



Welcome Class of 2020!

Congratulations on your enrollment at Animas High School! We are one of the top charter schools in the state of Colorado, and that's largely in part because of the exceptional student-teacher relationships and culture that our school offers. We teachers have already been thinking about each one of you as we eagerly refine our legendary projects and curate our classrooms. We have designed two days of Orientation specifically tailored to you---the class of 2020--so we can start right away with strong relationships and a thriving culture.

After having spent Monday through Wednesday of Orientation Week meeting advisories and becoming familiar with our campus, starting Thursday you will dive deeper into the Animas 9th grade experience. For both days, you should wear clothes that are comfortable for being outdoors, bring a lunch, and bring your positive energy!

On Thursday, we will begin the day outside with team-building activities, games, and icebreakers to continue meeting and getting to know one another. After that, we will then start doing what we do best at Animas--a project!

There will be more to come on this in person, but the project will be a 24 hour challenge to create a big, beautiful, bold, multi-media collage that we will prominently feature in the East building. This art installation will not only communicate your individual stories up to this point as students and people, but also the legacy you collectively wish to leave behind as the Class of 2020. After a morning of working on the project, we will eat lunch on campus together.

Thursday afternoon will give students a chance to complete a "dry run" of their core classes. Here, you will meet your teachers in their actual classrooms and begin dipping your toes into your first High School classes. After the dry run, we will close out the afternoon together as a grade in the East Amphitheater.

Friday, our last day of Orientation, will begin with one last round of team-building activities and games. Then, we will dive back into completing our 24 hour challenge. After your art piece has been installed, we will eat lunch, followed by a hike in our backyard--the Twin Buttes trail system. Our hike will conclude with a special closing ceremony. We will spend the majority of the afternoon outside, so please dress appropriately for hiking and bring plenty of sunscreen and water.

The transition to high school can often seem daunting, but we want you to know that you have nothing to be afraid of. You're already a part of the family and we can't wait to see you at Home!

**Sincerely yours,**

**The AHS 9th Grade Teaching Team**

Britt Gordon, Art 9

Lauren Lucky, Math 1

Jenny McKenzie, Spanish

Roxy McKnight, Art 9

Brian Morgan, Physics

Sara Price, Humanities

Stephen Sellers, Humanities