

Compass Connection

Summer 2017 Issue | Working Together for School Success



A Word From Our President & CEO

Greetings CCS Family!

Thank you for an amazing year. As the 2016-17 academic year comes to a close, I cannot help but reflect on the great year we have had. The educational experience has grown on a number of fronts, for our scholars, learning coaches and staff.

This year alone, we have increased our services and supports for scholars, from Learning Labs to Q & A sessions using Adobe Connect, to new supports for our learning coaches with our Learning Coach Lounge. We have also increased our engagement activities, from field trips to enrichment events and more. We hosted inaugural 8th Grade Promotion Ceremonies and celebrated our graduating seniors at Graduation Banquets.

We have also solicited feedback from our stakeholders through a number of surveys. My thanks and appreciation to everyone who recently participated in our 2017-18 Planning Survey! The data will help us continue to grow and expand our program and opportunities for scholars. One point of personal pride is the changes we have started to make for the upcoming year, from new curriculum to launching an AVID Program. I am proud that our entire team puts the needs of our scholars first.

I hope everyone finishes the year strong, enjoys a great summer, and returns to CCS in the fall. I can promise you will not be disappointed with the growth and our continued commitment to providing a robust educational experience for our scholars. Thank you for being part of the CCS family!

Sincerely Yours,
J.J. Lewis
CCS President & CEO

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ONLINE

Greetings Compass Families!

It was an exciting Spring Semester at Compass! The Elementary School Online program is growing by leaps and bounds. I am truly impressed by all of the scholars' great work! Students attended field trips, live sessions, and completed class projects. A few highlights have been the Great Kindness Challenge, The Week of Code, Success Academy, and The Spring Break Family Art Project.



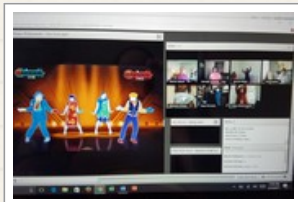
In the classroom, teachers hosted a comprehensive test preparation program and many scholars participated to show just how smart they are. This year, our elementary school teachers led incredible live sessions with their scholars! Some highlights include, group readings of novels, writing lessons, and virtual physical education classes.

We also have some special plans to look forward to next year! We will introduce several new curriculum choices that will offer a more personalized, interactive, and project based learning experience for our elementary scholars. To learn more about our programs watch our Curriculum Choice meeting- <http://tinyurl.com/ybcue48g>.

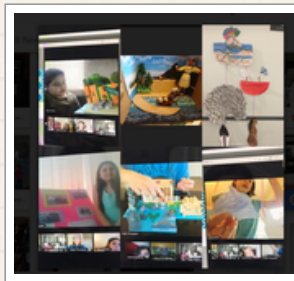
We are thankful at Compass Charter Schools for all of our families, and we appreciate all that you do for your children!

-Steven Thompson, Elementary School Coordinator

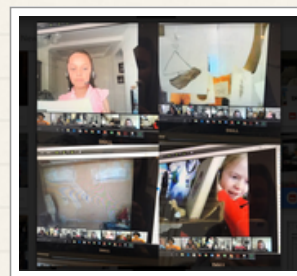
Projects & Accomplishments



P.E. Class

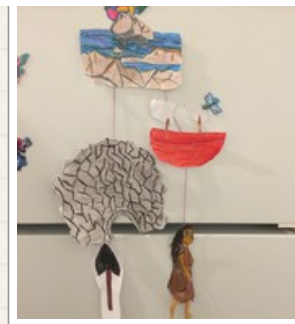


Project Presentations



Final Project Presentations

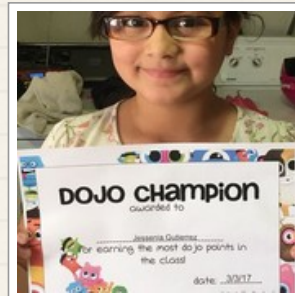
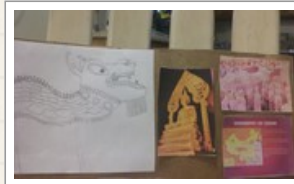




Do Jo Class Winner

School Spirit

Island of the Blue Dolphin

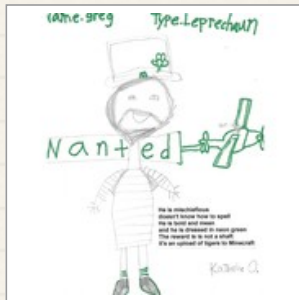


Field Trip

China vs. Japan Project

Do Jo Class Winner

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day!



