



# Elevating Animas FAQs

Animas High School is known for delivering a 21<sup>st</sup> Century education with an innovative program that allows young adults to choose their own path. Our Ospreys have achieved an impressive 100% college admissions rate. 88% of our graduates enroll and persist in college, compared to a national average of 69%. Students reflect the community in which they live, and Animas strives to be inclusive and accepting of each student's personal academic and career journey.

So how could we possibly elevate Animas High School?

- 1) Our Nest will be gaining elevation as we build our new home, atop a mesa on the beautiful Fort Lewis College campus.
- 2) Elevating Animas means increasing opportunities for a relevant, rigorous, and engaging college preparatory experience for our students.
- 3) We know that Elevating Animas means expanding our student population and giving flight to more Ospreys and their families in Southwest Colorado.

## How will the campaign money be spent?

We are conducting a \$18.1 million campaign. Most of the money will be spent on building the new facility. Additional funds will support the programmatic needs of the school.

## What happens if you don't reach your goal?

We have secured sufficient funds to ensure that our facility will be built, and that students and faculty will benefit from a beautiful new "nest." However, we think it is critically important to

ensure that the activities inside the building match the quality of the facility, and our final push is to raise money to support our innovative programs.

## **Who are your donors?**

More than \$13 million is coming from a highly competitive state grant called BEST. (Building Excellent Schools Today) In addition, we have received significant support from community donors.

## **Why does Animas need a new facility?**

Animas is currently operating in a facility that was intended to be temporary. While our faculty and students have made the most of the building, we feel we can deliver a far better educational experience in a building that is intentional designed for project-based learning. With light filled, flexible spaces that include state of the art science, music and engineering equipment, we can give students an educational experience that truly prepares them for college and allows them to pursue their passions.

## **Will the new building be LEED certified?**

We are utilizing the CHPS (Collaborative for High Performance Schools) system and will be a CHPS verified building. CHPS is a high performance school certification. CHPS criteria focuses on efficient use of water and energy; as well as having good indoor air quality, natural lighting, low VOC materials, thermally comfortable and acoustically sound spaces.

## **What will you do with your old building?**

The goal is to sell the modulares and either way we have to return our current site to its original specifications so the buildings need to be removed.

## **What is a charter school?**

Charter schools are public schools. They are free to attend and have no admission requirements. They accept all types of students, including special education students, English language learners, and gifted students. Charter schools are funded through state and local taxes like all other public schools. They also participate in all state mandated testing and held accountable for their performance like all public schools. However, charter schools often are not included in district bond campaigns, meaning they are responsible for acquiring and maintaining their facilities without public funding.

## **What is the school's annual budget?**

The annual budget of Animas High School is approximately \$2.5 million.

## How are the school's operations funded?

Animas, like all charter schools, receives public funding. Animas is authorized through the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI), a state agency. Funding is determined by multiplying the state's per public revenue allocation times of the number of students. Currently, per pupil revenue is about \$9,000 per student.

In addition, Animas qualifies for some federal funds, collects fees for some student programs, and engages in private fundraising.

About 70% of the operating budget comes from per pupil revenue and 30% comes from Federal funds, fundraising and fees.

## What is the impact of this project on Durango High School?

This new facility will relieve pressure on DHS by providing space for 200 students who would otherwise be at DHS. More importantly, Animas offers student who seek a smaller school that emphasizes project-based learning and college preparation and welcome alternative.

## Will you accept multi-year pledges for this campaign?

Yes, you can make your gift in one lump sum payment or spread it out over up to three years. Multi-year gifts will be recognized on our Donor Recognition Wall at the level of the combined gift. We are happy to work with you to accommodate your individual needs and interests – please reach out to us at [business@animashighschool.com](mailto:business@animashighschool.com).

## Do you accept gifts of appreciated stock?

We gladly take gifts of appreciated stock. Our policy is to immediately sell the stock when these gifts are received. We can work with you and your financial advisory to facilitate these gifts.