



# ANIMAS HIGH SCHOOL

## SCHOOL PROFILE 2018-2019

HEAD OF SCHOOL, SEAN WOYTEK

### Our Mission

Animas High School prepares all students for college and postsecondary success by creating critical thinkers and engaged citizens through an innovative, student-centered, project-based curriculum. This is accomplished through:

- Rigorous academics, where all students are prepared for college success
- Culture of excellence, where students are held to high expectations
- Strong faculty-student relationships, where students are well known
- Engaging learning, where students see the relevance in their education

### Our Curriculum

Animas High School's project-based, interdisciplinary curriculum reflects our mission and values and prepares students for the 21st century. Our rigorous academic program exceeds state standards, ensures mastery of critical skills and content and promotes students' preparedness for college, career, and lifelong learning. It prioritizes authentic engagement, thoughtful inquiry and in-depth analysis over rote memorization and broad coverage. Students at Animas High School emerge from our program with a depth of knowledge from a range of disciplinary perspectives.

Our faculty design projects that have real-world applications; students are asked to transform and apply knowledge that is relevant to their community and their lives. Students exhibit their work to authentic audiences, thereby refining presentation and communication skills. Exhibitions, Student-Led Conferences, and Presentations of Learning provide students the opportunity to reflect on and take ownership of their growth and learning.

Collaboration, combined with individual initiative, is a hallmark of our school. We use peer critique and socratic seminars across all disciplines, and students work both individually and in small groups to design and complete projects and solve problems.

Every day, students write. Assignments include essays, research papers, lab reports, analysis, reflections and creative writing. In math and science, students tackle both traditional and open-ended problems alongside projects such as building trebuchets or Rube Goldberg machines to explore the properties of physics.

### The Durango Community

Located in Durango, CO, we are a rural community of 18,503 residents in the Four Corners Region of the southwestern United States. The nearest major cities are Albuquerque (215 miles), Denver (340 miles) and, Salt Lake City (390 miles). The Durango community is composed of business, agricultural, and service industry residents. Fort Lewis College provides numerous educational and cultural advantages to the region.

### Our School

Located in Durango, CO, Animas High School opened in 2009 to offer rigorous, individualized college preparation based on the design principles of the nationally acclaimed High Tech High model. Animas High School is a rapidly-growing public charter school serving 250 students in grades 9-12. In 2018, we graduated our sixth class of students. Our dedicated faculty and staff are life-long learners who are invested in our school and students. Of our 17 full-time faculty, over half hold advanced degrees.

Average Class Size: 14

Student-Faculty Ratio: 15:1

Open enrollment is through random lottery when the number of interested students exceeds the available seats.

Our educational model relies on five Core Design Principles:

- Rigorous Education
- Engaged Learning
- Personalization
- Equitable Education
- Teacher-as-Designer



## School Culture

We support our students through a school culture that promotes the development of the whole person. As a learning community, we are dedicated to helping our students practice five effective **Habits of Heart and Mind**, which we remember through the acronym **PAPER**:

**Perspective**-Have a point of view; respect and understand the points of view of others. Take a stand, but be willing to listen to other ideas than your own.

**Advocacy**-When you need help, or when you don't understand, ask questions. When you can't connect to a project, schedule a meeting with a teacher. Advocate for your classmates, for your community, for your planet.

**Perseverance**- Don't give up. Learn to work through difficulty. Demonstrate a growth mindset.

**Evidence**-Use it to back up your perspective. Require it from others who make claims. Make decisions based on it.

**Refinement**-Take pride in everything you do in class and make it beautiful, whether you are reading, writing, speaking, or creating.

The AHS **Advisory Program** is designed to nurture and support students' personal and academic growth as they work toward postsecondary goals. Advisors serve as their advisees' advocate by tracking their overall academic progress and social-emotional well-being and by facilitating communication between home and school. AHS' culture is strengthened through Advisory activities that create community and a sense of belonging for all students. Beginning in 9th grade, students are paired with a staff member who is their Advisor for their entire time at AHS. Advisories are made up of about 10-15 students in the same grade and they meet weekly as a group. Many advisors will write students' counselor letters of recommendation due to their comprehensive knowledge of the student and their growth over four years.

**Osprey Week** is a week-long educational adventure that allows students and staff to learn new content and develop skills while participating in enriching hands-on activities. For Osprey Week, our classroom is the world beyond our school walls. Osprey Week takes place in late March and is required for all students in each grade level.

Finally, our school's use of restorative approaches in handling conflicts and student issues contributes to our positive school culture. The **Animas Restorative Team** is a student-led group that facilitates restorative circles to help peers resolve issues in a way that is inclusive, supportive and solution-oriented.