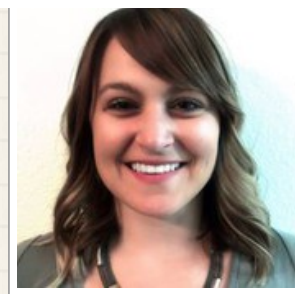
MIDDLE SCHOOL ONLINE

Happy Summer!

We recently hosted several significant events to close out the 2016-2017 school year for our scholars, including high school graduation and eighth grade promotion ceremonies,

5th grade virtual orientation sessions to get our 5th grade scholars ready for Middle School, and a variety of enrichment events.

As the school year winds down, scholars have worked very hard to complete all of the coursework in their classes. Congratulations to all the scholars who pushed through, worked diligently, and passed their classes. The end of the school year is a great time to reflect on this year's successes and failures, and create a plan for the next school year. With that said, I wish you a restful summer, full of new learning experiences and we will see you in September!



-Melissa Blitzstein, Middle School Coordinator

Projects & Accomplishments



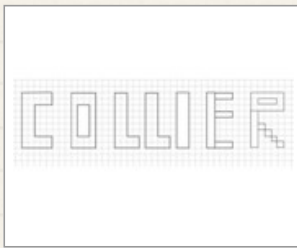
- **ASTRONAUT TRAINING!** In Life Sciences, 6th grade scholars learned all about space as they went on a virtual journey through astronaut training! Scholars were tested on a series of questions involving scientific knowledge, experience, physical fitness, and shuttle operations knowledge.

- The 6th grade math scholars reviewed statistical data and created appropriate tables and plots in order to easily understand, analyze, and make conclusions about various real-life situations.

Create a graph that best displays the following data from Dakota's fo

| Time Per Lap | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Lap Number | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Time (seconds) | 71 | 81 | 75 | 88 | 75 | 82 |

- It's time for a history lesson! In 7th grade social studies, scholars created a collage that compared China and Japan during the Middle Ages in the areas of customs, geography, history, and religion. They then wrote about the purpose for their choices as it related to each area. Here is [one example](#), showing how one scholar created hers by hand. Here is [another example](#), showing a digital collage.
- **WE LOVE OUR PETS!** Our 7th grade team held a Parade O' Pets Fun Friday where scholars shared about their pets through webcams and pictures. It was a great time for scholars to interact with their peers and teachers. [Click here](#) to watch!



- Turning math into writing! In 7th grade math, scholars have been working on finding the area of different shapes and one of their assignments was to create a garden plot and then find its area.



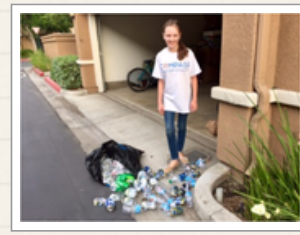
Studying Genetics

Mouaad N., is rising to the top of his class! Here he is showing off his investigation of genetics, using Play-Doh to show the probability of trait inheritance.



Solar Oven Project

The 8th grade scholars engaged in a complex and challenging unit project to research, design, build, test, and collect data on a solar oven. Check out a scholar's awesome design! [Click here.](#)



Earth Day

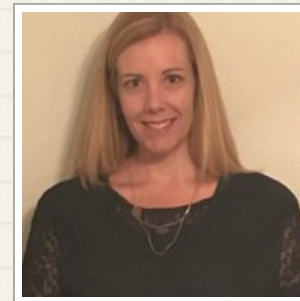
"Earth Day is a reminder to do good for planet Earth. I recycle *everyday* because it can reduce waste, pollution, and overuse of different types of materials." - KristiLynn E.



HIGH SCHOOL ONLINE

Hello Compass!

