

ATLAS

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT

2018

MISSION

Atlas Preparatory School prepares and empowers all students for success on their post-graduate paths through educational excellence, character development, and community engagement.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Each year Atlas strives to build on successes of the previous year. In 2018, we continued to see growth in areas upheld by Atlas' three pillars: education, character, and community.

THE ATLAS PILLARS

EDUCATION

CHARACTER

COMMUNITY



Hello friends. Thank you for your interest and support of Atlas. It is a huge honor to serve as your new board chair, and I am blessed to serve with an outstanding board, individuals who care deeply about our students and are committed to their success. That commitment comes to life through the intelligence and hard work of Atlas' amazing teachers and staff who have come from around the country to make a difference in the lives of young people in Colorado Springs.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to the founders of Atlas and all of the past board members, especially to departing chair, Rick Mueller. Thank you, Rick, for leading the Atlas board from the school's launch through carefully planned expansion, major donor commitments, and a new strategic plan to guide Atlas into a bright and sustainable future. Like Rick, all of our founders have moved on to do other great things in our community, but Atlas continues to mature and grow and to honor their legacy.

As an architect designing schools, I have seen the difference that a great school with solid leadership and skilled educators makes. As a parent of a Teach for America alum, I have seen the difference that passionate people can make. As a citizen, I know making that difference is the right thing to do morally and fiscally. That is why I support Atlas financially as well as with my time.

Educational excellence, character development, and community engagement ... that is the Atlas difference.

Stuart Coppedge
2018 Board Chair

EDUCATION

Atlas opened in 2009 with a class of 80 fifth graders and expanded by adding a grade level each year. Our second class of seniors graduated in May. Fall 2020 will mark the launch of Atlas Elementary School.

On May 19, 2018, Atlas seniors Juana Duran, Justice McKenzie, and Beatriz Soto represented the Class of 2018. Seventy Atlas Prep High School students walked across the stage to represent our school's second graduating class



CHARACTER

In addition to time in the classroom, character is also developed outside of the regular school day. Atlas' After School Activity Programs (ASAPs) develop relationships between students and coaches which are built on a sturdy foundation of trust. This foundation forms the basis for lessons in resilience, determination, teamwork, leadership, and more.

This year, Atlas Middle School Boys Track won the Central Colorado Athletic League Conference for the second year in a row. Atlas Middle School Girls Track took second.

COMMUNITY

Atlas partners with Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado to provide multi-generational programs like Cooking Matters. Cooking Matters participants receive hands-on cooking lessons from a professional chef as well as information about nutrition and healthy eating from licensed nutritionists.

Atlas' Juntos for Education club members pose with ELA faculty Ms. Yondo. Juntos have a goal of strengthening the community amongst the diverse youth of Colorado Springs and believe it is critical to understand where one's experiences intersect with those of others.



REACH VALUES

RESPECT | EXCELLENCE | AUTHENTICITY | CURIOSITY | HARD WORK

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT



Es por mi familia: (L to R) Carlos poses with his fellow Class of 2018 graduates Zodok Martinez (University of Richmond), Aristides Velasco (University of Colorado Boulder), and Tobias McMillan (Colorado School of Mines).

“ We worked to empower people, and one of the best ways to do that is through education. We educated people that their vote counts. ”

CARLOS BUENDIA

Carlos Buendia Sevilla '18 embodies Atlas' three pillars. Academically, Carlos finished in the top five percent of Atlas' Class of 2018. His strength of character is evident through the gratitude he shows his teachers for the education they provide. During his high school career, Carlos had a tremendous impact on our community through his service at the Atlas Food Pantry and his work registering voters in southeast Colorado Springs.

Carlos' parents left their home in Mexico behind for opportunities in the U.S. Carlos says, "Their American Dream is me. The scale of this sacrifice has shaped my life." Carlos will attend Georgetown University this fall and says he wants, "to be someone who creates change for the people in my community." Carlos was inspired during Atlas' annual East Coast College Trip in May 2016 where a group of rising juniors visited Georgetown's campus and toured Washington D.C. "I became inspired on this trip to take a more active role in my community just as immigration rhetoric and the presidential campaign were heating up," says Carlos. Upon his return to Colorado Springs, he volunteered with a national campaign and worked with a team of college students charged with voter mobilization and outreach in the Latino neighborhoods where he grew up. "Together, we worked hard to educate the people we met on why their vote matters. I continue to educate people on the importance of their vote and empower them to help improve the community we share."

