

Compass Chronicle

Online High School | Winter 2018

Happy New Year!

With a new year, often we make new resolutions. As the High School Team starts 2018, our resolution is to continue to put our scholars first and follow our mission to “inspire and develop innovative, creative, self-directed learners, one scholar at a time.” As we look towards the end of semester 1, teachers are continuing to work one on one with scholars, getting them ready for semester finals in Learning Labs and creating individual plans to help scholars finish the semester strong. As a team, we know our great high school scholars will continue to work hard and finish the semester on top!



Looking ahead at semester 2, we will continue to provide our scholars with various opportunities. Our scholars who participate in National Honors Society will be invited to attend an Induction Ceremony and Dinner in early March. Our ninth-grade scholars will be preparing for the Physical Fitness Test, while our eleventh-graders practice and prepare for SBAC testing in the spring. Our science team is continuing to coordinate our in-person a-g science wet labs for semester 2 Biology, Chemistry, and Physics classes. Plus, our seniors, our amazing Class of 2018, are busy preparing for graduation!

The High School team is looking forward to working with our terrific scholars and families and is excited to continue working to ensure success!

Sincerely,

Janae Smith, High School Coordinator

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[@JSmith_Compass](#)

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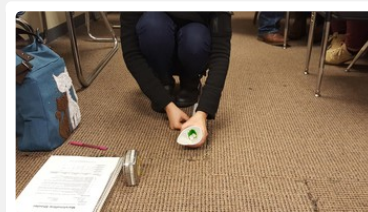
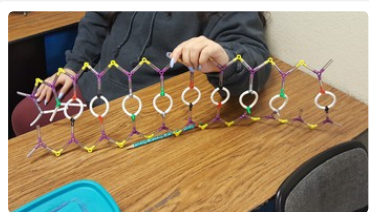
SCHOLAR PROJECTS & ASSIGNMENTS

Take a look at what our scholars have been working on!

Our ninth-grade scholars continue to shine in their AVID elective course. In December, our AVID scholars attended the AVID Leadership Conference at California State University, Long Beach. During the conference, scholars and their families were able to tour the campus and ask questions about college life. After the tour and conference, they were able to cheer on the Long Beach 49ers basketball team during an exciting game.



We have offered in-person wet labs for almost three years. We are one of the leading online programs to pioneer this experience for our scholars so that they can earn a-g science lab credit. Our science teachers are working together to ensure that the quality and integrity of our science program continues to provide these in-person labs. Our final wet lab for semester 1 took place on Friday, January 19. Please be on the lookout for all of the wet lab details for semester 2 coming soon.



Our National Honors Society (NHS) scholars and Mr. Yip, the club advisor, went to Pasadena to help decorate a float for the 129th Tournament of Roses Parade. The scholars were able to get their hands dirty and learn about all of the creative resources that are used to create the beautiful floats each year. NHS will also be participating in various service opportunities this spring including volunteering at the Los Angeles Rescue Mission. The club continues to grow and is accepting new members. If your high school scholar is interested in applying for NHS, please contact Mr. Derek Yip at dyip@compasscharters.org.





Our tenth-grade scholars showed off their writing skills earlier this year in Mrs. Hobson's class! [Here are a few examples](#)

Student A
English 10A
12/20/2017
Project 2

Vacations

Vacations are amazing, exciting and on vacations you'll make memories you'll never forget. I think people should take vacations every year or maybe even sooner than that. If you're tired, stressed out and/or bored of the same old thing then it's time for a vacation. Whether you're saving up, begging to save up or you already have the money ready, use it to vacation. I believe everyone should vacation. So hop on that airplane or train and see where the adventure takes you!

Now imagine that it's the begging of summertime and kids are just getting out of school. They go home every day after attending summer camp. They do the exact same thing all throughout the summer until it's time for them to return to school. Though summer camp can be fun, you won't get out of it what you could get if you went on vacation. Compare that to a summer beach resort vacation. You go out on the beach on a warm summer evening with the sun setting and lying on the sand as you watch the sun set. That's sounds so great, doesn't it? It doesn't even have to be during summertime. What about a holiday vacation in the mountains? Driving through the snow-covered mountains and going sledding with family and friends. Compare that to grandma's annual Christmas party where the same old thing happens every year. Not that anything is wrong with grandma's Christmas party. It's just that you could have a world of more fun and excitement when you go on vacation.

