

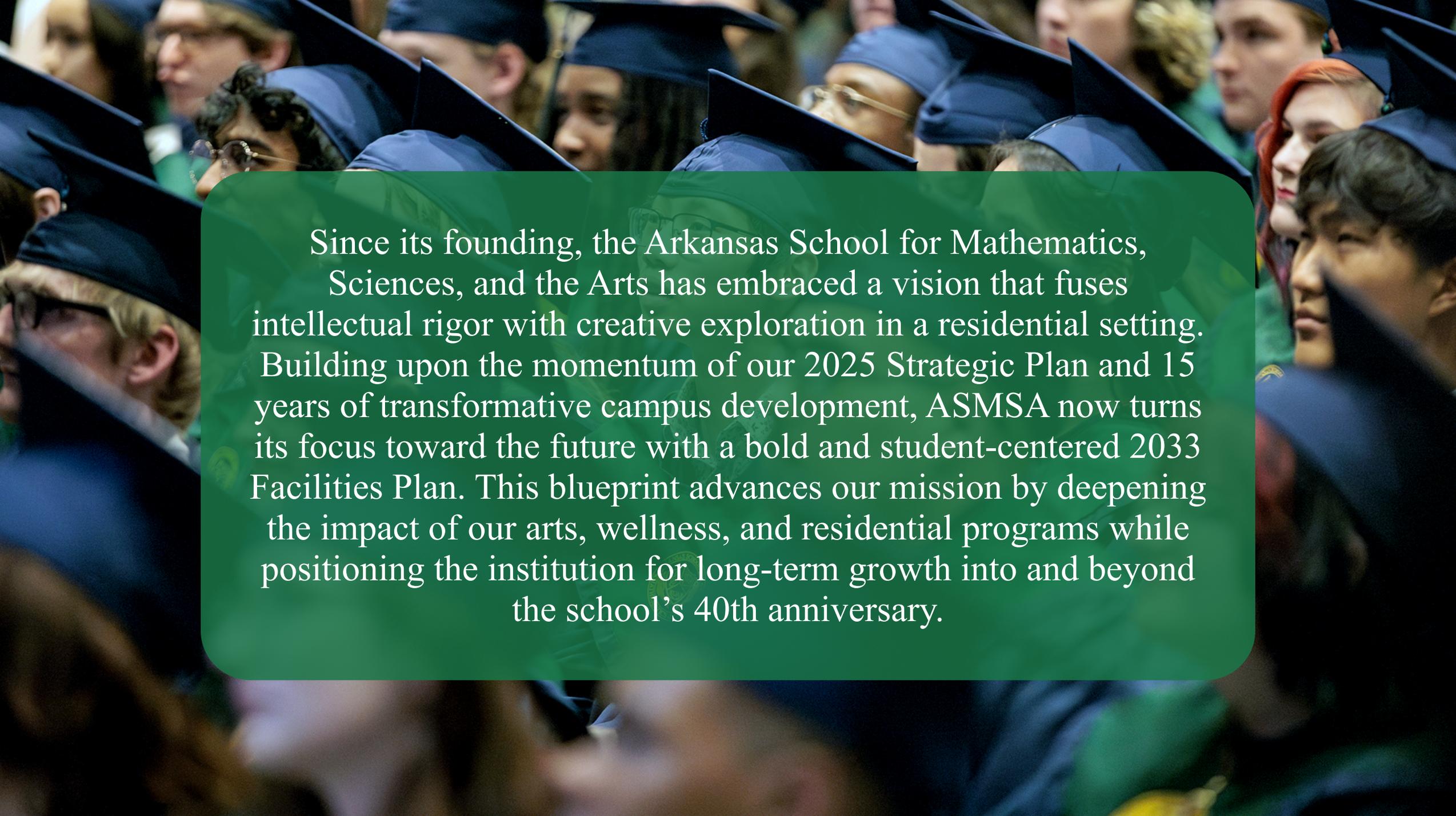


**ARKANSAS SCHOOL**  
FOR MATH, SCIENCES, + THE ARTS

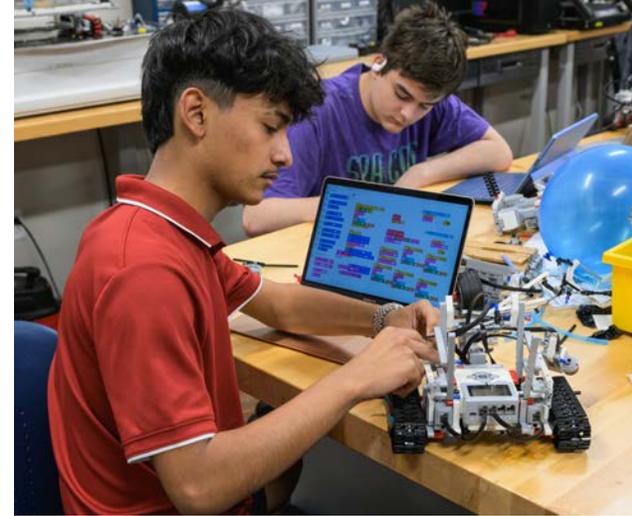
**2033**

**FACILITIES PLAN**

Charting the Continued  
Transformation of Campus into  
ASMSA's Fourth Decade

A large group of graduates in blue caps and gowns is shown in a crowd, likely at a commencement ceremony. The graduates are looking in various directions, some towards the camera and others away. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the graduates in the foreground.

Since its founding, the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts has embraced a vision that fuses intellectual rigor with creative exploration in a residential setting. Building upon the momentum of our 2025 Strategic Plan and 15 years of transformative campus development, ASMSA now turns its focus toward the future with a bold and student-centered 2033 Facilities Plan. This blueprint advances our mission by deepening the impact of our arts, wellness, and residential programs while positioning the institution for long-term growth into and beyond the school's 40th anniversary.



# VISION STATEMENT

ASMSA's 2033 Facilities Plan envisions a campus that inspires innovation, fosters community, sparks creativity, and reflects the school's statewide mission through purposeful design. By creating vibrant spaces for learning, wellness, the arts, and residential life, ASMSA will strengthen its role as a model for advanced education while serving as a catalyst for growth and connection in downtown Hot Springs.

# WHY PLACE & SPACE MATTER

Students and colleagues deserve access to world-class facilities that match the quality of ASMSA’s living and learning environments. While the goal is not to “compete” on amenities with larger districts or independent schools, we must ensure the physical resources are available to offer robust programs and experiences.



