

# Compass Chronicle

Online Elementary School | Winter 2018

## Welcome to 2018!

Happy New Year! A new year brings with it new challenges, dreams, and expectations. The Online Elementary School Team at Compass Charter Schools is privileged and honored to work with an amazing group of scholars and families. Each and every day, all of our teachers strive to create the best learning experience for your children. We are dedicated to seeing each scholar reach their potential and be equipped to achieve their dreams and utilize each and every gift and talent that they have. As your coordinator, my time is spent looking for new ways to inspire and challenge the scholars we serve.



In this newsletter, you are going to see some of the exciting projects and lessons happening in our classrooms. You will get a peek into the lives of two of our teachers, and hear about the experiences of two families who are on this Compass journey with you. As you sit back with your coffee or favorite beverage, I encourage you to reflect on being a part of a unique community joined together with the idea of creating the most valuable experience for your individual scholar.

We appreciate all of you and all that you do. Thank you for being a part of our Compass family!

Sincerely,

Steven Thompson, Elementary School Coordinator

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

[@CCSMrThompson](#)

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## WHAT'S NEW IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?

What is new? In Elementary School, we believe that appreciation and gratitude create a thriving culture. We had two great events in November that captured the essence of those two attributes. In November, before Thanksgiving break, we had a Gratitude Rally, where scholars shared what they were thankful for. It was heart-warming and refreshing to listen to all the blessings shared by the group. In December, we had our first Holiday Traditions Rally. Our scholars came together and shared how they celebrate during the holiday season. We learned so much as scholars engaged us with stories of meals, holiday games, and family events that warmed all of our hearts. Our teachers finished the year by hosting our first Virtual Holiday Party! We played a holiday trivia game, shared recipes, and had a virtual gift exchange.



One item that we would like to pass along for everyone to try is called Friday Brags! Our teachers share one win that they had during the week. We invite all of our scholars and families to take time each week and share one victory that you had!

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## FAMILY SPOTLIGHTS

### **This month we are featuring the Chavez Family.**

**Penny Chavez, an elementary school learning coach shares her family's experience 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?**

**Penny:** Our typical day runs from about 7:30 am until about 1:30 pm. After getting up, making beds, getting dressed, and taking my older kids to their school, we come home and get started. We have a first-grade scholar and a second-grade scholar that I support by alternating my time between scholars and their school subjects.

**CCS: What has been your greatest joy in schooling your scholars at home?**

**Penny:** My greatest joy is knowing that I am teaching my kids the information. It is so fun that I can teach my daughter history and watch her get excited and relate to the lessons. I love teaching my son math skills. He has made such an improvement, and it is very satisfying to know that I taught them the skills they need to succeed.

**CCS: What has been your biggest challenge with schooling at home?**

**Penny:** My biggest challenge as a parent who helps my kids learn at home has been supporting my son. He is a very smart kid, but teaching him has been a challenge because he is a very active

boy, and I have learned to be patient when working with him. I have called and asked for advice from his teacher Mrs. Hooper, and she has given me creative ways to harness his energy and ideas.



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

**Penny:** We decided to choose online learning after watching my four older kids struggle with mandatory curriculums in traditional schools. I decided to give online learning at home a try to see if the one-on-one attention could help my children succeed. I have been very pleased with the results. I researched many schools and chose Compass Charter Schools because I liked the reviews and comments that I read on the Internet. I also did not want my kids to develop some of the bad habits that I had noticed in both of my older kids as well as the community. Immunizations also played a factor in my decision to choose learning at home. I have been very pleased with my decision to enroll my kids in the online learning program at Compass Charter Schools.

**CCS: Share a piece of advice you'd give to a parent thinking about taking their child out of school to school at home?**

**Penny:** The biggest piece of advice that I would give a new parent is to be patient and to know that the time you are spending with your kids is a great reward. I also would say that when in doubt, call your teacher because they are very helpful and have given me so much great advice.

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

**Penny:** In our free time (with 6 kids, we have very little) we love to be together as a family! We love to go bike riding, play basketball and board games, have movie nights, but most of all just be together.

## We are also featuring the Reyes Family.

Cherylynn Reyes, an elementary school learning coach shares her family's experience at CCS.

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

**Cherylynn:** What I really enjoy about online learning from home is that when my scholars are enjoying a certain subject or concept, we can spend extra time learning about it. I can help them engage even further than they would have in a traditional brick-and-mortar school. I also like that I am able to see what they are struggling with so that I can spend extra time figuring out different ways to help them grasp the concept. Another thing I really enjoy is that learning from home allows me to be involved in my scholar's education, and it also allows my youngest daughter, who will start school next year, to be involved. Being able to see my youngest daughter get involved and enjoy learning has been amazing. I know she's developing a positive outlook on school and her education.