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELEVATE PROGRAM SUCCESS

Given the socioeconomic starting point of most Atlas students, we realize that we must go beyond a school in our approach to education. To that end, Atlas' Elevate program was developed in 2017 to address issues faced by some of our least successful middle school students.

Prior to the launch of Elevate, a team of Atlas leadership, faculty and counselors met to discuss a phenomenon occurring in our middle school - some of our highest scoring students on standardized tests also had some of the lowest GPAs in our school. Why were these highly capable, intelligent students not on track to graduate high school? During the 2016-17 school year, this group of students collectively earned more than 500 failing grades, were sent out of class more than 800 times, and had over 3,000 missing assignments. Students, teachers, administrators and parents were unsure what options remained.

Over the course of several months, Atlas' team spoke at length with these students and their parents. Staff took this feedback and paired it with what they know works in motivating kids and created a new program for this cohort of students: Elevate. Atlas' Elevate program reformatted the school experience to better serve the needs of students, rather than forcing resistant students to meet the needs of the traditional school day.

During the course of the school day, our cohort of Elevate students use the same rigorous core curriculum as other Atlas Middle School students in the morning. Afternoons push an academic focus by pairing hands-on learning experiences with a dedicated study hall and tutoring time. Elevate cultivates student successes with challenging elective courses like computer programming, art, woodworking and automotive training to build a positive class culture.

At the close of Elevate's first year, students are now 100% on-track for promotion to the next grade level and high school graduation. Collectively, Elevate students have fewer than 10 failing grades, an 80% reduction in missing assignments, and a 90% decrease in disruptive behavior issues for the entire 2017-2018 school year. Student surveys report tremendous growth in their feelings of support from their peers, their teachers, and success for themselves. Both students and teachers recognize this school year as one of their best.



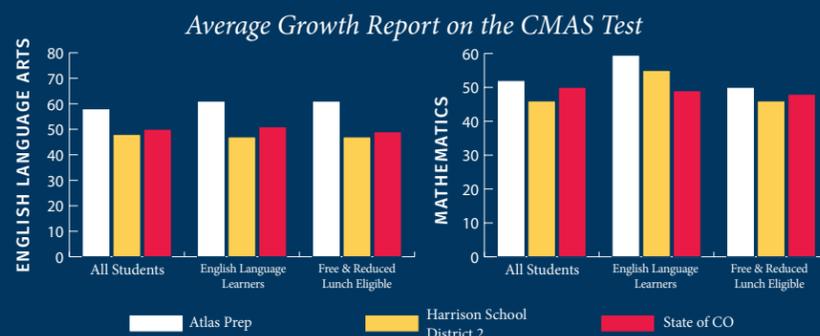
Elevate students learn bicycle mechanics during their elective hour thanks to our community partner, Kids on Bikes.

RESULTS LIVE HERE

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS CONTINUE TO GROW AT RATES ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE IN MATH AND READING.

WHAT IS CMAS?

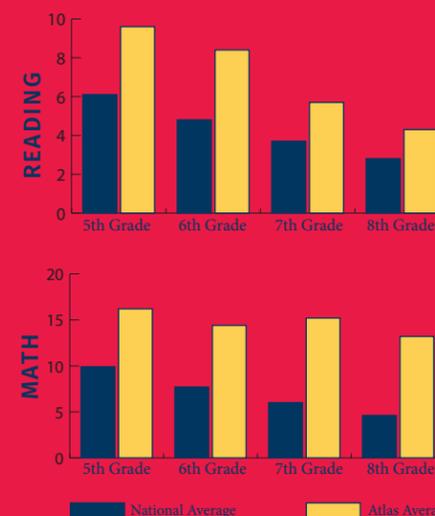
Colorado's current statewide assessment is called the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS). CMAS is aligned to Colorado's academic standards and measures student performance in math, English language arts, and science.



WHAT IS NWEA?

NWEA, the Northwest Evaluation Association, has assessed over 4.5 million students and has a presence in 3400 districts.

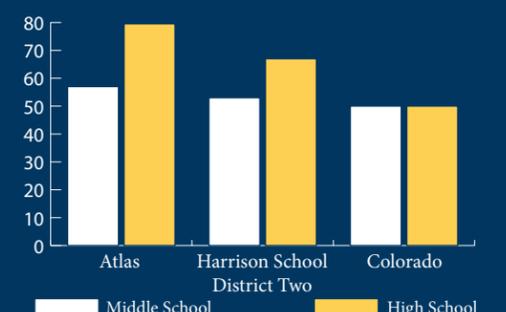
Average Score Increase on the NWEA MAP Test



ACCESS

Colorado transitioned to a new English language proficiency assessment - the ACCESS for ELLs® assessment. ACCESS is a large-scale assessment that addresses English language development standards.