**\$0**

The state allocates no annual funding for higher education facilities.



# PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Stakeholder feedback gathered through surveys, workshops, and a campus working group provided invaluable insight into what students, faculty, staff, families, and alumni value most in ASMSA's living and learning environment. Across these diverse perspectives, several recurring themes emerged—emphasizing the importance of spaces that are welcoming, adaptable, student-centered, and reflective of ASMSA's distinctive culture. Respondents highlighted a desire for facilities that support both academic rigor and personal growth, encourage collaboration and creativity, and foster a strong sense of belonging. These shared priorities have helped shape a set of core values that serve as guiding principles for the 2033 Facilities Plan.



# SHARED VALUES

## **FLEXIBLE, FUTURE-READY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS**

Design adaptable classrooms and collaboration areas equipped with modular furniture and tools that support diverse modes of learning, from independent study to project-based group work.

## **CONNECTED ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES**

Organize spaces into identifiable zones or “neighborhoods” that foster connection, interdisciplinary engagement, and a sense of ownership among students and educators.

## **VISIBILITY OF LEARNING AND STUDENT WORK**

Create transparent, open environments that celebrate student engagement and achievement through classroom vistas, public art, and dedicated exhibition spaces.

## **INTEGRATED RESIDENTIAL LIFE**

Develop residential facilities that go beyond housing by offering environments that promote wellness, community building, academic support, and a sense of belonging within the ASMSA experience.

