

Compass Chronicle

Compass Charter Schools | Options | October 2019

A Warm Welcome From our Superintendent!

It is hard to believe that October is here! I hope everyone is enjoying our Compass Experience, and having a successful start to their school year. Our #CompassFam has grown tremendously over the past year! It is truly an honor that our scholars, both new and returning, have chosen Compass to guide your unique educational journeys for the 2019-20 school year.



The Compass Chronicle is our quarterly newsletter, full of important information and exciting updates about Compass Charter Schools. I hope you enjoy learning more about our scholars, our families, our staff, and the amazing work that is happening in and out of the virtual classroom!

Is there something specific you'd like to see in the newsletter? We have Virtual Suggestion Boxes for [scholars](#), as well as [parents](#), where you can share your input on Compass Charter Schools. We review these monthly with our [Parent Advisory Council](#), [Scholar Leadership Council](#), and Staff Advisory Committee. Feel free to share your suggestion(s) today to help us continue to enhance the educational experience for our scholars.

On behalf of our amazing staff, welcome to the 2019-20 school year! I wish our scholars nothing but the best as they chart their educational journey at Compass.

Forever Loud & Proud,
J.J. Lewis, Superintendent & CEO
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Options Scholars' Work Samples

Our TK scholar R. Gillen practiced his rhyming skills! In this photo, he practiced rhyming the words pop and stop.



Our TK scholar C. Palkovic made slime while working through their science curriculum. Our scholar learned that chemistry is all about the states of matter, including liquids, solids, and gasses. It is all about the way different materials are put together, and how they are made up, including atoms and molecules. Chemistry is how materials act under different conditions and/or form new substances. Just like slime!

