

Compass Chronicle

Online High School | 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!

Compass Charter Schools

Welcome Back High School!

I am thrilled to have your scholars as part of our CCS High School Family. My name is Janae Smith and I am the High School Coordinator at Compass Charter Schools (CCS). In my role, I support our scholars and families by ensuring that their high school experience is top notch with engaging and rigorous education. I work collaboratively with teachers and staff to strengthen scholar performance and help support teachers and staff to meet scholar needs.

This is my 17th year in education--I have taught scholars in the seventh through twelfth grade, scholars who have struggled with their academics and I have worked with scholars in Advanced Placement programs! I have a Bachelor's degree from California State University, Fullerton in English and earned my teaching credential at the University of Redlands. I am currently completing my Master's in Curriculum Design and Instruction.



The High School staff are ready for the new school year and we are excited for what lies ahead!

Sincerely,

Janae Smith, High School Coordinator

jsmith@compasscharters.org

[@JSmith Compass](#)

What's New in High School?

We have a great deal of new and exciting things happening in High School!



This year our High School program is implementing the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. AVID is a philosophy that provides teachers a proven solution for systematically increasing academic rigor, accelerating the performance of scholars and creating engaging learning environments. We are truly excited to offer our teachers and scholars the support they need!

All of our ninth grader scholars will be enrolled in AVID for the 2017-18 school year. They will learn how to organize their time, courses, and keep a detailed notebook as they practice additional skills to enhance their learning. Our goal is to have each scholar be college ready, whether that means going on to college or beyond.

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.

For additional resources, visit our [Academic Resources](#) and our [High School YouTube Channel](#).

StrongMind

Now that our scholars and learning coaches are getting the hang of the new StrongMind system, there are some points that I would like to highlight to ensure every scholar's success:



1. It's important that scholars and learning coaches work together to create a learning schedule. Utilizing the grade book and the projected time for each lesson can help with time management and pacing. If you need further assistance with this, please reach out to your teachers.

2. This year we are excited to have a messaging system. I strongly encourage scholars to utilize the message center when communicating with teachers to make sure any concerns

utilize the message center when communicating with teachers to make sure any concerns are addressed.

3. iReady is a great tool that teachers can use to individualize scholar instruction and provide additional support. Scholars will find the iReady information in the My Compass course. For more information and log in questions, contact your My Compass teacher.



Coaches' Corner

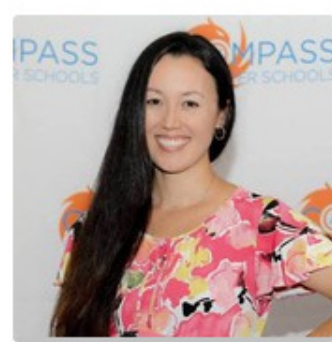
We had a great time at our Back-to-School Picnics and a wonderful kick-off to the Coaches' Corner while we were there! Thank you to everyone who attended and helped lead the first session. We look forward to getting to know our wonderful CCS learning coaches more over the upcoming months during our online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

High School Staff Spotlight

This month we are featuring **Jennifer Jennings, CCS High School English Teacher.**



How long have you been teaching at CCS?

Jennifer: I have been teaching English at CCS for 4 years and this is the most exciting year yet!

What are your primary responsibilities as a teacher at CCS?

Jennifer: In my role, I teach high school English and I am the advisor for the Creative Writing Club. I also assist with AVID school certification and implement AVID Language Arts strategies as a member of the high school AVID site team.

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

Jennifer: I became a teacher for many reasons. I love learning, helping others learn, reading, and researching ideas that I find interesting to share with others. After high school, I wanted to continue learning and my parents pushed me to go to college and live on-campus. I was going to be the first person in my family to move away from home to go to college. Fast forward to today...I love being an English teacher and helping my online scholars!

What do you like to do outside of school?

Jennifer: In my free time, I love gardening. I live with two little Chihuahua-terrier mutts and my husband!

The Compass Blog



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



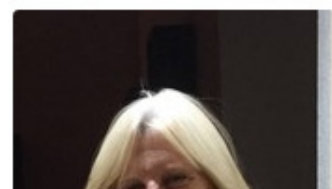
[A Word from Our CEO: Welcome Back!](#)



[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!





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 virtual scholar is making sure that you are checking your e-mails 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!

Special Program

Harvey Mudd College (HMC) Opportunity

HMC offers a spring fly-in program targeted at women in their junior year. The Women's Introduction to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (WISTEM) program brings scholars to campus and continues to engage with them via monthly webinars and assignments well into the fall of their senior year. Visit www.hmc.edu/wistem to learn more.

MOVE TO COUNSELING RESOURCE PAGE Preparing for College

Virtual College Fair

High school scholars are invited to a **free virtual college fair** for the western region of the United States! This fair is scheduled for September 11th-16th. The scholars can log on any time during the week and get information from many colleges. There is a question and answer section for the scholars to get answers directly from college reps. [Click here](#) to register.

