFA members for including our preschool in your activities! Barnyard Day was absolutely amazing, and our children truly loved every second of it. We are so impressed by how the event just gets better every year; your organization and hard work really shine through. We're already looking forward to the next one!

# Teddy Bear Preschool (continued)

## Barnyard Days



Huge thanks to Mr. Monk and his Rock n Roll band for letting our Toddlers and Preschoolers hang out and listen to you play! The kids had an absolute blast. You guys really ROCK—thanks for being so welcoming and sharing your music with the little ones.



Our preschoolers had an absolute blast at our annual swim day at the Cortez Rec Center! After splashing around, we headed to the park to enjoy our sack lunches and burn off some extra energy on the playground. It was so wonderful to see many of our families join in on the fun, too. A huge thank you goes out to the staff at the Cortez Rec Center for being so accommodating and making sure our visit was smooth and trouble-free!



Our little ones really got into the spirit of Earth Day this year! The preschoolers headed outside with their disposable gloves and trash bags to scout for litter around the school grounds. It was so sweet to see them working together to help “keep the Earth happy,” and they did an awesome job making our school grounds sparkle.

# Teddy Bear Preschool (continued)

That's a wrap on another school year! We're just finishing up with a few important dates to keep things on track, and we're already getting excited to see many of you back here in the fall. Be safe and enjoy your summer break!

## Teddy Bear Preschool Important Dates

- May 11:** Board of Education Meeting, District Office Boardroom, 6:00 p.m.  
Agendas are posted on the [website](#) and outside the district office.
- May 20:** Teddy Bear Preschool Graduation, Dolores High School Main Gym, 10:00 a.m.  
Have your child at the gym by 9:30, please.
- May 21:** Last day of Preschool (1/2 day) and End of Year Picnic, Joe Rowell Park, 9:30- a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Toddlers and preschoolers must be picked up by 12:00 at Joe Rowell Park.

## Emergency Closures

Monitor local media and check [doloresschools.org](http://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



Welcome to the last month of school! It is hard to believe how quickly this year has gone by. Our students are working hard each day to finish the year strong, and we are so proud of the tremendous growth we have seen across our school. Students have shown growth academically, socially, and emotionally throughout the year. From stronger reading and math skills to increased confidence, independence, and perseverance, it has been exciting to watch our students continue to learn and thrive. Their hard work and dedication have truly paid off.

As we head into May, we also want to take time to recognize our incredible teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. Our teachers go above and beyond every single day to support, encourage, and inspire students. They spend countless hours planning engaging lessons, building meaningful relationships with students, and ensuring that every child feels valued and supported. The care, patience, and dedication they bring to our school each day make a lasting impact on our students and families. We are so grateful for all they do!

# Dolores Elementary School (continued)

Family engagement has been a major focus for us all year long, and we want to sincerely thank all of the parents and family members who continue to support our school community. “Bring Your Parent to School Day” was such a special event. The students absolutely loved having you in the classroom, and our teachers appreciated the extra helping hands during learning activities. Thank you for taking the time to join us and be part of your child’s school experience.

Our School-O-Rama Math Mania Night was also a huge success! Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in the fun. Events like these help us continue building strong relationships between school and home while creating lasting memories for our students. We truly enjoy hosting our families and strengthening our school community together.

Thank you all for a wonderful school year. Your support, partnership, and involvement have made a tremendous difference for our students and staff. As summer begins, be sure to check in with the Dolores Public Library for summer activities and learning opportunities to help keep students engaged throughout the break.

We hope you have a safe, fun, and relaxing summer. We can’t wait to welcome everyone back in the fall!

Partners in Learning,  
Amanda Hill- Principal

## Dolores Elementary School Important Dates

**May 4-7:** DIBELS Reading Benchmark Testing

**May 7:** Pickles and Popcorn

**May 11:** Board of Education Meeting, District Office Boardroom, 6:00 p.m.  
Agendas are posted on the [website](#) and outside the district office.

**May 13:** PTA Meeting, Elementary Art Room, 4:00 p.m.

**May 18:** 5th Grade Continuation, Main Gym, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

**May 19:** Elementary Field Day - Volunteers Needed!

**May 21:** Elementary Character Assembly, Auxiliary Gym , 8:10 a.m.

**May 21:** Last Day of School - Release at 12:00 p.m.

## Emergency Closures

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Principal Mary Weiss  
Dolores Middle School



Dear Families,

Thank you to all the parents and students who attended our Fine Arts & Poetry Night! Our middle school students did an outstanding job stepping up and reading their poems in front of a crowd. This experience helps build confidence and

important life skills that will prepare them for high school and beyond.

A big thank you to our fine arts teachers for showcasing their students' work, and a special thank you to Mrs. Vaughn for helping our 7th grade students prepare and share their poetry with our community.