I can't believe it is already June! We had so many incredible things happen at Compass this year, especially at the High School. Scholars finished the CAASPP testing for this year, and took the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) along with other state tests to demonstrate all that they learned this year.



Our science team did a wonderful job organizing our science wet labs this year! The scholars were engaged and enjoyed working together while participating in these fun labs. Next year, our science teachers will continue to provide fun, hands-on wet labs to help scholars earn A-G approved lab credits.

Of course, as we end the school year, I would like to congratulate our Class of 2017 graduates! I wish them the best as they move on to the next journey in their lives. Best wishes and good luck!

I look forward to continuing to work with our outstanding Compass families next year. I hope you all enjoy your summer and I will see you in September!

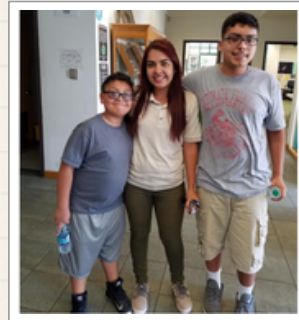
Projects & Accomplishments

- Our National Honor Society (NHS) induction ceremony was a success! In March, Compass held their NHS induction ceremony, which was followed by a dinner that was organized by our NHS Advisor, Mr. Derek Yip. NHS also participated in the Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure Walk to fight Breast Cancer this past March at Dodger's Stadium!



- Scholars can (and should) become voters! In April, Compass scholars Gillian B, Kevin F, and Sabella H, volunteered to serve as Voter Outreach Coordinators during High School Voter Education Weeks. The coordinators reached out to other scholars to promote and encourage voter pre-registration. Thank you all for your efforts and teaching of this great California initiative!

- Maritza C, a CCS high school graduate, was recently promoted to permanent Recreational Leader/Naturalist for the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation department at Deane Dana Friendship Park and Nature Center in San Pedro. She enjoys giving all of her nature guides. She even solely cares for a rescued owl. Her love of nature and caring for animals is evident. Thank you for your hard work, Maritza!



Scholar Story by George A.

I chose CCS because I needed a school where I could work at my own pace and still get live help along the way. I liked this school a lot from the very beginning because when I tried it out for a couple of weeks, it had a little bit of both independence and actual help from teachers. I especially love the teachers and how they are always so dedicated to helping/answering questions right away. They reply within a day whether through email, text, or social media. The teachers are active on social media and so quick to help that they do everything in their power until I would understand the question. I really feel comfortable with the teachers and



my counselor and the point where they have become a big part of my life.

I love this online school because I have my own schedule, free time to focus on my passion, can take breaks anytime, and with the help the teachers give, I just want to be online all day and do work. A little secret: While nothing can replace my elementary experience, I've actually come to love this school more than my public middle school... and don't think any other public school could be as involved into every student as CCS ;) The projects for many classes are also really fun. My teacher for one of my classes was so nice, she let me make a full-on short film for the assignment. I feel like with this school, the teachers give kids the creative freedom to work the way they are most familiar with. I wouldn't change my education here at CCS for anything!

- George A. just completed the 9th grade



NOTES FROM OPTIONS

Happy June, Options families!

I hope you are enjoying all the learning that we see going on in your homes and out in the world. The EFs and I love talking with you about your learning and seeing your videos, pictures, and work samples in Seesaw. Great stuff going on!

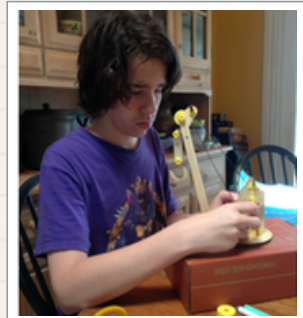


Now that CAASPP testing is over, a special thank you to those scholars who completed their testing!

It was an amazing year for the premier of the Options Program, and we are grateful you have been here to spend it with us. As we welcome the summer, I want to congratulate each and every scholar as you move to the next stepping stone of your educational journey. And an extra special virtual hi-five to you seniors who graduated and will be moving on to your life's next adventure. Way to go, scholars!