## **WELCOMING AND NAVIGABLE CAMPUS IDENTITY**

Ensure all facilities support a safe, friendly, and clearly branded experience, with intuitive wayfinding and consistent messaging that communicates ASMSA’s mission and values.



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## STUDENT CENTER

The construction of the Student Center between 2010-12 ensured future-forward living spaces.

## CREATIVITY + INNOVATION COMPLEX

In 2019, ASMSA opened its first new classroom building that also allowed hosting full-campus events.

## SELIG HALL + AUDITORIUM

Saving a part of the campus history not only expanded housing but also offered a new gathering space in 2022.

# \$42.5 MILLION COMMITTED

in completed projects as well as those currently under construction and seeking project approval represent the single greatest investment in downtown Hot Springs this century.  
*And we're just getting started!*



### **CAMPUS ADMIN BUILDING**

The 2024 facility not only serves as an office hub but also includes student spaces and ADA improvements.

### **MAINTENANCE + WOODSHOP**

2026 will see completion of a new work space for campus operations along with supporting craft and design.

### **ALUMNI HALL + NEW CHARTER FIELD**

The project will be brought to the UofA System for approval in 2025 with construction complete in the first half of 2028.

# **\$30+ MILLION AHEAD NEEDED**

ASMSA has fulfilled a commitment made in 2010 to vacate the former St. Joseph Hospital complex. The City of Hot Springs will now begin a \$4+ million demolition and cleanup that sets the stage for the continued growth and evolution of campus.

**EXISTING**

- ① STUDENT CENTER (2012)
- ② CAMPUS ADMIN BUILDING (2024)
- ③ ACADEMIC BUILDING
- ④ CREATIVITY & INNOVATION COMPLEX (2019)
- ⑤ SELIG HALL (2022)
- ⑥ SELIG AUDITORIUM (2022)

⑦ MAINTENANCE BUILDING (2026)

⑧ EXPANSION PARKING (2025)

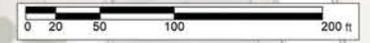
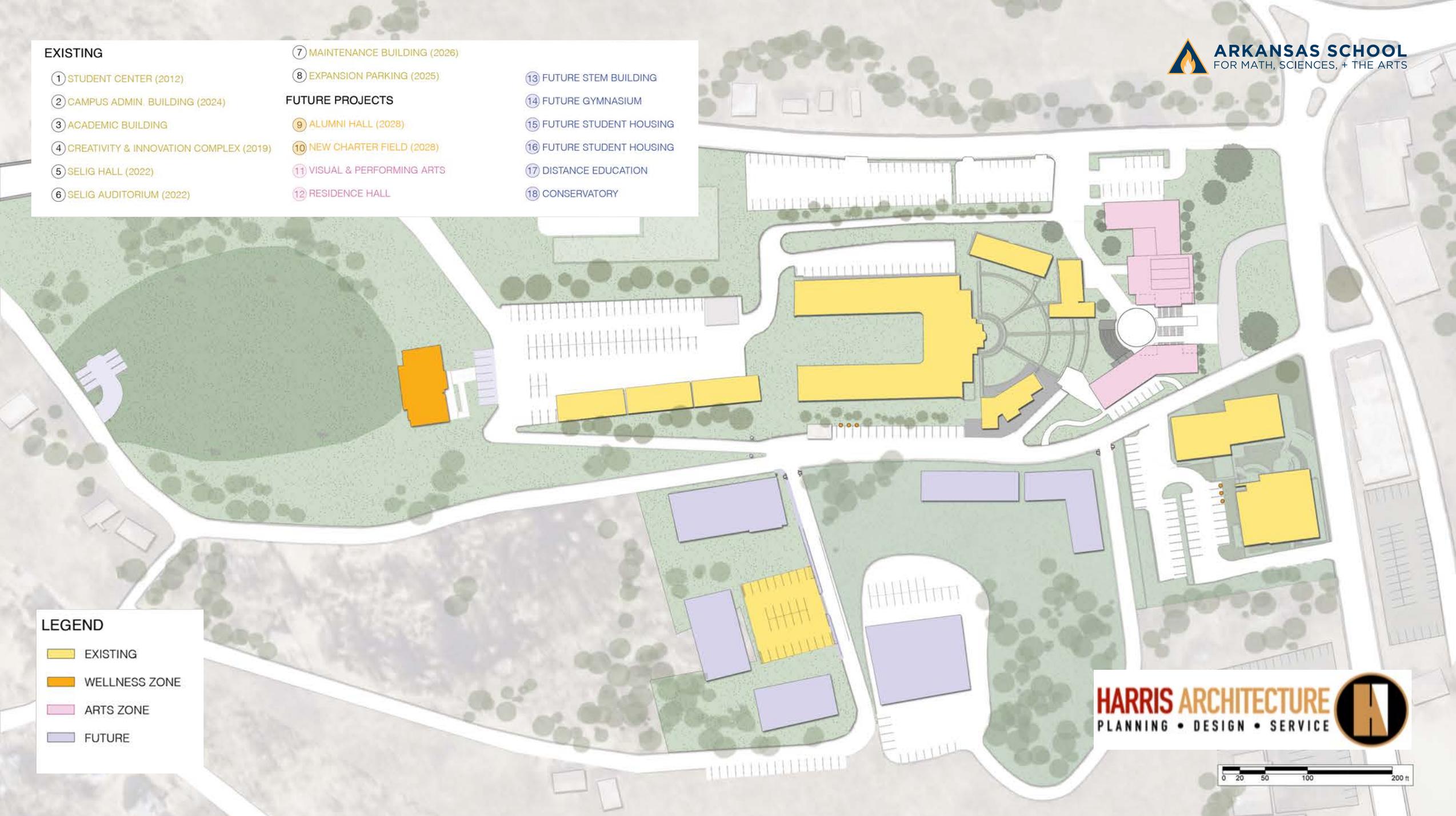
**FUTURE PROJECTS**

