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ANIMAS HIGH SCHOOL PROFILE 2022-2023

Community Description: Durango, CO, is a rural community of appx. 19,000 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). Key professional sectors in the Durango community are medical, outdoor recreation & tourism, agriculture, education, oil & gas, small business, and the service industry. Fort Lewis College provides numerous educational and cultural advantages to the region.

School Description: Animas High School is a 4-year tuition-free, public charter school enrolling approximately 200 students in grades 9-12. Our rigorous, project based, and interdisciplinary academic program prioritizes authentic engagement, thoughtful inquiry, and in-depth analysis over rote memorization and broad coverage. Projects have real-world applications; students are asked to transform and apply knowledge that is relevant to their community and their lives. Exhibitions, Student-Led Conferences, and Presentations of Learning provide students the opportunity to reflect on and take ownership of their growth. and learning. Students work both individually and in small groups to design and complete projects that solve real-world problems. In January 2023, Animas High School will move to a new state of the art building on the Fort Lewis College campus. Our new school, specifically designed for project-based learning, will provide pioneering opportunities for collaboration between the two institutions, with a shared vision of creating an innovative hub for education.

REQUIRED CORE COURSES

9th: Humanities Eng 9, Humanities Social Studies 9, Math 1 Physics, Digital Art Foundations

10th: Humanities Eng 10, Humanities Modern World History, Math 2, Biology

11th: *Humanities Eng 11, *Humanities US History, *Pre-Calculus Chemistry

12th: *Humanities Eng 12, *Humanities Civics 12, *Statistics

*Students have the option to take Humanities and Math in 11th and 2th grade for Honors credit

2022/23 SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS

Animas High School enrolls approximately 200 students in grades 9-12. with 82% of students identifying as Caucasian, 1% as American Indian or Alaska Native, 2% as Asian, 0% as Black or African American, 15% as Hispanic or Latino. 20% of students qualify for free or reduced price lunch and 19% will be First generation college students.

Class of 2022 Post-Graduation plans

41 students:

61% 4-year college

7% plan to enroll in a 2-year college or trade school

1% planned Gap Year experience

21% plan to enter the workforce

10% plan to take time off and apply to college in the future

Of the students planning to enroll in college in the Fall of 2022,

66% will attend in Colorado

33% will attend out of state

GRADING SCALE & Graduation requirements

Rank: Animas does not report rank

Grading Scale: AHS uses a 4-point grading scale to evaluate academic work. 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.

Marking System: A grade of "A" represents academic achievement of 94% or higher. A = 4.00, A- = 3.67, B+ = 3.33, B = 3.00, B- = 2.67, C+ = 2.33, C = 2.00, C- = 1.67, D+ = 1.33, D = 1.00, D- = 0.67, F = 0.00

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To graduate, a student must earn a minimum of 24 academic credits and complete a LINK internship and Senior Project.

English.....4 years

Math.....4years

Lab Science.....3 years

World Language.....1 year

Academic Electives.....3 years

Senior Project.....1 year

LINK Internship.....1 year

Physical Education.....3 years

Art.....1 year

ANIMAS HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

AHS offers a college preparatory, project-based curriculum that allows for as much rigor as each individual student chooses to pursue. Students are provided with the freedom and support to follow their interests, often in an interdisciplinary way. Classes are offered on a semester and yearlong basis. Honors options are available to juniors and seniors in Humanities (English and Social Studies) and Math (Pre calc and Statistics) and provide a significant level of additional challenge. Students are able to elect Honors each semester and may drop the honors designation at semester. Students must take grade-level math each year; these classes integrate math concepts from Algebra I & II, Geometry, Statistics, and Trigonometry. Students are required to take Statistics Senior year to support best practices in gathering, analyzing, and interpreting data during the research process for their Senior Projects. Students can pursue additional rigor through their choice of academic electives in humanities, math, engineering, and science. Consumer Math and Astronomy (not offered every year) provide the opportunity for dual credit through Pueblo Community College. Students may also pursue dual credit through Fort Lewis College.

UNIQUE TO OUR SCHOOL

LINK

LINK Internships: *Leading Internships for New Knowledge*

As a graduation requirement, all juniors participate in a 3-week, 90-hour full time internship in the field of their choosing. In preparation, students learn “real world” skills as they refine their resumes, write cover letters, engage in mock interviews, and explore various career paths. Students also complete a project as a demonstration of learning during LINK.

Example Class of 2023 LINK Internships:

Elizabeth Barrett: *Durango Telegraph* (independent newspaper) - Durango, CO

Julia Early: *University of Nebraska Lincoln Center for Brain, Behavior, and Biology*—Lincoln, NE

Madeline Glotfelty: *Alaska Shoulder Orthopedic Institute*, Anchorage, AK

Harper Jones: *ChemTech Sulzer*, Tulsa, OK

James Antipas: *Timber Age Systems, Inc.* Durango, CO

Kade Marion-Wagoner: *Pedal the Peaks bicycle shop*, Durango CO

Sidney Elliott: *Rocky Mountain Veterinary Care*, Fort Collins, CO

Lucy Donnaway: *Osteria I Nonni (restaurant)*, Minneapolis, MN

Senior Project

Senior Project: Senior Project is a semester-long, in-depth study of a self-selected research topic. Students craft a college-level research paper, complete an action project that connects their research topic to the larger community, and deliver a professional TED-style talk and thesis defense in front of a live audience. 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.

