

Sneak peak at 2007-08

Next year will usher in a number of new and innovative programs aimed at boosting student achievement and enjoyment. We will continue to offer state of the art software packages for credit recovery, independent learning and remedial assistance, including *NovaNet*, *Odyssey* and *PassKey* packages.

The Wellness Initiative (TWI) develops and implements health and wellness programs that utilize the physiological, emotional and educational benefits of proper nutrition, yoga and stress reduction techniques. All our schools will have a Yoga program starting in the fall.

Scholar-Centric is committed to creating ready-to-learn classrooms where students are empowered to succeed in school and life. Success Highways combines innovative curriculum, a technology-based assessment, and effective teacher training to help at-risk students stay in school, score higher on achievement tests, and become better prepared for college and work. All our schools will be offering Success Highways to our students.



New Areas of Focus

New America School will continue its work in the areas of focus started in 2006-07. We will establish three new ad hoc committees to address the areas of teacher performance appraisal, student attendance and student engagement.

Assessment Framework

The mission of the New America School Assessment Program is to maximize student success in meeting specific academic achievement standards. To reach this goal, New America School's Assessment Framework will focus on measuring student learning and development in the classroom. NAS will continue to use traditional assessments such as CSAP and CELA to track student performance. However, next year, two new tools will be used to assist teachers and administrators in gauging student learning: NWEA's (Northwest Evaluation Association) MAPS (Measuring Academic Progress) assessment program and Alpine Achievement Systems software. Both of these tools are part of NAS's focus on data-driven decision-making to improve student achievement.

Literacy Coach

A full-time literacy coach was hired to train, coach and model effective instructional literacy strategies for teachers in all content areas. Coaching allows collaboration with teachers to help them provide the best possible instruction to every student, at every skill level. The Literacy Coach will work with teachers in all metro Denver schools.

Campus Security Program

NAS has developed its own school safety and campus security program for 2007-08. Beginning in August, NAS trained **Campus Security Monitors (CSM)** will be present during the normal hours of operation at all NAS campuses. These CSM will go through a specially developed Campus Security Monitor Training Program which consists of 24 hours of training in such topics as school communications, student safety, drug awareness, hygiene and prevention of disease/infection, gangs, sexual harassment, search and seizure, bullying, personal safety, risk management/incident reporting, building threats, violence in schools, first aid, and CPR.

Rubicon Atlas

The faculty of The New America School has worked hard to develop a common curriculum that is aligned to the Colorado state standards,

can be commonly assessed, and is consistent among all of the campuses. The final curriculum will be web-based, and facilitated with the use of Rubicon Atlas. This program lets constituents from all communities view the curriculum and any corresponding instructional components. It also allows selected individuals to make real-time changes to the instructional program, and offer suggestions for instructional pedagogy.

REPORT 2006-07 ON SUCCESS



We are pleased to present our first-annual Report on Success. The New America School completed its third year in June 2007, and what a busy year it was! Tremendous work and planning paved the way for the fourth and newest campus, in Eagle County west of Vail, to join our existing three Metro Denver campuses. NAS continues to focus on unserved or underserved new immigrants ages 15-21. Quality education, including heightened curriculum development and learning measurements, continue to be the focus in and out of the classroom. This report outlines the great work of our students and staff and gives a glimpse into activities that will enhance programs and services to raise student achievement. We look forward to the 2007/2008 school year knowing that we have accomplished much and great strides are yet to come.