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

**Cherylynn:** Our family had been thinking about schooling at home for a while, but I wasn't sure if I could handle teaching my kids on my own. Then I learned about K12, which provides all of the materials I need to help my scholars learn at home so I figured we should try it out. Through the K12 website, we were able to enroll in Compass Charter Schools, which allows us to use the K12 program. I support my kids as their learning coach and teach them using the K12 website and materials. With K12 and the help of Compass Charter Schools' staff and teachers, we were able to learn and easily get the hang of schooling at home.

### CCS: Share a piece of advice you'd give to a parent thinking about taking their child out of school to school at home?

**Cherylynn:** The advice I would give to parents who are thinking about schooling at home is to first do some research on what kind of experience you would like your kids to have, and know your options. Schools like Compass Charter Schools have a couple of different programs to choose from such as K12, their new Lanes program, and the Options Program. Also, try to get advice from parents who are already schooling at home so that you can learn about the benefits

and challenges. Lastly, choosing to school at home may seem overwhelming at first, but with the help of teachers, staff, and other parents, it will become easy. And before you know it, a whole year will go by and you'll be ready to start another year.

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## **SCHOLAR PROJECTS & ASSIGNMENTS**

**Take a look at some of the exciting things our scholars have been working on!**

In December, our fourth and fifth-grade Compass Lanes scholars learned about potential and kinetic energy. They learned about different forms of energy and energy sources. They also determined different ways to conserve energy in everyday use.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 12/15/2017

## Energy Conservation Worksheet

In the grid below, color each square according to the following guidelines:

If it describes a waste of energy, color the square RED.

If it describes a way to save energy, color the square YELLOW.

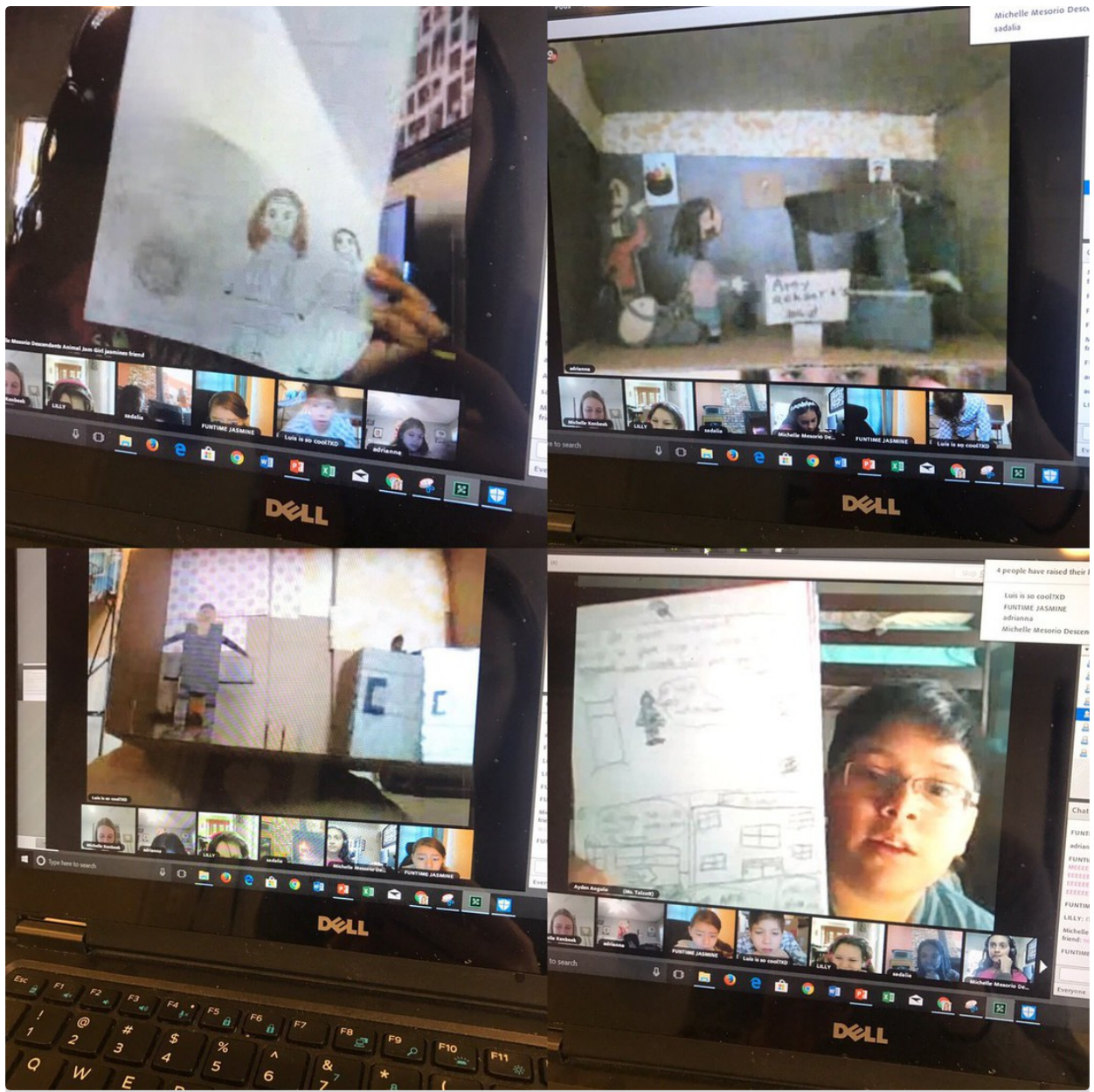
A dripping hot water faucet	A room with thermostat set below 68°F in winter	A house with poor insulation	Leaving lights on in an empty room	Driving in rush-hour traffic	Driving a hybrid car
Growing a garden	Using an electric blanket	Turning the TV off when no one is watching	Turning off appliances when on vacation	Car pooling	Using an electric car opener
A low-water landscape	Using fluorescent lights	Using lamps with 150-Watt bulbs	Driving a car with no other passengers	Leaving the faucet on when brushing your teeth	Taking showers instead of baths
Wearing sweaters and warm clothes in cold weather	Driving an oversized car	Riding your bike instead of taking the car	Using an electric toothbrush	Driving your car over 55 mph	Leaving outside lights on during the day
Opening curtains on the south side of the house during a summer day	Running full loads in the washing machine	Using solar thermal panels to heat hot water	Using both sides of a piece of paper	Closing windows and doors when the air conditioner or heat is on	Recycling cardboard and magazines
Leaving the car running in the driveway while you go inside	Using an electric knife	Hanging clothes outside to dry	Leaving the computer on when no one is using it	Recycling paper, glass and metal	Watching TV instead of playing outdoors

