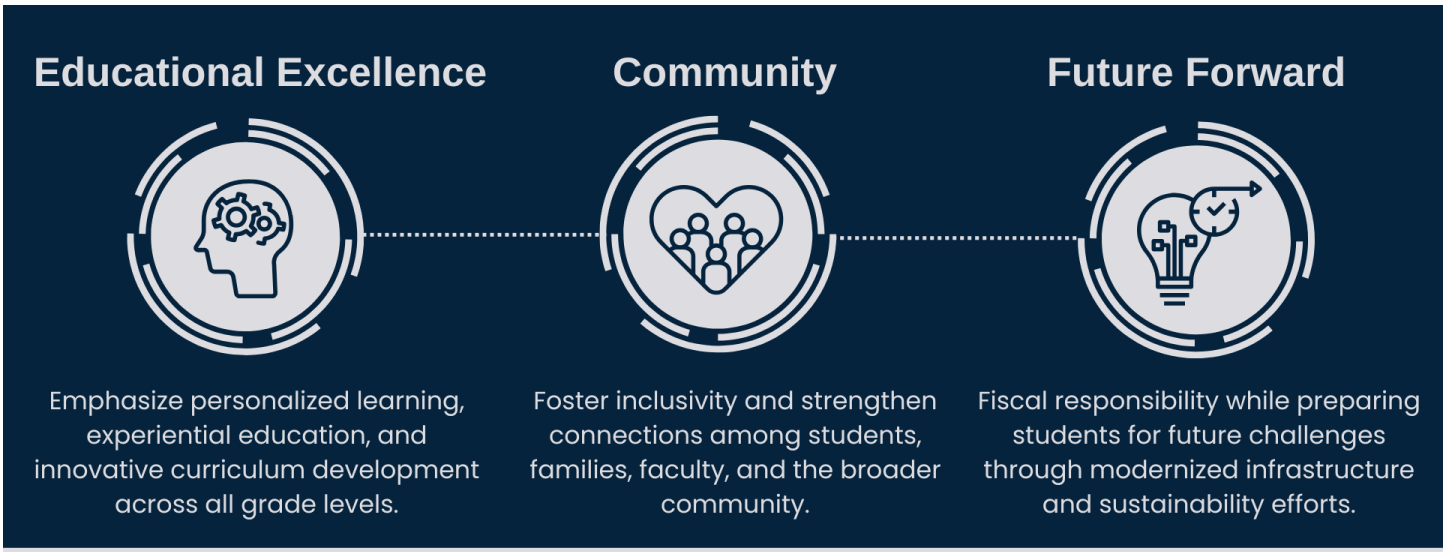


Strategic Plan

Beacon of Excellence: A Strategic Plan Summary for The Colorado Springs School

The Colorado Springs School (CSS) has outlined a comprehensive strategic plan, Beacon of Excellence, that emerged from listening sessions led by Dr. Manya Whitaker with the school community last year. The plan focuses on three strategic priorities: Educational Excellence, Community, and Future Forward. Below is a summary of these priorities, reflecting the key initiatives aimed at enhancing the CSS experience for students, families, and staff.

Strategic Priorities

1. **Educational Excellence:** This priority emphasizes personalized learning, experiential education, and innovative curriculum development across all grade levels.

- **Experiential Education:** Programs like *Fall Adventure, Colorado Expedition,* and *Seminars* will align with classroom learning, emphasizing critical thinking, problem-solving, leadership, public speaking, and reflection. These programs will be tailored for all grade levels.
- **Innovative Curriculum Development:**
  - Early Childhood: A blend of Montessori, Waldorf, and Reggio Emilia principles will foster student agency, problem-solving, and creativity.
  - Lower School: Expanded STEM opportunities and interdisciplinary learning will connect science, arts, and humanities. Developing "Launch Pad", a transition program for grades 4 and 5 for Middle School readiness.
  - Middle & Upper School: Project-based learning will be integrated into core subjects with Pathways in key areas like: ***Art, Engineering, and Health***. AI tools will also be introduced across high school courses.
- **Personalized College Counseling:** CSS will continue to provide individualized college guidance, expand support to middle school families, and build strong relationships with colleges.
- **Teacher Support:** Ongoing professional development will focus on innovative teaching methods and technology integration.

2**. Community:** CSS aims to foster inclusivity and strengthen connections among students, families, faculty, and the broader community.

- **Fostering Inclusivity:** Training for all stakeholders will promote collaborative learning and celebrate diversity (in all forms) through events and curriculum integration.
- **Building Stronger Connections:** Initiatives include mentorship programs involving alumni, community service projects, and cross-divisional mentorships.
- **Student Well-being:** Comprehensive wellness programs will address physical and emotional health through counseling services and mindfulness activities.
- **Family Connections:** Frequent communication between faculty/staff and families will keep parents informed about student progress while fostering a sense of belonging.

3**. Future Forward:** This priority ensures fiscal responsibility while preparing students for future challenges through modernized infrastructure and sustainability efforts.

- **Preparing Students for the Future:**
  - Senior Capstone projects will offer real-world applications of classroom knowledge.
  - AI integration across high school courses will emphasize ethical use alongside hands-on experiences.
- **Campus Beautification & Sustainability:**
  - Exploration of green technologies and renewable energy systems that will reduce the school's carbon footprint.
  - Outdoor learning spaces will be enhanced to integrate nature into education.
- **Security & Infrastructure:**
  - Upgrades include advanced cybersecurity measures, Wi-Fi 6 connectivity, fiber-optic networks, and migration to Microsoft 365 for robust security features.
  - Enhanced physical safety measures include armed security officers and improved surveillance systems.
  - **Fiscal Responsibility:** Streamlined operations, partnerships with local organizations, endowment growth initiatives, and revenue-generating programs like STEM summer camps are planned.

Next Steps

Further updates on implementing the strategic plan will be shared after the winter break.

Stay tuned for **"Release Week"**, each day starting January 6th, 2025 we will send a highlight for a deeper dive into division-specific plans, and wrapping up with our Ex Ed program. The school remains committed to keeping families informed as these initiatives progress.

Conclusion

This strategic plan positions The Colorado Springs School as a beacon of excellence in educational innovation while fostering a strong sense of community and preparing students for future challenges. By emphasizing personalized learning across all grade levels, an innovative curriculum tailored to developmental stages, inclusivity in community-building efforts, fiscal responsibility with surplus generation for long-term stability, and forward-thinking initiatives like AI integration at the high school level, the school will uphold its commitment to Educational Excellence, Community, and being Future Forward.