— Polly Baca, Chair, New America School Board
— Jared Polis, Superintendent

STUDENT SNAPSHOT

- 60% of our students have been in the U.S. less than 5 years; 49% less than 3 years
- 72% of our students come from Mexico
- 61% of our students are 18 or older
- 59% of our students have had a significant interruption in their education
- 10% of our students are parents or pregnant women
- Less than 5% of our students have been suspended or expelled from
- Our average daily attendance is approximately 72%

Student Satisfaction Survey

The first-annual Student Satisfaction Survey was a good pulse on the health of the system from the student perspective. The great news: Students say they are learning and receiving a quality education at NAS. More than 300 students at all three Denver campuses were surveyed to learn their views on the education they receive at NAS (166 Lowry; 104 Northglenn; 34 Lakewood). The results were impressive: an overwhelming majority (as high as 92% in some cases) are happy with their education

and believe they are learning and making progress. Students were asked how well they are learning to read, write, speak and understand English. The answer: they believe they are receiving a quality education from teachers who care. In addition, 87 percent of students said their English language instruction is helping improve their lives in such areas as work, family, friends and living in America. Congratulations to teachers and staff for making a difference.

Why did you enroll in NAS? Learn English; earn diploma (59%)

How much have your English skills improved since you have enrolled in NAS?

	Total all Schools Excellent/Very good/good	Total all Schools Great deal/A lot/Some
Reading	87%	87%
Writing	83%	80%
Speaking	86%	81%
Listening	84%	85%

Graduation a day of accomplishment

On Friday, June 8th, The New America School proudly celebrated commencement exercises for the graduating class of 2007. In a ceremony held at the Tivoli center on the Auraria campus, guest speaker Gully Stanford honored 71 graduates (6 from the Lakewood campus, 25 from the Northglenn campus, and 40 from the Aurora campus) for their successful completion of a high school diploma. In addition, NAS superintendent Jared Polis awarded 5 graduates with college scholarships, and the campus principals acknowledged 15 students with high academic achievement. Student leaders spoke on behalf of their schools, accomplishments and dreams for the future.



Unanimous approval for new chartering districts

The New America Schools have been well-received by two new chartering districts: Adams 12 and Eagle Valley School District. The effort to charter a school includes an intense focus on the school's mission, curriculum, finances, facilities and other key areas.

Northglenn

The Northglenn campus charter moved from Adams 14 to Adams 12. NAS was unanimously approved by the Adams 12 board and a strong partnership has already been established with district officials.

Eagle County

The Eagle County school board also unanimously approved establishing a NAS charter in the Gypsum Township. The Eagle Valley features a main campus in Gypsum and satellite campuses for evening English only classes in Avon, Edwards, and Leadville.

Communication gets boost in key areas

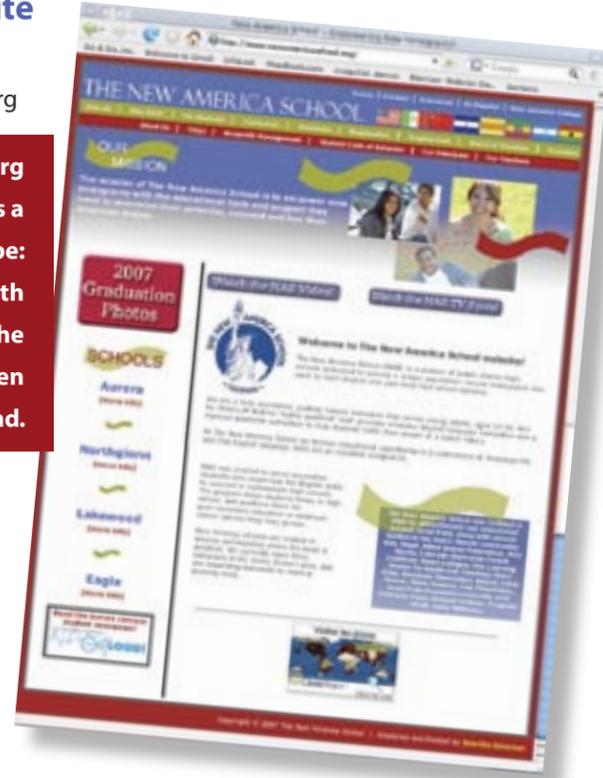
Redesigned website

Log onto the all-new NAS website!

www.newamericaschool.org

www.newamericaschool.org averages more than 50 hits a day from across the globe: from North and South America to Europe to the Middle East to Asia and even New Zealand.

