



# GOMPERS PREPARATORY ACADEMY

UCSD PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL  
1005 47<sup>TH</sup> STREET SAN DIEGO, CA 92102-3626 | PHONE: 619.263.2171 | FAX: 619.264.4342

## Office of the Director

Vincent M. Riveroll

### Director's Report Presented to the GPA Board of Directors November 2016

#### **WASC**

The WASC visiting committee completed their Mid-Cycle review at the beginning of this month. The visiting committee was impressed with all that we have been able to accomplish since their last visit in spring of 2014. Below are their commendations and recommendations. GPA is thrilled that for the first time ever there were no critical areas of need found by WASC. We are looking forward to completing another Self-Study in 2020.

#### **COMMENDATIONS:**

- Highly dedicated faculty and staff who are focused on the school's mission and vision that graduates will attend and complete college
- Positive and effective relationships with governing board, sponsoring district, and community partners, including University of California San Diego.
- Positive family school relationships, including school to home communication, online grade book, and school sponsored activities for parents
- School culture that is safe, positive, and establishes student's social, emotional, and academic well being as the highest priority
- Vertical Alignment teams that ensure that course content is sequential throughout the grade spans.
- Mandatory Academic Counseling that creates a highly effective communication system among teachers in the area of student accountability and intervention for academic work.
- One to One computers for grades 10-12, adding additional grades each year. This initiative has significantly increased student engagement and 21st century skills.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Faculty and staff need to increase efforts in data collection, reporting, and use for ongoing improvement on school wide initiatives, including but not limited to: Student Learner Outcomes, VAT, MAC, 21st century learning skills, and school culture. With increased use of data as a means of evaluating the effectiveness of specific initiatives the school's resources and focus will continually improve.
- Continue current emphasis on addressing the 2014 WASC recommendations.

#### **Academic Events and Achievements**

As part of our college preparatory program, GPA requires that GPA students take a minimum of one Advanced Placement course prior to graduation. Many of our students take multiple AP courses in order to be highly competitive in the college admissions process. In order to support AP students in their rigorous coursework, GPA has expanded its existing "Senior PM" program to include all 11th and 12th grade AP students. Under a new name, "Ivy Nights" the program serves an average of 110 per night, with nine staff, costing an average of \$1,051 per night.

## Fall MAP Data: Students At or Above Grade Level Norm

	FALL 2014		FALL 2015		FALL 2016	
	ELA	MATH	ELA	MATH	ELA	MATH
<b>Class of 2023</b> (6 <sup>th</sup> grade)	x	x	x	x	<b>44%</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Class of 2022</b> (7 <sup>th</sup> grade)	x	x	37%	27%	<b>41% (+4)</b>	<b>31% (+4)</b>
<b>Class of 2021</b> (8 <sup>th</sup> grade)	31%	22%	32%	30%	<b>42% (+11)</b>	<b>38% (+16)</b>
<b>Class of 2020</b> (9 <sup>th</sup> grade)	41%	28%	35%	33%	<b>43% (+2)</b>	<b>33% (+5)</b>
<b>Class of 2019</b> (10 <sup>th</sup> grade)	33%	23%	35%	39%	<b>50% (+17)</b>	<b>41% (+18)</b>
<b>Class of 2018</b> (11 <sup>th</sup> grade)	35%	15%	51%	43%	<b>48% (+13)</b>	<b>34% (+19)</b>
<b>School-Wide</b> (6 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> grades)	40%	26%	36%	31%	<b>44% (+4)</b>	<b>34% (+7)</b>

At the beginning of October, students in grades six through eleven took their first round of the NWEA MAP assessment. This is a norm-referenced test that assesses students' progress in both Reading and Mathematics. Since 2014, our students have taken this assessment three times per year in fall, winter and spring. The above table shows the percentage of each class that has scored At or Above the grade level norm for their grade level. We are excited to see gains in all grade levels, some as high as 19%, over 2 years.

