

The Lowell Whiteman School Opens 2011-12 with Smiles Galore

New and returning students arrived to The Lowell Whiteman School's mountain campus Sunday with a high level of enthusiasm. New families from as far away as Maine, New York, and New Hampshire have chosen to join the fairly remote school, lured by the college preparatory academics, Global Immersion Studies program, and world-class winter athletic opportunities. This year's student body hails from 13 different states and three countries; 33 students are boarding at the school, and 25 are day students. The lower enrollment, down from previous years, will allow the school to work even more closely with the students who have chosen to be part of this unique educational experience. Second-year Head of School Chris Taylor welcomed the families at an introduction in the school's theater before an all-school barbecue.

This year, the school's 55th, LWS is unveiling some exciting changes. The school is introducing The Learning Center, a professional program which offers structured support for select students who have diagnosed learning differences or are second-language speakers. Nuala Judycki, who implemented this program at a boarding school in California 16 years ago, is the LC Director, and the experience she brings will allow The Lowell Whiteman School to admit motivated and hard-working students who have demonstrated the need for extra academic support in the way of accommodations and one-on-one time with Mrs. Judycki.

Another addition to the school's program is what Mr. Taylor is calling the "China Initiative." This is an attempt to create a bridge between China and LWS, both in terms of recruiting students and in developing a Chinese study and language program. The goals of this initiative are to enroll five students from China who are compatible with LWS's programs, and to make China the permanent destination each spring for seniors in the Global Immersion Studies program.

The Global Immersion Studies program, GIS for short, is an attempt to recast and refine the school's remarkable foreign travel program. Since 1958, LWS students have spent several weeks each spring in a foreign country, participating in homestays, service projects, and wilderness adventure. None of that will change with the introduction of the GIS program; what will be different is that the school is adding a more programmatic way of studying about the cultures and countries it travels to, and to making the trips, whenever possible, class-specific and consistent. For instance, the Freshman Trip will try to go to the same place every year, to develop stronger and deeper relationships with the communities the groups visit. This will also minimize much of the guesswork that goes into creating the trip itineraries; previous to now, teachers were tasked each year with creating a month-long trip largely from scratch, a daunting responsibility when considering the health and safety of a dozen or more teenagers. With the christening of the GIS, the school hopes to make clear what its commitment to global studies is, and to be more deliberate in creating curriculum and experiences that reflect this philosophy.

Lastly, LWS's Board of Trustees adopted a new school mission statement over the summer as an attempt to simplify yet better capture just what the Whiteman Experience is about. The school's range of programs—academics, outdoors, global studies, and winter athletics—has made codifying the goals of the school into a singular mission difficult. This new mission statement is an attempt to simply articulate what a student gets out of their LWS education, regardless of the program they might be in. The Mission: *The Lowell Whiteman School challenges its students' intellect and imagination to help them lead productive, creative, and responsible lives in a dynamic, global society.*

The Lowell Whiteman School is an independent, college-preparatory secondary boarding and day school in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, offering a curriculum of rigorous academics, global studies, competitive snow sports, and outdoor experiences. LWS is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) and accredited by the Association of Colorado Independent Schools (ACIS). Founded in 1957 by Steamboat pioneer Lowell Whiteman, today the co-educational school draws students locally, nationally and internationally to its campus. For more information, visit lws.edu or call 970.879.1350.



Happy families and hard-working students helped make LWS's 2011 Opening Day a success. Top left is the Rudolph family; Alex is a senior and Olivia a sophomore. Top right, Lolo, Charlie, and Morgan prepare hot dog and hamburger buns for the barbecue dinner. Bottom left, Academic Dean Meg Morse welcomes the Sivinski family from Seattle; Bottom right, a brief storm followed by a rainbow gives the school a good luck start to the school year.