In the space below, describe additional activities that you can do to conserve energy.

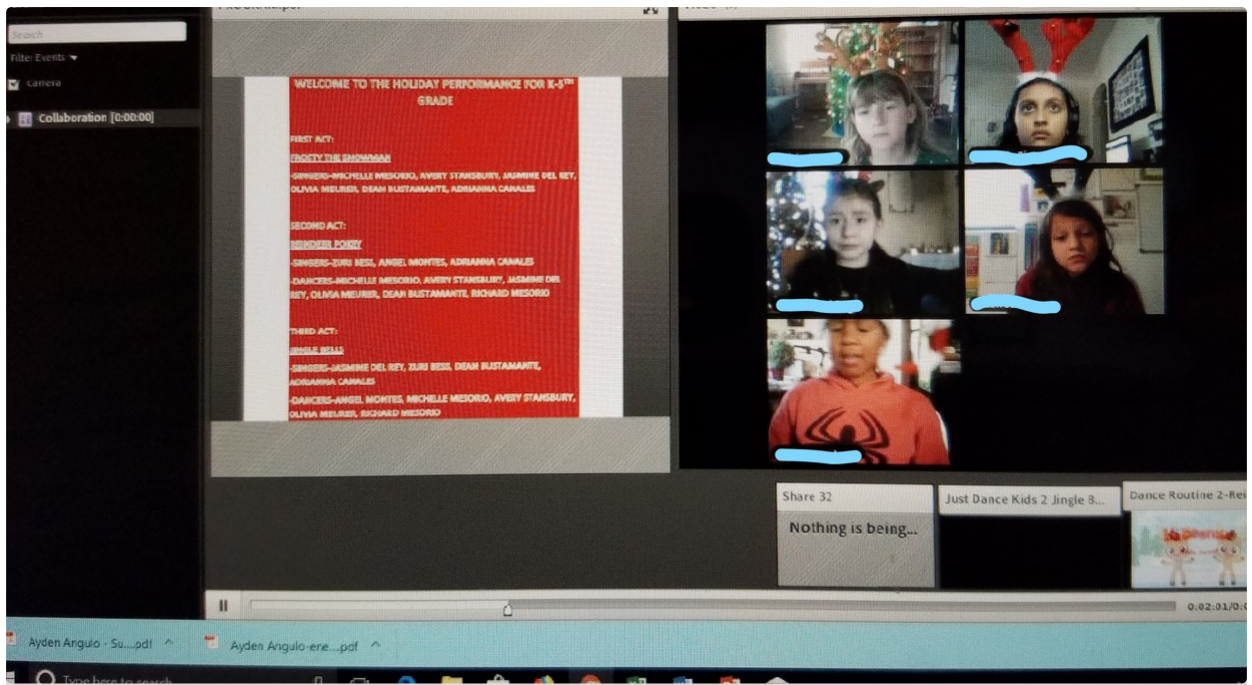
USING THE STAIRS INSTEAD OF THE ELEVATOR.  
USING A REAL PHYSICAL BOOK TO READ INSTEAD  
OF A TABLET OR COMPUTER. PLAYING AT  
THE PARK INSTEAD OF ON ELECTRONICS.