I know that it may not seem like it, but vacations can have a lot of positive effects on you. Vacations can even decrease depression. The Wisconsin based clinic conducted a study and came to find out that the odds of depression were higher

In Mr. Bee's World History class, scholars worked hard to research the effects of the Agricultural Revolution.

Mr. Bee

World History

3 December 2017

Effects of the Agricultural Revolution

The Agricultural Revolution changed the world in many ways. It is what changed the world from hunter-gathers to permanent settlements. With these new settlements, they had to develop laws and systems of government to make them stable. As more settlements grew, new religions and cultures developed due to the different locations.

Around 12,000 years ago, humans began to plant food rather than gather while on the move. Settlements had to develop because people needed to be nearby to tend their food. Once people did not need to spend all their time hunting for food, they had time to develop things like cuneiform. Cuneiform, began by Sumerians around 3500 BCE, was the first writing system; the development of a writing system is important because it provides a way for us to read records of the historical times (Mark, 1).

Once humans had created settlements and groups of people combined in one place, disputes began to form. To settle these disagreements, village leaders became a government system (Social, political, 1). Once governments formed, they began to create laws that applied to everyone and everyone would know the rules.

Another result of the agricultural revolution and human settlements is culture and religion. Due to the farming that was done in settlements and the abundance of food available, not all citizens had to provide food for the group. This gave people the ability to specialize in things like pottery, metalwork, and art. The creation of writing and works of art began cultures,

Our twelfth-grade scholars had the opportunity to practice supporting ideas with evidence in their English class.

Support Your Ideas with Evidence

Use a variety of evidence – quotations, concrete details, and facts.

Transition

Furthermore, Winston Churchill's semantics in the speech are complex, yet purposeful. His use of words such as "Parliament," "War Cabinet," and "Ministers" helps the reader understand the governmental overtones of this period of time in British history. Churchill is also adept at providing visual images of strife and urgency. He says, "Sir, to form an Administration of this scale and complexity is a serious undertaking in itself, but it must be remembered that we are in the preliminary stage of one of the greatest battles in history." His request is therefore phrased in a way that creates images of immediate action. **Likewise** the phrase, "I would say to the House, as I said to those who've joined this government: 'I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.'" famously gives the audience the feeling of extreme hardship. Churchill's plan for the British government and his country's involvement in World War II will involve great work.

Explanation

Examples

Explanation

Quotation

Explanation

Transition

Quotation

Explanation

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Scholars in Mr. Spink's science class spent time learning how to make rock candy.

L22 A9: Project 5: Rock Candy Lab

Instruction

In this project, you will apply what you have learned about solutions by conducting an experiment that "grows" rock candy. For this lesson, you will complete Part 2 of your project in the lab handout provided in this activity. You will submit your lab handout in *Lesson 24*.

Note: Be sure to save your lab handout in a safe place. You will add to it throughout the project.

Teacher Notes [ADD/EDIT NOTES](#)

Below are some videos that show the instructor performing this hands-on project.

How to Make Crystal Collector

Rock Candy Part 1

In Chemistry class, our scholars learned about important current events and how chemistry applied to those events.

The Chemistry of Flint's Water Crisis

Lead is a naturally occurring element and has been used in paints, additives, and pipes due to its density, malleability, ductility, and durability. Its resistance to corrosion combined with its malleability made it a very popular material for water pipes. It has since been discovered, however, that lead has negative health effects. Lead exposure in children is most drastic, and is linked to learning disabilities, behavioral effects, and delayed puberty. In adults, lead exposure is linked to high blood pressure, decreased kidney function, nerve disorders, and fertility issues.