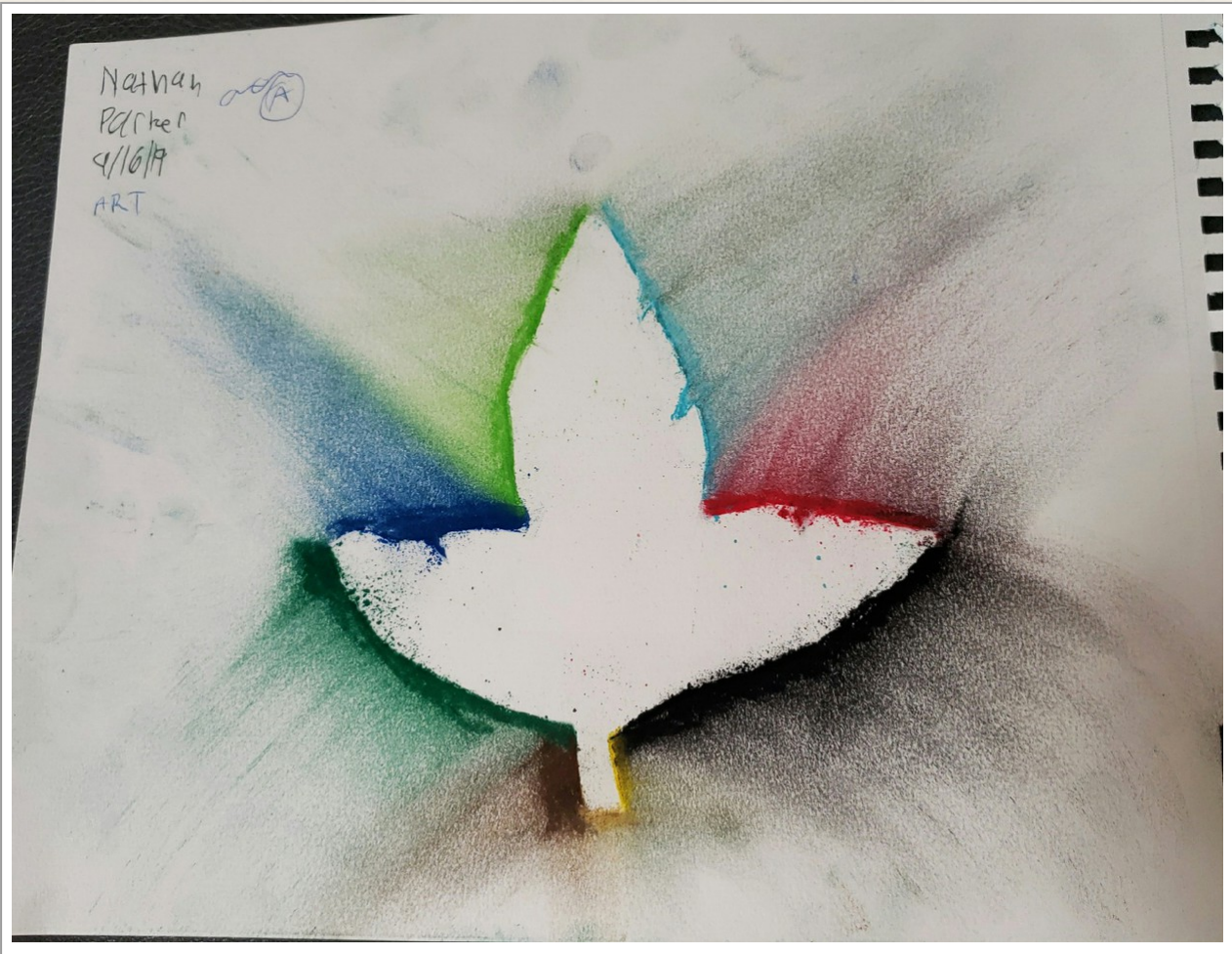


making slime!

The Palkovic family also used clay to assure a multi-sensory approach so that learning of phonics and letter recognition used auditory, visual and kinesthetic modes.

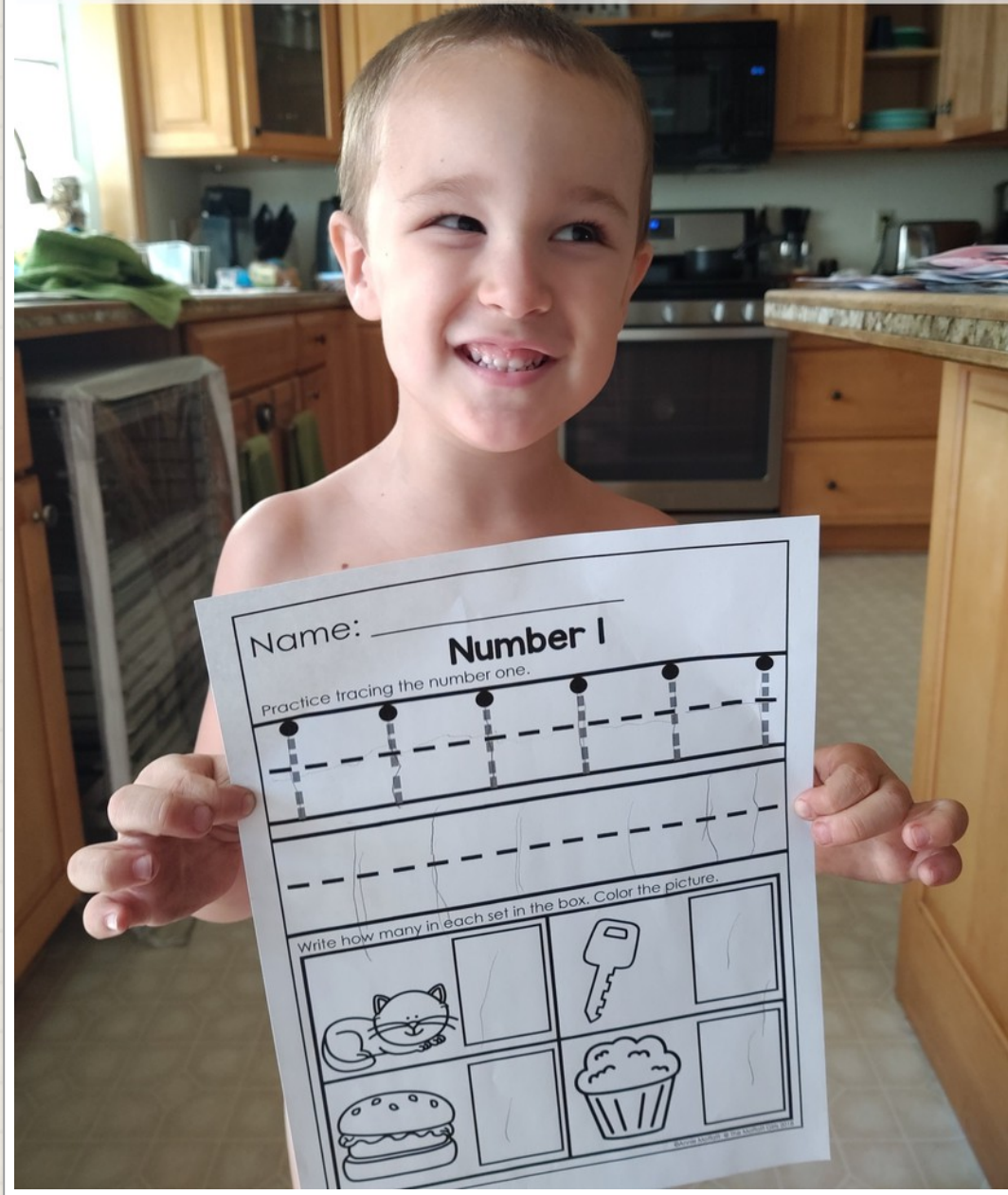


The Parker family created beautiful art using leaves. They chose a leaf because it's fall and they enjoyed using pastel chalk to blend colors.