### 1:1 Laptop Program

In our September meeting, the GPA Board of Directors approved funding to bolster inventory for the launch of GPA's 1:1 laptop program. The program has successfully launched in grades 10 through 12, with 9th grade on deck to receive devices in the coming weeks.

### High School Focus - 2016/2017

- Students in grades 10, 11, and 12 are issued a personal Chromebook and are permitted to take it home daily w/parent contract agreement.
- Incoming 9th graders are issued a personal Chromebook daily and work toward privileges of take-home option (determined by VAT).

### Middle School Focus - 2016/2017

- Students in middle school continue to make use of current inventory on site: iPads and Netbooks. Additional Chromebook carts are being purchased, per Board approval, and will fortify inventory in grades 6 through 8. By Spring 2017, all GPA students will have consistent access to personal laptop devices.

Total cost for device acquisition: \$241,498.00

### **Sex Education**

In order to provide students with accurate information regarding sex and the potential consequences of engaging in risky behavior, Gompers Preparatory Academy has partnered with San Ysidro Health Centers to provide sex education classes to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Due to the personal and sensitive nature of this topic, parents were provided an opportunity to preview the curriculum before classes began.

### **College Fair**

Gompers Preparatory Academy hosted its first ever on campus College Fair on October 13, 2016. Junior and Senior students and families were invited to participate and learn about local and national colleges and universities. There were thirty-four universities from across the nation represented at GPA's inaugural College Fair.

### **Cal SOAP**

On October 26, 2016 thirty-five GPA freshmen attended the CAL SOAP College Fair at the Scottish Rite Center. Students had the opportunity to speak to over thirty University representatives and gather information as they continue their college exploration. For many this event was their first experience of a formal college fair.

### **Enrollment/InfoSnap**

On October 31 we opened the Gompers Preparatory Academy Priority Enrollment Period that will remain open until December 9. This year we launched a new electronic application/enrollment tool, InfoSnap, that is helping to streamline our enrollment processes. The application is readily available and accessible to families via Internet. As of today, we have a total of 177 applicants for the 2017-2018 school year, with 128 applying for 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **PSAT**

The Preliminary SAT is a great way for students to preview and practice for the SAT and to learn of the areas they can improve before sitting for the SAT. For the first time GPA had 100% of our Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors take the PSAT.

### **Interactions 4 Peace—"Tunnel of Bullying" Event**

On October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, youth actors from Interactions 4 Peace performed real life vignettes of bully, target and bystander situations in what is called the "Tunnel of Bullying." Students were visually made aware of various bullying behaviors and their effects. One to two weeks prior to the performance, Student Affairs team members visited each classroom for a pre Tunnel discussion. This provided an opportunity for the students to reflect on their own experiences prior to the Tunnel of Bullying. Immediately following the performances the students participated in post discussion groups. The experience was concluded with the students to developing their own Action Plan of how they will move beyond bullying.

### **Safety Net Presentations**

For the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the San Diego Police Foundation trainer held a Safety Net presentation for all 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. The presentation, which is the result of a collaboration between the San Diego Police Foundation and The San Diego Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, covers cyber issues such as sexting, cyber-bullying and online threats. The presentation included many visual examples of the above issues followed by a brief discussion and Q & A session with the students.

**Teen LEAP (Leadership, Empowerment, Awareness Program) Ropes Course**

The thirty freshmen currently enrolled in Social Justice at GPA, attended the UCSD Ropes course challenge as a team building experience. Students worked together to motivate, support and encourage each other to strive to reach the end of the course. Through additional team activities students learned about the importance of communication, working together, strong character and determination in all things they may encounter in life.

**Honor Roll**

For the 2015-2016 second semester Honor Roll, 195 middle school students were celebrated on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 317 high school students were celebrated on November 4<sup>th</sup> for their academic achievements. Each student received a pin and certificate for their accomplishment at the “Donut Social” Honor Roll celebration.