Key Terms

corrosion

a redox reaction resulting in damage to materials that cannot be reversed

passivation layer

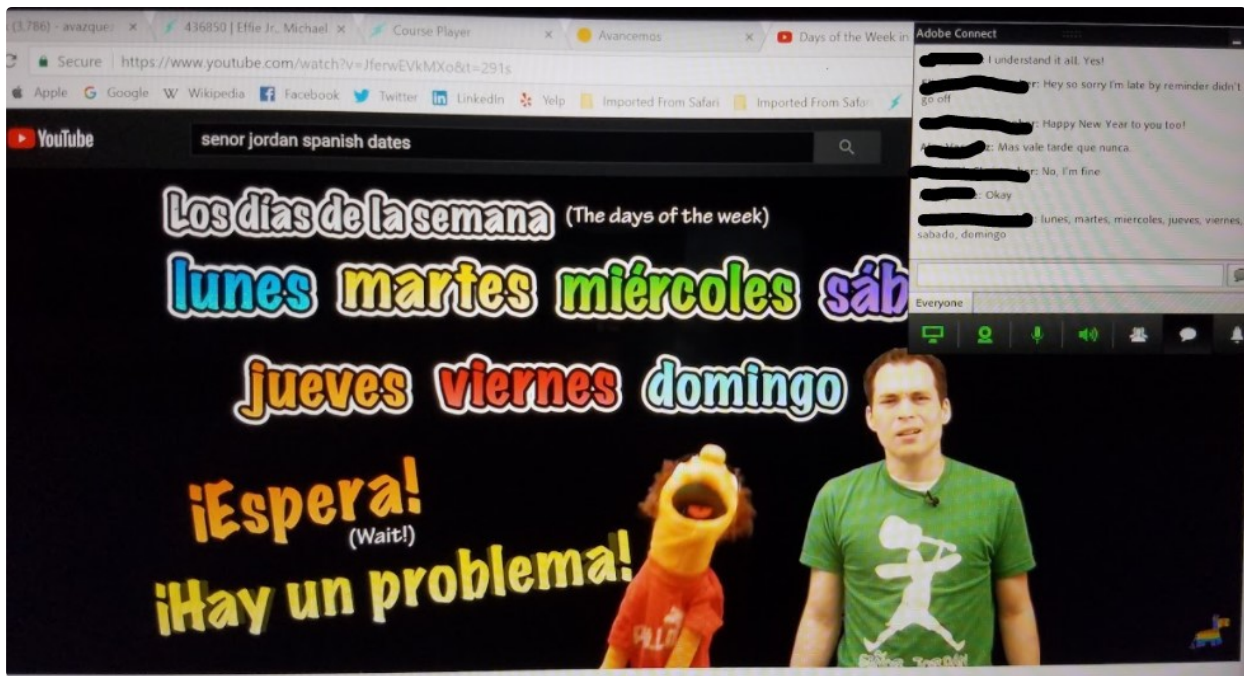
a layer formed to make the pipes less reactive, preventing corrosion

Scholars in our AVID elective course collaborated with each other to complete a close reading assignment.

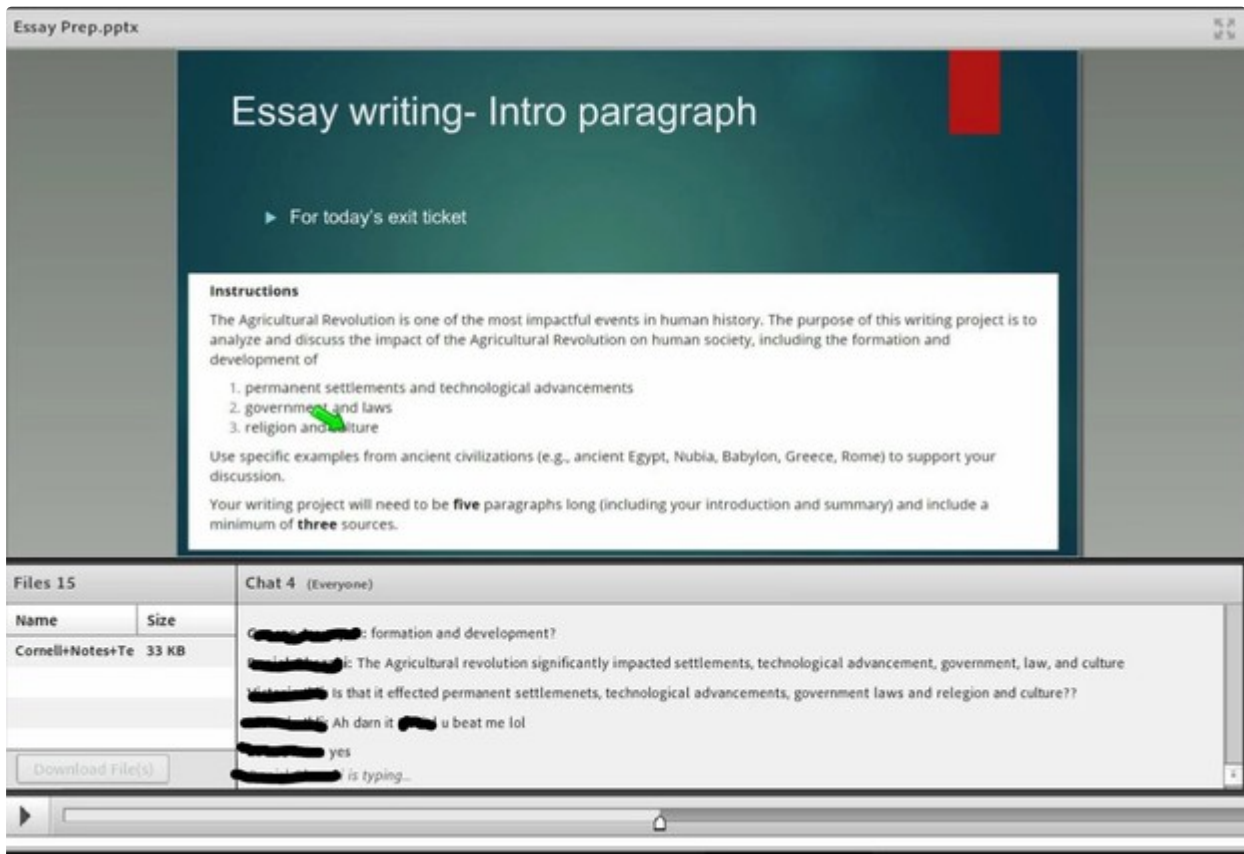
The screenshot shows a digital document titled "The Baltimore Sun (TNS)". The text is annotated with red boxes and circles. The annotations include:

- Paragraph 1: "I don't have a job" circled; "I've been looking everywhere and networking like crazy, but nothing is panning out for me." boxed.
- Paragraph 2: "Sadly, many soon-to-be graduates feel anxious about their future." circled.
- Paragraph 3: "Much of this angst derives from the failure of colleges to prepare their students for the real world." boxed.
- Paragraph 4: "We need to help students find out who they really are, what they're passionate about, and how to articulate their life and career goals." boxed.
- Paragraph 8: "One of the most important things students can do to succeed in the real world is to create personal mission statements." boxed.
- Paragraph 6: "I realized I needed a plan. I decided to create a mission statement in which I would articulate what I wanted in life." boxed.
- Paragraph 10: "These attributes are sometimes called 'soft skills,' but that takes away from their rigor and substance." boxed.
- Paragraph 10: "Employers want people who can think critically, work in diverse teams, and who can take complex information, come to a conclusion and make a recommendation," boxed.
- Paragraph 10: "Employers care more about ethics, critical thinking, creative thinking, and common sense ... along with a mindset of lifelong learning and a strong work ethic" boxed.
- Paragraph 12: "one of the most important 'soft skills' is the ability to take risks in a scary world." boxed.
- Paragraph 12: "The biggest hurdle I have to overcome is my constant fear of failing." boxed.
- Paragraph 13: "often hear this from students. But failure has a stigma doesn't deserve." boxed.

Our scholars also learned the days of the week in Spanish class with Mr. Vazquez.



Our scholars also learned the elements of a thesis statement and started their research projects on the effects of the Agricultural Revolution.



SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

This month we're featuring the McHale Family.

Jonathan McHale is a twelfth-grade scholar at CCS.

CCS: We know that often with our scholars each day is different, but what would a typical day look like for you and your scholar?

Learning Coach: John starts his school day around 9:00 in the morning when he logs onto the CCS site and checks into the assignments for the day. He usually concentrates on completing one assignment before moving on to the next. He takes a break for lunch and continues working until mid-afternoon. He attends his weekly Learning Labs and enjoys interacting with the teachers and other scholars.

What has been your greatest joy in schooling your scholar at home?

Learning Coach: My greatest joy in schooling John at home has been the ease in which school work is completed without stress and the flexible schedule that allows our family to have more time together. I also love being in the position to learn new things every day and relearn things that I've forgotten over the years. I feel closer to the teachers and staff, as well as the school administration than I ever felt with those of my previous four children who attended both public and private brick and mortar schools. I have found the CCS teachers to be extremely knowledgeable, professional, personable, empathetic, and willing to take the time to help in every way possible.



Share a challenge that you have experienced as a learning coach and how you have worked to overcome the challenge.

Learning Coach: I can't think of a significant challenge that I have had to overcome. The whole experience has been one of joy and freedom to live life without school regulations strangling and smothering our family.

