



Pueblo District 60

September 2026

Newsletter

D60 is Present, Powerful, and Empowered by Reading.



Together, We Begin Another Great Year

September brings a renewed sense of excitement and possibility across District 60 as our schools come alive with the energy of a new school year. From welcoming students back to the classroom to meeting new teachers, reconnecting with friends, and beginning new learning adventures, the start of the year is filled with opportunities to grow, discover, and succeed.

As a community, we celebrated the beginning of another great year with events and moments that brought our students, families, staff, and community together. Our annual Back to School Bash gave families an opportunity to kick off the school year with fun, connection, and school spirit, while the first day of school officially welcomed our students back to their classrooms and learning communities. These moments set the tone for a year filled with possibility and promise.

As the school year is now well underway, we continue to look forward to all that lies ahead from engaging learning experiences and student achievements to new programs, activities, and opportunities that help every learner find their path to success. We are grateful to our dedicated staff, supportive families, and incredible community for helping create welcoming schools where every student can thrive.

Welcome back, District 60! Here's to a new school year filled with growth, discovery, connection, and success. Together, we remain **Present, Powerful, and Empowered by Reading.**

MINNEQUA EDUCATOR NOW A FINALIST FOR PRESTIGIOUS CDE DISTINCTION

Fifth-grade teacher Arjun Sahdev of Minnequa Elementary has been named one of eight finalists for Colorado Teacher of the Year. In his sixth year with D60, Arjun was selected from 297 applicants representing 76 districts and was also named D60's Elementary Teacher of the Year for 2025-26. Known for his creativity, enthusiasm, and commitment to student success, Arjun has made a lasting impact on his students and the Pueblo community. We're proud to have Arjun representing Pueblo D60! The Colorado Teacher of the Year will be announced later this fall.



Teaching & Learning in **D60**



CTE PATHWAYS CONTINUE TO GROW IN D60

Career and Technical Education (CTE) gives students the knowledge, skills, and real-world experiences needed to enter the workforce, pursue postsecondary education, or continue occupational training.

D60 has expanded its CTE offerings to meet changing workforce needs and student interests, with pathways in fields such as healthcare, engineering, digital media, manufacturing, business, construction, and more.

Today's CTE goes far beyond traditional vocational education, giving students hands-on opportunities to explore careers, build practical skills, and prepare for life after high school.

FLEXIBLE LEARNING. BUILT FOR SUCCESS

For students seeking flexibility and personalized learning, Pueblo School District 60 offers Dutch Clark Digital Online and D60 Online Middle School. Both combine online learning with personalized support, in-person connections and real-world experiences.

Dutch Clark Digital Online offers fully online, in-person or blended learning, allowing students to learn at a pace and in an environment that works for them. Students also have access to free college-credit opportunities and career exploration.

D60 Online Middle School provides a flexible, supportive environment for middle school students. Through field trips, activities, community partnerships, and Passion Projects, students connect learning to real-world interests and build skills for future success.



BRADFORD EARLY LEARNING CENTER WELCOMES IT'S FIRST STUDENTS

It was a historic day for District 60 and the East Side as the re-imagined Bradford Early Learning Center welcomed its first class of preschoolers—the Class of 2040/41.

Students will enjoy a well-rounded curriculum focused on literacy, math, science, creative arts, music, movement, and physical education, building a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

Bradford joins Heritage Elementary as a full-day preschool center, with additional schools offering half-day programs. These expanded options are helping more families give their children a strong start to their educational journey.

Teaching & Learning in **D60**

D60 EXPANDS STREAM OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

STREAM brings Science, Technology, Reading/Research, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics together to give students opportunities to explore big ideas, solve real-world problems and turn creativity into action.

Through project-based learning, students apply classroom knowledge to authentic challenges, collaborate, and create solutions. This year, D60's STREAM Magnet Schools, Centennial High School's Design and Innovation Academy, Risley School of Exploration, and Park View School of Discovery—are joined by Highland Park, which is expanding from STEM to STREAM, and Columbian Elementary, which is launching STREAM programming.

Together, these schools are helping students become creators, problem solvers, and innovators.



SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL ENTERS A NEW ERA

South High School is entering a new era as an Advanced Placement and Fine Arts School, supported by extensive campus renovations. Improvements include updated flooring and paint, gym and auditorium upgrades, new audio-visual technology, improved facilities, and the return of the iconic "Pepper" Colt sculpture.

South is also expanding its AP and pre-AP offerings and launching the College Board Teamship initiative, giving students opportunities to solve real-world problems with local businesses. Together, the renovations and expanded programming create new opportunities for students to learn, create, and prepare for their futures.

HYDE PARK PRECOLLEGIATE BEGINS A NEW CHAPTER

Hyde Park Precollegiate Middle School, D60's first precollegiate middle school, welcomed its inaugural class of 60 sixth-graders this fall at the newly refurbished Westside campus. The school will add seventh and eighth grades over the next two years, offering accelerated learning and opportunities to earn high school credits.

Students will benefit from college partnerships, campus visits and career-focused exploratories that connect classroom learning to real-world experiences. Through hands-on, project-based learning, Hyde Park is preparing students for high school, college and beyond while helping students build confidence, organization, goal-setting, and self-advocacy skills.



D60 ATTENDANCE IMPROVEMENTS SHOWING RESULTS

Pueblo District 60's Present, Powerful, and Empowered by Reading campaign is making an impact. Over the past two years, D60 has reduced chronic absenteeism by 11.6%, increased its attendance rate to 90%, and reduced truancy to 5%. D60 remains committed to ensuring every student is present and ready to learn each day.

CMAS RESULTS SHOW CONSISTENT STUDENT GROWTH

Pueblo School District 60's 2025-2026 CMAS results show consistent achievement and growth in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math, with modest gains in third, fifth and eighth grades and increased middle school growth in both subjects. D60 continues to strengthen learning through updated curriculum, real-time assessment data, and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), while advancing its Present, Powerful, and Empowered by Reading initiative and expanding targeted academic, attendance and student support.



STUDENT VOICES JOIN THE D60 BOARD

For the first time in district history, two high school students will serve as non-voting members of the D60 Board of Education, bringing student perspectives directly to the boardroom.

Suraya, a sophomore at East High School, will serve as the inaugural student representative, while Isabella, a junior at Centennial High School, will serve as the alternate. Both were selected through a competitive application and interview process.

The one-year positions are designed to strengthen communication between students and the Board of Education, give students a voice in board discussions and provide opportunities to advocate for positive change.

Throughout the 2026-27 school year, Suraya and Isabella will share student experiences, ideas, and potential solutions with the Board of Education while gaining firsthand insight into the decision-making process and helping shape the future of D60.

D60 AND LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS ACCESS TO READING

Pueblo School District 60 has renewed its partnership with the Pueblo City-County Library District to expand access to literacy resources and support its *Present, Powerful, and Empowered by Reading* initiative. Through the Library Connect, all D60 students and teachers automatically have access to library resources using their school ID and eight-digit birth date. No separate library card is required. Students can check out books and other materials, access digital resources, tutoring and research tools, and borrow technology such as Chromebooks and Wi-Fi hotspots. Teachers also have access to expanded print and digital resources to support classroom learning. The renewed partnership strengthens D60 and the library district's shared commitment to literacy, student success, access to information and lifelong learning.



Upcoming Events:

- **51st Cannon Game**

Friday, October 2, 7:00 p.m. Dutch Clark Stadium

A great D60 rivalry is almost here! Come out, bring the energy and cheer on your team as East and South face off for the Cannon!

- **1st Period Ends**

Thursday, October 15

The first quarter of the school year will soon be in the books, marking an exciting milestone as our students continue learning, growing and reaching new goals.

- **Pride and Patriotism**

Wednesday, November 11, 6:00 p.m. East High School

For the 11th year, the district and its scholars will pay tribute to veterans and those currently serving through our annual Pride and Patriotism event.

Did you know that if your student has missed more than 2 days by September 30th, they have missed more than 10% of school days and are considered chronic absenteeism?

D60 is Present, Powerful, and ***Empowered by Reading.***



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.