

Compass Chronicle

Counseling | Spring 2019

Can you believe there are just a few months left in the school year?



Yes! Summer break is not so far away. We hope that before things get too busy with spring break, coursework, and finals, our scholars will begin planning ahead to make the most of their time off during the summer. Scholars' summer plans will vary depending on each scholar's personal needs and situation. Perhaps some scholars have an interest in volunteering, working a job, attending summer school, taking their first community college class, or graduating and heading off into "the real world." Whatever their plans may be, our counselors, including our college career counselor, are here to support them and help them achieve their summer goals!

Sincerely,

Debra Stephan, Director of Counseling Services

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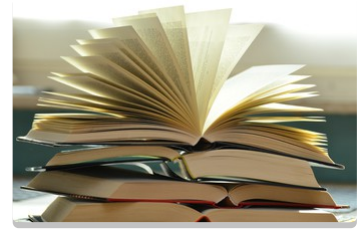
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WHAT'S NEW IN COUNSELING?

The excitement continues in the counseling department! In January, we had a lot of fun joining schools from across the country in the Great Kindness Challenge. Scholars carried out various acts of kindness toward others, even pets!



In February, we held our third Counseling with Compass Live event at San Diego State University! Scholars that attended had a chance to tour the campus and listen to insightful presentations. They also enjoyed in-person, one-on-one meetings with our counselors. It's always a thrill for our staff to meet with scholars face-to-face. To add to the excitement, a few of our scholars have already started receiving acceptance letters to colleges and universities for Fall 2019!

Looking ahead, we are proud to once again offer a summer school program for high school scholars! Summer school is a great opportunity for scholars that may be interested in recovering their grades or getting ahead with graduation credits. The program is open to our enrolled scholars and to the public. Our [summer school course list](#) is now available and we are now enrolling for summer school. [Enroll today!](#)



FAMILY SPOTLIGHT



This month we are highlighting Wilburn Family!

CCS: What does a typical day look like for you and your scholar?

Mrs. Wilburn: My daughters and I begin our day by reading 50 verses from our Holy Quran. After breakfast, usually around 8 am, we work on class assignments and take a break at around noon for half an hour to rest, relax, and have lunch. Then, we get back to working on the assignments, attend any scheduled learning labs and squeeze in our 45 minutes of daily physical activity. Occasionally, my daughters don't attend their classes due to either appointments or if they're not feeling well.

CCS: What has been your greatest joy and what has been your greatest challenge in schooling at home? How did you overcome the challenge(s)?

Mrs. Wilburn: My greatest joy is actually being able to see my daughters progressing, learning, and succeeding right before my eyes. Most importantly, I see and hear all that is being taught to them by their professors. My greatest challenge is making sure that while online, they don't deviate from their school work and get distracted by other websites. CCS has a wonderful Director of IT, David Brasch, who taught me about online safety for my daughters and how to secure their laptop and online activities.

CCS: Why did you choose Compass Charter Schools, among the vast competition out there?

Mrs. Wilburn: I chose Compass because the staff is supportive and they make every step easy for parents. They also closely monitor scholars' progress and behavior during virtual learning labs!

CCS: What do you enjoy most about being part of our Compass community?

Mrs. Wilburn: As a learning coach and mother, I enjoy being part of the Compass community because their commitment to my daughters is genuine. The entire staff is always there for me as a learning coach, my daughters, and most importantly they respect our beliefs.

CCS: What advice would you give parents thinking about schooling their child at home?

Mrs. Wilburn: Honestly, do it for the right reasons. Learning from home may not be for everyone, but truthfully you will never regret all the hard work and sacrifice that you put into your child's upbringing and education.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



This month we recognize Gabriela Ayala, Counselor

CCS: What is your job title and what are a couple of the things you do at Compass Charter Schools? How long have you worked for this organization?

Mrs. Ayala: I am a school counselor and I work with middle and high school scholars. I have been with Compass Charter Schools for a little more than four years but I have been a school counselor for 12 years. In my role as a counselor, I provide guidance to scholars with their academic and social/emotional needs. I work closely with scholars and their families to ensure that they are meeting our graduation requirements and that they are prepared for a successful future.

CCS: Tell us your "why" for doing what you do here at CCS?

Mrs. Ayala: I have a heart for helping others and I find it rewarding when I can help a scholar. I enjoy knowing that I am making a difference in their lives. It's an amazing experience to be able to help scholars and families get excited about the future and all of the great possibilities that life has to offer!

CCS: As an educator, is there piece of advice you'd like to share with learning coaches or scholars?

Mrs. Ayala: As an educator, I would like to encourage learning coaches to have their scholar get involved in school, maintain a good relationship with their counselors and teachers, and empower their

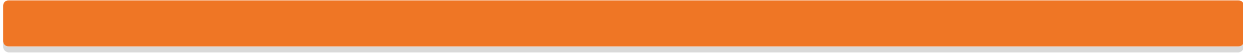
scholar to be their own advocate. It is important for scholars to advocate for themselves and be able to communicate their needs to others!

CCS: Share one thing about you very few people would know?

Mrs. Ayala: Very few people know that when I was younger I scored an Olympic goal in soccer! I have followed my passion for soccer by playing on a local women's soccer team and I help my husband coach my kids' soccer teams.

CCS: What do you and your family like to do during your free time?

Mrs. Ayala: In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my husband and two kids. We love the outdoors, attending sporting events, and watching movies as a family.



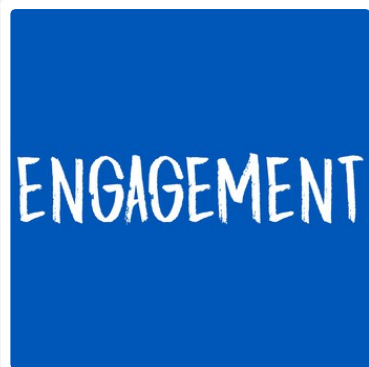
SHARE YOUR STORY



Are you enjoying the educational experience at Compass? Tell us! We want to hear from you. Why did you decide to join the Compass family? Or, what do you love most about being part of our community? Share your comments and all of your wonderful experiences at Compass with us! [Click here](#) to share.



Continue to Exceptional Scholar Services, Engagement, and Main Newsletter







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Visit our [website](#) for more information about our academic programs. Or, contact Debra Stephan, Director of Counseling Services at dstephan@compasscharters.org.

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 compasscharters.org

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_3jyxoCWVU



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