Energy: Lesson 2, Wasting Energy at Home Activity — Energy Conservation Worksheet

Scholars in the Compass Lanes program completed their first literature circle by reading *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg. They completed and presented weekly reading roles. After reading the book, our scholars chose a creative project based on the book and presented to their classmates. Our scholars created and presented dioramas, mobiles, chapter illustrations, and journal entries.



Our scholars enjoy physical education class every Tuesday and Thursday. They like dancing and exercising with their classmates. The scholars even gave a performance before Winter Break!



One of our fourth-grade scholars enjoyed making homemade soap!





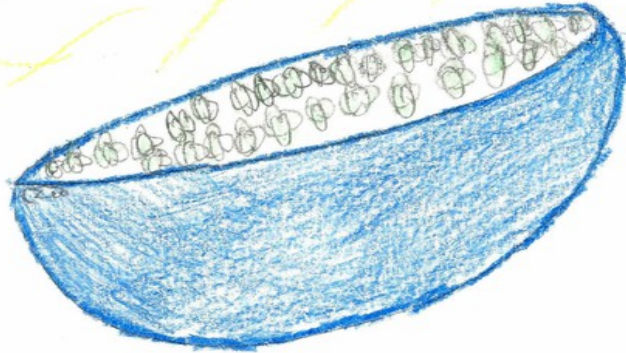
Our scholars learned that reading is everywhere...even on a cereal box! They completed a word scavenger hunt with ingredients, calories, company name, nouns, adjectives, and numbers. Our scholars then drew a picture of their own cereal and wrote an advertisement to help sell the product by using a jingle, poem, or song.

