



**Director's Report  
Presented to the GPA Board of Directors  
November 17, 2020**

**Distance Learning Update**

**Student Attendance**

Our daily average attendance for the month of October was 98%

**Pop-Up Departments Data**

**Tutoring Supports Data**

The Tutoring department has been supporting approximately 340 students across all grade levels. Our program is designed to support students for one hour each week on any of their coursework. We currently have 30 staff members taking on the role of 1:1 tutor for our students during distance learning. This is a unique and powerful opportunity to support our students and ensure they are getting the additional help they need. As we moved into Quarter Two, 28 students were able to exit this program as their grades and study habits show that they are managing their time effectively and excelling in their learning. Students selected for our one-on-one tutoring support include those who are in need of academic support based on their grades, those in need of support with English language development, and those in need of additional services based on their IEPs.

**Translation Services Data**

The Translation Services department has been working hard to ensure our hallmark of impeccable customer service and communication remain during Distance Learning. We currently have 23 GPA staff members serving on our translation team. They are on-call and ready to translate when needed to support our GPA teachers. We have fulfilled over 175 translation requests for IEP's, parent phone calls, conferences, etc. GPA's support staff continue to embody the whatever-it-takes philosophy at GPA.

**Curbside Service Data**

The Curbside Delivery Team has been busy distributing supplies to our students. Our team has delivered more than 400 supply bundles (including earbuds with microphones, lined paper, printer paper, pencils,

pens, highlighters, glue sticks, rulers, notebooks for each class, graph paper, colored pencils, graphing calculator [high school only]) to middle school students, more than 100 art supply boxes for high school students, 30 keyboards to high school digital piano students and project supplies for high school students. Beginning November 16, high school students will be receiving their supply bundles as well as specific supplies for individual classes.

### **Office of Student Affairs--First Quarter Update**

Loneliness due to the pandemic is particularly tough on children. With this in mind and recognizing that many of our students' social, emotional, or mental well-being has been impacted by the pandemic, the Office of Student Affairs hosted a middle school virtual social hour on Wednesday September 30th and Thursday November 1st. The hour allowed middle school students to have healthy interactions by participating in games and facilitated discussions led by our counseling team. More virtual social hours are scheduled while we continue with distance learning.

On October 15th, our GPA counseling team in partnership with San Diego Youth Services facilitated a parent workshop on Suicide Prevention & Mental Health During COVID 19 via Zoom. The workshop was offered in both English and Spanish and discussed warning signs of suicide in addition to the mental health impact of the current COVID 19 pandemic. Parents learned about helpful strategies and approaches to address behaviors of concern and were provided with supports and resources for further assistance. Some of the parent testimony/feedback from this valuable workshop:

*"I liked the presentation, it was good that they shared information about what to do or who to call in case we are going through something like this."*

*"They let parents know about signs, how our children think, and how we can help them."*

*"Very Informative"*

COVID-19 has created a perfect storm of factors that have led to a sharp increase in unreported cases of child abuse and neglect, as children are cut off from interactions with professionals, confined at home with caregivers and relatives, and families are feeling the stress of job loss and economic uncertainty. In an effort to offer support to parents who are feeling the angst and frustration of the pandemic, the Office of Student Affairs, in partnership with San Diego State University Research Foundation, offered a parent workshop on October 21st. The intent of this workshop was to begin the conversation of how to cope with frustration, create boundaries and structures to support the family and use this

crisis as an opportunity to strengthen the family. Some of the parent testimony/feedback from this valuable workshop:

“It was nice to know that we are struggling with the same things”

“Very informative”

“Helpful”

“Much needed”

### **Professional Development**

On Tuesday, November 3, 2020, all teachers received Professional Development (PD) from our lead teacher and Superintendent, Director Riveroll. PD focused on what teachers need to do differently during quarter 2 to ensure we are meeting the needs of our students during Distance Learning. We received gratitude and positive feedback on the professional learning that took place.

*“Thank you for yesterday's discussion. It is an incredible skill you have to be able to present data that seems disheartening at first blush, but we leave feeling hopeful, optimistic, and empowered. All in less than an hour!”*

*“My wife heard our PD meeting with you the other day and she was emotionally moved by what you had to say. She said she's never heard anyone more passionate & caring about students than you! She literally teared up talking about it. I told her that was barely a snapshot of the missionary energy you bring to your 16 hour days at GPA. Your incredible expertise, hard work, and leadership is appreciated beyond words.”*

There were four key components of Professional Development that Director Riveroll led that are expected to be implemented school-wide during the second quarter.