ACCESS Median Growth Percentile





The Class of 2018 celebrated an important milestone at City Auditorium on May 19, 2018.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

TIM DUVALL



Atlas donors inspire change and fuel results. They know investing in Atlas sparks innovation. When Tim Duvall donates to Atlas, he is confident that his gifts directly support rigorous educational and character development programming.

Tim appreciates that Atlas keeps him informed of the impact his giving has on students and programs—so much so that he was inspired to leverage philanthropy to Atlas through his business, V.I.P. Mortgage. Tim has pledged to increase his own giving to Atlas while also to inspiring others to do the same through his work as a mortgage lender. In an effort to provide additional monetary support to Atlas, Tim's team at V.I.P. Mortgage has created a new program to benefit Atlas and thank their supporters. Tim's team, and participating realtor

partners, will voluntarily reduce their commissions in order to offer Atlas supporters who utilize this program a significant discount on their closing costs. Tim's team values serving our local Colorado Springs community. Collectively, they hope to create a new sphere of influence and support for Atlas. Tim and his participating realtor partners will also make donations to Atlas when this program is utilized.

“ I love that Atlas is focused on breaking the cycle of poverty and is providing an opportunity for kids in their program an avenue to succeed in life. Their practical approach to education, and careful stewardship of the resources they manage, gives me confidence that my donations are being put to great use and that every dollar helps make a difference in the lives of these kids. ”

EDUCATION

Each spring, Atlas rising juniors are selected through a competitive application process to tour colleges. This year, (L – R) Jose, Angel, Frank and Lito toured Princeton University and other elite East Coast schools. Atlas girls toured the Midwest and visited schools such as the University of Notre Dame, University of Chicago, and Northwestern University.



CHARACTER

Atlas Middle School students participating in activities such as Chess Club learn valuable lessons like taking time to think before moving, assessing risk versus reward, and considering what others need. This summer, Atlas students pushed themselves while hiking and taking in the beauty of the Garden of the Gods and Paint Mines Trail. We believe that mixing classroom rigors with informal, experiential learning is a powerful combination and delivers magnificent outcomes.



COMMUNITY

Atlas hosts a summer enrichment program, REACH Beyond. This year during REACH Beyond, Atlas partnered with Concrete Couch to beautify our city by painting murals. Also this year, Atlas sixth grade students expressed an interest in making a difference for kids facing significant life challenges. They worked with their teacher, Ms. Evans, to raise over \$750 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.



BY THE NUMBERS

941

students in grades 5-12

\$671,000

in donations raised

Atlas Students are:
91.2%
free and reduced
lunch eligible

47%
English Language
Learners

7.4%
have an Individual
Education Plan

96%

GRADUATION RATE

70 Class of 2018 students

\$1.8M ACCEPTED IN COLLEGE
SCHOLARSHIPS

111

households served

MONTHLY
in Atlas' food pantry

HONOR ROLL

Atlas wishes to thank those donors who provided support during the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Bruni Foundation
Colorado Springs Health Foundation
Colorado Springs Osteopathic Foundation
Dean Foundation
Deluxe Corporation Foundation
Edmondson Foundation
El Pomar Foundation
The Hester & Edwin Giddings Foundation
The John E. & Margaret L. Lane Foundation
Lowe's Gives Foundation
Luther T. McCauley Charitable Trust
The Moniker Foundation
The Myron Stratton Home
Nutrition Camp School Foundation
Pikes Peak United Way
The Siemer Institute
Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation

CORPORATE SUPPORT

Bestway Disposal
Great Western Bank
Heating and Plumbing Engineers, Inc.
Heuberger Motors
Westside Investment Partners
V.I.P. Mortgage

FRIENDS OF ATLAS

Atlas wishes to thank those in our circle of support who have donated \$2,018 or more during the past year.

Anonymous
Dean & Debra Carlson
Stuart Coppedge
Frederick & Ann Dean
Charlie & Shannon Dunn
Arlen Feldman & Adriana Wood
The Wes & Charlotte Howard
Fund of the Pikes Peak Community Foundation
Robert & Estelle James
Katherine Loo
Zachary & Nikki McComsey
Richard & Lisa Mueller
Mark & Lauren Perrault
Cathy Robbins
Antonio & Laura Rosendo
Jordan Strub & Michele Strub-Heer
Cory & Adrienne Tuck