Past Senior Project Finalists:

(research question in italics, projects linked where possible)

- **Amelia Baca’22** *What factors contribute to homelessness in La Plata County and what effective solutions can we apply to help homeless numbers decrease within a community?* **(action project finalist):** Amelia started a non-profit organization and raised \$10,000 through grant writing and fund raising, which she then directed to other local organizations who work with homeless people in LaPlata County.
- **Shaw Kassay’22** *How has the public view, a lack of training, and a global pandemic affected our blue-collar industry and caused a lack of skilled workers?* **(action project finalist):** Shaw built a fully operational go-cart from scratch
- **Mya Oyler ’22 (thesis finalist):** [*How have corporations infiltrated partisan media to perpetuate capitalism?*](#)
- **Trevor Harms ’21 (action project finalist):** Designed & built a robotic exoskeleton prototype
- **Rollin Leavitt ’18 (thesis finalist):** [*Do the NOD2 and TLR4 bacterial receptor proteins have differing transcription factor dimer preferences, and can this preference account for the observed inhibitory interaction between these two proteins?*](#)
- **Izzy Simpson ’18 (thesis finalist):** [*How can the fundamental structure of the stock market be utilized to predict market price fluctuations?*](#)

COVID-19 IMPACTS

2020/21: Animas High School used a hybrid learning model for the full 2020-2021 school year. Students attended in-person core academic classes 2 days/week and had 3 days of synchronous online instruction. We used our regular letter grading system for the 2020/21 school year.

2019/20: Animas High School began remote, asynchronous instruction March 30, 2019 and remained fully online for the remainder of the 2019/20 school year. Grades were awarded as Pass/Fail for the Spring semester. Students did not have an option to receive letter grades for that semester and received a Pass if they earned a 70% or higher for each course.

SCHOOL AWARDS

- Colorado Charter School Institute Distinction School
- College Success Award for Great Schools
- CO Department of Education ICAP Awards for Career Exploration Program and Senior Project Capstone

College Acceptances from 2018-2022

Abilene Christian University	George Washington University	Syracuse University
Adams State University	Gonzaga University	Temple University
Alaska Pacific University	Goshen College	Texas Tech University
American University	Grand Canyon University	The American University of Paris
Arizona State University (Main Campus)	Hampshire College	The American University of Rome
Arizona State University (Polytechnic)	Hawaii Community College	The Evergreen State College
Avila University	Hawai'i Pacific University	The New School
Azusa Pacific University	Idaho State University	The University of Montana
Babson College	Indiana University (Bloomington)	The University of Texas at Dallas
Bard College	Ithaca College	Trinidad State College
Barnard College	John Cabot University	Tulane University of Louisiana
Bates College	Kalamazoo College	University of British Columbia (Okanagan)
Baylor University	Lees-McRae College	University of California (Santa Cruz)
Beloit College	Lewis & Clark College	University of Chicago
Bennington College	Loyola Marymount University	University of Colorado (Colorado Springs)
Binghamton University	Loyola University Chicago	University of Colorado Boulder
Black Hills State University	Macalester College	University of Colorado Denver
Blinn College	Manhattanville College	University of Delaware
Boston University	Marist College	University of Denver
Bowdoin College	Metropolitan State University of Denver	University of Evansville
Brandeis University	Middlebury College	University of Houston
Brevard College	Milwaukee School of Engineering	University of Iowa
Bryant University	Minerva University	University of Maine
Cabrillo College	Montana State University	University of Mary Hardin (Baylor)
Cal Poly Humboldt	Montreat College	University of Massachusetts (Amherst)
California College of the Arts	New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts	University of Miami
California Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo)	Northern Arizona University	University of Nevada (Reno)
California State Polytechnic University (Pomona)	Oklahoma City University	University of New Hampshire (Main Campus)
California State University (Chico)	Oregon Institute of Technology	University of New Mexico (Main Campus)
California State University (Monterey Bay)	Oregon State University	University of North Carolina at Asheville
Carleton College	Oregon State University - Cascades	University of Northern Colorado
Case Western Reserve University	Otero College	University of Oregon
Champlain College	Otis College of Art and Design	University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh)
Chapman University	Pace University (New York City)	University of Portland
Clarkson University	Pacific University	University of Puget Sound
College of the Atlantic	Palm Beach Atlantic University	University of Redlands
Colorado Christian University	Pitzer College	University of Richmond
Colorado College	Portland State University	University of Rochester
Colorado Mesa University	Pratt Institute	University of San Francisco
Colorado Mountain College	Pueblo Community College	University of St Andrews
Colorado School of Mines	Quest University Canada	University of Utah
Colorado State University (Fort Collins)	Reed College	University of Vermont
Colorado State University (Pueblo)	Regis University	University of Victoria
Community College of Aurora	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Virginia (Main Campus)
Community College of Denver	Rice University	University of Washington (Seattle Campus)
Cornell University	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of Wisconsin (Madison)
Dallas Baptist University	Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design	University of Wyoming
DePaul University	Roger Williams University	Utah Tech University
Dickinson College	Rollins College	Utah Valley University
Dillard University	Saint Mary's College of California	Villanova University
Drake University	San Francisco State University	Washburn University
Drexel University	San Juan College	Weber State University
Duke University	Sarah Lawrence College	Webster University
Eckerd College	Savannah College of Art and Design	Wesleyan University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Prescott)	School of the Art Institute of Chicago	Western Colorado University
Emerson College	Scripps College	Western Washington University
Emory & Henry College	Seattle Pacific University	Westminster College
Endicott College	Seattle University	Whitman College
Fairfield University	Sewanee: The University of the South	Willamette University
Florida Institute of Technology	Simon Fraser University	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Fort Lewis College	Southeastern University	Yavapai College
Franklin & Marshall College	St. Olaf College	
Front Range Community College	Stetson University	
	Stevens Institute of Technology	