## LINK Internships

### *Leading Internships for New Knowledge*

At Animas High School, learning is connected to the world beyond our classrooms. As a graduation requirement, all juniors participate in a 3-week, full-time internship in the field of their choosing. In preparation, students learn "real world" skills as they refine their resumes, write cover letters, and engage in mock interviews. Through the internships, students connect their coursework and skills to the working world, experience professional work environments, refine their college and career goals, and document their experience through digital portfolios. Students have interned in businesses and organizations locally, nationally, and globally. Seniors may choose to continue their internships or engage in a second one for academic credit through the LINK 2.0 program.

## Senior Project

Senior Project is a semester-long, in-depth study of a self-selected research topic. Students craft a college-level research paper, deliver a professional TED-style talk and thesis defense in front of a live audience, and complete an action project that connects their research topic to the larger community. As the capstone project of their time at AHS, Senior Project allows students to synthesize their learning and pursue their individual passions, all with the support of senior faculty and a Faculty Advisor. Senior Projects cover a wide array of topics, ranging from designing, building and racing a solar-powered car to developing a new method for predicting stock market fluctuations based on swarm mentality.



## Course Offerings

AHS offers a rigorous curriculum that prepares students for their college and career goals. Classes are offered on a semester and yearlong basis. Honors options are available to juniors and seniors in Humanities (English and Social Studies). Students are able to elect into Honors each semester and are able to drop yearlong classes at semester. As of 2016 some AHS classes provide students dual credit through Pueblo Community College. Students may also pursue concurrent enrollment options through local colleges, including Fort Lewis College, at their own expense.

**Humanities: (yearlong)** English: English 9, English 10, English 11, and English 12. Social Studies: Social Studies 9, Modern World History 10, US History 11, and Civics 12.

**Mathematics: (yearlong) As of 2016:** Math 1 (9<sup>th</sup>), Math 2 (10<sup>th</sup>), Math 3 (11<sup>th</sup>), Math 4 (12<sup>th</sup>) Students are required to take cohort math with their class. Classes integrate math concepts from Algebra I & II, Geometry, Statistics, and Trigonometry all four years.

**Lab Sciences: (yearlong)** Physics (9<sup>th</sup>), Biology (10<sup>th</sup>), Chemistry (11<sup>th</sup>)

**Foreign Language: (yearlong) Spanish:** Spanish I, Spanish II, Spanish III, and Spanish IV. **In 2015** we offered partial credit Freshman Spanish with a supplemental Spanish Cultural Immersion Trip that some students opted into for a full year's credit. **In 2016** we started offering Spanish V. **French: In 2016** we started offering French II. **In 2017** we started offering French III. **As of 2018** we are offering French I.

**Arts: (semester and yearlong)** Digital Art, Studio Art/ Mixed Media, Advanced Digital Art. **In 2016** we started offering Advanced Digital Art and Design. **As of 2017** we started offering Drawing and Painting.

**Academic Electives: (semester and yearlong)**  
**As of 2016:** Advanced Algebra, Advanced Chemistry, Advanced Calculus, Advanced Anatomy, Anatomy, Calculus, LINK 2.0 Senior Internship, Music Performance, Personal and Career Readiness (PCR), Pre-Calculus, Project Application, Psychology, World Religions, and Yearbook. **As of 2017:** Advanced Physics, Advanced Engineering, Engineering, PCR- Access Skills, PCR-Career Success, and PCR-College Success. **As of 2018:** Adolescent Development, Creating Cultural Capital, Film Studies, and Scientific Research and Design. **The following courses are no longer available as of 2018:** A Cappella Vocal Ensemble, Creative Writing, Environmental Science, Journalism, Leadership Development, Material Science 1, Material Science 2, and Math Foundations.

**Concurrent Enrollment Options:** Consumer Math, Astronomy Planetary Systems. **In 2017** we started offering Astronomy Stars and Galaxies. **As of 2018** we started offering Introduction to Anthropology.

**Exploratory: (quarterly)** Student Interest Group, **No longer available as of 2016**

**Physical Education: (semester)**

**LINK:** Internship 11<sup>th</sup> grade

## Grading Scale

AHS uses a 4-point grading scale to evaluate academic work, where a grade of "A" equals 4 points, "A-" equals 3.7 points, with the scale continuing as indicated below. The minimum passing grade is "C-." No credit is assigned below a C-, but points are still calculated into the GPA. The highest attainable grade is an "A." We do not award "A+" grades. Grades and grade point averages are **not weighted**. A grade of "A" represents academic achievement of 94% or higher.

