



**Director's Report
Presented to the GPA Board of Directors
January 16, 2018**

Winter Intersession

To ensure continuity of learning for our students who need it most, GPA offered two forms of academic support during winter intersession. Select middle school students were offered instruction in reading or math, with the web-based Learning Upgrade program driving instruction and progress monitoring. For high school students needing a supportive learning environment, the GPA Dining Hall was opened each morning of Intersession for quiet studying and for support with time management and organization. A total of 77 middle school students and 76 high school students were served through the aforementioned programs.

Teacher Appreciation

Thanks to our partnership with Scripps Performing Arts Center and a generous donation from Jimbo's Naturally, our GPA teachers enjoyed a Teacher Appreciation luncheon on November 29, 2017. All current teachers were served a full holiday meal with all of the fixings. To continue the holiday spirit, the Gompers Preparatory Academy Parent Teacher Student Connection (PTSC) expressed their sincere gratitude to GPA staff by hosting an all staff breakfast on December 4, 2017.

December to Remember

On December 8, 2017, Gompers Preparatory Academy hosted its second annual "December to Remember" event for all students, families, staff, and our community. Encore Visual and Performing Arts, choir, and dance put on a special showcase in the lower courtyard prior to opening night of Musical Production's Holiday Wishes. Additionally, PTSC raised funds for school programs.

Holiday Wishes

GPA's Musical Production program presented Holiday Wishes, a show filled with song, dance, and multimedia features that delighted audiences on December 8 and 15. Students from GPA's ballet, choir and musical production programs performed holiday favorites that brought joy to those who attended. Feedback from Holiday Wishes attendees suggests this was GPA's best show to date.

Welcome Back Professional Development

On January 8th, Director welcomed back our current GPA staff, now 169 strong! The morning opened with a hot breakfast and catching up among colleagues. The first professional learning session for all staff focused on the bestselling book, *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, by Dale Carnegie. Each staff member received a copy of the book and were sent off to read or listen to the book on tape to prepare for their book club. During book clubs, staff met and discussed how part one of this book can impact their lives both professionally and personally, with colleagues, family, friends, and students alike. Staff will continue their professional learning with this book in their department Professional Learning Communities in the coming months.

During the second session, teachers and classroom staff engaged in more professional reading around the text *Teaching Gifted Students in Today's Classroom*, by Susan Winebrenner. Director Riveroll introduced the text by sharing the impact it had on him as a teacher and how it truly changed his practice. Teachers were given time to read and choose techniques, strategies and ideas independently before collaborating with their grade level teams and share their smart thinking. Teachers will continue to revisit this text in grade level and department meetings throughout the year.

Academic Events and Achievements

ELA:

- Achievements: The ELA department invested in Achieve 3000 this year as a non-fiction literacy support tool and is seeing steady growth across grade levels as implementation and PD from our Achieve representative continues.
- Events: We are excited to collaborate again this year with the Playwrights Project through the Old Globe theater. This partnership has been ongoing since 2016 and this year, thanks to our generous donors, we are able to extend the playwriting opportunity to more classrooms than ever before. Teaching artists visit GPA twice a week for six weeks to teach students how to write their own plays, and then actors come on site to perform student's plays at the end of the residency.

History:

- Achievements: History teachers continue to fully implement the new California Frameworks for Social Science and take advantage of professional development opportunities on and off site. Two teachers recently had the opportunity through UCSD to attend an overnight stay at the Museum of Tolerance. They returned feeling forever changed from the experience, and they look forward to sharing their learning with their students and colleagues.

- Events: GPA participated in the annual “We the People” debate this year that was held on Dec. 15, 2017 at Grossmont Community College. This is our second year being involved in this exciting event, where 32 of our 8th grade students participated. Students shared their understanding of the U.S. Constitution as politicians, community leaders, and professors posed questions for them to debate. GPA students earned a first place award during one session of this important event.

Science:

The Science team has continued their implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards through professional development on-site and from the San Diego County Office of Education. High School Science teachers have ordered materials/supplies to incorporate labs in Chemistry, Biology, and Physics for the upcoming semester. Science lab prep rooms underwent a safety assessment and have incorporated the use of Safety Data Sheets, Chemical Storage Inventory, and review of safety protocols for spills and/or accidents that may occur during a lab/experiment.

Math:

The after-school 6th Grade Math Enrichment program continues to serve over 90 students, three times per week. Students will be reassessed the week of January 15th to identify program strengths and areas for adjustment. Meanwhile, GPA teachers continue to benefit from the various learning opportunities made available through the San Diego Math Network, an organization funded by a Gates Foundation grant that is in its third year out of three. The network has sponsored a wide range of trainings, ranging from the study of content standards to the implementation of rich math performance tasks. UCSD’s CREATE team originally wrote and was awarded the network grant, and is currently writing a second grant to deepen the efforts of the participating schools and districts.