Why did you decide to school from home with Compass Charter Schools?

Learning Coach: The main reason for choosing Compass Charter Schools is for the flexibility in completing assignments and the range of subjects offered, as well as the ability to pursue topics of interest. One of the highlights that made me choose Compass over other online schools is the

opportunity for social interaction with other scholars and parents through the diverse and interesting field trips offered.

Share a piece of advice you'd give to a parent thinking about schooling at home.

Learning Coach: Schooling at home offers a less stressful environment for both scholars and their parents while still being afforded the same opportunities available in brick and mortar schools. I highly recommend schooling at home to any parent wanting the best education for their child.

What do you, your scholar, and the family enjoy doing together during your free time?

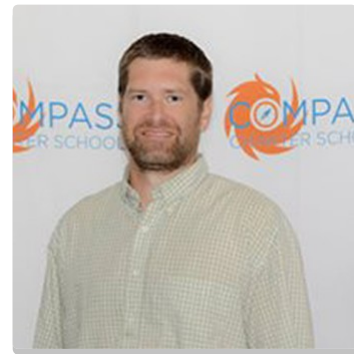
Learning Coach: We enjoy going to the movies, visiting museums, hiking, traveling, and just spending time together.

STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

David Spink, a High School Science Teacher at CCS.

CCS: What are your primary job responsibilities, and what is your background in education?

David: My primary role is to instruct and support high school scholars in their science course. I have eight years of teaching experience, four of which have been in an online environment. I also have a master's degree in secondary education.



CCS: What are some of your school-related goals for 2018?

David: I have a strong desire to continue learning as an adult by being a successful educator. I enjoy teaching my knowledge to my scholars. My other goal is to spark inquisitive minds and instill a love of learning in my scholars.

CCS: Do you have any advice for our scholars?

David: My advice to scholars is to be persistent and continue to work hard in everything you do because that will lead you to success.

CCS: Can you share one thing about yourself that very few people know:

David: One thing about myself that most people do not know is that I am an artist when I am not teaching. In high school, I received various awards for portrait drawings that I had created. I enjoy playing games and being active outdoors with my family.

Tracy Shield, an Elective Teacher at CCS.

Ms. Tracy, as her scholars know her, is the CCS HS Elective Instructor. Ms. Tracy has been with Compass for three years. She believes her purpose as an educator "is to be that piece of a child's life puzzle that helps them succeed. Without my part, they may have missed something very necessary to move forward in life." The advice she has for learning coaches is "to just be there. Don't assume that your child is doing what they should be doing. We cannot place adult

responsibilities on children. We must surrender to this position and make sure to be as actively involved as they need." One thing that many people do not realize about Ms. Tracy is that she is 50 years old and that her grandmother raised her from birth. When she is not busy supporting scholars in her elective classes, Ms. Tracy surrounds herself with her family and loves to lay around, crack jokes, and laugh.



COUNSELING



Happy New Year to all from the Counseling Team!

This time of year signals the end of Semester 1, and our team has been working tirelessly behind the scenes preparing for Semester 2 with final details and pre-loading courses for scholars. Additionally, while the bulk of college application season is through, we are still deep into financial aid application season as the March 2nd deadline draws near. Our team continues to support scholars with various records and document requests, as well as financial aid application assistance. We are looking forward to hearing from scholars regarding college acceptance letters as they arrive in the spring!

October and November saw a great deal of college, career, and academic activities and presentations that many learning coaches and scholars were able to enjoy by attending the live sessions or receiving the recordings. We will continue to provide these valuable resources via our department presentations and our College and Career Success Cafes. We invite all of our scholars to contact their counselor for more information.

Lastly, in December our department delivered an internal presentation to our school staff about the topic of Suicide Prevention. Considering the prevalence of adolescent suicide in our culture, our goal is to ensure that our staff knows what to do if such a situation presented itself. Our team values the privilege to continue to support our Compass scholars, families, and staff.

As civil rights pioneer Harriet Tubman once said, "Every dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." As your school counseling team, we are here to help you explore your dreams and discover how to achieve them. Reach out via phone, text, email, or video conference and talk to us soon. Remember to make every day great!

