



Dolores School District RE-4A

Scott Cooper, Superintendent

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Dear Dolores Students, Staff, and Parents,

We have completed the first semester this week, entered into the holiday season and begun our building project. This is a busy and exciting time of year! Student achievement and the academic success of our students is our number one goal. During the next few months our schools will be buzzing with quality teaching and learning as we approach the Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP) this spring. Please help your children be ready and available for learning. Well-rested students who arrive on time and participate in their classes every day will be successful.

We broke ground this week with the electrical infrastructure preparations. This was one of the first major steps in our 12 month-long construction project. There will be careful demolition of old facilities to make way for new classrooms (elementary and secondary), the Career Technical Education (CTE) shop, and remodeled locker rooms. The safety of our students is our top priority during the construction. Daily, we are providing extra supervision and meeting with construction superintendent, Mr. Klassen, a Dolores community resident, to ensure that all students and staff will be safe.

One of our school board goals for this year is to develop a thoughtful academic two-year calendar that provides our students with the best structures for learning. We will be hosting a calendar committee this winter and would like to hear your calendar thoughts and ideas. If you are interested in participating in this committee, please contact me before January 15th, 2014. You could simply email me your thoughts and ideas, or tell me that you are interested in participating in this calendar work. This work will most likely take place on Wednesday afternoons/early evenings in late January through February of 2014.

Thank you for participating in the grade level configuration surveys that have been distributed and returned from students, staff, and parents. This is the beginning of research and development work to help us thoughtfully determine how to best configure grade levels for our students. Research articles can be found on our website and through your own searches. The majority of the research supports K-6 elementary schools in the areas of both academics and social development. We have planned and will begin building extra classrooms soon on the West side of campus (above the floodplain) to accommodate the necessary learning environments to accommodate 6th grade students as part of our elementary. The survey feedback has provided us with challenges and concerns that will be addressed throughout the next 18 months as accountability committees develop plans to thoughtfully prepare for a Kindergarten through 6th grade elementary, a 7th and 8th grade Middle School, and a 9th through 12th grade High School.

Thank you for your support Dolores Schools!

Happy Holidays!

Superintendent, Dolores School District