zuribess

# Yeets™

the figlet dinner cereal

Donate box by  
free nintendo switch



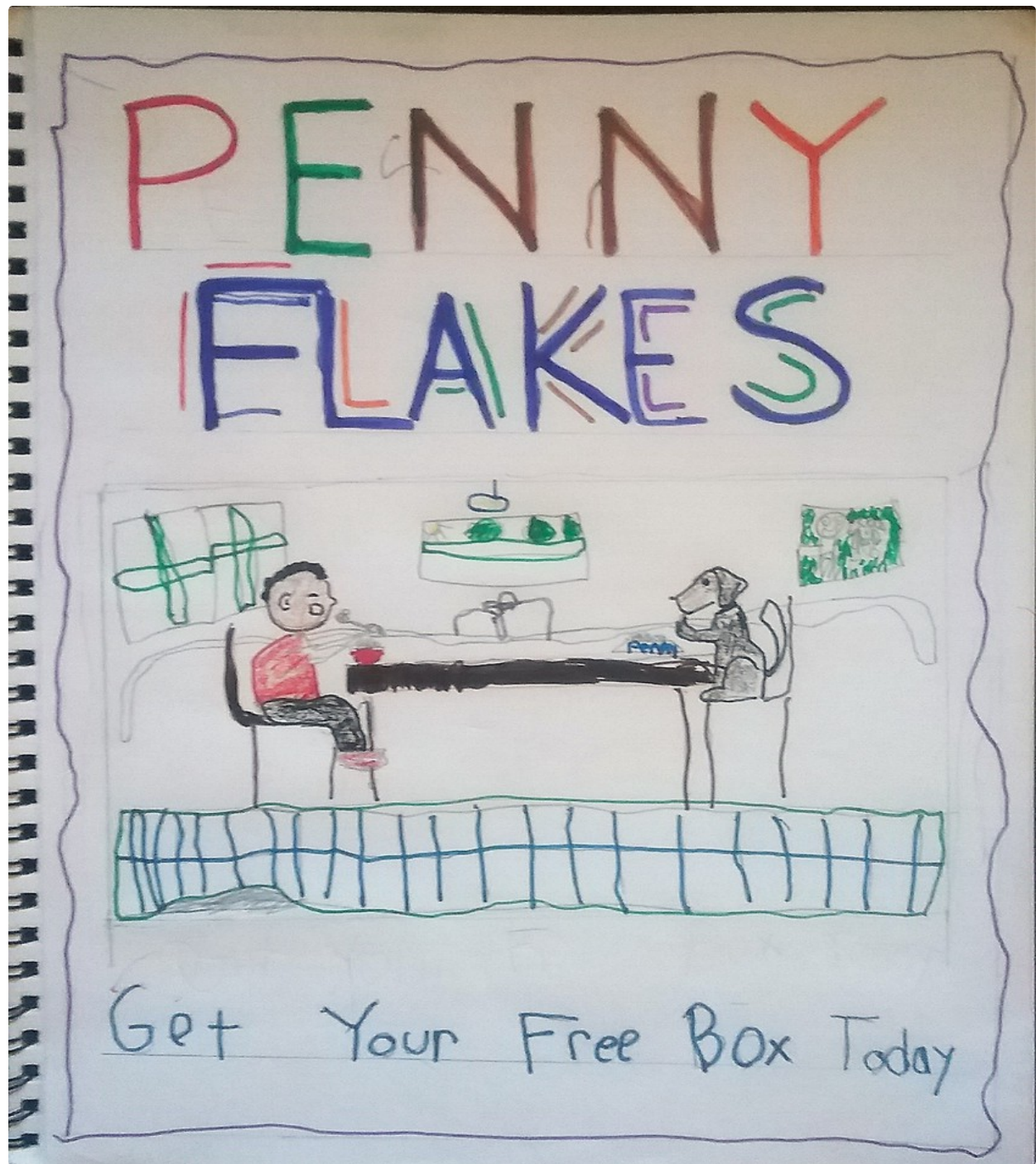
100% vegan

YEET™ them into  
your mouth™

for only 2 bucks!



zuribess 11-30-17



Our scholars learned about a variety of ecosystems. They researched the importance of a well-balanced ecosystem and presented special projects to demonstrate how they work and why they are an important part of nature.

# Ecosystem Research, Posters, and Models

## Tundra Ecosystem

Plants

- Rose hip
- Saxifrage
- Lichens
- Mosses

Animals

- Thrush
- Siskin
- Ptarmigan
- Golden Eagle
- Arctic Fox

IN the tundra it  
is - On top of the hills  
the air is cold.

Food chain

## Desert Ecosystem

Animals

- Coyote
- Bobcat
- Camel
- Cattlehead
- Desert fox
- Rattlesnake

Climate

- 10 inches of rain per year.
- Extremely hot.
- Summers are hottest.
- gets cool at night.

Plants

- Cacti
- Shrubs
- Dry trees
- Short grass

Plants are very common in the desert but they are usually not as tall as trees.

Desert Paws







The talented Sarah Fox sat with our scholars and talked about the importance of editing. "You want your readers to enjoy your book and understand it." She followed it with a presentation of how she edits books on the computer and stated that depending on the book, the process of editing can take up to six months. She reviews one book at a time and loves reviewing fantasy, but gets all types of genres. We closed the class out with a question and answer period. It was a wonderful experience!

A screenshot of a Zoom meeting interface. The main video shows Sarah Fox, a young woman with long blonde hair, smiling. The interface includes a video gallery at the bottom with thumbnails for Monique Grimes and Manuel Esparza. On the right side, there is a list of attendees: Active Speakers, Hosts (1) Monique Grimes, Presenters (1) Sarah Fox, and Participants (4) Alton.Romero, kailey, Manuel Esparza, and Motley Cook. Below the list is a chat window with messages from Manuel Esparza, Steven Thompson, kailey, Motley Cook, Alton.Romero, and Manuel Esparza.

