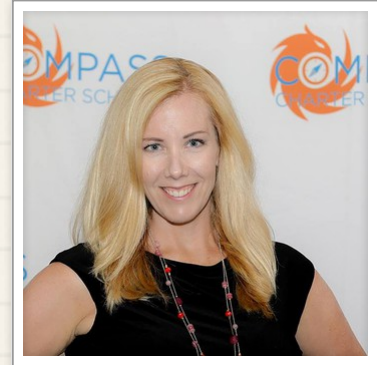


# Compass Chronicle

Los Angeles Charter | Summer 2021

## A Word from our Principal, Janae Smith

As I reflect on the 2020-21 school year, I want to thank all of our wonderful CCS of Los Angeles families. I also want to thank our dedicated Compass staff for coming alongside scholars and learning coaches to lend encouragement and support.



This past school year presented unique challenges and opportunities. Yet, through it all, we worked together for positive outcomes. The accomplishments of our scholars speak to the power of a shared commitment and effort within our school community. This month we recognized the many scholars who made Honor Roll, displayed ARTIC values, participated in the National Honor Society, earned the Good Samaritan Award, were named Scholar of the Month and Firebird of the Year.

We closed out the school year by celebrating promoting kindergarten, fifth, and eighth-graders, and finally, the CCS of Los Angeles graduating class of 2021, for whom we are so proud. So, for now, summer is upon us, the future is bright, and we're headed in the right direction for the upcoming 2021-22 school year!

## What's Been Happening at the Los Angeles Charter?

Our scholars put their best effort into state testing, navigating the virtual setting like champs. Families participated in our school-wide assemblies over the last few months, celebrating Jewish-American, Asian-Pacific heritage, as well as Pride month. A ton of engaging learning happened through beautifully crafted work samples, hands-on science and history projects, scholar workshops, and club activities. From virtual whale watching and museum visits to cooking and gardening, the last few months have been packed full of great scholar

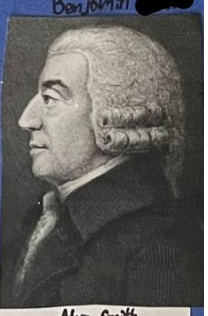



## Work Samples and Learning Labs!

Scholar Government & Economics Presentation.

5/17/21

# GOVERNMENT & ECONOMICS




Government

The Government is composed of three branches,

- Legislative - The Legislative creates the laws
- Includes the Congress, - House of Representatives and the Senate
- Executive - Carry out/fulfills the laws
- Includes the President, president is associated with the vice president and the cabinet - The cabinet is supposed to be regarded as the body of the president. (the most federal agencies)
- Judicial - Evaluate and double-check the laws
- Includes the Supreme Court primarily, other federal courts

These three branches of government all work in harmony by proposing law concepts, evaluating those concepts, and finally carrying out the concepts.

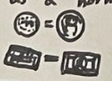


Economics

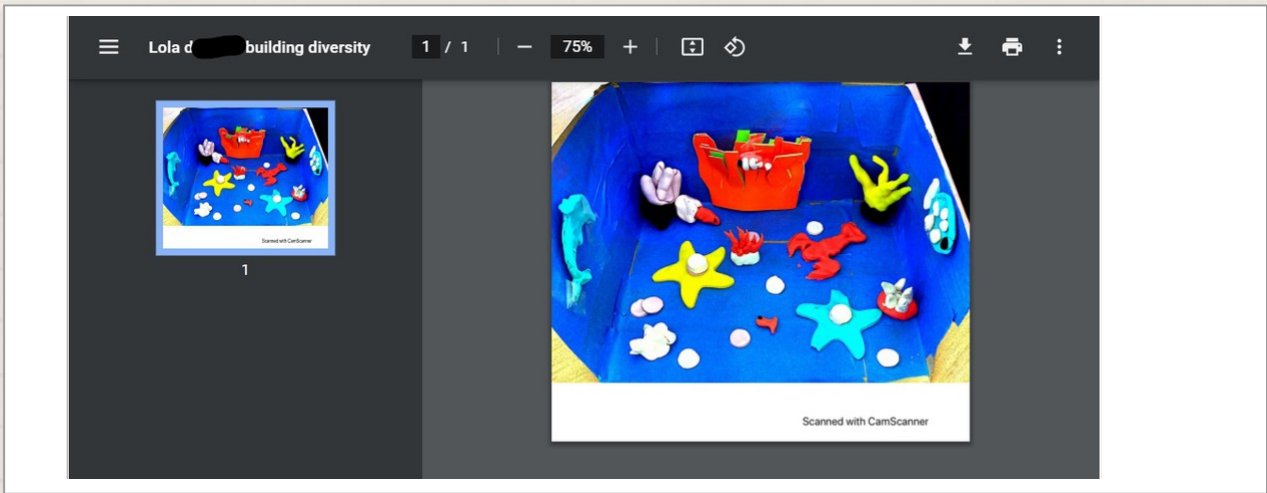
The History of Economics:

