

# Compass Chronicle

Exceptional Scholar Services | Fall 2018

## Hello Compass Parents and Scholars!

We have all had time now to settle into Fall, and with that, the school year is moving right along. SAI, specialized academic instruction, is underway as our dedicated special education teachers are meeting in virtual classrooms daily with scholars and sharing back many stories of excitement as they enjoy those “aha” moments as scholars understand that impossible math concept or that tricky sentence structure and the lightbulb goes off. I receive these proud texts almost daily! These are the teachers that are supporting your children and that makes me proud.



Gabi Golan, Director of Exceptional Scholar Services

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## What's New in Exceptional Scholar Services?

Our department has had many changes. At a time when California is experiencing a shortage of Special Education Teachers across the state, we have been extremely fortunate at Compass in recruiting high caliber, deeply compassionate teachers who believe in the mission and vision of the CCS Family. It is an ongoing process that continues, but rest assured that we will not budge on our standards.

Additionally, we continue to require the same high expectations from our providers and we have some amazing people serving our scholars in this area as well.

Lastly, we continue to have an array of resources to incorporate into SAI time with scholars such as the Read Naturally program to assist in building up areas that need some extra supports as Special Education teachers work with scholars either one to one or in group sessions.



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Please meet the amazing Barbara Johnston, Special Education Instructor

**CCS: What is your job title and what are a couple of the things you do at Compass Charter Schools?**

Barbara: I am an Exceptional Scholar Instructor. I assist scholars with reaching their goals by utilizing their strengths, discovering their preferred learning modality and addressing the needs of each individual scholar. I build a rapport with families to gain awareness of each scholar's culture and dynamic before developing a tailored Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and fulfill Specialized Academic Instruction according to the IEP description.



**CCS: How long have you worked for this organization?**

Barbara: I began on August 8, 2018.

**CCS: Tell us your “why” for doing what you do here at CCS?**

Barbara: My desire to work with Exceptional Scholars has been present for over twenty-five years. However, I have rarely had opportunities to collaborate with a staff as passionate about serving the needs of ALL scholars as I have since meeting the staff at CCS. The teachers and administration refer to the scholars as, "our" scholars, whereas, at other schools, they were "your students". When you work for a team with a common thread with a goal of developing minds for the future, who can say no?

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

Barbara: Life can be demanding. At times it seems like you never get a break. However, we get one shot, one chance to live it. Life does not give us "do-over's." If we invest our time wisely into the education of the young, we receive the reward by watching them stand on their own two feet. Not only does the scholar feel a sense of accomplishment, but the learning coach knows they gave their all with this "one-shot" to provide the appropriate tools for learning to our scholars.

**CCS: Share one thing about you would very few people know?**

Barbara: In college, I had to write and sing a commercial for dog biscuits.

**CCS: What do you and your family like to do during your free time?**

Barbara: We like to attend painting classes and each create drastically unique pieces of art from the same initial design.



## 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.



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Visit our [website](#) for more information about our academic programs. Or, contact Gabi Golan, Director of Exceptional Scholar Services at [ggolan@compasscharters.org](mailto:ggolan@compasscharters.org).

Want to get connected? Give us a shoutout on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram: @CompassCS #ChooseCompass

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