



Pueblo District 60

November 2025

Newsletter

D60 is Present, Powerful, and Empowered by Reading.



Be Present and Powerful Every Day!

With a change in time and temperature, and in the face of upcoming holiday breaks, it's easy to lose focus on consistent daily attendance. But with the semester winding down, it's more important than ever for students to be in class. When students miss school, they are not only missing out on school-served meals, but also the engaging and collaborative learning activities that cannot be duplicated outside of school.

Remember: poor attendance affects not only students but all within the school community. When students work together on collaborative projects, it's important that the entire team be present every day in order to ensure that the project presentation is as powerful as possible. Our teachers are committed to providing engaging instruction that relates to real life, and they can only do that with students in school each day.

Let's reach out to our neighbors and friends and support each other in being at school and ready to learn every day. Together, let's be **Present, Powerful, and Empowered by Reading** every day, especially when it's dark and cold outside. Our Pueblo community needs all of us at school each day to thrive!

Despite the ongoing government shutdown, the district continues to serve daily meals to all students.

For those families in need of food assistance, here are resources that can help:

- **Pueblo Food Project** – pueblofoodproject.org/foodpantries. Find a list of local food pantries and community meal sites in Pueblo County.
- **Colorado 211** – Call 2-1-1 or 866-760-6489, or visit www.211colorado.org to connect with local food pantries, housing help, and community resources.
- **Feeding Colorado** – Visit www.feedingcolorado.org/find-food or email info@feedingcolorado.org to find food banks and meal programs across Colorado.
- **Hunger Free Colorado Food Resource Hotline** – Call 855-855-4626. Speak with a navigator to locate free or low-cost food in your area.

Additionally, Nutrition services is hosting a food drive through November 13 to help restock school pantries for students and families in need. Shelf stable, canned goods, stuffing mix, soup, rice, beans, chili and other items may be donated at any school cafeteria.

Teaching & Learning in **D60**

Tigers Take Deep Dive into Medieval History

Using the new elementary literacy resource Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA), Haaff Elementary School Tigers did a deep dive into medieval history. Upon completion of the reading, the Tigers were challenged to not only create a realistic medieval castle but designate at least three components of the structure.



Stallions Create Solar Exhibit

Highland Park Elementary STEM Magnet School fifth graders have been studying the solar system and patterns in the universe. As the universe is huge, the students were tasked with selecting a specific space science topic and creating an exhibit that teaches others about it.



Sunset Park Kids Learn how to Handle Real-World Finances

Minnequa Works Credit Union gave fifth graders at Sunset Park Elementary School a "Bite of Reality" with a firsthand look at managing real-world finances — balancing checkbooks, setting budgets, and making smart spending decisions. "Reality definitely set in when some had to sell back their dream car or truck for something more financially responsible," said Principal Amber Hertneky. "It was a fun, eye-opening lesson in financial literacy." To further support the school, Minnequa Works Credit Union donated \$4,000.

Author of "The Violin Conspiracy" Visits Central

Brendan Slocumb, author of "The Violin Conspiracy," the 2025 Pueblo City-County Library District All Pueblo Reads selection, visited with Pueblo Central High **Present, Powerful and Empowered by Reading** English students. Mr. Slocumb, a distinguished violinist and one-time music teacher, discussed the writing of his celebrated novel -- the majority of it autobiographical -- and took questions from the Wildcats. At the conclusion of the presentation, he signed copies of the novel.



Partnership with Analogue Book Store

To promote our **Present, Powerful and Empowered by Reading** focus, the district has continued its social media campaign highlighting the books our staff and students are reading. The district also partnered with the Analogue bookstore to showcase the books our scholars are reading.

District Staff Awards & Recognitions

Michelle Camille, the district's Coordinator of School-based Medicaid Programming, received the Kathy Cummins National Alliance for Medicaid Education (NAME) merit award, which is presented annually to the person who consistently makes a significant contribution in the field of school-based Medicaid programming.

Carmen Olivas of the district's Spanish Translation Services department received a Community Service Award from the Mariposa Center for Safety for her work with district families.

Two educators, Kareen Lopez of East and Melissa Stecklein of Goodnight, were recognized by Colorado State University Pueblo with Distinguished Alumni Awards.

Minnequa Principal Katie Harshman received a KOAA 5 Lighthouse Award, presented to community members who make extraordinary efforts to improve their neighborhoods through service.



Wayne Genova to Enter Music Educators Hall of Fame

In his three decades-plus of vocal music education in the district, Wayne Genova has garnered a host of honors and accolades to include membership in the South High School Hall of Fame and the Pueblo Arts Alliance Hall of Fame.

Now, Mr. Genova can add another item to his illustrious resume: membership in the Colorado Music Educators Association Hall of Fame.

Haaff Voted for Prestigious Award

Haaff Elementary School was named Best Public School for the sixth straight year in the Best of Pueblo Community's Choice Awards voting. Fountain International Magnet School was a finalist, with Risley School of Exploration a finalist in the Best Employer category.

The East FCCLA Hosted its 7th Annual Tuffy's Trick or Treat

Coordinated by the East Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) catering program participants for the seventh year, Tuffy's Trick or Treat drew more than 1,000 guests -- and 31 stations -- for an evening of treats, games and costume show off.

This fun endeavor is an example of Career and Technical Education engaged in community service. At the state FCCLA convention, teacher Janae Passalacqua's students will submit Tuffy's Trick or Treat as a Chapter Display Project and it also will be represented at the national level.



Upcoming Events:

- All-City Middle & High School Choir

Thursday, November 6 *Pueblo East High School 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.*

Come and see all the vocal talent Pueblo has to offer!

- Pride and Patriotism Ceremony

Thursday, November 13 *Pueblo Memorial Hall 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.*

The 10th annual salute to veterans will include a writing contest, vocal performances, and a decorated veteran guest speaker.

- Thanksgiving Break

Monday, November 24 - Friday, November 28 (Back to Class Monday, December 1)

Make sure you return from break Present and Powerful every day and attend school daily!

- Winter Break

Monday, December 22 - Friday, January 2 (Back to Class Monday, January 5)

As the end of the semester gets closer, continue a focus on learning by being Present and Powerful every day.

We would like to encourage you to attend our two remaining

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from 5:30-7 p.m. at East, then

the last meeting will be on

from 5:30-7 p.m. at

holic Church. Also

the QR Code

will provide any input or

thoughts you may have.

Pueblo School District No. 60 does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, marital status, national origin, religion, ancestry, age, disability, need for special education services, genetic information, pregnancy or childbirth status, or other status protected by law in admission, access to, treatment or employment in its educational programs or activities. Additionally, a lack of English language skills is not a barrier to admission or participation in activities. The following individual has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Executive Director of Student Support Services, Andrew Burns, andrew.burns@pueblod60.org, Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Officer for complaints. This individual can be located at 315 West 11th Street, Pueblo, Colorado 81003, (719) 549-7100. Inquiries about Title IX can be directed to Pueblo School District No. 60's Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Officer named herein; the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the Department of Education at (800) 421-3481, OCR@ed.gov; or both. Complaint procedures have been established for students, parents, employees, and members of the public. (Policy AC, AC-R-1, AC-R-2, AC-E-1, AC-E-2, AC-E-3). Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre esta información, por favor llame a la escuela de su niño.