~ Counseling Services Team



Counseling News

Congratulations to our scholars Alexia, Helena, and Amber, who were nominated for consideration of the Carson Scholars Fund scholarship. Our entire counseling team worked collaboratively to nominate three scholars, one from each of our schools - Fresno, Los Angeles, and San Diego. Nominations were based on scholar service to their community in addition to their academic excellence (minimum 3.75-grade point average). If awarded, each scholar stands to receive a \$1,000 college scholarship for their future studies.

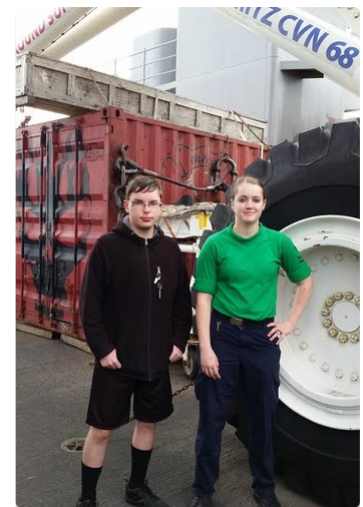
This February, the Counseling Department also looks forward to celebrating the 2018 National School Counseling Week, sponsored by the American School Counselor Association. This special week highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping scholars achieve school success and plan for a career. Please join us in celebrating the week starting next Monday, February 5 through Friday, February 9.

We highly encourage our families to [visit our website](#) and view a variety of helpful college and career preparation resources for scholars.

Family Spotlight

Our journey to California from Texas really began in 2016 after my husband's passing. I suppose you can say we are a military family, with my late husband serving in the U.S. Army many years ago, and my daughter serving as a 1st Class Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy. My daughter's involvement in the military is actually what brought us to California.

Having the flexibility of online schooling has been a great benefit for my son, John McHale, as he explores his post-high school options. John had the opportunity to travel this past November/December to Hawaii to meet the USS Nimitz, a naval supercarrier returning from operations in the middle east. John is considering joining the military as one of his post-high school options, and being able to travel onboard the ship for a week as it returned to the San Diego naval base was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that has aided him in narrowing down a decision as to what he wants to do after he graduates high school in June 2018. He spent the



better part of his time observing and assisting with missile launcher maintenance and repair duties in the shop, which was an invaluable experience for him.

While onboard the ship, there was no access to Internet or phone for national security reasons which meant 8 days on the ship without the ability to do school work. Staying on top of his school work definitely required some creativity and sacrifices on John's part while on this trip. He completed as much work as he possibly could in the hotel room at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, while waiting for the ship to arrive, as well as working hard to catch up with work upon his return.

I'm so glad we chose Compass Charter Schools! The flexibility in completing assignments and the range of subjects offered, as well as the ability to pursue topics of interest are all reasons that brought us here. One of the highlights that made me choose Compass over other online schools is the opportunity for social interaction with other scholars and parents through the diverse and interesting field trips offered. My family's experience with Compass has been great so far as I feel closer to the teachers, staff, and administration - more than those of my previous 4 children who attended both public and private brick-and-mortar schools. We are happy to be here.



Staff Spotlight

This month we are featuring Mr. Jacob Samples, School Counselor at CCS.

CCS: What are your primary job responsibilities?

Mr. Samples: My responsibilities as a school counselor involve providing support in academic planning and decision making, college and career exploration, and social-emotional wellness for our scholars, families, and faculty.



CCS: Can you share a little bit about your background in education and counseling?

Mr. Samples: I started out years ago as a program leader for an afterschool program called Think Together while I was completing my Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies at California State at Fullerton. I then earned my Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology from Antioch University at Los Angeles and moved to Palm Springs, CA to work at a community mental health clinic. I went back to school at the University of Redlands to receive my Pupil Personnel Services Credential for School Counseling while working at the Edison Academy for Differentiated Learning in Ontario, CA as a counselor for grades K-8.


CCS: What is your favorite thing about working at CCS?

Mr. Samples: I truly enjoy the challenge of connecting with scholars and families in a virtual setting, and watching them progress through the program. It is gratifying to see scholars gain confidence as they become more comfortable in their independent learning roles at CCS.

CCS: What is your favorite thing to do when you're not working?

Mr. Samples: My passion is theater arts. I love acting when I have time outside of my role as a school counselor. Additionally, I love to spend time with family and friends, and I love to travel and explore new places when I have the time!

SHARE YOUR STORY

A dark grey rectangular button with the word "Comments" in white text and a small white comment icon in the bottom right corner.

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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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

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



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