1. The Grandparent Method
2. The Art of the Mini-lesson
3. GPA Homework Schedule
4. Intentional Office Hours

We are looking forward to seeing the results of the above PD implementation during Quarter 2.

## **WASC Self Study**

The WASC visiting committee completed their virtual Self-Study visit at the beginning of October. The visiting committee was impressed with GPA overall and had many wonderful things to say in their report.

*“Gompers Preparatory Academy takes the mission “accelerate academic achievement for all students through a college preparatory culture and curriculum” seriously and works with the community to continually reinforce that mission.”*

*“The school has demonstrated consistently since their origin as a charter school, the ability to improve and grow student academic success. The GPA mission is deeply felt and seen including in data points such as attendance, student test score growth, AP access, etc.”*

*“GPA does a wonderful job of ensuring all students are experiencing rigorous academic curriculum while also balancing real-world interests and activities.”*

*“The collaboration between stakeholders at GPA is extremely strong.”*

*“GPA has done such an exceptional job including their parents as partners that several parents said that they feel that GPA is ‘their’ school. Noting that they feel they have a voice and are heard at Gompers.”*

GPA was found to be Effective or Highly Effective in 19 of the 20 WASC categories. In their Visiting Committee Report they highlighted Culture, Leadership, Instruction and Professional Development as areas of strength. The Visiting Committee gave consistent leadership in both personnel and practices as rationale for our effectiveness.

Part of the Self Study process involves determining your schools areas of growth and developing an Action Plan to address your findings. The Visiting Committee concurred that all areas of growth were addressed in our Action Plan goals below.

1. **College Readiness:** Build the essential skills of stamina, confidence, study skills, time management, organization, content mastery, critical thinking, and

work ethic to increase college readiness in all content areas through project based learning and real world experiences.

2. **Academic Achievement:** Increase the number of students who are meeting and exceeding the standards on state-wide assessments in ELA, Math and Science with an emphasis on interventions to increase the academic performance of students in subgroups ELL and SPED.
3. **School Culture and Climate:** Decrease the number of behavior infractions, discipline referrals, and suspensions school wide.
4. **GPA Data Analysis Protocol:** Develop a systematic process for evaluating and analyzing data to inform decision making. Routinely assess multiple forms of data to determine student needs, develop and implement strategies/interventions and assess results and impact on student success to monitor progress. Determine systems to access and utilize data from alumni to inform and enhance current practices.
5. **Preserving and Promoting the GPA Way:** Develop processes and protocols for defining, monitoring, preserving, and celebrating the GPA way through building a respectful, professional community including all stakeholders - students, parents, teachers, staff, community, leadership and Board.

The above action plan goals will serve as a road map for the next six years as we restart the cycle of continuous improvement for our next self-study in 2026.

### **Parent Prep Academy/Coffee with the Director**

There have been five Parent Prep Academy/ Coffee with the Director meetings since September. In an effort to keep our parents informed and engaged with GPA during Distance Learning, Director Riveroll has led these meetings. Remarkably, there are approximately 100 people in attendance to learn about the topics covered and ask any questions they may have. Topics that have been discussed include; Distance Learning Portal, Zoom, WASC, Quarter Finals, Parent Conferences, the GPA Calming Room, GPA Website, Pop-Up Departments, and Virtual Classroom Observations. Our next Parent Prep Academy/Coffee with the Director will take place on Friday, November 20, 2020 at 9:00am.

### **WingSpan College and Career Center Update**

Our Wingspan staff have been busy assisting the class of 2021 complete and submit college applications. In addition to their one to one support for seniors, the Wingspan staff have facilitated and hosted various workshops including: Creating a UC Account, UC San Diego, San Diego State University and parent workshop explaining the college application process, financial aid, as well as outlining potential expenses for the senior year.

Wingspan sends a weekly newsletter to the senior class which includes scholarship information, virtual office hours and appointment requests and resources.

### **COVID Facilities Preparedness Measures-**

GPA continues to follow local, state, and federal guidelines in sanitizing and disinfecting campus. Our custodial staff has been trained on the use of electrostatic sprayers and frequently uses them to disinfect all hard and porous surfaces in classrooms, offices, restrooms and common areas. We continue to stock our inventory supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including face masks, disposable gloves, face shields, sneeze guards, protective barriers and sanitizing supplies. In addition, we have upgraded all of the HVAC filters and adjusted the air exchange so that each unit is circulating more outside air into the buildings. We are regularly monitoring recommendations from health officials and medical experts to implement the most up-to-date safety protocols.