Adam Smith

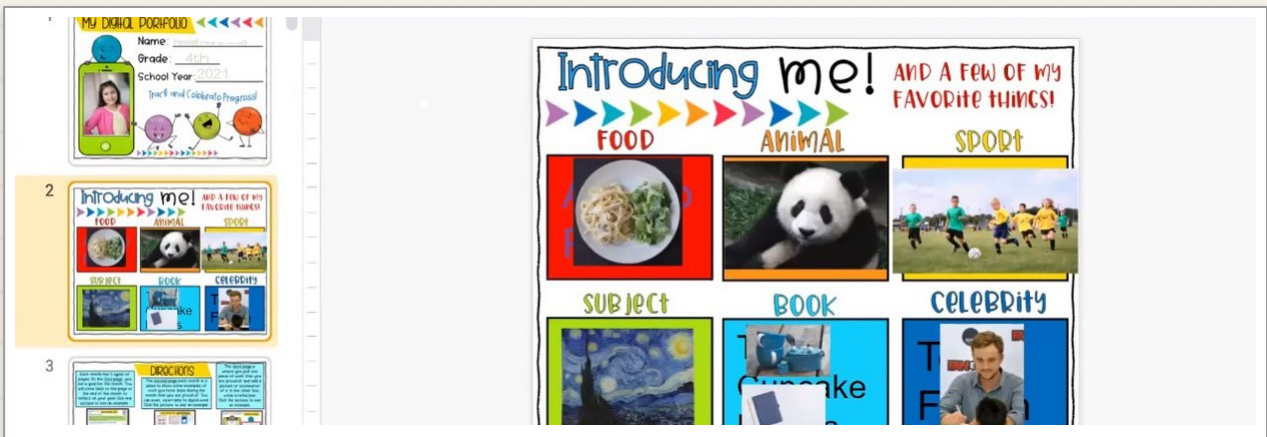
Competition plays a vital role in economics, Companies can compete with one another creating products better than the last. This raises the bar. Who was Adam Smith? Adam Smith was known for being the "father of Economics/Capitalism." Adam Smith was well known for his concept of the "invisible hand." The "invisible hand" is a metaphor that exemplifies the unintended greater social benefits and public good. Meaning hypothetically, the hand of god is what's making this happen, as Smith believed. Long ago, money did not exist, there was only such a thing as bartering. Bartering was the practice of exchanging goods or services that did not include currency. As Economics evolved, people started to develop concepts of currency, for example, small pieces of copper were used to trade instead of the exchange of goods. Soon, in China, paper money was finally developed. Then, paper money was adapted to other places around the Earth. Thus, introducing modern coins and paper money as a normal occurrence.