- ⑨ ALUMNI HALL (2028)
- ⑩ NEW CHARTER FIELD (2028)
- ⑪ VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS
- ⑫ RESIDENCE HALL

- ⑬ FUTURE STEM BUILDING
- ⑭ FUTURE GYMNASIUM
- ⑮ FUTURE STUDENT HOUSING
- ⑯ FUTURE STUDENT HOUSING
- ⑰ DISTANCE EDUCATION
- ⑱ CONSERVATORY

**LEGEND**

- EXISTING
- WELLNESS ZONE
- ARTS ZONE
- FUTURE



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## FOUR EMERGENT THEMES FOR THE FUTURE

Four themes emerged as clear priorities in this planning cycle: the creation of an Arts Zone, a comprehensive Wellness Zone, expansion of Residential Life facilities, and strategic consideration of future campus expansion. These interconnected priorities reflect ASMSA's ongoing commitment to whole-student development and our responsibility to serve as a statewide model for advanced education and accelerated learning.

**The Arts Zone** represents a significant step forward in reinforcing ASMSA's identity as a place where creative and intellectual expression intersect. Anchoring this zone is the proposed Center for the Arts with two distinct wings that can be constructed individually or in tandem based on funding. First is the Performing Arts Classroom Building, an acoustically engineered space that will elevate student performances, enhance visibility of the arts across campus, and open opportunities for community engagement. Complementing this space will be a new Visual Arts Building, a necessity following the transition out of the hospital complex. Together, these facilities will reflect the growth and sophistication of ASMSA's arts programs, advancement of the legislated arts mission, and provide our students with the tools and environment they need to thrive creatively.



In tandem with the arts, **the Wellness Zone** responds to the growing demand for spaces that promote physical, emotional, and social well-being. Alumni Hall, a new fitness center and activity space integrated into the daily rhythms of campus life, will support not only student wellness but also faculty and staff vitality. New Charter Field, an outdoor green space designed for play, relaxation, and quiet reflection will complete this zone, giving students a much-needed retreat in a high-achieving environment.