The Anderson family practiced writing the number one. It's nice to see some of the great work they did on the first day of school!

Happy first day of school!



The Garcia family kicked off the new school year by creating a short "About Me" chalkboard display. Their displays show their future career goals, which include being a chef, firefighter, doctor, barber, music teacher and more.



Scholars at our Orange County Learning Center in Santa Ana are studying ancient history and created a Ziggurat Marble challenge. The goal of this STEM project was to mock up a two step ziggurat and to create the longest functional marble run, within certain size parameters. The longest run was 30+ inches!



An Options Family Story!

This month, we're featuring the Pugh family! Take a moment to get to know their great family and their experience at Compass:



1. Could you please share a little bit about your family with us? How many children, pets, etc.?

We are the Pugh Family - Bryan, Randi, Kristen, & Zakary. We live in Huntington Beach and enjoy spending time together visiting museums, going for bike rides, and having picnics at the park. Oh, and we are really big Disneyland and Disney World fans! We have a rescued German Shepard/Cattle dog named Dash.

2. What does a typical day of homeschooling look like for your family?

Zakary is a 5-grade special education scholar with Compass. Our day involves a routine of general subject instruction, independent reading, online math, as well as additional education services such as speech therapy and specialized academic instruction from a Compass special education teacher. We also have routine physical education time at a local park next to Kristen's high school.

3. As a parent, what do you enjoy most about teaching your scholar at home?

We love having the ability to give Zak the support and resources that he needs to meet his educational, social, and emotional goals. We love being able to enrich his education with real-life experiences and to include lessons on life-skills that are essential. It has also been great to be learning and re-learning alongside him and carrying that knowledge outside of instructional time and into our daily life.

4. What do you enjoy most about being part of the Compass family? Why have you decided to return to Compass this year?

We absolutely love our entire educational team. With a special education child, we have a variety of people who come together to support Zak, and Compass has given us an amazing

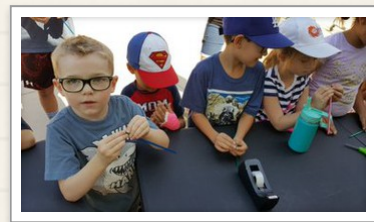
team that works with us to ensure Zak's continued success. This is our fourth year with Compass and our third year in the Options program. In those years we have watched as Zak has made progress, conquered challenges, and learned how to love learning. We have been able to change curriculums mid-way in the school year to accommodate a newly discovered learning gap. We can step away from our usual curriculum to manage an unforeseen situation that reduces our available time, and bring in core subject resources that Compass provides to continue learning even in challenging circumstances.

5. How does Compass help your scholar achieve their goals or dreams?

Compass has allowed us to remove the challenges of a traditional classroom environment that were hindering Zak's academic progress. The home learning environment allows us to manage anxiety to allow for real learning. It enables us to layer in support structures that help him to make grade-level progress in reading comprehension, while we work with the special education teacher to master the functional decoding skills for reading and spelling. It is a fully customized education that plays to Zak's strengths while supporting his goals to overcome his challenges. Our core goal for Zak is for him to be able to pursue his dreams, and have a solid foundation of academics, life skills, and social/emotional function that will set him up for real success. Compass has enabled that foundation through their online platform for services, homeschool options, and a great support team!