A Scholar Building Diversity Clay Display

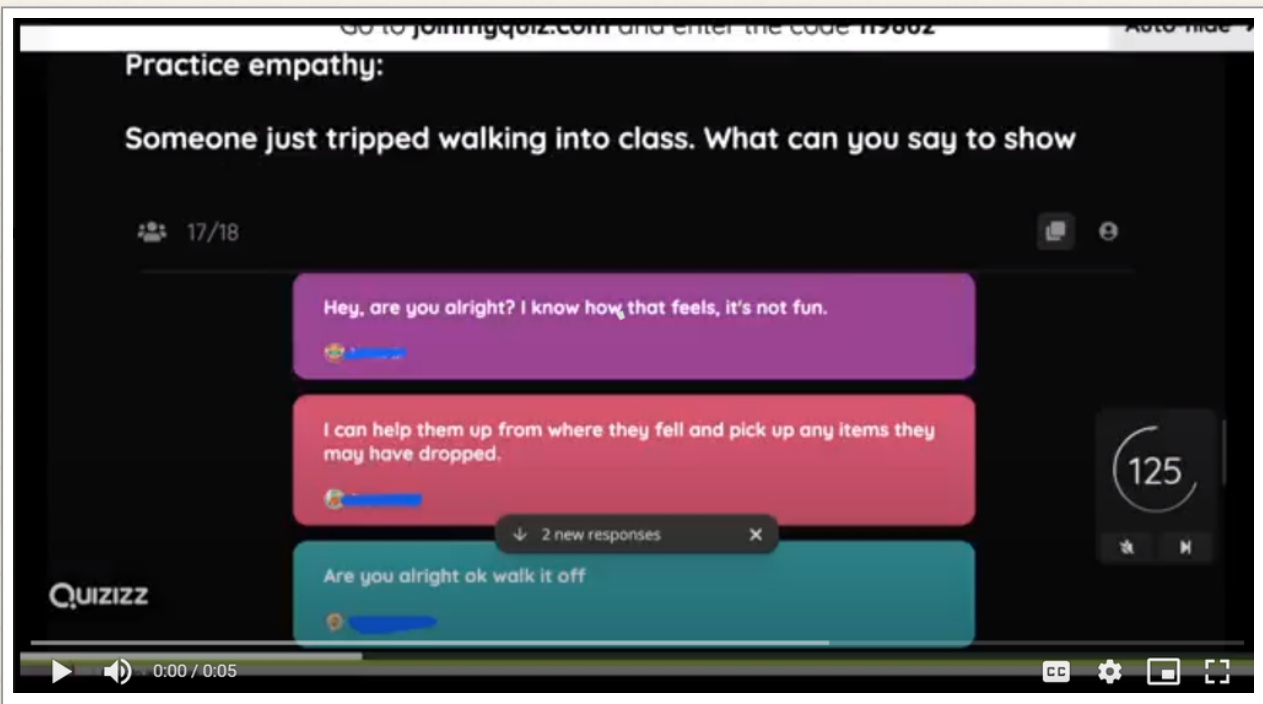


A Scholar Introduction to School.



Matthew shares his 'brain' cap! A detailed outline of the brain in the form of a hat!





Charlie has been studying the periodic table - its history, layout, the different types of elements, and what makes it "periodic." Charlie's culminating assignment was to construct a model of the periodic table. He decided to make his model out of brownies. He baked all of the brownies himself, labeled them with each element's abbreviation and atomic number, and arranged them in the proper order!



Jacob R, a first-grade scholar, learned about volcanoes and created his own model!



Jasmine B., a 7-grade scholar's display of the Great Wall of China.



## Look at what our Spanish 1 scholars learned! This from 9<sup>th</sup> grader Jessenia...

18. You learned a lot about traditional costumes. Which one did you like the most? What do all of them have in common? Write a short paragraph in Spanish at least five sentences long in which you discuss what you know about traditional clothing.

Personalmente me gustó más Nicaragua, porque soy mitad nicaragüense. Conozco la historia detrás de todas sus tradiciones, así que aprecio la cultura. Creo que algo que todos tienen en común es que todos tienen colores brillantes. Las tradiciones también son muy religiosas.

15. Look at the picture and describe in what these persons are wearing using five sentences. [HTML]



La mujer de la izquierda lleva una camisa rosa clara con pantalones verdes. La mujer en el medio juro una camisa a rayas con pantalones color canela. Y la mujer de la derecha lleva una camisa rosa claro con pantalones rosa oscuro. Dos de las mujeres llevan gafas. Dos también tienen bolsas.

Rocky E. shows what she knows about the sea route the explorers took to get from Europe to South America on the Santa, Pinta, and Nina ships.