As enrollment continues to grow and discussion of school choice takes a place of prominence in the state, **residential expansion** also becomes critical. Additional student housing will help ASMSA preserve the intimate, community-based residential experience that is core to our model while offering opportunities to broaden access to students from across the state in regions where choice and options remain limited. Governors Hall will be designed with flexibility and intentionality, creating welcoming spaces that align with students' academic and personal development.

Finally, the 2033 Facilities Plan maintains a clear eye on **future growth opportunities** beyond immediate needs. While the next decade will be shaped by targeted investments in high-impact facilities, ASMSA will continue to monitor enrollment trends, academic program evolution, and infrastructure capacity to ensure future growth is both intentional and visionary.

Together, these four areas form a unified vision for ASMSA's next chapter: one that deepens the educational experience, strengthens community, and honors the school's statewide mission. Through thoughtful planning and strategic investment, we will continue to cultivate a campus that inspires excellence in every student who calls ASMSA home.



# ALUMNI HALL (FITNESS CENTER)

Alumni Hall will provide a modern and inclusive hub for student health and wellness. Spanning 10,000 square feet, the facility is designed to promote physical fitness, mental well-being, and social engagement among students and staff. The center will feature a full range of weight and cardio equipment, allowing students to maintain active lifestyles within a structured environment. A dedicated dance and yoga studio will offer space for mindfulness, movement-based classes, and student-led wellness programs. A large club room will provide flexible gathering space for group meetings and recreational activities, while an indoor walking track will allow for year-round movement regardless of weather. Unique to ASMSA, the facility will also house an Esports lab supporting both competitive teams and recreational gamers, reflecting evolving student interests. Outside, a fire pit and social landing zones will create opportunities for community building and informal gatherings. Alumni Hall anchors the Wellness Zone of campus and reflects a holistic approach to student development that supports body, mind, and community with intentionality.



An architectural rendering of a modern building, identified as Alumni Hall. The building features a prominent facade of vertical stone columns and a large glass entrance area. A wide set of stone steps leads up to the entrance, flanked by a stone wall. The surrounding landscape includes green grass, trees with yellow and orange autumn foliage, and a paved walkway. The sky is bright and clear.

During the 2024-25 school year, a working group of students, faculty, and staff convened to explore the needs of a shared space for fitness and activities on campus. Their conversations and advocacy helped to accelerate a path forward to bring Alumni Hall to fruition.





# NEW CHARTER FIELD

Charter Field, a cherished part of ASMSA's early residential experience, is set to return in a new, revitalized form. Originally created by the Charter Class of 1995 and later displaced by campus construction, the field will now be re-established in a dedicated space behind the Student Center, bringing active recreational life back "into our backyard." Designed as a multi-use, outdoor athletics area, New Charter Field will feature lighting for nighttime use and accommodate sports such as ultimate frisbee, soccer, and other intramural programs. The reimagined space also includes potential hardscaped courts for basketball, increasing the variety of recreational offerings. By relocating student activities away from the off-campus Linden Park and onto ASMSA grounds, the school reinforces a safe, accessible, and student-centered approach to wellness and recreation. The revitalized Charter Field is both a nod to the past and a new chapter in student life, a tribute to the values of community, tradition, and active engagement that continue to define the ASMSA experience.





20,672 sq ft

118,122 sq ft

189,484 sq ft

Remove Trees

Top Soil & Seed

Detail: D-01

# PERFORMING ARTS CLASSROOM BUILDING

Positioned at the southern gateway of Hot Springs' historic Central Avenue, the proposed Performing Arts Classroom Building will serve as both a cultural landmark and an institutional cornerstone for ASMSA. Envisioned as a 16,000-square-foot facility, this signature space will feature a flexible rehearsal classroom and small concert space. The facility will offer a platform that matches the depth and quality of ASMSA's music programs. A spacious lobby and gallery area will welcome guests, function as a reception venue, and showcase student and community artwork. Behind the scenes, dedicated rehearsal rooms and classrooms will support daily instruction for choir and instrumental music programs. This building affirms ASMSA's commitment to fostering creative excellence and providing students with environments that mirror the caliber of their talents. ASMSA has chosen to explore this option in lieu of a full Performing Arts Center because several proposals under consideration for the former Majestic Hotel site envision a more robust PAC within the footprint adjacent to campus.