-Kristy Smith, Options Coordinator

Options Projects



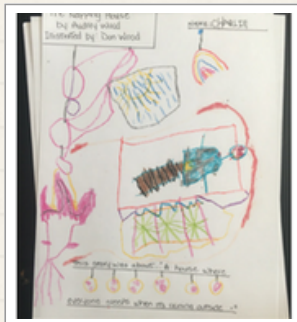
Identifying blood and bone cells!

Building a mechanical crane!

Practicing sight words!



The Brothers Grimm.



The Napping House.



Articulating Robotic Hand

A Learning Coach's Perspective

We interviewed Danielle Arnheiter, mom of scholar Sage Arnheiter, about her homeschooling adventure so far.

How long have you been homeschooling?

This is my first year homeschooling, and I love it so far!

What is one of your favorite parts about homeschooling?

My favorite part about homeschooling is the flexibility we have to complete assignments. If Sage has a doctor's appointment or is sick she can make it up in the evening or on another day. I also love being involved in Sage's education and choosing the materials to use that best suit her learning style. We have so many choices and resources, which make learning for Sage engaging and fun.



What would you say the greatest benefit of homeschooling has been for your family?

Sage had a difficult time in elementary school with girls bullying her, so getting her out of that environment has been the greatest benefit for her and her self-esteem. She is also more involved and excited about learning because of the hands-on materials she has access to.

Is there anything you'd like to add?

Homeschool has really benefited our entire family. I recommend CCS to everyone that is considering homeschool. We are wondering why we didn't do this sooner!



NOTES FROM COUNSELING

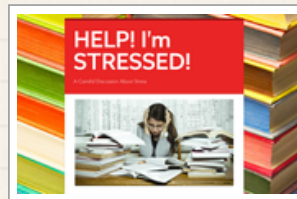
Scholar Success Stories

- Senior scholar, Karina V., started the Spring 2017 semester needing over 30 credits to graduate (11 classes!). Some would think it was impossible but with extra effort, hard work, and determination, the scholar has completed seven classes so far, has two class in progress, and anticipates completing their last two classes by June! Way to go!
- MaryRegina P, found herself pretty behind in coursework. She planned out the rest of her semester by organizing her Google Calendar with assignments by color/class to catch up on her work. Her commitment to planning and not getting overwhelmed is commendable! Graduation is in the midst!
- Congratulations to Priscilla N., Trinity S., Michael V., Gerado V., Sophia L., and Jackson H., for passing the California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE).
- Congratulations to Raelyn A., Sabella H., Adam O., Kennedy F., Ethan D., and Kaysey G., our CCS scholars who who took an AP exam this spring.

- **Stress workshop** - In April, the counseling services department also hosted a workshop, Help! I'm Stressed! to talk candidly about stress and healthy coping strategies with scholars. If you missed the workshops, please see the recorded versions below:

Middle school session: <http://ow.ly/aKdi30cP3gl>

High school session: <http://ow.ly/z5DC30cP3hv>



SAT & ACT Information

What is the SAT and ACT?

- The SAT or ACT are college entrance exams and either exam is required by most colleges. *Note: Community college scholars do not need to take the SAT/ACT.*

How can I prepare for these exams?

- **ACT Free Preparation:** The ACT offers additional ways to prepare for the test day, including ACT Online Prep, The Official ACT Prep Guide and Sample Test Questions. [Click here.](#)
- **SAT Preparation:** Get personalized practice recommendations for the skills you'll need for the new SAT, plus six official practice exams from College Board. [Click here.](#)
- **Take the PSAT:** The 10th and 11th grade scholars can begin to prepare by taking the PSAT. The PSAT is an optional practice exam. However, it is only the scores from the PSAT taken in your junior year that are considered for the National Merit Scholarship competition. For information on how to sign up [click here.](#)

Applying to College

College Resources

- [What Do Colleges Look For in Admissions? Why Are the SAT/ACT Important?](#)
- [Applying to Cal State Schools](#) - Opens Oct. 1, 2017
- [Applying to UC Schools](#) - Deadline is Nov. 30, 2017
- [College reviews and rankings](#)
- [A list of California colleges](#)

NOTES FROM SCHOLAR ENGAGEMENT

During the spring semester, we hosted a wide variety of special field trips and enrichment events for our scholars. We look forward to planning more field trips next year!