A = 4.00	C = 2.00
A- = 3.67	C- = 1.67
B+ = 3.33	D+ = 1.33
B = 3.00	D = 1.00
B- = 2.67	D- = 0.67
C+ = 2.33	F = 0.00

Project Application and Physical Education are graded on a credit/no credit basis. The average GPA for Class of 2019 is 3.08. *Please note due to scheduling challenges some seniors were unable to schedule a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> period class for the fall of 2018.*

## Graduation Requirements

Subject Area	Requirement
English	4 years
Social Studies	4 years
Mathematics	4 years
Science	3 years of Lab Science
Foreign Language	2 years of the same language
Art	1 year
Academic Electives/Exploratory	3 years
LINK Internship	1 year
Physical Education	3 years
Senior Project	1 year



## Extracurricular Activities

AHS students have many extracurricular activities to choose from, and we encourage them to start groups and clubs when they don't already exist. Teams and clubs include: Rocketry Team, Voracious Readers Book Club, Theater Club, Student Council, Ambassador Program, Bridge Mentorship Program, Animas Restorative Team, Rotary Interact Club, Model UN, Chess Club, The Friday Show, Solar Car Design Team, Gay-Straight Alliance, Mountain Biking Team, and San Juan Mountain Tribe Backcountry Skiing Club. Students may also participate in athletics and extracurricular activities in partnership with Durango High School.

## A College Going Culture

A primary goal of AHS is to ensure that all students graduate from AHS prepared for success at the college or university of their choice. The Class of 2018 had a 100% acceptance rate to postsecondary institutions. Additionally, on average each senior earned \$20,000 dollars in scholarships last year.

## Academic Standing

Animas High School **does not report rank in class. Courses taken with Honors Option are not weighted.** GPA is calculated based only on AHS classes excluding pass/ fail classes (LINK Internship, Project Application, Exploratory, and Physical Education).

## College Entrance Exams

While we do not place a lot of emphasis on direct preparation for standardized tests, our teachers are intentional in the way they teach content and skills that the ACT and SAT measure, and this has proven to be successful.

The average SAT composite score for the Class of 2019 to date is 1060. 71% of the Class of 2019 took the SAT. The 2019 Colorado statewide average score is 1018. The average ACT composite score for the Class of 2019 to date is 26. 15% of the Class of 2019 took the ACT to date.

## School Statistics

Total Student Population: 250  
First Generation College: 22%  
Free & Reduced Lunch: 18%

### Demographics

White 80%  
Hispanic/Latino 15%  
American Indian/Alaska Native 2%  
Asian .8%  
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander .4%  
Two or more Races 2%

### Post-Secondary Information

Attend College after High School 76%  
Attend a Four Year College 67%  
Attend a Two Year College 7%  
Attend a Public College 51%  
Attend a Private College 22%  
Persistence Rate 89%

## Class of 2019 Statistics

Total students in class: 73  
Average Class GPA: 3.08  
Highest Class GPA: 4.00  
Average Class SAT Score: 1060  
EB Reading and Writing Score: 550, Math Score: 510  
Average Class ACT Score: 26  
English: 26, Math: 23, Reading: 28, Science 26



## 2018 College Acceptances

Abilene Christian University, Alaska Pacific University, American University, American University of Paris, Arizona State University, Azusa Pacific University, Babson College, Baylor University, Beloit College, Bennington College, Binghamton University, Brandeis University, California College of the Arts, California State University- Chico, Case Western Reserve University, Champlain College, Chapman University, Colorado Christian University, Colorado Mesa University, Colorado Mountain College, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University, Cornell University, Dallas Baptist University, DePaul University, Duke University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Evergreen State College, Fort Lewis College, Franklin & Marshall College, Grand Canyon University, Hampshire College, Hawaii Community College, Kalamazoo College, Lewis & Clark College, Loyola Marymount University, Loyola University Chicago, Manhattanville College, Marist College, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Montana State University, Northern Arizona University, Northwestern University, Otis College of Art and Design, Pace University, Paul Mitchell the School-Denver, Portland State University, Pueblo Community College, Quest University, Regis University, San Juan College, Savannah College of Art & Design, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, St. Mary's College of California, Syracuse University, Temple University, Texas Tech University, The New School, University of Chicago, University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, University of Colorado, Denver, University of Denver, University of Houston, University of Iowa, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, University of Massachusetts Amherst, University of Miami, University of Northern Colorado, University of Pittsburgh, University of San Francisco, University of St. Andrews, University of Vermont, University of Washington, University of Wisconsin Madison, University of Wyoming, Washington University in St. Louis, Western Washington University, Whitman College, Willamette University

## Awards & Accreditation

- Accredited through the Colorado Charter School Institute
- Colorado Charter School Institute Distinction School, from 2013 through 2018
- College Success Award from Great Schools, 2018
- National Merit Scholar, 2012, 2016
- Boettcher Scholarship Alternate, 2016, 2017
- Daniels Fund Scholarship Finalist, 2016
- DaVinci Science Center Student Award, 2016, 2017
- UC Boulder Outstanding Colorado Educator Award, 2017, 2018
- UC Boulder Outstanding Colorado Student Award, 2017, 2018
- Colorado Department of Education ICAP Honorable Mention Award for Career Exploration Program, 2018

## Contact Information

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### Mailing Address

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**School Website:** [animashighschool.com](http://animashighschool.com)

### College Counseling Website:

[collegepreparationanimashighschool.weebly.com](http://collegepreparationanimashighschool.weebly.com)

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**School CEEB #060493**