# VISUAL ARTS BUILDING

The new Visual Arts Building will be a 18,000-square-foot facility designed to elevate ASMSA's studio-based arts programming. Purpose-built to support disciplines including painting, drawing, ceramics, glasswork, digital art, and multimedia production, the facility will offer students the space and tools necessary to explore a wide range of creative mediums. With specialized studios and flexible classroom configurations, the building will provide a robust and dynamic environment for hands-on learning and experimentation. Equally important, relocating these programs from the main Academic Building and the Creativity and Innovation Complex will relieve pressure on existing facilities, allowing space to be reallocated for other emerging academic priorities. This dedicated arts space aligns with the growth and maturation of the visual arts program at ASMSA while also affirming the school's belief in integrating artistic expression within a STEM-rich educational experience. As a companion to the new Performing Arts Classroom Building, the Visual Arts Building will help define a vibrant Arts Zone on campus where students are empowered to express themselves and develop skills that transcend traditional academic silos.



# ASMSA ARTS ZONE

-  EXISTING BUILDINGS
-  PROPOSED NEW BUILDINGS
-  PEDESTRIAN PATHS
-  VEHICLE ACCESS POINTS
-  PARCEL LINES
-  RETAINING WALL
-  BUILDING ENTRY
-  VEGETATION



**KEY NOTES:**

1. EXISTING CAMPUS COMMONS
2. NEW CENTRAL PLAZA / FIRE TRUCK TURN AROUND
3. COMMUNITY AMPITHEATER / STAIR
4. ENTRY GATEWAY STAIR & TERRACE
5. PUBLIC ARRIVAL DROP OFF
6. NEW PARKING W/ ACCESS TO CEDAR STREET
7. NEW PARKING W/ ACCESS TO PINE STREET
8. ACADEMIC COURTYARD & EXTERIOR LOUNGE
9. CAMPUS FRONT LAWN

**1 RESIDENCE HALL**  
 FLOOR 1 - 4,000 SF  
 FLOOR 2 - 8,000 SF  
 FLOOR 3 - 8,000 SF  
 TOTAL: 20,000 SF

**2A VISUAL ARTS BUILDING**  
 FLOOR 1 - 2,000 SF  
 FLOOR 2 - 8,000 SF  
 FLOOR 3 - 8,000 SF  
 TOTAL: 18,000 SF

**2B PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMIC BUILDING**  
 FLOOR 1 - NONE  
 FLOOR 2 - 8,000 SF  
 FLOOR 3 - 8,000 SF  
 TOTAL: 16,000 SF







# GOVERNORS HALL (RESIDENCE HALL)

ASMSA’s proposed residence hall expansion will add 40 new student beds, raising the school’s total residential capacity to 300 students—the original vision set forth at the school’s founding. This new hall will reflect the same modern, suite-style living design as the Student Center, offering private and semi-private configurations that support comfort, autonomy, and community engagement. Shared lounges, study areas, and social nooks will ensure that students have spaces to collaborate, relax, and thrive outside the classroom. Central to this new development will be a 4,000-square-foot Study Center designed to foster academic focus, group projects, and quiet concentration. The expansion not only addresses a desire to grow ASMSA’s enrollment but also reinforces the importance of the residential experience in shaping students’ intellectual, social, and personal growth. As the school continues to attract students from across Arkansas and beyond, this new facility ensures ASMSA remains a vibrant, supportive, and inclusive living-learning community. The name Governors Hall reflects the commitment the various Arkansas Governors have made to support and sustain the ASMSA experience.





