

# Compass Chronicle

Options Program | September 2017

Welcome Back CCS! This newsletter is full of important information and exciting updates about our school. We will share the Compass Chronicle with you every month to help keep you informed and stay connected with us. Enjoy!



## Welcome Back!

We want to extend a warm "Welcome!" to our new Options families and "Welcome back!" to our returning families. We are glad you are with us for the 2017-18 school year and we are excited for all that awaits us -- from our new Orange County Learning Center, to additions to our subscription package, to our ever-growing vendors list. Stay tuned for more information on these and other CCS Options happenings throughout the school year. In this monthly newsletter, we will highlight families, spotlight vendors, provide some resources, and share pictures and other exciting news.



As we kick off the school year, your Educational Facilitators are here to support and guide you

in all that educating your children at home entails. We realize that it's not an easy route to take, but so worth it. We are here to guide you on this journey, so don't hesitate to reach out!

Sincerely,

Kristy Smith, Options Learning Manager

[ksmith@compasscharters.org](mailto:ksmith@compasscharters.org)

[@CCSKristySmith](#)



## What's New with Options?

There have been a lot of exciting changes to our Options program for the 2017-2018 school year! We are happy to report that our program has grown tremendously and we are able to serve more scholars this year.

Compass has a new learning center in Santa Ana that serves many of our Options scholars in Orange County. The learning center, or OCLC, currently offers two communities to scholars in the OC area. The **Voyagers' Community** provides 1-day/week classes with Biola University's best practices approach to education. Classes include language arts, math, and American Sign Language. **The Navigator's' Community** provides 2-day/week instruction with the perfect blend of homestudy and the traditional classroom. Scholars rotate through engaging history, elective, and science classes taught by dedicated, experienced Educational Facilitators.

Because of this growth, we have added several new Educational Facilitators (EF) to our team. Joining us at the OCLC we have Linda Eddy, Linda Larson, Heather Hardy, Tricia Gallagher, Alicia Beamish, Rachel McKee, and Erin Whitehead. We have also added Melissa Collier, Morgan Kohler, and Kristen Beasley to our EF team, and Donnell Tyler has joined our vendor department!

Our EFs are excited to partner with our scholars and families this year and we look forward to scheduling times to connect bi-weekly with everyone. This will be a time to share progress and discuss academic success. We will continue to use SeeSaw to share work samples and scholar achievements.

We are thrilled to offer a fantastic subscription package to scholars that includes BrainPop, IXI for math, Reading Eggs, Spelling/Vocabulary City, Enchanted Learning and ABC Mouse. Please let your EF know if you are interested!

Also, this month all of our scholars and learning coaches are invited to enter the **CCS School Spirit Song Contest!** We are encouraging all of our families to write lyrics and make music to create our new school spirit song! [Click here](#) to learn more and enter.

The counseling department will be teaming up with our EFs and the middle/high school scholars to provide academic, social/emotional, and college/career awareness and readiness support. This is a wonderful resource for our scholars and we are excited for this partnership.

For additional resources, visit our [Academic Resources](#) and the Options Program's [YouTube](#)

[Channel](#). The entire Options team is ready for a successful academic year and looks forward to helping families provide meaningful and individualized instruction to scholars!

## StrongMind

StrongMind, also known as the PSP (Parent-Scholar Portal), is our scholar information system. Learning coaches have their own accounts that are set up during enrollment. Each scholar also has their own account, and the scholar usernames are the same as their Gmail account log-ins. From the parent account, you can view your scholar's data, but cannot make any changes to their account, which is why you will see a purple bar that says "Review Mode" at the top of the computer screen. You must be logged in to the PSP scholar account in order to enter Activity and PE logs. If you need help accessing the parent or scholar(s) accounts, please contact your EF! We are always happy to help!



In the Options program, our main purpose for StrongMind is to enter PE and Activity Logs at the end of every week. This is a requirement for attendance, as outlined in the Master Agreement. Weekly PE and Activity logs are entered in the homeroom course titled "My Compass" and are checked each week by your EF. The other courses listed are the courses that your scholar is completing this school year, but you will not have to enter any data into those courses.

If you haven't already bookmarked the PSP website link, it is provided below along with a video tutorial and PDF instructions for My Compass to help you get started.

### StrongMind Links

[StrongMind Parent-Scholar Portal](#) (PSP)

[My Compass Activity & PE Log Walk Through](#) (video)

[My Compass Activity & PE Log Walk Through](#) (PDF instructions)





## Options Family Spotlight

This month, we had a chance to talk with one of our new families, the Potter family. Hailey, in 8th grade, and Kaitlyn, in 5th grade, are new scholars with us. Although mom, Christine, has been homeschooling for two years on her own, this is their first year with Compass Charter Schools, and we are so happy to have them with us!