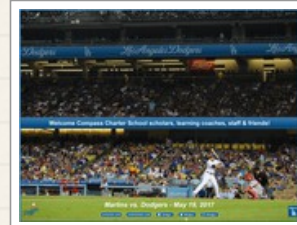
Discovery Field Trips

As you can see in the pictures below, our scholars had a great time at The Fossil Discovery Center, The Discovery Cube, and the Discovery Center! Scholars also enjoyed field trips to the Tech Museum, the Fresno Zoo, Legoland, Riley's Apple Farm and much more!



Compass Loves Baseball!

Scholars enjoyed trips to see the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Diego Padres.



San Diego Padres

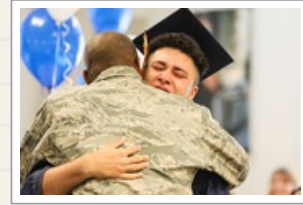
Los Angeles Dodgers

"We had a great time at the Dodgers Game. It's always a wonderful family event, and it was a great way to end Senior Year before graduation." - Jean D., CCS Parent

"Not only did we get to see a very exciting San Diego Padres game, but we got to learn all about weather patterns and also spend some time with other CCS scholars and CCS staff! It was an awesome experience!" - Therese N. C., CCS Parent



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION



8TH GRADE PROMOTION



CCS IN THE NEWS



Compass Charter Schools (CCS) to Implement [Advancement Via Individual Determination \(AVID\) College Readiness System this Fall](#)

Compass Charter Schools Announces [NCAA Scholarship Eligibility for Scholars](#)

Compass Charter Schools (CCS) of San Diego [Recognized for High Achievement in Scholar Success](#)



THE COMPASS BLOG



[5 Ways to Keep Scholars Engaged During the Summer](#)

[A Word From Our CEO: Reflecting](#)

[7 Easy Exercises for Scholars](#)



THANK-YOU NOTES FROM SCHOLARS

In May, Compass scholars celebrated National Teacher Appreciation Week by sending thank you letters to their teachers! Thank you to all of the scholars who took the time to send their teachers a special note. Here are a few examples:

“[Mrs. R.,]You are such a fun teacher! I love science and I love all the fun stuff we get to do with you!
Happy Teacher Appreciation Week!”

-CCS Middle School Scholar

www.compasscharters.org

#ThankATeacher

@Compasscs

“Dear Mrs. W.,

Thank you for being a nice teacher and for helping me...You are the best teacher for ever and ever and ever and ever!! I hope you are my teacher next year.”

-CCS Scholar

www.compasscharters.org

#ThankATeacher

@Compasscs

Share Your Story

Are enjoying the education experience at Compass? Tell us! We want to hear from you. Why did you decide to join the Compass family, and what you love most about being part of the Compass community?

Share all of your wonderful experiences at Compass with us! [Click here](#) to share.

SCHOOL SPIRIT STORE

You asked, and we listened! This year Compass launched a new online school spirit store. We are Compass Charter Schools and we are loud and proud! Shop for school apparel to show your school spirit!



Now Open!
Visit the
COMPASS
CHARTER SCHOOLS
Online Store



Now Open!
Visit the
COMPASS
CHARTER SCHOOLS
Online Store



Now Open!
Professional Attire
at the
COMPASS
CHARTER SCHOOLS
Online Store

[Shop t-shirts.](#)

[Shop kids' apparel.](#)

[Shop professional attire.](#)

ONLINE INFORMATION SESSIONS

During the spring semester, Compass began hosting online information sessions for prospective new families to learn about the flexible academic programs that Compass has to offer.

Do you know someone who is looking for new, innovative academic programs? Invite them to join one of our upcoming virtual information sessions! Visit our website for more details.

COMPASS
CHARTER SCHOOLS

Virtual Information Sessions

Tuesday, June 6th @ 1 PM PST
Thursday, June 22nd @ 7PM PST
Tuesday, July 11th @ 7PM PST
Thursday, July 27th @ 1PM PST
Tuesday, August 8th @ 7PM PST