**ARKANSAS  
SCHOOL**  
FOR MATH,  
SCIENCES,  
+ THE ARTS

**TKA**  
ARCHITECTS

# GOOD FOR HOT SPRINGS

A vibrant, forward-looking ASMSA campus contributes not only to the success of the school and its students but also plays a vital role in the continued revitalization of downtown Hot Springs. With the redevelopment of the former Majestic Hotel site into a mixed-use civic gathering space, wellness corridor, retail district, and performance venue, there is a powerful opportunity to link ASMSA's growing campus with the renewed momentum of downtown Hot Springs. Together, these developments can serve as cornerstones for a future in which education, community, and culture thrive side by side. A strengthened connection between ASMSA and the surrounding city invites collaboration, tourism, economic growth, and renewed civic pride. The loss of the former St. Joseph Hospital places a responsibility on ASMSA to not simply fill the space but to place something meaningful in its stead that honors the past while building toward the future. Across the arts, wellness, and innovation, the next phase of development must reflect the school's mission and its role as a cultural and educational anchor for downtown.



# CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Moving forward with the next phase of ASMSA’s campus development presents both opportunities and challenges that require careful planning, strong partnerships, and new approaches to funding. Over the past decade, ASMSA has \$42.5 million in completed or underway new construction and renovation projects—including the Student Center, Creativity and Innovation Complex, and significant upgrades to existing facilities. Remarkably, this progress has been achieved without incurring long-term debt, a testament to the school’s fiscal responsibility and commitment to maximizing state resources.

Unlike many traditional school districts or higher education institutions, ASMSA does not have access to a local millage or tuition revenue that can be leveraged for bonds. As a state-funded institution, it operates within a narrow financial framework and has identified creative strategies to fund capital improvements. In recent years, the school has adopted a model of setting aside a portion of its annual budget to support

construction and renovation efforts. This strategy has allowed ASMSA to undertake targeted projects in the \$5 million range, aligning facilities investment with mission-driven goals while maintaining financial stability.

However, post-pandemic inflation and continued volatility in the construction market have introduced new constraints. The cost per square foot for institutional buildings has nearly doubled in the last five years, with future projects now estimated to range between \$400–500 per square foot. This escalation means that even modestly scaled buildings—such as those in the 20,000 square-foot range—now require substantially greater investment than earlier phases of campus development.

To continue building on past success, ASMSA must secure new, sustainable funding streams. While the Arkansas General Assembly and previous governors have made significant one-time investments—most notably in the Student Center—future progress will depend on recurring or specially allocated funding mechanisms. Legislative, gubernatorial, and ADE support will remain essential in ensuring that ASMSA can fulfill its statewide mission while maintaining a safe, modern, and inspiring campus environment for high-achieving students.

While private philanthropy and grants both can and should play a role in the next generation of capital projects, such funding is likely to remain supplemental in nature. Donors are often most enthusiastic about contributing to enhancements rather than core infrastructure. ASMSA will continue cultivating private support while also acknowledging that the scale of required investment exceeds what can be expected from philanthropy alone.

Finally, ASMSA will work closely with the University of Arkansas System to explore novel pathways for facilities development and investment. As one of the few residential public high schools in the country with a university system affiliation, ASMSA is uniquely positioned to consider hybrid models, shared services, and system-backed investment options that expand the reach and impact of its campus.

Realizing the vision laid out in the 2033 Facilities Plan will require a shared commitment from state leaders, University of Arkansas System partners, and the broader ASMSA community. The challenges are real but so too is the opportunity to transform the campus for the next generation of students.



