

# NEW VISTA

New Vista High School  
was created in 1992  
and approved by the  
Boulder Valley Board of Education  
to "break the mold"  
of conventional  
secondary school practice  
and to offer students  
another option  
for the high school experience.

## HIGH SCHOOL



**Boulder Valley** School District  
*Excellence and Equity*



**Sennen Knauer**  
*interim school principal*

**Ivette Visbal**  
*dean of students*

**Diane Jensen**  
*school counselor*



## Above and Beyond



**NEW  
VISTA  
HIGH  
SCHOOL**



CONTACT US:  
phone 720.561.8700  
fax 720-561-8701

[nvhs.bvbsd.org](http://nvhs.bvbsd.org)  
700 20TH STREET  
BOULDER COLORADO 80302





# Why New Vista?

New Vista High School was created in 1992 and approved by the Boulder Valley Board of Education to “break the mold” of conventional secondary school practice and to offer students another option for the high school experience. New Vista serves a broad spectrum of students with the intent of helping them develop their unique talents and interests and prepare them to become fully engaged citizens within our

complex and demanding society. We are structured to work with students who are ready to take more responsibility for their own learning. Students at New Vista choose their classes and the order in which they will meet Common Learning and Individual Path requirements. They choose projects within each class that match their interests to the subject matter at hand. They also choose learning experiences in the community which allow them to explore current interests and future options. As juniors at New Vista, students formally se-

lect a post-graduation path for which they prepare themselves during the last part of their high school career. In the case of college-bound students, Individual Path is usually connected to meeting college entrance requirements. Finally, each student designs and produces a rigorous Culminating Project which builds a bridge between high school studies and the student’s chosen future. Students work with an advisor throughout this process to develop an understanding of how their choices shape their learning experiences and their future opportunities.



## Where our students are GOING

college/university acceptances

Adams State, Adelphi, American Academy of Dramatic Arts, American University, Antioch, Arizona State, Art Institute of Boston at Lesley, Art Institute of Chicago, Bard, Barnard, Bates, Bay State, Beloit, Bennington, Berklee College of Music, Boston University, Bowdoin, Brandeis, Brown, Bryn Mawr, Bucknell, California Institute of the Arts, Cal Poly at Pomona, California State-, Chico, Humboldt, Carleton, Carnegie-Mellon, Clark University, Coe College, Colby, College of the Atlantic, College of St. Catherine, College of Santa Fe, Colorado College, Colorado Mountain College, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University, Columbia College Chicago, Columbia University, Connecticut College, Cornell College, Cornell University, Cornish, Dartmouth, De Pauw, Drake, Earlham, Eckerd College, Emerson College, Eugene Lang, Evergreen State, Fort Lewis, Franklin, Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering, Front Range Community College, George Washington, Goucher, Grinnell, Guilford, Hamilton, Hampshire, Hastings, Haverford, Hofstra University, Indiana University of PA, Ithaca, Juniata, Kalamazoo, Kansas City Art Institute, Kenyon, Knox, Laguna College of Art and Design, Lewis and Clark, MIT, Marbella Design Academy Spain, Macalaster, Marlboro, Maryland Institute College of Art, Mesa State, Metropolitan State University of Denver, McGill, Miami of Ohio, Middlebury, Mills, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Montana State, Moore College of Art and Design, Mount Holyoke, Muhlenberg College, Naropa University, New Mexico Highlands University, New York University, NYU-Gallatin and Tisch, NorthEastern Junior College, Northeastern University, Northern Arizona University, Ouachita Baptist, Oberlin, Occidental, Ohio State University, Oregon State, Oregon College of Arts and Crafts, Otis College of Art & Design, Pacific Lutheran, Pacific Northwest College of Art, Pacific University, Parsons School of Design, Pikes Peak CC, Pitzer, Pomona, Portland State University, Pratt Institute, Prescott, Redlands, Reed College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Quest University Canada, Rhode Island School of Design, Rocky Mountain College of Art & Design, Roger Williams University, Rutgers, St. Olaf, San Francisco Art Institute, Santa Barbara City College, Sarah Lawrence, Savannah College of Art & Design, Scripps, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Seattle University, Simon Fraser, Skidmore, Smith, Soka University of America, Southern Oregon University, Spelman, Stanford, State University of New York at Purchase, Sterling, Stevens, Stevens Institute of Technology, Syracuse, The New School, Temple, Tiffin, Trinity Western, Tufts, U.C. Berkeley, U.C. Davis, U.C. Santa Cruz, University of Arizona, University of Colorado at Boulder, Denver, and Colorado Springs, University of Denver, University of Hawaii, University of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana and Chicago), University of Iowa, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, University of Mass. (Amherst), University of North Carolina-Asheville and Greensboro, University of North Carolina School of the Arts, University of Northern Arizona, University of Northern Colorado, University of Oregon, University of Puget Sound, University of San Francisco, University of Southern Maine, University of Southern Oregon, University of Texas at Austin, University of Utah, University of Vermont, University of Victoria, University of Washington, University of Wisconsin, University of Wyoming, Vassar, Wagner College, Warren Wilson, Wellesley, Wesleyan, Western Washington University, Wheaton, Whitman, Whittier, Whitworth University, William and Mary, Williams, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, York University

# The Nitty Gritty

**Calendar/Schedule:** New Vista operates on a quarter system and uses block classes. The year-long schedule includes a week of community service activities each year.

**Advisory:** Every student at New Vista is in a multi-age advisory led by a staff member. Advisory serves as the primary source of guidance and support for each student from the time he/she enters the school until graduation, as well as where we explicitly teach cultural competency skills.



**Grading and Class Rank at New Vista:** Course work only counts toward the school’s Common Learning requirements when students earn a grade of A or B. A limited number of C grades can be applied to the student’s Individual Path. Work of lower quality is not given any credit.

Students receive letter grades and have their Grade Point Average calculated using the four-point system. We do not, however, generate a class ranking. It is our view that ranking students interferes with our commitment to each student as a unique learner.

**Community Experience:** Community Experience is a four-hour block of time built into the weekly schedule. Students are expected to find a placement in the community that allows them to explore out-of-school learning experiences which are of interest to them. Community Experience can take on many forms: service, shadowing, internship, class work in another institution, independent study, and apprenticeship.

**Independent Study Contracts:** New Vista students can earn credit for off-campus learning experiences outside the school day and year that are supervised and evaluated by qualified community experts. Examples include team sports, fitness programs, language study, music or other private lessons, etc. A staff person works with each student to identify learning goals, devise assessments, and insure follow-through on commitments.

### Enrollment and Demographics

Student body..... 287  
Students of color..... 26%

Average class size: 25

#### Teachers

Licensed Faculty.....22  
Adjunct Faculty..... 5

Accreditation: State of Colorado

SAT Composite: 2021: 1056

New Vista Meets all State Expectations for Academic Achievement and Exceeds State Standards for Post Secondary and Workforce Readiness

### Graduation requirements in Learning Units\*

Common Learnings.....28  
Individual Path.....20  
Applied Technology.....2  
Arts.....2  
World Language.....2  
Interpersonal Skills.....3  
Intrapersonal Skills.....3  
Language Arts.....4  
Mathematics.....4  
Science.....4  
Social Studies.....4  
Culminating Project.....2  
TOTAL.....50

\* 1 Learning Unit = .5 Carnegie Units