The New America School got a new 'front door' in cyberspace in 2007. NAS launched a completely redesigned website in January. The site is a wealth of information for students, teachers, parents and the community. The colorful, user-friendly site features streaming video of New America School television ads, a five-minute promotional video that tells the story of NAS, and other fun items such as graduation photos. Also featured is essential information on curriculum, schedules, registration, what makes NAS special, and many other useful links. Another fun new feature is a map of the world showing the origin of hits on the NAS site. Click on the "visitor location" map to see the number of hits and their origin. Log on today!



NAS committees focus on key areas

Led by Chief Academic Officer Dominic DiFelice, staff identified six areas of focus for the 2006-07 year. Tremendous effort went into the committees, which allow the schools to reflect on what they do best and what they can improve.

Curriculum: Common courses of study were developed in mathematics and ESL, and are nearing completion in other core subject areas. Course sequencing, standards and benchmarks, essential knowledge and skills, course syllabi and interdisciplinary learning were established.

Assessment and Evaluation: A policy statement, assessment expectations and implementation framework were developed. Included will be quarterly common assessments for each school and end-of-year common assessments for all schools. All assessments will be aligned with state standards and benchmarks.

Safe Schools: A policy statement, school code of conduct and grid of consequences, protocols and procedures for suspension and expulsion were developed. Also developed were lockdown and evacuation procedures including a principal 911 handbook for quick reference for emergency situations.

Student Supports: Accomplishments included plans to establish a toddler child care center, continuing child care stipends, plans to seek funding for Health Professional/RN for on site support, and developing strategies to strengthen peer to peer interactions including substance abuse education and conflict resolution training.

Professional Development: In-service sessions at both the school and system level included: SIOP training, differentiated learning methods, and working with English Language Learners. Professional Learning Communities at the school and system level were formalized.

Retention and Recruitment: A comprehensive communication and recruitment plan was developed and is being implemented. Features include a student satisfaction survey, quarterly counseling appointments with every student, school mentoring programs, intervention surveys and strategies to continue to strengthen a positive, engaging learning environment. Also planned is enhanced communication with students, parents and the community.

School Achievements

Principals were asked to highlight a few of their accomplishments for 2006/2007. Notable is the wide array of unique learning projects taking place in the 3 metro campuses.

LOWRY

Lowry continued to refine its recipe for success, school spirit and student achievement. Among the highlights of the year, Lowry continued to produce its outstanding school newspaper *NAS OutLoud*, which presents news, features and photos written and created by Tim Mullins' journalism class. The 4-8 page newspaper is printed once per quarter. In addition, Lisa Collins' students wrote and starred in their own short movie about the positive alternatives to a gang-ridden high school. School-wide, students and teachers integrated learning with fun activities, including dressing up like historic figures, performing skits and playing educational quiz games, while celebrating special days such as Presidents Day.

LAKEWOOD

The Lakewood campus successfully completed its foundation year. More than 175 students attended classes. Faculty worked hard to integrate ESL components into all subject area classes, and explored a systemic addition of experiential education and interdisciplinary instruction. Perhaps most importantly, the entire community worked together to initiate the development of the school's cultures, traditions, and educational programs.

NORTHGLENN

One of the major highlights for the year was Crescendo Days, held at the end of each quarter. Each day featured a theme with students presenting their accomplishments through dance, poetry, science experiments, projects, and drama productions. Northglenn also began the development of its library with the donation of over 4,000 books and periodicals. Most notable, 28 students walked across the stage for the 2007 Graduation Ceremony, held at the Tivoli Center.

Video showcases NAS

There is no better way to tell the story of The New America School than by letting students and teachers talk about their school. A 5-minute NAS promotional video does just that. The video was produced by the Communications/Marketing department with the great work of Lowry teacher and videographer Robert Hubbard. The video, which can be viewed on www.newamericaschool.org, features footage from all three Denver campuses, as well as personal interviews of students and teachers. The video has been viewed by hundreds of people, including NAS students and faculty at graduation 2007, in addition to community leaders from Denver to Vail to New Mexico.