### **Celebrating 5 and 10 Years of Service to GPA**

GPA would like to recognize and thank the following staff members for 10 years of service to GPA:

Isabel Ramirez- Makram  
David Sheehan  
Dr. Kristie Chiscano  
Jenny Meza  
Monica Mendoza  
Raul Noriega  
Rory Kelly  
Kevin Nostrates

GPA would like to recognize and thank the following staff members for 5 years of service to GPA:

Cynthia Ornelas  
Trisha Harding  
Fatima Jacobo  
Sade Wiley  
Perla Grajeda  
Dontrell Onuoha  
Vallery Campos  
Alexandra Mobley  
Braden Ballantyne  
Linda Furey  
Mark Mejia  
Jessica Rojas

Ryan Sturgeon

**Collective Bargaining Update/Mediation**

The GPA Bargaining Team continues to bargain with SDEA with the assistance of a PERB mediator. On November 9, an ‘Economic Sidebar’ meeting was held to educate the SDEA Bargaining Team about the GPA budget. GPA will continue to bargain in the coming weeks as potential dates are offered by SDEA and the PERB mediator.

**GPA Staff Letter of Support for On Loan**



25 October 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

On the walls of most science classrooms across the United States hangs the Periodic Table of Elements. These atomic structures are the fundamental building blocks of life. Without them, we would not understand where we've been, where we're going, or what to expect next.

Make no mistake about it: Director Vince Riveroll, Assistant Director Lisa Maples, Judith Francesci, and Paz Garcia-Ramirez are our elements. Within the walls, hallways, and even Zoom sessions of Gompers Preparatory Academy, these four leaders are instrumental to any success we have had as school and community. They set the groundwork and continue to model the way forward. All of us -- teachers and students alike -- have come to see them as paramount. Their presence is what makes a school like GPA such a success.

They are GPA.

The announcement that SDUSD has broken their promise to allow our community to keep our leaders is heartbreaking and unfair. The effect of the loss of these leaders would have unthinkable consequences.

At GPA, we all know what the past was like -- a failing school that processed students instead of nurturing them; a place where education was a just a job, not a calling; an institution that too often shrugged and remained complacent while daily systemic injustices unfolded before people's eyes and nothing was done. Nothing was changed.

It took a community of passionate, outraged parents to change this fact and it took leaders of vision to translate that passion into action. Those leaders displayed infinite patience and foresight. They recognized that the wheels of progress turn slowly, but they never stopped. They found others, imparted their wisdom, and kept moving forward.

Gompers Preparatory Academy is not "done." It is a school constantly working towards that most elusive of goals: a better future for students who deserve the same opportunity as their more privileged peers just 30 minutes up the freeway. The loss of our leaders will make that continued goal so much harder.

Please, let us keep our leaders. Allow us the opportunity to prove that our work is just getting started. We have come so far. Please do the right thing. Help us to keep moving forward.

Sincerely,  
The Undersigned

We, the undersigned, agree with the attached letter and implore the SDUSD Board to help GPA's leaders stay at our site.

Name	Department	Years at GPA
Rory Kelly	English	10
Shelly Buono	Exercise & Nutritional Science (ENS)	16
Jessica Chapman	History	8
Trevor Snell	English	6
Meryl García	Science	7
Elizabeth Lloyd	History	5
Vincent Perez	ENS	7
Erin Eickhorst	English/History	5
Sarah Youngren	English/History	2
Sean Bentz	VAPA/Computers	12
Kristie Chiscano	Science	10
Braden Ballantyne	Math	5
Eric Mondragon	Encore/ Student Affairs	5
Viridiana Word	English	7
Sally Cohenour	ENS	6
Victoria Canto	Counseling/ Student Affairs	11
Brayan Flores	Encore/ Student Affairs	2
Marcos Arguelles	SPED	4
May Manookian	SPED	6

We, the undersigned, agree with the attached letter and implore the SDUSD Board to help GPA's leaders stay at our site.