## Amazing AVID focused-notes from biology scholar Liana!...

Liana [redacted]  
Mr. Spink  
Biology  
10 May 2021

### Human Impact on the Environment Focused Notes

**Topic:** Deforestation

**Learning Objective:**

1. Identify the causes of deforestation
2. Describe the impact of deforestation on the environment

**Essential Question:** How does deforestation change the environment?

**Questions/Topics (with notes):**

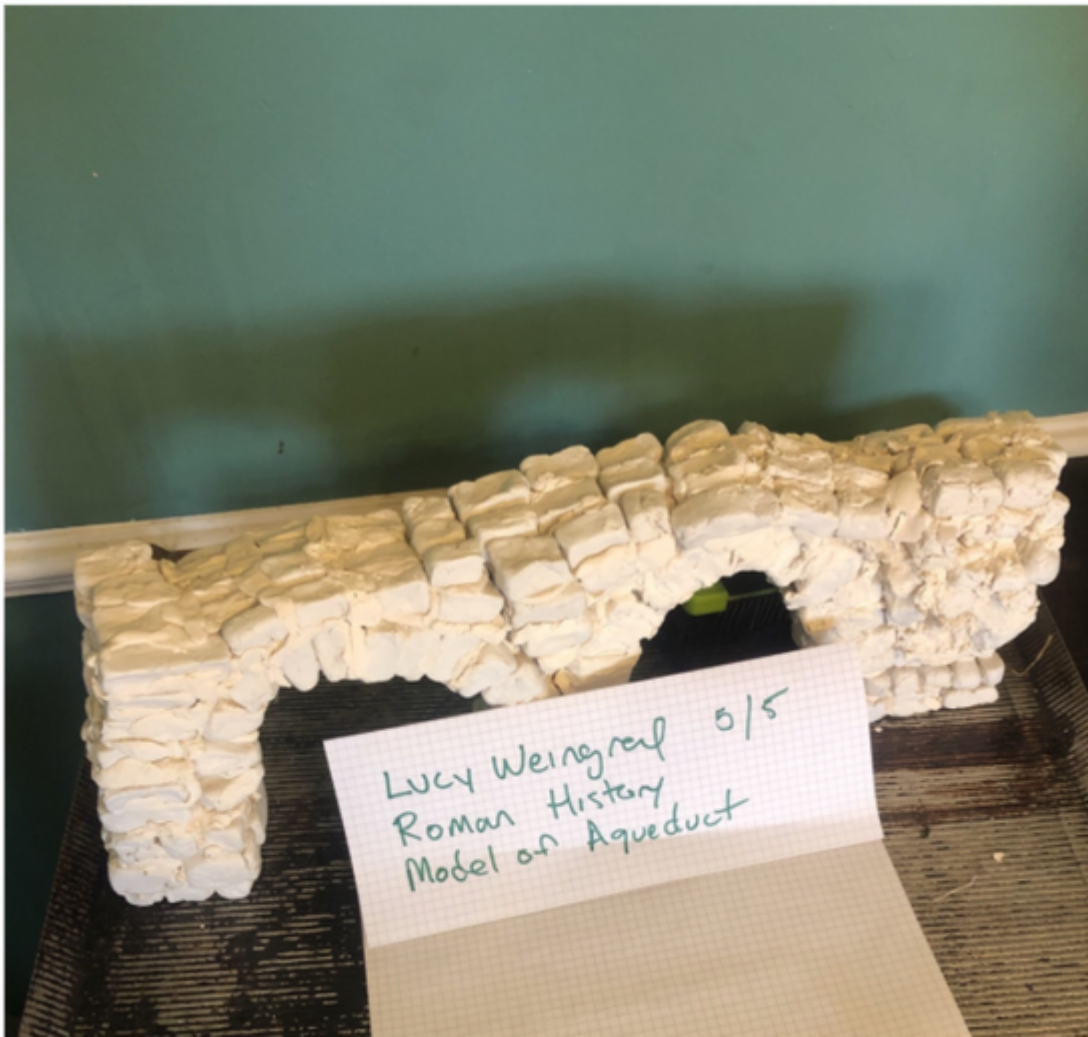
**Why are forests important to ecosystems?**

- Forests are spread over about 30% of Earth's land surface, and there are different types of forests. Broadleaf forests, sometimes called temperate forests, are located in areas with hot summers and cold winters. They have common tree types of oak, maple, and birch. Tropical rainforests are located in areas near the equator with a warm and wet climate and dense tree cover. No matter what type of forest, these habitats are vital to the functioning of natural ecosystems.