# HOW CAN I HELP ASMSA GROW?

## **SPEAK WITH LEGISLATORS**

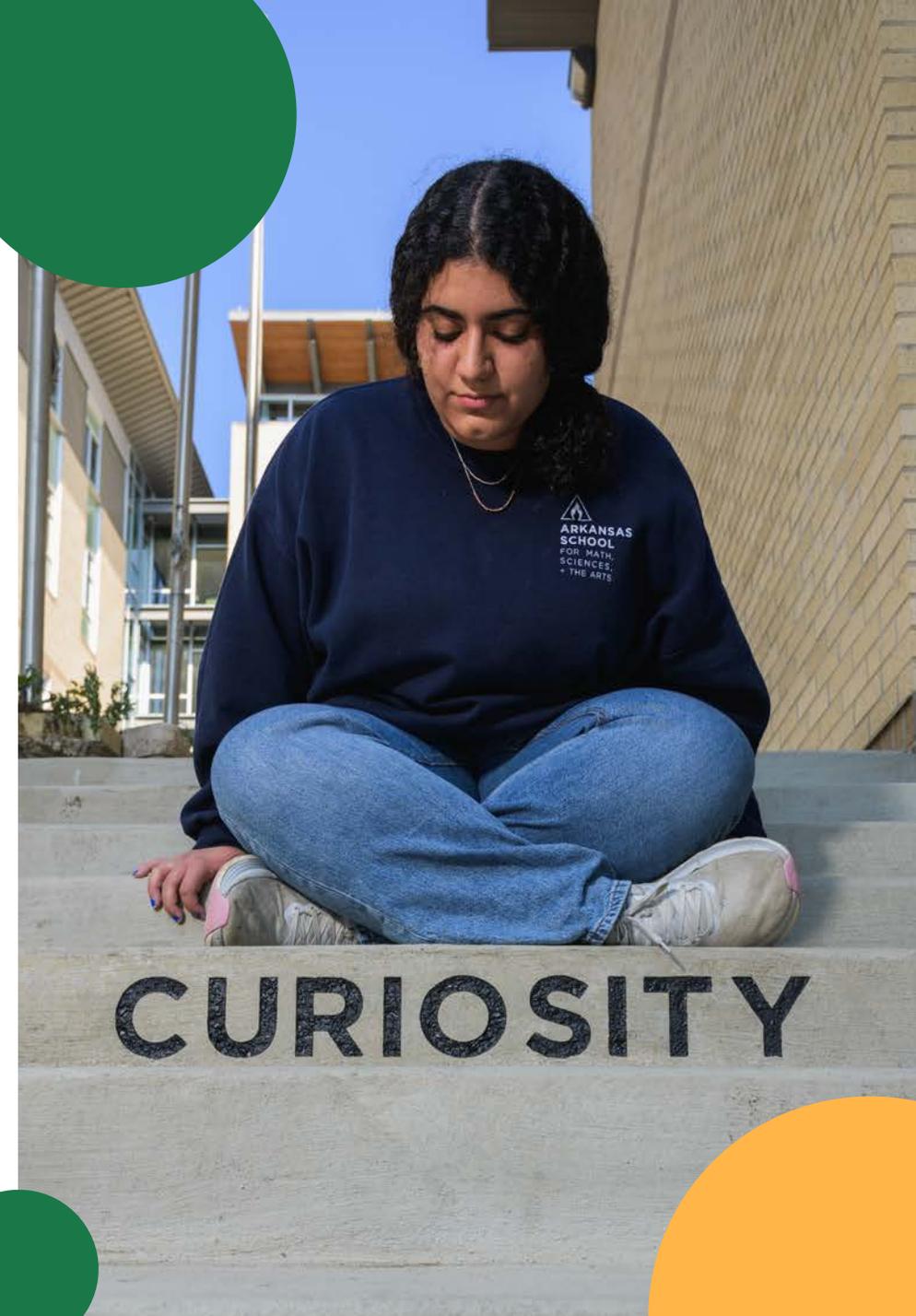
Let your elected officials know that ASMSA's residential experience aligns closely with the state's vision of expanded school choice, parental empowerment, and accelerated learning.

## **ADVOCATE FOR ASMSA**

"Best kept secrets" don't have the impact they can! Speak with those in your network about ASMSA's many opportunities and how the school serves more than 7,000 students, families, and educators across the state each year.

## **MAKE A GIFT**

Every gift, no matter the size, can help to support the next step in the continued evolution of campus. Naming opportunities are available that help to underwrite a portion of the cost of spaces.



# GET ENGAGED

LEARN MORE ONLINE AT  
[asmsa.org/about-us/facilities](https://asmsa.org/about-us/facilities)

To lend your support and advocacy, contact  
Cara Jay, Interim Director of Institutional  
Advancement, at [jayc@asmsa.org](mailto:jayc@asmsa.org) or  
telephone 501-622-5292.