NACAC College Fairs

Free and open to the public, NACAC college fairs connect you with hundreds of colleges and universities. Fairs near you:

- [Los Angeles Performing and Visual Arts College Fair](#)
 - October 29, 2017 | Los Angeles, CA
 - [FAIR DETAILS](#)
- [Orange County National College Fair](#)
 - April 22, 2018 | Anaheim, CA
 - [FAIR DETAILS](#)
- [Inland Empire National College Fair](#)
 - April 24, 2018 | Ontario, CA
 - [FAIR DETAILS](#)
- [VIEW ALL FAIRS NEAR YOU](#)

College Campus Preview Days at California State University, East Bay

Scholars are invited to attend a free annual open house for prospective freshmen and transfer students on Saturday, October 14, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. At Preview Day scholars will:

- Learn about our extensive academic programs and student life.
- Learn about admission requirements and financial aid.
- Tour our handsome campus and comfortable housing and enjoy our commanding view of San Francisco Bay.

[Click here](#) for registration and event information visit.

Financial Aid Resources

California Cash for College Workshop Registration Begins

The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) announced open registration for the California Cash for College (CCFC) workshop season through the Workshop Management System (WMS). Statewide CCFC workshops provide free hands-on assistance to students and their family members to complete the FAFSA, CADAA and Chafee Grant for Foster Youth applications. Workshops will run from October 1, 2017 through March 2, 2018.. Click [here](#) to find a CCFC workshop near you.

Scholarships

Susan Steelman Bragato Scholarship

The California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) will award ten \$2,000 scholarships to high school graduates of CCSA member schools. The scholarship is named in honor of Susan Steelman Bragato, the co-founder of the first charter school in California and the founder of the California Network of Educational Charters (which was renamed the California Charter Schools Association in 2003). *Selection Criteria:*

- Scholastic record must reflect a proven ability to succeed at the college or university level
- Student must be a graduating senior from a charter high school that is a current member of the California Charter Schools Association
- Student must demonstrate need for financial aid Scholarship awards will be payable to the recipient upon proof of his/her enrollment into an accredited four-year or two-year public or private university or college.

[Click here](#) to submit your application by 11:59 p.m. PST Friday, October 6, 2017.

Quest Bridge: Scholarship Opportunities for High School Seniors

The QuestBridge National College Match is a college and scholarship application process that helps outstanding low-income high school seniors gain admission and *full four-year scholarships* to the nation's most selective colleges. [Click here](#) to learn more about the opportunities offered through the National College Match and [here](#) for additional information on the application process.

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation College Scholarship Program

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation College Scholarship Program is an undergraduate scholarship program available to high-achieving high school seniors with financial need who seek to attend and graduate from the nation's best four-year colleges and universities. The application opens **Thursday, September 14, 2017**. Click [here](#) for additional information on the eligibility requirements and selection process.

Coca-Cola Scholars Program Awarding \$20,000 to High School Seniors Across the County

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation is looking for 150 incredible high school scholars from across the country to join their 30th class of Coca-Cola Scholars. Scholars who are selected as Coca-Cola Scholars will receive a \$20,000 scholarship to the college of their choice and will be welcomed into a community of nearly 6,000 program alumni who have a shared desire to bring better to the world. [Click here](#) to submit your application by Tuesday, October 31 at 5pm EST.

College Testing

[Click here](#) to learn more about the ACT, register, and get free practice.

ACT Free Preparation

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](#) for more information.

ACT Fee Waiver

You may be eligible for an ACT fee waiver, which waives the cost of taking the ACT. Eligibility is based on a number of factors including family income. Please contact College & Career Counselor, Edith Cruz at edith.cruz@aascalifornia.org to verify if your scholar is eligible for a fee waiver.

Free CollegeGo App

[CollegeGo](#) guides students through the steps they need to take on the road to college. Once they download the app, scholars can login through their College Board accounts and access information through [BigFuture™](#).

SAT Subject Test

While SAT Subject Exams are not required for admission to UC, some campuses recommend that scholars applying for competitive majors take one or more examinations to demonstrate subject area proficiency. UC - [more on testing recommendations](#)

SAT Free Preparation

Get personalized practice recommendations for the skills you'll need for the new SAT and PSAT/NMSQT, plus six official practice exams from College Board. [Click here](#) to learn more.

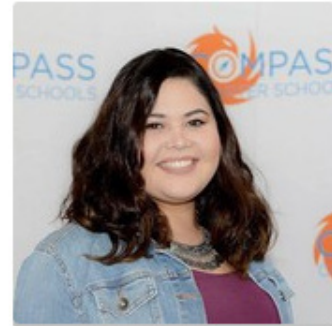
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You may be eligible for an SAT fee waiver, which waives the cost of taking the SAT. Eligibility is based on a number of factors including family income. Please contact College & Career

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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 and look forward to creating a bond with each person I meet.

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

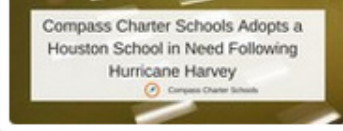
Vanessa: I love working collaboratively with everyone at CCS to ensure that we make the best decisions for each and every one of our scholars!

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](#)



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 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.



Compass Charter Schools

 Facebook  @CompassCS

Visit our [website](#) for more information about our academic programs. Or, contact Janae Smith, High School Coordinator, at jsmith@compasscharters.org.

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 compasscharters.org