**Why is deforestation a problem?**

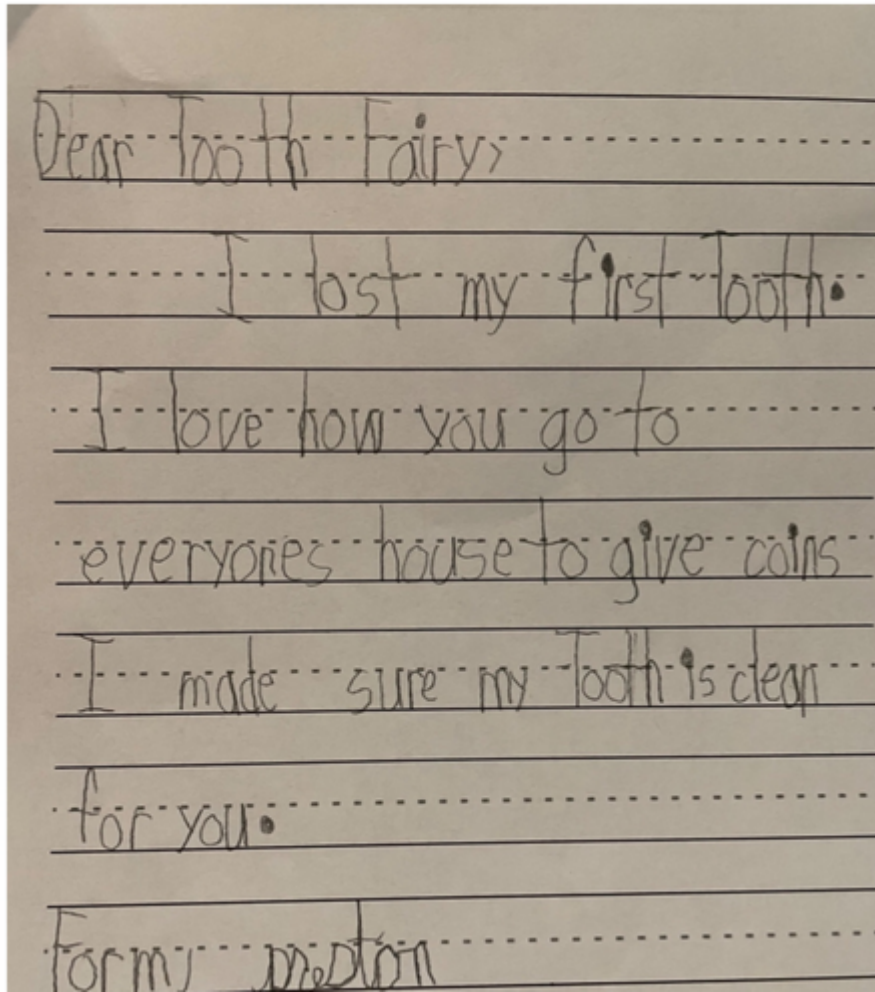
- Deforestation can contribute to global warming, soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, and a dryer climate.

Lucy W., grade 5, created a model of a Roman aqueduct while studying ancient Rome.



Scholar Preston G. shows his Kindergarten writing skills with a letter to the tooth fairy.

Preston G. shows his Kindergarten writing skills by writing a letter to the tooth fairy.



A photograph of a piece of lined paper with a handwritten letter. The letter is written in a simple, cursive-like style. The text is as follows:

Dear Tooth Fairy,

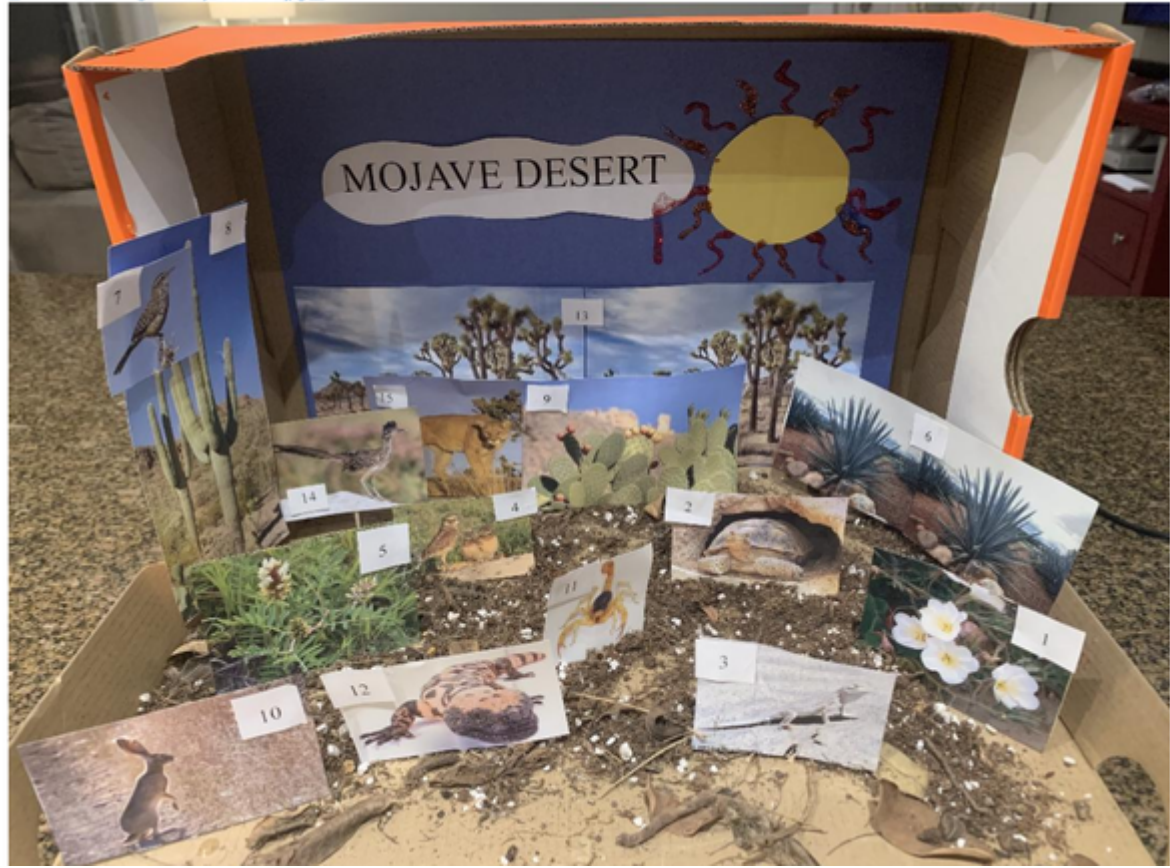
I lost my first tooth.

I love how you go to  
everyones house to give coins.

I made sure my tooth is clean  
for you.

From Preston

Weston's model of the Mojave Desert.

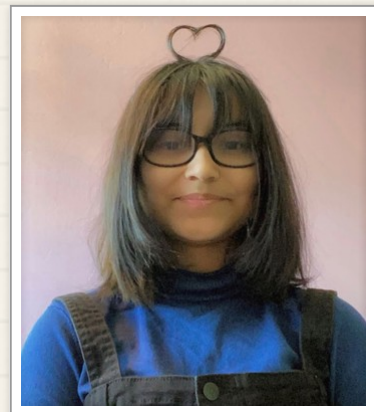
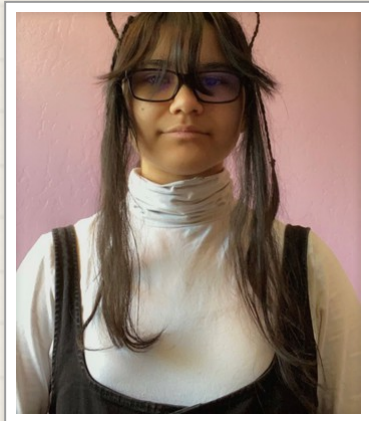


## Get a load of these superior Spanish 1 literacy skills from 9th grade scholar Xailoh...

✓ 20. Look at the following restaurant check and write five sentences about the prices. [HTML]



# Meet the Martinez Family!



**Online homeroom teacher - Mrs. Whitney**

**Sisters - Emily 6-grade scholar and Aleeha 9-grade scholar**

**The Martinez Family - Learning coach, Martha Martinez**

We have been with Compass for five years, and the teachers have always been really great at communicating with us. In addition, the support system has been amazing. Seeing our girls succeed in school and not be stressed out is one of our greatest joys. Even when they don't like the subject, we find a way to make it enjoyable.