### **What is one reason you love being a homeschooling family?**

**Christine:** I love homeschooling because it instills self-confidence in my kids. It shows them that they can do something because they are not sitting in a large group of kids, and it allows them to have their questions answered, receiving individual attention. Homeschooling lets them feel that they can accomplish a task or challenge. In addition, I enjoy being able to decide what they get to learn and which curriculum they use.

### **Compass: What are your scholars' favorite subjects?**

**Christine:** Hailey likes science, especially the experiments. Kaitlyn enjoys PE and English. Right now Kaitlyn is reading the Billy B. Brown books and The Cupcake Club books.

### **Compass: What is something you wish someone had told you before you started homeschooling?**

**Christine:** I wish someone had told me that it's rewarding to see your kids figure things out, grow, and learn. It is hard, and it takes patience, but it's more about seeing them conquer something they didn't think they could do.

### **What is your ultimate goal for your children that homeschooling helps you achieve?**

**Christine:** My goal is to give them the tools to strive to be the best they can be and not fit into a mold.

### **Is there a certain curriculum that you like to use?**

**Christine:** Right now, the girls really like to use the Aleks math. They like it because it gives them a quick understanding that they already know a concept, or know it better than they thought they did. It progresses through math curriculum without repetition.

### **Compass: Is there a particular outing or field trip you have enjoyed in the past?**

**Christine:** On our own, we went to the Underwood Family Farms near us. It is a pick-your-own food farm, and they have a harvest festival in October.

### **Compass: What is one thing that you have enjoyed about being part of the Compass family so far?**

**Christine:** I have appreciated the accountability for my kids and having support, making sure they are understanding what they need to know, having someone to walk alongside me, and

they are understanding what they need to know, having someone to walk alongside me, and the additional funds.



## Coaches' Corner

We had a great time at our Back-to-School Picnics and a wonderful kick-off to the Coaches' Corner while we were there! Thank you to everyone who attended and helped lead the first session. We look forward to getting to know our wonderful CCS learning coaches more over the upcoming months during our online Coaches' Corner sessions.

We have some great topics already planned to get the year started but would also love to hear from YOU! So if you haven't already, please complete the quick survey by **Friday, September 22nd**: <http://tinyurl.com/Coaches-Corner-Feedback>

Have questions about Coaches' Corner? Contact Karle Roberts, Family Engagement Coordinator at [kroberts@compasscharters.org](mailto:kroberts@compasscharters.org).

## Options Staff Spotlight

This month we are featuring **Morgan Kohler, Educational Facilitator** with CCS.



### What is one of your favorite parts about working at CCS?

**Morgan:** My role with CCS is an Educational Facilitator. In my role, I work with the Options Families, mostly with the Navigator Community, and I help them figure out which curricula they want to use for the year and assist them with school requirements. I also collect their work samples via SeeSaw. With my OCLC families, I'll also be at the Learning Center once a month to interact with scholars and their learning coaches. Additionally, I'll substitute teach at the learning center as needed.



### What is your favorite thing to do when you are not working?

**Morgan:** One of my favorite parts of working at CCS is interacting with the scholars and the families, and getting to know them on a personal level via phone conversations, Adobe Connect meetings. I enjoy watching the scholars grow academically. I also love seeing how individual personalities flourish in this environment.

### What is your favorite thing to do when you are not working?

**Morgan:** My favorite thing to do when I'm not working is to go to the dog beach with my husband and watch my dog swim and play.

### What is (or was) your favorite subject to study?

**Morgan:** My favorite subject is science. I love it!

### Do you have any advice for scholars?

**Morgan:** My advice for scholars is to say, "yes" to new opportunities and not to be afraid of a challenge!

### How can Options families contact you if needed?

**Morgan:** Options families can contact me at: [mkohler@compasscharters.org](mailto:mkohler@compasscharters.org) or 805-807-8234

Thank you to **Morgan Kohler** for all that she does to assist our Options scholars!

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## Vendor Spotlight

Today we hear from Tony Ferraro from [The Learning Closet](#). Tony shares about his unique offerings for our homeschool families:

### CCS: What is the highlight of your program?

**Tony:** Why buy it when you can borrow it? Educational teaching tools and games delivered every month.

### CCS: What types of parents and families are drawn to your program?

**Tony:** Parents who want to maximize their dollars and further enhance their child's education.

### CCS: Is there anything unique about what you offer?

**Tony:** We provide parents 4-5 times return on their educational spending dollars.



**CCS: What inspired you to start your business?**

**Tony:** As a homeschool parent, I got tired of buying things and using them for only 3-4 weeks but having to store them forever. Also, I had a strong desire to take advantage of the sharing economy.