ENS:

The Exercise and Nutritional Science (ENS) team has continued to work toward incorporating the Common Core standards into their curriculum, through presentations, readings, and integrating math into their daily lessons. The teachers have also continued to motivate students to live healthy lifestyles through collaborative activities such as the GPA Olympics, The Turkey Trot, and the Reindeer Run. Students are tracking the miles they run and the progress and growth they have shown on each of their runs.

Spanish/LOTE:

Our Spanish department has seen increasing success in AP scores since we built our AP program in 2012. For the past five years, they have developed a strong

collaborative spirit that informs their instructional decision making and helps students succeed in learning Spanish from 8th grade through 12th. The teaching team assesses 7th graders each year in the Spring to determine the best placement for their language experience, and have created a comprehensive pipeline up through AP Spanish Literature. This year is no exception, as the team continues to collaborate and implement best practices to inspire and engage our learners as they become introduced to a new language, or in some cases, on their pathway to bilingualism.

VAPA:

Our Visual and Performing Arts department has continued to grow this school year with three additional course offerings. We now offer the following UC/CSU A-G VAPA courses: Art, Drama, Digital Animation, Digital Piano, Musical Production and Pep Band. As we continue to diversify our offerings, more students are finding their passion in the Arts. You will see budding visual artist, graphic designers, musicians and dancers all around our GPA campus. Funds received from the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant through the California Department of Education have allowed us grow this department and create our first CTE Pathway in our VAPA program.

GPA Robotics

Our High School Robotics Team has been working diligently on designing, building, programming, and testing their robot. The team will be participating in the San Diego FIRST Robotics Tech Challenge this month with league matches on January 13th and January 27th. This year the team received a grant from Qualcomm to purchase tools, equipment, and software needed to participate at local competitions.

Quarter 2 Finals

Quarter Two finals are to be administered January 23rd through January 26th. This will mark GPA's second round of school-wide quarterly exams. Students have received their study guides and have already begun to prepare for their quarter finals. Teachers of common grade level content have further calibrated

Parent Conferences

The second round of parent conferences will be held from January 16th - January 22nd. GPA is continuing to develop our student-led conferences process, in which grade level teams meet with parents and students as the student walks the conference group through the present levels, progress, areas of strength, areas of growth and next steps as a learner. This has proven to be a powerful model for conferencing.

Current Enrollment/ADA

Grade	Total Student Body
6 th	221
7 th	223
8 th	222
9 th	177
10 th	179
11 th	138
12 th	139

TOTAL ENROLLED: 1299

WingSpan Update

Class of 2018:

There have been a total of 28 college acceptances to date. 26 seniors out of the 139 seniors have been accepted to a four-year university.

Student Name	College
Alejandra A	CSU Humboldt
Alina B	CSU Dominguez Hills
Dairie B	CSU Dominguez Hills

Valeria C	CSU Dominguez Hills
Jacari C	CSU Dominguez Hills
Amaris E	CSU Dominguez Hills
Raul D	CSU Dominguez Hills
Briana G	CSU Dominguez Hills
Yurika G	CSU Dominguez Hills
Brisa H	CSU Dominguez Hills
Maricela S	CSU Dominguez Hills
Elias M	CSU Dominguez Hills
Karen M	CSU Dominguez Hills
Joana F	San Francisco State University, CSU Dominguez Hills
Povhwjhuaj M	CSU Stanislaus
Antonyio P	CSU Dominguez Hills
Steven P	San Francisco State University
Xiomara R	CSU Dominguez Hills
Bryan R	CSU Dominguez Hills
Emanuel R	San Francisco State University

Ashley R	CSU Dominguez Hills
Anthony S	San Francisco State University
Kevin S	CSU Dominguez Hills
Kaylene S	San Francisco State University, CSU Humboldt
Makyla S	CSU Dominguez Hills
Bryan S	CSU Dominguez Hills

Facilities:

Over Winter Break, construction began on GPA’s campus-wide Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) project. Air conditioning will be installed in all classrooms and offices, with completion expected by late summer/early fall.

Tenant improvements for Weaver Hall annex space (at Chollas View United Methodist Church) are almost complete. Several members of our support staff will move into the space in the coming months, freeing up several spaces on campus for student instruction.

The construction documents for our new Athletics complex will go out to bid in the coming weeks and we expect the Board of Education to approve contractors in early spring. We hope to schedule our groundbreaking ceremony in late spring.