We chose Compass for personalized learning. When we were in a traditional school building, it was harder to get the right level of learning that we needed. If the majority of the class were done, they would move on without support. This caused our one daughter to struggle. Our other child was the opposite; she was getting busy because the curriculum couldn't provide any additional education in any other subject. Both girls are now doing great and can go ahead as far as they want or spend more time learning concepts that may be harder. We really liked the online program, seeing the teachers one hour daily on different subjects, and doing our own learning. Recorded learning labs were a plus too.

The flexibility of learning at home allows my scholars to achieve their goals; for instance, my oldest wanted to do more involved with preaching and volunteer work which she can now do without it impacting her school goals. We like to travel, so it's easy to work ahead if we need

to finish a day early, or we take our laptops and stop at libraries or use a phone hotspot at the park to do school work. The flexibility of learning online makes it so much easier to be together and plan properly to do fun stuff and not have the stress of falling behind.

On a typical day, we start working at 9 am. The first thing we do is check the calendar to see what is due and labs scheduled for the day. We take a 30-minute lunch break around 1 or 1:30 pm and then continue working until all of the work scheduled for the current day or is overdue work is done, which can be anytime between 2 pm and 6 pm. We try to attend all of the learning labs or watch the recordings throughout the day as well. Every day the girls' "to-do-list" and our "Activity Stream" are checked to stay on track.

During the time that one parent was experiencing a health issue, the girls started falling behind. We built a plan to get back on track. We determined how many assignments needed to be completed each day to get things done in time. It was very challenging, and the days were long; we didn't even get to take a fall or winter break. The last month we even worked on weekends. At the end of the semester, we were back on track, got most of the work in, and achieved good grades.

Compass support is great. The weekly teacher emails help everyone stay on task, and the monthly parent-teacher conferences are really nice to bring up issues or questions. The Monday Morning Update (MMU) also brings a lot of value to seeing the recordings if we missed any meetings and deadlines approaching. This year the read-only version of BUZZ has been a huge help to ensure we stay on top of what our scholars should be doing for the day or week.

My advice to parents considering a virtual school is that all scholars need someone to show interest in what they do. Being involved in what they do daily will help them stay on track and feel really good at the end of the year when they get good grades. If you set your process of checking daily from the beginning, then it is easier for them to accept the help, don't wait till a month has passed to check their status because it could be too late to catch up. Also, even though Google is a great tool, you can find additional resources online to help understand some concepts; I discourage scholars from using it as the first source for doing schoolwork; they end up spending more time going through data overload when it is already in the unit that they are working on.



**Meet the Sanchez Family!**



**Options Supervising Teacher - Mrs. Lasley**

**The Sanchez Family scholar - Justin-Daniel, 6-grade scholar**

We decided to teach our scholar from home because his classroom had too many students to one teacher 37:1. We didn't feel he was getting the individual attention to help him further his education. Learning from home helps Justin Daniel (JD) achieve his goals because he can work in a quiet, more focused environment with no distractions or interruptions. I decided on the Options program with Compass Charter Schools because a friend had their scholar enrolled and only said great things about Compass.

My scholar's typical school day starts with a healthy and hearty breakfast around 7:30 am, then writing in a daily gratitude journal, reading for 30-minutes, and 30-minutes of piano practice. Math starts after piano practice, and I have activities and curriculum set for him; then ELA starts once math is done. Once ELA is done, JD has a lunch break. Then, 30-minutes after lunch, he starts with science, then social studies. Then, after all subjects are complete, JD can go outside and skateboard on his ramp and jump on his trampoline.

My greatest joy in schooling my scholar is that I get to know more about his struggles and strengths firsthand and how I can help him not feel so discouraged and frustrated and work with him. Also, I get to spend a lot of time with him since he'll grow up too fast before my eyes. We like to go down to the skatepark during free time, have lunch, and watch our scholar have so much fun skateboarding. Periodically my husband and I like to skateboard as well.