Name	Department	Years at GPA
Monica Mendoza	Office of Safety	9
Ambria Bursey	Encore/Student Affairs	5
Julio Renteria	Office of Safety	7
Mary Davis	VAPA/Visual Arts	9
Cheryl McCree	Student Affairs	18
William Frye	Office of Technology & Innovation	1
Sandra Meza	EL Coordinator	11
Elena Facchinei	English	6
Michelle Willis	English	8
Mike Wnek	History	7
Linda Furey	Library	5
Laura Laird	SPED	9
David Sheehan	SPED	6
Denise Verduzco	Health Office/Student Affairs	5
Marissa Santellano	SPED	3
Daniel Morfin	Office of Safety	2.5
Lupe Ramirez	Student Affairs/ OSC	14
Cynthia Ornelas	Teacher- Math and Science	5
Juan Mendez	Head Custodian	8
Bertha Ramirez	Custodian	7

We, the undersigned, agree with the attached letter and implore the SDUSD Board to help GPA's leaders stay at our site.

Name	Department	Years at GPA
Elizabeth Carrazco	Custodian	4
Enriqueta Sarabia	Custodian	2
Maria Urias	Custodian	11
Ismael Valencia	Custodian	6
Angie Nguyen	SPED	1
Martin Velos	Custodial	11
Vanessa Santellano	SPED	2
Jane Firpo-Leverson	Leadership	13
Christopher Murray	VAPA	8
Kevin Nostrates	Human Resources	9
Fatima Jacobo	Chief Business Office	5
Mark Mejia	Office of Technology & Innovation	4.5
Kristopher Kleeb	Human Resources	12
Veronica G Baez	Data Systems Analyst	11
Rong Zhang	Counseling/Student Affairs	3
Allison Baher	School Nurse	4
Dolores Garcia	Administrative Assistant of FSC	23
Brenda Strickland	Counselor / Student Affairs	6
Ryan Sturgeon	Government, Politics, & Economics	12
Peter Chodzko	Leadership	15

We, the undersigned, agree with the attached letter and implore the SDUSD Board to help GPA's leaders stay at our site.

Name	Department	Years at GPA
Brandon Laurel	SPED	2
Marlon Hettick	Science	1
Jane Kinyua	Family Services/Student Affairs	1
Nicholas Jay Martinez	Special Education	1
Dey Juan Hemmings	Athletics	8
Brandy Berrun	SPED	2
Sarah Alfano	Science	1
Andrea Smith	Counseling/Student Affairs	11
Eunice Beltran	Counseling/ Student Affairs	2
Anna Ahuna	SPED	4
Sergio Suarez	Operation Program Specialist	15
Jessica Rojas	Counseling/Student Affairs	4
Alexandra Mobley	Science	5
Carlos Acosta	Encore/Student Affairs	11
Jeremy Hurlbert	Leadership	16
Sarai Arellano	CBO	1
Sade Wiley	SPED	6
Robert Elson	Science	1.5
Diana Garcia	Office of Student Affairs	7

We, the undersigned, agree with the attached letter and implore the SDUSD Board to help GPA's leaders stay at our site.

Name	Department	Years at GPA
Cristina Contreras	Chief Business Office	9
Michelle Canto-Flores	SPED	1
Cassandra Fort	Office of Student Affairs	8
Laura Mueller	SPED	7
Anne Robinson	Leadership	15
Robert Caligiuri	HS Electives	7
Daniel Flores	SPED	4
Jacquelyn Glaser	Science	1
Patricia Zavala	SPED	6
Jenny Parsons	Leadership	12
Ivette Limon	Leadership	9
Linda Olson	History	11
Somora Davidson	Encore	1
Viola Pinckney	Office of Student Affairs	7
Caitlyn Clark	Math	1
Jenny Meza	SPED	10
Dontrell Onuoha	SPED	6
Dulce Pelayo	SPED	2
Matthew Lund	Math	1
Dennise Olguin	SPED	1

We, the undersigned, agree with the attached letter and implore the SDUSD Board to help GPA's leaders stay at our site.

Name	Department	Years at GPA
Christopher Todd	SPED	3
Juan Vargas	Custodian	11
Jim Winters	Athletics	12
Lauren Geyer	Encore/Student Affairs	4
Diksha Sudarshan	Science/Math	2
Angelica Palacios-Pinon	SPED	9
Brenda Contreras	SPED	2
Jonathan Hayward	Math	1
Nancy Luu-Villa	Encore/Student Affairs	1
Tynesha Sett	History/ELA	1
Robyn Hartwell	Science	2
Isabel Makram	SPED	10
Ziri Zapata	OTI	6
Christina Avila	Spanish	9
Farhia Mohamed	Science	1