# Dolores Middle School (continued)

## Elks Essay Contest Winners

The middle school participated in the Elks Club writing contest again this year. The prompt was “What Americanism means to you.” Congratulations to our winners, who received certificates and gift cards. Special congratulations to Nyah Gorsuch –her essay earned 1st place and was chosen to advance to the national level. We are very proud of all the students who participated.

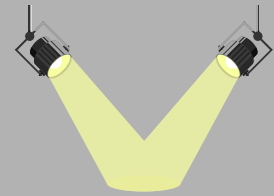
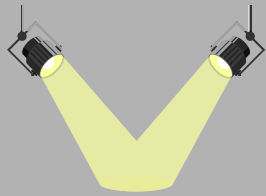


## Earth Day Celebration

Middle school students spent three hours cleaning up the town of Dolores to show their support for Earth Day. Thank you to Karen Batson for organizing this effort and to the Town of Dolores for supplying bags and gloves. Working together with the community was a wonderful way to demonstrate the importance of keeping our town clean.



# Dolores Middle School (continued)



## March Middle School Students of the Month



The 6th- grade team would like to congratulate Miss **Evie Domagata** as one of the students of the month for the month of May. Evie is an outstanding student, both in and out of the classroom. She always does what is expected of her, turns her work in on time, and truly cares about her grades. In addition, Evie is kind to those around her and is a good friend to all. We truly appreciated her in class this year and wish more students would strive to be like her going forward. Congratulations Evie!



The 6th-grade team would like to recognize **Matix Smith** as one of the students of the month. Matix is always one to share a funny story, check in on those around him, and is the first to offer help when needed. Matix is a huge aid when it comes to cleaning and organizing. He makes sure we know the ins and outs of middle school and is always a respectful student, doing what is expected of him. He has been such a joy to have this year. Congratulations Matix!



The 7th grade team would like to recognize **Lamijo Salt**. Lamijo has demonstrated consistent hard work throughout the school year and is always respectful toward both students and staff. He frequently asks questions and actively participates in class, showing a strong commitment to his learning. Lamijo sets a great example for others through his responsibility, positive attitude, and willingness to help create a supportive and respectful classroom environment.



The 8th grade team would like to recognize **Dylan Hanson** for his consistent participation and thoughtful inquiries in class. Dylan joined Dolores School this year and has already proven to be a strong asset to the student community. He shows a genuine curiosity for learning, often asking insightful questions that help deepen class discussions. Dylan also demonstrates a positive attitude and willingness to engage with both his peers and the material, making him a great contributor to the classroom environment.

# Middle School

## ★★★★★ Academic Achievement ★★★★★

Congratulations to the following students for their academic achievements during the 3rd 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

Isaac Marty, Chloe Paine, Hayes Robinson, Sean Tarpey

#### 7th Grade

Brian Boniface, Amelia Daniel, Brantley Frans, Marissa Hill, Cambri Hooper, Zoey Kennedy, Ophelia Pietruszka, Parker Pribble, Vann Robinson, MacKenzie Stowe, Kyndal Winter, Kinlea Wright

#### 6th Grade

Aspen Brafford, William Chubbuck, Annalise Cunningham, Johanna LaRose, Patricia Nielson, Idris Pietruszka, Finn Tarpey, Daisy Williford

### A and B Honor Roll

#### 8th Grade

Jaylin Cole, Olivia Elder, Owen Elder, Kennedy Erautt, Tylee Green, Ellie Gregory, Dylan Hanson, Gabriella Hollen, Randon Hooper, Ripley Lamkins, Isabel Lockhoff, Ryatt Loomis, Harlie Nielson, Tatum Otteson, Isaiah Perez, Lief Rowan, Atticus Smith, Jack Stanley, Callista Vaughn

#### 7th Grade

Fynn Anderson, Paisly Andrews, MaKayla Beaudoin, Nyah Gorsuch, Robert Haynie, Abigail Hurst, Hannah Huston, Bronson Jensen, Alanna Lindsay, Jaxx Robson, Avery Shoopman, Rowan Smith, Jamal Tolbert, Aylan Warren

#### 6th Grade

Finn Atwell, Eviana Domagata, Peyton Erautt, Danielle Hanson, Leroy Keim, Desiree Kitley, Tresden Rennert, Isabel Sassmann, Olivia Stanley, Jamya Tolbert, Lilliana Walker

**MIDDLE SCHOOL  
PERFECT ATTENDANCE  
AWARDS**

**6TH GRADE**

ASPEN BRAFFORD  
PEYTON ERAUTT  
DESIREE KITLEY  
JOHANNA LAROSE  
JACKSON MCGEE  
FINN TARPEY

**7TH GRADE**

FYNN ANDERSON  
AMELIA DANIEL  
NYAH GORSUCH  
CALLIE LACEY  
ALANNA LINDSAY  
PARKER PRIBBLE  
MACKENZIE STOWE

**8TH GRADE**

ISAIAH PEREZ  
VINCENT WESTOVER



# Dolores Middle School (continued)

## Dress Code

As the weather begins to warm up, we would like to kindly remind families to review the student dress code outlined in the school [handbook](#) (page 13) with your student. As clothing choices often change with the seasons, taking a few moments to revisit these expectations can help ensure students come to school dressed appropriately each day. We appreciate your support in reinforcing these guidelines at home. If you have any questions regarding the dress code, please feel free to contact the school office. Thank you for your continued partnership.