A challenge I have experienced as a learning coach was not knowing if I'm providing the right curriculum and tools for my scholar to achieve his academic goals. My supervising teacher has helped me overcome this challenge by guiding me on a specific curriculum for my scholar's grade level. In addition, she periodically checks in, making sure my scholar is getting the right education he needs.

Compass supports my scholar by providing bi-weekly conference calls with our educational facilitator, fun and free educational workshops, and many different free educational resources and programs. Our supervising teacher, Mrs. Lasley, is what we enjoy most about being part of the Compass family because she is really understanding, helpful, informative, and resourceful. She really takes into consideration my scholars' needs. She's not only concerned about my scholars' education but also about our family's well-being, so we feel a sense of genuine care.

My advice to a parent thinking about taking their child out of school is to make sure they're ready to take on the role of a teacher because it can take a lot of their own free time. It's not easy initially, but eventually, they'll figure out a consistent daily schedule for their scholar.



**Staff Spotlight: Meet Sharon Rosen,  
Online High School Teacher, Scholars  
Choice Online Teacher of the Year!**





Hi, how are you? I am Sharon Rosen, an Online High School Teacher, and I teach 11-grade US history and 12-grade government and economics. I have been with the Compass family for three years. I love the personalized education that I can provide for my scholars and the one-on-one attention to help all of my scholars thrive and achieve their goals.

I have to share with learning coaches and scholars that high school is a great time of self-discovery. It's an opportunity for kids to take all kinds of classes and figure out what they are interested in, even if those interests change often. So don't get discouraged if you don't know what you want to do; explore every idea that sparks your curiosity and learn from every opportunity that comes your way.

In addition to my passion for working with scholars, I play both the violin and the clarinet. I love to travel and have visited 48 states and six continents. I especially love live theatre!! Before the pandemic, I had season tickets to several theatres in the Los Angeles area.



# Staff Spotlight: Meet Stephanie Lee, Options Supervising Teacher

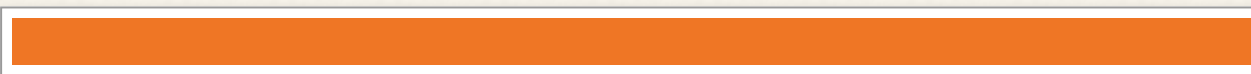


I've been with Compass for two years. For the past 31 years, I've worked as a teacher and as a school principal. Compass has offered me the career and family balance I was searching for in my life. What I like best about Compass and personalized learning is the possibility to carve a unique educational path for anyone. It is a place for families to discover their scholars' own way of learning and find their path. My joy comes from helping learning coaches and scholars build confidence in finding their passions, learning styles, learning centers, and curriculum, knowing that traditional schools may not be the best match for everyone. I believe it matters 100 percent who the learner is - that is what makes it personalized in the scholar-driven options program.

I share with learning coaches the advice to "Listen to the scholars and come from a place of radical love. They have ideas about what they are interested in, what they are good at, and what they don't do well or enjoy. Engage with the kids and believe that all of them are amazing. It is challenging to keep the scholars at the center of our attention. Just as we learn how to parent our own children from and with them, let's listen closely to the scholars and then shift what we do based on how they respond."

I love being bilingual. I learned Spanish from my students when I taught in Compton years ago. I also learned Spanish from soap operas (telenovelas) and home visits. I was immersed in a new culture, and as I recall, the first Spanish phrase I learned was "Dice la maestra," which means "the teacher said."

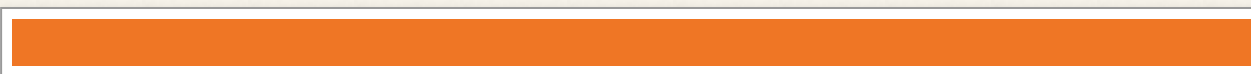
One of my all-time favorite family times is with our favorite people gathered in the backyard for the Izy-Lee Taco Party. The Taco Party is how we mark birthdays, family celebrations big and small, and reunions. The menu is the same every time, and there is something for the herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores. It's always a good time.



THE  
COMPASS  
BLOG



COMPASS  
NEWS



# 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.



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