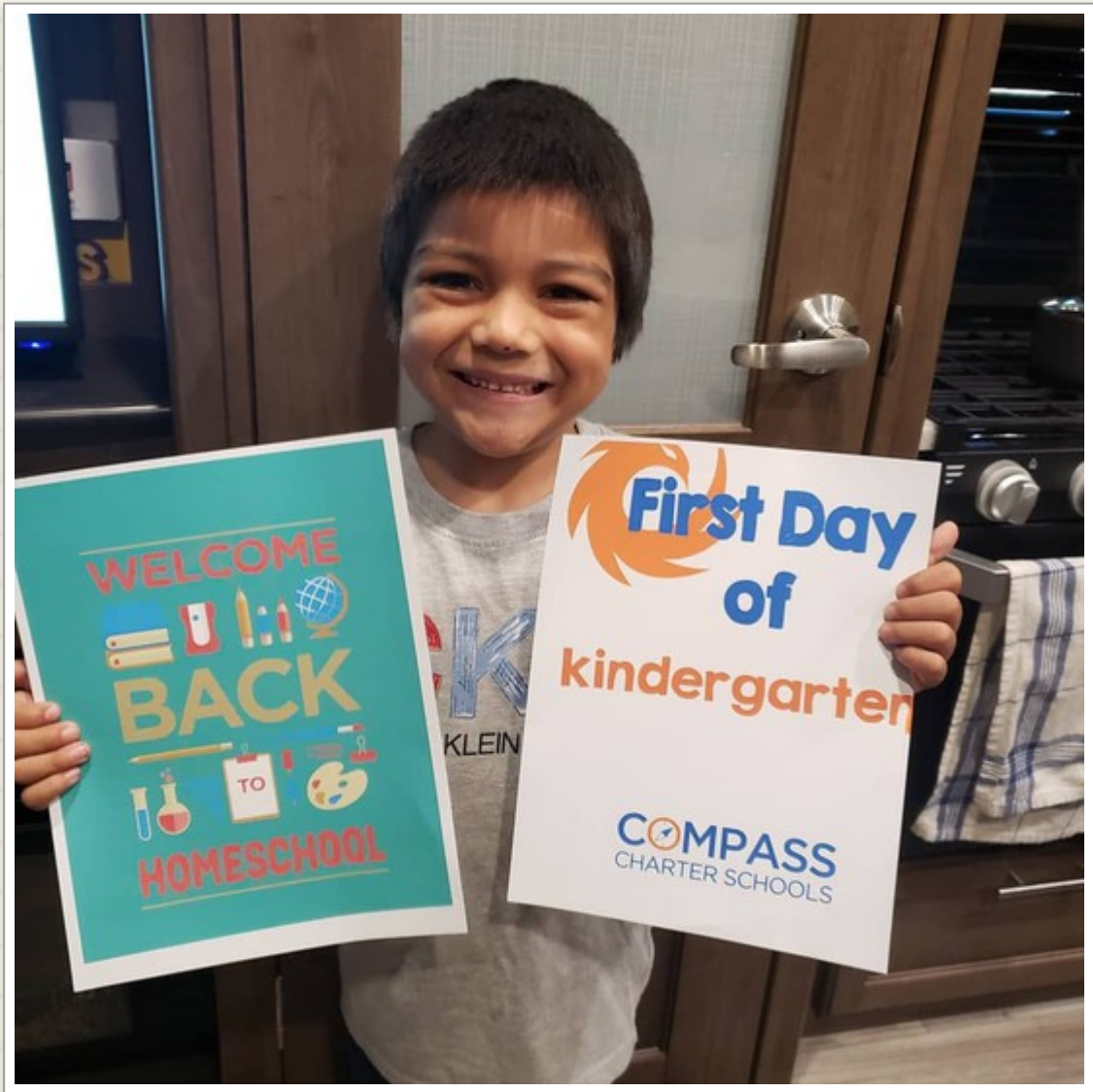
Check Out Our Engagement Activities!

Earlier this month our Engagement Department organized Back-to-School picnics throughout California for our scholars and their families! Our families and staff enjoyed fun activities like an egg drop, sack race, and arts and crafts while enjoying time with each other in-person. Our scholars played with their peers while our learning coaches enjoyed casual conversation with each other and our staff!





Our scholars also participated in a Back-to-School Selfie Contest! They shared photos of their first day of school as Compass scholars on social media for a chance to win a great prize.



Our Staff Development

In August, our teachers and school staff attended the all-staff retreat in beautiful Palm Springs! All attending staff participated in professional development training, planning with their teams and strategy meetings with leadership in preparation for the new school year. The time also included team bonding activities for the entire staff. It was a great time for collaboration and relationship building for all.



LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Meet Kristy Smith, Director of our Options (Homeschool) Learning Program! Kristy has been part of Compass for three years and has been working in education for over 20 years. She's taught math and Spanish to high school scholars and is an experienced homeschool parent. A few fun things to know about Kristy are that, when she can catch a moment of free time, she loves reading biographies, watching murder mysteries, and going out past the waves at the beach. She also enjoys playing games, cheering for her kids at soccer games, and spending time with her family and friends.



Staff Spotlight



Angela Cloud

Position: Educational Facilitator

Years in Education: 30

Fun Fact: She has twin 18-year old daughters who are so different she feels they have been her best teachers in understanding the need for personalized learning.

Favorite Educational Quote:

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." - William Butler Yeats



Ruth Chavez-Rivera

Position: Regional Options Coordinator

Years in Education: 20+

Interesting sentence: Be sure you put your feet in the right place, Then Stand Firm-- Abraham Lincoln

Favorite Educational Quote:

"No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care." - Theodore Roosevelt



Karle Roberts

Position: Options regional Coordinator

Years in Education: 18

My favorite line that I say to my children: "Be part of the solution, not part of the problem."

Favorite Educational Quote:

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela



SHARE YOUR STORY

Comments




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.



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



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