## Dolores Middle School Important Dates

**May 5-6:** NWEA Testing

**May 19:** Grades 6 and 7 Awards, Main Gym, 9:00 a.m.

**May 21:** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Continuation and awards, Main Gym, 10:00 a.m.  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade potluck celebration to follow ([sign up here](#) to share)

**May 21:** Last Day of School - Release at 12:00 p.m.

## Emergency Closures

Monitor local media and check [doloresschools.org](http://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 Walker

## Dolores High School



Dear Dolores Families,

Spring has a way of showing what a year's worth of work can turn into, and Dolores High School has plenty to be proud of right now. Our track athletes are in a strong position heading into state qualifying, and baseball is making a push for postseason play—an impressive step forward in just the program's third year back. The music program had a standout showing in Denver, with both jazz band and choir earning first place, along with the Esprit de Corps award—a reflection of both performance and character under the direction of Bentley Monk. Modern Band recently closed out JAMFEST in Grand Junction!

# Dolores High School (continued)

On stage, Alice in Wonderland will mark a final bow for a large group of seniors and their director, Pete Swingle. In FFA, students represented DHS well at the state competition. The Ag Mechanics team brought home a bronze, with Branson Lee earning individual gold and Kooper Thomas silver, while Rylan Maloney earned silver in Food Science.

Beyond competitions, our students continue to give back. Jessica Kuntz's College English class partnered with local community members to preserve their stories, student government hosted an egg hunt for younger students, and FFA members brought hands-on agricultural learning to our elementary and preschool classrooms. We'll also wrap up spring testing with NWEA, one of several ways we measure growth. We hope you've seen that growth in your students in ways that go far beyond a test score.

A quick reminder of upcoming dates: Freshman–Junior Awards Ceremony is May 11, Senior Awards Night is May 20, and the last day of school is May 21. Graduation will be held Friday of that final week at 3:00 PM indoors; artificial noise makers and airhorns are not permitted.

As the year winds down, it's a good time to reflect on just how much this group of students—especially our seniors—has accomplished, both in and out of the classroom.

## Dolores High School Important Dates

**May 11:** Grades 9-11 Awards Ceremony, Main Gym, 11:00 a.m.

**May 20:** Senior Awards Night, Dolores Community Center, 6:00 p.m.

**May 21:** Last Day of School - Release at 12:00 p.m.

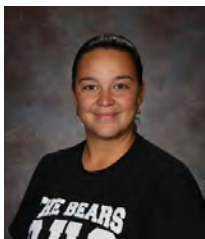
**May 22:** High School Graduation, Main Gym, 3:00 p.m.

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Food Service Director Joshalynn Hicks

## Nutrition Services



We made it!

Now that it is the end of the year I just want to let everyone know that any balances left on accounts will transfer over to next year.

Also, we understand that nutrition needs change throughout the year so please remember to get nurse Brandy the right paperwork. This paperwork ensures that we here in the kitchen stay on top of every child's allergies. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

# District Nurse Brandy Dunn Health and Wellness



End of year Reminders:

**\*\*Medication Pick-Up\*\***

All student medications must be picked up from the health office by the last day of school. Medications cannot be stored over the summer and will be properly disposed of if not collected. Please contact the nurse's office to arrange pick-up.



Below are some important links for next year:

- [School-Required Vaccines Exemptions](#) (Medical and nonmedical)
- [Meal Modification Form](#)

**All required forms and updates should be submitted before the first day of the next school year to avoid delays or exclusion.**



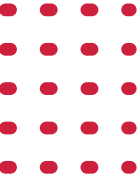
**GET YOUR "SPORT PHYSICALS - WELL CHILD EXAM" EARLY FOR THE 2026/2027 SCHOOL YEAR**

**SUMMER SCHEDULE:  
June 3 - July 29**

**SWOS Clinic in Cortez  
Wednesdays 8:00am-4:00pm.  
(970) 560-5056**

**Dolores Wednesday afternoons 1:00-4:00pm by appointment (970) 560-4890**

**DOLORES CLINIC  
SPORT PHYSICALS  
AUGUST 3-6, 8:00AM-4:00PM**



Main Office: 401 N Dolores Road, Cortez, CO 81321- 970-560-5056 (Phone) - 970-564-1654 (Fax) Dolores: 1301 Central Ave, Dolores, CO 81323 970-560-4890 (Phone) - 970-459-3120 (Fax)  
This School-Based Health Center is a collaborative effort between Southwest Open School, Dolores School District, and Every Child Pediatrics.

# 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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