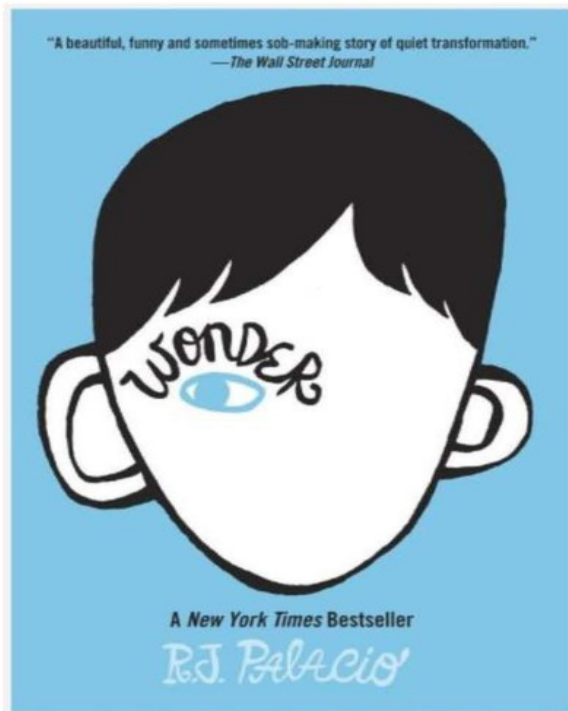
Compass Lanes scholars and learning coaches are enjoying our math program, TenMarks. Lanes scholars love the lessons, videos, and Jam Sessions. These help build essential skills for understanding and math fact fluency in an engaging and interactive way. Learning Coaches have shared that they appreciate the individualized instruction for their child through personal work and lesson amplifiers. Math has never been more fun!



**TENMARKS**  
an **amazon** company

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Scholars in Mrs. Shumaker's class are looking forward to reading *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio!



# WONDER

## BY R.J. PALACIOS

### Book Study with Ms. Shumaker

I am so excited to begin this lesson with your scholar!

We will be reading a few chapters at a time and meeting in our Thursday Learning Labs to discuss. We will also have some writing and other activities included in this study.

Please have book ready for your scholar to join us!

THANK YOU!!

### Book Study

Begins Thursday,  
January 18th

Read Pages 1-14  
by Jan 18<sup>th</sup>!

Join us:

<https://compasscharterers.adobeconnect.com/shumakerclassroom/>

It's Not Enough to  
be Friendly, You  
have to be a  
Friend.

CHOOSE  
KINDNESS

## STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

### Michelle Kenbeek, an elementary school teacher at CCS.

CCS: Can you tell us about your role and responsibilities at Compass Charter Schools?

Michelle: I teach our fourth and fifth-grade scholars in our Compass Lanes program.

CCS: How long have you been part of our Compass community?

Michelle: I have been working at Compass Charter Schools since August of 2013.





**CCS: What do you enjoy most about being part of Compass?**

**Michelle:** I believe in the individualized approach to learning and the flexibility that Compass offers scholars and allows them to proceed at their own pace in their academic subjects.

**CCS: As an educator, is there a piece of advice you'd like to share with learning coaches or scholars?**

**Michelle:** It's very important that our families create a routine for the scholars to follow each day. In addition, it's very important that scholars and their families keep in touch and connect with their teachers every day.

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

**Michelle:** I love to go to country music concerts. I go to at least ten concerts a year.

**Monique Grimes, an elementary school teachers at CCS.**

**CCS: What is your job title, and what are a couple of the things you do at Compass Charter Schools? How long have you worked for Compass?**

**Monique:** I teach our fourth and fifth-grade elementary scholars, and this is my third year at CCS.

**CCS: What do you enjoy most about being part of Compass and the work you do here?**

**Monique:** We have a different approach for teaching here at Compass. I enjoy that we are free to use different methods and have different options for our scholars.



**CCS: As an educator, is there a piece of advice you'd like to share with learning coaches or scholars?**

**Monique:** Don't give up, everyone learns differently! We aren't a cookie-cutter program. Don't get discouraged, take advantage of the flexibility of our program. Also, try to travel and go places. Don't just stay at home -explore the world around you while you learn.

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

**Monique:** Not many people know that I was a dancer. I did ballet, tap, modern dance and created my own production.



**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 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 Steven Thompson, Elementary School Coordinator, at [sthompson@compasscharters.org](mailto:sthompson@compasscharters.org).

 850 Hampshire Road, Suite P, ...    [info@compasscharters.org](mailto:info@compasscharters.org)  
 855-937-4227    [compasscharters.org](http://compasscharters.org)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d\\_3jyxoCWVU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_3jyxoCWVU)



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