



**Director's Report
Presented to the GPA Board of Directors
September 19, 2017**

Summer Salute to Excellence

Over the summer, GPA eagles ventured out across the country to take advantage of various opportunities for high school students to further their learning. A total of 48 eagles in grades 9-12 participated in one or more of the following programs.

UCSD Summer Summit Program--SPACES
UCSD Triton Summer STEM Academy
UCLA Acting and Performance Summer Institute
Harvard Pre-College Program
Princeton Summer Institute for the Gifted
University of San Diego - SAT and ACT Preparation Courses
Outdoor Outreach San Diego--Leadership Program
Girl Scouts of America--Counselors in Training
Old Globe--Pam Farr Summer Shakespeare Studio

GPA is proud of our students for stepping outside of their comfort zones and engaging with a new community to better themselves and develop their passions and skills.

Summer Professional Development

Over the summer, teachers shared the responsibility of high school credit recovery courses and middle school remedial instruction. This allowed many classroom staff to have the second half of each day for collaborative planning. Teachers engaged in professional development around syllabus development and writing pacing guides, resulting in in-depth, aligned course syllabi and pacing guides being ready for the 2017-18 school year.

As in years past, several Advanced Placement teachers were afforded the opportunity to attend AP by the Sea, a four-day training session offered by USD and endorsed by College Board. The training allows same-subject teachers from around the nation to convene around best practices in the realm of Advanced Placement.

Additional Trainings, attended by GPA teachers over the summer:

- San Diego Area Writing Project
- Special Education Leadership Academy
- UCSD Extension: Math Tasks for Authentic Assessment
- Zeroing in on Intermediate Algebra
- Balanced Math
- El Dorado SELPA Teacher Academy

On Saturday, September 16th, GPA hosted a workshop for math teachers: "Differentiating to Maintain Rigor in the Math Classroom: Engaging Students with Purpose." The all-day session was facilitated by former GPA teacher Aly Martinez, now Math Induction Mentor at Sweetwater Union High School District, and open to members of the San Diego Math Network from across the region.

CELDT

With our 271 English Learners comprising 21% of GPA's total student body, English Language Development and reclassification of ELs are important pieces of our academic work. Per our 2016 WASC report, GPA continues to have benchmark goals for language development. English Learners who have yet to be reclassified as fluent English proficient will be taking the CELDT (California English Language Development Test) in the fall. Meanwhile, California is transitioning over to ELPAC (English Language Proficiency Assessment for CA), which will replace with CELDT as the new assessment for English Learners. This assessment will take place in the spring and scores will become available in fall.

Open House

This year, Open House is on Friday, September 22, 2017, from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Our Musical Production class will be engaged in the production of *GPA Magic - 'A Salute to Disney'*. The performers have been working throughout the summer and will truly 'wow' the audiences with their renditions of Disney favorites. There will be three performances this year, 4:00, 6:30 and 8:00. Grades six through twelve will be continuing the tradition of students leading guided tours of classrooms, introducing their teachers and showing their learning from the first four weeks of school.

Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA)

GPA is proud to have a teacher induction program available through the El Dorado SELPA for the 2017-2018 school year. Ten of our current teachers have been selected to clear their preliminary teaching credentials through this teacher induction program. If they qualify for the early completion option, teachers will be able to complete the program by June 2018 with a professional clear teaching credential. GPA provides participants with an experienced mentor teacher. Participating teachers are excited and grateful for this opportunity.

Academic Program

Advanced Placement (AP) Policy- Over the summer, 149 students participated in our AP Intensive Program. The 3-week program was offered for nine of our eleven AP courses and was designed to provide students with the rigorous experience and skills necessary to be successful in each AP course. This year, students who take an AP course and also complete the corresponding AP exam will be given weighted credit. GPA students receive a scholarship to pay their first AP exam fee.