**CCS: What are some of your most popular offerings?**

**Tony:** Our monthly subscription plans.

**CCS: Is there a special or prize that you would like to share with our families?**

**Tony:** We provide free monthly credits for referring your friends.

Website: <https://thelearningcloset.com/> / Phone: (714) 381-1848

## The Compass Blog



[Independent Study Programs Help Scholars Successfully Transition into the Workplace](#)



[A Word From Our CEO: Welcome Back!](#)



[6 Tips for a Successful College Visit](#)

## The Special Education Team

We are excited to be growing our Special Education team and we are ready to assist the scholars! As a kind reminder, we ask that scholars attend both their general education courses, learning labs and their special education service meetings.

Please join us in welcoming **Lori Greenwell** to our Compass Special Education Team! Lori has a moderate/severe special education credential. She attended Cal Poly Pomona and received her graduate certification from U.H. Manoa in Hawaii. Lori loves her two remarkable daughters, Kalei and Amanda. Teaching has been her life long passion along with ranching. She also has many four footed members of her family. Lori feels fortunate to be joining the highly skilled Compass Charter Schools family and we are thrilled to have her as well!



As a reminder, our Special Education team provides the following for our scholars with IEPs:

- **SAI sessions** from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm as assigned in math, written language, reading and transitional services. During these SAI sessions, scholars receive direct instruction to support their IEP goals.
- **Morning Starter** from 8:30-9:30 am for a daily check-in to support scholars in task management and executive functioning. Supported Learning is offered for scholars requiring additional scaffolding in their academic lessons.
- **Scholar Resource Center (SRC)** is open for "drop-in" support from 12:30-3:00 pm to assist with written assignments, projects, science labs, and math coursework.
- **Transition Sessions** held on Mondays and Wednesdays with a focus on college and career awareness and preparedness along with support in daily living skills as needed. Transition Sessions are scheduled as follows: the first week of the month is for 9th grade support, the second week of the month is for 10th grade support, the third week of the month is for 11th grade support, and the fourth week of the month is for 12th grade support.



Do you know your child's learning style? Each child has a specific mode or combination of modes in which they learn best.

- **Visual Learners:** learn best by seeing flash cards, visual images, matching games, pictures and diagrams, puzzles, watching someone do something, printed material,



- charts, pictures, posters, wall strips, desk tapes, video tapes, and computer programs.
- **Auditory Learners:** learn best by hearing and benefit most from cassette tapes, lectures, educational songs and rhymes, rhythm instruments, recitation, singing and reading aloud.
  - **Kinesthetic Learners:** learn best by doing and touching from activities such as long nature walks, hands-on math and science kits, yard work, gardening, textured puzzles and manipulatives, typing instead of writing, drama, dance, lab experiments, and building models.
  - **Social Learners:** learn best by interacting with others through one-on-one conversations, discussions, and group participation.

In addition to your scholar's preferred learning style, each scholar is believed to have multiple intelligences. It is good to be aware of your scholar's many intelligences. A good book to read on this topic is, "Multiple Intelligences: The Theory in Practice," by Howard Gardner. [Click here](#) to share a free quiz with your child to help them identify their own multiple intelligence, and enjoy [The Multiple Intelligences](#) song as well!



## The Counseling Team

As we begin this new school year with a fresh start, I want to highlight the importance of establishing some strong communication habits straight away! As school counselors, we are here for several purposes, but our main objective is to support your academic and personal success in any way that we can. In order to do this... WE NEED YOUR HELP!

*Please utilize the following checklist as it will assure that you are giving yourself the best chance for a successful school year by using all means of communication that the Counseling Services team offers to you!*

- Check your e-mails daily! Part of being a responsible CCS scholar is making sure that you are checking your emails at least twice per day. Put a reminder in your planners or Google Calendar to check your e-mails twice per day!
- Send us current and working Cell/Home Phone Numbers! We cannot stress enough how important it is that we are able to contact you and your learning coach at all times!
- Send us current mailing addresses! Similar to the importance of having your phone numbers, it is very important that we have your current and updated address.
- Sign up for Remind! Remind is an amazing tool that allows our counseling team to send you direct messages via the Remind Application straight to your phone. Simply follow the directions on your Remind e-mail invitation to sign up!
- **Follow your counselor on Twitter!** We will be constantly sharing vital resources via Twitter, so please follow both the counseling department's twitter, as well as your personal counselor's twitter: [@CompasCounselor](https://twitter.com/CompasCounselor)

*The counseling team looks forward to getting to know each of you better this school year, as we begin co-planning your current and future academic career!*

## Enrollment Team Staff Spotlight

This month we hear from **Vanessa Plascencia, Enrollment Coordinator**, at CCS.