Grading Policy- GPA is in the second year of our transition to a mastery-driven grading policy. This year, each teacher has developed a syllabus that is aligned to the content standards at each grade level. GPA will also be administering school-wide Quarter Finals at the end of each nine-week grading period. Demonstrations of Learning and the Quarter Final, which are uniform for grade level and content areas will count towards 60% of a student's grade.

Course Syllabi- GPA has created a uniform course syllabus to align courses of study in each grade level content area. Our teachers and academic team were hard at work over the summer to create a uniform course syllabus that details the course description, grading guidelines, materials, structure, course of study and expectations for each course at GPA. Our template was adapted from the CSU Syllabus template, Harvard Summer Program syllabus, Stanford Teaching Commons syllabus and a Lewis and Clark College syllabus.

Wingspan (College Counseling Center)

College Representatives from UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, University of San Diego, and San Diego State University will be visiting GPA in September and October to present their admissions process to high school students.

Current Enrollment

GPA's enrollment is the highest it's ever been in our 13 years! Over 1,300 students have enrolled for the 2017-18 school year.

Grade	Student Count
6	224
7	225
8	221
9	180
10	182
11	140
12	139

Total Student Body: 1,311 Students

Campus Visitors

Since our last Board meeting, GPA hosted visits from National University, the United Way of San Diego, and the Jewish Family Services of San Diego. The visits were all tied to building partnerships between GPA and the different organizations to expand the type and amount of supports the school can offer to students and families.

Senior Convocation

On Thursday, August 24, 2017 Gompers Preparatory Academy hosted the annual Senior Convocation ceremony honoring the Class of 2018. Our 139 members of the Senior Class and their families gathered together to welcome the start of their last year in high school before going off to college. Director's message this year centered around rising above negativity. Through storytelling, he encouraged seniors to take responsibility for their own hope, joy, and dreams for their senior year and beyond. The class of 2018 was inspired to be optimistic, even in the darkest waters, to be hopeful, even when the storm is coming, and to have faith, even when it seems like all is lost. Seniors received their striped senior tie and teachers honored each student by putting on their senior blazer.

Commitment Day

On Friday, August 25, 2017 the Office of Student Affairs invited our new cohort of 6th grade students to Commitment Day; our annual new student orientation. Parents and students received a formal introduction to the GPA family and together we celebrated the beginning of the new school year. Students spent time in their first period classroom getting to know their teacher and other sixth grade eagles who joined them on their first day of school. They also received a free uniform tie after pledging with their fellow eagles to work together for success and listening to the GPA messages about gratitude and Eagle Pride. All families and students were

given a tour of our campus, explaining all important areas and details. This was followed by a performance from our Boys Middle School Ballet, Middle School Cheer, Musical Production and a Fashion Show exhibiting the GPA uniform.

Community Partnerships

We are happy to be working alongside **National University** in the creation of a future educator program designed to support and fund aspiring teachers in their journey through college. Students will determine their interest and elect to participate in their junior year at GPA. Their cohort will then be followed through the completion of their preliminary teaching credential through National University.

Our Visual and Performing Arts program has partnered with **The Scripps Performing Arts Center, Inc.** for this school year. After several of our students began taking ballet at SPAC last winter, Executive Director, Angela Amoroso wanted to do more. We are proud to be offering a ballet elective in collaboration with SPAC this year for our middle school students. There are currently 25 males and 29 females enrolled in the program.

GPA continues to partner with **Teach for America** this school year. We currently have four new corps members, three Year 2 corps members and two TFA alumni.

Facilities Update

1. Air conditioning units are currently being installed in our portable classrooms, and will be activated in the coming days.
2. In October, construction will begin to install air conditioning in all classrooms, offices, and gathering spaces in GPA's permanent buildings.
3. Tenant improvements for off campus Weaver Hall (Chollas View United Methodist Church) have begun and we hope to move some support staff into this space by next month.
4. Construction documents for our new athletic buildings are currently being reviewed by the Department of the State Architect (DSA). Anticipated start date for construction is late Winter/early Spring 2018.