**CCS: What is one of your favorite parts about working on the enrollment team?**

**Vanessa:** My favorite part about working on the enrollment team, and CCS overall, is that we have built such a unique family. Everyone supports each other and does their best to help support our scholars/ families.



**CCS: How long have you been working at CCS?**

**Vanessa:** I have been with CCS for almost three years!

**CCS: What drew you to work in education? Would you like to share your background in education?**

**Vanessa:** I have always enjoyed helping others throughout my time in school. I have a great passion for working with kids and families to ensure that they receive opportunities to be successful! Previously, I worked for the Oxnard School District as a Paraeducator, Instructional Assistant, and administered CELDT testing.

**CCS: Is there anything unique about you that you'd like our families to know?**

**Vanessa:** I am the oldest of three children. My siblings and I are around ten years apart.

**CCS: What is one random fact about you that we should know?**

**Vanessa:** I love pineapples. Someone here at Compass explained to me that pineapples are a symbol of being welcoming. I think that represents who I am as a person. I welcome everyone

symbol of being welcoming. I think that represents who I am as a person. I welcome everyone and look forward to creating a bond with each person I meet.

**CCS: What do you love most about working at CCS?**

**Vanessa:** I love working collaboratively with everyone at CCS to ensure that we make the best decisions for each and every one of our scholars!

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## CCS News



[Compass Charter Schools \(CCS\) Hosted Back-to-School Picnics to Start the 2017-18 School Year](#)



[Compass Charter Schools \(CCS\) Adopts a Houston School in Need Following Hurricane Harvey](#)



[Compass Charter Schools \(CCS\) Announces August Winner of its #CCSFirebird Photo Contest](#)

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# EVENTS

### September

- Sept 16th ~ Heal the Bay at Torrance Beach (Register by Sept 12th)
- Sept 20th ~ LA County Fair (Register by Sept 12th)
- Sept 22th ~ Club Rush (Scholar Clubs Kick-Off) - Virtual Enrichment Event
- Sept 25th ~ Fresno Chaffee Zoo (Register by Sept 11th)
- Sept 26th ~ Fleet Center (Register by Sept 18th)
- Sept 28th ~ The Sawdust Factory (Register by Sept 13th)

### October

- Oct 12th ~ San Diego Zoo (Register by Sept 25th)
- Oct 13th ~ Big Fresno Fair (Register by Sept 28th)
- Oct 16th ~ Magic Mountain Homeschool Day (Register by Sept 29th)

Oct 17th ~ Fine Art Class at Mission:Renaissance (Ages 5 to 12) (Register by Oct 2nd)  
Oct 19th ~ Time Travelers Education Day at Fresno Civil War Revisited (Register by Oct 2nd)  
Oct 19th ~ The Autry Museum (Register by Oct 3rd)  
Oct 20th ~ Monterey Bay Aquarium (Register by Sept 28th)  
Oct 23rd to 27th ~ Spirit Week  
Oct 23rd ~ Amy's Pumpkin Patch (Register by Oct 9th)  
Oct 24th ~ Pa's Pumpkin Patch (Register by Oct 9th)  
Oct 25th ~ Underwood Family Farms (Register by Oct 10th)  
Oct 26th ~ Hillcrest Family Farms (Register by Oct 11th)  
Oct 27th ~ Oma's Pumpkin Patch (Register by Oct 12th)  
Oct 31st ~ Harvest Celebration (Register by Oct 17th)

### **November**

Nov 1st ~ San Diego Archaeological Center (Register by Oct 17th)  
Nov 2nd ~ Lost Realms Pets (Register by Oct 18th)  
Nov 2nd ~ Moorpark Zoo Presentation and Tour (Register by Oct 18th)  
Nov 3rd ~ CCS Scholar Talent Show  
Nov 7th ~ Museum of Tolerance (MS & HS Only) (Register by Sept 15th)  
Nov 9th ~ Legoland (Register by Oct 11th)  
Nov 14th ~ The Discovery Center - Fresno (Register by Oct 30th)  
Nov 16th ~ Long Beach Airport Tour (Register by Nov 1st)  
Nov 29th ~ Bates Nut Farm (Register by Nov 14th)

**To view more information and register for CCS events, visit our website calendar:**

<https://www.compasscharters.org/calendar/>



### **Share Your Story**

Are 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 you comments and all of your wonderful experiences at Compass with us!


[Click here](#) to share.





## Compass Charter Schools

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Visit our [website](#) for more information about our academic programs. Or, contact Kristy Smith, Options Learning Manager, at [ksmith@compasscharters.org](mailto:ksmith@compasscharters.org).

 850 Hampshire Road, Suite P,...

 [info@compasscharters.org](mailto:info@compasscharters.org)

 855-937-4227

 [compasscharters.org](http://compasscharters.org)

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